

ROBERT ALTER

*The Former Prophets:  
Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings*



ANCIENT  
ISRAEL

A TRANSLATION WITH COMMENTARY

# **Ancient Israel The Former Prophets Joshua Judges Samuel And Kings Robert Alter**

**Geoffrey P. Miller**



# Ancient Israel The Former Prophets Joshua Judges Samuel And Kings

## Robert Alter

### **Ancient Israel: The Former Prophets: Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings: A Translation with Commentary**

Robert Alter, 2013-04 Chronicles the ancient history of Israel and its prophets from Samson to Elijah *Ancient Israel: The Former Prophets: Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings: A Translation with Commentary* Robert Alter, 2013-04-01 Robert Alter's award-winning translation of the Hebrew Bible continues with the stirring narrative of Israel's ancient history. To read the books of the Former Prophets in this riveting Robert Alter translation is to discover an entertaining amalgam of hair-raising action and high literary achievement. Samson, the vigilante superhero of Judges, slaughters thousands of Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey. David, the Machiavellian prince of Samuel and Kings, is one of the great literary figures of antiquity. A ruthless monarch, David embodies a life in full dimension as it moves from brilliant youth through vigorous prime to failing old age. Samson and David play emblematic roles in the rise and fall of ancient Israel, a nation beset by internal divisions and external threats. A scattering of contentious desert tribes joined by faith in a special covenant with God, Israel emerges through the bloody massacres of Canaanite populations recounted in Joshua and the anarchic violence of Judges. The resourceful David consolidates national power, but it is power rooted in conspiracy, and David dies bitterly isolated in his court, surrounded by enemies. His successor, Solomon, maintains national unity through his legendary wisdom, wealth, and grand public vision, but after his death, Israel succumbs to internal discord and foreign conquest. Near its end, the saga of ancient Israel returns to the supernatural. In Elijah's fiery ascent to heaven, many would find the harbinger of a messiah coming to save his people in their time of need.

**The Former Prophets** Bob MacDonald, 2019-03-29 How will we begin the unfolding history of Israel after the giving of Torah? We have heard the phrase "the Law and the Prophets." The Prophets are the second major division of the Hebrew Scriptures. The prophets recount the history of Israel after the giving of the Law. The first section of the prophets is the subject of four books: Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings. Each of Samuel and Kings is traditionally divided into two parts. Here we read of the occupation of the Promised Land, the early period of the Judges, the call of Samuel, prophet during the lives of Saul and David, the sweet psalmist of Israel, and we read of the progression of the kings of Israel from Solomon to the exile. What a saga! And all of it set to music in the very text itself. The center between first and second Samuel contains the elegy of David over Saul and over Jonathan, his son. Its full sadness is to be known by hearing it recited with its music. To read with the music is an unforgettable reading of the Hebrew Bible. *The Former Prophets* is volume 2 of the series *The Hebrew Bible and Its Music*.

[The Early Prophets: Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings](#), 2014-11-04 The story of ancient Israel from the arrival in Canaan to the destruction of the Kingdom of Judah and the

Babylonian exile some six centuries later here is the highly anticipated second volume in Everett Fox's landmark translation of the Hebrew Bible. The personalities who appear in the pages of *The Early Prophets* and the political and moral dilemmas their stories illuminate are part of the living consciousness of the Western world. From Joshua and the tumbling walls of Jericho to Samson and Delilah, the prophet Samuel and the tragic King Saul, David and Goliath, Bathsheba and Absalom, King Solomon's temple, Elijah and the chariot of fire, Ahab and Jezebel, the stories of these men and women are deeply etched into Western culture because they beautifully encapsulate the human experience. The four books that comprise *The Early Prophets* look at tribal rivalries, dramatic changes in leadership, and the intrusions of neighboring empires through the prism of the divine-human relationship. Over the centuries, the faithful have read these narratives as demonstrations of the perils of disobeying God's will, and time and again Jews in exile found that the stories spoke to their own situations of cultural assimilation, destruction, and the reformulation of identity. They have had an equally indelible impact on generations of Christians who have seen in many of the narratives foreshadowings of the life and death of Jesus, as well as models for their own lives and the careers of their leaders. But beyond its importance as a foundational religious document, *The Early Prophets* is a great work of literature, a powerful and distinctive narrative of the past that seeks meaning in the midst of national catastrophe. Accompanied by illuminating commentary notes and maps, Everett Fox's masterly translation of the Hebrew original re-creates the echoes, allusions, alliterations, and wordplays that rhetorically underscore its meaning and are intrinsic to a timeless text meant to be both studied and read aloud.

