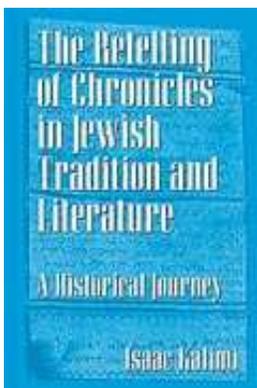


Reviews of Some of Isaac Kalimi's Books on the Web-Site:

www.eisenbrauns.com

***The Retelling of Chronicles in Jewish Tradition and Literature:
A Historical Journey***



By **Isaac Kalimi**

[Eisenbrauns](http://www.eisenbrauns.com), November 2009

Description

Isaac Kalimi reveals the history of the book of Chronicles from the Hellenistic time until the beginning of the Jewish critical biblical scholarship at the dawn of the seventeenth century. This comprehensive thorough examination focuses, first and foremost, on the utilization of Chronicles in Jewish societies through the generations, and highlights the attitudes and bias of writers, translators, historians, artists, exegetes, theologians and philosophers towards the book. The reader is made aware of what the biblical text has meant and what it has 'accomplished' in the many contexts in which it has been presented.

Throughout the volume, Kalimi strives to describe the journey of Chronicles not only along the route of Jewish history and interpretation but also in relation to the books' non-Jewish heritage (namely, Christianity), demonstrating the differences and distinctiveness of the former. In contrast, the majority of commentaries on Chronicles written from the mid-19th century to the present day contain little or nothing about the application, interpretation, and reception history of Chronicles by Jews and Christians for hundreds of years.

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Reviews

A scholar of sterling international reputation, Professor Isaac Kalimi in this newest of his many writings has revealed to readers the thinking of Jewish scholars throughout the ages in their quest to fathom and explain the Hebrew canon's final writing. This book will open new portals of understanding not only to students of biblical literature but also to all thoughtful individuals interested in the gradual transmission of human ideas from the ancient world to our own time.—Norman Golb, Rosenberger Professor of Jewish History and Civilization, The University of Chicago

One could find no better guide to lead the inquisitive student or scholar on an intensive and extensive "historical journey" through the manifold history of Chronicles. Professor Kalimi is veritably the chronicler of Chronicles who, in his own unique and skillful way, provides the reader with an accurate compass to follow his kaleidoscopic expedition to study the interpretation, reception, and impact of Chronicles throughout the ages—beginning with the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, Septuagint, Philo, and Josephus, stopping along the way to visit Qumran, the Cairo Genizah, a fresco of Dura Europos, and the inscription in the synagogue of 'En Gedi, and taking a depictive detour to become acquainted with the relevant Talmudic and Medieval Jewish literature, including the Biblical commentaries of the leading Medieval exegetes, and the mystical, poetic, and polemic works, up until the dawn of modern scholarship. This volume is a tour de force that only a scholar competent in these respective fields and at home with the sources themselves could accomplish.—*Shalom Paul, Professor of Bible The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel*

Isaac Kalimi is arguably the most knowledgeable interpreter of the books of Chronicles in the world today. In this volume he sets out to present a history of interpretation, use, reception and historical impact of Chronicles up to the 17th century. In doing so he succeeds brilliantly. —*John T. Townsend, Harvard Divinity School Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA*

The Retelling of Chronicles in Jewish Tradition and Literature by Professor Isaac Kalimi is an overwhelmingly thorough piece of scholarship about the Book of Chronicles in world literature for over 2000 years. Kalimi has bent his linguistic and historical abilities to the task of showing how this biblical book has inspired scholars and writers across cultures, countries and centuries. Acknowledging that Chronicles has sometimes been shunted aside as less important among the Hebrew Bible books, he demonstrates how it has stimulated exegeses and insights that prevail in today's efforts to understand this text. He finds that the methods used to solve its problems in early and medieval literature act

somewhat as models for scholarship in the other biblical books, then and now. The unusual tidbits that Kalimi unearths make for a fascinating reading experience on the part of even the casual reader. —*Beverly Mortensen, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, USA*

Professor Isaac Kalimi's latest book, *Retelling of Chronicles*, is the work of a first-rate biblical scholar, who is not only deeply knowledgeable of the biblical texts themselves, but also of the history of the subsequent transmission and interpretation of these texts. This newest work combines the learning and insight scholars and students of the Bible have come to expect from him. —David Novak, J. Richard and Dorothy Shiff Professor of Jewish Studies, University of Toronto, Canada

