

Among The Host Of Heaven The Syro Palestinian Pantheon As Bureaucracy

Since the middle of the twentieth century, one of biblical scholarship's chief assumptions has been that ancient Israel evolved out of the polytheism of surrounding cultures into an ethical monotheism. However, this consensus has fallen apart in recent years. Scholars now know that early Israel was surrounded by a very polytheistic culture and that many Israelites thought of Yahweh as the chief God among many gods. Furthermore, archaeology has shown that Yahweh was worshiped along with other gods throughout the period after the exile, when many shrines were in honor of "Yahweh and his Asherah." David Penchansky's *Twilight of the Gods* is the first accessible book that shows a historical Israel where polytheism and monotheism existed simultaneously in great conflict. He provides a historical introduction, followed by close readings of key Old Testament passages, where he demonstrates how to interpret difficult biblical texts that depict other gods or claim Yahweh is the only God within this new understanding of Israelite religion.

The Bible relays an incredible vision of what happens after we die and offers promises of what we will find in the afterlife. *Life after Death & Heaven and Hell* draws upon the Bible's teaching and answers common questions like, Will I recognize friends and family in heaven? Is hell a literal lake of fire? Will my pets go to heaven? It is divided in eight parts: Death – The beginning of the next life, Final judgment, Heaven, God – The indescribable Host of heaven, Angels – God's messengers, Satan in the afterlife, Hell, You in the afterlife. While there are some mysteries in life, *Life after Death & Heaven and Hell* shows you how your questions about life after death do have absolute answers, and you'll discover how to have complete assurance that a perfect new life awaits you when this one ends.

What are angels like? How many kinds are there? Are mental disorders caused by their influence? Long favored by scholars, this classic has now been rewritten to give us accessible scriptural answers to our questions about the spirit world.

Every aspect of my life, I relate to the Bible and all the treasures it has to offer, and I am forever thankful for all of God's many gifts, looking forward to my ultimate inheritance in heaven where the spirits of the saints are living in the kingdom of heaven. In the final end, when all of God's elect are resurrected and gathered together, spirit and new body, to live eternally in the new heavens and new earth, and Christ has turned over His kingdom to His Father, the Kingdom of God, it will truly be heaven! Until that day, I will continue to live heavenly minded, with the mind of Christ, as I advance the kingdom pursuing God as I rest in His peace and follow His calling on my life. Always remember He created us for his pleasure, and He will lead you to His plan for your life as you love and adore Him through His Word.

Some people cant see the forest for the treesthey get so bogged down in details that they lose sight of what its all about. Others cant see the trees for the forestthey miss the wondrous details all around them. So why not look instead at both the forest and the trees? This commentary on Pauls letter to the Colossians guides you in doing just that. Even though we will be exploring ancient biblical cultures and learning plenty about the Greek language, no prior academic training is needed. Technical terms have been

set aside. Instead, with everyday language we will discover the big picture and revel in the fine details of this stunning letter, amazed by how God is still speaking these same words today to contemporary personal and social challenges. We will not then be tourists rapidly zipping through Colossians as if on a monotonous interstate highway. Instead we will be hiking our way through this letter, step by step, phrase by phrase, finding joy in Gods truth and growing in our faith. Come and join the journey.

His Name is Yahweh proves that Yahweh commanded us to declare His Name to the world. That command has never changed. Yahweh expects us to tell everyone who He is by Name.

Insightful and heart-warming, this classic book is written for those who seek to know God better. It unfolds life-impacting, biblical truths and has been called a "soul-stirring celebration of the pleasures of knowing God."

In *Casting Down the Host of Heaven* Cat Quine analyses the ambiguous nature of the Host and explores the role of ritual in the polemic against their worship.

Is God changeable? Does He have different gospels for different people? The story of redemption takes you behind the scenes in the struggle between God and Satan. It explains how the conflict began, what the issues are, and how the outcome is already assured. It traces the theme of God's relationship with man from the garden of Edan to the return of Christ and beyond.

