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Creation
Biblical Theologies in the Context of the Ancient Near East
Othmar Keel and Silvia Schroer

Othmar Keel has become well known as the author of masterly studies on the iconography and texts of the ancient Near East and their relationship to the text of the Hebrew Bible. In this volume, he partners with Silvia Schroer to assemble ancient Near Eastern texts and art that bear on the idea of creation. The result is a convenient assemblage of texts and iconographical data that may be studied in concert, often leading to being able to see old texts in new ways. As with much of this Swiss scholar’s work, this new volume will prove to be a resource for all who wish to study the biblical theology of creation against its wider background.

Pp. xii + 244. Cloth. 2015. ISBN 9781575060934 $44.95

Covenant in the Persian Period
From Genesis to Chronicles
Richard J. Bautch and Gary N. Knoppers (eds.)

The 22 essays in this new and comprehensive study explore how notions of covenant, especially the Sinaitic covenant, flourished during the Neo-Babylonian, Persian, and early Hellenistic periods. Following the upheaval of the Davidic monarchy, the temple’s destruction, the disenfranchisement of the Jerusalem priesthood, the deportation of Judeans to other lands, the struggles of Judeans who remained in the land, and the limited returns of some Judean groups from exile, the covenant motif proved to be an increasingly influential symbol in Judean intellectual life.

The contributors to this volume, drawn from many different countries including Canada, Germany, Israel, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United States, document how Judean writers working within historiographic, Levitical, prophetic, priestly, and sapiential circles creatively reworked older notions of covenant to invent a new way of understanding this idea. These writers examine how new conceptions of the covenant made between Yhwh and Israel at Mt. Sinai play a significant role in the process of early Jewish identity formation. Others focus on how transformations in the Abrahamic, Davidic, and Priestly covenants responded to cultural changes within Judean society, both in the homeland and in the diaspora. Cumulatively, the studies of biblical writings, from Genesis to Chronicles, demonstrate how Jewish literature in this period developed a striking diversity of ideas related to covenantal themes.

The Prophets of Israel
Critical Studies in the Hebrew Bible 2
Reinhard Kratz

The book offers an up-to-date and readable introduction to the manifold literary and historical problems of biblical prophecy. Reinhard Gregor Kratz provides the reader with a clear analysis of the development of the institution of prophecy in ancient Israel and Second Temple Judaism. Through a close reading of the prophetic corpus he demonstrates that in biblical tradition we have to distinguish between the historical and the literary prophet. The historical prophet is a representative of ancient Israelite religion while the literary prophet—as presented in the biblical books—is part of the tradition of emerging Judaism. This development from historical representative to literary figure guides the analysis, and it becomes clear that the special character of biblical prophecy as encountered in the books of the Bible is the result of a long process of tradition during which older material is reworked, restructured, and applied to new situations. After an overview of various models of interpretation of biblical prophecy, Kratz considers first the broader historical background and the phenomenology of prophecy in the ancient Near East and ancient Israel. Then he moves on to the literary evidence of prophecy in biblical tradition and its historical context, including the earliest commentaries on prophetic books, the Pesharim from Qumran. The study concludes with a final chapter that introduces the reader to the scholarship on the prophets and provides some suggestions for further reading.

$28.95

Job’s Journey
Stations of Suffering
Critical Studies in the Hebrew Bible 7
Manfred Oeming and Konrad Schmid

From the Introduction: “The book of Job does not promote silence about God because we cannot say anything about him. Otherwise, this book would never have been written. But the book of Job does bid farewell to certain types of theology—and we need not bemoan their loss: theology as the wisdom of the world projected into heaven; theology as pious reflection on a higher being that then mistakes traditional or innovative ideas about God entirely for God himself; theology that purports to communicate direct revelation from God. The book of Job distrusts and disbelieves all this to its core. Instead, it states clearly that this is not God; these are only graven images. Such fundamental criticism of all pseudo-theology is—and here we can only agree with the book of Job—not the end but the very beginning of theology.”

This book is not an attempt to cover every angle and answer every question that we have about the book of Job. Instead, Konrad Schmid, in the introductory chapter, provides us with an analysis of the structure of the book that helps us to see the book as a whole. And Manfred Oeming, in the chapters that follow, provides clear snapshots of various elements of the book, including a summary of the dialogues, Job’s monologue, Elihu’s speech (“the Anti-Monologue”), Job’s encounter with God, and the destination (of Job’s journey). Between them, the two authors provide an accessible scholarly and theological approach to the book that is richly satisfying.