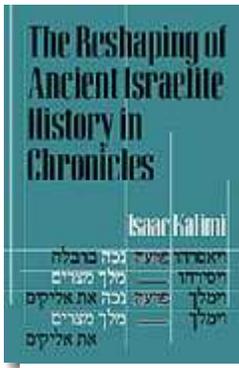
The *Retelling of Chronicles in Jewish Tradition and Literature* is a book of remarkable sweep and eloquence that could have been written only by a scholar of Isaac Kalimi's stature and background. His special grasp of all aspects of the biblical book of Chronicles and his appreciation of the span of Jewish history are the credentials that make it possible to write a book of this nature. Beginning with biblical tradition, that "never-drying spring," Kalimi's "Historical Journey" moves through New Testament and Rabbinic periods, medieval times and ends with the "Dawn of Modern Jewish Critical Biblical Scholarship." The book is an invaluable tool for our appreciation of Chronicles through two thousand years of history.—David B. Weisberg, Professor of Bible and Semitic Languages, Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, OH, USA

"Kalimi has done something of a public service in bringing this vast array of [medieval] literature under control and adducing their various references, sometimes obvious and sometimes obscure, to Chronicles. This is the only book I know of that has looked at this aspect of the reception of Chronicles in classical Judaism...

Overall, this book offers the scholar access to a wide array of Judaic literature pertaining to the study and understanding of the Chronicles. What is clear is that throughout the millennia, Jewish authorities have been aware of Chronicles as part of Scripture and have treated it accordingly, sometimes as more relevant and sometimes as less, but as scriptural nonetheless. Kalimi has had the insight to understand that because of its scriptural nature, the Book of Chronicles (it was treated as a single book in the Jewish tradition) had an interpretative history of its own which has never been recognized, let alone traced. In bringing this comprehensive history of the reception and interpretation of Chronicles together under one cover, Kalimi has given us an insight into this up to now obscured thread in Jewish religious literature."—Peter J. Haas, Case Western Reserve University in *Shofar* 29, 1 (2010)

"This book is the crowning achievement of a world-renowned specialist in the books of Chronicles, as Isaac Kalimi traces Chronicles through multiple sources, from postbiblical literature until the Enlightenment... It is a virtue of this broad study of Chronicles that it provides a *superb* diachronic approach of contextualized passages and a nuanced analysis of these passages. Kalimi challenges how we have understood the work of the Chronicler.

Chronicles was indeed neglected by many interpreters and authors; however, when it was cited, it radiated with meaning. This book is very readable; it is addressed to both scholars and the general educated reader.”—Rivka Ulmer, Bucknell University, in *Review of Biblical Literature*, December 2010



*The Reshaping of Ancient
Israelite History in Chronicles*
by Isaac Kalimi

Eisenbrauns, 2005
xiv + 473 pages, English
Cloth; ISBN: 157506058



This book was awarded the 2006 R. B. Y. Scott award, which is awarded annually by the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies in recognition of an outstanding book in the areas of Hebrew Bible and/or the Ancient Near East written by a member of the CSBS.

Description

Kalimi catalogues and categorizes the techniques by which the Israelite history in Samuel - Kings is reshaped in the biblical books of Chronicles. The chapters of this study consider the various historiographical and literary changes found in the parallel texts of Chronicles. Because about half of the material in Chronicles is available to us in other biblical sources, comparison of the literary and linguistic devices used by the Chronicler is very revealing. Kalimi considers the ways in which the Chronicler has edited the material available to him, addressing such topics as: literary-chronological proximity, historiographical revision, completions and additions, various kinds of parallelism and literary devices, and so on. A handy compendium of the ways in which the Chronicler treated his material by one of the premier scholars working in the field.

Reviews

"This is a most comprehensive, searching analysis of the compositional techniques in the books of Chronicles. We are brought, so to speak, into the Chronicler's laboratory, and allowed to observe how he went about his work as historian, how he used his sources and textual traditions to construct his history. I have no doubt that Kalimi's volume will remain an essential reference and stimulation for all future studies on Chronicles, and on Biblical historiography overall." -- Peter Machinist, Harvard University

"This book should have a serious impact on Chronicles studies and may well alter the direction in which they proceed. Its freshness lies in its careful attention to the Chronicler's literary activity within the breadth of the Hebrew Bible.... Kalimi's study is opening our eyes to the potential of literary phenomena for explaining even the smallest differences between Chronicles and its deuteronomistic *Vorlage*." -- Steven L. McKenzie

in *The Chronicler as Author* (JSOT Supplement 263)

“This book is a significant contribution to the study of Chronicles and gives to scholars an invaluable tool in the study of biblical historiography as a whole.” – John Van Seters, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*

"After his introductory chapter, most of the rest of the study is devoted to considering the different ways in which the Chronicler has adapted the text of Samuel–Kings (chs. 1–19). Each chapter looks at a particular mode of exegesis or adaptation, such as historiographical revision, additions, omissions, harmonization, allusion, chiasm creation, inclusio creation, simile, and numerical patterns. A number of the chapters are further subdivided into a particular sort of the technique in question (e.g., revision, harmonization), but each type of revision is illustrated with a number of examples. These are well presented and clearly explained. The study will serve as a database of examples for further research or for teaching. It is a well-catalogued and extremely useful collection of material..." – Lester L. Grabbe, University of Hull in *Review of Biblical Literature* (August 2005).

