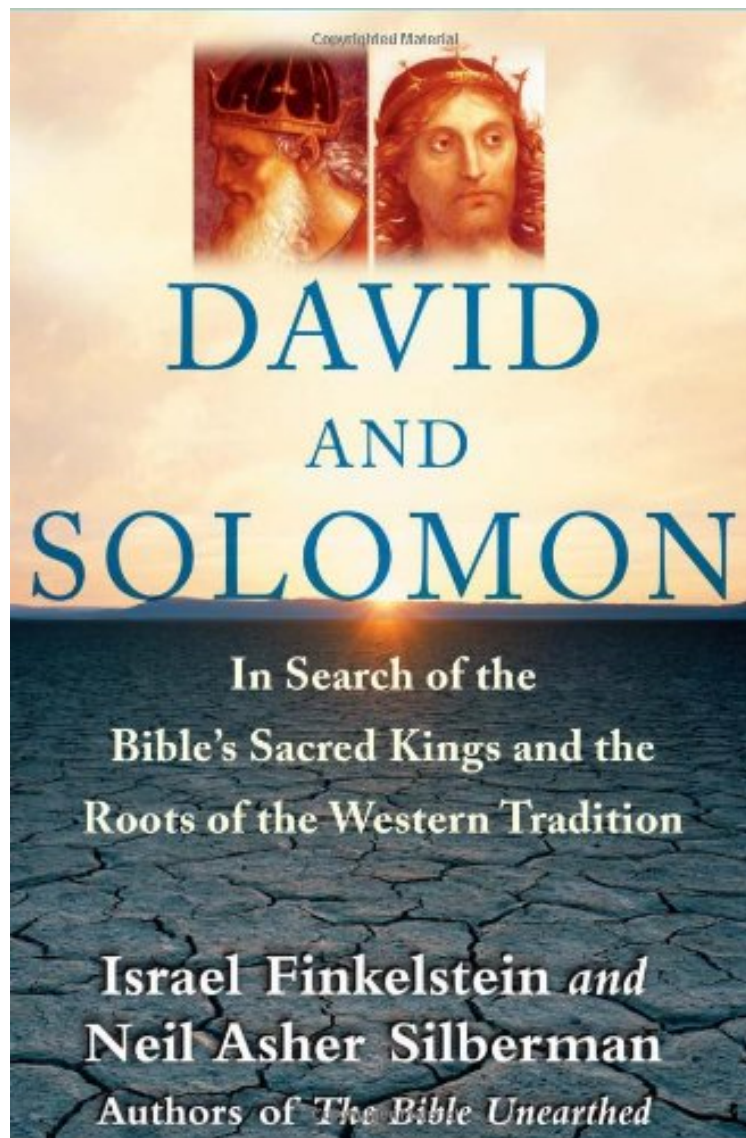


[Mobile ebook] David and Solomon: In Search of the Bible's Sacred Kings and the Roots of the Western Tradition

David and Solomon: In Search of the Bible's Sacred Kings and the Roots of the Western Tradition

Israel Finkelstein, Neil Asher Silberman
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Israel Finkelstein, Neil Asher Silberman : David and Solomon: In Search of the Bible's Sacred Kings and the Roots of the Western Tradition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised David and Solomon: In Search of the Bible's Sacred Kings and the Roots of the Western Tradition:

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and Solomon has a fatal flaw: the maps are unreadable. This is the case whether you're reading on a smart phone, a 7" tablet, or even full screen on the desktop version of Kindle. You can't fully understand the theories presented in David and Solomon without maps, and the book is full of them. For just one example, what cities does the Bible associate with King Saul's exploits, and what does this hint about the so-called united monarchy? There's a map of those cities, but you simply can't read it. In view of the inadequacy of the Kindle version, the publisher should provide a web link to a site where full-scale maps can be viewed.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Finkelstein is always worth reading.
By Dorothy A. Duplissey If you are interested the history behind these Bible stories, this is a good book to begin with. Too many people truly believe that whatever version of the Bible they are reading has NEVER changed. This is simply not true. Early copies of manuscripts that found their way into this book were copied and recopied--by hand. If you have ever seen a picture of some of the very old text that has been found, you will understand the difficulty in copying. Mistakes were a certainty, and deliberately changing even one word in a sentence can change the meaning. I am not saying this did happen, just that is very likely. When we read more of the history by scholars such as Frankenstein, we can understand more fully just how these Biblical heroes lived. I recommend it.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nice read.
By J. W. Zents Would have liked even more detail, but even without that the book was a delightful read on the current understanding of this period in Biblical history.

