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Volume 59 | Issue 2

Article 44

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2016

## Dever's "The lives of ordinary people in ancient Israel: Where archaeology and the Bible intersect" (Book Review)

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### Recommended Citation

Kempa, Kathleen (2016) "Dever's "The lives of ordinary people in ancient Israel: Where archaeology and the Bible intersect" (Book Review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 59: Iss. 2, Article 44.  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55221/2572-7478.1129>

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dying is an injustice. Another chapter gives suggestions on how to handle pain at the end of life. There could be a whole book written on caregivers, but there is one chapter and some suggested resources for caregivers. Another book could be written on grief, but there is just a short chapter written. A Christian support group could take this book and develop a good, solid program adding Scripture. Personally, I believe the biggest value of the book lies with the appendices the authors provide. The resources they list are not exhaustive, but they are meant to give individuals and groups a place to begin and that often is the hardest part when dealing with a difficult subject.

For Christians, it would be helpful to read a book like *One Minute After You Die: A Preview of Your Final Destination* by Erwin Lutzer to get a biblical perspective of what happens when we die. You may have your own favorite book that deals with heaven and that is fine as long as you don't take this book by Gordon and Kacandes as biblical truth.

### **Reviewer**

Paul A. Roberts, Southeastern Bible College

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Dever, W. G. (2012). *The lives of ordinary people in ancient Israel: Where archaeology and the Bible intersect*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans. 436 pp. \$17.05. ISBN 9780802867018

William Dever's purpose is to demonstrate by means of archeological artifacts as well as written records, among which is the Bible, what the daily life of Old Testament people was like. Dever is extremely well qualified to discuss ancient artifacts and their meaning and use; he has more than fifty years of archeological experience in his background. He directed archeological digs for Harvard and the University of Arizona in many sites in the Near East. His scholarly credentials are also outstanding. After more than 25 years as Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Arizona, he has been named Professor Emeritus of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies.

Dever has an engaging writing style. He immediately brings the reader into the discussion of the current dispute about what can be known about the ancient Israelites, or about any historical time, event, or people. He states his position on historical knowledge and moves on to examine the geography and climate of the land of the Israelites. He defines what he has termed towns and cities and relates that information to what we know as urban settings.

Dever explains what archeologists find and what they don't find in ancient sites. He draws inferences and in his narrative makes sure that the reader understands the limits of what can be determined to be probable. He describes and provides drawings and photographs of dwellings that have been excavated. Based on people currently living in desert rural communities, he speculates about how the dwellings were used; where people slept, cooked, kept their animals. The reader gets a view of subsistence living within family units.

There is an exploration of what might have been two temples, one south of Dan and one in the Jerusalem area. Dever points out that most probably fewer than 5% of the people were literate. He indicates that the majority of the rural poor would not have travelled beyond their settlements in their lifetimes. The majority of the population were isolated and ignorant of Biblical teachings as we know them today. There is evidence of household shrines with containers for food offerings and the burning of incense.

Using archeological findings, Dever outlines what is known about Israel's and Judah's neighbors. There is also a discussion of the wars and destruction of the 8th century BCE that is evident from archeology. Dever's conclusion outlines what he has accomplished with this study and what his hopes are for future archeological/biblical study.

This volume should be available in every library that supports biblical studies. The writing style and accompanying illustrations will make the book popular beyond history, Bible and archeology scholars. Anyone who cares about how people have lived will find *The Lives of Ordinary People in Ancient Israel* fascinating reading. This title is highly recommended.

### Reviewer

Kathleen Kempa, Southeastern University

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Crystal, D. (2015). *Making a point: The persnickety story of English punctuation*. New York: St. Martin's Press. 378 pp. \$24.99. ISBN 9781250060419

With the release of *Making a Point*, David Crystal has completed his trilogy beginning with *The Story of English in 100 Words* (2013) and *Spell It Out: the Curious, Enthralling, and Extraordinary Story of English Spelling* (2014). As the United Kingdom's unofficial linguist laureate and the author of many previous books on the English language, Crystal is eminently qualified to sum up the development of an entire