"There is no question that this book is a timely gift for the English-speaking scholarly community. The book provides an exhaustive catalogue of the Chronicler's techniques, in each case offering not only a careful definition of the technique but also the reasons for the particular technique. Thus, this book goes beyond mere cataloguing of technique to provide insight into the motivations of the Chronicler, especially as to his literary strategies. Although the book may be intimidating to some young scholars due to its size, the inclusion of the evidence from the text of Chronicles (in both Hebrew text and English translation) lends credibility as well as accessibility to Kalimi's arguments. Kalimi's volume fills out in vivid color the 'art' of biblical narrative, as summarized by the author in the depiction of the Chronicler as 'an inspired artist' 'a skilled professional historian with sophisticated writing methods at his disposal' (407). Kalimi has shown the impact of the discernment of the historiographic methods and literary techniques on the wise use of a source of modern historical reconstruction. Although some may disagree with some of his conclusions on various techniques, he has identified some key trends that are helpful for discerning the contribution of the book of Chronicles to the reconstruction of the history of Israel." – Mark Boda, McMaster Divinity College in *Review of Biblical Literature* (January 2006).

"This book is, in a word: encyclopedic...The sheer mass of Kalimi's careful work is convincing, nearly even compelling... the work is a *masterpiece*." – Paul L. Redditt, *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 68 (2006).

"Kalimi's work makes several important contributions to the ongoing study of Chronicles: 1) Kalimi proves that the Chronicler is a sophisticated author, who possesses an adroit command of his sources and considerable literary skill. Rather than treating Chronicles as the poorer sibling of Samuel-Kings, Kalimi invites students and scholars to appreciate Chronicles as an important source for the history of ideas and thought in post-exilic Yehud and as a creative literary production in its own right. While readers are unlikely to

agree with all of Kalimi's interpretations of the Chronicler's communicative intent, Kalimi leaves no doubt about the Chronicler's literary and intellectual sophistication.

2) Kalimi's analysis of the literary techniques has and will continue to inspire students and scholars to take seriously the aesthetic value of the text in their analyses. The focus on a variety of literary techniques necessarily demands that students and scholars read the text more closely and so, it is hoped, they will draw more responsible conclusions about the actual claims made within it.

3) The catalogue of techniques and the supporting examples, while not comprehensive, can be regarded as thorough and seminal. As such, Kalimi's volume is an important reference work for the study of Chronicles and should be consulted regularly by all scholars studying in this area. The excellent and detailed table of contents and indices make it particularly attractive in this regard.

In addition, apart from these general contributions, scholars will draw on the many particular insights that Kalimi provides throughout the monograph. Whether through agreement or disagreement, this monograph will spur considerable research and discussion on Chronicles and remain a staple of scholarly articles and footnotes-an impressive accomplishment." – Ken Ristau, *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures*, Volume 5 (2005).

Kalimi's book is the first systematic study of the stylistic and literary features of 1 and 2 Chronicles. The features studied are harmonization, chiasm, allusion, antithesis, numerical patterns, key words, "inclusio," and others; only by paying attention to these features can the modern commentator avoid misjudgements. The Chronicler must be seen essentially as an artist and a creative re-writer of the Deuteronomistic History; as Kalimi points out, he also alludes to the Pentateuch, the books of the prophets, and Ezra-Nehemiah. Kalimi warns historians not to be too confident in their use of the Chronicler to reconstruct the actual course of history. Future commentators of 1/2 Chronicles will use Kalimi's *excellent study* with much profit. – *International Review of Biblical Studies*, Volume 51 (2004/5).

"Kalimi has presented a fresh, stimulating, and carefully thought-out way of examining the major "synoptic problem" of the Old Testament, namely, the relationship between Samuel-Kings and Chronicles." – Eugene H. Merrill, Dallas Theological Seminary, in *Bibliotheca Sacra* 163 no. 651 (2006).

"Kalimi has succeeded in systematically listing and classifying the literary and historiographical adaptations employed by the Chronicler in using sources material from Samuel-Kings. The cumulative weight of the evidence presented also makes a strong case for his conclusion that Chronicles consists of a unified composition. Kalimi's book is an important contribution to the study of Chronicles, and an invaluable reference tool." – Tarsee Li, *Andrews University Seminary Studies* 44 (2006).

