

UNIT 5: INTRODUCTION

The aim of this unit is to give you a general overview of the Prophetic Books. Your reading is directed as follows:

Overview: There is a very fine and clear introduction to the Major and Minor Prophets in chapters 21 and 22 of the *Blackwell Companion to the Hebrew Bible* (ed. Leo Perdue) and this is where you are advised to begin your reading. These chapters will give you a clear overview of the prophetic literature and also help you make connections between prophetic literature and the Deuteronomistic History.

Walter Brueggemann is well known for this theological approach to the interpretation of the Hebrew Bible and the introduction to his commentary on Jeremiah (1998) is well worth reading.

Alexander Rofé, 'The Nature of the Prophetic Books' in his *Introduction to Prophetic Literature*, provides more interesting and relevant insights into the prophetic genre.

Further Reading: Three further items are highly recommended for your reading in this unit.

You will find a small section on the prophets in E.W. Davies, 'The Patriarchal Bible' (in *The Dissenting Reader: Feminist Approaches to the Hebrew Bible*) which offers a critique of the patriarchal and male bias contained in the language of these books.

Issues of gender in relation to the Major Prophets are presented in Sharon Moughtin, *Sexual and Marital Metaphors in Hosea, Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Ezekiel* (Oxford: OUP, 2008).

Finally, for a detailed article on the editorial activity in the Book of Isaiah, see Jacob Stromberg's *Isaiah after Exile: The Author of Third Isaiah as Reader and Redactor of the Book* (Oxford: OUP, 2011).

I have also included a link to *The Oxford Handbook to the Prophets*, edited by Carolyn Sharp. This volume is a key resource for excellent overviews of various approaches to the critical study of the canonical prophetic literature.