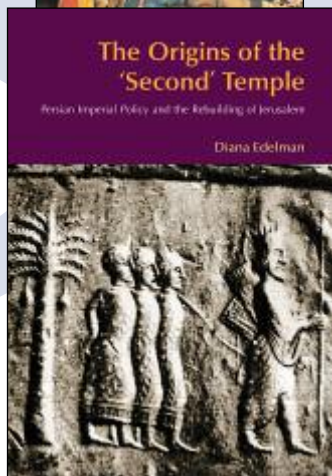
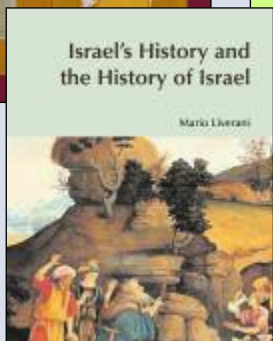
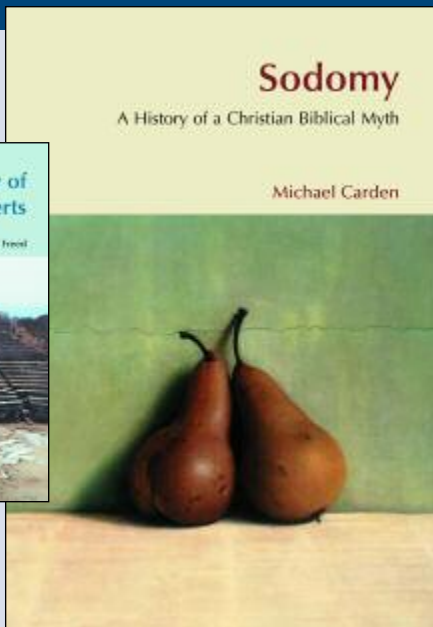
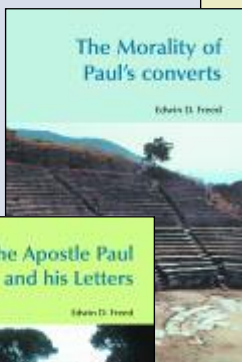


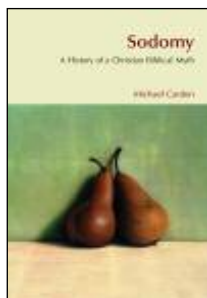
BibleWorld

Edited by Philip R Davies



BibleWorld shares the fruits of modern (and postmodern) biblical scholarship not only among practitioners and students, but also with anyone interested in what academic study of the Bible means in the twenty-first century. It explores our ever-increasing knowledge and understanding of the social world that produced the biblical texts, but also analyses aspects of the Bible's role in the history of our civilization and the many perspectives – not just religious and theological, but also cultural, political and aesthetic – which drive modern biblical scholarship.

Sodomy A History of a Christian Biblical Myth Michael Carden



Sodomy is a study of the reception of Genesis 19, Sodomy and Gomorrah, together with the parallel story in Judges 19–21, the outrage at Gibeah, in both Christian and Jewish traditions from antiquity through to the Reformation period. The book sets out to detoxify the dominant homophobic interpretation of Genesis 19, in which Sodomy and Gomorrah serve as an

archetypal story of divine antipathy towards same sex love and desire, by showing it to be a Christian invention, emerging in the first few centuries of the Christian era. The Jewish traditions concerning Genesis 19, in which Sodomy and Gomorrah are associated primarily with inhospitality, xenophobia and abuse of the poor, provide an alternative perspective on the story and one from which Christianity diverged. Together with the reception of the parallel Judges story, this Jewish understanding is employed to highlight the inconsistencies and ethical problems inherent in the dominant Christian homophobic interpretation of Genesis 19. By demonstrating the wide plurality of readings of this narrative over time, the book further relativises the Christian homophobic understanding.

Sodomy makes very important contributions to contemporary debates on sexuality in Christianity and Judaism. This book will also serve as a valuable resource for a many readers of both Genesis and Judges.

Michael Carden teaches biblical studies and comparative religion at the University of Queensland. He has published a number of essays on the Bible, sexuality and religion.

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The Sin that Arrogantly Proclaims Itself:

Inventing Sodomy in Medieval Christendom

Conclusion:

Detoxifying Sodomy and Gomorrah



Yours Faithfully
Virtual Letters from the Bible
 Edited by Philip R Davies



Yours Faithfully is an anthology of virtual letters from the Bible, in which leading biblical scholars have composed imagined correspondence between characters from scripture. This collection is meant not only to entertain, but also to convey the insights that each author has into the world and the discourse of the Bible and its cast. It is written for anyone who enjoys

reading and studying the Bible, and enjoys exploring its unspoken words through an informed imagination.