"Kalimi's work, indeed, identifies important trends that are of tremendous value for

understanding the role of Chronicles in reconstructing Israel's history... This volume will be an important tool for graduate students and/or researchers studying the book of Chronicles or the subject of ancient Israelite historiography." — Ralph K. Hawkins, *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 16 (2006).

"*The Reshaping of Ancient Israelite History in Chronicles* **fills a gap in scholarship**. The thorough review of the changes the Chronicler made to his sources is most instructive and will provide a useful guide to anyone working on Chronicles or attempting to reconstruct the history of ancient Israel." — Anne E. Gardner, *Australian Biblical Review* 54 (2006).

"Isaac Kalimi, who is among the leading experts in the study of the book of Chronicles, has recently published two substantial monographs. In the first one (*The Reshaping*), he analyzes the compositional techniques of this biblical document. ... so doing, Kalimi has made a substantial contribution to the study of the book of Chronicles. First, the Chronicler is now recognized as a creative author. Second, as a consequence, less secondary redactions and textual corruptions have to be postulated as has usually been done and still is. Third, more serious study has to be done whether a given text might have been changed for ideological and/or theological reasons." — P.C. Beentjes, *Bijdragen - International Journal in Philosophy and Theology* 66 (2005).

"The careful distinctions Kalimi makes are impressive as much for their breadth as for the attention to detail he provides in his discussion. No other treatment of Chronicles provides such extensive and carefully considered classifications regarding the editorial techniques used. It is difficult to overstate the significance of Kalimi's work in this respect.... The extensive nature of the presentation has no parallel. Attention to detail, incorporation of a broad range of textual and comparative material from the ancient Near East, and a sophistication in presentation of parallels combine to make this reference work impossible to ignore for anyone working in Chronicles or editorial technique. The discipline owes Kalimi a great debt for the careful study he has provided, as well as for making the work available in English." — James D. Nogalski, *Review and Expositor* 103 (Fall 2006).

"Ultimately, Kalimi argues that his study reduces the room for the Chronicler's own ideological and/ or theological agendas as an influence on the differences between Chronicles and the source texts; rather, it was the Chronicler's literary techniques that motivated the changes to the source texts. This is an important corrective to much research on Chronicles which has assumed that any and all differences in the synoptic texts are due to the Chronicler's theology and/ or ideology. Any work that tries to understand the Chronicler's compositional technique is valuable, and the numerous well-documented examples will prove helpful for those engaged in further research." — Christine Mitchell, St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon, in *Toronto Journal of Theology* 22 (2006).

"Kalimi gives an analysis of the differences between the text of the Chronicler and his (biblical) sources, and does this... comprehensively and systematically.... Possible question marks with respect to some details do, however, not detract from the great over-

all significance of this monograph. There are many details which in isolation might hardly or not be noticed, but which as part of a pattern get added meaning and contribute to a better understanding of the method and the purposes of the Chronicler. The material has been clearly and conveniently structured with the relevant texts in parallel columns in Hebrew and in translation. The writer is to be commended for his great care with respect to the text... it may be said that for the exegete of Chronicles this monograph will be a very important aid, with a well ordered treasure of material. – P.B. Dirksen, University of Leiden, Holland, in *Nederlands Theologisch Tijdschrift* 61 (2007), pp. 162-163.

“A seasoned Chronicles scholar, Kalimi has here presented... a work covers a massive amount of data... This, then, is a quasi-encyclopedic work covering numerous categories and examples aimed at presenting the particular method of writing of Chronicles, which was produced late in the history of Israel. After a brief introduction in which Kalimi surveys some of the previous work related to the synoptic issues in Chronicles (and an inherent lack of methodological consistency in many of these studies), Kalimi states that his intent is to examine this topic afresh and with a focus on textual detail. The core of the work is organized around nineteen chapters that provide a systematic study of the following topics related to the Chronicler's historiographical/literary methods... the data marshaled as evidence for each topic is compelling overall. Conceptual sub-topics are also carefully defined. Further, English parallel texts are presented clearly in relationship to the Hebrew of the MT, and they are followed by clarifying discussion....

"In the end, while readers and interpreters of evangelical Christian persuasion may have issues with some of the hermeneutical principles underlying Kalimi's work (such a non-emphasis on divine inspiration, or, in the end, a relatively weak conception of historical reliability of the Chronicler's text), the basic textual data *it synthesizes represent a very significant development in the study of Chronicles*. Hence, anyone engaging in a careful study of Chronicles (from the English and/or the Hebrew) should make use of this relevant work." — J.N. Clayton, Faculte de Theologie Reformee Montreal, Quebec, in *La Revue FAREL* 2 (2007), pp. 47-48.

