

Előd HODOSSY-TAKÁCS

On the Battlefield and Beyond: the Reinterpretation of the Moabite-Israelite Encounters in 2Chron 20

In the Southern Levant during the 9th century BCE petty kingdoms fought for hegemony. Israel (Samaria) and Syria (Damascus) were sizable kingdoms but their neighbors, Judah, Moab, Edom were far less important. The Transjordanian Moabite kingdom and Israel-Judah met on the battlefield a few times. The paper deals with three important texts of their clashes, the Mesha Inscription, 2Kings 3 and 2Chronicles 20. According to the author these three texts do not record a sequence of events, but they are variations on a theme instead, (theological) interpretations of the history, whatever it is. Careful evaluation can detect a pro-Judah attitude in the case of 2Kings 3; 2Chron 20 is obviously (re)interpretation with little historical accuracy, but with some valuable information regarding environmental and travel issues.