

ANDREWS UNIVERISTY
DOCTORAL DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS

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AMMON (עַמּוֹן / עַמּוֹנִי) IN THE HEBREW BIBLE
A TEXTUAL ANALYSIS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL
CONTEXT OF SELECTED REFERENCES TO
THE AMMONITES OF TRANSJORDAN

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The study of the Transjordanian Iron-Age (*ca.* 1200-550 BCE) state of Ammon is important to students of the Bible because of the numerous references to the Ammonites. Included in the historical and prophetic sections of the Hebrew canon. The book of Genesis traces the ancestry of the "Sons of Ammon" to an eponymous ancestor named Ben Ammi—son/grandson of Abraham's nephew Lot (Gen 39:17).

Chapter 1 points out how Ammon—though often ignored or slighted in studies up to the mid-twentieth century—increasingly receives scholarly attention. It also shows a need for applying the results of archaeological research to facilitate a fuller understanding of the biblical text.

Chapter 2 outlines recent trends in the relationship between the fields of biblical studies and archaeology. Criteria are set forth for evaluating published works combining emphases on the fields of biblical studies and archaeology, especially as they relate to the study of the Ammonites. The term "archaeological context" is examined and differentiated from "archaeological commentary."

Chapter 3 tabulates all references to the Ammonites in the Hebrew Bible and compares key references to those in the LXX. A study of the familial relationships within the courts of David and Solomon suggests interesting possibilities for identifying a number of interrelationships which existed between the royal houses of Ammon and Israel. Many Ammonite references cluster around two important themes—tribal/kindred loyalty and honor for Yahweh's temple (or a lack thereof).

Chapter 4 gives a topographical and archaeological background for selected Ammonite references. Ammon's heartland (near modern Amman) was centered around the headwaters of the Jabbok River (Nahal Zarqa), strategically located along important trade corridors—the north-south King's Highway and the east-west routes to Jerusalem and to the Canaanite coast. Districts of Ammonite control are identified, and an archaeological summary is given for each biblical site with Ammonite connections and for individuals identified as being Ammonites. Occupations of Ammonite people, the status of women in Ammonite society, and interrelations between Ammon and other contemporary states are explored. The

comparative richness of Ammon's cultural heritage and its rise to relative prosperity as a vassal state is chronicled. Ammon's inclusion in the Hebrew prophetic oracles is briefly mentioned.

Chapter 5 summarizes the interrelationship between biblical references to Ammon and the results of archaeological research. The archaeological evidence is shown to be consistent with the biblical portrayal of Ammon in the Hebrew Bible. However, additional in-depth study of the importance of Ammon in Hebrew prophetic literature is recommended.

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS ON JOSHUA
AN EXEGETICAL STUDY OF
NUMBERS 27:12-23 AND DEUTERONOMY 34:9

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This study investigates the procedural techniques, symbolic meanings, and tangible effects of the laying on of hands (יָרַד יָדָיו) in the installation of Joshua to the position of Israel's leader as presented in Num 27:12-23 and Deut 34:9.

The Introduction reviews the purpose, delimitations, and methodology of the dissertation and also provides a review of the different and sometimes conflicting opinions regarding the prototypical nature of Joshua's ordination, the symbolic meaning of laying on of hands in ordination, and the number of hands used.

Chapter 1 offers a study of the ancient Near Eastern cognates and related terms of יָרַד יָדָיו and יָרַד in a representative sample of literature from the ancient Near Eastern world. This study indicates that hand symbolism in the ancient Near Eastern world was very rich and had broad application but that laying on of hands in leadership-transfer scenarios appears to be limited to one incident in Egypt.

Chapter 2 offers a study of יָרַד יָדָיו, יָרַד, יָרַד יָדָיו in the Old Testament. The Old Testament world shared in the rich hand symbolism of the world around it, but adds unique understanding to the area of laying on of hands in transfers of leadership. The main focus of chapters 1 and 2 limits the study of hand symbolism to the perception, communication, and transference of status. Hand symbolism plays a significant role in each of these three areas for both the ancient Near Eastern and biblical worlds which enhances an interpretation of the usage of Moses' hand in Joshua's installation to leadership.

Chapter 3 provides an exegetical study first of Num 27: 12-23 and second of Deut 34:9. Each text is analyzed in the following order: first, it is studied in its relationship to the book in which it is found; second, its structure is analyzed; third, its uniqueness is studied; fourth, analysis is given to its elements which accompany the laying on of hands. The chapter then draws conclusions that apply to the laying on of hands in both texts. Areas of uniqueness, disagreement, and agreement between the two passages are reviewed. The chapter finally draws conclusions from the exegetical study with respect to the procedural techniques, symbolic meanings, and tangible effects of Moses laying hands on Joshua.

Finally, a summary and conclusions bring together the major findings of this