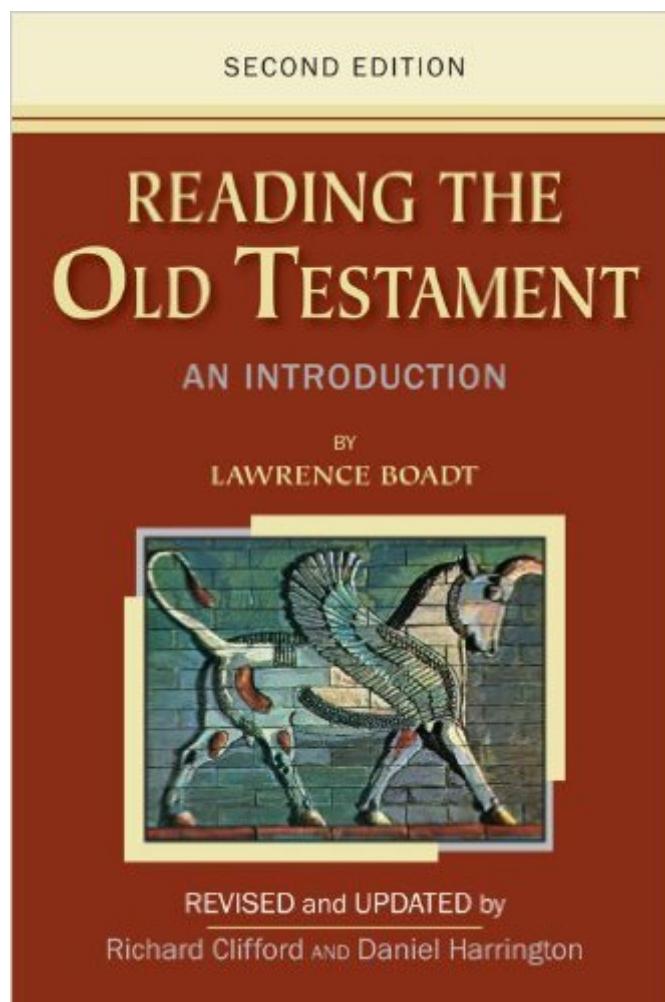


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Reading The Old Testament: An Introduction; Second Edition



Synopsis

Reading the Old Testament was recognized as a classic almost from its date of publication in 1984. Without in any way diminishing its famed clarity, judiciousness, and theological depth, two prominent scholars, Richard Clifford and Daniel Harrington, have brought the book into the twenty-first century.

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Customer Reviews

â œReading the Old Testamentâ • is the classic introduction to the Old Testament written for Christians by the late Lawrence Boadt, CSP, a highly regarded Scripture scholar who published works on Ezekiel and the Wisdom books, among other subjects. This 2012 second edition was revised and updated by Richard Clifford, S.J. and the (now deceased) Daniel Harrington, S.J., both highly esteemed biblical scholars by their own rights. One probably cannot find a better, more concise introduction to the Old Testament. It incorporates the latest archeological, sociological, cultural, literary, and theological scholarship. The text was written for classroom use, with helpful study questions at the end of each chapter, but may serve splendidly for individual study as well. I found that chapter two, on the history and geography of the Middle East, presupposes a little more knowledge of the ancient world than perhaps the average reader would have, but the purpose of the chapter is generally to physically situate the texts and peoples of the Bible and so one ought not get too thrown off by the plethora of place names and peoples. Again, the study questions help point to whatâ ™s really salient. Ideally, the student, formal or informal, will have taken the time to read the

brief suggested scripture passages at the head of each chapter. I admit that I often failed to do so, to my detriment. One ought not study the Old Testament without actually reading it. In this survey, Boadt offers the student a remarkably comprehensive guide to the authorship, socio-political context, literary forms, cultural borrowings, prominent ideas, themes, and theologies of each of the books of the Old Testament as well as groupings within the canon.

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