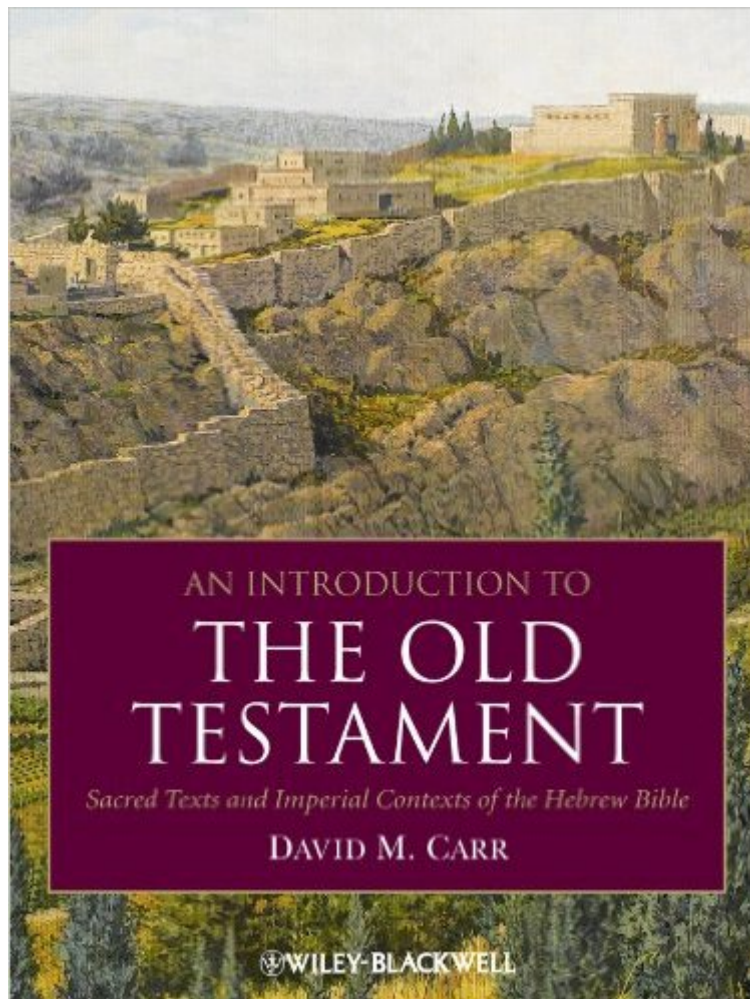


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An Introduction To The Old Testament: Sacred Texts And Imperial Contexts Of The Hebrew Bible



Synopsis

This comprehensive, introductory textbook is unique in exploring the emergence of the Hebrew Bible in the broader context of world history. It particularly focuses on the influence of pre-Roman empires, empowering students with a richer understanding of Old Testament historiography. Provides a historical context for students learning about the development and changing interpretations of biblical texts Examines how these early stories were variously shaped by interaction with the Mesopotamian and Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian, and Hellenistic empires Incorporates recent research on the formation of the Pentateuch Reveals how key biblical texts came to be interpreted by Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths Includes numerous student-friendly features, such as study questions, review sections, bibliographies, timelines, and illustrations and photos

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An introduction to the Old Testament. Sacred Texts and Imperial Contexts of the Hebrew Bible. by David M. Carr For the sake of full disclosure, I must say I had this book as a text for a graduate level introduction to the OT, and for that, I believe it was not appropriate. There was simply not enough graduate level bang for the buck, especially since it was used in tandem with a book which did an excellent job of outlining the historical and social contexts of the OT writings. As a text, it may have been perfect as the only text, in addition to an annotated Bible, for an undergraduate 1 semester course in the OT. At the graduate level, the role of this book should have been taken by a good

history of Israel such as John Bright's 'A History of Israel'. My opinion is colored a fair amount by the price, compared to the prices of other books in the field (However a strong competitor in this field, 'The Old Testament' 2nd Edition by Harris and Platzner is even more expensive, although it is also twice as long, with fewer glossy pictures). It seems that when a class uses three different texts, there should be less overlap in content. Carr's book reminds me of a large number of 'introductory' or 'survey' or 'popular topic' cookbooks with lots of pictures, sidebars, boxes, and diversions. To my taste, they do more to divert one's attention than to aid in absorbing the information. If Julia Child had intended there to be glossy pictures in cookbooks, she would have put them in 'Mastering the Art of French Cooking'. (Just being a tad glib there.) There are some artifacts and scenes and especially maps which are indispensable. I like the pics of the Hammurabi stela and the Sennacherib prism, but I didn't need another look at Adam and Eve or Babylonian arrowheads in the dust.

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