

- B. MAZAR (ed. S. Ahituv and B. A. Levine), *The Early Biblical Period: Historical Studies*. x + 288 pp. Israel Exploration Society, Jerusalem, 1986. The editors have collected fifteen of Mazar's essays into one volume in honour of his 80th birthday. The articles have been published before (though not all in English), but they have been revised. The editors record in footnotes where each of the articles originally published in English (but why not the rest?) appeared; they have, however, overlooked the fact that the original form of the article on Shishak was published in *SVT* 4 (1957), pp. 57-66. A range of subjects is covered: the Middle Bronze Age in Canaan; the early Israelite settlement in the hill country; the historical background of the book of Genesis (the stories of the patriarchs reflect the 11th century B.C.); the Philistines and the rise of Israel and Tyre; David's military élite (the lists in 2 Sam. xxiii and 1 Chron. xi are examined, and an attempt is made to reconstruct the original on which they are based); the location of the cities of the territory of Dan, Geshur, and Maacah; David's scribe and officials (the forms Seraiah, Sheva, Shisha and Shausha are derived from a Hurrian name); Shishak's campaign against Israel; the Aramean empire and Israel (among other things, it is suggested that in the 9th century Ben-Hadad II converted a "loose confederation of Aramean kings ... into the great united and sovereign Aramean empire, with Damascus as its capital" (p. 160); the Samaria ostraca (which Mazar dates in the reign of Jehoahaz) and their historical background; Lebo-Hamath (*l'bo' hāmāt* means, not "the entrance of Hamath", but "Lebo in the Land of Hamath" [p. 202], and is to be identified with Byzantine Libo, Assyrian Lab'u, probably Egyptian *rbw'*, and the modern Labweh, near a source of the Orontes); the location of Beth-She'arim, Gaba and Harosheth (*hārōšet haggōyīm* denotes "the hilly and wooded" region which was occupied by "an ethnically and socially indefinite population", and refers to the hill country of northern Palestine, "the entire region occupied by the Israelite tribes, surrounded by the Canaanite city-states in the coastal plain, the Jezreel Valley and the Jordan Valley, and in some areas in Lower Galilee" [pp. 210-11]); the rise of the Phoenicians; some Phoenician inscriptions from Byblos (the Shipitbaal and Abda inscriptions are to be dated in the 9th or 8th century B.C., not, as M. Dunand suggested, the 17th). There are a list of abbreviations, and indexes of biblical references (in which, strangely, the books of the Bible are listed in alphabetical order), of ethnic groups, persons and deities, and of geographical names. Mazar's way of correlating archaeological, topographical, and extra-biblical textual material with biblical history makes this an interesting and valuable book, and he has put readers more than ever in his debt by revising the articles to bring them up to date. [J. A. E.]

*Memoria del sacro e tradizione orale. Atti del terzo colloquio interdisciplinare del Centro Studi Antoniani (Padova, 4-6 gennaio 1984)*. 439 pp. Edizioni Messaggero, Padua, 1984. None of the contributions to this symposium deals directly with the O.T., but among material of background interest the book includes much discussion of contemporary oral tradition at shrines, and of the cult of the saints (with appropriate attention to St Antony of Padua). In fields bordering on the O.T. there are studies of oral tradition and ritual among the Jews of Alsace (F. Raphael); of the marvellous in the miracle stories of the Acts of the Apostles (B. I. Prete); and of the "professionals of memory" (including legal remembrancers, priests and orators) in the classical world (the informative essay by D. M. Cosi and P. Scarpi, who make reference to work on memory in ancient Israel). [W. HORBURY]

- M. METZGER, *Grundriss der Geschichte Israels*. Neukirchen Studienbücher 2. 6th edn. 249 pp. Neukirchener Verlag, Neukirchen-Vluyn, 1983. The 4th edition of

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