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Friedman, Richard Elliott. *The Exodus*. New York: HarperOne, 2017. 282 pp. \$18.43. (9780062565242). Also available as an eBook. In his latest book, Bible scholar and University of Georgia professor Friedman argues, on the basis of archaeological and biblical scholarship, that the exodus was an historical event and not mere myth. He further argues that the exodus did not include the entire Hebrew nation (most of whom never left Canaan for Egypt), but only a relatively small element of it, namely the priestly tribe of Levi (although he fails to show why and how the Israelites came to think all their ancestors participated in the exodus). There was no massive conquest of the land led by Joshua, and Friedman also argues that the Levites worshipped Yahweh while the Israelites in Canaan worshipped a god named El; when the Levites entered Canaan, the two gods were fully identified with each other and thus the Hebrew religion became monotheistic. In addition to engendering monotheism, the other major consequence of the exodus, in the author's view, is the moral notion of treating the alien as an equal and loving one's neighbor as oneself. Dr. Friedman acknowledges scholars who disagree with him. This extensively footnoted book presents an interesting and reasonable argument in a manner that is accessible to a lay audience. Recommended.

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