“Historians, literary critics, biblical theologians, and exegetes stand in great debt to Kalimi, not only for help in understanding Chronicles, but also for analysis of all biblical texts.” – A.H. Konkel, *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 49 (June 2006).

“As far as the literature on the subject of Chronicles is concerned, at present there is no other work which could be compared with Kalimi's book. The work is a very informative contribution and, to a great extent, even a *masterpiece* highly recommended to everyone interested in the Old Testament studies.” – M. Marciak, *The Polish Journal of Biblical Research* 13 (2008).

“Der Hauptgewinn der exegetischen Forschung aus dieser Studie liegt zweifellos in der Fülle der Veränderungen der Chr gegenüber ihren biblischen Vorlagen...

darbietenden, nach „Methoden und Techniken“ geordneten und durch aus fürliche Register leicht erschliessbaren Materials. Dadurch ist sie für alle weitere Arbeit an der Chr unverzichtbar.“ – Dietmar Mathias, University of Leipzig, Germany, in *Orientalistische Literaturzeitung* 103 (2008), pp. 722-728.

“In terms of literary-critical studies, the most attention and credit must go to Kalimi for compiling a monumental work illustrating numerous literary devices found in Chronicles. His goal is to reveal and define the Chronicler’s compositional techniques through a study comparing Chronicles to, primarily, Samuel-Kings... Kalimi’s thesis is that the Chronicler, as an artist and historian, created a new telling of Israel’s history through his sophisticated literary and historiographical reshaping of his sources. In twenty chapters, Kalimi catalogues texts under the following categories/chapter titles... In each chapter, he not only gives a definition of the literary feature and its distribution in the Hebrew Bible and in Chronicles, but he also gives examples from extra-biblical literature. An additional work of Kalimi’s, *An Ancient Israelite Historian*, came out at the same time. This work not only explores another literary feature, that of pun/paronomasia, but also more clearly argues for and summarizes his positions on genre and date... due to the mass of examples Kalimi produces to demonstrate stylistic patterns in Chronicles, the weight of the argument tends to fall on the one who wants to object to his findings. Kalimi’s massive work should become the starting point for ever more precise and fruitful discussions of biblical literary techniques and historiography.”– Rodney K. Duke, *Currents in Biblical Research* 8 (2009).



An Ancient Israelite Historian
 Studies in the Chronicler, His Time,
 Place and Writing
 Studia Semitica Neerlandica - SSN 46
 by Isaac Kalimi

Van Gorcum, 2005
 x + 211 pages

English; Cloth
 ISBN: 9023240715



Description

Conditioned by his own time and place, the Chronicler (that is, the author of the book of Chronicles) evaluated the past from his own historical context and its standards. This means that the book of Chronicles primarily represents the views of its author about the past, making it applicable to the time and generation when it was composed, rather than representing the times and generations spoken about, the monarchic period.

The message of the Chronicler was undeniably different from that of the earlier biblical works and was intended for a different era and audience. The message was modified to conform, first and foremost, to contemporary, local, and new historical circumstances. But what exactly was the time of the Chronicler? Where did he live and write, and under what historical circumstances? In contrast to the Greek and Hellenistic writers, the Chronicler did not provide any direct information about himself, his time, his place, or even the basic nature and purpose of his writing. Consequently, the modern researcher must draw conclusions about the author, his setting, and the nature and purpose(s) of his composition essentially through study of the book of Chronicles. This volume attempts to respond to these questions insofar as the sources allow.

Reviews

"Students of Chronicles have long admired Professor Isaac Kalimi's thorough, creative, and stimulating work on that unique literature. This volume now compiles in one place his most recent studies. Readers will applaud its organization and balance of scholarly rigor and readability in treating fundamental issues - the date of Chronicles as well as its unique hermeneutical stance and genre. The author's exploration of one of its central motifs - the city of Jerusalem - is certainly a highpoint. Flowing from the pen of an internationally recognized authority, this book is a must-read for students of Chronicles and biblical history and historiography as a whole. Sweet, indeed, is the fruit of the author's *superb research*, and grateful the readers who savor it." – Professor Robert L.

