

A hand holding a magnifying glass over an ancient scroll with Hebrew text. The magnifying glass is positioned over a section of the scroll, highlighting the text. The background is a blurred view of the scroll's surface.

# **OT Critics Refuted**

***Please do your homework!***

**Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary  
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# THE MYTHIC PAST

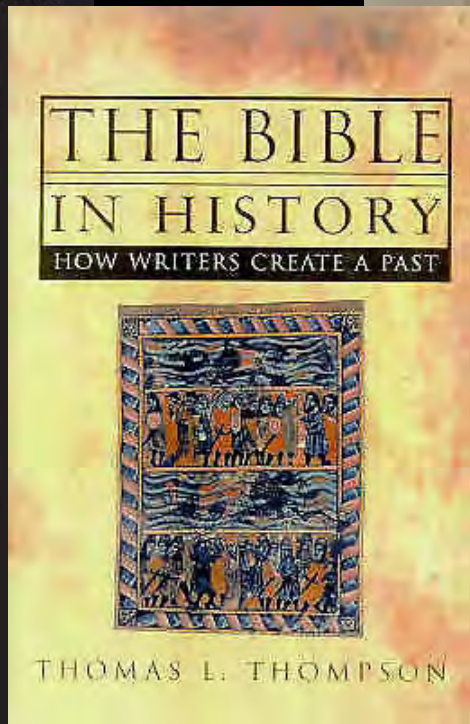
THE FIRST BOOK OF MOSES,  
CALLED  
GENESIS.

20 ¶ And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.  
21 And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that *it was good*.  
22 And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.  
23 And the evening and the morning were the first day.  
24 ¶ And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.  
25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that *it was good*.  
26 ¶ And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and

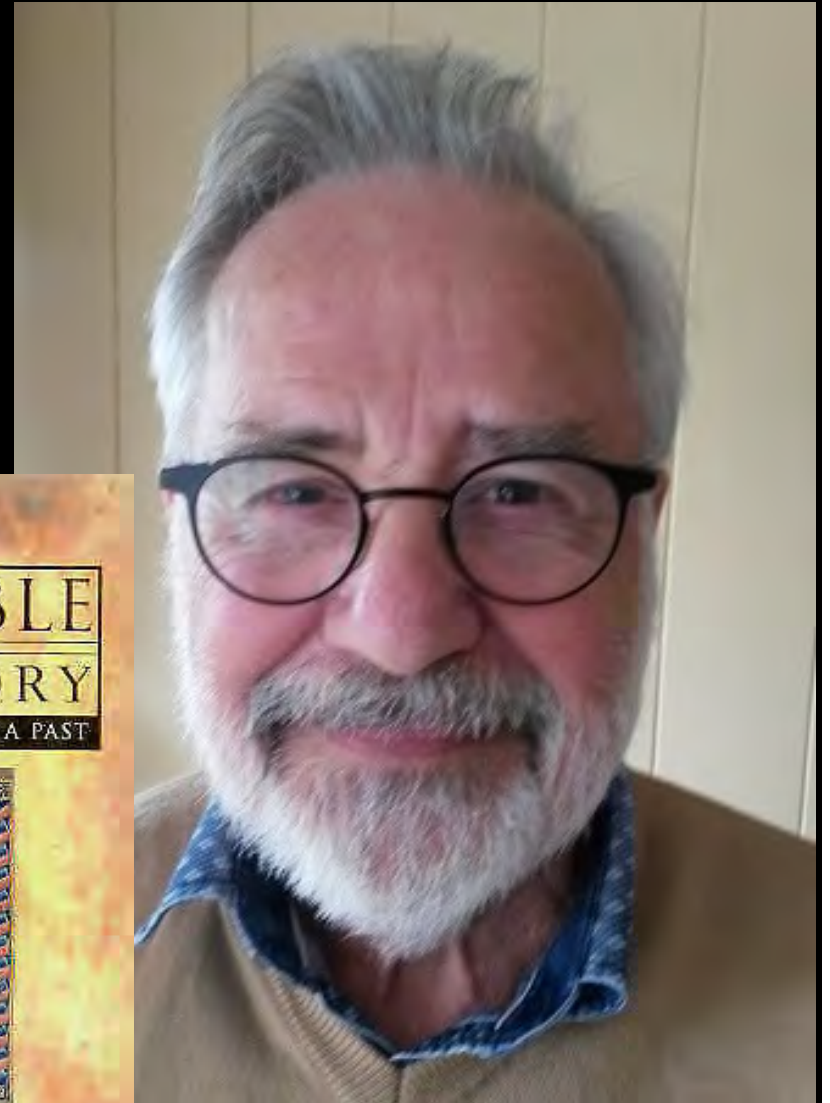
“This is a very important book... It should be compulsory reading for every member of the Knesset.”

