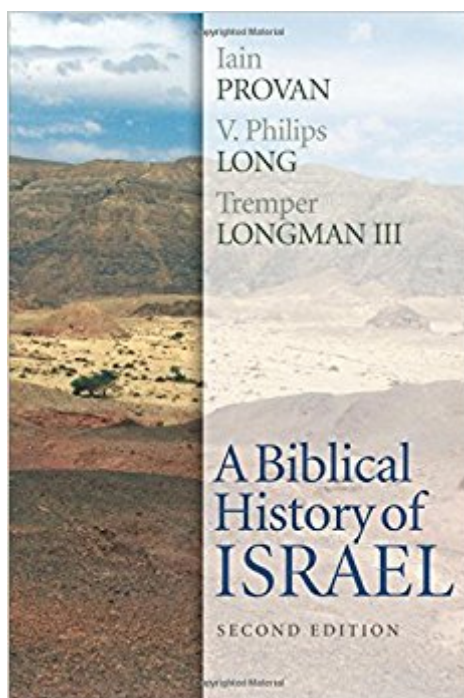


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# A Biblical History Of Israel, Second Edition



## Synopsis

For over a decade, *A Biblical History of Israel* has gathered praise and criticism for its unapologetic approach to reconstructing the historical landscape of ancient Israel through a biblical lens. In this much-anticipated second edition, the authors reassert that the Old Testament should be taken seriously as a historical document alongside other literary and archaeological sources. Significantly revised and updated, *A Biblical History of Israel, Second Edition* includes the authors' direct response to critics. In part 1, the authors review scholarly approaches to the historiography of ancient Israel and negate arguments against using the Bible as a primary source. In part 2, they outline a history of ancient Israel from 2000 to 400 BCE by integrating both biblical and extrabiblical sources. The second edition includes updated archaeological data and new references. The text also provides seven maps and fourteen tables as useful references for students.

## Book Information

Paperback: 550 pages

Publisher: Westminster John Knox Press; 2 edition (November 6, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0664239137

ISBN-13: 978-0664239138

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #37,674 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > History & Culture](#) #37 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Criticism & Interpretation > Old Testament](#) #81 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Bible Study > Old Testament](#)

## Customer Reviews

"The history of Israel and the relevance of the biblical testimony to understanding it continue to be contested areas. Building on the work of their previous edition by clarifying points of dispute and updating their discussion, Provan, Long, and Longman offer a thoughtful and well-reasoned argument in favor of giving serious attention to the Bible's own testimony. A crucial element of this must therefore be a careful reading of the text itself, one that takes seriously its own forms and agenda, because only when this is done can the Bible's testimony be evaluated. One of the real strengths of this work is the way in which it integrates careful exegesis with its wider discussion of

historiography and history. This discussion is irenic and well-informed, showing that all our sources for Israel's history need to be interrogated for their testimony. The result is a volume that is epistemologically and methodologically sophisticated and yet accessible to a wider readership and which presents a strong case for making use of the Bible in understanding Israel's history. This should be a standard work for years to come." --David G. Firth, Lecturer in Old Testament and Director of Studies, St. John's College in Nottingham, England

"A sober, disciplined, well-reasoned response to the so-called minimalists who have dominated recent discussion of the history of ancient Israel. A Biblical History correctly insists that the 'historical reliability' of ancient texts largely depends on which testimonies to trust. The consequence is that the skepticism that has long dominated Old Testament discussion can no longer claim a privileged position either epistemologically or morally but in fact is an ideological advocacy. This book will need to be taken seriously and will be welcomed by all those who engage such issues of the historicity of the biblical text." --Walter Brueggemann, William Marcellus McPheeters Professor Emeritus of Old Testament, Columbia Theological Seminary

Iain Provan is the Marshall Sheppard Professor of Biblical Studies at Regent College. V. Philips Long is Professor of Old Testament at Regent College.

Great historical reference

Have thoroughly enjoyed reading this book.