Hubbard, North Park University & Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL, USA

"In recent years, Chronicles has begun to receive the scholarly attention it deserves. Professor Isaac Kalimi, one of the most distinguished voices in the scholarly renaissance, here makes the crucial point that the Chronicler is genuine historian, not a "midrashist," "exegete," or "theologian." Chronicles can therefore be categorized as "late biblical historical writing." After discussing matters of date, authorship, and genre in Part I, the author focuses on the Chronicler's treatment of Jerusalem in order to show how he writes history. This book offers a comprehensive and highly competent treatment of an important biblical book." – Professor Richard J. Clifford, Weston School of Theology, Cambridge, MA, USA

"The books of Chronicles have enjoyed a quarter century of scholarly re-evaluation. In this significant study Professor Kalimi has provided us with a coherent and judicious investigation of several of the most important complex issues. His probing analysis of several aspects of the importance of Jerusalem for the Chronicler is especially rewarding. Also to be welcomed is the wealth of insight from ancient and medieval Jewish sources that enhances his presentation, as well as the reliable guidance through the sometimes perplexing maze of the Chronicler's literary tropes and conventions that he provides." – Mark A. Throntveit, Luther Seminary, St Paul, MN, USA

"This book by one of scholarship's most accomplished students of Chronicles is indeed welcome. It presents readers with a rich collection of studies dealing with some of the most vexing issues of Chronicles study, as well as with some of the more obscure topics. Kalimi's writing is cogent, thoroughly sensible, and based on solid scholarship, bringing to bear the author's breadth of learning, familiarity with the course of biblical interpretation, and keen historical sense. " – Professor M. Patrick Graham, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

"Professor Kalimi has contributed much to the study of Chronicles and to the present awareness of the sophisticated literary craft that characterizes the book. This is an *excellent volume* that raises a number of central issues for the study of the book. I enjoyed reading it and certainly it made me think about many core matters associated with Chronicles. Highly recommended!" – Professor Ehud Ben Zvi, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

"This volume is the culmination and crowning achievement (for the time being) of many years of research in the book of Chronicles by Professor Isaac Kalimi, who in numerous previous publications has established himself as a foremost specialist and authority in Chronicles and its literary, cultural and historical context. Without any doubt, this major work will both deepen our knowledge and understanding of this intriguing book and stimulate further debate and research." – Dr. Piet B. Dirksen, University of Leiden, Holland

"Kalimi is an exacting scholar who has specialized in the Chronicler, and this volume shows him at his best." – Paul L. Redditt in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 68 (2006)

"The book is well organized with helpful summaries concluding each chapter and is well documented with numerous bibliographic references. The book contains numerous helpful charts and tables and some wonderful photographs of works of art, ancient manuscripts and epigraphic evidence. The book is very readable, allowing easy access to the well reasoned conclusions of a specialist in Chronicles studies. This book will benefit the student and scholar alike. It constitutes an important contribution to the study of this fascinating book." – Paul Evans, Wycliffe College, Toronto, Canada in *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures*, Volume 5 (2005)

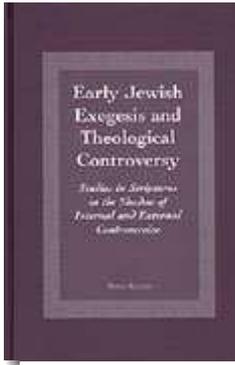
"Consistently, the chapters in the volume attest to Kalimi's strengths in exegesis and stylistic analysis as well as his awareness of ancient interpretations. Kalimi always demonstrates a keen ability to see and draw relationships between passages, sources, or commentary in a way that yields insightful, although often impressionistic, readings. While not always compelling in my opinion, Kalimi's contributions are judiciously argued and will stimulate research and debate among students and scholars.

In addition to these nine chapters, the volume includes a detailed table of contents, a list of abbreviations, a list of the six figures that punctuate the book, acknowledgements, a summary prologue, a very brief epilogue, a bibliography, and indices of sources, topics, and authors. Many of the chapters are best read in conjunction with Kalimi's *The Reshaping of Ancient Israelite History in Chronicles*, which he frequently footnotes to support conclusions or assumptions. The collection is an important one for the study of Chronicles and those with an interest in the literary, theological constructions of Jerusalem in biblical historiography. It is a credit to Isaac Kalimi and will serve students and scholars well." – Kenneth A. Ristau, Pennsylvania State University in *Review of Biblical Literature*, April 2006

"Kalimi, one of the esteemed specialists of the Chronicler's work... has provided us an intriguing historical and theological study about the Chronicler's work that will surely provoke further discussion." — Stefan Beyerle, *Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic and Roman Period* 37 (2006)

"Among Biblical scholars of Jewish background, Kalimi shows an outstanding ability to see and draw relationships between original passages and sources as well as ancient and modern commentaries.... Kalimi accomplished what he promised in the title of the book: to demonstrate that the Chronicler is "an ancient Israelite historian." He provides the readers with thorough contextual information on time, place, and writing of the Chronicler and superbly acts as a modern historian and philologist, meticulously leading his reader through this intriguing document, and extracting reliable historical data for the pre- and post- exilic periods in the history of ancient Israel." – Chen Yiyi, Institute for the History of Ancient Civilizations, Northeast Normal University, Changchun, China, in *Journal of Ancient Civilizations* 24 (2009), pp. 77-78.

