

# Finding Myth and History in the Bible



Scholarship, Scholars and Errors

Edited by  
Łukasz Niesiołowski-Spanò, Chiara Peri  
and Jim West



# **Finding Myth and History in the Bible**

**SCHOLARSHIP, SCHOLARS AND ERRORS**

**ESSAYS IN HONOR OF GIOVANNI GARBINI**

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**EDITED BY**

**ŁUKASZ NIESIOŁOWSKI-SPANÒ, CHIARA PERI AND JIM WEST**

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*Professor Giovanni Garbini*

(photo by Chiara Peri)

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AAT	Ägypten und Altes Testament
AB	Anchor Bible
ABD	<i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> . Edited by D. N. Freedman. 6 vols. New York, 1992
ABRL	Anchor Bible Reference Library
AfO	<i>Archiv für Orientforschung</i>
ANET	<i>Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament</i> . Edited by J. B. Pritchard. Princeton, 3rd edn, 1969
ATANT	Abhandlungen zur Theologie des Alten und Neuen Testaments
BAR	<i>Biblical Archaeology Review</i>
BASOR	<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i>
BDB	Francis Brown, S. R. Driver and Charles A. Briggs (eds.), <i>A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1907
BETL	Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologicarum lovaniensium
BHS	<i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i> . Edited by K. Elliger and W. Rudolph. Stuttgart, 1983
BHT	Beiträge zur historischen Theologie
BN	<i>Biblische Notizen</i>
BZAW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
CAD	Ignace I. Gelb et al. (eds.), <i>The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago</i> . Chicago: Oriental Institute, 1964
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CBOT	Coniectanea biblica. Old Testament series
CIS	Copenhagen International Series
CRB	<i>Cahiers de la Revue biblique</i>
CSCO	<i>Corpus scriptorum christianorum orientalium</i> . Edited by I. B. Chabot et al. Paris, 1903–
CWSSS	N. Avigad, <i>Corpus of West Semitic Stamp Seals</i> . Revised and completed by B. Sass. Jerusalem: The Hebrew University, 1997
DBAT	<i>Dielheimer Blätter zum Alten Testament und seiner Rezeption in der Alten Kirche</i>
DBS	<i>Dictionnaire de la Bible: Supplément</i> . Edited by L. Pirot and A. Robert. Paris, 1928–
DCH	<i>Dictionary of Classical Hebrew</i> . Edited by D. J. A. Clines. 9 vols. Sheffield, 1993–2014
DDD	K. van der Toorn, B. Becking and P. W. van der Horst (eds.), <i>Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans; Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2nd extensively rev. edn, 1990
DJD	Discoveries in the Judaean Desert
DWhG	Schriften der Deutschen Wasserhistorischen Gesellschaft

EB	M. D. Cassuto <i>et al.</i> (eds.), <i>Encyclopaedia Biblica</i> . Jerusalem: The Bialik Institute, 1950–88
ErIsr	<i>Eretz Israel</i>
HALOT	Ludwig Koehler and Walter Baumgartner (eds.), <i>The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Translated by M. E. J. Richardson. Rev. W. Baumgartner and J. J. Stamm. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1994–99
HLS	<i>Holy Land Studies</i>
HSM	Harvard Semitic Monographs
HTR	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
HUCA	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
JAOS	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JBTh	<i>Jahrbuch für Biblische Theologie</i>
JHS	<i>Journal of Hellenic Studies</i>
JJS	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
JNSL	<i>Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages</i>
JQR	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
JSJ	<i>Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman Periods</i>
JSOT	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSOTSup	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament: Supplement Series
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
LAI	<i>Library of Ancient Israel</i>
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
LHBOTS	The Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies
LXX	Septuagint
MT	Masoretic Text
NTOA	Novum Testamentum et Orbis Antiquus
OBO	Orbis biblicus et orientalis
RB	<i>Revue biblique</i>
REJ	<i>Revue des études juives</i>
RLA	Erich Ebeling and Bruno Meissner (eds.), <i>Reallexikon der Assyriologie und Vorderasiatischen Archäologie</i> . Berlin: W. de Gruyter, 1928–2012
RS	Ras Shamra (Ugarit)
RQ	<i>Revue de Qumran</i>
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBS	Stuttgarter Bibelstudien
SHANE	Studies in the History of the Ancient Near East
SJOT	<i>Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament</i>
STDJ	Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah
TAVO	Tübinger Atlas des Vorderen Orients
TDOT	G. J. Botterweck, H. J. Fabry and H. Ringgren (eds.), <i>Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1974–2006
Vg	Vulgate
VT	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
VTSup	Supplements to Vetus Testamentum
ZAW	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
ZDMG	<i>Zeitschrift der deutschen morgenländischen Gesellschaft</i>



## EDITORIAL PREFACE

Giovanni Garbini has been one of the most influential Semitists and historians of the ancient Near East for decades. His works have proved provocative, productive, and profound. His gift for noticing the remarkable and his ability to remark sagaciously on ancient texts have propelled him to the pinnacle of academic respectability.

