

## Summary

The common understanding of the history of ancient Israel as being coincident with its biblical account has been disrupted, mainly due to recently acquired archaeological data and modern biblical criticism, to such an extent that historicity is today denied to the Patriarchs, Exodus and to other biblical narratives. Disputed is also historical existence of the great and powerful kingdom of David. We are thus left with two histories of ancient Israel: the first one is a *real* history as it is given by a realistic reconstruction of the modern history science, while the second one is the *biblical* history, substantially differing from the first one. The first part of this work provides a modern reconstruction of the history of ancient Israel, based on internal, i.e. biblical, evidence as well as on external, i.e. archaeological, data. We track the development and changes of the community denoted as Israel in the course of this *real* history. Biblical history is considered to be a specific interpretation of the real history, expressing a fundamental self-understanding of that community. Further, the denial of historicity of the Davidic kingdom removes the once assumed institutional base for a common Israelite sense of belonging comprising the northern Israelite population as well as the southern population of Judah. A new question then arises: how do we explain Judah becoming Israel as well? The second part of this work provides an attempt to answer said question: we search for an historical context within which the population of Judah, or their descendants, might have adopted Israelite collective identity. Finally, the third part of this work aims at studying various communities which Bible itself associates with the notion of Israel. We propose in this context to study target communities of several pacts, which “*ecclesiological* Israel” concluded with God in the course of biblical history. This last part is concise and should only be regarded as giving direction towards a possible further development of the present thesis.