



A Brief Introduction to the Old Testament: The Hebrew Bible in Its Context

By Michael D. Coogan

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Engaging and accessible to students from all backgrounds, *A Brief Introduction to the Old Testament: The Hebrew Bible in Its Context* is an updated, concise, and more pedagogical version of Michael D. Coogan's best-selling *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures* (OUP, 2005).

Focuses on Historical Content while also Addressing Other Interpretive Approaches

Retaining the historical and literary perspective of the longer text, this concise edition is enhanced by **two new introductory chapters** that provide students with the context necessary to analyze the biblical texts--one on the composition of the Old Testament and one on the history and geography of the ancient Near East and how it influenced the Hebrew Bible. Relying on internal evidence, scholarly consensus, and current research, Coogan deals in detail with ancient Near Eastern sources and archaeological data. He works from a primarily historical and critical methodology but also introduces students to literary analysis and other interpretive strategies. Offering the most balanced and comprehensive introduction available, Coogan examines all the books of the Hebrew Bible and also considers additional writings from the ancient Near East. The Apocryphal / Deuterocanonical books are included in an appendix.

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Providing a nondenominational and nondoctrinal treatment, *A Brief Introduction to the Old Testament* offers a unique and captivating introduction to the Hebrew scriptures themselves and to how they have been--and can be--interpreted.

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