

Chapter 1 : Abandoned Unfolding 2 | Download PDF for Free

The Deuteronomistic History is the label used by scholars for the Old Testament books of Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and the First and Second Book of the Kings, as identified by Martin Noth.

Their collaborative scholarship first became known to most of us through their publication of *Sources of the Pentateuch*. Hence our joy at this publication. This book offers students a chance to see the Deuteronomistic History at a glance in a virtually unchanged printing of the NRSV; members of the guild will lament the lack of a Hebrew version of this work and a lack of significant attention to the LXX or the manuscripts from Qumran. The vast majority of scholars subscribe to the idea of some kind of Deuteronomistic History though there are notable exceptions: While there is much on which most scholars working with this hypothesis agree on about the Dtr, there are the following major differences: I also place myself in the latter number. Among those who identify Josianic and exilic editions, there is disagreement about whether the post Josianic additions were relatively minor Cross, Nelson or major, as in the volume under review and in the works of Levenson, Boling, Peckham, and Mayes. There are supplements to the Josianic DTR from a royal focus and from a national focus in the chapters dedicated to the rise of kingship in 1 Samuel. They also consider 2 Samuel secondary, but not deuteronomistic. The Accuracy of this Book and its Format All readers, but especially beginning students, may have to struggle to master the rather complicated system of typefaces by which our authors distinguish the several hands that produced this massive work. As far as I can tell, the authors have achieved a high degree of accuracy, except for the following types of errors: Formatting in 2 Sam 6: In discussing the sin of Jeroboam, the authors remark on p. Jerusalem for Bethel p. It would have been helpful to distinguish between 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings in the headers to enable readers to find passages much more quickly. Supporting Web Site Index? In that spirit I would recommend that they create a web site to provide additional materials for students in a fashion similar to the way that K. I think the web site could have the following features not contained in the book: The full text of the Prophetic Record and the so-Josianic Deuteronomistic History formatted as independent documents. Clearly the idea of a 9th-century Prophetic Record is a favorite hypothesis of the authors since there is a longer discussion of it than either the Josianic or final Deuteronomistic Histories in the introduction to this book. But with all the subsequent revisions and incorporations of other materials they propose, there is no way a scholar can detect the effect of the Prophetic Record on a reader. The same goes for the Josianic Deuteronomistic History. A third desideratum on this web site would be a table listing all the source and redactional assignments for the complete Deuteronomistic History, much as I have given on the sample handout for Samuel and Kings. Whether this would make their proposal more or less credible we will discuss later, but I found that it was almost impossible for me to understand their proposal without making such tables for myself. In fact, I would suggest that if a second edition of this book is ever printed, that such tables be included as an appendix. A fourth addition on the web site would be the text of the NRSV printed out much as it is in the book, but using fonts of many colors to represent their source and redactional assignments. I think they did as well as they could in the present printed copy, but the distinction between serif and sans serif type is not dramatic enough except for the most attentive reader. Indented vs flush left text is also a major distinguishing factor in the present volume, but that too is not dramatic enough. Color coding of the text--a new Regenbogen Bibel--would make the understanding of their proposal much easier. Possible Misreadings of the Present Book The identification of various editions and redactions by the use of varying type faces and indentations in the present book might inadvertently lead to misreadings by students. A comparison with Chronicles may be helpful. To study the message of Chronicles, one reads not only the Sondergut, but those extensive materials the Chronicler has incorporated from the Deuteronomistic History, the Psalter, and elsewhere. But the whole of 1 and 2 Chronicles is the witness of the Chronicler, save for those passages that may have been added later. Similarly, the Josianic DTR is not just the bold paragraphs marked out in this book, but also the pre Dtr documents that were included by the person who drafted these paragraphs printed in bold. The Josianic DH has little to say about the north, leaving it to the Prophetic Record which lays the blame squarely on the people 2 Kgs. Thinking of the Chronicles analogy also

