

Comprehensive Exam Reading List (Old Testament) (August 2023)

Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary

M. Barrett, D. Timmer

Total pages: 9,240

Ancient Near Eastern History, Culture, and Religions (1,285 pp.)

- Arnold, Bill T., and Bryan E. Beyer. *Readings from the Ancient Near East: Primary Sources for Old Testament Study*. EBS. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002. 240 pp.
- Hoerth, Alfred J., Gerald L. Mattingly, and Edwin M. Yamauchi (eds.). *Peoples of the Old Testament World*. With a foreword by Alan Millard. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994. 400 pp.
- Oswalt, John. *The Bible among the Myths: Unique Revelation or Just Ancient Literature?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006. 208 pp.
- Stökl, Jonathon. "Prophecy and the Royal Court in the Ancient Near East." *Religion Compass* 9/3 (2015): 55-65.
- Van De Mieroop, Marc. *A History of the Ancient Near East, ca. 3000-323 BC*. 3rd ed. Blackwell History of the Ancient World. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2015. 424 pp.
- Younger, K. Lawson Jr. "The 'Contextual Method': Some West Semitic Reflections." Pages xxxv-xlii in *The Context of Scripture*, vol. 3, *Archival Documents from the Biblical World*. Leiden: Brill, 2003.

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- Arnold, Bill T., and Brent A. Strawn (eds.). *The World around the Old Testament: The People and Places of the Ancient Near East*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016. 561 pp.
- Chavalas, Mark W. (ed.). *The Ancient Near East: Historical Sources in Translation*. Blackwell Sourcebooks in Ancient History. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2006.
- Frahm, Eckart. *A Companion to Assyria*. Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2017.
- Hallo, William W., and K. Lawson Younger, Jr. (eds.). *The Context of Scripture: Canonical Compositions, Monumental Inscriptions and Archival Documents from the Biblical World*. 3 vols. Leiden: Brill, 2003.
- Hallo, William W., and William K. Simpson. *The Ancient Near East: A History*. 2nd Edition. Harcourt Brace, 1998. 296 pp.
- Khurt, Amélie. *The Ancient Near East, c. 3000-333 BC*. 2 vols. London: Routledge, 1997. 782 pp.
- Lloyd, Alan B. *A Companion to Ancient Egypt*. Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014.
- Sparks, Kenton. *Ancient Texts for the Study of the Hebrew Bible: A Guide to Background Literature*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2006. (reprint Grand Rapids: Baker Academic)
- Walton, John. *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006. 369 pp.

Method and Critical Issues (1,395 pp.)

- Baker, David W., and Bill T. Arnold (eds.). *The Face of Old Testament Studies: A Survey of Contemporary Approaches*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1999/2004. 512 pp.
- Bartholomew, Craig B. "Philosophy and Old Testament Interpretation: A Neglected Influence." Pages 45-66 in *Hearing the Old Testament: Listening for God's Address*. Edited by C. G. Bartholomew and D. J. H. Beldman. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.

- Barton, John. *Reading the Old Testament*. Rev. and exp. Ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1997. 295 pp.
- Blocher, Henri A. G. "God and the Scripture Writers: The Question of Double Authorship." Pages 497-541 in *The Enduring Authority of the Christian Scriptures*. Edited by D. A. Carson. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.
- Jensen, Peter F. "God and the Bible." Pages 477-96 in *The Enduring Authority of the Christian Scriptures*. Edited by D. A. Carson. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.
- Magary, Dennis, and James K. Hoffmeier (eds.). *Do Historical Matters Matter to Faith? A Critical Appraisal of Modern and Postmodern Approaches to Scripture*. Foreword by J. Woodbridge. Wheaton: Crossway, 2012. READ ONLY 33-326, 427-516 (375 pp.).
- Möller, "Reconstructing and Interpreting Amos's Literary Prehistory: A Dialogue with Redaction Criticism." Pages 397-441 in *"Behind" the Text: History and Biblical Interpretation*. Edited by Craig Bartholomew et al. Scripture and Hermeneutics 4. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.
- Rae, Murray. "'Incline Your Ear So That You May Live': Principles of Biblical Epistemology." Pages 161-80 in *The Bible and Epistemology: Biblical Soundings in the Knowledge of God*. Edited by M. Healy and R. Parry. Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2007.
- Schools, Peter. "The Quest for Philosophical Certainty." Pages 27-40 in *The Enlightenment World*. Edited by Martin Fitzpatrick et al. London: Routledge, 2004.
- Teeter, David A., and William A. Tooman. "Standards of (In)coherence in Ancient Jewish Literature." *HebBAI* 9 (2020): 94–129.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J. "Lost in Interpretation? Truth, Scripture, and Hermeneutics." *JETS* 48 (2005): 89-114.
- Yarbrough, Robert. "Should Evangelicals Embrace Historical Criticism?" *Themelios* 39 (2014): 37-52.
- Zachman, R. C. "Protestantism in German-Speaking Lands to the Present Day." Pages 23-39 in *The Blackwell Companion to Protestantism*. Edited by Alister E. McGrath and Darren C. Marks. Oxford: Blackwell, 2007.

