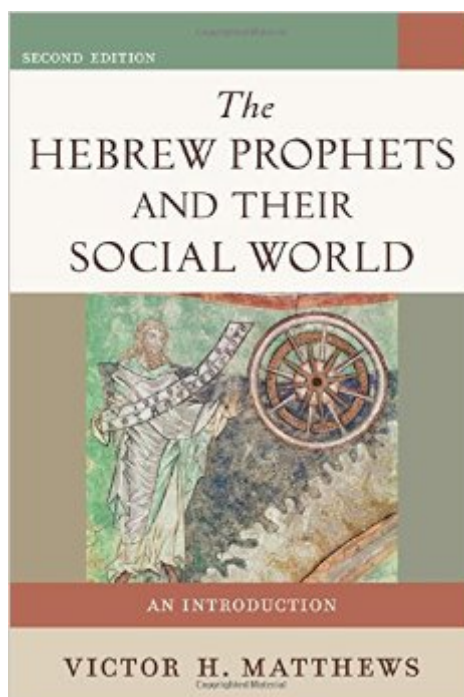


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The Hebrew Prophets And Their Social World: An Introduction



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*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Hebrew prophets, their life and writings formulate a rather large section of the Old Testament corpus, however, how much do believers really comprehend about their life and writings to include the world in which they lived and prophesied? We certainly enjoy the stories about Elijah calling down fire from heaven, the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah 53 and that weeping prophet Jeremiah, but do we know much about the events that caused Elijah to do battle against the prophets of Baal, why Israel was in exile, and what caused Jeremiah to weep? Dr. Victor Matthews, in his book *The Hebrew Prophets and Their Social World* is a much needed resource for those who have only a

glancing familiarity with the prophets of old as well as those who possibly have a more advanced level of understanding of their life and times. As Matthews rightly notes in the introduction of this book, "when prophets speak, they do so within the social, economic, and historical context of their own time. They are primarily concerned either with current events or recent happenings, and not the far future." Now a student of Scripture may correctly comment the prophets also spoke about events that have yet to take place and they would be correct. With that said, one must be sure to begin their exegesis of the prophets and their works within the context of the milieu in which the prophets lived. Once that understanding has been established, it is then the exegete can utilize the entirety of Scripture to analyze whether the words of God spoken through the prophets were directed to that immediate time, a future context of both. Dr.

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