

PROPAGANDA AND ABIJAH'S WAR IN CHRONICLES

VERED ORGIL

Abstract

The purpose of this article is to offer a new perspective on the Book of Chronicles.

The uniqueness of Chronicles is that it allows us to examine its text against its parallels: Books of Samuel - Kings. The already known gaps between the Book of Chronicles and its parallels pose a challenge to researchers, that are pondering whether this is a historian, theologian, or an author. Through this article I wish to propose another way to examine the work of the author of Chronicles - as a propagandist.

The article consists of two main sections: a brief 1) explanation of the principles and characteristics of propaganda and 2) analysis of one of the most significant passages of the Book – Abijah's war on Mount Zemaraim (2 Chr. 13) –as a work of a propagandist.

Characterizing The author of the Book of Chronicles as 'propagandist', as I propose, is not meant to diminish its importance; on the contrary. We ought to appreciate the author's work which used his tools to defend the idea of worshipping at the Temple in Jerusalem. It is an illustration that propaganda can help maintain and protect social structures, particularly during time of crisis.