In this study of the rabbinic heretics who believed in "Two Powers in Heaven," Alan Segal explores some relationships between rabbinic Judaism, Merkabah mysticism, and early Christianity. "Two Powers in Heaven" was a very early category of heresy. It was one of the basic categories by which the rabbis perceived the new phenomenon of Christianity and one of the central issues over which Judaism and Christianity separated. Segal reconstructs the development of the heresy through prudent dating of the stages of the rabbinic traditions. The basic heresy involved interpreting scripture to say that a principal angelic or hypostatic manifestation in heaven was equivalent to God. The earliest heretics believed in two complementary powers in heaven, while later heretics believed in two opposing powers in heaven. Segal stresses the importance of perceiving the relevance of rabbinic material for solving traditional problems of New Testament and gnostic scholarship, and at the same time maintains the necessity of reading those literatures for dating rabbinic material. Please note that "Two Powers in Heaven" was previously published by Brill in hardback, ISBN 90 04 05453 7 (no longer available).

An economic justice toolkit for Christians The church is positioned to be an ally of the poor and laborers in their search for social justice and equality, but only if it actively chooses to be. Numerous passages in Scripture convey God's strong disapproval of inequality point toward a religious imperative to speak out. What are the most effective ways to frame and facilitate discussions about poverty, and how can pastors and activists add to their own understandings of the theological

and religious history of labor and work? By critically examining biblical texts, Church history, and present-day events and experiences, Eric Atcheson offers pastors, activists, and concerned citizens a faith-based toolkit for understanding and addressing the economic disparities present in their communities, as well as ways to initiate hopeful conversations. On Earth as It Is in Heaven is a powerful resource for any of the faithful interested in building a more just and equitable kingdom in the face of increasingly powerful opposition.

Be Transformed by a Glimpse of Paradise · What will heaven be like? What will we do? Who will we see? · How can I become more excited about heaven as my true home? · Is it possible that knowing more about heaven will result in greater joy and purpose in my daily life? It's not easy separating fact from fiction when it comes to heaven, nor is it always easy to see how the afterlife can affect our lives today. After a car accident caused his nineteen-year-old son to unexpectedly enter heaven, Pastor Steve Berger chose to reject despair and commit himself to carefully studying his son's new, eternal home. He had no idea how much there was to learn, and his life hasn't been the same since. This biblical and deeply personal study of heaven will give you hope for the future. But more than that, it will show you what it means to live today in light of the reality of heaven. If your view of heaven isn't life-changing, it needs to be adjusted. Let Pastor Berger's exploration of eternity fill you with overflowing hope, courage, and purpose. "Sometimes we feel stuck--stuck between the hope of heaven and the pain of this world. In *Between Heaven and Earth*, my friend Steve Berger shows us how to not only live in that tension, but how--and why--we should embrace it."--Dave Ramsey, New York Times bestselling author and nationally syndicated radio show host "I grew up hearing people say, 'Some Christians are so heavenly minded they are of no earthly good.' Nowadays it seems like the church has become so earthly minded we're of no heavenly good. In *Between Heaven and Earth*, my friend Pastor Steve Berger shows us the absolute necessity of having a heavenly mind-set (Colossians 3:1-2) in order to make a real difference in people's lives while we remain on earth. Embrace the truths of this book--learn how to have your heart in heaven and your hand in the harvest. It's one decision you'll never regret!"--Jeremy Camp "When my friend Steve Berger talks about heaven, I sit up and listen. I've walked with Steve as he's faced the trials of this life, and I've observed how he has emerged with a deeper faith and love for the Father and the people around him. What he has taught me makes me long for heaven. It also makes me want to spend my time on earth making a difference . . . and finishing well."--Michael W. Smith "A beloved pastor and teacher, Steve Berger taught for years on the reality of heaven even as we serve Christ on earth, never knowing that one tragic event would bring both realities irrevocably into sharp focus in a moment. . . . Some of God's greatest mysteries are wrapped up in tragedy, but the tear-stained wisdom mined in that darkness is a gift to us all. In this marvelous book, heaven will become a greater reality even as we are invited to live our lives on earth with greater passion."--Sheila

