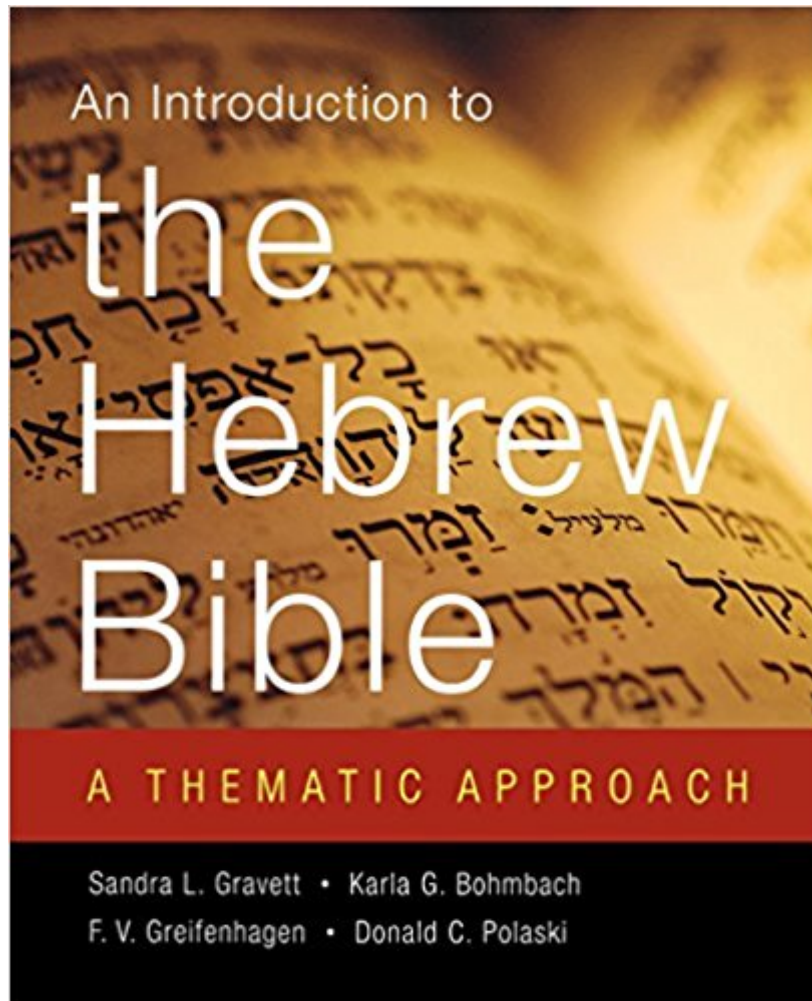


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An Introduction To The Hebrew Bible: A Thematic Approach



Synopsis

This pedagogically astute introduction to the Hebrew Bible is designed specifically for undergraduates. It begins with the most basic questions: from where and when did the Hebrew Bible originate, how was it written, and how did people read it? In focusing on the fundamental question of the canon--Who are we?--it first gives much attention to the issue of identity. Then it explores how the ancient Israelites organized themselves in terms of power and state, and finally, delineates the larger questions of God and ideology within the canon. The result is a flow of topics that is in line with other studies of ancient literature and culture, without ignoring the religious function of the Hebrew Bible. Through art, photography, literature, and popular culture, this text vibrantly presents the concepts of the Hebrew Bible, and offers a companion Web site with tests and other pedagogical aids for teachers.

Book Information

Paperback: 500 pages

Publisher: Westminster John Knox Press (November 7, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 066423030X

ISBN-13: 978-0664230302

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #549,356 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #335 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > History & Culture #668 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Criticism & Interpretation > Old Testament #1576 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Bible Study > Old Testament

Customer Reviews

Disclaimer: I do know one of the authors of this book personally, but I nonetheless stand by this review as an accurate and unbiased testament to its merits. I bought this book after having contacted one of the author's and asking for some specific insight into their area of expertise. It goes without saying that they were perhaps motivated to suggest this book to me because their name was on it, but I find the material that's included here good "despite" that. The book is straightforward, well written, and easy to understand. At places, it's entertaining - something that can't be said for all academic works. The book is obviously a textbook, but that makes it a good

source when researching and the like. It's an excellent reference book that also illuminates particulars in ancient Israel and surrounding areas. The book's thematic approach takes a bit to get used to, but once you've learned how that works, it's - again - straightforward. These "themes" help to make the book a lot easier to read. Although I wouldn't call it a "page turner," it is interesting for some "nighttime" reading. I do have some criticisms about the book, though. 1.) The cover seems rather flimsy for a book of this size. It would be better served by either a hardback cover or a sturdier paperback cover. I'm thinking I might have to get the book recovered in hardcover because it's already showing signs of heavy wear even though I haven't really used the book too extensively. 2.) The book does a good job trying to appease all sides of the polarized political spectrum that has taken hold of modern society, but it makes for reading that seems a bit problematic.

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