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Advanced embedding details, examples, and help! Showing 1-30 Start your review of A Survey of Israel's History by Leon Wood is an overview of Old Testament biblical history. It is written with good scholarship and lucidity. Some of the information in it is a bit dated, as it was last updated in 1986, but overall it stands as a good summary of the history of God's people in ancient times. The opening chapter sets things up very well, and gives some good historical and archaeological background to the book. The following chapters on the patriarchs are adequate, but they really A Survey of Israel's History by Leon Wood is an overview of Old Testament biblical history. It is written with good scholarship and lucidity. Some of the information in it is a bit dated, as it was last updated in 1986, but overall it stands as a good summary of the history of God's people in ancient times. The opening chapter sets things up very well, and gives some good historical and archaeological background to the book. The following chapters on the patriarchs are adequate, but they really do little more than summarize the stories in the Bible. It does a little, but only a little to place the patriarchs in their historical and cultural situation. With the wealth of archaeological information about time period, Wood could have done a lot more here. There is an entire chapter devoted to that dating of the Exodus. Wood argues for an early date (1446/1447) rather than a late date (1250). Even a few decades later this is still solid stuff. His discussion on the identity of the habiru is a bit dated, but otherwise this would be a good introduction to the issues surrounding the dating of the exodus. The life in Egyptian rulers (Egyptian rulers (Egyptian rulers (Egyptian rulers (Egyptian rulers), but rather higher and lower chronologies. It isn't necessary for us to dogmatically assert exactly who the pharaoh was during the time of the exodus. For example, Hatshepsut is not necessarily the princess who pulled Moses from the river. The quest to find the pharaoh of the exodus or the pharaoh of Joseph's day or even to exactly correlate Biblical and Egyptian history must be pursued with caution and without being too dogmatic. Also most scholars today disagree that Thutmose III harbored bitterness for Hatshepsut and see other cultural reasons for his effacing of her name from monuments. The chapters on the wilderness wanderings and the conquest are adequate, but feel a little rushed overall. Chapter on the judges period is very good on the whole. My only quibble is that he calls the government at this time a theocracy in contrast to the future monarchy. This is a false dichotomy as both are clearly intended as theocracy in contrast to the future monarchy. This is a false dichotomy as both are clearly intended as theocracy in contrast to the future monarchy. captivity, and the intertestamental period are excellent! They are informative without being too pedantic, and thoroughly cover the historical, cultural and biblical info. Overall, if an updated version were produced, this would make a good textbook for ages 11-12th grade or a college undergrad course. ...more Sep 16, 2011 Tommy rated it it was amazing Wood writes in such a way that the people involved come into sharper focus. Their relationships and motives are brought into closer focus and are more easily apprehended. I can say that I am definitely grateful for having read this book. There were a number of things I learned, and I'm sure it has helped me to understand the Bible better. I will always keep it close by as a companion to reading the Bible. Wood writes in such a way that the people involved come into sharper focus. Their relationships and motives are brought into closer focus and are more easily apprehended. I can say that I am definitely grateful for having read this book. There were a number of things I learned, and I'm sure it has helped me to understand the Bible better. I will always keep it close by as a companion to reading the Bible. ...more Jan 15, 2017 Josh Morris rated it it was amazing I enjoyed this book and found it to be a good balance between academic information and readability. It spends a lot of time on the patriarchs and Abraham, giving the most cultural and historical details for this section. Then it picks up to a rapid pace for the biblical account. Finally, it covers the return of Israel and concludes at the end of the Old Testament. Regarding dates, I enjoyed this book and found it to be a good balance between academic information and readability. It spends a lot of time on the patriarchs and Abraham, giving the most cultural and historical details for this section. Then it picks up to a rapid pace for the period of the kings. The book flies from the united monarchy to the Exile, giving little more than a summary of the biblical account. Finally, it covers the return of Israel and concludes at the end of the Old Testament. Regarding dates, Wood places the Exodus at the traditional 1446 BCE. This comes from both biblical evidence: the 480 year time-frame between the Exodus and Solomon's temple, Jephthah's comment Israel had been in the land 300 years, the necessary duration of Judges, and the best alignment with Egyptian history. Wood places Abraham's birth at 2166 BCE. He argues the conditions in Egypt favor the same date (free travel between Canaan and Egypt; a Pharaoh who did not know Joseph; prediction of 400 years of affliction). One great thing about the book was its many small points of interest. Wood theorizes