Walsh, author of *The Storm Inside* "Steve has a rich, compelling perspective on Glory that will give you fresh grace to lean into the perfect love of Jesus today. Therefore, I encourage readers not to stop at just one--instead buy a whole case of these puppies and pass them out to all your friends and family!"--Lisa Harper, author, Bible teacher and Women of Faith speaker "In stark contrast to the Bible--and the whole of Christian history--today's believers think little about heaven and much about the comforts, challenges, and distractions of this life. In this much-needed corrective, Pastor Steve Berger challenges and equips us to be more heavenly minded, so we can, in fact, be more earthly good."--Michael Hyatt, New York Times bestselling author

eBook now easier to navigate than ever Unger's Bible Dictionary has been one of the best-selling Bible dictionaries on the market since its introduction in 1957. Now, this time-honored classic is more valuable than ever. Updated and expanded by respected Bible authorities including R.K. Harrison, Howard F. Vos, and Cyril J. Barber, *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary* is packed with the most current scholarship. Plus, the table of contents is enhanced for easy navigation. Readers can jump to any letter and see a full list of words, allowing them to locate any entry within seconds. No more paging through whole sections of the book to find your word. More than 67,000 entries are supplemented with detailed essays, colorful photography and maps, and dozens of charts and illustrations to enhance your understanding of God's Word. Although this volume is based on the New American Standard, extensive cross-referencing makes it useful with all major Bible translations, including the New International, King James, and New King James versions.

Angels are God's messengers and His spirit army, and they are very numerous. Make no mistake, angels do exist! They exist to serve "those who will inherit salvation". But because they are invisible, we tend to forget their role in carrying out God's purpose and plan. Many angels have been given the duty of serving our needs, and their responsibilities and assignments may change with circumstances. Inside study aid: -- The Origin of the Spirit Realm -- The Vast Multitudes of Heaven's Armies -- Should We Worship or Pray to Angels? -- Appearing in Human Form -- Did Angels Interbreed With Women to Produce Giants? -- Popular, But Wrong, Ideas About Angels -- Where Did the Idea of Angels as Babies Originate? -- Leading Angels: Michael and Gabriel -- What Is the Origin of Satan and Demons? -- Different Kinds of Angels -- Serving God and Mankind -- Personal Stories of Angelic Encounters

Lucifer, the Anointed Cherub, whose ministry in heaven is devoted to the worship of the Most High God, has become pessimistic about his prospects in heaven. Ambition inflamed, he looks to the soon-to-be-created Earth as a place where he can see his destiny realized. With a willing crew of equally ambitious angels, Lucifer creates a fifth-column of malcontents under the very throne of God. Hot on their heels, however, is a group of loyalists, led by Michael and Gabriel, who are suspicious of Lucifer's true motives. In detective style fashion they slowly start to unmask the true

nature of Lucifer's sordid plot. Chronicles of the Host is a fantastic novel of the beginning of all things. Follow Lucifer's deceptive plans to rule over Earth and his inevitable fall from grace.

During the past two generations, there have been many studies on the structure, organization, and "function" of the gods of the Levantine and ancient Near Eastern worlds. In this important study, Lowell Handy provides new directions for thinking on this crucial topic, arguing that the structure of the pantheon worshiped in Syria-Palestine mirrored the social structure of the city-states in that region. While many recent studies have investigated the relations of the gods in both biblical and extra-biblical texts from the area, Handy shows that the pantheon functioned as a bureaucracy. This perspective may well be the primary key for understanding hierarchy among the gods.

