



Contextualizing Israel's Sacred Writing: Ancient Literacy, Orality, and Literary Production (Ancient Israel and Its Literature)

Brian B. Schmidt

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An essential resource exploring orality and literacy in the pre-Hellenistic Southern Levant and the Hebrew Bible

Situated historically between the invention of the alphabet, on the one hand, and the creation of ancient Israel's sacred writings, on the other, is the emergence of literary production in the ancient Levant. In this timely collection of essays by an international cadre of scholars, the dialectic between the oral and the written, the intersection of orality with literacy, and the advent of literary compositions are each explored as a prelude to the emergence of what would become the biblical writings of ancient Israel and Judah. Contributors also examine a range of relevant topics including scripturalization, the compositional dimensions of orality and textuality as they engage biblical poetry, prophecy, and narrative along with their antecedents, and the ultimate autonomy of the written in early Israel.

The contributors are James M. Bos, David M. Carr, André Lemaire, Robert D. Miller II, Nadav Na aman, Raymond F. Person Jr., Frank H. Polak, Christopher A. Rollston, Seth L. Sanders, Joachim Schaper, Brian B. Schmidt, William M. Schniedewind, Elsie Stern, and Jessica Whisenant.

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