Abraham's lengthy stop at Haran was essentially hospice for his ailing father. And that the potential reason for such a long gap in allotting the land in Joshua 17 was the remaining tribes began to show a lack of interest in receiving their portions. That Jephthah's vow was more likely devoting her as a virgin to the service of God, rather than the human sacrifice many interpret this to be. He says the Mosaic Law is clearly against sacrifice, no priest would have been willing to officiate, this explains the bewailing of her virginity, and his language "it shall be Yahweh's and I will offer it up" can be translated with the conjunction "or". Wood points out many of the judges of Israel overlapped in their leadership, often in different areas of the country. It was also common practice, particularly in Judah, for the kings to co-reign father and son for extended periods. A son would be the secondary king with his father, reign solo often or only a brief time such as a decade, then introduce his son as a secondary king. That Goliath's challenge of Israel may have been a reflection and retaliatory gesture for the Philistine's humiliation at Israel's champion Samson. Wood remarks Saul did little to unite the country, David united it brilliantly, and Solomon seems to have gone overboard with the size of government and level of building projects, sowing the tension which broke the kingdom in two. I also enjoyed his comments on the capability and timelines of the Babylonian and Persian rulers who interacted with Israel. A shotgun of tidbits I know but all this is to say I am sure anyone interested in the history of ancient Israel will find something of interest as well. ...more Dec 28, 2019 Naomi rated it it was amazing A required resource skimmed during college, I've found it especially useful for preparation of Sunday School lessons since. Its comprehensive overview of Biblical history combined with extensive footnotes and further reading recommendations give the reader the option merely to glean or to delve into further study. A required resource skimmed during college, I've found it especially useful for preparation of Sunday School lessons since. Its comprehensive overview of Biblical history combined with extensive footnotes and further reading recommendations give the reader the option merely to glean or to delve into further study. ...more Dec 23, 2012 Zachary Guthrie rated it it was ok This book gives a basic overview of ancient Israel's history nor does not go into customary detail. I recommend something thicker to obtain a stronger sense of Israel's history. If you know nothing about Israel's not does not go into deep detail about the history or need to refresh on the basics, this book is for you. This book gives a basic overview of ancient Israel's history. The author does not go into deep detail about the history or need to refresh on the basics, this book gives a basic overview of ancient Israel's history. The author does not go into deep detail about the history or need to refresh on the basics, this book gives a basic overview of ancient Israel's history. The author does not go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about the history nor does he go into deep detail about of Israel's history. If you know nothing about Israel's ancient history or need to refresh on the basics, this book is for you. ...more Feb 07, 2014 Jacob Schweizer rated it really liked it Great chronological study of Israel's religious, political, geographic, economic, and spiritual history. Beginning with Abraham and ending with the period between the testaments. Great chronological study of Israel's religious, political, geographic, economic, and spiritual history. Beginning with Abraham and ending with the period between the testaments. ...more Hanna rated it really liked it Jan 26, 2013 Larry rated it really liked it Feb 22, 2014 Kim Deren rated it really liked it Dec 26, 2011 Adam rated it really liked it Oct 06, 2012 Penny Lewis rated it it was amazing Feb 12, 2016 Allison rated it liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it it was amazing Feb 12, 2016 Allison rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it it was ok Sep 15, 2014 Renee rated it really liked it Apr 22, 2010 Terri rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it it was ok Sep 15, 2014 Renee rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it it was amazing Feb 18, 2014 Arch Grieve rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it it was amazing Feb 18, 2014 Arch Grieve rated it it was amazing Feb 18, 2014 Arch Grieve rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it it was amazing Feb 18, 2014 Arch Grieve rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it it was amazing Feb 18, 2014 Arch Grieve rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it it was amazing Feb 18, 2014 Arch Grieve rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it it was amazing Feb 18, 2014 Arch Grieve rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it it was amazing Feb 18, 2014 Arch Grieve rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it it was amazing Feb 18, 2014 Arch Grieve rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it it was amazing Feb 18, 2014 Arch Grieve rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it it was amazing Feb 18, 2014 Arch Grieve rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it it was amazing Feb 18, 2014 Arch Grieve rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it really liked it Oct 09, 2014 Eric Williams rated it really liked it Oc liked it Feb 04, 2013

