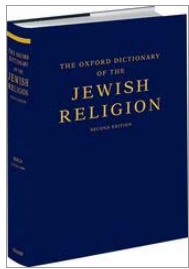


Oxford Reference



The Oxford Dictionary of the Jewish Religion (2 ed.)

Edited by Adele Berlin and Maxine Grossman

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Print Publication Date: 2011

Print ISBN-13: 9780199730049

Published online: 2011

Current Online Version: 2011

eISBN: 9780199759279

BOOK OF JASHAR,

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

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

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–GARY A. RENDSBURG

WAS THIS USEFUL? Yes No

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