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Crystal's "Making a point: The persnickety story of English punctuation" (Book Review)

Mark Tubbs
Pacific Life Bible College

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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

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

language within a trilogy of books. Crystal achieves his goal with a characteristic balance of accessibility and thoroughness. Not content merely to explain the development of punctuation in the English language, Crystal sows assistance for educators throughout the volume. The book is interesting not only by virtue of the information he imparts, but also due to the visual appeal of the graphics and chapter-ending “interludes” that he has included. I can foresee this book making a splash with the more bookish types of college and seminary students. As one who took secondary school English teacher training in the United Kingdom, I can offer a firsthand guarantee of Professor Crystal’s efficacy in teaching the vagaries of the English language via the written word.

Reviewer

Mark Tubbs, Pacific Life Bible College

Evans, G.E., & Alire, C.A. (2013). *Management basics for information professionals*. Chicago: Neal-Schuman. 577 pp. \$88.00. ISBN 9781555709099

The newest edition of Evan and Alire’s volume comprehensively covers management theory and strategies for LIS professionals. The twenty-one chapters discuss the managerial environment, management skills, human resources, finances, facilities, managerial ethics, and career planning. Each chapter begins with thought-provoking quotations, and each ends with “Key Points to Remember,” a reference list, and a distinctive “Launching Pad” of resources for further reading. When compared with a competitor volume (the 8th edition of *Library and Information Center Management*, by Barbara Moran, Robert Stueart, and Claudia Morner), *Management Basics for Information Professionals* exhibits noticeable advantages. It includes four chapters with supplemental topics – on legal issues (chapter 3), diversity issues (chapter 15), technology (chapter 18), and career planning (chapter 21). These extra materials are welcome additions in our diverse, technological, and litigious workplace-culture. On the other hand, Evans and Alire include far fewer figures and tables than Moran, Stueart, and Morner (34 as opposed to 102). Therefore, visually-inclined readers may prefer *Library and Information Center Management*. The Evans and Alire volume, however, does include multiple text-boxes covering “Authors’ Experience,” “Advisory Board Experience,” “Check This Out,” “For Further Thought” “From the Authors,” “Important to Note,” “Key Points to Remember,” “Something to Consider,” “Tip,” and “Try This” vignettes. These text-boxes often illustrate the book’s abstract principles with concrete and real-life examples. The library experience of both Evans and Alire is limited to academic libraries alone. But the “Advisory Board” snippets provide some balance with a number of public library and specialty