$29.95
Is There Theology in the Hebrew Bible?
Critical Studies in the Hebrew Bible 4
Konrad Schmid (translated by Peter Altmann)

The Hebrew Bible has long been the subject of theological inquiries and debates in Judaism and Christianity. But is there something like theology already in the Hebrew Bible itself? Is it possible to describe the literary growth of the Hebrew Bible by means of an ongoing theological debate? Answers to these questions depend on how one conceives of the category “theology.” In this book, Konrad Schmid reconstructs the development of this category, then describes and discusses biblical texts in the Hebrew Bible that are relevant to the question Is There Theology in the Hebrew Bible?

The book consists of two main sections. In the first, Schmid traces the notion of “theology” from its earliest use, in Greek philosophy, through the medieval period and to today. He pays close attention to “biblical theology,” particularly the different understandings of this idea as something emanating from the Hebrew Bible itself versus something that readers impose onto the biblical text. He also tracks the influence of the discipline of comparative religion on biblical theology, especially with regard to the growing division between biblical and systematic theology. In the second part, Schmid focuses specifically on “implicit” biblical theology, that is, theological reflection apparent within the Hebrew Bible itself. He provides several examples, such as the theologization of the law that resulted from inner-biblical exegesis and Jeremiah’s universal theology of history.


Joel
Scope, Genre(s), and Meaning
Critical Studies in the Hebrew Bible 6
Ronald L. Troxel

A lengthy history of readers’ struggles with Joel lies behind Merx’s characterization of the book as “the problem child of Old Testament exegesis, insofar as the resources utilized by interpreters thus far are entirely insufficient to dispel its darkness.” Long before Vernes posited that chapters 3–4 were a composition distinct from 1–2, Augustine voiced his perplexity about how the book constituted a unity. Many attempts to expound it as a unity have subdued the book’s tensions through problematic harmonizations. On the other hand, theories of the book’s development within the construction of a Book of the Twelve not only bar understanding the book as a whole, but also fall short of explaining its composition.

In this volume, Ronald L. Troxel acknowledges the perennial problems raised by the book, but argues that taking account of the signs of its genre elucidates numerous cruxes and spotlights salient interpretive features that are infrequently discussed. Recognizing that chapter four comprises a series of late additions permits recognition of narrative markers that unite the first three chapters as a product of *schriftgelehrte Prophétie*, “scribal prophecy.”

Pp. xii + 122. Paper. 2015. ISBN 9781575063812 $29.95
Standing in the Breach
An Old Testament Theology and Spirituality of Intercessory Prayer
Siphrut: Literature and Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures 13
Michael Widmer

At the heart of this study is a biblical-theological approach to central passages on intercessory prayers in the OT. After examining these largely prophetic prayer dialogues, Widmer argues that they provide an important key to biblical theology and spirituality. Furthermore, a close reading of prayers by Abraham, Moses, Samuel, David, Solomon and some of the prophets reveals fascinating insights into the portrayals of these characters and confirms strong conceptual associations with Moses, Israel’s archetypal mediator. Widmer reads these prayers in both their immediate literary and wider canonical contexts.


Identity in Conflict
The Struggle between Esau and Jacob, Edom and Israel
Siphrut: Literature and Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures 19
Elie Assis

No nation has been subjected to a wider range of biblical attitudes and emotions than Edom. In some sources, Edom is perceived as Israel’s brother; in many others, the animosity toward Edom is tremendous. In Genesis, the narrative describes the fraternal conflict between Jacob and Esau at length, and many hold that this description is a reflection of the hostility between Edom and Israel. However, the relationship between the brothers is not always depicted as strained. In this monograph, Assis elucidates the complex relationship—brotherhood and fraternity coupled with hatred and rivalry—between Edom and Israel to attempt to clarify the source of this complexity and the function that this relationship serves in the biblical texts and Israel’s early history.


