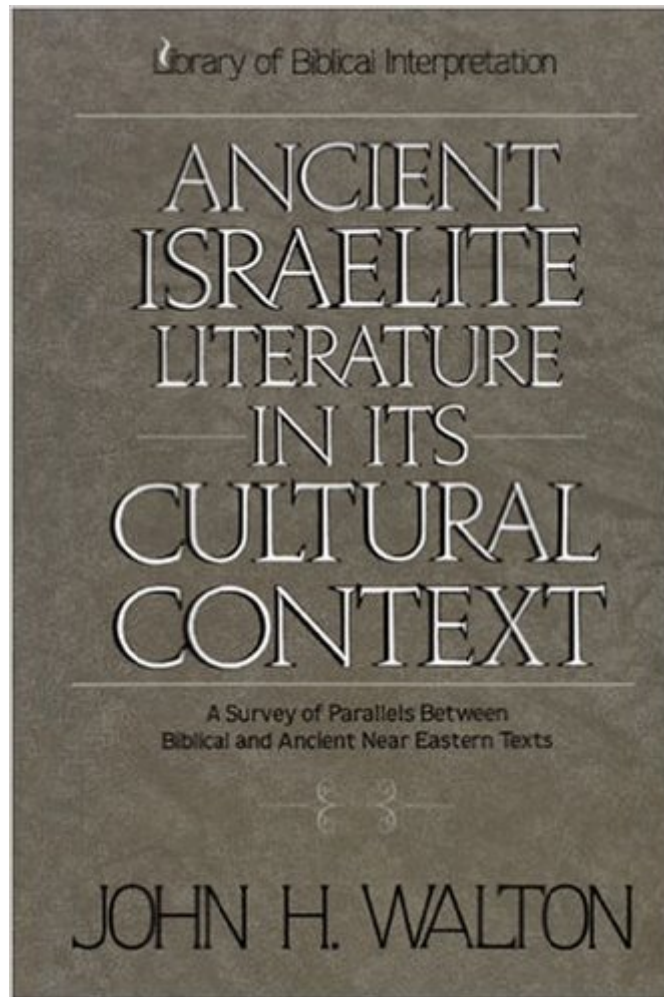


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Ancient Israelite Literature In Its Cultural Context



Synopsis

This unique book surveys within the various literary genres the parallels between the Bible and the literature of the ancient Near East. Each section begins with a survey of the available ancient literature, continues with a discussion of the literature, and concludes with a discussion of cases of alleged borrowing. The genres covered are - cosmology - laws - historical literature - wisdom literature - apocalyptic literature - personal archives and epics - covenants and treaties - hymns, prayers, and incantations - prophetic literature

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Customer Reviews

Dr. Walton's work is well worth reading. As one reviewer suggests, background material is very helpful in shedding light on the text and meaning of the Old Testament. To be fair to Walton, however, requires a more thorough explanation. Walton's general thesis is that the comparative method can help readers understand the Old Testament better because it helps put us in the place of the original author/audience. While there was an effort earlier in the 19th and 20th centuries to point out only the similarities between texts or only the differences, Walton's approach is similar to that of William Hallo or Lawson Younger; namely, to think through both the similarities and the differences between ancient near eastern texts and the OT biblical canon. What is particularly helpful about Walton's book is that the material is arranged according to genre. The following genres are covered: cosmology (trying to understand the ancient's conceptual worldview) law codes historical

literaturewisdom literatureapocalyptic literaturepersonal archivescovenants and treatieshymns, prayers and incantationsprophetic literatureBy grouping various ancient texts in this fashion, it provides the reader with a well organized approach and makes using this book as a quick reference very helpful. Each chapter contains an introductory piece on the literary genre, followed by a brief but thorough listing of ancient texts that fit into this genre from Egypt, Canaan and Mesopotamia (absolutely replete with bibliography), concluded by a discussion of the texts and what kinds of insights can be given into biblical texts.

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