These letters range between a strictly historical mode and a contemporary idiom, and embrace the serious and the playful. But in every case the aim is to offer a commentary on familiar texts and events by filling in some of the gaps that are left, and to both build upon and expand a long tradition of retelling the Bible.

Philip R. Davies is Research Professor of Biblical Studies at the University of Sheffield, and the author of several books on topics ranging from ancient Israel, the Hebrew canon and the Dead Sea Scrolls. He is also the editor of numerous textbooks and collected essays, most recently *First Person: Essays in Biblical Archaeology* (Sheffield Academic Press, 2002).

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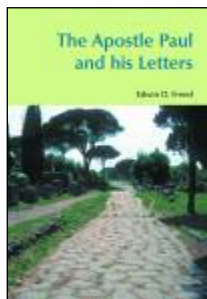
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The Apostle Paul and his Letters

Edwin D. Freed



The Apostle Paul and his Letters is written for a wide range of interested readers, including students, pastors, church workers and others interested in learning about Paul and his work.

Freed deals with Paul and the book of Acts, the circumstances that led Paul to write each letter, and his responses to those circumstances. A unique aspect of this book is Paul's emphasis

on the morality of the believers to whom he was writing – his 'ways in Christ' as he taught 'them everywhere in every church'. Brief discussions of Paul's language help to enlighten meanings of his thought often overlooked.

Paul's emphases on faithfulness toward God, the faithfulness of Jesus, and his moral teachings are primary themes. Paul's thought is presented in light of his own times, not those of the Reformation or our own. Material from the Old Testament, Qumran, and pagan sources emphasises this.

There is an extensive bibliography for persons interested in more advanced study.

Edwin D. Freed is Emeritus Professor of Religion, Gettysburg College, having taught biblical studies for thirty-six years. He has published articles in numerous professional journals and has authored several books, including two textbooks.

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Paul and the Book of Acts

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Letters from Paul's Mid-Career: Galatians

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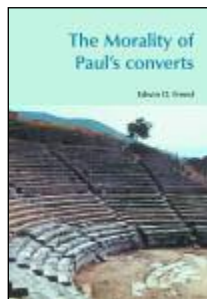
Paul's Latest Letters:

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Concluding Observations and Reflections

The Morality of Paul's Converts

Edwin D. Freed



A careful analysis of the texts of Paul's letters shows that in every church there were two main groups of converts: those who were baptized and those being instructed for baptism. Such analysis also makes it possible to determine which parts of each letter were directed toward converts being prepared for baptism and those already baptized. Baptism was the rite

by which converts were forgiven of their past sins whereby they were made righteous, with the obligation to remain sinless for the day of Christ's return. Baptized converts became members of a renewed covenant community of God from which persons who continued to sin were expelled. Paul was always more concerned with how converts behaved than with what they believed about Christ.

Paul remained a Jew even after he became a member of the group of Jews who accepted Jesus as the Messiah. Consequently, his primary message for Gentiles was faithfulness toward God, along with the moral probity of those who believe. Paul eventually developed beliefs about Jesus the Messiah as the Son of God and Lord, in order to win Gentile converts to faithfulness toward God. Being made righteous, the original meaning of Paul's word usually translated as 'justified', brings out the depth of Paul's emphasis on the morality of converts. Faithfulness toward God and moral probity are the primary messages in the letters of Paul; therefore, there emerges from this study a concern on the part of Paul for the moral life of believers not heretofore recognized. In turn, the vague doctrine of justification by faith in Christ is no longer cogent for the twenty-first century.

Edwin D. Freed is Emeritus Professor of Religion, Gettysburg College, having taught biblical studies for thirty-six years. He has published articles in numerous professional journals and has authored several books, including two textbooks.

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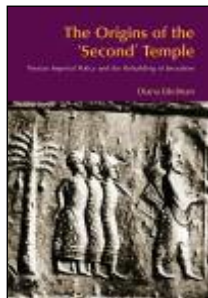
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The Origins of the 'Second' Temple Persian Imperial Policy and the Rebuilding of Jerusalem

Diana Edelman



Darius I, King of Persia, claimed to have accomplished many deeds in the early years of his reign, but was one of them the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem? The editor who added the date to the books of Haggai and Zechariah thought so, and the author of Ezra 1–6 then relied on these dates when writing his account of the rebuilding process. The

genealogical information contained in the book of Nehemiah, however, suggests otherwise; it indicates that Zerubbabel and Nehemiah were either contemporaries, or a generation apart in age, not some 65 years apart. Thus, either Zerubbabel and the temple rebuilding needs to be moved to the reign of Artaxerxes I, or Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the city walls needs to be moved to the reign of Darius I.