“The book is another important contribution to the study of Chronicles by an eminent expert on that field, and as such is indispensable on every scholar’s desk, not only in the field of Chronicles but also for everyone with an interest in biblical historiography in general.” – *The Polish Journal of Biblical Research* 8 (2009), pp. 196-198 (M. Marciak)



*Early Jewish Exegesis and
Theological Controversy*
Studies in Scriptures in the
Shadow of Internal and External
Controversies

Jewish and Christian Heritage
Series - JCHS 2
by Isaac Kalimi

Van Gorcum, 2002
xvi + 209 pages, English
Cloth
ISBN: 9023237137

Description

The book is an important study on aspects of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament theology, the reception of biblical texts in Judaism and Christianity; the Aqedah, and related topics. The book comprises three main parts: a) the Aqedah and the Temple, b) Biblical Texts in Polemical Contexts, and c) Biblical Theology, Judaism and Christianity. Although each part deals with a specifically defined topic, all are linked by some common themes: all the sections discuss early Jewish exegesis, namely the interpretation of early Scriptures in late biblical literature, in the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, in Jewish-Hellenistic writings, in the Dead Sea Scrolls, and in a variety of Rabbinic sources, essentially the Targumim and Midrashim. Each chapter of the book covers theological controversies, either among the Jewish groups themselves, and/or between Judaism and other religious denominations, especially Christianity.

Reviews

Kalimi's argumentation is thorough, wide-ranging, and impressionistic. His technique is to collect evidence from a variety of sources, to construct a history, and then to propose a single circumstantial explanation. In the first article, he suggests that the linkage of the narrative with the Temple emanates from the First Temple period, as shown by the insertion of Gen 22:14b into the text. The Deuteronomists, however, were not concerned with the precise location of the Temple, since it was too well known. Only the Chronicler specified it as Mt. Moriah, thereby turning the "land" of Gen 22:2 into a "mountain." Similarly, in the second article, he draws on an impressive number of sources which associate the Aqedah with the Temple worship, including a fresco at Dura Europos and the Targumim, and matches them with an equally impressive series from Samaritan sources.

There is much to discuss in these essays. Kalimi is an energetic, thoughtful, and challenging scholar...a fine collection by a scholar who represents one of the most

interesting traditions in Israeli biblical scholarship. --Francis Landy, University of Alberta, *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures* – Volume 4 (2002-2003).

"The strength of this book is undoubtedly the wealth of Jewish sources provided to read Hebrew Scriptures, a feature often wanting in popular and semi-popular Christian and Western writing on topical studies related to the TaNaK." – Zev Garber, Los Angeles Valley College in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 65 (2003).

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The Book of Chronicles

Historical Writing and Literary
Devices

Biblical Encyclopaedia Library - BEL 18

by Isaac Kalimi

Bialik Institute, 2000

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Reviews

"Because of its well-organized and thorough documentation, this is a very impressive piece of work. The fact that its approach is so straightforward enhances its value while making it all the more remarkable that no one has done this before. In so doing, the author displays a remarkable breadth of learning, using linguistic, historical, and literary insights to address a fundamental issue of biblical scholarship. Whatever one makes of his individual conclusions, they are valuable and their presentation straightforward. This book will be of immense value for both the data it marshals and the conclusions that it is able to reach from them. Readers who take the effort to work through the meticulous details that are gathered in both the text and the notes of this book will be rewarded many times over." – Frederick E. Greenspahn, University of Denver in *Review of Biblical Literature*, 04/2004.

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"Professor Isaac Kalimi, an outstanding Biblical scholar who has already published several books in English, Hebrew and German as well as numerous articles on Biblical themes and early Judaism, is probably the most prominent expert in the interpretation of the Book of Chronicles; and no study of this work would be adequate without constant reference to the results of his research in this field."— Moses Aberbach, Baltimore Hebrew University, in *Revue Biblique*, 2001



The Books of Chronicles
A Classified Bibliography
Simor Bible Bibliographies - SBB
by Isaac Kalimi

