



An Introduction to the Old Testament: Exploring Text, Approaches & Issues

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A “remarkably clever, clear and comprehensive volume.”

Enter the classroom of John Goldingay, one of today’s premier biblical interpreters, and begin the adventure of exploring the Bible’s First Testament. More workbook than handbook, this refreshing introduction to the Old Testament outfits you with basic knowledge, points out the main approaches, outlines the primary issues and then sets you loose to explore the terrain for yourself.

“If you are looking for a scholar to tell you exactly what to think about the Bible, keep looking. But if you like to be challenged to think, question, probe, investigate, you’ll love Goldingay’s *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. The language is fresh, the questions insightful, the background informative and the approach engaging.”

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“It’s a problem: how to encourage introductory-level students to digest what they read in textbooks. Contributing to the problem is often a gap between what scholars believe is important for students to know and what students want to talk about. Problem now solved! John Goldingay has written an engaging, informative and interesting introduction that adroitly presents the important topics that emanate from scholarly study while also addressing the questions that student minds want to know. I look forward to using it in my Old Testament courses and seeing the kinds of conversations it sparks in the classroom!”

—**L. Daniel Hawk**, Ashland Theological Seminary

“When scouting textbooks, I worry that students will read the textbook instead of the Bible. Not this book! John Goldingay wants ‘to help you study Scripture for yourself,’ and he does this deftly with the enthusiasm of a master teacher, the knowledge of a first-rate scholar and the faith of a dedicated Christian. This handbook is accessible, readable, insightful, faithful—and enjoyable. Don’t let a day go by without delving into the Old Testament with this book close at hand.”

—**Jack Levison**, W. J. A. Power Professor of Old Testament Interpretation and Biblical Hebrew, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University

“This book is a gift to teachers and students alike. Good teachers (and textbooks!) encourage their students to raise honest questions about the material being studied. And students often desire active involvement with the subjects under consideration. Goldingay’s years of experience in the classroom and with the material shine through, as he provides an inductive, question-based, workbook-style resource that helps readers encounter the biblical



ENDORSEMENTS

John Goldingay (PhD, University of Nottingham; DD, Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth) is David Allan Hubbard Professor of Old Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary. He was previously principal and a professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at St. John's Theological College in Nottingham, England. His books include *The Theology of the Book of Isaiah*, *Key Questions about Interpretation*, *Models for Scripture*, *Do We Need the New Testament?* and commentaries on Psalms, Isaiah and Daniel. He has also authored the three-volume *Old Testament Theology* and the seventeen-volume *Old Testament For Everyone* series. Goldingay also serves in pastoral ministry as an associate pastor at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Pasadena, CA. He holds membership in the Society of Biblical Literature and the Society for Old Testament Study, and serves on the Task Force on Biblical Interpretation in the Anglican Communion and the editorial board for the Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies.

texts directly for themselves. Theologically minded readers will find much here to appreciate, but so will anyone looking for the expected essentials. Far from a sterile, detached introduction, this book is like being in the classroom with a seasoned teacher. To face the Old Testament with Goldingay is to face questions—the questions that we put to the text and that the text puts to us. Here is an invitation to a conversation with thought-provoking biblical writings under the guidance of a wise mentor.”

—**Brad E. Kelle**, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, Point Loma Nazarene University

“Among those writing on the Old Testament today, few can match and none surpass John Goldingay in his ability to write across the full spectrum—from the highest levels of scholarship to the most accessible presentation. This does not yet mention his uncanny ability to mix the two, bringing first-rate inquiry to lay audiences. And his pedagogical panache is unrivaled! In this remarkably clever, clear and comprehensive volume, Goldingay does it again, writing what very well may be the ideal first textbook for readers of the Old Testament. This is a wise, learned and immensely shrewd introduction. I will recommend it frequently and consult it often.”

—**Brent A. Strawn**, professor of Old Testament, Emory University

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Alisse Wissman, print publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4059 or awissman@ivpress.com
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