name of a lost work of ancient Hebrew poetry mentioned in the Bible (Jos. 10.13; 2 Sm. 1.18) containing two short pieces of biblical poetry (Jos. 10.12–13; 2 Sm. 1.19–27). Since the references to the Book of Jashar in both Joshua and Samuel are in the context of military heroics (Joshua’s battle at Gibeon and the noble deaths of Saul and Jonathan on the battlefield at Gilboa), the lost book is presumed to have been a collection of epic material detailing the battles of the early Israelites. An anonymous author in the Middle Ages, probably in eleventh-century Spain, borrowed the title for his compilation of popular midrashim, but there is no connection between this ethical work and the lost ancient work. See also BIBLE, LOST BOOKS OF THE.

Bibliography


Find this resource:

–GARY A. RENDSBURG