—A. N. WILSON

BIBLICAL  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
AND THE  
MYTH OF  
ISRAEL



# Thomas L. Thompson



THOMAS L. THOMPSON

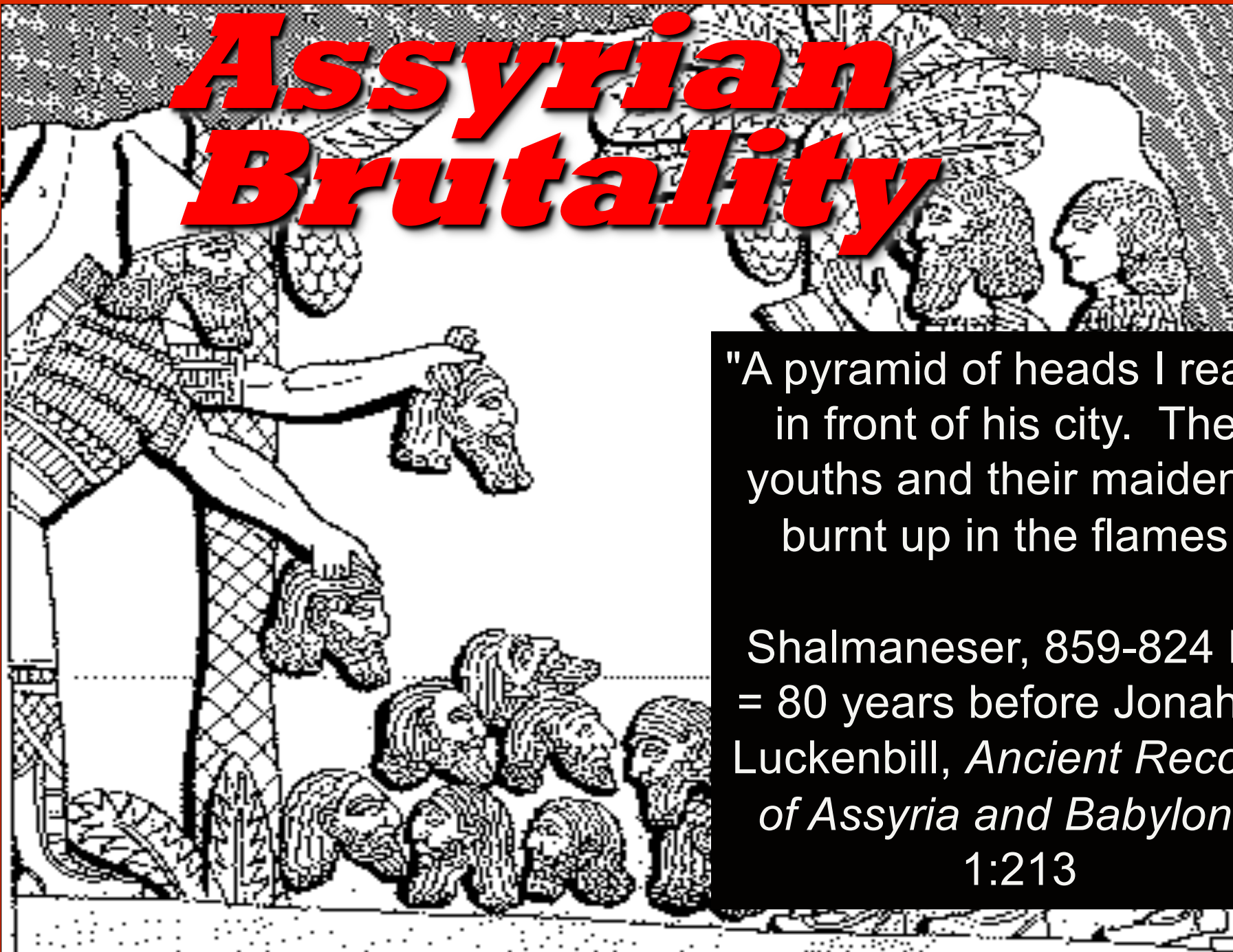


"Rather than a historical text, the ['Omri king of Israel' as oppressor of Moab (ca. 830)] inscription, in fact[,] **belongs to a substantial literary tradition of stories of kings of the past.** We find a similar story (told autobiographically, in the first person), which dates back at least to the thirteenth century BCE. It is about the king of Alalakh, Idrimi, who in fact had reigned over this city [Alalakh] some two centuries earlier. Like Idrimi's tale, the Mesha story is written in the first person and presented in the voice of the king himself. (It) presents us with an epitome of the king's reign.... His work is done. Both inscriptions are tributes to a great king of the past, epitomizing his reign."

