

UNIT INTRODUCTION 4

Aim:

The aim of this unit is to give you a general overview of the Prophetic Books.

Your reading is directed as follows:

[NOTE: There is a specific module on Isaiah available as part of this MA.]

General 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*** and this is where you should begin your reading. This will give you a clear overview of the prophetic literature and these chapters will also help you make connections between prophetic literature and the Deuteronomistic History.

One of the most important biblical scholars working in the field of prophetic literature today is Marvin Sweeney and his introduction to the Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel) is both informative and current in terms of research Sweeney. See **Sweeney, *The Latter Prophets***.

Walter Brueggeman is well known for this theological approach to the interpretation of the Hebrew Bible and his introduction to ***Jeremiah*** is well worth reading.

Rofe, *The Nature of the Prophetic Books*, provides more interesting and relevant insights into the prophetic genre.

More specialized reading

Three further articles are highly recommended for your reading in this unit.

You will find a small section on the prophets in **Davis, *The Patriarchal Bible*** which offers a critique of the patriarchal and male bias contained in the language of these books, while issues of gender are presented in **S.Moughtin, *Sexual and Marital metaphors in Hosea, Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Ezekiel***.

Finally for a detailed article on the editorial activity in the Book of Isaiah, see Stromberg's *Isaiah after exile: the author of Third Isaiah as reader and redactor of the book*. This is highly recommended especially if you are considering taking The Book of Isaiah as a discrete module later in your MA.