

“The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.”

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| Course | BIBLICAL STUDIES SEMINAR: THE WORLD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT BIBL 0718 1S |
| Date and Time | JANUARY 10 – APRIL 3, 2024 WEDNESDAYS, 2:15 – 5:05 PM |
| Instructor | DR. REBECCA G. S. IDESTROM Telephone/voicemail: (416) 226-6620 Ext. 6771 Email: ridestrom@tyndale.ca |
| Class Information | The classes will be live streamed on Wednesdays, 2:15 –5:05 PM. Students may participate in live streamed office hours as posted below: Wednesdays, 5:05 PM-6:00 PM or at a separate time by appointment |
| Course Material | Access course material at classes.tyndale.ca or other services at Tyndale One . Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only. |

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar focuses on the world of the Old Testament with the goal to understand the Old Testament in its ancient historical, social, economic, political, religious, and cultural contexts. In order to explore the world of ancient Israel, we will study the geography and topography of the land, as well as the history, religious beliefs and practices of Israel’s neighbouring nations. We will learn about important archaeological discoveries and how they shed light on the biblical text. We will study and compare Ancient Near Eastern texts with biblical texts in order to understand the conceptual world of the Old Testament. We will learn about daily life in biblical Israel by studying the everyday activities of the Israelites and the social structure of the community. Throughout the course we will examine selected biblical texts against their Old Testament background.

Prerequisites:

Biblical Interpretation (BIBL 0501), New Testament Theology and History (NEWT 0522), and Old Testament Theology and History (OLDT 0511).

The Biblical Studies Seminar is a required course for MDiv students majoring in Biblical Studies. Please note that for students not majoring in Biblical Studies, this Biblical Studies Seminar counts as an Old Testament Elective.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through this course, the student will learn the following:

A. Knowledge and Understanding

1. to demonstrate a general knowledge of the historical and cultural context of ancient Israel.
2. to be able to identify some of the more important archaeological discoveries and know their importance for interpreting the Old Testament.
3. to be able to read the Old Testament with greater proficiency and understanding against its Old Testament background.
4. to be able to know more about Israel's neighbours and their beliefs and practices.
5. to have a greater appreciation of the land and its geography and its impact on the Israelites' lives and history.

B. Discipline-specific Skills

1. to be able to use Bible atlases.
2. to be able to use the primary ancient sources for interpreting the Old Testament.

C. Transferable Skills

1. to be able to use the available resources for studying the world of the Old Testament.
2. to foster the ability to read ancient primary sources and biblical texts carefully, paying close attention to detail.
3. to foster skills in critical thinking, research, writing, and leading a seminar presentation.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**A. REQUIRED TEXTS**

Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer, eds. *Readings from the Ancient Near East: Primary Sources for Old Testament Study*. Encountering Biblical Studies. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002. ISBN # 0-8010-2292-4

Hoerth, Alfred J., Gerald L. Mattingly, and Edwin M. Yamauchi, eds. [Peoples of the Old Testament World](#). Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994. ISBN # 0-8010-2196-0

King, Philip J., and Lawrence E. Stager. *Life in Biblical Israel*. Library of Ancient Israel. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001. ISBN # 0-664-22148-3

Walton, John H. [Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible](#). Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018. ISBN # 978-1-5409-6021-4

B. RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Arnold, T. Bill and Brent A. Strawn, eds. [The World around the Old Testament: The People and Places of the Ancient Near East](#). Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.

[Biblical Archaeology Review](#) (this periodical has very interesting articles on archaeology in the Holy Land written more for a popular audience).

Greer, Jonathan S., John W. Hilber, and John H. Walton, eds. [Behind the Scenes of the Old Testament: Cultural, Social, and Historical Contexts](#). Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018.

[Near Eastern Archaeology](#) (this periodical has articles on archaeology in the Holy Land and the Ancient Near East written more for the academy).