Thomas L. Thompson, *The Mythic Past/The Bible in History* (Leiden, 1993), 11-13

***Response? Did any ancient kings write in the 1st person?***

# Assyrian Brutality



"A pyramid of heads I reared  
in front of his city. Their  
youths and their maidens I  
burnt up in the flames."

Shalmaneser, 859-824 BC  
= 80 years before Jonah, in  
Luckenbill, *Ancient Records  
of Assyria and Babylonia*,  
1:213



## Esarhaddon's Ego (660 BC)

**"I am powerful, I am *all* powerful, I am a hero, I am gigantic, I am colossal, I am honored, I am magnified, I am without equal among all kings, the chosen one of Asshur, Nabu, and Marduk!"**

Luckenbill, *Ancient Records of Assyria and Babylonia*, 2:226

# Response by Kitchen



**“TLT’s knowledge of the range of use of first person in texts is clearly minimal and hopelessly misleading. Use of the first person by a monarch does not belong exclusively to either postmortem memorial texts or to later legends about such kings. A huge army of texts shows up the falsity of his presumption” (Location 9825 of 14432).**

# Attacks by N. P. Lemche



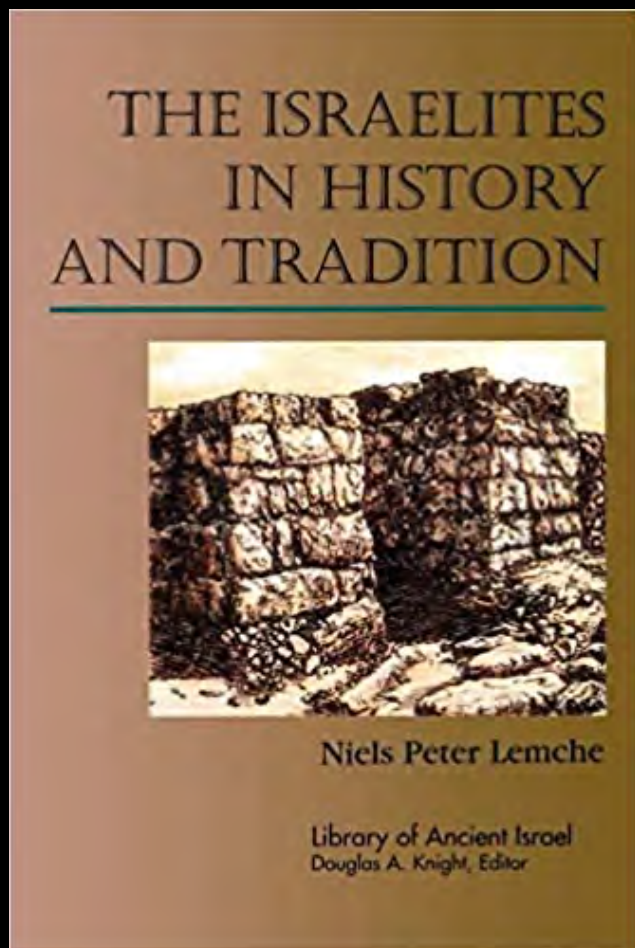
1. **“Historical-critical scholarship (on the Hebrew Bible) is based on a false methodology and leads to false conclusions.”**
2. **“[Which] simply means that we can disregard 200 years of biblical scholarship and commit it to the dustbin. It is hardly worth the paper on which it is printed.”**

