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**NO ABSTRACTS**

BOOK REVIEWS

DR. H. JAGERSMA. *Geschiedenis van Israël in het oudtestamentische tijdvak*, 1979. Uitgeversmaatschappij J. H. Kok, Kampen. Price f49.90.

Dr. Jagersma, professor in Hebrew and Old Testament at the Theological Faculty of Brussels, has written an important history of Israel. In 293 pages he has given us a view on the more important problems of Old Testament history writing. This is an up-to-date book, taking notice of the recent debate on historical problems. One of the more important features of this work is the caution with which the author makes his conclusions. His caution results from his method of approach to historical writing in the Old Testament. In chapter I he refers to the fact that the Old Testament historical writings are based upon copies of a much later time than the time in which they originated. He accepts then that what we have in front of us, is the result of the final redaction of the historical material. According to him it is also clear that the text was transmitted with certain theological preconceptions. The result of his study is that the work of the Deuteronomist is discovered in various ways. In the work of the Chronist he also discovers certain preconceived ideas. This method of approach is of course wellknown in our time. The difference between the work of Prof. Jagersma and some other modern histories is that he discovers more of a historical kernel in the historical parts as other scholars, e.g. in his approach to the time of Moses. He has weighed all the important extra-biblical historical material against the Biblical text and has stated the problems carefully, but with candour. Sometimes one could wish that the author would give his opinion more readily in stead of reverting to "is niet meer met zekerheid na te gaan", but, on the other hand, we are working with so many uncertainties that it seems to be wise not to commit oneself. This history of Prof. Jagersma is an important addition to the modern histories of Israel and very important for Dutch theology.

F.C.F.

ROBERT T. ANDERSON. *Studies in Samaritan Manuscripts and Artifacts. The Chamberlain-Warren Collection*, 1978. The American Schools of Oriental Research. Price: \$8.75.

The publications on Samaritan manuscripts are steadily growing. This publication is built on certain manuscripts and artifacts obtained from the Samaritan community by Mr. E. K. Warren. He got interested in the Samaritans of Palestine and has bought various manuscripts and artifacts from them with the idea that they should be housed in a place in Palestine which could be visited by tourists. Eventually the manuscripts were sent to the United States where they were placed in the Three Oak's Museum and were later given to Michigan State University. After a lapse of 18 years R. T. Anderson has studied this material which is now published in this book. The scholarly world can be thankful to R. T. Anderson for the publication of this material. An important part of this book is dedicated to the description of various fragments of the Samaritan Pentateuch. This is a very important contribution, especially the attempt to classify the mss., because classification up to now was hazardous as it was pointed out by Von Gall with his publication of the Samaritan Pentateuch in 1918. The geographical approach of Anderson is very interesting. The author gives us the Samaritan text with the dates and scribes, accompanied with a translation. From the translation is clear that still many problems remain unsolved. The book is concluded with 12 photographs of parts of texts. We are thankful that this study takes us a step further in the study of Samaritan manuscripts.

F.C.F.

M. J. MULDER. *De naam van de afwezige God op de Karmel. Onderzoek naar die naam van de Baäl van de Karmel in 1 Koningen 18*, 1979. Universitaire Pers Leiden.

This is Prof. M. J. Mulder's inaugural lecture as professor in Old Testament at the University of Leiden. He was formerly professor in Semitic Languages at the Free University of Amsterdam. Since Prof. Mulder wrote his doctoral dissertation on Baal in the Old Testament, he has made various valuable contributions to our knowledge of Ugaritic and Canaanite religion. In this lecture the author turns his attention to 1 Ki. 18, so full of Canaanite religious imagery. This chapter has been studied from various angles in the past twenty years or so. The author has taken ably notice of all these developments. His lecture is

mainly aimed at the difficult problem of the Baal mentioned in 1 Ki. 18. He goes into the whole history of the interpretation and gives special attention to arguments in favour of Melkart as Baal. These arguments he rejects for several reasons, and because it is built on a flimsy basis. It is indeed difficult to decide which Baal is meant in 1 KI. 18 (cf. my discussion of the problem in *A Few Observations on the Polarisation between Yahweh and Baal in 1. Ki. 17-19*, ZAW, 92(1980), 227-236). The material from the time of the Old Testament is simply missing and one has to work with old material from Ugarit or with late material from the Hellenistic Age.