A Biblical History of Israel by Iain Provan, V. Philips Long, and Tremper Longman III has been a useful and well-respected textbook for over a decade. It has been received with both praise and criticism for its unapologetic approach in the reconstruction of Israel by scholars and students alike, but the former has always seemed outweighed the latter. Now, significantly revised and updated, this second edition of A Biblical History of Israel proves to be more refined and useful than ever. If the reader is familiar with the previous edition of the book, the content, and organization of this second edition is largely the same as before. In part one, the authors provide a helpful review of the various scholarly approaches to the historiography of ancient Israel and argue against the minimalist consensus that seeks to negate the use of the Bible as a primary source for such task. This section constructs a needed framework for the conversation and provides the reader with a useful introduction to the issues surrounding historiography and ancient Israel. In part two, the authors

shape a history of ancient Israel from the time of Abraham to the Persian Period (2000 to 400 BCE) by integrating biblical sources, extrabiblical sources, and a number of relevant archaeological discoveries. In regards to the latter, the second edition has been thoroughly updated to concur with the most recent archaeological data and discoveries over the past decade, as well as new references have been added and updated. This section has and continues to be a helpful reference for the reader. It is well-documented throughout, clearly stated, convincingly argued, and judiciously presented. Additionally, in this second edition of the book, the authors have intentionally sought to address a large array of criticism against the effort of the first edition. This interaction is witnessed throughout the book and makes for a more engaging read that is certain be enjoyed by readers of all persuasions. The authors have also included a designated appendix that is aimed more specifically at the criticism against the first edition, and the attentive reader is sure to find this level of interaction helpful. In total, there is approximately 60 pages of additional material, as well as the inclusion of a number of maps and charts for the reader's use. A Biblical History of Israel has been a useful and respected resource since first being published in 2003. This second edition has been clearly built upon a solid foundation. As expected, much of the content and organization that made the first edition successful has remained, but with this second edition, the reader has been provided a thoroughly revised, updated, and refined engagement with issues related to the history of ancient Israel. Add the intentional effort of the authors to interact with the criticism of the first edition and you have a recipe for a must-have and up-to-date volume for biblical studies enthusiasts everywhere. I received a review copy of these books in exchange for an honest review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising.

Good resource.

"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots. Therefore when we decide to ignore our history we lose our sense of identity. For Christians that sense of identity can be found in Christ as part of the family of God. Now the family of God is the nation of Israel, not physical Israel but spiritual Israel, therefore all Christians must know the history of their family, and the way to do so is by studying the narratives in the Old Testament. A wonderful scholastic book on this matter is, A Biblical History of

Israel by Iain Provan, V. Phillips Long, and Tremper Longman III produced by Westminster John Knox Press. All of these men are well respected scholars in the field of Old Testament Biblical Studies. This book is now in its second edition and is as well done as its predecessor. The second edition has been extensively revised and updated to include recent discoveries in critical scholarship. In *A Biblical History of Israel*, a critical study is laid out in two parts. The first part of this work tackles history, the study of history, and the Bible. There are many radical critical arguments explained and refuted in this section, and are extremely helpful to a scholar who is looking for a highly technical work on the subject. Where the work becomes helpful to the non-scholar is in part two of the work, where this trio of scholars tackles the different eras of Old Testament History in chronological order. In this they detail dates, places, and times of the events which are recorded in scripture and examine critical scholars' arguments for and against traditional arguments. In the end the authors argue that the narrative of the Old Testament are historically trustworthy. Furthermore the recent advances in the field of archeology are detailed in this work and make it a fascinating read. *A Biblical History of Israel*, is one of the most thorough and critical studies on Biblical history on the market. I was pleasantly surprised that while tackling such a critical heavy subject that most of the conclusions drawn had a conservative element to them. With that said I would be very cautious with this work, if you are not highly educated in critical thought, for the work can be wordy and arguments can be circuitous, yet it succeeds in what it set out to do, and places a mostly conservative voice in a highly critical scholastic world. This book was provided to me free of charge from Westminster John Knox Publishing in exchange for an unbiased, honest review.

*A Biblical History of Israel*, Second Edition  
© 2015 by Iain Provan, V. Phillips Long, and Tremper Longman III  
Publisher: Westminster John Knox Press  
Page Count: 550 Pages  
ISBN: 978-0664239138

*A Biblical History of Israel* by Provan, Long & Longman III This is a very good history of Israel from Biblical and scientific perspectives. The first part of the book deals with historiography and why the authors state that K. Whitlam's contentions that "Biblical history is dead" and "little evidence exists that this 'Israel' is anything other than a literary fiction" are quite wrong. While the authors do an excellent job supporting their premise that Biblical history is not dead and what was written in the Bible is accurate, unless a person has a bit of a scholarly interest in history it could be slow going. Once the actual history starts it is well written, well supported and very interesting. Much can be learned from this book. I do recommend not skipping

the historiography. I received a free copy of A Biblical History of Israel by Provan, Long & Longman III from NetGalley in exchange for my honest review. Many thanks to NetGalley.

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