raises other problems. When the Josianic Dtr incorporated the earlier sources, did he change them? Did he leave out irrelevant or contrary paragraphs, just as the Chronicler omitted almost all of the Succession Narrative and 1 Samuel? Did the Deuteronomistic Historian incorporate previous materials without any changes at all. Readers of the synopses of Vannutelli or Ben David know that there is hardly a verse in Chronicles that is exactly the same as in Samuel-Kings. Some of these differences are trivial spelling differences, but the vast majority are small or larger adjustments of his Vorlage. Would we not expect a somewhat similar procedure by the Josianic Dtr? If one removed the Sondergut from Chronicles, one would not be left with the Deuteronomistic History but with chapters from that history that have been revised and occasionally even put in a different order. If one removes from the Deuteronomistic History the Josianic additions to the pre canonical sources, is one really left with the Prophetic Record or the other alleged sources? Testing the Limits of Redactional and Source Criticism In his *Reading the Fractures of Genesis*, David Carr reminds us that detection of the first level behind the present text is the easiest and safest part of the procedure of source criticism, but that as one proceeds to find more and more levels and redactional hands, the whole enterprise becomes much riskier. Scholars, for example, have been able to achieve a high degree of consensus in the isolation of P from non-P materials in the Pentateuch, but the attribution of verses to J and E and the like have remained irresolvably fluid Carr, p. They not only distinguish between the Josianic redactor and an exilic updating that includes later events, but they also identify other exilic deuteronomistic redactions and ascribe to separate hands passages that have a royal focus from those that have a national focus. They also assign a significant number of verses to a fourth deuteronomistic hand from the late exilic period. Columns in the handout on the books of Samuel list the verses that make up the Prophetic Record. Column 1 contains those materials that antedate the prophetic editing itself, while column 2 assigns verses to that editing and to the later extension of that record from 2 Kgs Column III - identifies other pre Dtr documents. This is primarily isolated by unique royal judgment formulas, about which we will say more below. Column V identifies additions by the redactor of the Josianic Dtr; also the extension of that document after the death of Josiah and the destruction of Jerusalem to bring the story up to date 2 Kgs Column VI contains the verses assigned to an exilic revision of the Josianic Dtr from a royal focus. It appears only in 1 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings. It attributed the failure of the Josianic reform to the institution of kingship in Israel. National focus additions appear in every book of the Deuteronomistic History, from Deuteronomy through 2 Kings. Working backwards to a time before the purported seventh-century Josianic Dtr and the purported sixth century reworkings and revisions of that history, they also identify the following prior documents p. In the case of the Prophetic Record they distinguish between the sources accessed by that prophetic redactor and the words he or she added themselves. They distinguish the following patterns in these judgment formulas: Pattern A, which they attribute to the so-called extension of the Prophetic Record, dealing with the northern kings from Jehu to Hoshea 2 Kings Pattern B, which they attribute to the Hezekian king list, naming the southern kings from Rehoboam to Hezekiah, who are praised, with the reservation that the high places were not taken away [1 Kgs Pattern C relates to the northern kings within the Prophetic Record p. Pattern D, used with the last four kings, employs a stereotyped pattern: A given king did evil in the eyes of Yahweh according to all his fathers, or his father, or Jehoiakim had done. This repetitive pattern is either the shorthand used by the author who added the accounts of these last four kings, or, as Erich Zenger, has pointed out, it is a devastating way to present the accounts of these last kings if they were an original part of the Deuteronomistic History. Amon is treated as a carbon copy of his father Manasseh so that this pattern is used only to contrast the very bad Manasseh and Amon with the very good Josiah. Manasseh rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah had removed, and Josiah gave them their final destruction. The question is whether the fluctuations among patterns A, B, and C are slight enough to allow for their composition by a single author Provan or whether these variations can be explained as changes required by the context McKenzie. They believe that the author of the original Prophetic Record or the Deuteronomistic Historian used pattern C for the northern kings from Jeroboam to Joram, and that the person responsible for the extension of the Prophetic Record, from Jehu to Hoshea, used Pattern A. In their view the distinctive nature of pattern A points to this as a block of text existing in its own right, originally unconnected with its wider context in the Deuteronomistic History Of Prophets and Kings, p. My own

comparison of Patterns C and A in the Northern Kingdom calls this dichotomy into some question. Pattern A does add an expression element 5 that the king did not depart from these sins, but this addition occurs already with Joram, the last king in pattern C. Two elements are unique to pattern C: In other words the pattern does not change where their theories of composition says it should change. For the pattern to change after Jehu the only king in the north after Jeroboam I who does not do evil does not seem strange to me, let alone demand the identification of an extended version of a document called the Prophetic Record. Even more surprising, even inexplicable to me, is that one of the nine judgment formulas in C--supposedly the work of the author of the Prophetic Record and therefore included by the Josianic Historian--is assigned by them to the exilic national focus document 1 Kgs. Thus five of the nine formulas in Pattern C are added only after the writing of the Josianic Deuteronomistic History. I am also not persuaded that the polemic against the high places in all the southern kings from Rehoboam to Hezekiah requires the identification of an otherwise unknown document called the Hezekian king list. I would propose an alternate interpretation of the variation in these judgment formulas: In the north all the royal judgment formulas except for the last king Hoshea raise a litany about the sins of Jeroboam which he made Israel to sin. Changes in the second half begin with Joram in two cases, and with Ahab in another case, and thus not with Jehu as their hypothesis requires. Five of the nine royal judgment formulas are ascribed to a time later than the Josianic historian in any case. Annotations Present-text Potential One of the most helpful features of this volume is a series of notations repeated with most pericopes called text signals and text-history approach. The first of these paragraphs identifies important ideas or vocabulary in the pericope, and the second, the text-history approach, allows the authors to assign the passage to one or more of the documents they have identified and to show how it expresses the thesis of their several authors. A third type of notation, again appearing with every major unit, speaks of Present-text potential, and here the authors offer a synchronic reading of the final form or the canonical text. This kind of notation does not seek to relate the text to any period of composition and therefore the interpretation is more or less timeless and to my taste somewhat flat. In my judgment, a different understanding of the final form could have been attempted. If the first edition of the DTR was written according to their proposal in the time of Josiah as a kind of propaganda for his reform, subsequent additions to this edition listed in columns radically reversed the meaning of that history from optimistic propaganda to pessimistic theodicy since the Josianic Dtr was in their opinion mistaken. But of course it is not only columns six to eight that make up that final form. Rather, all the materials in columns , and perhaps even parts of column 9, are now enlisted to explain the fall of both kingdoms. I think the book would be considerably enriched if the authors would have addressed the interpretation offered to Israel in the sixth century BCE in this massive work that came from a series of deuteronomistic hands. If the proposal of the first edition of the Deuteronomistic History proved to be theologically false, it is remarkable that the subsequent editions could correct it and refocus it by making some additions and by incorporating almost all of the failed first edition. Comments in the paragraphs dealing with the present text potential might have indicated how the final editors could have tolerated the remnants of the Josianic edition which had proved to be widely mistaken. Conclusion Participation in a panel like this allows a scholar to state the kind of book he or she would have written if they had had the time or the cleverness to write the book under review.