Rogerson, John. *Atlas of the Bible*. Oxford: Phaidon Press, 1989.

Rainey, Anson F., and S. Notley. *The Sacred Bridge: Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World*. Jerusalem: Carta, 2006.

Rasmussen, Carl G. *Zondervan Atlas of the Bible. Revised Edition*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

Walton, John H., Victor H. Matthews and Mark W. Chavalas. [The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament](#). Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Walton, John H. [Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary](#). 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

Yamauchi, Edwin M. and Marvin R. Wilson, eds. *Dictionary of Daily Life in Biblical and Post-Biblical Antiquity*. 4 Vols. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2016.

Tyndale recommends www.stepbible.org – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as

for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other [online resources for Biblical Studies](#).

C. INTERACTIVE LIVESTREAM AND/OR BLENDED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Livestream attendance for the entire duration of the class at announced times
 - Headphones (preferred), built-in microphone, and web-camera
 - Well-lit and quiet room
 - Stable high-speed internet connection, preferably using an Ethernet cable over Wi-Fi
 - Full name displayed on Zoom for attendance purposes*
 - Download Zoom application (www.Zoom.us/download)
 - A commitment to having the camera on to foster community building*
- *exceptions with permission from professor

D. GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTIONS

Tyndale University prides itself in being a trans-denominational community. We anticipate our students to have varied viewpoints which will enrich the discussions in our learning community. Therefore, we ask our students to be charitable and respectful in their interactions with each other, and to remain focused on the topic of discussion, out of respect to others who have committed to being a part of this learning community. Please refer to “Guidelines for Interactions” on your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca.

E. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Weekly Completion of Required Readings and Reading Notes: Due each class, 30% of final grade.

Every class will involve a class discussion of the assigned readings for each week. Since this is a Seminar type course, it is essential that each student come prepared to class, having done all the readings and reading notes so that we can have a fruitful discussion and learning experience in class. The list of required reading for each week is listed below in the course schedule. For each reading prepare a number of written questions as well as some observations or reflections on the readings. Did something stand out to you, and if so, why? What did you learn that was new to you? How does it impact your understanding of the Old Testament and the world of Ancient Israel? What questions did it raise for you? Before each class, the student will submit a one-page (double-spaced) summary of their reflections notes and questions arising from their reading to the professor. This summary will be uploaded on the Moodle course page before the class begins. The student will also report whether or not they completed all the assigned reading for that week.

2. Class Participation: 10 % of final grade.

Since this is a seminar, the professor will serve as a guide and facilitator of the discussion, but each student is expected to participate in the class discussion. The students' participation will be graded based on the following: (a) frequency and appropriateness of their contributions; (b) evidence that they have completed and understood the assigned readings; (c) depths of insight and synthesis of the week's learning.

3. Research Paper: 50 % of final grade.

The research paper will be due on the day the student chooses to present the result of their research to the class. Therefore the paper will be due either on March 13, March 20, March 27 and April 3, 2024. The student can choose a topic that relates to the various topics and themes covered in the course. Further instructions will be given in class. The approximate paper length is expected to be 15-20 pages double spaced (Font size 12 point, Times New Roman). A bibliography with a minimum of ten sources is required.

Please NOTE: Going over the allowable page limit by more than one page on the papers may result in a reduction in the grade.

4. Class Presentation on Research Topic: 10 % of final grade.

Class presentations will be held on March 13, March 20, March 27 and April 3, 2024. Each student will present the results of their research on their particular chosen topic for the research paper. Each presentation will be approximately 30 minutes. The students in the class will have an opportunity to ask questions of the presenter and give feedback on the presentation. The student presenter should provide an outline of the major points or/arguments of their paper, including a summary of the findings/results of their paper to the students in the class either as a handout or in a PowerPoint presentation. If they prefer, they can give each member of the seminar a copy of their research paper instead of an outline. After the class, the student presenter will submit their research paper to the professor.

