

CONTENTS

List of illustrations	page x
I THE LITERATURES OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST By Enid B. Mellor	
The literature of Mesopotamia	I
The Creation and Flood Stories	
Mari, Nuzi and the Age of the Patriarchs	5 8
Law and the community	11
Historical records: the Babylonian and	**
Persian view of the fall of Jerusalem, exile	
and return	14
The Babylonian Chronicle	14
The Jehoiachin Tablets	16
The Cyrus Cylinder	17
The literature of Syria-Palestine Syria-Palestine before the Conquest: the Tell	18
el-Amarna and Ras Shamra tablets	20
Two accounts of a battle: the Moabite Stone The last years of Judah: some contemporary	29
Judaean correspondence. The Lachish lette	rs 32
The literature of Egypt	35
Customs and names: the Execration Texts The Jews under Persian rule in Egypt: the	36
Elephantine Papyri The wisdom of Egypt and Israel: the Teaching	38
of Amen-em-opet	40
Conclusion	44

vii



CONTENTS

2 THE POETRY AND PROSE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT By Enid B. Mellor

A variety of literature	page 46
Myth	46
Saga and legend	47
Historical narrative	48
Legal material	49
Prophetic oracle	50
Wisdom and apocalyptic	51
Hebrew poetry	53
The study of Old Testament Literature	58
Textual criticism	59
Literary and historical analysis	60
Form criticism	65
The traditio-historical approach (redaction	*
history)	70
3 OTHER WRITINGS OF THE	
JEWISH COMMUNITY	
By Margaret Barker	
Background	75
The earlier apocalyptic writings	77
The later apocalyptic writings	80
Other views of the Law	83
The translation of the Law	86
The Jewish reaction to Greek ideas	87
Popular tales	90
Judaism for the Greek world	92
Wise men in an age of change	93
Jewish resistance to Greek ideas	96

viii



CONTENTS

CONTENTS	
New poetry	page 97
Tales of conflict	98
Postscript: the Dead Sea Scrolls	101
4 WHAT BOOKS BELONG TO THE	
OLD TESTAMENT?	105
By Enid B. Mellor	
The Law	108
The Prophets	113
The Writings	118
The completion of the canon	124
The Old Testament in English	128
5 FROM THE ANCIENT LANGUAGES TO	THE
NEW ENGLISH BIBLE	
By A. A. Macintosh	
Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge	
Introduction	133
The Hebrew tradition	134
The Hebrew (or Massoretic) Text	135
The Hebrew language	136
Aramaic	139
Massoretic pointing	143
Non-Massoretic forms of the Hebrew text	144
The ancient 'versions' of the Hebrew bible	146
The Septuagint and other Greek versions	147
The Vulgate	151
The Targums	154
The Peshitta	156
English versions of the Bible	159
The principles and problems of translating the	
Old Testament	162

ix



CONTENTS

6 THE OLD TESTAMENT FOR JEWS AND CHRISTIANS TODAY By Enid B. Mellor

The place of the Scriptures in Judaism	page	167
Scriptural interpretation	-	167
Contemporary Judaism		174
The place of the Old Testament in the		
Christian community		179
The Old Testament in the New		179
The Old Testament and the early Church		185
The Old Testament today		193
Index of references		202
General index		208

ILLUSTRATIONS

I.	The Near East in Old Testament times	page 2
2.	Table of dates	4
3.	The Kingdoms of Israel and Judah from the death of Solomon to the Babylonian exile	30
4.	The growth of the Old Testament	126
5.	Table of alphabets	140
6.	The spread of the Semitic languages	157