



Review: [Untitled]

Reviewed Work(s):

Ezekiel 1-20: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary by Moshe Greenberg
Jeffrey H. Tigay

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Book Notices

ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN STUDIES

Ezekiel 1-20: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary. By Moshe Greenberg. Doubleday, 1983. 388 pages. \$16.00.

This is a superb addition to the Anchor Bible. In addition to a fine translation and commentary, it offers a methodological introduction to commentary writing which should become required reading for anyone seriously interested in biblical studies. Greenberg describes his method as "holistic interpretation," "emphasizing the organic or functional relation between parts and wholes." He rejects the customary wholesale rewriting of the text, arguing that the Masoretic Text of Ezekiel remains the least shaky foundation for study of the book. Though not rejecting emendation entirely, Greenberg translates the Masoretic Text even where he ultimately prefers a versional reading. Variants are not recorded in the textual apparatus unless they illuminate some difficulty in the text, but they are often cited in the commentary to focus attention on peculiarities of the Masoretic Text and stimulate inquiry into it. The grounds on which scholars have questioned the authenticity of parts of the text are subjective, unexamined modern prejudices about how texts ought to be written. Careful attention to the text shows that many of the phenomena taken as signs of interpolation are pervasive characteristics of Ezekiel's own style. For the thought and coherence of the text premodern commentators are used extensively. Greenberg holds that the present book is "the product of art and intelligent design" expressing a consistent trend of thought decisively shaped by Ezekiel, if not his very words.

This work is inexhaustibly rich as a commentary on Ezekiel, but as a model of exegetical method it is a salutary contribution to the study of the Bible as a whole.

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The Faith of the Old Testament: A History. By Werner H. Schmidt. Tr. by John Sturdy. Westminster Press, 1983. 302 pages. \$12.95 paper.

In this translation of his 1968 edition (4th) of *Alltestmentlicher Glaube in seiner Geschichte*, Schmidt attempts to describe the distinctive "beliefs" of ancient Israel against the background of other competing Near Eastern religions. Schmidt