# Attacks by N. P. Lemche



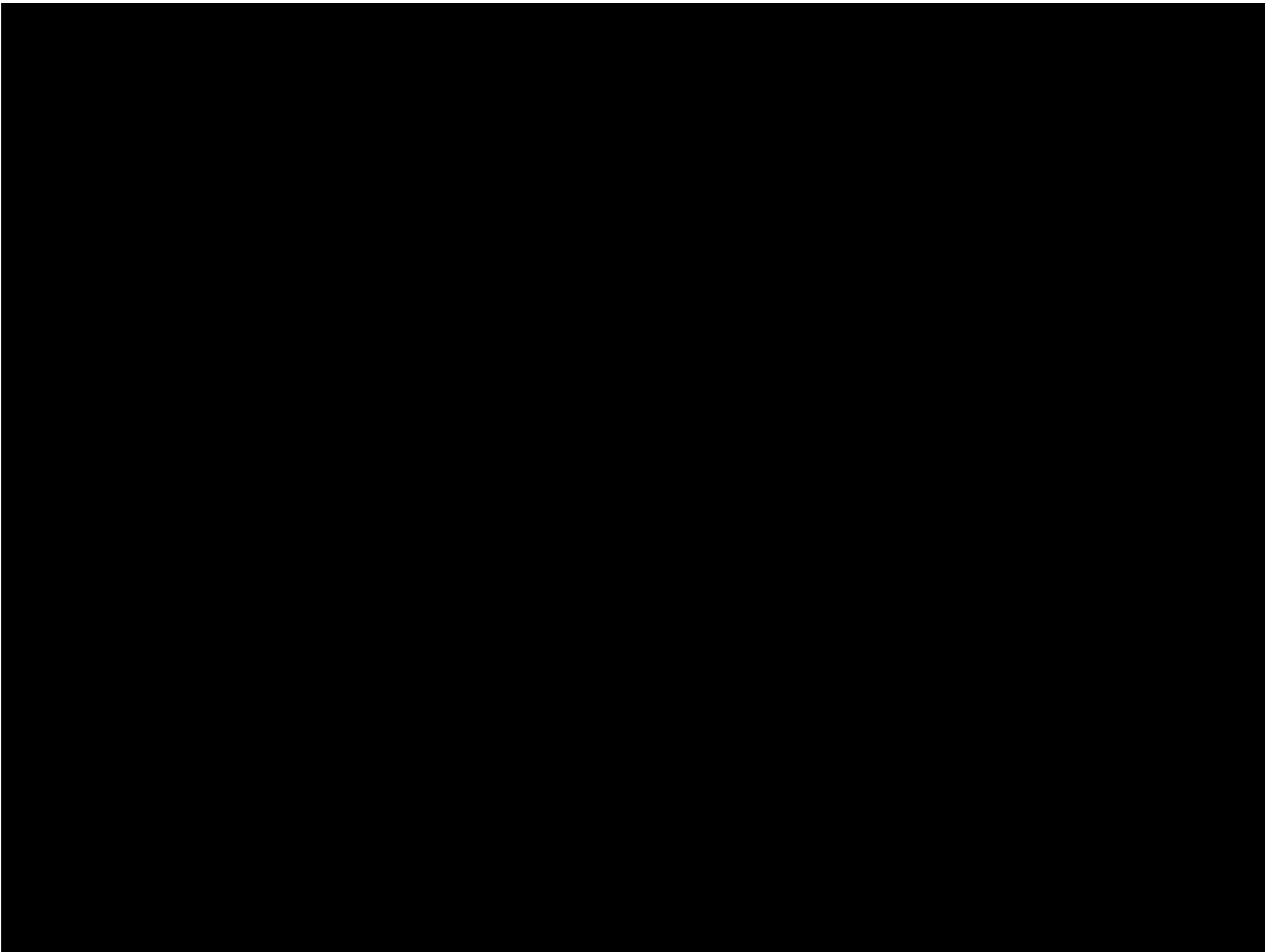
3. “The biblical picture of ancient Israel does not fit in but is contrary to any image of ancient Palestinian society that can be established on the basis of ancient sources from Palestine or referring to Palestine.”
4. “There is no way this image in the Bible can be reconciled with the historical past of the region.”
5. “And if this is the case, we should give up the hope that we can reconstruct pre-Hellenistic history on the basis of the Old Testament.”
6. “[This latter] hardly predates the Greco-Roman period” (i.e., not before the third century B.C. to first century A.D.).

# Attacks by N. P. Lemche



7. “[The Old Testament] is simply an invented history with only a few referents [sic = references] to things that really happened or existed.”
8. “From a historian’s point of view, ancient Israel is a monstrous creature. It is sprung out of the fantasy of biblical historiographers and their modern paraphrasers, i.e., the historical-critical scholars of the last two hundred years.”

—Cited by K. A. Kitchen, *On the Reliability of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003), Kindle Edition. Loc 9866 of 14432.



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