

KINGDOMS OF THE LORD
*A History of the Hebrew Kingdoms from Saul
to the Fall of Jerusalem*

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to the Fall of Jerusalem*

by

David F. Payne



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TO MY PARENTS

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Abbreviations

AB	<i>Anchor Bible</i>
AJSL	<i>American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures</i>
ANEP	J. B. Pritchard (ed.), <i>The Ancient Near East in Pictures</i> ² (Princeton, 1969)
ANET	J. B. Pritchard (ed.), <i>Ancient Near Eastern Texts</i> ³ (Princeton, 1969)
Ant.	Josephus, <i>Antiquities</i>
AOTS	D. Winton Thomas, (ed.), <i>Archaeology and Old Testament Study</i> (Oxford, 1967)
AV	Authorized Version (King James Version), 1611
BA	<i>The Biblical Archaeologist</i>
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
DOTT	D. Winton Thomas (ed.), <i>Documents from Old Testament Times</i> (London, 1958)
ET	English translation
GUOST	Glasgow University Oriental Society, <i>Transactions</i>
ICC	<i>International Critical Commentary</i>
IDB	G. A. Buttrick (ed.), <i>Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i> (New York/Nashville, 1962)
JB	Jerusalem Bible, 1966
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JCS	<i>Journal of Cuneiform Studies</i>
JSOT	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSS	<i>Journal of Semitic Studies</i>
Kings	J. Gray, <i>I & II Kings</i> ² (OTL: London, 1970)
LB	Y. Aharoni, <i>The Land of the Bible</i> (ET London, 1966)
LXX	Septuagint
MBA	Y. Aharoni and M. Avi-Yonah, <i>Macmillan Bible Atlas</i> (London, 1968)
MNHK	E. R. Thiele, <i>Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings</i> ² (Exeter, 1966)

- NAB New American Bible, 1970
NBCR D. Guthrie and others, *The New Bible Commentary, Revised* (London, 1970)
NBD J. D. Douglas (ed.), *The New Bible Dictionary* (London, 1962)
NCB *New Century Bible*
NEB New English Bible, 1961-70
NICNT *New International Commentary on the New Testament*
NICOT *New International Commentary on the Old Testament*
OTL *Old Testament Library*
PEQ *Palestine Exploration Quarterly*
POTT D. J. Wisemen (ed.), *Peoples of Old Testament Times* (Oxford, 1973)
RSV Revised Standard Version, 1946-52
RV Revised Version, 1881-5
SBT *Studies in Biblical Theology*
TBC *Torch Bible Commentaries*
VT *Vetus Testamentum*
VTS *Supplements to Vetus Testamentum*
ZAW *Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft*

Preface

“**T**HERE is properly no history; only biography” (Ralph Waldo Emerson) is a dictum which holds a very large grain of truth when applied to the historical books of the Old Testament; and if the quantity of biographical detail is any guide to relative importance, there can be no doubt that David is the key figure in the history of Israel during the period of the monarchy, and indeed of the whole of the first millennium B.C. The next biblical character to attract equal or greater coverage is none other than Jesus of Nazareth — “great David’s greater son”.

This book is a survey of the history of ancient Israel from the end of the era of the Judges till the beginning of the Babylonian exile. The political history of Israel is recounted in Part I, while Part II gives detailed attention to the political environment of the period, in a study of Israel’s enemies. The prophets are here studied in two ways; in Part I their contribution to Israel’s history is assessed, while in Part III the emphasis is rather on the effect which historical events had upon them. Part IV, in a survey of Israel’s faith during the relevant period, inevitably looks at the prophetic literature yet again; even so, there is much to be said about the prophets which this book does not attempt to discuss. For introductions to the prophets and commentary upon them, the reader must turn elsewhere.

The reader will find scant attention paid to such questions as the date and authorship of the Old Testament books. These issues tend to be controversial and the arguments about them inconclusive; interested readers must be referred to standard Old Testament introductions and Bible dictionaries. In any case, it is surprising how rarely the answers to historical questions depend on the answers to literary ones.

Bible quotations are taken from the New English Bible except where otherwise stated.

My thanks are due to the writers of many books (not least those of the Old Testament). One is inevitably indebted to standard works such as John Bright's *History of Israel* to a greater degree than one consciously appreciates. My special gratitude is due to my sister, Mrs. R. Z. E. Woods, who typed the whole work from a virtually illegible manuscript; to Mr. B. H. Mudditt of The Paternoster Press for practical guidance and patient encouragement; and last but not least to my wife for her unselfish encouragement at every stage of the work.

D. F. PAYNE