Simor, Ltd., 1990
xvi + 230 pages, English
Cloth
ISBN: 9652420085



Reviews

“Kalimi’s volume seeks to fill a lacuna in Biblical scholarship. The book brings together systematically, and with some detail, the full spectrum of studies on Chronicles from the early nineteenth century to the present (but includes some earlier material as well). Contributing to the book’s usefulness is the fact that it is organized chronologically and thematically. It thereby illustrates the history of research and guides the reader to the latest layers of the discussion on particular points or texts. The alphabetical index of authors (in both Hebrew and English) serves as cross reference... the book is indispensable for anyone studying Chronicles and the literature of the post-exilic era in general.” –Tamara C. Eskenazi in *Hebrew Studies* 34 (1993), pp. 153-155

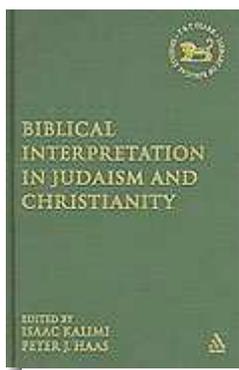
“Kalimi attempts coverage of the entire spectrum of studies dealing with Chronicles. That he excises Ezra and Nehemiah altogether indicates his position on the question of authorship. The work is divided into two parts. The first (pp. 33-113) is a classified arrangement of entries covering over forty subjects under eleven main headings: general studies; textual, linguistic and literary aspects; prophecy; historical writing; theology; date; purpose; the Persian period and miscellaneous. The second part (pp. 117-207) follows the text, with four divisions: 1 Chronicles 1-9; 10-29; and 2 Chronicles 19; 10-36. Under each essays, articles and dissertations, are arranged according to their date of publication. In this way the author seeks to provide a history of research or of trends in scholarship. Occasionally annotations are explanatory only but certain monographs are accompanied by a list of reviews. Cross referencing, which reduces somewhat the cumulated total of 2122 entries, is a feature. The work concludes with indexes of authors.... In all, this is a competently researched and useful resource and one which is certainly recommended for all libraries serving Old Testament studies.” – L.D. McIntosh in *Australian Biblical Review* 39 (1991), pp. 66-67.

“Kalimi’s bibliography should prove to be an *invaluable resource* for scholars dealing with the historical books or the Achaemenid period.” – G.N. Knoppers in *Catholic*

Biblical Quarterly 55 (1993), p. 119.

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“This is a splendid beginning to an ambitious but valuable project.” – H.G.M. Williamson, Oxford University, in *Vetus Testamentum* 41 (1991), p. 491.



Biblical Interpretation in Judaism & Christianity

[Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies - LHBOTS](#)

Edited by Isaac Kalimi and Peter J. Haas

[T & T Clark](#), 2006

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Description

This volume comprises seventeen essays classified in three major sections. Some of these essays raise theoretical and methodological issues while others focus on specific topics. The time span ranges from late biblical period to the present. The volume reflects the current thought of some of the major scholars in the field in various shapes and contexts as well as from a variety of perspectives: inner-biblical, Qumranic, New Testament, various rabbinic literature (targumic, midrashic, halachic, and Medieval kabalistic), and some modern interpretation.

The essays reflects the contemporary thought of some of the foremost scholars in the field of biblical exegesis from a variety of standpoints, move the biblical exegesis well beyond its conventional limits, and enrich the knowledge and deeper the understanding of the readers.

Reviews

"Isaac Kalimi and Peter Haas have assembled and edited a collection of papers that grew out of the Sixteenth Annual Midwest Jewish Studies Colloquium sponsored by the Samuel Rosenthal Center for Judaic Studies at Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland, Ohio) in May of 2004, a colloquium occasioned in part by the publication of a significant book by Kalimi. The editors have put together an impressive volume that treats readers to learned studies that address important topics with depth and erudition.

"The editors and contributors are to be congratulated for the production of such a fine volume."—Craig A. Evans, Acadia Divinity College in *Review of Biblical Literature*, September 2007

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The book comprises sixteen articles. Of these most (we are not told which) were originally presented at a conference at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, in May 2004, organized in honor of the publication of Isaac Kalimi's book *Early Jewish Exegesis and Theological Controversy* (Assen, 2002)... The colorful bouquet of specific Jewish readings, together with the hermeneutical reflections on the Jewishness of Jewish readings of the Bible, collected in this volume make it a delightful read. – *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies* (2009), Matthias Henze, Rice University, TX, USA

Review essay of: The Retelling of Chronicles in Jewish Tradition and Literature: A Historical Journey by Isaac Kalimi, The Commentary of Rabbi David Kimhi to Chronicles: A Translation with Introduction and Supercommentary by Yitzhak more. Review essay of: The Retelling of Chronicles in Jewish Tradition and Literature: A Historical Journey by Isaac Kalimi, The Commentary of Rabbi David Kimhi to Chronicles: A Translation with Introduction and Supercommentary by Yitzhak Berger, and The Commentary on Chronicles Attributed to Rashi by Eran Viezel.