

Professor emeritus, Ph.D. Thomas L. Thompson

### Curriculum Vitae

Thomas L. Thompson was born on January 7, 1939 in Detroit, Michigan. After completing his BA in history and philosophy at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh in 1962, he moved to Europe to do graduate studies in Oxford (1962-63) and Tübingen (1963-72). During his years in Tübingen, he studied and wrote his 1971 dissertation under the direction of Professors Herbert Haag and Kurt Galling in close association with the university's Biblical Archaeological Institute. This dissertation decisively challenged the long-standing association between biblical studies and the archaeology of Palestine in relation to the history and culture of Bronze Age Palestine as it had developed in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. From 1969 to 1976, he was appointed to a research fellowship on the Tübingen Atlas of the Near East, to which he contributed a series of 7 double-folio maps and 2 volumes of site catalogue and commentary, sketching the settlement and land-use patterns of Bronze Age Palestine, including the Negev and the Sinai. This offered the first regional histories of Bronze Age settlement and agriculture for Palestine and its southern steppe lands.

In 1975, he returned to the United States, where he received his PhD in comparative religion from Temple University in Philadelphia in 1976, with specialization in Old Testament, New Testament and ancient Near Eastern literature. In 1985, he was appointed Visiting Professor at the École Biblique in Jerusalem. While there, he developed and directed the project: *Toponymie Palestinienne*, investigating changes in Palestinian place names since the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. In 1987, he received a U.S. National Endowment of the Humanities fellowship, and began his project of writing a history of ancient Palestine, independent of biblical perspectives. This was published in 1992, while he served as associate professor in Old Testament studies at Lawrence and Marquette universities in Wisconsin. In 1993, he was called to take up a chair in Old Testament studies at the University of Copenhagen, which he held until his retirement on January 31, 2009. He is a Danish citizen (since 2003 and lives together with his wife in Espergærde in northern Sealand.

Thomas L. Thompson's academic production numbers some 250 items, including reviews, encyclopaedia articles; journal articles, book chapters, maps and some 20 books, eight of which are translated into Arabic. He is founder and joint, general editor of the *Copenhagen International seminar* monograph series, since 1995. He is also associate editor of the *Scandinavian Journal for the Old Testament* and on the editorial board of the journal *Holy Land Studies* and Project Developer for the *Palestine History and Heritage Project (PaHH)*. He has lectured widely in Europe, the Middle East and North America. His published books are:

*The Historicity of the Patriarchal Narratives: The Quest for the Historical Abraham* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1974; 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., paperback: Harrisburg: Trinity International, 2002: 392 pp).

*The Settlement of Sinai and the Negev in the Bronze Age*: (Dr. Reichert Verlag, 1975: 210 pp).

*The Settlement of Palestine in the Bronze Age* (Dr. Reichert Verlag: 1979: 495 pp).

*The Origin Tradition of Ancient Israel* (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1987).

(with F.J. Goncalvez and J.M. Van Cangh), *Toponymie Palestinienne: Plaine de St. Jean D'Acree et Corridor de Jérusalem* (Louvain-La-Neuve: Institut Orientaliste, 1988: 132 pp).

*Early History of the Israelite People: From the Written and Archaeological Sources*: (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1992; 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. paperback 2000, 482 pp). English and Arabic

(with N. Hyldahl, eds.), *Dødehavsteksterne og Bibelen: Forum for Bibelsk Eksegese* (Museum Tusculanum, 1996: 157 pp).

(with F. Cryer, eds.), *Qumran Between Old and New Testaments*: (Sheffield: SAP, 1998: 398 pp).

*The Bible in History: How Writers Create A Past* (London: Jonathan Cape, 1999). English, Greek and Arabic.

*Jerusalem in ancient History and Tradition* (London: T&T Clark Intl., 2003: 301 pp). English, and Arabic.

(with K. Whitelam; N.-P. Lemche, I. Hjelm; Z. Mouna), *The Latest News in the History of Ancient Palestine* (Damascus: Cadmus Press, 2004: 261 pp). Arabic

(with H. Tronier), *Frelsens Biografisering* (Copenhagen: Museum Tusculanum, 2004: 307 pp).

(with M. Müller, ed.), *Historie og Konstruktion: Festskrift til Niels Peter Lemche* (Copenhagen: Museum Tusculanum, 2005: 442 pp).

*The Messiah Myth: The Near Eastern Roots of Jesus and David* (York: Basic Books; 2005; London: Jonathan Cape, 2006; paperback 2007; Arabic translation: Damascus and Beirut: Cadmus Press, 2007: 414pp). English and Arabic

(with T. S. Verenna, eds.) *Is This Not the Carpenter? The Question of the Historicity of the Figure of Jesus*, (Sheffield: Equinox, 2012).

*History and Biblical Narrative: Changing Perspectives 2*: (Sheffield: Equinox, 2013); English and Arabic.

(with P. Wajdenbaum, eds.), *The Bible and Hellenism. Greek Influence on Jewish and Early Christian Literature* (London: Routledge, 2014).

(with I. Hjelm, eds.), *History, Archaeology and the Bible Forty Years after "Historicity". Changing Perspectives 6* (London: Routledge, 2016).

(with I. Hjelm, eds.), *Biblical Interpretation Beyond Historicity; Changing Perspectives 7* (London: Routledge, 2016).

(with I. Hjelm, H. Taha and I. Pappe, eds.) *A New Critical Approach to the Hisstory of Palestine, CIS* (London: Routledge 2019).

(with I. Hjelm), *The Ever Elusive Past: Discussions of Palestine's History and Heritage* (Deir el-Nasher, Ramallah 2019).

(with K. Salibi, I. Hjelm and Z. Muna), *Israel in Palestine or Arabia: The Assyrian Evidence: A Dialogue* (forthcoming: Beirut: Kadmus Press, 2016). Arabic and English editions.