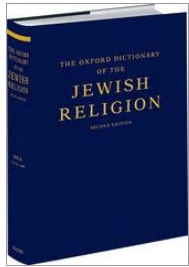


Oxford Reference



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BOOK OF THE WARS OF THE LORD,

name of a lost work of ancient Hebrew poetry mentioned only once in the Bible (*Nm.* 21.14). Two verses in the Torah (*Nm.* 21.14–15) are said to derive from an earlier source called the *Book of the Wars of the Lord*. These poetic lines are extremely difficult to interpret, though they clearly deal with the Israelites marching through the territory of Moab. Probably this book was an anthology of ancient poetry recalling God's triumphs on behalf of the people of Israel. The medieval commentator Moses Nahmanides suggested that the short victory poem in *Numbers* 21.27–30 is also derived from the *Book of the Wars of the Lord* or a similar source. See also BIBLE, LOST BOOKS OF THE.

Bibliography

Eduard Nielsen, *Oral Tradition* (London, 1954).

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—GARY A. RENDSBURG

WAS THIS USEFUL? Yes No

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