The “Image of God” in Eden
The Creation of Mankind in Genesis 2:5–3:24 in Light of the mis pî pit pî and wpt-r Rituals of Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt
Siphrut: Literature and Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures 15
Catherine L. McDowell

Catherine McDowell presents a detailed and insightful analysis of the creation of ʾadam in Gen 2:5–3:24 in light of the Mesopotamian mis pî pit pî (“washing of the mouth, opening of the mouth”) and the Egyptian wpt-r (opening of the mouth) rituals for the creation of a divine image. When Gen 1–3 are read together these texts redefine the divine-human relationship using three significant and theologically laden categories: kinship, kingship, and cult. Thus, they provide a lens through which to view the relationship between God and humanity as presented in the rest of the Bible.


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A Message from the Great King
Reading Malachi in Light of Ancient Persian Royal Messenger Texts from the Time of Xerxes
Siphrut: Literature and Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures 17
R. Michael Fox

Some of the most influential and seminal studies on the book of Malachi have been critical of its style, message, and overall artistry. *A Message from the Great King* challenges the guild’s prior assessments and conclusions. Through an interdisciplinary approach that synthesizes insights from literary theory, historical reconstruction, and a close reading of the biblical text, Fox makes a case for viewing Malachi through the lens of royal messenger texts. The result is that Malachi’s artistry becomes more readily apparent and its theological message more intense and demanding.


$42.50

“See and Read All These Things”
The Concept of the Written in the Book of Jeremiah
Siphrut: Literature and Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures 18
Chad L. Eggleston

Unusually for the Hebrew Bible, the book of Jeremiah contains a high number of references to writers, writing, and the written word. The book demonstrates a key moment in the ongoing integration of writing and the written word into ancient Israelite society. Scrolls in Jeremiah become inextricably intertwined with the scroll of Jeremiah. To authenticate the book of Jeremiah as the word of Yhwh, its tradents present a theological account of the chain of transmission from the divine to the prophet and then to the scribe and the written page. To make the case for this chain of transmission, See and Read’s three exegetical chapters attend to writers (Yhwh, prophets, and scribes), the written word, and the receiving audience.


$44.50
From the Mari Archives
An Anthology of Old Babylonian Letters
Jack M. Sasson

For over 40 years, Jack M. Sasson has been studying and commenting on the cuneiform archives from Mari on the Euphrates River, especially those from the age of Hammurabi of Babylon. Among Mari’s wealth of documents, some of the most interesting are letters from and to kings, their advisers and functionaries, their wives and daughters, their scribes and messengers, and a variety of military personnel. The letters are revealing and often poignant. Sasson selects more than 700 letters as well as several excerpts from administrative documents, translating them and providing them with illuminating comments. In distilling a lifetime of study and interpretation, Sasson hopes to welcome readers into a fuller appreciation of a remarkable period in Mesopotamian civilization.


$59.50

Male and Female in the Epic of Gilgamesh
Encounters, Literary History, and Interpretation
Tzvi Abusch

The deeds and struggles of Gilgamesh, legendary king of the city-state Uruk in the land of Sumer, have fascinated readers for millennia. They are preserved primarily in the Epic of Gilgamesh, one of the most well-known pieces of Mesopotamian literature. Studying the text draws us into an orbit that is engaging and thrilling, for it is a work of fantasy and legend that addresses some of the very existential issues with which contemporary readers still grapple. The studies gathered here all demonstrate Tzvi Abusch’s approach to ancient literature: to make use of the tools of literary, structural, and critical analysis in service of exploring the personal and psychological dimensions of the narration. The author focuses especially on the encounters between males and females in the story.


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An Akkadian Handbook
Helps, Paradigms, Glossary, Logograms, and Sign List
Completely Revised and Expanded Edition
Douglas B. Miller and R. Mark Shipp

Students of Akkadian will find this handy collection of basic information to be the ideal companion through their years of study. Though this handbook is not a replacement for the standard reference works, it summarizes all the basic resource materials needed for the study of Akkadian. Included are the following: miscellaneous helps, paradigms of nouns and verbs, a glossary of important proper nouns, an index of logograms, a sign list with complete sign values, and much more.


