

Ai and Old Testament Chronology: Who Cares?

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Eugene H. Merrill, PhD (Columbia, New York City)
Independent Research Scholar in the Old Testament and in Ancient Near Eastern Studies

, QWURGXFWLRQ
7KH 6 7KH +LVWRULFDO &ULWLFDO 0HWKRG FD SU

ORGHUQ \$SSURDFKHV
7KH 3UHVHQW \$SSURDFK DQG ,WV ,PSOLFDWLRQV
\$UFKDHRORJLFDO
+LVWRULFDO DQG %LEOLFDO
\$L DQG 2OG 7HVWDPHQW &KURQRORJ\
\$QWLFLSDWHG (YLGHQFH DQG &RQFOXVLRQV
&RQFOXVLRQ

Introduction

7KH WHUP ³FKURQRORJ\` LQ WKH PLQGV RI PDQ\ LV UHGRO
LQ UXPLQDWLRQ LQ VRPH PXVW\ VWXG\ RYHU WULYLD WKD
DQG ZHOO EHLQJ :KR FDUHV ZKHQ 6HQQDFKHULE ODLG VL
WKH 5XELFRQ RU ZKHQ %HWV\ 5RVV VHZHG WRJHWKHU WKH
OHIW WKH :KLWH +RXVH LQ GLVJUDFH" 7KHVH WLGELWV PD
VHOO ERRNV WR RWKHU FUDQNV RU WR SURIHVVVRUV RI KL
ERUHG VWLII OHDUQLQJ DERXW PHQ DQG EDWWOHV DQG G
FRQWHQW LQ WKH LU RZQ OLWWOH FRFRRQV RI LGLRV\QFU
WR PDNH D OLYLQJ

+RZHYZHU DOO KXVEDQGV DQG PRUH WKDQ D IHZ ZLYHV Z
ZHGLQJ DQQLYHUVDU\ VRRQ GLVFRYHU WKDW LI GDWHV D
PLQG ` VXGGHQO\ FKURQRORJ\^LI QRW WEKHLQ\ VR WWW LPPDSNRHU W

6SDFH SHUPLWV RQO\ D EULHI VXUYH\ KHUH RI WKH PHDQV
DFKLHYHG WKDW SHUPLW WKH FRQVWUXFWLRQ RI D UHOLDI
DQFLHQW 1HDU (DVW

Inner-Biblical Data

)LUVW WKH %LEOH LWVHOI LV UHSOHWH ZLWK FKURQRORJ
ODVW FHQWXU\ RU VR FRXOG EH DFFHVVHG RQO\ LQ D FOR
DOPRVW H[FOXVLYHO\ E\ LQQHU ELEOLFDO UHODWLRQVKLS
FRXOG EH GHWHUPLQHG E\ DGGLQJ XS WKH \HDUV RI DOO
1HZ 7HVWDPHQW SHULRG DQG WKHQ ZRUNLQJ EDFN IURP W
ODFN RI D FOHDU FKURQRORJLFDO UHFRUG FRQQHFWLQJ W
EHJLQQLQJ RI WKH PRUH VROLG GDWHV RI WKH 1HZ 7HVWD
LQ QHILLIEOLFDO FKURQRORJ\ ZDV WKDW RI \$UFKELVKRS 8VVK
KLMRHUWV ZHUH UHPDUNDEO\ DFFXUDWH JLYHQ WKH DEVHQ
V\VVHP

Ancient Near Eastern Data

&RPPHQFLQJ LQ WKH PLG 1LQHWHHQWK &HQWXU\ D IOXUU
WKURXJKRXW WKH 0LGGOH (DVW SDUWLFXODUO\ LQ 0HVRS
FDPH WR OLJKW LQFOXGLQJ PDQ\RR\WFKURQRORJLFDO VILHV
SXUSRHV LV WKH \$VV\ULDQ (SRQ\P &DQRQ ZKLFK OLVW
% & 7KH UHOLDELOLW\ RI WKH GDWHV RI NLQJV DQG HYHQ
WKDQNM @IRV\WR YHUV RI WKH RFFXUUHQFH RI DQ HFOLSVH R
GW\H UHFRYHUHG ZLWK H[DFWQH\RDIVWWKURVQHR\WFKURQRORJ
UHIUHQFH WR ,VUDHO DQG -XGDK DQG WKHLU UHVSHFWLY
&DQRQW\KQ\GHE\ EULQJLQJ D KLJK GHJUHH RI FHUWDLQW\ W
'LYLGHG ORQDUFK\ DV ODWH DV WKH UHLJQ RI 0DQDVVHK F

6HH HVSHFLDOO\ WKH LPSRUWIDeMysteRs Unveiled of the Giza Kings. 7&KIHODJUR
7KH 8QLYHUVLW\ RI &KDFNDJ\R\BHUHDOQf Biblical Chronology. 3HDERG\ 0\$
+HQGULFNRQ \$Q\GnUArzha\W\HduQAPBDQ\Q Chronology. 6W /RXLV &RQFRUGLD

