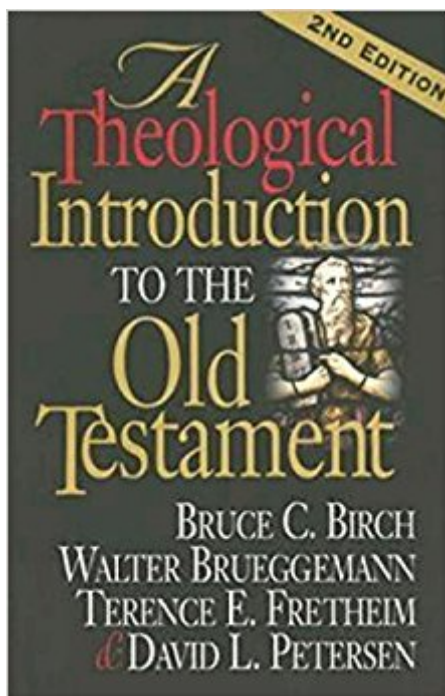


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A Theological Introduction To The Old Testament: 2nd Edition



Synopsis

This book has become a standard text in seminaries and university classrooms. The purpose of this second edition is to help readers come to a critically informed understanding of the Old Testament as the church's scripture. This book introduces the Old Testament both as a witness of ancient Israel and as a witness to the church and synagogue through the generations of those who have passed these texts on as scripture. The authors of this volume share a commitment to the interpretation of the Old Testament as a central resource for the life of the church today. At the same time, they introduce the Old Testament witness in a manner that honors the importance of biblical scholarship in helping students engage the variety of theological voices within the Old Testament. This second edition gives special attention to deepening and broadening theological interpretations by including, for example, issues related to gender, race, and class. It also includes more detailed maps and charts for student use.

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Customer Reviews

Walter Brueggemann is William Marcellus McPheeters Professor Emeritus of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary. A past president of the Society of Biblical Literature, he is one of today's preeminent interpreters of Scripture. Bruce C. Birch is Dean and Professor of Old Testament at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC. He is a contributing author to volume II of the New Interpreter's Bible and The Old Testament: A Theological Introduction. 2001 TERENCE E. FRETHERM is Elva B. Lovell Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul,

Minnesota. He received his Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and has been on the faculty of 7 seminary schools, including Princeton, Graduate Theological Union, Vancouver and McCormick. He has authored or contributed to eighteen books, four by Abingdon and a forthcoming commentary on Jeremiah. David L. Petersen is Franklin N. Parker Professor of Old Testament at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Professor Petersen is a distinguished Old Testament scholar. His current research focuses on the book of Genesis and on prophetic literature. During 2004, Petersen served as president of the Society of Biblical Literature. An ordained Presbyterian minister, Dr. Petersen has written, coauthored, or coedited a number of scholarly and popular books and articles. He was the senior Old Testament editor for The New Interpreter's Bible.

Great content for Old Testament studies. I used the Kindle version for a introductory seminary course. Page numbers seem to match the printed version which helps follow along in the class. However, there is no link for the table of contents, which makes it harder to find the beginning of chapters. Also, some of the maps and other images in the book are not easy to read. If you need this book for a class, I would go with the print version until the images are updated.

good

This is a wonderful addition to my study of the Old Testament.

I am a student of Pastoral Ministry at the Masters level. I have found the work done in this book, with the citations and notes to be of extreme value to me and my writings. This book is helpful to any level of reader because of the clear way it explains and uses graphs and pictorials. Worth the buy to keep in your library.

Great

A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament by Bruce Birch, Walter Brueggemann, Terence Fretheim, and David Peterson, 2nd Edition I am always impressed when I see '2nd Edition' on a book. It means enough people took the time and money to read it and comment on it that the authors took the time and energy (not to mention the publishers money) to publish an updated version of the book. And this book deserves all the congratulations it gets. Of the five texts I had in 'systematic'

courses at seminary, this was certainly the best. It is made even better by the fact that it was virtually impossible to discern the seams where Brueggemann's Lutheran material ends and Birch's Methodist treatment begins. This book was the best, primarily because it did not nicely stay within the strictly theological lines. In a class where the other two books were a bit light, the broad range of BBF&P was a real virtue. This book is an example of something I have found odd throughout my reading of the Old Testament. All the best books seem to be written by Christians. Even the best commentaries on OT books are written by Christians, and more by Protestants than by Catholics (although that tide may be changing). And when I compare theological writings by a Jew on Genesis (Creation and the Persistence of Evil by Jon Levenson) I get a completely different picture of Jewish theology. This is not because Christian theology is infused with a light shining backwards from the New Testament. Most modern scholarship, even by those who consider themselves evangelicals, take the text as presented, not as a mirror to the future. One wonders why we don't use Kugel or Levenson or Fishbane or Kaufmann as our texts. What do the folks at Yeshiva use as an introduction to OT theology? But getting back to this book. I appreciate the fact that the book follows the order of the books in the Protestant translations of the OT, as that was also the way we studied them, and that is the way with which we are most familiar. And, that order has theological significance, which is why the Jewish Bible is arranged in a different way. The primary virtue for our class was that BBF&P combined history with theology. This is only appropriate, since Jewish theology is bound up in being 'in history'. Every chapter gave some reflection on the historical perspectives, the social perspectives, and the theological issues. The only major divergence from the Protestant Bible order was to address the wisdom literature (Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, Psalms, Song of Songs) last, since they do not fit neatly between the Deuteronomic History and the Prophets. This is a great textbook. I am hard pressed to recommend it to a reader who is really interested in OT theology. To them, I suggest they swap this book for Bright's A History of Israel and Brueggemann's OT theology works, or maybe similar works by Von Rad. You may also try various books by Jon Levenson, especially 'Zion and Sinai'. (I have not read this book, but it is inexpensive and well reviewed).

The book is very informative about the lifestyle and the living conditions of the Hebrew people. I love that it is also available on Kindle since it is a rather thick book. Easy read for anyone wanting to know the background and geography of the scriptures.

Using as an OT studies text. Well done treatment of theological aspects of OT. Am enjoying using.

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