This study can be heartily recommended.

F.C.F.

JOHN GRAY. *The Biblical Doctrine of the Reign of God*, 1979. T. and T. Clark, Edinburgh. Price: £10.95.

In this massive work Prof. John Gray of the University of Aberdeen reiterates the views of S. Mowinckel (1924) on the great autumn festival of Israel in which they celebrated the enthronement of the Lord. These views have subsequently been severely criticized, although certain scholars have accepted them in a more modified form. Prof. Gray is of opinion that one should look afresh to Mowinckel's views in light of years of careful study of the Ugaritic material. He is a wellknown authority on the Ugaritic texts and mainly applies the philological method to reach his results. His main contention is that the idea of the kingship of Baal played a significant rôle in shaping the idea of the kingship of the Lord in an early stage in the history of Israel. The autumn festival of the enthronement of the Lord was the occasion on which the kingship of the Lord was celebrated. He is also of opinion that the idea of the enthronement and the covenant-celebrations were fused in an early stage. The covenant-idea is of pure Israelite origin and served as a corrective against the strange Canaanite practices of the enthronement-festival. Prof. Gray holds that this celebration started after the settlement of Israel in Canaan. The concept of God as Suzerain in the covenant tradition only developed during the early monarchy when kings David and Solomon had many vassals (this against Mendenhall). One of the problems with these views is that nowhere in the Old Testament the components of such a festival are described. The proposing of such a festival can only be done from inference. But Mowinckel, Gray as well as other scholars have produced an amazing amount of evidence and one should look again at their arguments. Sometimes one has the feeling that the author overstresses his case, e.g. when he uses a textual critical altering to read the autumn festival into the text (pp. 44-45). Prof. Gray is well versed in modern literature on the wide field he is handling. The omission of e.g. F. M. Cross, *Canaanite Myth and Hebrew Epic*, 1973 and L. Perliitt, *Bundestheologie im Alten Testament*, 1969 is however strange. One should have expected certain arguments against Perliitt's view that the covenant-idea is a fairly late development.

Taking all arguments in consideration, Prof. Gray has given us a close-knitted piece of research on the reign of God from its early Israelite roots up to the Apocalyptic literature and into the New Testament. There will be much difference of opinion on his results. Everyone studying the reign of God in the Bible must take notice of this work.

F.C.F.

MICHAEL HELTZER. *Goods, Prices and the Organization of Trade in Ugarit*, 1978. Dr. Ludwig Reichert Verlag, Wiesbaden.

This is an excellent study of the economic position in Ugarit during the fourteenth and thirteenth centuries B.C. The author has made a painstaking investigation into the primary sources to ascertain what kind of goods were sold and the prices paid for them. This is a difficult task, because some of the terminology is all but clear. Prof. Heltzer has made an excellent job of it and has advanced our knowledge on many points, cf. e.g. his view on *phm* (p. 57) in which he improves on the meaning given by Aistleitner in *WUS*. The author often admits that he cannot offer a satisfactory explanation. Interesting is his discussion of *uluḥḥu* on p. 64. *Uluḥḥu* is to be equated to *ḥaṭṭu*. One wonders whether this term could have been used for a walking stick, sometimes with inlaid stones (cf. on p. 37 *uluḥḥu* and *šizbu*-stone). The next step the author has taken is to compare the goods and prices of Ugarit with those of the neighbouring countries. This study is very valuable. This comparison shows, according to the author, that Ugarit was during the Late Bronze Age one of the most developed commercial

centers in Western Asia (p. 99). Because of the strategic situation of Ugarit as a maritime city, contacts with various big countries were made for commercial ends. It is thus understandable that commercial expertise could have prospered in such a city. The study of Prof. Heltzer is concluded with an important discussion on the merchant (*tamkar*). This is a valuable addition to the work of Leemans, Veenhof and Larsen.

This work can be recommended strongly for further research in the economic field of the Ancient Near East.

F.C.F.

FRANÇOIS BRON. *Recherches sur les inscriptions Phéniciennes de Karatepe*, 1979. Librairie Droz, Genève.

