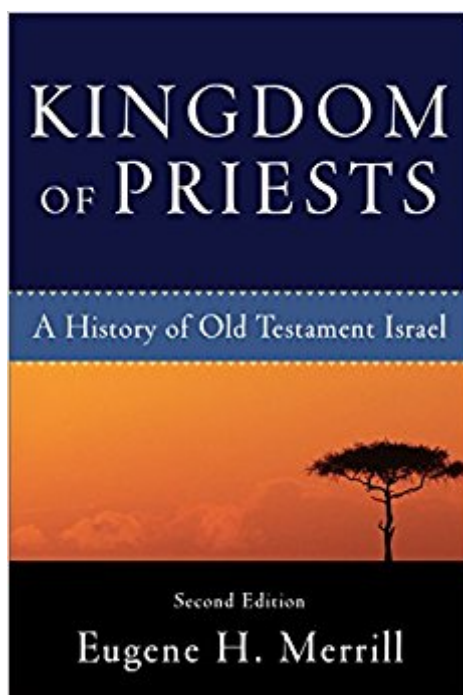


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Kingdom Of Priests: A History Of Old Testament Israel



Synopsis

From the origins and exodus to the restoration and new hope, *Kingdom of Priests* offers a comprehensive introduction to the history of Old Testament Israel. Merrill explores the history of ancient Israel not only from Old Testament texts but also from the literary and archeological sources of the ancient Near East. After selling more than 30,000 copies, the book has now been updated and revised. The second edition addresses and interacts with current debates in the history of ancient Israel, offering an up to date articulation of a conservative evangelical position on historical matters. The text is accented with nearly twenty maps and charts.

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Customer Reviews

Kingdom of Priests provides a comprehensive introduction to the history of Old Testament Israel. Now updated and revised, this volume addresses and interacts with current debates in the history of ancient Israel, offering an up-to-date articulation of a conservative evangelical position on historical matters. The text is accented with nearly twenty maps and charts. "Kingdom of Priests has served several generations of students and colleagues with distinction, so it is with delight that I welcome this second edition. Judiciously updated throughout, its most important improvement is the engagement of recent historiographical discussions, including a burgeoning literature among evangelicals. I am pleased to recommend it."--David M. Howard, professor of Old Testament, Bethel Seminary "The second edition of Eugene Merrill's now classic *Kingdom of Priests* is a model of the seamless relationship of Old Testament history and theology. While technically a history of Israel,

updated and refurbished by the latest biblical research, this book illustrates by its structure, style, and content that OT history was written for theological purposes. But history is not the unwitting servant of theology; rather, they stand alongside one another as co-servants of the message of redemption."--C. Hassell Bullock, professor emeritus of Hebrew Bible, Wheaton College

"In Kingdom of Priests, Eugene Merrill follows a sound methodology that uses explicitly stated and well-reasoned principles in analyzing Old Testament events. He demonstrates how the 'facts' of Old Testament history emerge only after sound hermeneutics that give attention to issues of style, genre, and rhetorical strategies are applied to the biblical text. Merrill provides historical background for each biblical book and period of Israel's history and gives up-to-date information from extrabiblical sources regarding nations and rulers with whom Israel often found itself in conflict. This work is a crowning achievement of a distinguished career devoted to the study of Old Testament history and is destined to become the standard evangelical treatment of biblical history for decades to come."--Mark F. Rooker, senior professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Eugene H. Merrill (Ph.D., Bob Jones University; Ph.D., Columbia University) is distinguished professor of Old Testament studies at Dallas Theological Seminary in Dallas, Texas, where he has taught since 1975. He is also distinguished professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Merrill is the author of a number of books, including *A Historical Survey of the Old Testament*, *Everlasting Dominion: A Theology of the Old Testament*, and a commentary on Deuteronomy.

This appears to be a college textbook. However, my wife and I are using it differently. We are reading the Old Testament aloud to each other, and are reading this alongside, also aloud. Naturally the organization of the book does not follow exactly the organization of the Old Testament, so we are often a little ahead or behind in one relative to the other. We find Merrill's synthesis to be helpful and enlightening in trying to understand (and remember) the biblical narrative. Merrill often goes into great detail on locations, chronology, and etc. These details can be absorbed or glossed over according to the individual's needs and desires. On obscure points the author presents one or more proposed solutions, with the difficulties duly noted. Thus Merrill offers a narrative that - it seems to me - can fulfill the needs of a wide audience, from preacher to Bible student with little background. As for the author's point of view, he is obviously a believer in the Old Testament, yet carefully treads between a believer's approach and the requisite approach required by academia.

Footnotes can be enjoyed or ignored (and the book eschews those dreadful endnotes). Thus we highly recommend Kingdom of Priests for individual study.

Dr Merrill is a true scholar who is as at home with the Hebrew OT as with an English Bible. He has participated in several archeological digs in the holy land and is personally acquainted with most of the locations of the OT on both sides of the Jordan River. His familiarity with the biblical text and excellent grasp of the histories of the other nations of the ancient near east has enabled him to offer the most reliable chronology of key biblical events that I have seen, especially as they intersect with the rulers and significant events of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon and Persia. This is the book to have for a narrative of the Old Testament from a perspective that truly honors the text and the God of the OT. Every reader will gain new insights and enjoy the very readable style this was written in.

By itself, it can just about serve as a commentary for the entire Old Testament. If you read this book, (1) it will blow your mind at times, and (2) you will have a much greater knowledge of the backgrounds of the Old Testament. This is a resource that you simply must own if you want to be serious about having an in-depth understanding of the Old Testament.

What a great overview of the history of Israel according to the Bible! Merrill hits the ball out the park by stitching the entire Bible together with a focus on God's people. The dates and chronologies provided are scholarly and easy to understand. Highly recommended!

EXCELLENT BEAUTIFUL THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Wow! Just WOW! As one who is researching the story of David for a four book series, finding Dr/ Merrill's book was a diamond in the dirt (compare Baden's: The Historical David. The Real Life of an Invented Hero). His extensive research and thorough thinking is given in an easy to read book on the beginnings of the Israelites through the last of the OT writers, Malachi. Salt and peppered with Biblical verse support and academic annotations, this is not only a support for Biblical cohesion as the Word of God but a scholarly insight into the people from where our Saviour came. Just outstanding!

I had to purchase this book for one of my college classes, and it was quite informative. This book was not really my cup of tea, but it was interesting and gave me more insight into much of the Old

Testament. The author is very knowledgeable in this particular field and shares that knowledge with his readers in this book. I was surprised with how much I learned while reading this book!

I enjoyed this text on the historical and cultural backdrop to the Old Testament (OT). Dr. Eugene Merrill does not skirt the tough issues of authorship, dating, and the like that go hand-in-hand with the OT. He addresses them head on while landing on solid, biblical grounds for his own views. The book makes an excellent companion piece to the Bible, especially as one reads through the OT.

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