



Magic and Divination in Ancient Palestine and Syria (Studies in the History of the Ancient Near East, V. 8)

Ann Jeffers

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Beginning with Deuteronomy 18:9ff and its condemnation of magicians and diviners, this book explores the window that the text provides into magic and divination in Ancient Palestine and Syria. Investigating the wealth of language combined with the archaeological and historical evidence, this book seeks to place the influence of these factors in the emerging Israelite religion. It argues that an integral part of the Ancient Near Eastern cosmology and culture, magic and divination are never completely eradicated, despite the ideological warfare led by the Old Testament writers. The first part of this book examines the function of various magicians and diviners. This is followed by a chapter on dreams and visions. The third chapter looks at the techniques and devices used by the oracular practitioners. Other subjects covered include magic in warfare, in the treatment of diseases, and blessing and cursing.

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