F. EQUITY OF ACCESS

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must [contact](#) the [Accessibility Services](#) at the [Centre for Academic Excellence](#) to [register](#) and discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

G. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

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| Completed Readings and Notes on Readings | 30 % |
| Class Participation | 10 % |
| Research Paper | 50 % |
| Class Presentation on Research Topic | 10 % |
| Total Grade | 100 % |

H. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

1. Your work should demonstrate the following characteristics:

Accuracy (a fair and accurate presentation of scholarly judgment on the issues) – Is what I say correct? Is it valid? Have I understood the topic or question?

Critical Analysis – Have I understood the main issues? Have I done sufficient research on the topic? Does my paper show critical reflection, interaction and dialogue with the biblical text and with authors writing on the subject?

Organization – Does my paper follow a clear outline? Does my paper have a thesis statement? Is there a clear progression and development of an idea or an argument in the paper? Does my argument have a meaningful order?

Clarity – Does what I say make sense? Will others clearly understand what I am seeking to express?

Good Grammar and Writing – Is my paper clean of spelling mistakes? Is the text punctuated correctly? Does the sentence structure consistently adhere to basic rules of good grammar? Do I use inclusive language?

Well Documented (thorough) – Is my work complete? Does my bibliography reflect sufficient research? Have I fully and accurately documented where I have relied upon the work of others? Have I provided complete information about my research sources? Will others be able to locate these sources on the strength of my documentation? Do my footnotes and bibliography follow the proper citation style required?

2. Matters of Style

You should submit written work in a style consistent with either the model outlined in [The SBL Handbook of Style: For Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies](#) (P. H. Alexander, et al, eds. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1999; 2nd ed. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014) or the Chicago Manual of Style Online. (Footnotes are preferred). For proper citation style, consult the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of](#)

[Style Online](#), especially [ch. 14](#). For citing scripture texts, refer to sections [10.44 to 10.48](#) and [14.238 to 14.241](#).

Written work ought to be free of spelling mistakes, punctuated correctly, and adhere to basic rules of grammar. It is expected that written work will be submitted in a clear, straight-forward style of academic prose (cf. the guidelines in Strunk and White, [Elements of Style](#)). Written work ought to betray clear organization, argument and coherent thought. The use of inclusive language is expected.

The title page for all written work ought to include the following:

The title of the paper, name of the course, name of the professor, date of submission, and your name.

Students are encouraged to consult [Writing Services](#). Citation and other [tip sheets](#).

Students should also consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

Research Ethics

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and may require approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board \(REB\)](#). Check with the Seminary Office (aau@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

3. Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism (including improper use of artificial intelligence programs). Tyndale University takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty. Please refer to the [Academic Integrity website](#) for further details.

In all work, you are obliged to pay careful attention to matters of intellectual property, honesty and integrity. Plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs and will not be tolerated in any form whatsoever. Plagiarism, by definition, is the use of the work of another person without proper acknowledgement. Examples of plagiarism include (but are not limited to) the following: copying a sentence or part of a sentence from a book or article without using quotation marks and citing the source; rephrasing another person's words without giving credit for the idea that you have borrowed by citing the source; copying the work of someone else and handing it in as

your own; using materials or ideas generated by AI programs without acknowledging it. It is assumed that each assignment required for this course will be written independently. Please note that plagiarism in any form on any assignment will automatically result in a grade of “F” for the assignment with no opportunity for resubmission.

4. Late Assignments

The assumption is, of course, that all written work will be submitted on and before the corresponding due dates. Should this not occur, the following policy shall govern the evaluation of your work. For every week late, the grade will be reduced by 5 %, a half a letter grade (i.e. one week late: 82 % A- becomes 77 % B+; two weeks late, 82 % becomes 72 % B-, etc.). Please note that the deduction is accumulated weekly, not daily, and so a student will receive the same penalty whether the assignment is one or six days late.

