

### ***JOHN COLLINS ON THE HEBREW BIBLE***

John J. Collins, *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*, 2nd edn (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2014). \$65.00. pp. 640. ISBN: 978-1-4514-6923-3).

John J. Collins, *A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*, 2nd ed. (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2014). \$45.00. pp. 336. ISBN: 978-1-4514-7294-3).

Ryan P. Bonfiglio (ed.) with contributions from Ingrid E. Lilly and Michael J. Chan, *A Study Companion to Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*, 2nd edn (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2014). \$19.00. pp. 160. ISBN: 978-1-4514-8361-1).

In this second edition to the standard textbook for teaching the Hebrew Bible, John Collins has updated the annotated bibliographies and presented the material in a format that is more attractive and accessible. Students are guided to both enduring studies and the most recent scholarship published in English. Notable in this new edition is the inclusion of summaries at the beginning of each chapter, text boxes that clarify and complement the main narrative, and the illustration of numerous images and photographs. Gone are the black and white maps gathered at the beginning of the first edition. Instead, colour maps are integrated into the appropriate places in the text. The total effect of the revisions is to make this textbook even more user-friendly for students.

Some substantive changes have also been effected, the most important of which include: the discussion of the book of Jonah has been moved from its original place in 'The Hebrew Short Story' (chapter 26) to 'Postexilic Prophecy' (chapter 20). The introductory material to the Deuteronomistic History (pp. 183-7), Prophecy (pp. 297-304), and the Writings (pp. 445-7) now head each section as separate units. The Table of Contents should have been revised to reflect this new arrangement. The

analysis of the Yahwistic and Priestly strands of the Flood story has also been revised in numerous places (pp. 52-66). Rather than seeing large blocks of P and J material, Collins now assigns several verses or part verses to J within the P strand.

The *Short Introduction* has also been given a similar makeover and will serve well courses that combine the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. Finally, the study guide CD appended to the first edition has been replaced by *A Study Companion* compiled and edited by Ryan P. Bonfiglio and others. John Collins' introduction has already established itself as the textbook of choice in the Anglophone world. This second edition will ensure that it remains so for years to come.

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