The exciting field of biblical archaeology has revolutionized our understanding of the Bible - and no one has done more to popularise this vast store of knowledge than Israel Finkelstein and Neil Silberman, who revealed what we now know about when and why the Bible was first written in "The Bible Unearthed". Now, with "David and Solomon", they do nothing less than help us to understand the sacred kings and founding fathers of western civilization. David and his son Solomon are famous in the Bible for their warrior prowess, legendary loves, wisdom, poetry, conquests, and ambitious building programmes. Yet thanks to archaeology's astonishing finds, we now know that most of these stories are myths. Finkelstein and Silberman show us that the historical David was a bandit leader in a tiny back-water called Jerusalem, and how - through wars, conquests and epic tragedies like the exile of the Jews in the centuries before Christ and the later Roman conquest - David and his successor were reshaped into mighty kings and even messiahs, symbols of hope to Jews and Christians alike in times of strife and despair and models for the great kings of Europe. A landmark work of research and lucid scholarship by two brilliant luminaries, "David and Solomon" recasts the very genesis of western history in a whole new light.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Lacking clear archeological evidence or extrabiblical testimony, biblical scholars are often challenged in persuading a skeptical world that the Bible's characters really existed and that their stories are actual historical records. The task of separating myth from history can be a daunting one. Finkelstein and Silberman, both renowned archaeologists (Finkelstein chairs the archaeology department [at Tel Aviv University; Silberman is a contributing editor to Archaeology magazine), take a different approach: integrating ancient heroic and warrior archetypes into the lives of the kings of Israel, thus synthesizing history and myth in support of the religious endeavor. The authors are careful to note that the absence of contemporary confirmation outside the Bible is no reason to believe that the characters did not actually exist. Rather, the biblical stories form the basis for a legend tradition in which the Davidic legacy gradually transforms "from a down-to-earth political program into the symbols of a transcendent religious faith that would spread throughout the world." Finkelstein and Silberman, who also had a winner with The Bible Unearthed, tell their story in a clear and easily understood manner, never boring but always challenging. Discovery Club main selection, BOMC, QPB and History book clubs alternate selection. (Feb. 8) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
From Booklist As Finkelstein and Silberman cite, the figure of David (shepherd, warrior, and divinely protected king) and of his son, Solomon (a great builder, wise judge, and serene ruler of a vast empire) have become timeless models of righteous leadership and God's sanction. They contend that the archaeological discoveries of recent decades have shown "how far from the glamorous scriptural portraits the actual world of David and Solomon was." They also posit that many of the famous episodes in the biblical story are highly exaggerated. Although it seems possible that David and Solomon were actual historical characters, they were very different from their scriptural portraits. Finkelstein and Silberman offer evidence that it is unlikely that David ever conquered land more than two days' march from the heartland of Judah and that Solomon's Jerusalem was "neither extensive nor impressive." Their point is to show how the legends of David and Solomon developed and how they came to guide Western thinking and shape Western religious and political traditions in important ways. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "A bold and provocative book, well researched, well written, and powerfully argued. It challenges many of the assumptions developed by the literal religious minds of the ages, opening traditional possibilities to new conclusions."-- John Shelby Spong, author of Here I Stand: My Struggle for a Christianity of Integrity, Love, and Equality "A brutally honest assessment of what archaeology can and cannot tell us about the historical accuracy of the Bible, presented with both authority and panache."-- Jonathan Kirsch, Los Angeles Times " . . . an intellectual high-wire act. Their audacity and skill is admirable . . . The book's most stunning accomplishment is its skillful reconciliation of competing perspectives within the biblical text."--

