

Barat Ellman, *Memory and Covenant: The Role of Israel's and God's Memory in Sustaining the Deuteronomical and Priestly Covenants*. Emerging Scholars Series. Minneapolis: Fortress Press (www.fortresspress.com), 2013. Pages, 222. Paper, \$49.00.

Social memory is the lens through which Ellman examines the Deuteronomical and covenant traditions as found in the Pentateuch. The book rests on the fundamental claim that covenant, cosmogony, and memory are intricately related. Her argument unfolds in three stages. She first demonstrates the relationship between the Genesis cosmogonies and D and P covenant traditions. She then shows how these traditions perceive memory. Finally, she examines how ritual and other practices found in these traditions make use of memory in order to preserve Israel's understanding of covenant. This well-thought-through study is a revision of the author's dissertation and, while it reads much more smoothly than the average dissertation, it is meant for a scholarly reading audience.

Andrew E. Hill and John H. Walton, eds., *A Survey of the Old Testament*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan (www.zondervan.com), 2009. Pages, 799. Cloth, \$49.99.

This survey treats each of the books of the Old Testament (Protestant canon). A helpful introduction addresses fundamental matters such as divine self-revelation, biblical authority, and methods of interpretation. Each chapter provides information about the literary character of the respective biblical book, some historical background, and insights into its theological purpose and message. Key ideas of the book are listed at the beginning of each chapter along with mention of some of its major themes, as well as a description of the manner of God's presence found in that book. An outline of the material is also included. Each chapter ends with a list of questions for study and discussion, and suggestions for further reading. Though not a commentary, this book introduces the beginning student to the major issues found in each of the biblical books.

Bernd Janowski, *Arguing With God: Theological Anthropology of the Psalms*. Trans. Armin Siedlecki. Louisville: Westminster John Knox (www.wjkbooks.com), 2013. Pages, 430. Paper, \$70.00.

The anthropology of the Psalter, according to Janowski, begins with the lament: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" It then sketches a way to life, not death, and it ends with sentiments of thanksgiving. The book itself consists of two parts. The first addresses the inevitable difficulties of life, such as abandonment, enmity, sickness, and death; the second treats positive concepts like praise of God, salvation, trust. Each chapter follows the same pattern: explanation of a prominent anthropological issue; addition of anthropological insights from related fields; examination of relevant psalms; correspondence with other texts from the Old Testament and/or ancient Near Eastern literature. Each chapter ends with the consideration of an anthropological keyword that captures the essence of the discussion of the chapter. This very critical treatment of the issue presumes significant biblical background on the part of the reader.