

# Temples and Sanctuaries from the Early Iron Age Levant

The sanctuaries built in the Levant in the first centuries of the Iron Age (1200–700 B.C.E.) evidence a great deal of architectural exploration. Some of the forms clearly recall the older Late Bronze Age designs and indicate that these still had currency in the changed social environment of the early Iron Age. Other features are new, the results of changed demographic influences, cultic settings, and political realities that all emerged in the region as it recovered from the collapse of the Late Bronze Age culture. The sanctuaries presented in this book reveal the exciting developments in architecture that occurred over the five-century span and show that the architects responsible for creating them were designing buildings to meet the new needs of the societies that took shape in the wake of the downfall of the Late Bronze Age.

The analysis presented here is largely based on comparative studies, a formalist approach that permits the isolation of lines of continuity and the detection of discontinuity. Mierse augments this traditional approach with considerations of the social and political forces that were influencing design choices and introduces the archaeological investigation of cult as it has developed in the postprocessual school of archaeology.

Included in this fascinating volume are 90 pages of photographs, drawings, floor plans, and maps.