



St. Francis Virtual House of Studies

The Study of HEBREW SCRIPTURES



Peter R. Ackroyd, *Exile and Restoration: A Study of Hebrew Thought in the Sixth Century B.C.E.* Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1968.

Though four decades old, this excellent work on the impact of exile and restoration on biblical literature is still unsurpassed for its thorough treatment and sophisticated insights.

Rainier Albertz, *A History of Israelite Religion in the Old Testament Period.* 2 vols. Trans by John Bowden. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1994.

This is an excellent analysis of the wide variety of social and economic currents during the eras of the development of the Hebrew Scriptures.

***Biblica: The Bible Atlas - A Social and Historical Journey Through the Lands of the Bible*, Edited by Barry J. Beitzell. Hauppauge, NY: Barron's, 2007.**

This enormous book (oversized and 575 pages long) is an excellent atlas, and so much more. The essays on social and economic contexts of the various books of the Bible by some of the most respected biblical scholars around the world make this a valuable resource. One can usually find it for an unusually low price on Amazon.

***Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible*, Edited by R. R. Reno. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2005- .**

This innovative series has assigned the task of the commentary of each book of the Bible to a leading theologian. The results thus far are exciting and intellectually stimulating. Seven volumes relevant to this bibliography have appeared thus far:

Phillip Cary, *Jonah*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos, 2008.

Robert W. Jenson, *Ezekiel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos, 2009.

Matthew Levering, *Ezra and Nehemiah*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2007.

Peter J. Leithart, *1 & 2 Kings*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2006.

Ephraim Radner, *Leviticus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2008.

David L. Stubb, *Numbers*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2009.

Telford Work, *Deuteronomy*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2009

Walter Brueggemann, *Theology of the Old Testament: Testimony, Dispute, Advocacy*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997.

This is an intriguing, provocative, and fruitful analysis of the troubled dialectic between God and our species as characterized in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Joseph Blenkinsopp, *A History of Prophecy in Israel*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, revised and enlarged edition, 1996.

This critical analysis raises as many questions as it answers about the function of prophecy in biblical literature. That is not a criticism. It is a testimony to the teaching function of the book.

***The Cambridge Bible Commentary*, Edited by Peter R. Ackroyd. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1972-1979.**

*This multivolume set of commentaries by excellent scholars is a valuable resource. It will eventually be replaced by *The New Cambridge Bible Commentary*. As of this writing, three volumes have been published relevant to this bibliography:*

Bill T. Arnold, *Genesis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Victor H. Matthews, *Judges and Ruth*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

Carol Meyers, *Exodus*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Shaye J. D. Cohen, *From the Maccabees to the Mishnah*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2nd edition, 2006.

This is the best one-volume treatment of the period in which the Apocryphal books were written.

Stephen L. Harris and Robert L. Platzner, *The Old Testament: An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2nd edition, 2007.

This is particularly useful for those interested in disputed passages and writings that were not eventually included in the canon of scripture.

Christian E. Hauer and William A. Young, *An Introduction to the Bible: A Journey into Three Worlds*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 7th edition, 2007.

The "Three Worlds" are literary, historical and contemporary. Hauer and Young thus take into account the texts, the contexts in which they were written, and the contexts in which we read them in our own time. This useful device takes the reader into the world of critical analysis and provides a great deal of food for thought in preparation for serious biblical study.

Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Prophets*. New York: Harper & Row, 1961, Reprinted by Hendrickson Publishers, 2007.

The late giant of 20th-century Jewish theology is as much a prophet as a scholar of the prophetic tradition in this treatment of the role of prophecy in the early evolution of Judaism.

Israel Finkelstein and Neil A. Silberman, *The Bible Unearthed: Ne Vision of Ancient Israel and the Origin of Its Sacred Texts*. New York: Free Press, 2001.

These two masters of Biblical Archeology summarize and boldly interpret recent scholarship in the field. The result is a readable and enlightening learning experience for the non-specialist.

Israel Finkelstein and Neil A. Silberman, *David and Solomon: In Search of the Bible's Sacred Kings and the Roots of the Western Tradition*. New York: Free Press, 2007.

This is both an excellent piece of scholarship on two Kings of Ancient Israel and a well developed treatise on the problem of distinguishing between myth and history in Biblical research.

***The Parallel Bible Hebrew-English Old Testament: With the Biblia Hebraica Leningradensia and King James Version*, Edited and arranged by Aron Dotan. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003.**

The use of the Biblia Hebraica Leningradensia gives the reader the best Hebrew text available.

Christopher R. Seitz, *Prophecy and Hermeneutics: Toward a New Introduction to the Prophets*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic Press, 2007.

In this small volume Seitz does two important things. First, he offers a concise summary of recent scholarship on the prophets. Seitz then makes an intriguing case for the superiority of the traditional canonical structure of the arrangement of the prophetic writings over one that places them in historical sequence. While acknowledging that the latter is necessary for tracing the history of the scriptures, he argues the former makes more catechetical sense because of the continuing thematic links.

Brian L. Webster, *The Cambridge Introduction to Biblical Hebrew with CD-ROM*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

The accessible, almost intuitive, approach to the Hebrew language and a CD with a workbook and a variety of resources make this the best introduction now available.

Claus Westermann, *The Promises to the Fathers: Studies on the Patriarchal Narratives*. Translated by D. E. Green. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1981.

Westermann gives us a close analysis of the role of the patriarch in the Biblical narrative.

Hans W. Wolff, *Anthropology of the Old Testament*. Translated by M. Kohl. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983.

This is a thorough and insightful investigation of the perspectives on our species presented in the Hebrew Scriptures.