

MARI AND THE BIBLE

BY

ABRAHAM MALAMAT



BRILL
LEIDEN · BOSTON · KÖLN
1998

CONTENTS

Preface		vii
1	Introductory Essay – Mari and the Bible: A Comparative Perspective	1

PART ONE

MARI AND THE WEST

2	The Cultural Impact of the West (Syria-Palestine) on Mesopotamia in the Old Babylonian Period	13
3	The Sacred Sea	24
4	Mari and its Relations with the Eastern Mediterranean	33
5A	Hazor Once Again in New Mari Documents	41
5B	Mari and Hazor: Trade Relations in the Old Babylonian Period	45
5c	Mari and Hazor: The Implication for the Middle Bronze Age Chronology	51

PART TWO

PROPHECY

6	Intuitive Prophecy – A General Survey	59
7	Prophetic Revelations in Mari and the Bible: Complementary Considerations	83
8	Episodes Involving Samuel and Saul and the Prophetic Texts from Mari	102
9	A Mari Prophecy and Nathan's Dynastic Oracle	106
10	Parallels between the New Prophecies from Mari and Biblical Prophecy	122
11	New Light from Mari (<i>ARM XXVI</i>) on Biblical Prophecy	128
12	The Secret Council and Prophetic Involvement in Mari and Israel	134

13	New Mari Documents and Prophecy in Ezekiel	142
14	A New Prophetic Message from Aleppo and its Biblical Counterparts	151
15	Deity Revokes Kingship – Towards Intellectual Reasoning in Mari and in the Bible	157

PART THREE

CUSTOMS AND SOCIETY

16	A Recently Discovered Word for “Clan” in Mari and its Hebrew Cognates	165
17	A Note on the Ritual of Treaty Making in Mari and the Bible	168
18	Is there a Word for the Royal Harem in the Bible? The <i>Inside</i> Story	172
19	The Correspondence of Šibtu, Queen of Mari in <i>ARM X</i>	175
20	The Great King – A Pre-eminent Royal Title in Cuneiform Sources and in the Bible	192
21	<i>‘Amm L’BĀDĀD YIŠKŌN</i> : A Diplomatic Report from Mari and an Oracle of Balaam	216
22	King Lists of the Old Babylonian Period and Biblical Genealogies	219
	Abbreviations	237
	List of <i>Archives Royales de Mari (ARMT)</i>	240
	Indices – <i>ARM(T)</i> and other Ancient Near Eastern Sources ...	241
	– Biblical and Post-Biblical Sources	245
	– General Index	249