Chapter 2 : Unfolding the Deuteronomistic History: Origins, Upgrades, Present Text | Fortress Press

The Deuteronomistic History is the label used by scholars for the Old Testament books of Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings, as identified by Martin Noth.

Campbell and Mark A. They have researched and published original contributions on proposed theories about DH and these are incorporated in the present volume. Optimism precedes his death, pessimism after it: The pessimistic parts are later additions, but, still DH "not priestly but deuteronomic. Most of the components of DH are easily identified, using the criteria provided: A map indicating all the important places mentioned in the DH, however, would be helpful. Locations tend to be just vague words. So too, for easy reference, chapter and verse numbers covered on the page could usefully be added at the top of each page of text to expedite finding passages. This work is a substantial volume with copious clear notes, an over-all introduction to the whole scope of the work and adequate introductions to, and analyses of, each book from Deuteronomy to 2 Kings, plus a Bibliography of Works Cited, the several Judgment Formulas analysed, and an Index of Biblical References. Various printing devices are used to indicate the source of each verse and passage throughout as well as their literary origins and rough dating " bold, Roman, Italic, with serifs or sans serif, with single or double sidelines or none and indentations. While a bit complex at first, in the end, they are essential " unless colour were to be used, as in the early Polychrome series. No attempt has been made to get behind the text to any original oral traditions that might have preceded the written text. The present text is what the authors worked on. Both are able Hebrew scholars. Their judgments and detailed arguments on every relevant point command respect. They have extensively researched their subject; and with clear insight have noted the consonant and differing views of many other scholars in the field. Their work is pioneering and done so thoroughly. It should stand for quite some time and would have to be a starting-point for any future contributions. Their impartiality is obvious. For example, where there are not enough clues in the internal evidence to assign any verse or paragraph with confidence to a particular source they readily admit it. They simply want to understand the text as it is and make sense of it for others. To me, their book is an invaluable adjunct to reading all the Biblical Hebrew literature from Deuteronomy to 2 Kings in one large volume.

Chapter 3 : Download [PDF] Unfolding The Deuteronomistic History Free Online | New Books in Politics

unfolding the deuteronomistic history Download *unfolding the deuteronomistic history* or read online here in PDF or EPUB. Please click button to get *unfolding the deuteronomistic history* book now.

Scholars of the Hebrew Bible generally agree that there is a corpus of books which all bring a particular theological viewpoint to Jewish history. The theology is largely expounded in the book of Deuteronomy, and the remaining books of the "Deuteronomistic History" Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings detail how following or turning away from these religious requirements has affected the success or failure of the Israelites. The broad picture is easy, but the details are complicated indeed. The Deuteronomistic History was not written all at once; rather, the "Deuteronomist" or Deuteronomists; there were probably several of them worked over established materials. And even these established materials might have undergone several layers of combination and reworking. This is particularly evident in the Book of Judges, where the oldest strata seem to be individual folktales of various heroes the Judges. Then, most likely, they were "bookended" with various other tales of the period. Then the Deuteronomist put his spin on things. So, in this case, we have at least four stages of composition. This book attempts, typographically, to show how all this works, using Roman type, italic type, and sidebars to show various stages in the history. There are three problems. One is that the typographic system is confusing. This is probably inevitable, although it seems to me that more could have been done to make things clear. The second, much more severe, problem is that not all the various layers are in fact disentangled. This, again, is probably inevitable. But their assignments struck me as rather radical and ill-supported. None of this should detract from the cleverness of the idea. I would consider this a useful book, and have not hesitated to consult it. But when assigning sources to Samuel in my own work, I did not trust it very far. The sad fact is that, rather than being a final reference, for me at least it is merely a starting point that must always be checked.

