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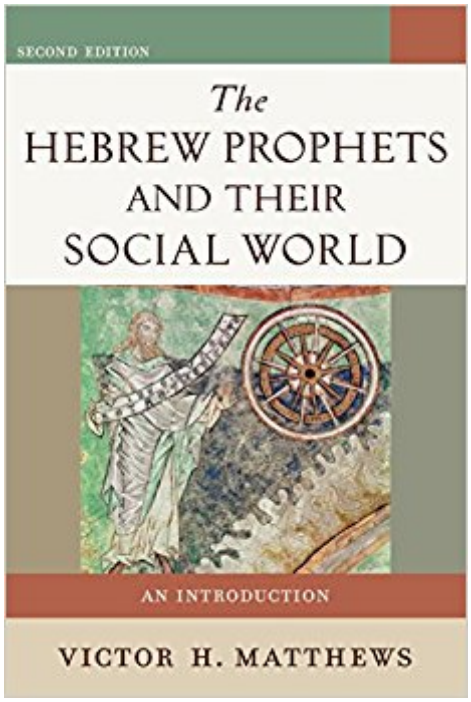
The Hebrew Prophets And Their Social World: An Introduction



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Synopsis

Victor Matthews, a veteran teacher and expert on the world of ancient Israel, introduces students to the Hebrew prophets and their social world. Drawing on archaeology and ancient Near Eastern texts, Matthews examines the prophets chronologically, placing them and their message into historical context. He explores pertinent aspects of historical geography, economic conditions, and social forces that influenced a prophet’s life and message and explains why prophets served an integral purpose in the development of ancient Israelite religion. He also explores how prophets addressed their audience and employed rhetorical methods, images, and metaphors to communicate effectively. Logically organized, clearly written, and classroom friendly, this book meets the needs of beginning as well as advanced students. It is a substantially revised and expanded edition of the successful text Social World of the Hebrew Prophets.

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Customer Reviews

This substantially revised and expanded second edition meets the needs of both beginning and advanced students."This is a user-friendly, insightful introduction to the prophets and their times. It brings together for readers the prophetic books, the figures they represent, and the world that produced them."--Andrew Dearman, Fuller Theological Seminary"The sheer genius of Victor Matthews is his ability to take very dense material and present it in a way that is thoroughly engaging, well researched, and brilliantly written. This study packs a lot of punch in a short amount of space and welcomes both students and scholars alike into the rich world of the ancient Near

Eastern prophetic tradition and each of Israel's prophets. This text is an excellent resource, an indispensable tool for learning, and should be used in every biblical course on the prophets."--Carol J. Dempsey, University of Portland"The Hebrew Prophets and Their Social World suits the needs of the college and seminary classroom in exemplary fashion. In it, Matthews sets the biblical prophets in their broader social context and in their specific historical contexts. He describes the phenomenon of prophecy, traces the outlines of its developments in ancient Israel from Moses to Malachi, and sketches the key themes in the preaching of each of the classical prophets. Supplemented by inserts that examine important background issues and a very helpful glossary and couched in readable, direct prose, this introduction sets a high standard."--Mark Biddle, Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond"Victor Matthews has produced a very readable volume that provides the information students and other readers of the Old Testament need to begin a fruitful journey with the prophets. He has put the prophetic books in the full context of the Hebrew Bible and in the process helped his readers understand a number of issues in biblical interpretation. His volume demonstrates the value of approaching the prophetic books with attention to their social setting. The volume is a fine beginning point for those who would interpret with integrity the Old Testament prophetic books."--W. H. Bellinger Jr., Baylor University

Victor H. Matthews (PhD, Brandeis University) is dean of the College of Humanities and Public Affairs and professor of religious studies at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri, where he has taught for over twenty-five years. He is the author of numerous books, including The Old Testament: Text and Context, Studying the Ancient Israelites, and the bestselling Manners and Customs in the Bible.

This introduction is very thorough...and a great jumping-off point for deeper study of a particular prophet. After discussing Near Eastern geography the book moves to talking about various types 'prophecy'. The book then proceeds chronologically, covering most biblical prophets, their contexts, and their messages.Matthews assumes the Documentary Hypothesis and shows how the prophets fit in with the development of Hebrew religion. Important terms which reoccur appear in boldface and there is a glossary of these terms. A great companion to Mark Smith's 'Memoirs of God'.

This is an attempt to cover all the prophets of the Old Testament. While some later chapters feel a bit truncated the earlier and middle works are great. The author, if I remember correctly, covers the prophetic writings in chronological order, not biblical order. What I found absolutely amazing were

his grasp of the history of each prophet and how he connected different writings into a history. His theological and historical insights into various passages of the books amazed me. Highly recommended.

This book would better be called an introduction to the Hebrew prophets. It admirably fulfills that role. Reading the title, I thought the book would situate the prophets in their social location. It is weak at that. When a prophet's social location is described, it's as if it's an interesting, though largely irrelevant, fact. On a second level, Matthews is aware of the Deuteronomistic Historian's role in the formation of the text; however, he rarely considers what, if any, effect that role had on the text and its description of the prophets social location. This really is an excellent introduction; I'm not sure it lives up to truth in titling.

Easy reading, helpful background, good for those who are interested in learning about the background of those whom God uses and the methods of communication, cultures, etc.

This is an extremely helpful book that provides great context for teaching bible studies and just palin infomation. Well written and easy to read and digest

I has heard of this book and was very pleased to find it on .com. Arrived quickly. This is a great source of information.

Good book with details and clear explanations.

I bought this book for class. I am surprised how fast it came. Also, it came in perfect condition (I bought it used) but it looks great!

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