**The David Story: A Translation with Commentary of 1 and 2 Samuel** Robert Alter, 2009-10-21. A masterpiece of contemporary Bible translation and commentary. *Los Angeles Times Book Review* Best Books of 1999. Acclaimed for its masterful new translation and insightful commentary. *The David Story* is a fresh, vivid rendition of one of the great works in Western literature. Robert Alter's brilliant translation gives us David, the beautiful, musical hero who slays Goliath and through his struggles with Saul advances to the kingship of Israel. But this David is also fully human, an ambitious, calculating man who navigates his life's course with a flawed moral vision. The consequences for him, his family, and his nation are tragic and bloody. Historical personage and full-blooded imagining, David is the creation of a literary artist comparable to the Shakespeare of the history plays.

*Genesis* Robert Alter, 1997-09-02. A translation of *Genesis* which attempts to recover the meanings of the ancient Hebrew and convey them in modern English prose. It is accompanied by a commentary and annotations and aims to illuminate the original work without any touch of the fake antique.

*Daughters of Miriam* Wilda Gafney, 2008. Women prophets proclaimed and performed the word of God at formative moments in ancient Israel's history and were expected in biblical visions of the future. Now they come to the foreground as Wilda C. Gafney explores women's involvement in prophetic activities and sacred roles in ancient Israel, its near-eastern environment, and early Christianity and rabbinic Judaism, as well.

BOOK JACKET *Samuel the Seer* Shepherd C. Campbell, 2017-07-28. The Old Testament book of 1 Samuel belongs to those books in the Old Testament known as the Former

Prophets Joshua Judges 1 2 Samuel 1 2 Kings In the original Hebrew 1 2 Samuel are one book Samuel the Seer examines this ancient text in which lies the birth of the state of Israel as it exists today **The Five Books of Moses: A Translation with Commentary** Robert Alter,2008-10-17 A modern classic Thrilling and constantly illuminating Michael Dirda Washington Post Book World Through a distinguished career of critical scholarship and translation Robert Alter has equipped us to read the Hebrew Bible as a powerful cohesive work of literature In this landmark work Alter s masterly translation and probing commentary combine to give contemporary readers the definitive edition of The Five Books Winner of the PEN Center USA Literary Award for Translation and the Koret Jewish Book Award for Translation a Newsweek Top 15 Book Los Angeles Times Favorite Book and San Francisco Chronicle Best Book **The Literary Guide to the Bible** Robert Alter, Frank Kermode,1990-09 Rediscover the incomparable literary richness and strength of a book that all of us live with an many of us live by An international team of renowned scholars assembled by two leading literary critics offers a book by book guide through the Old and New Testaments as well as general essays on the Bible as a whole providing an enticing reintroduction to a work that has shaped our language and thought for thousands of years **The History of Saul, David and Solomon** James Allen Moseley,2019-11-09 The stories of Saul David and Solomon are inextricably entwined but they are scattered in the Bible between the books of 1 and 2 Samuel 1 and 2 Chronicles and 1 and 2 Kings This book tells you the full true story of Israel s Greatest Kings in a single uninterrupted narrative Samuel the righteous Judge and Prophet anoints Saul a Benjamite the tallest of his countrymen as Israel s first King As Saul disobeys God and declines into madness defeat and suicide David the shepherd from Bethlehem of the tribe of Judah arises to kill the giant Goliath and become the King s son in law and rebel leader on the run Finally David becomes King of Judah and then King of Israel and the House of Saul loses its royal standing David is a man after God s own heart but his deliberate sins adultery and murder result in bloodshed and civil war His son Solomon secures the throne over the heads of his older brothers and receives unparalleled wisdom wealth and power from God He builds the First Temple but then falls into apostasy The story of these men covers the transition of Israel from a theocracy ruled by Judges accountable directly to God to a monarchy with all the failings of men If you are a believer this book will enhance your devotions by helping you know the Biblical narrative more intimately If you are a skeptic its logic will challenge your doubts Here you will discover facets of this era surprising things in plain sight in the ink on the pages of Scripture but that many have overlooked **The Ways of a King** Geoffrey P. Miller,2011-11-16 Geoffrey P Miller argues that the narratives from Genesis to Second Kings present a sophisticated argument for political obligation and for limited monarchy as the best form of government The Hebrew Bible in this sense can be considered as one of the earliest political philosophies of the western world The Garden of Eden story identifies revelation consent utopia natural law ownership power patriarchy and justice as bases for political obligation The stories of life after the expulsion from Eden argue that government and law are essential for a decent life The Genesis narratives recognize patriarchal authority but also identifies limits based

