

scaffolding his dissertation with lengthy biographies of the authors he considers, readers who are not specialists of the period investigated will require the assistance of some good reference work in order to identify some of the names found in these pages.

Just as an understanding of the various interpretations of Matt 16 provides an essential piece of background for the theological course of some of the major protagonists of the sixteenth-century debates, so also that knowledge is extremely useful for whoever wants to follow the march of the ecumenical movement in the twentieth century. The University Press of America deserves the gratitude of scholars for making this study available to a larger public.

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Freedman, David Noel. *Pottery, Poetry, and Prophecy: Studies in Early Hebrew Poetry*. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1980. x + 376 pp. \$15.00.

The author of these collected essays on Hebrew poetry is currently chairman of the Program on Studies in Religion at the University of Michigan. For some time now he has been known in scholarly circles as one of the leading exponents of the analysis of OT poetry. He is especially noted in this field for his proposal to utilize the system of counting syllables in evaluating meter, in contrast to the older Ley-Sievers system of counting stress accents on words. Freedman's approach to this type of study is demonstrated in a number of the poetic analyses that appear in this volume, and his discussion of the theoretical basis for it is presented in the second study of the book, his prolegomenon to the KTAV reprint edition (1971) of G. B. Gray's famous *Forms of Hebrew Poetry* (1915).

One-third of the OT is written in poetry, and thus the analysis of that poetry is of considerable significance to biblical studies in general. For those who are interested in this subject it is a great boon to have under one cover Freedman's studies that were previously scattered throughout the literature. The nineteen studies reprinted here can be divided into three main categories: (1) broad syntheses; (2) individual and detailed analyses of biblical poems; and (3) shorter notes on selected aspects of Hebrew poems and poetry. The first six essays in this book fall into the first category of broad syntheses, the next nine studies deal with individual poems, and the final four articles treat shorter subjects.

The first study in the first section deals with the development of typology in several areas, but especially in that of biblical poetry. It was given as Freedman's presidential address to the Society of Biblical Literature in 1976. The second study, already mentioned above, describes G. B. Gray's contribution to this field, supplemented by Freedman's own views on the subject, including his exposition of syllable counting in the study of meter. His "Acrostics and Metrics" is a specialized statistical analysis of the book of Lamentations which lends itself well to this type of study because of the acrostic pattern employed in it. His next study, on the different divine names used in Hebrew poems, describes the distribution of those names in the pre-Psalter and early Psalter poems. This study includes Freedman's dates for those early poems. Since the contents of the early poems are of considerable importance for understanding the development of early Israel, Freedman has dealt with the historical inferences that can be drawn from them in the final two essays of the initial section of this volume.

Of the individual poems analyzed in the second section, the Song of the Sea in Exod 15 should be singled out for special mention. This historical narrative poem, describing Yahweh's victory over Pharaoh and Israel's deliverance from Pharaoh's hand, is probably the most important of all the early pre-Psalter poems. Freedman's published studies on this important piece began with his graduate-school studies, and he has returned to this favorite subject from time to time since. Two of his studies of the poem are published in this volume, and they introduce the section on individual poetic analyses. Three of his other studies published here examine pre-Psalter poems: the Aaronic benediction of Num 6:24-26; the Song of Hannah in 1 Sam 2; and David's Lament over Saul and Jonathan in 2 Sam 1. Discussions of Pss 23, 113, and 137 are chosen as examples of his studies in the Psalter, and the section on studies of individual poems ends with two selections from Job: chap. 3, and the Elihu speeches.

The third main section of the volume, consisting of shorter studies on selected poetic topics, includes notes on 2 Sam 23:4, Isa 42:13, and Ps 78:58, along with an examination of a syntactical point that bears upon the analysis of Hebrew poetry—the broken construct chain. More examples of this phenomenon are quoted in this particular article.

Freedman's collection of interesting and important studies on Hebrew poetry is a welcome addition to the tools with which the students of this subject can examine this type of material in the biblical text. It is highly recommended to those interested in either the broader or more narrowly based studies.