

224***Prophetic Books of the Old Testament*****224.2*****Jeremiah***

224.2

O'CONNOR, Kathleen M*Jeremiah: pain and promise.*

Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2011.

xii, 178p.

ISBN 978-0-8006-2040-0, \$32.99, £19.86

On the Sunday after the attacks on New York and Washington on 9/11 the Old Testament lectionary reading was Jeremiah 4. 22-28: '... the fruitful land was desert, and all its cities were laid waste' (NRSV). There was hardly a dry eye in the congregation and the reader tremulously added: 'It seems that it is ever so.' This was an example of exactly what O'Connor offers as a key to the book of Jeremiah. In the midst of our trauma the words of the prophet provided a point of reference from the tradition. O'Connor argues that the book of Jeremiah comes alive in the light of the insights of trauma and disaster studies. The scribes that drew together the Jeremiaic traditions, looking back on the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians, and with it over four hundred years of Davidic history, were using the words and deeds of Jeremiah to begin to make sense of the nation's experience as the people rebuilt and transformed their faith in and through the Exile.

The substance of the book, therefore, is a series of challenging and illuminating studies of key themes and literary genres in the light of our understanding of the effects of severe trauma. Interest is, thus, on the text as found in the canon rather than on historical/literary analysis, though, inevitably, the reality of the events and the person of the prophet is always present, as is the careful scholarship that lies behind the study. The result is a companion to the book of Jeremiah rather than a commentary. This means that it is a welcome addition to the growing number of works from Biblical scholars, such as Walter Brueggemann, who, in the light of hermeneutical literary studies, are interested in the contemporary interpretative impact of Scripture. It is here that Biblical Studies and Practical Theology find common cause and mutual enrichment. Anyone, as scholar, teacher, preacher, pastor, or spiritual reader, engaged with Jeremiah or with helping people in traumatic situations will find here an accessible resource of fresh illuminating insight.

Paul Ballard, Peterborough

224.5***Daniel***

224.5

HEBBARD, Aaron B*Reading Daniel as a text in theological hermeneutics.*

Cambridge: James Clarke & Co Ltd, 2011.

244p., bibliog.

ISBN 9780227173640, £20.00

The author describes his work as an interdisciplinary exercise in theological hermeneutics. He believes this will be illustrated and modelled via the study of the biblical book of Daniel in tandem with the character Daniel. The following quote illustrates both his approach and literary style: