

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-15620-3 — Biblical Poetry and the Art of Close Reading  
Edited by J. Blake Couey, Elaine T James  
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## Biblical Poetry and the Art of Close Reading

This volume explores the aesthetic dimensions of biblical poetry, offering close readings of poems across the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. Composed of essays by fifteen leading scholars of biblical poetry, it offers creative and insightful close readings of poems from across the canon of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (Psalms, wisdom poetry, Song of Songs, prophecy, and poetry in biblical narrative). The essays build on recent advances in our understanding of biblical poetry and engage a variety of theoretical perspectives and current trends in the study of literature. They demonstrate the rewards of careful attention to textual detail, and they provide models of the practice of close reading for students, scholars, and general readers. They also highlight the rich aesthetic value of the biblical poetic corpus and offer reflection on the nature of poetry itself as a meaningful and enduring form of art.

J. Blake Couey is Associate Professor of Religion at Gustavus Adolphus College. He is the author of *Reading the Poetry of First Isaiah: The Most Perfect Model of the Prophetic Poetry*, and he is currently working on a commentary on Isaiah 1–39.

Elaine T. James is Assistant Professor of Theology at St. Catherine University. She is the author of *Landscapes of the Song of Songs: Poetry and Place*, and is currently working on a handbook on biblical poetry.

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Edited by

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## Abbreviations

AB	Anchor Bible
ABD	<i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> . Edited by David Noel Freedman. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992
ANEM	Ancient Near East Monographs/Monografías sobre el Antiguo Cercano Oriente
ANEP	<i>The Ancient Near East in Pictures Relating to the Old Testament</i> . Edited by James B. Pritchard. 2nd ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969
ANET	<i>The Ancient Near East in Texts</i> . Edited by James B. Pritchard. 3rd ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969
AOTC	Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries
Arab.	Arabic
BBR	<i>Bulletin for Biblical Research</i>
BCOTWP	Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Wisdom and Psalms
BDB	Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs. <i>A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament</i>
BEATAJ	Beiträge zur Erforschung des Alten Testaments und des Antiken Judentums
BHS	<i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i> . Edited by Karl Elliger and Wilhelm Rudolph. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1983.
<i>BibInt</i>	<i>Biblical Interpretation</i>
BibInt	Biblical Interpretation Series
BLS	Bible and Literature Series

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BM	British Museum
BSMEL	Brill Studies in Middle Eastern Literatures
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CC	Continental Commentaries
CEB	Common English Bible
ch(s).	chapter(s)
CJT	<i>Canadian Journal of Theology</i>
CTU	<i>The Cuneiform Alphabetic Texts from Ugarit, Ras Ibn Hani, and Other Places</i> . Edited by Manfred Dietrich, Oswald Loretz, and Joaquín Sanmartín. Münster: Ugarit-Verlag, 1995
<i>CurBS</i>	<i>Currents in Research: Biblical Studies</i>
DCH	<i>Dictionary of Classical Hebrew</i> . Edited by David J. A. Clines. 9 vols. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 1993–2014
DJD	Discoveries in the Judaean Desert
ECC	Eerdmans Critical Commentary
<i>EncJud</i>	<i>Encyclopedia Judaica</i> . Edited by Fred Skolnik and Michael Berenbaum. 2nd ed. 22 vols. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2007
ESV	English Standard Version
ET	English translation
FAT	Forschungen zum Alten Testament
fig.	figure
FOTL	Forms of the Old Testament Literature
G	Greek Septuagint
G <sup>AS</sup>	Greek Septuagint, Codices Alexandrinus and Sinaiticus
GKC	<i>Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar</i> . Edited by Emil Kautsch. Translated by Arthur E. Cowley. 2nd ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1910
HALOT	<i>The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Ludwig Koehler, Walter Baumgartner, and Johann J. Stamm. Translated and edited under the supervision of Mervyn E. J. Richardson. 4 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1994–1999
HBS	History of Biblical Studies
HCOT	Historical Commentary on the Old Testament
HdO	Handbuch der Orientalistik
HSM	Harvard Semitic Monographs
HThKAT	Herders Theologischer Kommentar zum Alten Testament
HUCA	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
IB	<i>Interpreter's Bible</i> . Edited by George A. Buttrick et al. 23 vols. New York: Abingdon, 1951–1957

IBC	Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching
IBHS	<i>An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax</i> . Bruce K. Waltke and Michael O'Connor. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990
ICC	International Critical Commentary
inf. cst.	infinitive construct
ISBL	Indiana Studies in Biblical Literature
JAH	<i>Journal of Ancient History</i>
JAOS	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JNES	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>
JNSL	<i>Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages</i>
JPS 1917	<i>The Holy Scriptures According to the Masoretic Text: A New Translation</i>
JQR	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
JR	<i>Journal of Religion</i>
JSOT	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSOTSup	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament: Supplement Series
KAI	<i>Kanaanäische und aramäische Inschriften</i> . Herbert Donner and Wolfgang Röllig. 2nd ed. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1966–1969
KAR	<i>Keilschrifttexte aus Assur religiösen Inhalts</i> . Edited by Erich Ebeling. Leipzig: Hinrichs, 1919–1923
KJV	King James Version
l(l).	line(s)
LHBOTS	Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies
LXX	Septuagint
LXX <sup>L</sup>	Septuagint, Lucianic recension
MH	Mishnaic Hebrew
ms(s)	manuscript(s)
MT	Masoretic text
NASB	New American Standard Bible
NCBC	New Century Bible Commentary
NIB	<i>The New Interpreter's Bible</i> . Edited by Leander E. Keck. 12 vols. Nashville: Abingdon, 1994–2004
NICOT	New International Commentary on the Old Testament
NIDB	<i>New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i> . Edited by Katharine Doob Sakenfeld. 5 vols. Nashville: Abingdon, 2006–2009

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NIV	New International Version
NJPS	<i>Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures: The New JPS Translation according to the Traditional Hebrew Text</i>
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
OTE	<i>Old Testament Essays</i>
OTL	Old Testament Library
PEPP	<i>The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics</i> . 4th ed. Edited by Roland Greene et al. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012
PEQ	<i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i>
RIH	Ras ibn Hani
RSRLC	Routledge Studies in Renaissance Literature and Culture
SAA	State Archives of Assyria
SBL	Society of Biblical Literature
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SHBC	Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary
SQAW	Schriften und Quellen der alten Welt
SubBi	Subsidia Biblica
SVTP	Studia in Veteris Testamenti Pseudepigrapha
Syr.	Syriac Peshitta
TAD	<i>Textbook of Aramaic Documents from Ancient Egypt</i> . Edited by Bezalel Porten and Ada Yardeni. 4 vols. Jerusalem: Hebrew University, 1986–1999
TDOT	G. Johannes Botterweck et al., eds. <i>Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament</i> . Translated by John T. Willis et al. 15 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977–2006
Tg.	Targum
TWOT	<i>Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament</i> . Edited by R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer, Jr., and Bruce Waltke. 2 vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980
UBL	Ugaritisch-biblische Literatur
v(v).	verse(s)
VT	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
VTSup	Supplements to Vetus Testamentum
Vulg.	Vulgate
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
WMANT	Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
ZAW	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
YLT	Young's Literal Translation

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