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- Barton, John. *The Nature of Biblical Criticism*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox 2007. 190 pp.
- Blomberg, Craig. *Can We Still Believe the Bible? An Evangelical Engagement with Contemporary Questions*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2014.
- Carson, D. A. (ed.). *The Enduring Authority of the Christian Scriptures*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.
- Harrisville, Roy A., and Walter Sundberg. *The Bible in Modern Culture: Baruch Spinoza to Brevard Childs*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002. 364 pp.
- Harrisville, Roy A. *Pandora's Box Opened: An Examination and Defense of Historical-Critical Method and Its Master Practitioners*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014. 368 pp.
- Hays, Christopher M., and Christopher B. Ansberry (eds.). *Evangelical Faith and the Challenge of Historical Criticism*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013. 222 pp.
- Person, Robert F, and Robert Rezetko (eds.). *Empirical Models Challenging Biblical Criticism*. AIL. Atlanta: SBL, 2016.
- Saebo, Magne. *Hebrew Bible/Old Testament: The History of Its Interpretation*. 5 vols. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2014.
- Tigay, Jeffrey H. (ed.). *Empirical Models for Biblical Criticism*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2005 [1985].
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Is There a Meaning in This Text? The Bible, the Reader, and the Morality of Literary Knowledge*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998, 2009. 512 pp.

Walton, John H., and D. Brent Sandy. *The Lost World of Scripture: Ancient Literary Culture and Biblical Authority*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2013. 320 pp.

Hebrew Text and Linguistics (810 pp.)

Barthelémy, Dominique. *Studies in the Text of the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Hebrew Old Testament Text Project*. Textual Criticism and the Translator. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2012. READ ONLY pp. 82-141.

Gentry, Peter. "The Text of the Old Testament." *JETS* 52 (2009): 19-45.

Khan, G. (ed.). *Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics*. Ed. G. Khan. 4 vols. Leiden: Brill, 2013. Read "Actionality (Aktionsart): Pre-Modern Hebrew," "Aspect: Pre-Modern Hebrew," "Biblical Hebrew: Dialects and Linguistic Variation," "Lexical Semantics," "Nominal Clause," "Northwest Semitic Languages and Hebrew," "Relative Clause: Biblical Hebrew," "Speech Acts: Biblical Hebrew," "Stylistics: Biblical Hebrew," "Subordination: Biblical Hebrew," "Syntax: Biblical Hebrew," "Verbal Clause: Biblical Hebrew," "Verbal System: Biblical Hebrew," "Word Order: Biblical Hebrew" (115 pp.).

Tov, Emmanuel. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. 3rd ed. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2011. 512 pp.

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Gesenius, H. F. W. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*. Expanded by E. Kautzsch. Dover, 2006.

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Muller, Reinhard, Juha Pakkala, and Bas Ter Romeny (eds.). *Evidence of Editing: Growth and Change in the Hebrew Bible*. Resources for Biblical Study. Atlanta: SBL, 2014.

Nida, Eugene, and Charles Taber. *The Theory and Practice of Translation*. Leiden: Brill, 2003.

Paget, James C., and Joachim Schaper (eds.). *The New Cambridge History of the Bible*. Vol. 1: *From the Beginnings to 600*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.

Woude, Adam S. van der. "Pluriformity and Uniformity: Reflection on the Transmission of the Old Testament." Pages 151-69 in *Sacred History and Sacred Text in Early Judaism*, ed. J. N. Bremmer and F. Garcia Martinez. Kampen: Kok, 1992.

Israelite History and Historiography (1,760 pages)

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. 2nd ed. New York: Basic Books, 2011. 272 pp.

Grabbe, Lester L. *Ancient Israel: What Do We Know and How Do We Know It?* Rev. ed. London: T & T Clark, 2017. 352 pp.

Kitchen, Kenneth A. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006. 684 pp.

Provan, Iain, V. Philips Long, and Tremper Longman III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. 2nd ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2015. READ ONLY pp. 1-411.

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Wellhausen, Julius. *Prolegomena to the History of Israel*. Preface by W. Robertson Smith. New York: Meridian, 1957. READ ONLY 1-167.

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Ebelin, Jennie et al. (eds.). *The Old Testament in History and Archaeology*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2017.

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Sternberg, Meir. *The Poetics of Biblical Narrative: Ideological Literature and the Drama of Reading*. Bloomington: University of Indiana Press, 1985.

