

My People as Your People provides an in-depth analysis of the chronology, history, and archaeology associated with the reign of Jehoshaphat of Judah. The synthesis of these various elements illuminates a diverse geo-political picture of the southern Levant in the mid-ninth century BCE. In recent years, archaeologists and biblical scholars have dealt quite extensively with the tenth and eighth centuries BCE due to both the controversial aspects of recent interpretations associated with the so-called United Kingdom and the established archaeological data relating to Judah's rise as a significant polity in the eighth century BCE. On the other hand, the ninth century BCE has received considerably less scholarly treatment, despite the fact that many new archaeological strata have been uncovered in recent years that have a direct bearing upon this period. *My People as Your People* is an attempt to fill this gap in our knowledge. In accomplishing this, it both provides a nuanced understanding of Judah in the mid-ninth century BCE and also demonstrates the significance of this period in the larger setting of the history of the Divided Kingdom.

"*My People as Your People* is an excellent study of the textual, historical, and archaeological evidence relating to the reign of Jehoshaphat, King of Judah. The author attempts to tie together updated analyses of the relevant evidence to present a fresh and impressive study of this important king. I highly recommend this volume!"

Aren M. Maeir, Director, Ackerman Family Bar-Ilan University Expedition to Gath; Director, Minerva Center for the Relations Between Israel and Aram in Biblical Times; Co-editor, Israel Exploration Journal



CHRIS MCKINNY has a Ph.D. from Bar-Ilan University where he studied biblical studies and Bronze and Iron Age archaeology of the southern Levant. His dissertation dealt with the historical geography of the town lists of Judah and Benjamin in the book of Joshua. McKinny is a staff member at the Tel Burna Archaeological Project and the Ackerman Family Bar-Ilan University Expedition to Gath. His publications include studies in historical geography, archaeology, biblical history, biblical chronology, and digital archaeology, relating both to the above-mentioned projects and several other ancient sites.

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My People as Your People

A Textual and Archaeological Analysis
of the Reign of Jehoshaphat

CHRIS MCKINNY

Praise for **My People as Your People**

“Chris McKinny surveys all of the relevant sources and analyzes them critically and methodically, and then brings together the first up-to-date comprehensive summary of all of the relevant archaeological data from Israel, Transjordan, and especially Judah in the ninth century BCE. Even scholars who will not ultimately accept his compelling conclusions will appreciate the sheer mass of the material that he has brought together. McKinny’s writing style is clear, which will make this material that much more accessible to the non-archaeologist as well.”

*Yigal Levin, The Israel and Golda Koschitzky Department
of Jewish History, Bar-Ilan University*

My People as Your People

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To Mindy—1 Samuel 1:27-28



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Preface

In this book, I examine the reign of Jehoshaphat of Judah using the available archaeological and textual data. Chapter One serves as the introduction to the book. In Chapter Two, I discuss the historical setting of Judah's neighbors by focusing primarily on Omride Israel and its relationship to Phoenicia and Aram. This discussion addresses the set of historical circumstances that brought about the cessation of Israelite-Judahite hostility during the reigns of Omri and Asa. This chapter also tackles some textual and historical issues associated with Israel and Judah's relationship to Moab (2 Kings 3; 2 Chron. 20:1–30).

Chapter Three includes a textual analysis and a historical reconstruction of the Battle of Ramoth-gilead (1 Kings 22:1–36). This chapter also serves as a starting point for a discussion of the larger historical setting in which Jehoshaphat reigned. Throughout this chapter, I address several issues related to a historical understanding of this text in relation to the Tel Dan Stele and Aramean-Israelite relations. I also deal with the Chronicler's version of the battle (2 Chron. 18) and discuss the historical value of the few expansions from the Kings' account. Since this text is often used as evidence for determining that Jehoshaphat was a vassal to Ahab, I also address the arguments associated with this line of thinking.

Chapter Four analyzes Jehoshaphat's reign in 1 Kings 22:41–50. This analysis is the most important textual element of this book and lays the foundation for the archaeological discussion that follows. Throughout the chapter, I suggest a positive

reading of the chronistic text that accepts the general historicity of Judah and Israel's alliance (1 Kings 22:44), Judah's domination of Edom (2 Kings 22:47), and the reality of Jehoshaphat's Aravah activity that stretched to the Red Sea and beyond. I endeavor to show that this view is at odds with several recent assessments that view the late 9th or early 8th centuries BCE as the moment of Judah's rise to prominence in these regions.

Finally, Chapter Five deals with the archaeological remains of Judah in the late Iron IIA (i.e., the 9th century BCE). My examination largely avoids archaeological survey material and focuses on published and some unpublished archaeological sites in Judah that possessed Iron IIA material. My discussion is limited to the regions of Benjamin, the Shephelah, the Negev and the Aravah. Together with the preceding chapter, this section serves as the core data of my study where I pull together textual and archaeological source material. In addition to primary material, I interact with a large body of older and up-to-date secondary literature associated with Judah in the Iron IIA. Throughout this final chapter, I address many different historical geographical issues surrounding the identification and political affiliation with the sites in question. Altogether, an analysis of this data across these chapters has brought me to three main conclusions regarding the nature of Judah during the reign of Jehoshaphat in the mid-9th century BCE. These will be discussed in Chapter Six.



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