Unfortunately, in spite of the fact that he has proven so influential, many of his works remain untranslated. Most of his contributions (on Semitic languages, history and religion of the Phoenicians and the biblical studies) were published in Italian, and – therefore – are not available to wider audience unfamiliar with this language. This is, we believe, a shame. Ideally, all of his works will one day find their way into the wider (English-dominated) world of biblical and historical studies. Until then, it was our hope and is our hope to bring to the broader academic community some of the fruits of his labors as manifested in the works of his students, colleagues, and friends.

Accordingly, we offer this *Festschrift* to Giovanni Garbini in celebration of his contributions to our scholarship and to the scholarship of many other scholars. The essays on the following pages all share in common marks of the influence of Garbini's work.

Thomas Thompson begins the collection by offering his own take on the development of the study of Israel's history: a field to which Garbini has contributed massively and influentially. Francesco Bianchi's engaging piece, "Giovanni Garbini and the Poetry of Leah Goldberg," offers readers a window on the importance of extra-historical disciplines for historical and biblical work. Thomas Bolin's "'To Each His Own Job': On Job 42:1–6" gives a fresh reading of a complex text and provides a solution to an old problem. Philip Davies' "The Siloam Tunnel Revisited" opens up new questions on an old archaeological debate. Giovanni Deiana provides, in his "Hosea 2:2 and the Dating of the Book of Hosea," fresh and engaging insights into the question of the compositional history of Hosea. Philippe Guillaume's "Beyond Garbini's Anti-Mosaic Pentateuch: Nehushtan as Literary Tie Between the Torah and the Historical Books" is an interesting look into the Greek underpinning of a key biblical text.

Ingrid Hjelm does contemporary scholarship a huge service by showing the interconnectivity between ancient texts and modern ideology in her “‘When Dreams Come True’: Jerusalem/Hierosolyma and Jewish Nationalism in the Hellenistic and Roman Periods.” Niels Peter Lemche, as only he can, shows how slow scholarship has been to catch up to the cutting edge exemplified in Garbini’s work and the work of the so-called “Copenhagen School” in a delightful essay titled “The Same Old Story.” Mario Liverani’s brief “Toponymy Riddles” guides readers into a new appreciation of the ways in which the names of places carry political and ideological freight. Caterina Moro’s “Dividing the Image of God: The Creation of Man and Woman in Genesis” is an exceptional piece of exegesis, opening new windows of understanding on the Creation Narrative.

Other essays include Łukasz Niesiołowski-Spanò’s exegetical “Farewell to the ‘Blind and Lame’ (2 Samuel 5:6–10),” which is a fine example of linguistic study in the service of exegesis. Étienne Nodet’s “From Moses to the Essenes” serves to show the importance of extra-biblical historical texts for a proper understanding of Israel’s history.

Readers will also find Ida Oggiano’s “A View from the West: The Relationship Between Phoenicia and ‘Colonial’ World in the Persian Period,” Fabrizio Pennacchietti’s “A Couple of Stone Disks or Simply a Pair of Disks? About the Hebrew Word *obnayim* (Exodus 1:16; Jeremiah 18:3),” and Chiara Peri’s “Jonah and the Triffid: A Suggestion for the *Qiqayon*” to be immensely instructive.

Emanuel Pfoh’s “On Finding Myth and History in the Bible,” Gian Luigi Prato’s “‘Historical’ Israel and ‘Biblical’ Israel, or Ethnicity as a Symbol,” and Thomas L. Thompson’s “Ethnicity and the Bible: Multiple Judaisms” round the collection off and show cleverly and convincingly how the Bible as an ideological/theological product has been utilized as political tool.

The last entry, by Jim West, is titled “Correspondence” and sheds a more personal light on Professor Garbini by featuring letters by him in response to various and sundry questions posed.

Our hope is that this collection of essays will spur interest in the work of the man who has influenced us all so energetically. If that goal is achieved, our purpose will have been fulfilled.

*The Editors*