

THE CONTEXT OF SCRIPTURE

VOLUME TWO

EDITED BY
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PROVIDENCE COLLEGE
AND
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Memorial
Inscriptions

From

the Biblical
World

Series



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The Context of Scripture

VOLUME II

Monumental Inscriptions from the Biblical World

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PREFACE

The second volume of *The Context of Scripture* appears at the beginning of the new millennium rather than the end of the old one as planned but it has benefitted from the interval by incorporating some of the desiderata voiced by the reviewers of the first volume. They have, on the whole, been generous in their praise, both of the goals of the project and of the extent to which these goals have been met. Some of them have questioned the title and subtitles as to their meaning¹ — a matter addressed to a certain extent in the Introduction to the present volume — or their validity,² or both.³

In particular, it has been asked why comparison or contrast with biblical passages should dictate the choice of ancient Near Eastern texts here presented. To rephrase the question: what is the relevance not of the ancient Near Eastern texts for the Hebrew Bible — a matter addressed in the Introduction to Volume I — but of the Bible for the study of (other) ancient Near Eastern texts.

Methodologically, this question could be answered by stressing the value of avoiding the approach of *obscurum per obscurius* or, to put it more positively, of approaching the less familiar via the more familiar — and the Bible remains by far the most familiar ancient Near Eastern text in wide circles of the English-speaking or English-reading world. A fuller answer to the question must be reserved for the Introduction to Volume III. In the meantime, it may be pointed out that, in fact, the scope of the project extends to many texts which display no obvious parallels to the Bible. A glance at the column of biblical comparisons (positive and negative) will reveal many such texts.⁴ They were chosen for other reasons, some of them listed in the Preface to Volume I.

While the procedural outlines of the first volume have continued to characterize the second, there is a noticeable disparity in size between the two. This disparity was planned from the beginning, though both volumes have grown beyond initial estimates. Within the present volume, there is a further disparity between the Akkadian and the Sumerian sections, though it is (slightly) more apparent than in real life. Given the resort to both languages in the monumental inscriptions of some dynasties, especially in the Old Babylonian period, sometimes involving bilingual versions of one and the same inscription, it was decided to accommodate *all* the building and display inscriptions of the dynasties of Isin, Larsa, Uruk and Babylon I in the Akkadian section regardless of their language(s).

Other bilingual inscriptions have been dealt with variously: the bilingual edict of Hattushili I (2.15) in the Hittite section without special reference to the Akkadian version; the treaties between Hatti and Amurru (2.17A-C) in the Hittite section with significant variants from the Akkadian versions in the footnotes; the Hadad-yith'i stele (2.34) on the basis of its Aramaic version, with variants from the Akkadian noted in the footnotes; and the Azatiwada inscriptions separately in the (hieroglyphic) Hittite and Phoenician sections respectively (2.21 and 2.31).

The third and concluding volume will include full indices that will illustrate further connections, not only between the biblical text and the various other corpora, but among the different corpora themselves. The reader's patience is asked as we move to consummate these efforts.

It remains to thank the many people who have helped to keep this project on track: the contributors, the consultants, David Orton who first conceived the project and Marijke Wiersma who took it over when Dr. Orton left Brill to begin his own publishing enterprise, Mattie Kuiper who coordinated Brill's efforts, and, above all, K. Lawson Younger, Jr., without whose tireless labors at every stage the project could not have been realized.

William W. Hallo

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Texts 2.130; 2.131; 2.132; 2.133; 2.153; 2.154; (pp. 332–361, 408–414): Martha T. Roth, *Linguistic Collections from Mesopotamia and Asia Minor*. [SBLWAW](#) 6. Atlanta, GA: Scholars Press, 1995.

ADDITIONAL ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

(* For abbreviations not listed here, please consult volume 1)

AaG S. Segert. *Altaramäische Grammatik. Mit Bibliographie, Glossar*. Leipzig: Verlag Enzyklopädie, 1975.

ABAW Abhandlungen der Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.

AbB 13 W. H. van Soldt. *Letters in the British Museum*. Part 2. Altbabylonische Briefe in Umschrift und Übersetzung 13. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1994.

AC J. J. Koopmans, Editor. *Aramäische Chrestomathie. Ausgewählte Texte (Inschriften, Ostraka und Papyri) bis zum 3. Jahrhundert v. Chr.* Leiden: Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten, 1953.

Oosten, 1962.

~~AHI~~ G. I. Davies. *Ancient Hebrew Inscriptions. Corpus and Concordance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

AJBI *The Annual of the Japanese Biblical Institute*.

AKM *Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes*.

