



The First Testament: A New Translation

Available September 4, 2018

\$60, 944 pages, hardcover

978-0-8308-5199-7

In The First Testament the language of Zion comes to us unbaptized in pious religiosity. Familiar terms such as salvation, righteousness, and holiness are avoided. With introductions to each book, it is an attractive translation for the classroom as much as for personal study and enjoyment.

Reading the Sacred Texts with John Goldingay

The First Testament: A New Translation is an invitation to read the sacred text through the eyes of one of the most accomplished Old Testament scholars in the English-speaking world. John Goldingay interrupts our sleepy familiarity with the Old Testament and sets our expectations off balance by inviting us to hear the strange accent of the Hebrew text. We encounter the sinewy cadences of the Hebrew Bible, its tics, and its textures. Translating words consistently, word-by-word, allows us to hear resonances and see the subtle figures stitched into the textual carpet.

“While new translations of the Bible are constantly appearing, with the vast majority only offering slight variations, Goldingay’s translation offers a fresh alternative, providing a rare glimpse into the language, culture, and worldview of ancient Israel. His rendering of a Hebrew word or phrase often left me saying, ‘Wow, that’s perfect!’ The section headings are creative and clever, fantastic and funny. The introductions to each book not only help readers see the forest (not just the trees), but also provide profound theological reflections on the nature of God. Everyone will love this.”

– David T. Lamb, Allan A. MacRae Professor of Old Testament, Biblical Theological Seminary, author of *God Behaving Badly* and *Prostitutes and Polygamists*

“John Goldingay has a deep love for the Hebrew text of the Scriptures and a lifetime’s familiarity with all its textures and nuances. Along with that, he brings a simple and direct turn of phrase that brings the text to life in new ways. We hear the familiar flow of passages we know well, but with unexpected and arresting words that make us sometimes pause and think again. This is a book to browse alongside your customary Bible version for fresh insights, challenge, and enjoyment.”

– Christopher J. H. Wright, Langham Partnership

“This translation will be enormously useful to ordinary but serious Bible-readers precisely because it strives to stay close to the Hebrew and Aramaic originals and does not aim for clarity at any price—especially where the text itself may be unclear. It provides excellent access in everyday English, then, to the Old Testament Scriptures in their ancient forms—and not least to the way in which their message is often communicated by way of literary artistry, including wordplay.”

– Iain Provan, Marshall Sheppard Professor of Biblical Studies, Regent College, Vancouver

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ENDORSEMENTS

“John Goldingay’s volume is a magisterial work of theology, pastoral insight, and linguistic scholarship – ‘magisterial’ used properly of an author who is unsurpassed in his ability to understand and teach. This translation, accompanying his Old Testament for Everyone series, is the product of years of interpretation of the Old Testament, always deeply learned, sharply accurate, and edgily communicative.”

– Gordon McConville, University of Gloucestershire



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Acclaimed Old Testament Scholar Introduces *The First Testament*

John Goldingay (PhD, University of Nottingham; DD, Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth) is David Allan Hubbard Professor of Old Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary. He was previously principal and a professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at St John’s Theological College in Nottingham, England.

Goldingay’s books include:

- *An Introduction to the Old Testament*
- *A Reader’s Guide to the Bible*
- *Biblical Theology*
- *The Theology of the Book of Isaiah*
- *Key Questions about Interpretation*
- *Do We Need the Old Testament?*
- *Old Testament Theology* (three volumes)
- Old Testament For Everyone series (seventeen volumes)

Goldingay serves as priest-in-charge at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Pasadena. He holds membership in the Society of Biblical Literature and the Society for Old Testament Study, and served on the Task Force on Biblical Interpretation in the Anglican Communion and the editorial board for the Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies.