

David Noel Freedman has been named to fill the Hebrew Biblical Studies Endowed Chair

June 2, 1986

RENOWNED BIBLICAL SCHOLAR NAMED TO NEW ENDOWED CHAIR

One of the world's most distinguished Biblical scholars, Dr. David Noel Freedman, has been named to fill the newly created Endowed Chair in Hebrew Biblical Studies at the University of California, San Diego.

Freedman is the editor-in-chief of the Anchor Bible, a 40-volume work regarded as the most authoritative translations and commentaries on the Bible. He is currently a visiting professor in the Department of History at UCSD.

"We are very pleased that Professor Freedman will be joining our UCSD community," said Harold Ticho, vice chancellor for academic affairs. "His outstanding record as a Biblical scholar will greatly enrich our current Judaic Studies Program, and his presence on campus will focus national attention on it."

The Hebrew Biblical Studies Chair is one of two chairs endowed in the Judaic Studies Program. Funds for the chairs, as well as for scholarships, lectureships, and library development were raised by a distinguished group of San Diego citizens.

The University of California Board of Regents approved establishment of the Hebrew Biblical Studies Chair at their May 15-16 meeting in San Francisco.

"Freedman is one of the leading Biblical scholars in the world," said Judaic Studies Program Director Richard Friedman. "The area of his achievements is in the full range of Biblical scholarship--the Dead Sea Scrolls, archaeology and Biblical-Hebrew poetry. He may be the most sensitive reader of Biblical-Hebrew poetry alive.

"He also brings to UCSD the Anchor Bible, which is the largest selling, most read commentary on the Bible ever written. It has already sold over one million volumes," Friedman said. "It is about two thirds completed and now the remaining 25 volumes or so will be edited out of San Diego."

Freedman is the author or coauthor of numerous books including: "Early Hebrew Orthography," "The People of the Dead Sea Scrolls," "The Secret Sayings of Jesus," "Ancient Yahwistic Poetry," and "Archaeology of the Bible, Book by Book."

He is also the editor of the "Anchor Dictionary of the Bible," "The Computer Bible," and "The Computer Bible Series." He served as the associate editor and then editor of the Journal of Biblical Literature from 1952-59. Since 1974 he has been editor and director of publications for "The Biblical Archaeologist."

Freedman is a past president of the Society of Biblical Literature and a former director of the Albright Institute for Archaeological Research in Jerusalem.

Freedman entered the City College of New York at the age of 13 and subsequently transferred to UCLA where he earned his B.A. in history in 1939 at the age of 17. In 1948 he received a Ph.D. in Semitic Languages and Literature from Johns Hopkins University.

He has taught at the University of Michigan where he was Arthur F. Thurneau Professor of Biblical Studies, Director of the Program in Religious Studies and professor in the Department of Near Eastern Studies. He has held visiting professorships in Israel, Japan, and Australia, as well as at various universities around the United States.

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