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The Economy of Ancient Judah in Its Historical Context
Edited by Marvin Lloyd Miller, Ehud Ben Zvi, and Gary N. Knoppers

The dynamics of ancient Judah’s economy are among the most important, but also neglected and least understood, aspects of ancient Israel’s history. The essays in this volume address this gap from a multidisciplinary perspective, involving archaeology, biblical studies, economics, epigraphy, ancient history, Jewish studies, and theology. The essays focus on particular issues in the economy of ancient Judah and its neighbors during the late monarchy and the Neo-Babylonian, Persian, and Hellenistic periods. Topics include: the theoretical models for understanding the inner workings of ancient agrarian economies, the forces of regeneration and degeneration in particular regions, the settlement histories of different areas, and the exploitation of depopulated land in Judah and Idumea, population growth, as well as a number of other subjects.

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Reconstructing Jerusalem
Persian Period Prophetic Perspectives
Kenneth A. Ristau

Jerusalem—one of the most contested sites in the world. Reconstructing Jerusalem takes readers back to a pivotal moment in its history when it lay ruined and abandoned and the glory of its ancient kings, David and Solomon, had faded. Why did this city not share the same fate as so many other conquered cities, destroyed and forever abandoned, never to be rebuilt? Through texts and artifacts, including a unique, comprehensive investigation of the archaeological evidence, a startling story emerges: the visions of a small group of prophets not only inspired the rebuilding of a desolate city but also of a dispersed people. Archaeological, historical, and literary analysis converge to reveal the powerful elements of the story, a story of dispersion and destruction but also of re-creation and revitalization.

Pp. ca. xii + 450, 8 color maps/plans. Cloth. ISBN 9781575064086
$64.50

Textbook of Aramaic Ostraca from Idumea, volume 2
Dossiers 11–50: 265 Commodity Chits
Bezalel Porten and Ada Yardeni

Since 1991, some 2,000 Aramaic ostraca deriving from the south of Israel have appeared on the antiquities market and are now scattered in 9 museums and libraries and 21 private collections. Of these, the majority are still not formally published, and in this second volume in the series, Bezalel Porten continues the publication of this important corpus of 4th century B.C.E. economic texts. Color photographs (where available), ceramic descriptions, hand-copies, transcription, translation, and commentary are provided for each text, along with tables of seven grain dossiers.

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The Relative Clause in Biblical Hebrew
Robert D. Holmstedt

This book is the result of 15 years of research on the ancient Hebrew relative clause as well as the effective application of modern linguistic approaches to an ancient language corpus. Though the ostensible topic is the relative clause, including a full discussion of the various relative words used to introduce Hebrew relative clauses and a detailed presentation of the relevant comparative Semitic data, this work also carefully navigates the challenges of analyzing a “dead” language and offers a methodological road map for the analysis of any feature of Biblical Hebrew grammar. With the appendices of relative clause data, including the author’s English translations, the work aims at comprehensiveness, exhaustiveness, and full transparency in data, method, and theory.


Language Change in the Wake of Empire
Syriac in Its Greco-Roman Context
Aaron Michael Butts

It is well documented that one of the primary catalysts of intense language contact is the expansion of empire. In this book, Butts presents a new analysis of contact-induced changes in Syriac due to Greek. Several chapters analyze the more than 800 Greek loanwords occurring in Syriac texts from Late Antiquity that were not translated from Greek. Butts also dedicates several chapters to a different category of contact-induced change in which Syriac-speakers replicated inherited Aramaic material on the model of Greek. All of the changes discussed in the book are located within their broader Aramaic context and analyzed through a robust contact linguistic framework.


Handbook of Biblical Hebrew
Randall Garr and Steven Fassberg (eds.)

Biblical Hebrew is studied worldwide by university students, seminarians, and the educated public. It is also studied, almost universally, through a single prism—that of the Tiberian Masoretic tradition, which is the best attested and most widely available tradition of Biblical Hebrew. For most, Biblical Hebrew is synonymous with Tiberian Biblical Hebrew. What is still lacking, however, is a comprehensive and systematic overview of the different periods, sources, and traditions of Biblical Hebrew. This handbook provides students and the public with easily accessible, reliable, and current information in English concerning the multi-faceted nature of Biblical Hebrew. The first volume contains an in-depth introduction to each tradition by noted scholars; and the second presents sample accompanying texts that exemplify the descriptions of the parallel introductory chapters.

Marbeh Ḥokmah
Studies in the Bible and the Ancient Near East in Loving Memory of Victor Avigdor Hurowitz
Shamir Yona et al. (eds.)