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? Hebrews 1:14, NIV The angelic realm exists to partner with believers in accomplishing God's will on Earth. Angels serve alongside the children of God in the work of the Kingdom. Thus, it is vital for every believer to recognize and partner with Heaven's angelic host. Our understanding of their presence and purpose—as well as our ability to dispatch them in service of the Lord—will have a direct impact on our Kingdom effectiveness. Adam F. Thompson and Adrian Beale, authors of the bestselling *The Divinity Code to Understanding Your Dreams and Visions*, provide a one-of-a-kind resource for equipping you to partner with Heaven's angelic hosts. You will learn how: Decreeing God's Word sends angels on assignment Speaking in tongues ignites action in the angelic realm There are supernatural portals of angelic activity Angels are couriers of revelation from Heaven to Earth Angels have different ranks, roles, and functions, including: revelatory angels, healing angels, deliverance angels, protective angels, angels of prosperity, judgment/destroying angels, angels that bring direction, and more The unique dictionary contained in the back of this book is an indispensable resource to help you recognize the physical manifestations, associations, and meanings that often accompany angelic activity

Almost 60 percent of those in American evangelical churches believe that many religions can lead to eternal life. But if Jesus is to be trusted when he says that no one comes to the Father except through him, the church is failing in its mission. And it's not hard to guess why. An exclusive Jesus just isn't popular in our inclusive world. Dr. Robert Jeffress calls on Christians to recover the exclusive claims of the one they claim as Lord and Savior, not as a way to keep people out of heaven but as the only way to invite them in. He tackles questions like - Can people be saved who have never heard of Christ? - What about those who worship God by another name? - Do children automatically go to Heaven when they die? True compassion for non-Christians doesn't lie in letting them go their way while we go ours, but in sharing the only true way with them.

"Heaven is one of those great mysteries that somehow symbolize what we don't know about ourselves and the world

around us. At the same time it lifts our vision from the mundane realities of our everyday lives and reminds us that beyond the daily grind of our existence there is another, unseen reality. A reality that is as real--if not more so--than our everyday lives. Heaven suggests an answer to the familiar human feeling that there must be more than this, and prompts us to wonder whether there is indeed more in heaven and earth than can be dreamt of in all our philosophies."-Paula Gooder, from the Introduction

This is a definitive book explaining and teaching the presence of angels in the world and their work in our personal lives today. It includes sound foundational biblical teaching as well as documented testimonies of angelic activity in today's world in ministries, churches and personal lives. Address all of the following questions: -Are angels actually helping and guiding you in your personal life? -Are angels assigned by God to help you fulfill your destiny in this life? -How does worship and praising the Lord draw angelic presence in our midst? Will include endorsements of leading theologians to validate the biblical accuracy of the book.

What does the Bible really tell us about the heavenly host? Everyone knows that angels have wings, usually carry harps, and that each of us has our own personal guardian angel, right? We all have some preconceptions about angels from movies, television shows, and other media, but you might be surprised to know that a lot of those notions aren't based on anything from the Bible. If you read Luke 1:26-38 and imagine the angel Gabriel standing before Mary with neatly folded white wings, you're not getting that picture from anything the Bible itself says. What the Bible really says about angels is overlooked or filtered through popular myths. This book was written to help change that. It's a book about the loyal members of God's heavenly host, and while most people associate them with the word "angel," that's just one of many terms the Bible uses for supernatural beings. In *The Unseen Realm*, Michael Heiser opened the eyes of thousands to seeing the Bible through the supernatural worldview of the ancient world it was written in. In his latest book, *Angels*, Dr. Heiser reveals what the Bible really says about God's supernatural servants. Heiser focuses on loyal, holy heavenly beings because the Bible has a lot more to say about them than most people suspect. Most people presume all there is to know about angels is what has been passed on in Christian tradition, but in reality, that tradition is quite incomplete and often inaccurate. *Angels* is not guided by traditions, stories, speculations, or myths about angels. Heiser's study is grounded in the terms the Bible itself uses to describe members of God's heavenly host; he examines the terms in their biblical context while drawing on insights from the wider context of the ancient Near Eastern world. The Bible's view on heavenly beings begins with Old Testament terms but then moves into literature from the Second Temple period--Jewish writings from around the 5th century BC to the 1st century AD. This literature from the time between the Old Testament and the New Testament influenced the New Testament writers in significant ways. With that important background

established, the book focuses on what the New Testament tells us about God's holy ones. Finally, the book reflects on common misconceptions about angels and addresses why the topic is still important and relevant for Christians today. We are going to look at a few verses in the bible to find out if there is time in heaven. Also, we will answer the question, 'What does the clock look like in heaven compared to earth clock?'