2Q 8VVKHU DQG KLV FKURQRORJ\ VHDictionarYH\QH Old Testament LOO 3&KURQRORJ
Pentateuch. (G 7 'HVPRQG \$OH[DQGHU DQG 'DYLG : %DNHU 'RZQHUV *RYH
-RHO 'UReQWorld@ Time and Cultures: An Introduction to the History and Methodology of Syro-
Palestinian Archaeology. \$WMQWD 6ForHund\ Years of American Archaeology in the Middle
East. (G 'RXJODV 5 &ODUN DQG 9LFWRU + 0DWWKHZV %RVW\Q \$625
E\ WKH H[FDYDWRU VTHem\&W\H\Q Account of the Discoveries at Nineveh. 1HZ <RUN - & 'HUE\
)RU D JRRG UHQGLWL\HQ CalexN\&Ship\&RQ\O X\H\H\QH (G : : +DOOR DQG
<RXQJHU /HLGHQ %UL 0&a

\$VV\ULDQ PDWHULDO PDQ\ RWKHU VRXUFHV RI FKURQROR.
HVWDEOLVKLQJ D VRXQG ELEOLFDO FKURQRORJ\ \$PRQJ W
SKUDRKV IURP % & WR WKH DJH RI WKH \$FKDHPHGLGV

Historic, Contemporary, and Competing Points of View

-DFRE¶V GHVFHQW KWHRQ (KHSDWDV \HDUV ROG *HQ
-DFRE¶V OLIHVSDQ *HODUV FI
,VDDF¶V OLIHVSDQ *HQ
\$EUDKDP¶V OLIHVSDQ *HQ FI

,QQHU ELEOLFDO WHVWLPRQ\ VXSSRUWLQJ DQ HDQJOM FRQT
DQG -XGJHV 7KH IRUPHU VWDWHV LQ QR XQFHUWD
IRXQGDWLRQV RI WKH JUHDW WHPSOH LQ -HUXVDOHP LQ K
EHLQJHSLVHO\ \HDUV DIWHU WKH ([RGXV 6LQFH 6RORPR
& EDVLF DULWQFRIGXVFGWDWGRV ,W IROORZV WKDW V
FD VLQFH LW IROORZH G \HDUV RI ,VUDHO¶V VRMRXU
WKLV GDWH LQ -HSKWKDKE\ VWDWPHHQW WR WKH NLQJ RI
\HDUV LQ ZKLFK WR FRQWHVW ,VUDHO¶V RFFXSDWLRQ R
LVVXH" 7KH 7UDQVMRUGDQ KDG EHHQ FRQTXHUHG E\ 0RVH
FDPSDLJQV EHJDQ WKXV DV HDUO\ DV \$JDLQ \HDUV
MXGJHVKLS \LHOGV

\$V WR WKH \HDU ILWWLQJMWXWDQFHMLQGRQFDHMRLWLWRPHWR FKD
FRQVHUYDWLYH VFKRODUV LQ DQ DWWHPSW WR EROVWHU
DUWLILFLDO QXPEHU FRQVLVWLQJ RI JHQHUDWLRQV RI
JHQHUDWLRQ ,Q UHDOLW\ LW LV DUJXHG D JHQHUDWLRQ
ZRXOG \LHOG D \HDU VSDQ EHWZHHQ WKH H[RGXV DQG
6RORPRQLF WHPSOH RU D GDWH IRU WKH \$H[RLQWKRIVRQFD
GLVSRVHG RI WKH \HDUV PIPLVWQJNHWPLHQGW JEXHV V RI DQ L
PDQ QDPHO\ AdHsikewRDWKLV VRUW HYHQ DJDLQVW DQ DQ
REMHFYLW\ DQG VHHPV DW EHVW WR BHtDXQnHYDVLRQ RI
VOHLJ

([RGXV DWWHVWV WR DQ H[RGXV LQ WKH 5DPHVVLGH H
VRFLRORJLFDO GLVUXSWLRQ LQ &DQDDQ LQ WKH ,URQ , SH
EHVW E\ WKH ELEOLFDO &RQTXHVW +RZHYHU WZR WH[WX

ORVHV¶ LQVWUXFWLRQ WR -RVKXD RQ WKH HYH RI WKH
GHWUR\LQJ WKH VXE VWUXFWXUHV RI &DQDDQLWH FLWLHV
YLFWRULRXV ,VUDHOLWHV 'HXW D SODQ WKDW

7KXV QR HYLGHQFH H[LVWV RI PDMRU ZLGH VSUH
WKHQWXU\ 3ODFHV KHUH DQG WKHUH WKDW DSSH
HSODLQHG E\ WKH FKDRWLF GLVUXSWLRQV DWWHVWHG WR
LV UKROXJ % &

7KH GDWHV DVVHUVWHG E\ RSSRQHQWWT RD UHK Q LHFDOO \Z&