This is mainly a philological and grammatical study with an introductory motivation by Prof. Maurice Szyner why this study was undertaken. While working through this important study, one could only agree that it was necessary in light of new discoveries and the advancement of our knowledge, notably in connection with philology and paleography. The author gives in his work a transliteration of the text, followed by a valuable commentary, a grammatical analysis of the morphology and syntax and a vocabulary in which the words which have not yet been discovered in Phoenician texts, are clearly indicated. This is followed by paleographical remarks. It is a pity that the author has not used the ancient Phoenician script to demonstrate this point. This would have enriched his study. The next chapter is concerned with historical problems. The author agrees with the opinion of various scholars that these inscriptions must be dated in the last quarter of the eighth century B.C. (cf. the discussion of all the problems in connection with chronology pp. 163–169). Interesting is also his discussion of Mopsos and his acceptance that the Greeks penetrated into Asia Minor at the end of the Late Bronze Age (p. 173). This seems to agree with the interpretation of certain scholars of the name *Ahhijawā* and even Alaksandu of Wiluša (cf. for the latter E. Laroche, *Les noms des Hittites*, 1966, 26). The author concludes his study with problems in connection with the history of religion. Of special interest is the expression "El the creator of the earth" (cf. Gen. 14:19, 22). With this we can follow now the line of the god El from Ugarit through to Karatepe, although in Ugarit he was not called creator of the earth, but of creatures and mankind (cf. e.g. CTA 6:3:4 and CTA 14:1:37 and also F. M. Cross, *Canaanite Myth and Hebrew Epic*, 1973, 15ff.)

We can recommend this careful study to all who want to make a study of the Karatepe-inscription in particular and Phoenician in general.

F.C.F.

HERBERT DONNER. *Pilgerfahrt ins Heilige Land. Die ältesten Berichte christlicher Palästinapilger (4–7 Jahrhundert)*, 1979. Verlag Katholisches Bibelwerk GmbH, Stuttgart.

Prof. Donner gives in this book a German translation of itineraries of the Holy Land which were written in Latin from the fourth to the seventh centuries A.D. These itineraries are those of the Pilgrim of Bordeaux (333), the Nun Etheria (± 400), Jerome, Paula and Eustochium (404), the Bishop Eucherius (after 444), the Archdeacon Theodosius (between 518 and 530), the Jerusalem Brevier (± 550), the Pilgrim of Piacenza (± 570) and the Bishop Arkulf and the Abbot Adomnanus (± 680). The translation is provided with important notes, especially on the topography. The author has written a fine introduction to pilgrimage to the Holy Land as such, especially its motivation. The author shows how remarkably correct some of the old identifications of Biblical place-names are, but also how wrong others are, e.g. the identification of certain mountains near Jericho with Garizim and Ebal.

We are thankful to Prof. Donner for this work. One could wish that a second volume would follow on later itineraries. It can be recommended without reservation.

F.C.F.

BARUCH MARGALIT. *A Matter of "Life" and "Death". A Study of the Baal-Mot Epic (CTA 4–5–6)*, 1980. AOAT 206, Verlag Butzon und Bercker Kevelaer.

The author has proposed in various studies a new approach to Ugarit prosody. In this book on the Baal-Mot epic this method is further worked out. He refers to the restrictions of the old philological method in which you have sometimes a wide variety of opinions. It is even true

that in reading the translations one is not certain that the same text is translated, so different are some of the renderings. It is also true that certain rules of Semitic prosody were taken into account, e.g. the important indication of parallelism, but this seems not to solve all the problems. The approach of Baruch Margalit is not built on nothing. His starting point is the review of M. Pope on John Gray's *Legacy of Canaan* in *JSS* 11(1966), 288–341 where for the first time the term stichometry is used for Ugaritic poetry. In the meantime various scholars have worked with this new insight (notably O. Loretz). For Margalit it is very important to combine stichometry with a philological study – and in this he is perfectly correct. In spite of criticism on the philological approach by scholars who want to apply methods derived from modern linguistics, e.g. the structural approach (or shall we say with Paul Ricoeur Post-Structural approach) or one of its off-shoots discourse-analysis, one cannot study a Ugaritic text without applying the philological method. In the first place one must try to understand what you read. Thus, you have to combine any new method with the philological approach to reach some conclusion. In his acceptance of this starting point, Margalit is correct. By going out from the idea that Ugaritic poetry is to be taken as conventionally structured literary material, he accepts that three main structural levels must be distinguished, viz, the line, the verse and the strophe. He further accepts that alliteration plays a very important rôle in Ugaritic poetry, cf. pp. 219 ff. for an explanation of the terminology used (cf. also his article in this issue of *JNSL*). This approach is then applied to the Baal-Mot epic. It is clear that the stichometrical approach has many advantages for Ugaritic poetry, e.g. to discover scribal errors. This can also fruitfully be applied to Hebrew poetry.