A New York Times bestselling historian of early Christianity takes on two of the most gripping questions of human existence: where did the ideas of heaven and hell come from and why do they endure? What happens when we die? A recent Pew Research poll showed that 72% of Americans believe in a literal heaven and 58% believe in a literal hell. Most people who hold these beliefs are Christian and assume they are the age-old teachings of the Bible. But eternal rewards and punishments are found nowhere in the Old Testament and are not what Jesus or his disciples taught. So where did these ideas come from? In this “eloquent understanding of how death is viewed through many spiritual traditions” (Publishers Weekly, starred review), Bart Ehrman recounts the long history of the afterlife, ranging from The Epic of Gilgamesh up to the writings of Augustine, focusing especially on the teachings of Jesus and his early followers. He discusses ancient guided tours of heaven and hell, in which a living person observes the sublime blessings of heaven for those who are saved and the horrifying torments of hell for those who are damned. Some of these accounts take the form of near death experiences, the oldest on record, with intriguing similarities to those reported today. One of Ehrman’s startling conclusions is that there never was a single Greek, Jewish, or Christian understanding of the afterlife, but numerous competing views. Moreover, these views did not come from nowhere; they were intimately connected with the social, cultural, and historical worlds out of which they emerged. Only later, in the early Christian centuries, did they develop into notions of eternal bliss or damnation widely accepted today. In this “elegant history” (The New Yorker), Ehrman helps us reflect on where our ideas of the afterlife come from. With his “richly layered-narrative” (The Boston Globe) he assures us that even if there may be something to hope for when we die, there certainly is nothing to fear.

God reveals Himself through HIS NAMES. We can grow in RELATIONSHIP with Him by learning HIS NAMES and reflecting on their meaning. The LORD is our SHEPHERD, PRIEST, KING, and FRIEND

Nuggets of Inspired Instructions to Strengthen Your Soul and Prepare You for Heaven You can find your way back home to Heaven! But your soul needs the best spiritual diet to awaken and stay alive. This volume is power-packed with strategies (broken into manageable chunks), thought-provoking findings, and instruction to strengthen your soul. It will provide you with the right type of spiritual energy for the journey ahead. Whether amateur or professional runners, we are all in a spiritual race back to eternity. Before us are lies, deception, lust, greed, debauchery, and other obstacles trying to steer us off course. But with daily maintenance against these energy-depleting influences, we will conquer any obstacles in our path. Read this insightful maintenance guide and discover what it takes to run the race by God's standards and how to do so successfully. If you want to avoid distractions, stop going through the motions, and keep your eyes on the finish line, this book is an excellent resource. You will also discover: - How to become heavenly-minded - The requirements and options when preparing to return home - How to manage sin-based deterioration - How to work out your own salvation Jesus and the host of Heaven, our glorious home, are waiting to welcome you. Will you be among the few who make it?

The final book of the Bible, Revelation prophesies the ultimate judgement of mankind in a series of allegorical visions, grisly images and numerological predictions. According to these, empires will fall, the "Beast" will be destroyed and Christ will rule a new Jerusalem. With an

introduction by Will Self.

