

LITERATURE (LITTERAE) IN EARLY ISRAEL  
AS ILLUSTRATED IN JU., SAM., KI. 11. 1-10

WRITING

In the ancient civilizations

The Hebrew Alphabet

Samaritan epigraphs of the 9th cent.; early seals, etc.  
Mesha stele  
ZKR Inscr.; the zenjirli Inscr.  
recently discovered inscr. at Byblos  
Bibl. reff. to writing  
Proto-sinaitic inscr. (towards 2000 B.C.)  
Ras Shamra Heb. texts in cuneiform

Objectives of writing

Practical business

accounts

messages

archives, monumental and documentary

Literary

ritual

poetry

narrative

The writers

Temple ministers (at first for business)

Official secretaries

Business scribes

Literary amanuenses

Prophetical "schools"