The title, Marbeh Hokmah, meaning “increases wisdom,” reflects the fact that Victor Avigdor Hurowitz was a scholar who increased wisdom and who continues to increase the wisdom of scholars throughout the world even after his untimely death at the age of 64. Volume 1 of this two-volume collection contains 49 groundbreaking essays written in English by 53 distinguished authors from various institutions of higher learning in Israel and around the world. Volume 2 contains 15 essays, written in Hebrew. Sold only as a 2-volume set.


From Author to Copyist
Studies in Honor of Zipi Talshir
Caná Werman (ed.)

Zipi Talshir’s work throughout her academic career on the evolution, formation, and transmission of the Hebrew Bible, her remarkable ability to integrate the Septuagint into this research, and her profound understanding of the late books of the Hebrew Bible and the process of canonization are well known and appreciated. In this volume, 21 of Talshir’s colleagues and students contribute essays in her honor on these topics that are so close to her heart. A bibliography of her publications and a short biography open and complete this compelling volume presented by renowned authors in the field from all over Europe, Israel, and the U.S.


History, Memory, Hebrew Scriptures
A Festschrift for Ehud Ben Zvi
Ian Douglas Wilson and Diana V. Edelman (eds.)

Ehud Ben Zvi is one of the foremost scholars in the field of Hebrew Bible today. He has had a global impact both as a researcher and as a teacher, and he continues to create cutting-edge research that is helping to shape the future of the field. This volume marks his upcoming retirement from the University of Alberta and honors him and his career as a scholar and educator. Thirty-one papers written by a select group of colleagues, including several former students and a former teacher, are presented under three sub-headings: History and Historiography; Prophecy and Prophetic Books; and Methods, Observations, (Re)Readings. These categories represent the wide-ranging interests of Ehud himself and include contributions on the Bible as social memory, for which he has been a leading advocate and theorist in the past decade.

Pp. xiii + 474. Cloth. 2015. ISBN 9781575063911 $64.50
Wrestling with the Violence of God  
Soundings in the Old Testament  
Bulletin for Biblical Research Supplement 10  
M. Daniel Carroll R. and J. Blair Wilgus (eds.)

The prevalence of evil and violence in the world is a growing focus of scholarly attention, especially violence done in the name of religion and violence found within the pages of the Old Testament. Some Christians attempt to exonerate God by reinterpreting problematic passages or by prioritizing portrayals of God’s nonviolence. Other Christians have begun to respond to violence in the Old Testament by questioning the nature of the text itself, though not rejecting belief in a good God. *Wrestling with the Violence of God: Soundings in the Old Testament* is a response to these challenging issues. The chapters in this volume present empathetic, holistic, and methodologically responsible readings of the Old Testament as Christian Scripture.


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Wealth in Ancient Ephesus and  
the First Letter to Timothy  
Fresh Insights from *Ephesiaca* by Xenophon of Ephesus  
Bulletin for Biblical Research Supplement 11  
Gary G. Hoag

Scholars are divided in their views about the teachings on riches in 1 Timothy. Evidence that has been largely overlooked in NT scholarship appears in *Ephesiaca* by Xenophon of Ephesus and suggests that the topic be revisited. In this volume, Hoag introduces *Ephesiaca* and employs a socio-rhetorical methodology to explore it alongside other ancient evidence and five passages in 1 Timothy (2:9–15; 3:1–13; 6:1–2a; 6:2b–10; and 6:17–19).


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Paul and His Mortality  
Imitating Christ in the Face of Death  
Bulletin for Biblical Research Supplement 12  
R. Gregory Jenks

While many books are written on Jesus’ death, a gap exists in writings about the theological significance of a believer’s death, particularly in imitation of Jesus. Paul, as a first apostolic witness who talked frequently about his own death, serves as a foundational model for how believers perceive their own death. While many have commented about Paul’s stance on other topics, little is written about Paul’s personal experience and anticipation of his own death and the merit he assigned to it. *Paul and His Mortality: Imitating Christ in the Face of Death* explores how Paul faced his death in light of a ministry philosophy of imitation: as he sought to imitate Christ in his life, so he would imitate Christ as he faced his death.