The Open Access version of this book, available at www.taylorfrancis.com/books/9781472453983, has been made available under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-No Derivative 4.0 license. Experiences of hearing the voice of God (or angels, demons, or other spiritual beings) have generally been understood either as religious experiences or else as a feature of mental illness. Some critics of traditional religious faith have dismissed the visions and voices attributed to biblical characters and saints as evidence of mental disorder. However, it is now known that many ordinary people, with no other evidence of mental disorder, also hear voices and that these voices not infrequently include spiritual or religious content. Psychological and interdisciplinary research has shed a revealing light on these experiences in recent years, so that we now know much more about the phenomenon of "hearing voices" than ever before. The present work considers biblical, historical, and scientific accounts of spiritual and mystical experiences of voice hearing in the Christian tradition in order to explore how some voices may be understood theologically as revelatory. It is proposed that in the incarnation, Christian faith finds both an understanding of what it is to be fully human (a theological anthropology), and God's perfect self-disclosure (revelation). Within such an understanding, revelatory voices represent a key point of interpersonal encounter between human beings and God.

As sales of Hagee's current New York Times bestseller, *Four Blood Moons*, continue to soar, hundreds of thousands of readers have had their thirst whetted to know what is to come at the end of this world . . . heaven itself! Hagee's national media power assures another mega-bestseller.

A Universal Question, thoughtfully answered! What do you think: Will we see our dogs and cats in the hereafter? Does God's plan for eternity include the created nonhuman world? Franciscan friar and popular writer Father Jack Wintz brings a love for all creation and infectious enthusiasm to the serious task of exploring answers to these long-asked questions, *In Will I See My Dog in Heaven?* Father Jack admits that no one really knows what God has in mind for us in the next life. But in ten thoughtful chapters, he lines up evidence from the Scriptures, Christian tradition and liturgy, and the life and teachings of St. Francis of Assisi, that God desires all creatures (yes, including our beloved pets!) in the afterlife.

From the author of the acclaimed *Dinner with Persephone* comes a radically original novel about four women who invite us to imagine the divine anew: what if "a woman's point of view" were also God's? Patricia Storace's *Eve* begins by telling us her version of what happened in Eden, and by revealing that our familiar constellations conceal other heavens we have never allowed ourselves to see. Each of the four subsequent chapters is the story of one of these new zodiacs, featuring images central to women: a knife, a cauldron, a garden, a pair of embracing lovers. The four women whose stories they tell are Job's daughter, the Queen of Sheba, a polytheistic cook, and a transformed Sarah, wife of Abraham. Storace brilliantly reimagines the worlds of these women, freeing them from the old tales in which they were trapped and putting them in the foreground of their stories and of the Old Testament itself.

To get more information on this book and my other books, check out my website at www.AliensInTheBible.com. When reading the Bible, readers usually find moral guidance; sometimes they perceive a sense of poetic beauty. But how often