Prophets (610 pp.)

Block, D., and R. Schultz (eds.). *Bind Up the Testimony: Explorations of the Genesis of the Book of Isaiah*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2015. 300 pp.

Green, Barbara. "Genre Criticism and the Prophets." Pages 258-76 in *The Oxford Handbook of the Prophets*. Ed. Carolyn Sharp. Oxford: OUP, 2015.

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- Kratz, Reinhard. *The Prophets of Israel*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2015. 120 pp.
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- Leuchter, Mark. "Jeremiah: Structure, Themes, and Contested Issues." Pages 171-89 in *The Oxford Handbook of the Prophets*. Ed. Carolyn Sharp. Oxford: OUP, 2015.
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Reference (reading not required)

- Broyles, C. C., and C.A. Evans (ed.). *Writing & Reading the Scroll of Isaiah: Studies of an Interpretative Tradition*. 2 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1997.
- Curtis, Charles A., and Thomas Römer (eds.). *The Book of Jeremiah and Its Reception*. BETL 128. Leuven: Peeters, 1996.
- Gordon, Robert P., and Hans Barstad (eds.). *"Thus Speaks Ishtar of Arbela": Prophecy in Israel, Assyria, and Egypt in the Neo-Assyrian Period*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2013.
- Kessler, Martin (ed.). *Reading the Book of Jeremiah: A Search for Coherence*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2004.
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- Oswalt, J. "The Implications of an Evangelical View of Scripture for the Authorship of the Book of Isaiah." Pages 273-91 in *Bind Up the Testimony: Explorations in the Genesis of the Book of Isaiah*. Ed. D.I. Block and R.L. Schultz. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2015.
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- Tooman, William A., and Penelope Barter (eds.). *Ezekiel: Current Debates and Future Directions*. FAT I.112. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2017.

Pentateuch (600 pp.)

- Averbeck, Richard E. Review of Jeffrey Stackert, *A Prophet Like Moses: Prophecy, Law, and Israelite Religion*. *Themelios* 42 (2017): 520-22. Available online (free).
- Baden, Joel S. *The Composition of the Pentateuch: Renewing the Documentary Hypothesis*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012. Pages 246-49.
- Baden, Joel S. "Why is the Pentateuch Unreadable?—Or, Why Are We Doing This?" Pages 243-52 in *The Formation of the Pentateuch: Bridging the Academic Cultures of Europe, Israel, and North America*. Edited by Jan C. Gertz et al. FAT 111. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2016.
- Block, Daniel I., and Richard L. Schultz (eds.). *Sepher Torah Mosheh: Studies in the Composition and Interpretation of Deuteronomy*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2017. READ ONLY chs. 1, 3, 4, 8, 13 (110 pp.).
- Hartley, John E. "Holy and Holiness, Clean and Unclean." Pages 420-31 in *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*, ed. T. D. Alexander and D. W. Baker (Downers Grove: IVP, 2003).
- Klingbeil, G. A. "Historical Criticism." Pages 401-20 in *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*, ed. T. D. Alexander and D. W. Baker (Downers Grove: IVP, 2003).
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- Selman, Michael J. "Law." Pages 497-515 in *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*, ed. T. D. Alexander and D. W. Baker (Downers Grove: IVP, 2003).
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- Whybray, R. Norman. *The Making of the Pentateuch: A Methodological Study*. LHBOTS 53. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1987. READ ONLY 13-220 (210 pp.).
- Wright, D. P. "The Laws of Hammurabi as a Source for the Covenant Collection (Exodus 20:23-23:19)." *Maarav* 10 (2003): 11-87.
- Zehnder, Markus. "Building on Stone? Deuteronomy and Esarhaddon's Loyalty Oaths. Part 1: Some Preliminary Observations." *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 19 (2009): 341-74.

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Wisdom and Poetry (830 pp.)

Bartholomew, Craig, and Ryan P. O'Dowd. *Old Testament Wisdom Literature: A Theological Introduction*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2011. READ ONLY 261-327.

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Gunton, Colin. "Christ, the Wisdom of God: A Study in Divine and Human Action." Pages 249-61 in *Where Shall Wisdom Be Found? Wisdom in the Bible, the Church and the Contemporary World*. Edited by Stephen C. Barton. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1999.

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Sneed, Mark R. (ed.). *Was There a Wisdom Tradition? New Prospects in Israelite Wisdom Studies*. AIL. Atlanta: SBL, 2015. 304 pp. READ ONLY 1-8, 11-33, 87-110, 145-158, 161-175.

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- Miller, Patrick D. *The Religion of Ancient Israel*. Library of Ancient Israel. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2007. 356 pp.
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