

Contents

Preface — vii

Sources of the Papers — xvii

Part A: Judah under Assyrian Rule

The Changing Faces of Kingship in Judah under Assyrian Rule — 3

The Long Seventh Century BCE: Archaeological and Historical Perspectives — 21

The Time and Origin of the Volute-Capitals from Judah, Moab and Ammon — 47

Judah under Assyrian Rule and the Early Phase of Stamping Jar Handles — 71

The *lmlk* and ‘Private’ Stamp Impressions from Tel Beth-Shemesh: An Added Dimension to the Late 8th and Early 7th Century BCE History of the Site — 87

Part B: Judah and Its Surroundings under Babylonian Rule

Shedding New Light on the Dark Years of the “Exilic Period”: New Studies, Further Elucidation, and Some Questions Regarding the Archaeology of Judah as an “Empty Land” — 95

Nebuchadrezzar’s Policy in ‘Ḥattu-Land’ and the Fate of the Kingdom of Judah — 117

Judah, Jerusalem and the Temple (586–539 BCE) — 135

Demographic Changes in Judah between the Seventh and the Fifth Centuries BCE — 147

The “Riddle of Ramat Raḥel” and the Problem of Identifying the Material Culture of the Babylonian and Early Persian Periods — 189

Ammon in Transition from Vassal Kingdom to Babylonian Province — 195

Was there a ‘Royal Estate’ at En-Gedi during the Late Iron Age and the Persian Period? — 211

Part C: Judah and Its Surroundings in the Persian Period

Persian-Period Judah – A New Perspective — 223

Achaemenid Imperial Policy, Settlement Processes in Palestine, and the Status of Jerusalem in the Middle of the Fifth Century BCE — 243

Persian Period Finds from Jerusalem: Facts and Interpretations — 265

The Rural Economy of Judah during the Persian Period and the Settlement History of the District System — 283

Material Culture, Administration and Economy in Judah during the Persian Period: The Role of the Jerusalem Temple — 305

Judah during the Transition between the Persian and Early Hellenistic Periods: Regional Processes — 329

Part D: Studies on the History and Archeology of Jerusalem

Jerusalem as a Symbol and in Reality — 357

Between Archaeology and Text: A Reevaluation of the Development Process of Jerusalem in the Persian Period — 369

Jerusalem between Two Periods of Greatness: The Size and Status of the City in the Babylonian, Persian and Early Hellenistic Periods — 385

Part E: Studies on the Region of Benjamin and Its Surroundings

Benjamin in Retrospective: Stages in the Creation of the Territory of the Benjamin Tribe — 399

The History of the Benjamin Region Under Babylonian Rule — 421

Bethel Revisited — 451

The Origins of the Jewish Population in Modi'in and its Surroundings — 465

Part F: Biblical Studies

Abraham between Mamre and Jerusalem — 493

Sukkot in the Pentateuch and in Ezra 3 and Nehemiah 8 — 511

On Cash-Boxes and Finding or Not Finding Books: Jehoash's and Josiah's Decisions to Repair the Temple — 525

"Jehoiakim Slept with his Fathers ..." (II Kings 24:6) - Did He? — 539

On the Titles *'bd yhw* ('servant of *Yhwh*') and *'bd hmlk* ('servant of the King') — 555

Nehemiah 3: Sources, Composition, and Purpose — 569

Literary and Ideological Aspects of Nehemiah 11 — 591

From Geba to Beersheba: A Further Consideration — 609

The "Founding Story" and "Bill of Rights" of the Family of Barzillai the Gileadite in Jerusalem — 621

"Here is a Man Whose Name is *Ṣēmaḥ*" (Zechariah 6:12) — 635

עִבְרִי (*'ibrī*, Hebrew) in Diachronic Perspective as a Linkage Term between the 'Diaspora Novellas' of Abraham, Joseph, and Moses — 645

xvi — Contents

Abbreviations — 653

Bibliography — 657

Index of Sources — 731

Index of Modern Authors — 749