AMI *Archäologische Mitteilungen aus Iran*.

ANE Ancient Near East (ern).

ANEP² J. B. Pritchard. *The Ancient Near East in Pictures Relating to the Old Testament*. 2nd Edition. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969.

ARINH F. M. Fales, Editor. *Assyrian Royal Inscriptions: New Horizons in Literary, Ideological and Historical Analysis*. *Oriens Antiqui Collectio* 17. Rome: Istituto per l'Oriente.

ARRIM *Annual Review of the Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia Project*. Toronto, 1983–1991.

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AT D. J. Wiseman. *The Alalakh Texts*. Occasional Publications of the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara 2. London: British Institute of Archaeology, 1953.

BAT 1990 A. Biran, et al., Editors. *Biblical Archaeology Today 1990*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 1993.

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BiMes 6 M. Gibson and R. D. Biggs, Editors. *Seals and Sealing in the Ancient Near East*. [BiMes](#) 6.

BIN Babylonian Inscriptions in the Collection of J. B. Nies.

BMB *Bulletin du Musée de Beyrouth*.

BN *Biblische Notizen*.

BSMS *Bulletin of the Society for Mesopotamian Studies*. Toronto.

CAI W. E. Auffrecht. *A Corpus of Ammonite Inscriptions*. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts and Studies* 1. Lewiston/Queenston/Lampster: The Edwin Mellen Press, 1989.

CHLI 1 *Corpus of Hieroglyphic Luwian Inscriptions*. Volume 1: J. D. Hawkins. *The Hieroglyphic Luwian Inscriptions of the Iron Age*. [UIJK](#) 8.1. Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2000.

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DAE P. Grelot. *Documents araméens d'Égypte*. [LAPO](#) 5. Paris: Éditions du Cerf, 1972.

DCPP E. Lipiński, Editor. *Dictionnaire de la civilisation phénicienne et punique*. Leuven: Peeters, 1992.

DISO C. F. Jean and J. Hoftijzer. *Dictionnaire des inscriptions sémitiques de l'ouest*. Leiden: Brill, 1965.

DLE L. Lesko. *A Dictionary of Late Egyptian*. 5 vols. Providence: BC Scribe, 1982–1990.

DMOA *Documenta et Monumenta Orientis Antiqui*. Leiden: E. J. Brill.

DP F.-M. Allotte de la Fuÿe, Editor. *Documents présargoniques*. Paris, E. Leroux, 1908–1920.

EAEHL M. Avi-Yonah, Editor. *Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1975.

EMRT W. W. Hallo. *Early Mesopotamia Royal Titles: a Philologic and Historical Analysis*. [AOS](#) 4. New Haven: American Oriental Society, 1957.

ENES B. Buchanan. *Early Near Eastern Seals in the Yale Babylonian Collection*. Introduction and Seals and Inscriptions by W. W. Hallo. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1981.

- EPE* B. Porten. *Elephantine Papyri in English: Three Millennia of Cross-Cultural Continuity and Change*. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1996.
- ESE* M. Lidzbarkii. *Ephemeris für semitische Epigraphik*. Giessen: Alfred Töpelmann, 1902, 1915.
- EVO* *Egitto e Vicino Oriente*.
- Glossar* W. Erichsen. *Demotisches Glossar*. Copenhagen: E. Munksgaard, 1954.
- GPP* S. Segert. *A Grammar of Phoenician and Punic*. München: Beck, 1976.
- HAL* W. Baumgartner, et al. *Hebräisches und Aramäisches Lexikon zum alten Testament*. Leiden: E. Brill, 1967-.
- HAR* *Hebrew Annual Review*.
- HdO* *Handbuch der Orientalistik*.
- HML 1* Paul Åström, Editor. *High, Middle or Low? Acts of an International Colloquium on Absolute Chronology Held at the University of Gothenburg 20th - 22nd August 1987*. Part 1. Gothenburg: Paul Åströms Förlag, 1987.
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- Ist. Mit. Istanbul* *Mitteilungen*.
- ITP* H. Tadmor. *The Inscriptions of Tiglath-Pileser III King of Assyria*. Jerusalem: The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, 1994.
- JA* *Journal Asiatique*.
- Mariette, Mon. div. A.* Mariette. *Monuments divers recueillis en Égypte et en Nubie*. Paris: F. Vieweg, 1872–1889.
- MDAIA* *Mitteilungen des deutschen archäologischen Instituts, Athenische Abteilung*.
- MDP* *Mémoires (de la) Délégation en Perse*. Paris: E. Leroux.
- MFA* Boston Museum of Fine Arts.
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