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Trinity, Economy, and Scripture
Recovering Didymus the Blind
Journal of Theological Interpretation Supplement 12
Jonathan Douglas Hicks

The 4th-century teacher Didymus the Blind enjoyed a fruitful life as head of an episcopally-sanctioned school in Alexandria. Author of numerous dogmatic treatises and exegetical works, Didymus was considered a stalwart defender of the Nicene faith in his heyday. In this study, Jonathan Hicks makes the claim that Didymus’ exegesis can only be understood in all its fullness in light of his theological commitments. Hicks argues that Didymus is instructive for today’s Church both on the level of praxis (we should adopt some of his reading practices) and on the level of theoria (his Trinitarian account of Scripture’s origin and ends is fundamental to a fully Christian understanding of what Scripture is).

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Scripture and Its Readers
Readings of Israel’s Story in Nehemiah 9, Ezekiel 20, and Acts 7
Journal of Theological Interpretation Supplement 10
Vincent K. H. Ooi

That readers and biblical texts are somehow linked in a mutually transformative relationship is hardly a novel perception, especially in contexts where the Christian Bible has been received as normative Scripture for faithful worship and living. This study focuses on an aspect of this relationship and wrestles with it not only in theory, but also in practice by asking: How may a reader who wishes to read the Christian Bible as Scripture well today be formed; and how may interpretations of Scripture themselves inform such concern?

$36.95

“Too Much to Grasp”
Exodus 3:13–15 and the Reality of God
Journal of Theological Interpretation Supplement 11
Andrea D. Saner

Few phrases in Scripture have occasioned as much discussion as has the “I am who I am” of Exodus 3:14. What does this phrase mean? How does it relate to the divine name, Yhwh? Is it an answer to Moses’ question (v. 13), or an evasion of an answer? In “Too Much to Grasp”: Exodus 3:13–15 and the Reality of God, Andrea Saner argues for a way forward for twenty-first century readings of the passage, using Augustine of Hippo as representative of the misunderstood interpretive tradition. Read within the literary contexts of the received form of the book of Exodus and the Pentateuch as a whole, the literal sense of Exodus 3:13–15 addresses both who God is as well as God’s action.

$34.95
The Text-Critical Use of the Septuagint in Biblical Research
3rd edition, completely revised and expanded
Emanuel Tov

This handbook on the Septuagint (LXX) provides a practical guide for the student and scholar alike in the perusal of that translation in the text-critical analysis of the Hebrew Bible. It does not serve as another theoretical introduction to the LXX, but it provides all the practical background information needed for the integration of the LXX in biblical studies. The LXX remains the most significant source of information for the study of ancient Scripture together with the Masoretic Text and several Qumran scrolls, but this translation is written in Greek and many technical details need to be taken into consideration when using this tool. The author presents this handbook after half a century of study of the Septuagint, four decades of specialized teaching experience in that area, and involvement in several research projects focusing on the relation between the Hebrew and Greek Bibles.

The first two editions of this handbook, published by Simor of Jerusalem (Jerusalem Biblical Studies 3 [1981] and 8 [1997]), received much praise but have been out of print for a considerable period. This, the third, edition presents a completely revised version of the previous editions based on the many developments that took place in the analysis of the Septuagint, the Hebrew Bible and the Qumran Scrolls.

$47.50

Dictionary of Qumran Aramaic
Edward M. Cook

The Aramaic texts among the Dead Sea Scrolls are among the most important discoveries for the history of Aramaic and for the background of early Judaism and Christianity. They constitute a “missing link” between Biblical Aramaic and the later Aramaic of the targums and midrashic literature. Among them are the oldest texts we have of the Book of Enoch and Tobit, as well as the earliest Aramaic translation of a portion of Scripture, the Targum of Job. Other previously unknown texts such as the Genesis Apocryphon and the Aramaic Levi Document have opened up many new avenues of research on the literature of early Judaism, and the dialect itself is chronologically the one nearest to the origins of Christianity.

Now, for the first time, there is a comprehensive dictionary of all the Aramaic texts from the 11 Qumran caves, from a noted specialist in Qumran Aramaic. It is the first dictionary in any language devoted solely to this important Aramaic corpus and contains a wealth of detail, including definitions, extensive citations of the sources, discussions of difficult passages, revised readings, and a bibliography. It will be an indispensable resource to anyone interested in the Dead Sea Scrolls, the literature of early Judaism and Christianity, and the Aramaic language.

