

ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN SETTING OF THE BIBLE BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- ANEP see Pritchard.
- ANET see Pritchard.
- ARI see Grayson.
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_____. *What Did the Biblical Writers Know & When Did They Know It?* Eerdmans, 2001. (Dever's text is entertaining and informative, even while it promotes an idiosyncratic critique of "minimalism" and Biblicism, promoting a reliable historical core to the Hebrew kingdom. Definitions: "minimalist" is "one who accepts the biblical text only when it can be confirmed from other sources" and "maximalist" is "one who accepts the biblical text unless it can be proved wrong" (23) [Dever draws a distinction between fundamentalists who believe in inerrancy and conservative evangelicals who fit 'maximal conservative' approach, pp. 22-24]. The short answer to the question asked in the book's title is: "They knew a lot, and they knew it early" [295]. One of the more sensible themes is seeing the biblical writers as being part of the religious establishment which, often times, was a minority in the face of polytheistic synchronistic mass folk religion [see, e.g., 270]. Dever often refers to the outlook of the biblical writings as propaganda and the like. Dever's presentation of ancient Israel's religion according to archaeology is presented on pages 175-202, which includes his view of biblical monotheism emerging out of Canaanite-like religions [see the titles of his other writings above].)
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¹ CTA is the common abbreviation of the Ugaritic texts used in COS (Hallo), CML (Gibson), and so on, and refers to *Corpus des tablettes an cunéiforms alphabétiques découvertes à Ra Shamra-Ugarit de 1929 à 1939*. Ed. A. Herdner. Mission de Ras Shamra 10. Paris, 1963. (ANET [Pritchard] and many older works use different reference systems; see ANET, 129. For table comparing reference systems, see Segert, 168-74; CML, xi-xii.)

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