Extensions will be considered only in cases such as a death in the family, the hospitalization of yourself or a member of your immediate family, or an illness for which you require treatment by a physician. Reference to heavy work load, other assignments, professional or ministry obligations, or holidays do not constitute legitimate grounds for an extension.

Requests for extensions must be submitted in writing to the professor explaining the reason why the extension is needed. Such requests need to be submitted prior to the due date.

All assignments must be handed in by the last day of exams (April 15, 2024). No assignments will be accepted after that date, unless the student has a valid reason for an extension. In that case, the student must apply for an extension to the Registrar and not to the professor.

5. Submission of Written Work

Students are required to retain a copy of all assignments (hard copy or electronic version). The assignment needs to be uploaded on the Moodle course page before midnight on the due date. Graded assignments will be emailed back to the student.

I. COURSE EVALUATION

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student’s learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Pre-Course Preparation: Come to the first class having done the readings and prepared questions and reflections on the readings to be discussed in the first class (the readings listed for January 10). Be prepared to submit your one-page summary before the class by uploading it to the Moodle course page. Readings to be completed before each class are listed below.

- Jan 10** Introduction to the World of the Old Testament
Walton, *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament*, Ch 1-2, pp. 3-30.
Hess, "Ancient Near Eastern Studies," in *Interpreting the Old Testament*, pp. 201-220.
- Jan 17** Geography of Ancient Israel
Wright, "Introduction to Historical Geography," pp. 5–11, in *Behind the Scenes of the Old Testament*.
Matthews, "Historical Geography," in *Studying the Ancient Israelites*, pp 19-57.
Rasmussen, "The Geography of Israel and Jordan," pp. 13–36 in *Zondervan Essential Atlas of the Bible*.
- Jan 24** Life in Biblical Israel
King and Stager, pp. 1-129.
Borowski, "The Household and life Cycles: The Israelite Diet," pp. 63-74.
- Jan 31** Life in Biblical Israel
King and Stager, pp. 129-258.
- Feb 7** Life in Biblical Israel
King and Stager, pp. 259-390.
- Feb 14** Archaeology and the Bible
Dever, "What Archaeology Is and What It Can Contribute to Biblical Studies," pp. 53-95 in *What did the Biblical Writers Know and When Did They Know It?*
Matthews, "Archaeology," in *Studying the Ancient Israelites*, pp. 59-90.

Arnold and Beyer, pp. 160-172 in *Readings from the Ancient Near East*.

Feb 21 READING WEEK: NO CLASS

Feb 28 Walton, *Ancient Near Eastern Texts and the Old Testament*
Theme: Religion in the Ancient Near East
Walton, "Religion, Ch 4-6, pp. 47–127, pp. Appendix on gods, pp. 317–325.
Arnold and Beyer, 123-133.
Hess, "Archaeological Sources for the Divided Monarchy," in *Israelite Religions*, pp. 297-335.

Mar 6 Walton, *Ancient Near Eastern Texts and the Old Testament*
Theme: Creation, Flood, Cosmology, Covenants and Law Codes
Walton, "Cosmos," Ch 7-9, pp. 131–170, 173–187.
Walton, "Covenants and Treaties," in *Ancient Israelite Literature in its Cultural Context*, pp. 95-107.
Arnold and Beyer, pp. 21-50, 66-70, 98-100, 111-117.

Mar 13 Class Presentations
Theme: Wisdom Literature
Walton, *Ancient Near Eastern Texts and the Old Testament*, Ch 12-14, plus
Concluding Remarks, pp. 253–316.
Arnold and Beyer, pp. 175-179, 185-191.

Mar 20 Class Presentations
Peoples from the Biblical World: Babylonians, Assyrians, and Persians (Hoerth, et al, pp. 43-124).
Arnold and Beyer, pp. 118-122, 137-149.