do readers fall into the pages, and swim among the ancient Hebrew characters? How many people transcend the eons of time within the ancient text of the Bible, then look up from their reading, and consider for a moment that they are mysterious beings, immersed in a mysterious creation? How odd this current world must have looked, we with our televisions, space-shuttles, and computers, in the visions of the prophets of old; and how odd the world of antiquity looks to us today a world of giants, magicians, and sorcerers; a world of legendary gods coming from the heavens. Aliens in the Bible is a book of possibilities. No claim of supreme knowledge in biblical interpretation is made rather, scripture is presented, and with it, the pondering mind of the author. Some pondering may be perceived as utterly preposterous, despite the fact that science and historical literature other than the Bible may also support some suggested theories. Nevertheless, this book should be a healthy read; it should touch the unseen eyes of the soul, which delight in the revelations of the invisible realm. Aliens in the Bible is researched information that places paranormal subjects into three categories: supernatural entities, realms of existence, and phenomenon. Within the scope of paranormal phenomenon, unlike the title of this book may suggest, a host of topics are covered. Along with the existence of aliens ghosts, thought-forms, artificial intelligence, monsters, and mythical beings are also discussed all with a biblical interpretation. The realms of heaven and hell are explained in depth. Other paranormal phenomenon, such as reincarnation, PSI, astral projection, stigmata, and more, are also elaborated upon. Some of the theories presented in this book might make the average Christian laugh. Indeed, they could be embossed on the front page of a tabloid. Some of them are as follows: 1. The beast spoken of in the book of Revelation might actually be an artificial intelligent life form. 2. The giants of Genesis chapter 6 were genetically engineered hybrids of humans, and fallen angels. Dinosaurs and other monstrous prehistoric beasts were the results of precursory genetic experimentation leading up to the Nephilim giants. 3. Astral projection was practiced at the Tower of Babel. This ability aided in the growth of exponential knowledge. 4. Satan once ruled a host of planets; his home world was called Rahab. God destroyed this world; it became what is now known as the asteroid belt. 5. The heaven reported by many non-Christians that have had NDEs (Near-Death-Experiences) isnt really heaven at all. Its actually a vacated paradise located within the midst of Hades, ruled by demonic entities. 6. What people perceive as reincarnation is actually possession of the deceased. This book may be accused of not being focused on the primary message of the Bible. The heart of scripture is the heart of God; that He imbed Himself inside the body of a human being by the name of Jesus, and willingly allowed Himself to be murdered. Why did He do this? Because He demands perfect justice yet seeing that we can never pay this price, He paid it for us, if only we accept Him on His terms. Instead, this books focus is on items that may be deemed a value of secondary importance in comparison with the essentials of the Christian faith, such as the love of God, the immaculate conception of Christ, His work of salvation on the cross, moral

absolutes, etc. To all Christian readers, I humbly request you humor this work, for this book should serve a valuable twofold purpose. First of all, it will witness to seekers who often immerse

In this book, Bob Becking provides a comprehensive and up-to-date overview of the origins, lives, and eventual fate of the Yehudites, or Judeans, at Elephantine, framed within the greater history of the rise and fall of the Persian Empire. The Yehudites were among those mercenaries recruited by the Persians to defend the southwestern border of the empire in the fifth century BCE. Becking argues that this group, whom some label as the first “Jews,” lived on the island of Elephantine in relative peace with other ethnic groups under the aegis of the *pax persica*. Drawing on Aramaic and Demotic texts discovered during excavations on the island and at Syene on the adjacent shore of the Nile, Becking finds evidence of intermarriage, trade cooperation, and even a limited acceptance of one another’s gods between the various ethnic groups at Elephantine. His analysis of the Elephantine Yehudites’ unorthodox form of Yahwism provides valuable insight into the group’s religious beliefs and practices. An important contribution to the study of Yehudite life in the diaspora, this accessibly written and sweeping history enhances our understanding of the varieties of early Jewish life and how these contributed to the construction of Judaism.

Three major essays by Baruch Halpern, Brian Peckham and Paul E. Dion deal with traumatic changes in Israelite culture, in particular the transition from the traditional culture of Israel in Iron Age IIA (tenth-ninth centuries) to a new, more widely literate culture in the eighth-seventh centuries BCE. These essays throw into relief changes in legal, political and religious culture in Judah in the last 150 years of its independence. Their combined implications for the origins of Western law and civilization, and for the models from which Reformation and Enlightenment political theory were drawn, are substantial.

As so much is against believers today it is great to know we have a marvelous army of angels who are for us, thank God for this wonderful truth. These heavenly beings are given the work of caring for believers on earth. God, who loves His people so much, granted this super concept of giving these great beings the hard job of watching over us. In our illustrations we have not portrayed them with wings. Angels can soar, from earth to heaven in moments, but to my knowledge there is not any Scripture to indicate they have wings. Cherubim have two wings and Seraphim have six wings. I’m glad about the wings, because since we are going to be much like the angels when we get to heaven, it is a relief to know that we will not have to shoulder them and work to fly anywhere. I have been in many places and incidents on earth where I could have been killed, but my angels were on the job, so I am still here to tell you about them. This book is a discourse of what angels mean to us. Who they are, what they are and how they operate. Enjoy.

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