In this ground-breaking volume, Edelman argues that the temple was built during the reign of Artaxerxes I. The editor of Haggai and Zechariah mistakenly set the event under Darius I because he was influenced both by a desire to show the fulfillment of inherited prophecy and by Darius' widely circulated autobiography of his rise to power. In light of the settlement patterns in Yehud during the Persian period, Edelman proposes that Artaxerxes I instituted a master plan to incorporate Yehud into the Persian road, postal, and military systems. The rebuilding of the temple was a minor part of the larger plan that provided soldiers stationed in the fortress in Jerusalem and civilians living in the new provincial seat with a place to worship their native god while also providing a place to store taxes and monies collected on behalf of the Persian administration.

Diana Edelman is a senior lecturer in the Department of Biblical Studies at the University of Sheffield. She is the author of *King Saul in the Historiography of Judah* (Sheffield Academic Press, 1991) and editor of *The Fabric of History: Text, Artifact and Israel's Past* (Sheffield Academic Press, 1991), *You Shall not Abhor an Edomite for He is your Brother: Edom and Seir in History and Tradition* (Scholars Press, 1995) and *The Triumph of Elohim: From Yahwisms to Judaisms* (Kok Pharos 1995; reprinted by Eerdmans).

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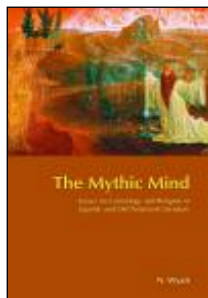
The Cyrus cylinder

Glossary

The Mythic Mind

Essays on Cosmology and Religion in Ugaritic and Old Testament Literature

N. Wyatt



The Mythic Mind follows the tradition of works which insist on the necessity of a comparative dimension in the study of ancient Israel. The Israelite world-view was essentially a West Semitic world-view in origin, with additional deeply embedded influences from Egypt and Mesopotamia, though it produced its own distinctive character by way of synthesis and reaction. The

essays in this volume explore various aspects of this process, historically and cosmologically, commonly challenging received views developed in the treatment of Israel in isolation.

N. Wyatt holds a personal chair in Ancient Near Eastern Religions at the University of Edinburgh.

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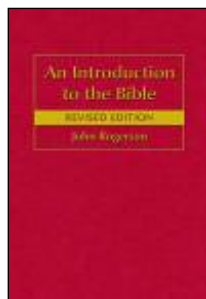
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An Introduction to the Bible

Revised edition

John Rogerson



A casual reader enters a bookshop looking for a Bible. However, not all the Bibles on display have the same contents! Some have more books than others, some are study editions, some use gender-free language. How did this come about? This introduction works back through the processes by which the Bible was written, transmitted, copied and declared to be authoritative

by various churches. The following topics are dealt with: What is the Bible?; How Biblical Writers Wrote; The Making of the Old Testament; The Making of the Apocrypha; The Making of the New Testament; The Canon of the Bible; The Study of the Bible; and The Use of the Bible in Social, Moral and Political Questions. This updated edition takes account of developments in scholarship since the book was first published in 1999 by Penguin. The original edition has been translated into Spanish and Portuguese.

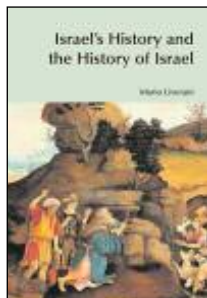
John Rogerson is Emeritus Professor of Biblical Studies at the University of Sheffield and a Canon Emeritus of Sheffield Cathedral. His many publications cover the historical, geographical and social background to the Old Testament, the history of biblical interpretation, and the use of the Bible in moral, social, political and environmental issues.

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Mario Liverani



One of Italy's foremost experts on antiquity addresses a new issue surrounding the birth of Israel and its historic reality. Many a tale has been told of ancient Israel, but all tales are alike in their quotation of the biblical story in its narrative scheme, despite its historic unreliability. This book completely rewrites the history of Israel through the evaluation

of textual and literary critiques as well as archaeological and epigraphic findings. Conceived along the lines of modern historical methodology, it traces the textual material to the times of its creation, reconstructs the temporal evolution of political and religious ideologies, and firmly inserts the history of Israel into its ancient-oriental context.

Mario Liverani is Professor of History of the Ancient Near East at the University of Rome 'La Sapienza'.

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