Mar 27 Class Presentations
Peoples from the Biblical World: Canaanites, Amorites, Phoenicians, Arameans, and Philistines (Hoerth et al, pp. 157-250).

Apr 3 Class Presentations
Peoples from the Biblical World: Ammonites, Moabites, and Edomites (Hoerth, et al, pp. 293-347).

The assigned readings are from the textbooks as well as other sources listed below. Besides the course textbooks, all other readings are posted on the Moodle course page or are linked to an e-book from the Tyndale library.

- Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer, eds. *Readings from the Ancient Near East: Primary Sources for Old Testament Study*. Encountering Biblical Studies. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.
- Borowski, Oded. [*Daily Life in Biblical Times*](#). Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003.
- Dever, William G. "What Archaeology Is and What It Can Contribute to Biblical Studies." Pages 53-95 in *What did the Biblical Writers Know and When Did They Know It? What Archaeology Can Tell Us about the Reality of Ancient Israel*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.
- Hess, Richard S. "Ancient Near Eastern Studies." Pages 201-220 in *Interpreting the Old Testament: A Guide for Exegesis*. Edited by Craig C. Broyles. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.
- Hess, Richard S. *Israelite Religions: An Archaeological and Biblical Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
- Hoerth, Alfred J., Gerald L. Mattingly, and Edwin M. Yamauchi, eds. *Peoples of the Old Testament World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994.
- King, Philip J., and Lawrence E. Stager. [*Life in Biblical Israel*](#). Library of Ancient Israel. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Matthews, Victor H. [*Studying the Ancient Israelites: A Guide to Sources and Methods*](#). Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
- Rasmussen, Carl G. *Zondervan Essential Atlas of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.
- Walton, John H. [*Ancient Israelite Literature in Its Cultural Context*](#). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.
- Walton, John H. [*Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible*](#). Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018.
- Wright, Paul H. "Introduction to Historical Geography." Pages 5–11 in *Behind the Scenes of the Old Testament: Cultural, Social, and Historical Contexts*. Edited by Greer, Jonathan S., John W. Hilber, and John H. Walton. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018.

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

([Tyndale Library](#) supports this course with [e-journals, e-books](#), and the [mail delivery of books](#) and circulating materials. See the [Library FAQ page](#).)

- Aharoni, Yohanan, and Miriam Aharoni. *The Archaeology of the Land of Israel: From the Prehistoric Beginnings to the End of the First Temple Period*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1982.
- Arnold, Bill T. [*Who Were the Babylonians?*](#) Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2004.
- Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer, eds. *Readings from the Ancient Near East: Primary Sources for Old Testament Study*. Encountering Biblical Studies. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.
- Arnold, Bill T. and Richard S. Hess, eds. [*Ancient Israel's History: An Introduction to Issues and Sources*](#). Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.
- Arnold, T. Bill and Brent A. Strawn, eds. [*The World around the Old Testament: The People and Places of the Ancient Near East*](#). Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.
- Baker, David L. [*Tight Fists or Open Hands? Wealth and Poverty in Old Testament Law*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.
- Borowski, Oded, [*Daily Life in Biblical Times*](#). Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003.
- Currid, John D. *Ancient Egypt and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997.
- Currid, John D. *Doing Archaeology in the Land of the Bible: A Basic Guide*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1999.
- Dever, William G. "Asherah, Consort of Yahweh? New Evidence from Kuntillet 'Ajrud," *BASOR* 255 (1984): 21-37.
- Dever, William G. [*What Did the Biblical Writers Know and When Did They Know It? What Archaeology Can Tell Us about the Reality of Ancient Israel*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.
- Dever, William G. [*Who Were the Early Israelites, and Where Did They Come From?*](#) Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2003.
- Dever, William G. [*Did God Have a Wife? Archaeology and Folk Religion in Ancient Israel*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2005.
- Dever, William G. *The Lives of Ordinary People in Ancient Israel: Where Archaeology and the Bible Intersect*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.
- Fant, Clyde E., and Mitchell G. Reddish. [*Lost Treasures of the Bible: Understanding the Bible Through Archaeological Artifacts in World Museums*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.