$54.50
Poets Before Homer
Collected Essays on Ancient Literature
Delbert R. Hillers
Edited by F. W. Dobbs-Allsopp

“What is the most interesting and impressive sort of archaeological object from the ancient Near East? . . . I would invite you to think about artifacts recovered by archaeology that are . . . more insubstantial even than a lacy papyrus. I refer to things made of words. I am not thinking of texts, exactly, but to the building blocks of which literary texts are made, to traditional metaphors and similes, to traditional topics in poetry and prose, to the devices of form and content which were the stock in trade of poets.” This is from the title essay of this volume which collects and reprints many of Delbert R. Hillers’s most important published and unpublished essays and articles, including his long out-of-print Treaty-Curses and the Old Testament Prophets.


$59.50

What Kind of God?
Collected Essays of Terence E. Fretheim
Siphrut: Literature and Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures 14
Terence E. Fretheim
Edited by Michael J. Chan and Brent A. Strawn

Terence E. Fretheim has long been a leading voice in Old Testament theology. In this volume, thirty of his classic studies have been gathered together for the first time under the rubrics “God and the World,” “God and Suffering,” “God, Wrath, and Divine Violence,” “God and the Pentateuch,” “God and the Prophets,” and “God and the Church’s Book.” Here readers can find a compelling answer to the question that has motivated Fretheim’s work for more than forty years—namely, what kind of God is the God of Scripture? The studies are introduced by a critical overview of Fretheim’s career and theology by the editors and a retrospective by Fretheim himself.


$59.50

Reports from a Scholar’s Life
Select Papers on the Hebrew Bible
Tryggve N. D. Mettinger
Edited by Andrew Knapp

Tryggve N. D. Mettinger, emeritus professor of Hebrew Bible at Lund University, has long been one of the best known and most admired voices in biblical studies. His eight (English-language) books and countless articles, published in a career spanning over four decades, have changed the field in many ways. Mettinger is renowned not as an iconoclast, but as one working within mainstream scholarship who is nevertheless willing to challenge cherished ideas and who takes nothing for granted. Reports from a Scholar’s Life: Select Papers on the Hebrew Bible collects one short monograph, thirteen articles, and three reviews (translated into English for the first time), originally published between 1977 and 2008, into one volume.


$59.50
Mood and Modality in Hurrian Languages of the Ancient Near East 5
Dennis R. M. Campbell

In a long dead language isolate such as Hurrian, grammatical studies are replete with difficulties. The paucity of material and our inability to compare it to modern, well-documented languages typically results in more questions than answers. Many posited answers to these questions lead inevitably to dead ends. Studies in languages such as Hurrian run the risk of either stagnating due to an adherence to the status quo by scholars or fragmenting when no two scholars can (or will) agree on any point. In this book, Campbell has in many ways broken with tradition in an attempt to go beneath the surface and reveal further complexities in Hurrian grammar. This work, the first English language monograph on Hurrian since 1941, is not a dogmatic treatise meant to counter the status quo but an exploration of the complexities of the Hurrian language from a new perspective. His conclusions may challenge present perceptions, but the hope is that they will in turn inspire challenges, for it is only in this way that our understanding of this wonderful language and the people who spoke it can be furthered.

Mood and Modality in Hurrian provides a formal and functional analysis of the Hurrian modal morphemes. The present work will be seen by some as a potentially radical departure from standard understandings of the way these endings work, but this is not the intent. Campbell’s conclusions represent a major shift in the way that we understand these modal forms and make his work important reading for Semitists and Indo-Europeanists alike.

Beyond a philological treatment of a dead language, Campbell also adds to the accumulated knowledge of ergativity. Hurrian is a highly ergative language, and this book explores the interplay between ergativity and modality in the language.


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Pp. xii + 268; 8-page color section. Cloth. 2015. ISBN 9781575063478

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Steven Collins, Carroll Kobs, and Michael C. Luddeni

*The Tall al-Hammam Excavations, Volume 1* is the first in a series of reports on the Tall al-Hammam Excavation Project, directed by Steven Collins of Trinity Southwest University and assisted by Gary Byers and Carroll Kobs, assistant dig directors. Excavations began in Jordan in 2005–2006 and have continued annually, without break, up to the present. This volume presents an overview of the site, with a period-by-period overview of Tall al-Hammam and its relationship to other sites in the vicinity.


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