

Preface

This short book is a translation of my small volume, *Jerusalem und der eine Gott: Eine Religionsgeschichte*, which was published by Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht in 2011.¹ That volume, in turn, is a severely abridged version of my two-volume, 1,384-page work, *Die Geschichte Jerusalems und die Entstehung des Monotheismus*, which was published by the same press in 2007.² Anyone wanting to know further details about excavation reports, epigraphic and iconographic sources, extrabiblical texts (which run from the Egyptian execration texts of the eighteenth century BCE to the works of Flavius Josephus in the first century CE), biblical texts, and other important pieces of the argument should consult the larger work, which is only epitomized here. The longer version also cites much of the secondary literature and discusses contrasting opinions.

Biblical passages are only quoted occasionally in the present volume as it is assumed readers will have a Bible at hand that they can consult as they wish. The same cannot be assumed in the case of various extrabiblical texts, and so references are provided whenever necessary. Unfortunately, only a small selection of the 725 illustrations from the original two-volume work are represented here but happily a few new, previously unpublished finds are found in this volume that are not present in the earlier one.

Most accounts of the history of Israel and Jerusalem tend to ignore iconographic sources. There are at least three reasons why this is a poor and unfortunate practice: First, it would be foolish in a contem-

1. Othmar Keel, *Jerusalem und der eine Gott: Eine Religionsgeschichte* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2011; 2nd ed. = 2014).

2. Othmar Keel, *Die Geschichte Jerusalems und der Entstehung der Monotheismus* (2 vols.; OLB IV/1; Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2007).

porary trial to exclude any witnesses out of hand (in the present scenario, the images and artifacts), since they may provide important information pertinent to the case (see further the afterword). Second, it is particularly inexcusable to make such an exclusion in those cases for which—and this is precisely the situation with the early history of Jerusalem—there are so few witnesses in the first place. Third, iconographic sources are particularly valuable forms of testimony that often bring new aspects to light. As John Berger has noted, “No other kind of relic or text from the past can offer such a direct testimony about the world which surrounded other people at other times. In this respect images are more precise and richer than literature.”³

My thanks go to the translator, Morven McLean. Although she is not a biblical scholar, she did a magnificent job translating my not-always-easy text into English. I am also thankful to Brent Strawn, who ensured that the language was as natural and “native” as possible for a scholarly English-American audience; who edited the entire volume accordingly; and who wrote the introduction. Finally, I am again grateful to Fortress Press for adding this publication to my two earlier ones: my commentary on the Song of Songs, and the volume I co-authored with Christoph Uehlinger: *Gods, Goddesses, and Images of God in Ancient Israel*.⁴

Othmar Keel
Fribourg, August 2016

3. John Berger, *Ways of Seeing* (repr. ed.; London: Penguin, 1990), 10.

4. Othmar Keel, *The Song of Songs: A Continental Commentary* (trans. Frederick J. Gaiser; Minneapolis: Fortress, 1994); Othmar Keel and Christoph Uehlinger, *Gods, Goddesses, and Images of God in Ancient Israel* (trans. Thomas H. Trapp; Minneapolis: Fortress, 1998).

Abbreviations

ABAT2	<i>Altorientalische Bilder zum Alten Testament</i>
ADPV	Abhandlungen des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins
ANEP	<i>The Ancient Near East in Pictures Relating to the Old Testament</i>
ANET	<i>Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament</i> (3rd ed.; ed. James B. Pritchard; Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969)
AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament
BAR	<i>Biblical Archaeology Review</i>
Bib	<i>Biblica</i>
BibB	Biblische Beiträge
BK	<i>Bibel und Kirche</i>
BN	<i>Biblische Notizen</i>
BO	Bibliotheca Orientalis
BZ	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
BZAW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
CBC	Cambridge Bible Commentary
CBET	Contributions to Biblical Exegesis and Theology
CC	Continental Commentaries
COS	<i>The Context of Scripture</i> (4 vols.; eds. William W. Hallo and K. Lawson Younger; Leiden: Brill, 1997–2017)
<i>Erlsr</i>	<i>Eretz-Israel</i>
ET	English Translation
FAT	Forschungen zum Alten Testament

JERUSALEM AND THE ONE GOD

- FRLANT Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments
- GGG Othmar Keel and Christoph Uehlinger, *Gods, Goddesses, and Images of God in Ancient Israel* (trans. Thomas H. Trapp; Minneapolis: Fortress, 1998)
- GJM Othmar Keel, *Die Geschichte Jerusalems und der Entstehung der Monotheismus* (2 vols.; OLB IV/1; Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2007)
- IA Iron Age
- IEJ *Israel Exploration Journal*
- IPIAO Silvia Schroer and Othmar Keel, *Die Ikonographie Palästinas/Israels und der Alte Orient: Eine Religionsgeschichte in Bildern* (3 vols. to date; Fribourg: Academic Press, 2005–)
- JA EI *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections*
- JAOS *Journal of the American Oriental Society*
- JBL *Journal of Biblical Literature*
- JES *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*
- JHS *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures*
- JNSL *Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages*
- JSOTSup Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series
- LBA Late Bronze Age
- MBA Middle Bronze Age
- MdB *Monde de la Bible*
- NEB Neue Echter Bibel
- NTOA Novum Testamentum et Orbis Antiquus
- OBO Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis
- OBO.SA Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis, Series Archaeologica
- OLB Orte und Landschaften der Bibel
- OTS Outtestamentische Studien
- RBL *Review of Biblical Literature*
- SBB Stuttgarter biblische Beiträge
- SBLRBS Society of Biblical Literature Resources for Biblical Study
- SBM Stuttgarter biblische Monographien
- SBS Stuttgarter Bibelstudien

ABBREVIATIONS

SBW	Othmar Keel, <i>The Symbolism of the Biblical World: Ancient Near Eastern Iconography and the Book of Psalms</i> (trans. Timothy J. Hallett; New York: Seabury, 1978; repr. ed. = Winona Lake, Eisenbrauns, 1997)
TA	Tel Aviv
TB	Theologische Bücherei
TD	<i>Theology Digest</i>
ThTo	<i>Theology Today</i>
TZ	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
VT	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
VTSup	Supplements to <i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
WMANT	Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
WO	<i>Welt des Orients</i>
WVDOG	Wissenschaftliche Veröffentlichungen der deutschen Orientgesellschaft
ZÄS	<i>Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde</i>
ZAW	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
ZBK	Zürcher Bibelkommentare
ZDMG	<i>Zeitschrift der deutschen morgenländischen Gesellschaft</i>
ZDPV	<i>Zeitschrift des deutschen Palästina-Vereins</i>
ZKT	<i>Zeitschrift für katholische Theologie</i>