- Greer, Jonathan S., John W. Hilber, and John H. Walton, eds. [*Behind the Scenes of the Old Testament: Cultural, Social, and Historical Contexts*](#). Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018.
- Hallo, William W., and K. Lawson Younger, Jr. eds. [*The Context of Scripture*](#). 3 vols. Leiden: Brill, 2003.
- Harrison, R. K., and E. M. Yamauchi. "Food Production." Pages 330-335 in *Dictionary of Daily Life in Biblical and Post-Biblical Antiquity*. Vol. II. De-H. Edited by Edwin M. Yamauchi and Marvin R. Wilson. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2016.
- Hess, Richard S. "Ancient Near Eastern Studies." Pages 201-220 in *Interpreting the Old Testament: A Guide for Exegesis*. Edited by Craig C. Broyles. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.
- Hess, Richard S. *Israelite Religions: An Archaeological and Biblical Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
- Hoerth, Alfred J. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.
- Hoerth, Alfred J., Gerald L. Mattingly, and Edwin M. Yamauchi, eds. *Peoples of the Old Testament World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994.
- Hoffmeier, James K. [*Israel in Egypt: The Evidence for the Authenticity of the Exodus Tradition*](#). New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.
- King, Philip J., and Lawrence E. Stager. [*Life in Biblical Israel*](#). Library of Ancient Israel. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Kitchen, Kenneth. [*On the Reliability of the Old Testament*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- MacDonald, Nathan. [*What Did the Ancient Israelites Eat? Diet in Biblical Times*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.
- Matthews, Victor H. *Manners and Customs in the Bible: An Illustrated Guide to Daily Life in Bible Times*. 3rd Edition. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2006.
- Matthews, Victor H. and Don C. Benjamin. [*Old Testament Parallels: Laws and Stories from the Ancient Near East*](#). New York: Paulist Press, 1991/2016.
- Matthews, Victor H. [*Studying the Ancient Israelites: A Guide to Sources and Methods*](#). Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.

- Mazar, Amihai. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible: 10,000 – 586 BCE* Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 1990.
- Nemet-Nejat, Karen Rhea. [*Daily Life in Ancient Mesopotamia*](#). Peabody: Hendrickson, 2002.
- Niehaus, Jeffrey J. [*Ancient Near Eastern Themes in Biblical Theology*](#). Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2008.
- Pilch, John J. [*A Cultural Handbook to the Bible*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.
- Pritchard, James B, ed. *The Ancient Near East: Volume I: An Anthology of Texts and Pictures*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1958.
- Pritchard, James B, ed. *The Ancient Near East: Volume II: A New Anthology of Texts and Pictures*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1975.
- Rogerson, John and Philip Davies. [*The Old Testament World*](#). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989/2007.
- Schoville, Keith N. *Biblical Archaeology in Focus*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1987.
- Soden, Wolfram von. [*The Ancient Orient: An Introduction to the Study of the Ancient Near East*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.
- Sparks, Kenton L. *Ancient Texts for the Study of the Hebrew Bible: A Guide to the Background Literature*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2005.
- Stern, Ephraim. *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land, 4 volumes*. Jerusalem: IES and Carta, 1993.
- Stern, Ephraim. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible: Volume II, The Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian Periods*. New York: Doubleday, 2001.
- Vaux, Roland de. [*Ancient Israel: Its Life and Institutions*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.
- Walton, John H. [*Ancient Israelite Literature in Its Cultural Context*](#). Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.
- Walton, John H. [*Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible*](#). Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018.

Yamauchi, Edwin M. and Marvin R. Wilson, eds. *Dictionary of Daily Life in Biblical and Post-Biblical Antiquity*. 4 Vols. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2016.

Yamauchi, Edwin M. *Persia and the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1990.