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[Home](#) > [Journals](#) > [Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions](#) > [The Exodus Story: Between Historical Memory and Historiographical Composition](#)

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The Exodus Story: Between Historical Memory and Historiographical Composition

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[« Previous Article](#) | [Table of Contents](#) | [Next Article »](#)

[Abstract](#)

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[References\(0\)](#)

[Cited By \(2\)](#)

[Metrics](#)

[The article seeks to explain the contrast between the central place of the Exodus in Israelite memory and the marginalizing of the Exodus tradition in the early Israelite society. It first examines the oppressive nature of Egyptian rule in Canaan at the time of the Nineteenth Dynasty, then examines the story of the Exodus in the context of Egypt under the Ramesside and Saitic Dynasties. It suggests that the delivery from slavery as related in the biblical story actually took place in Canaan and that the memories were later transferred to Egypt. The transfer of memory explains the omission of the memory of the long Egyptian occupation of Canaan in the Bible.]

memories of bondage were replaced by the 'memory' of the conquest, which reflects the way early Israelite society subjugation, the suffering and the delivery were experienced by all tribal groups that lived at the time in Canaan, Exodus tradition within the Israelite society., The article seeks to explain the contrast between the central place of and the marginality of the event in history by shifting the focus of discussion from the historical question to the reshaping the self-portrait and consciousness of early Israelite society. It first examines the oppressive nature of Egypt of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Dynasties. It then examines the story of the Exodus in the context of Egypt and the Twentieth Dynasties. It suggests that the bondage and the delivery from slavery as related in the biblical story actually took place in Egypt. Memories were later transferred from Canaan to Egypt. The transfer of memory explains the omission of the memory of the occupation of Canaan in the Bible. The displaced memories of bondage were replaced by the 'memory' of the conquest. The Israelite society sought to present its past. The subjugation, the suffering and the delivery were experienced by all tribal groups at the time in Canaan, hence the centrality of the Exodus tradition within the Israelite society]

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