Chapter 4 : unfolding the tent | Download eBook PDF/EPUB

Unfolding The Deuteronomistic History by Mark A. O'Brien, Antony F. Campbell "In *Unfolding the Deuteronomistic History* Campbell and O'Brien have provided a useful tool for getting at the debate over the composition of the Deuteronomistic History, without neglecting the outlook and theology of the work as a whole.

Each page is packed with information that is, nevertheless, readily accessible. The formatting of the biblical text allows the reader to see at once the layers that the authors reconstruct, and their annotations clearly explain the reasons for their judgments. This is the place to begin the study of any passage in the Deuteronomistic History. Written in a style that is thoroughly imaginative and engaging without sacrificing the erudition of great scholarship, this work is not only researched meticulously but also offers a new approach to reading and understanding the Deuteronomistic History. This study challenges traditional methods and findings of historical criticism while attempting to be faithful to the text at hand in relation to making sense out of the present text. Comprehensive yet selective introductions to the books of Deuteronomy through 2 Kings set the stage for a thorough analysis of each book of the deuteronomistic historical books. Dempsey, University of Portland Author of *The Prophets* Fortress Press, Excerpts pre-publication version *General Unfolding the Deuteronomistic History* makes an approach to the thinking, insights, and information of critical scholarship in the area visually accessible to the interested reader of the biblical text. The book provides annotations to identify the text signals signals embedded in the text on which these insights are based. Most annotations include reflection on the text-history approach which seeks to account for these signals by development within the text and most provide reflections as to how the present-text potential may be exploited in all fidelity to the text to fuel imagination in its use. Two principles have important implications for the task of analysis. First, one of those self-evident truths which Martin Noth put into words if not always into practice: Second, involving reversal of a long-standing scholarly prejudice and emerging from modern acceptance of the skill and intelligence of biblical editors: Alert to the evident ability of ancient editors, critical analysis will be less likely to fragment biblical text and more likely to reveal the value added in the history of the text. Many works of historical-critical scholarship were interested in such beginnings; this work is not. We can no longer continue the work of the past two centuries as if unlimited vistas of similar opportunity stretched before us—they do not. We cannot honestly return to the innocence of pre-critical study—although some seem to try. We need to continue exploring the many ways of hearing and reading the biblical text both honestly and post-critically, exercising and stretching our cultural imaginations. According to Noth, the history was probably the independent project of a man whom the historical catastrophes he witnessed had inspired with curiosity about the meaning of what had happened, and who tried to answer this question in a comprehensive and self-contained historical account, using those traditions concerning the history of his people to which he had access. Disappointment with the so-called "historical-critical" study of the Bible and a turning away from approaches found unfruitful and sterile—perhaps, too, a broader malaise—have kept these investigations from generating widespread excitement in biblical fields. Among other factors, attraction to literary approaches diverted energy away from what came to be seen as hair-splitting and verse-splitting techniques. The scholarly energy invested in these studies since is not unlike the quest for ore-bearing lode in the gold-rush days; unlike those days, the excitement of the old-timers has not been felt on a wider scale. The content canvassed is wide. On the overall level, there is both hope and despair; the hope engendered by the promise of reform and the despair that follows when reform is abandoned and political disaster ensues. Multiple theological views are expressed within these ancient biblical texts themselves. They hold an ore that is rich and revealing. Deuteronomy is far from a mere lawcode and a potted history of the desert time; there is also what it means to be chosen people, a people loved and a law to be kept, the interplay of divine empowerment and human responsibility.

Chapter 5 : Unfolding Deuteronomistic History by Antony F. Campbell

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"In Unfolding the Deuteronomistic History Campbell and O'Brien have provided a useful tool for getting at the debate over the composition of the Deuteronomistic History, without neglecting the outlook and theology of the work as a whole. Each page is packed with information that is, nevertheless.

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Chapter 8 : A Response to Unfolding the Deuteronomistic History

A Response to Unfolding the Deuteronomistic History. Ralph W. Klein. November, All of us who teach are grateful that Antony Campbell and Mark O'Brien have put this textbook in our hands in an attractive format and at a relatively modest cost (\$37). Their collaborative scholarship first be.

Chapter 9 : Unfolding the Deuteronomistic History : Mark A. O'Brien :

In conclusion, The Authors of the Deuteronomistic History is a surprisingly accessible volume that is brimming with scholastic insight. Even laymen will be capable of understanding Peterson's arguments and enjoy his insights into the history of Israel.