This work can be strongly recommended for further study.

F.C.F.

ERNEST JENNI. *Lehrbuch der hebräischen Sprache des Alten Testaments*, 1978. Helbing und Lichtenhahn, Basel und Stuttgart.

Prof. Ernst Jenni of the University of Basel, wellknown for his research on Hebrew grammar, has dealt with the latest issue of the "school-grammar" of W. and J. Hollenberg which was earlier published by K. Budde and later by W. Baumgartner. Prof. Jenni in his approach to the grammar has made various interesting changes in comparison to the older issues. The grammar is introduced by placing Hebrew amongst other Semitic languages, even by pointing out that it forms part of the Hamito-Semitic group of languages. There is also a chart displaying the development of the alphabet and its connections with the Greek alphabet; all of this should be very interesting to beginners. Another feature of the grammar is that with the phonology the author has made use of Biblical names and place-names to make his point. The examples given as well as the exercises are built on the Old Testament, to my mind a very important step forward. The student is held aware of the fact that he is busy with the Old Testament and not with a grammar created by the grammarian. In another sense this grammar is up-to-date: It makes use of the printing-type of the *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. The student can thus become acquainted with this type at an early stage in his learning. To make an early introduction into the Phoenician script the author has given as an exercise the Siloah-inscription and a Lagish-ostrakon. The grammar is concluded with a wordlist containing most of the words appearing more than twenty times in the Old Testament. By and large, the frequency of Hebrew words is taken into account straight through the grammar.

Although one can put questionmarks after some of the positions taken, this is an excellent grammar. It can be strongly recommended.

F.C.F.

HUBERT IRSIGLER. *Einführung in das Biblische Hebräisch II*, 1979. Eos Verlag St. Ottilien. Price: DM 7.90.

We have reviewed Vol. I of this important Hebrew grammar in *JNSL* VII (1979), 96. The author has intended the second volume as exercises, texts and paradigms built on the grammar of Vol. I. As in the case of Jenni's grammar the exercises are built on the Old Testament. Also important is the discussion of certain expressions and a grammatical discussion on them. This is a necessary guidance to beginners. Gradually a vocabulary is built up for the student. At the end of the grammar the paradigms are given and three pericopes from Scripture are published

in the printing-type of *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. It is clear that this second volume is a necessary addition to the author's grammar and enriches it.

It can be, with the first volume, strongly recommended.

F.C.F.

P. J. SMITH, *Die doel en metode van onderrig van Bybelse Hebreeus as dienskursus vir die Teologie*, 1979. Publications of the University of the Western Cape, South Africa.

This is an inaugural lecture given in Afrikaans by Prof. Smith as professor in Semitic Languages of the University of Western Cape. The lecture is concerned with the method and ultimate goal of the teaching of Biblical Hebrew for students who want to study Theology. The author accepts that the ultimate goal is to teach them to use Hebrew for meaningful exegesis of the Old Testament. He discusses the various modern approaches to the study of Biblical Hebrew, e.g. the contributions of Vetter and Walther, Fück, C-A. Keller, W. T. Claassen etc. According to the author it is necessary for the modern Hebraist to take notice of the latest developments in linguistics. The old atomistic method to force students to learn a vocabulary is out of date. One should concentrate on sentences and longer structures. One should also be aware of the fact that Biblical Hebrew is a written and not a spoken language. This is very important, because, if you apply the structural method, it is sometimes difficult to come to kernels. Your supposed kernel might never have existed in the language and you have nothing to check your results.

This is a thought-provoking lecture and should be studied by everyone busy with the teaching of Biblical Hebrew.

F.C.F.