on kinship higher authority and power The book of Exodus introduces the topic of political authority arguing that nationhood strictly dominates over other forms of political organization The Sinai narratives explore two important sources of authority revelation and consent of the governed The book of Joshua presents a theory of sovereignty conceived of as the exclusive and absolute control over territory The book of Judges examines two types of national government military rule and confederacy It argues that military rule is inappropriate for peacetime conditions and that the confederate form is not strong enough to deliver the benefits of nationhood The books of Samuel and Kings consider theocracy and monarchy The bible endorses monarchy as the best available form of government provided that the king is constrained by appropriate checks and balances Contrary to the view of some scholars no text from Genesis to Second Kings disapproves of monarchy as a form of government

*Joshua to Chronicles* Antony F. Campbell,2004-01-01 Joshua to Chronicles surveys the rich literature of the Old Testament books Joshua Judges Ruth I and II Samuel I and II Kings and I and II Chronicles Campbell argues that while these books may appear historical they are more theological better understood as Israel's efforts to interpret their people's experience The book is helpfully structured with overview and review sections

*The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes: A Translation with Commentary* ,2011-10-03 Presents a modern translation of the books of Job Proverbs and Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament providing an annotation and commentary for each verse

*The Kings of Israel and Judah* George Rawlinson,1889 Rawlinson chronicles the history surrounding each king giving account of the politics warfare religion and culture of the reign With close reference to the Bible throughout Rawlinson's study has become an essential part of Old Testament studies and is important tool to aid with the examination of The Books of Kings and Chronicles in particular In addition to this Rawlinson provides a close look at the lives of the various kings of Israel and Judah the events of their reigns the battles fought and the effect on the kingdoms of the decisions made by the monarchs

*An Introduction to the Old Testament* Walter Brueggemann,2003-11-30 In this book Walter Brueggemann America's premier biblical theologian introduces the reader to the broad theological scope and chronological sweep of the Old Testament He covers every book of the Old Testament in the order in which it appears in the Hebrew Bible and treats the most important issues and methods in contemporary interpretation of the Old Testament literary historical and theological

**The Book of Psalms: A Translation with Commentary** Robert Alter,2009-09-22 In his brilliant new translation of one of the Bibles most cherished and powerful books Alter captures the simplicity physicality and coiled rhythmic power of the Hebrew restoring the remarkable eloquence of these ancient poems

*Ephraim* Millennial Press,R. Wayne Shute, Monte S. Nyman,Randy L. Bott,1999

*The "God of Israel" in History and Tradition* Michael J. Stahl,2021-03-22 In *The God of Israel in History and Tradition* Michael Stahl examines the historical and ideological significances of the formulaic title god of Israel *elohes yisra'el* in the Hebrew Bible using critical theory on social power and identity

*Give Us a King!* ,1999 Everett Fox's translation of the biblical books from Genesis through Deuteronomy has been widely acclaimed as a scholarly religious and literary

masterpiece Praising its unique and authoritative approach the New York Times Book Review said It makes it possible for us to take up the Scripture as if we had never seen it before In Give Us a King Fox turns to the two books of Samuel which contain some of the Bible s most famous stories and most unforgettable personalities the barren Hannah who will be mother to the prophet Samuel the tragic King Saul Bathsheba the object of King David s illicit desire and the future mother of King Solomon and King David himself the romantic hero who becomes a legendary but morally compromised monarch Accompanied by illuminating commentary and notes Fox s masterful translation re creates the echoes allusions alliterations and wordplays of the Hebrew original so that the reader is finally able to experience in English the full power of the ancient saga of the original once and future king

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## Unveiling the Magic of Words: A Overview of "**Ancient Israel The Former Prophets Joshua Judges Samuel And Kings Robert Alter**"

In a world defined by information and interconnectivity, the enchanting power of words has acquired unparalleled significance. Their power to kindle emotions, provoke contemplation, and ignite transformative change is really awe-inspiring. Enter the realm of "**Ancient Israel The Former Prophets Joshua Judges Samuel And Kings Robert Alter**," a mesmerizing literary masterpiece penned by way of a distinguished author, guiding readers on a profound journey to unravel the secrets and potential hidden within every word. In this critique, we shall delve into the book is central themes, examine its distinctive writing style, and assess its profound impact on the souls of its readers.

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