

## HOSEA, JOEL, AND AMOS

In this commentary, Graham R. Hamborg offers a timely and up-to-date assessment of the books of Hosea, Joel, and Amos. Recognising that each had a compositional history leading to the final forms by which we know them, he brings a literary approach to the texts and connects them to other parts of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. Hamborg also draws attention to topics where there are a range of scholarly views. ‘Closer Look’ sections explore significant themes and terms in greater depth, and ‘Bridging the Horizons’ sections indicate how the texts are of continuing significance in today’s world. Conveying the meaning and importance of Hosea, Joel, and Amos in non-technical language and in an accessible style, this volume will be a valuable commentary for biblical scholars, students, and non-specialists for years to come.

Graham R. Hamborg earned his doctorate from the University of Nottingham. The author of *Still Selling the Righteous: A Redaction-Critical Investigation into Reasons for Judgment in Amos 2:6–16* (2012), he is an ordained minister in the Church of England.

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# *Hosea, Joel, and Amos*



**Graham R. Hamborg**  
*University of Nottingham*

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## Preface



When I first came to study the Hebrew Bible it was the book of Amos that most stimulated me, and I have remained engaged with Amos scholarship over many years. My in-depth engagement with the books of Hosea and Joel is more recent, but I have found that they too have much to offer. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to write this volume, and my thanks are due to Bill Arnold as editor for his invitation to write it, and for his prompt communications across the Atlantic which have helped to bring it to fruition. My thanks also to Professor Graham Davies, whose suggestion it was that I offer to write a volume for the NCBC series, and who was among those who fostered in me a love of the Hebrew Bible.

I see the purpose of commentary as being elucidation of the text in the light of the best available current scholarship. This volume aims to be accessible to non-specialists, such as undergraduate students, ordinands and seminarians, preachers, and teachers in faith communities, and interested laypeople. It also aims to be of value within scholarly circles, by contributing to scholarly discussion of contested issues, and by making a few original proposals at some points. To fulfil these diverse aims is challenging, and the reader must judge the degree to which I have been successful.

The volume is in four parts: a 'Volume Introduction', in which methodological considerations are addressed, and one part covering each of Hosea, Joel, and Amos. The latter parts are based on the NRSV, the text of which is set out in the commentaries within each part. A revision of NRSV was brought out in 2021, and is the version followed. Recognising that, for some time, many readers may still be using the previous edition, I have noted its different translation when the difference seems significant, referring to the previous edition as the 'pre-2021 NRSV'. I have sometimes referred to the New International Version (NIV) for comparison where the Hebrew text is unclear or admits of more than one possible translation. The books of

Hosea and Joel both contain sections of variance in numbering between the Hebrew text and English translations. In these sections I have cited the English references, with the Hebrew reference following in square brackets: hence ‘Hosea 1:10–2:1 [2:1–3]’. I have referred to the Greek (Septuagint) text or other ancient versions only when they aid translation or understanding of the Hebrew text.

In citing secondary literature I have given priority to works in English wherever possible, in the expectation that the majority of readers will be English-speaking. Where works in German are cited it is because they are important works that have not been translated and have no equivalent in English, or because they have been seminal in the history of scholarship. Where I have quoted from an article, I have put the page number of the quotation in brackets after those of the article: hence *BTB* 13 (1993): 54–63 (60).

The draft of this volume was substantially complete prior to the publication of recent commentaries by M. D. Carroll R. on Amos, J. Goldingay on Hosea–Micah, T. S. Hadjiev on Joel and Amos, and R. Routledge on Hosea. I have consulted them all, and have made some changes to my text in the light of them; but undoubtedly there would have been more references to them had they been available earlier in my preparation. The redaction-critical method that this volume employs distinguishes it from them, making it in no way superfluous to them.

My doctorate on the book of Amos and subsequent study and writings have been undertaken on a part-time basis, alongside holding full-time ministerial posts in the Church of England. Throughout these years my wife and family have been a constant support and joy. I therefore dedicate this book to my wife Ruth, and to my children Jo, Pete, Chloë, Rosie, and Rob, and their families, all of whom have enriched my life beyond measure.

## A Word about Citations



All volumes in the NCBC include footnotes, with full bibliographical citations included in the note when a source is first mentioned. Subsequent citations include the author's initial or initials, full last name, abbreviated title for the work, and date of publication. Most readers prefer this citation system to endnotes that require searching through pages at the back of the book. In this volume treating three books, the full bibliographical citation is given on its first occurrence in each of the separate parts on Hosea, Joel, and Amos. Similarly, footnote numbering begins afresh in each part.

The Suggested Reading lists, also included in all NCBC volumes after the introductions, are not part of this citation apparatus. Annotated and organised by publication type, the self-contained Suggested Reading lists are intended to introduce and briefly review some of the most well-known and helpful literature on the biblical text under discussion.

## Abbreviations



AB	Anchor Bible
ABD	<i>The Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> (6 vols.), ed. D. N. Freedman (New York: Doubleday, 1992)
ANEM	Ancient Near Eastern Monographs
ANET	<i>Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament</i> , ed. J. B. Pritchard (3rd ed., with supplement; Princeton: Princeton Press, 1969)
AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament
AYB	Anchor Yale Bible
BASOR	<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i>
BCE	Before Common Era
BCOT	Baker Commentary on the Old Testament
BDB	F. Brown, S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs, <i>Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> (3rd printing; Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1976)
BEATAJ	Beiträge zur Erforschung des Alten Testaments und des antiken Judentum
BHS	<i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i> , ed. K. Elliger and W. Rudolph (Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1976–1977)
BRT	<i>Baptist Review of Theology</i>
BTB	<i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>
BZAW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
CB	Coniectanea Biblica
CBC	Cambridge Bible Commentary
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CBR	<i>Currents in Biblical Research</i>
CE	Common Era

CUP	Cambridge University Press
DLT	Darton, Longman and Todd
<i>ET</i>	<i>Expository Times</i>
<i>EvT</i>	<i>Evangelische Theologie</i>
EVV	English Versions
FAT	Forschungen zum Alten Testament
FCB	Feminist Companion to the Bible
FOTL	Forms of Old Testament Literature
FRLANT	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments
<i>IB</i>	<i>Interpreter's Bible</i> , ed. G. Buttrick (New York: Abingdon Press, 1952)
ICC	International Critical Commentary
ICJ	International Court of Justice
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JBQ</i>	<i>Jewish Biblical Quarterly</i>
<i>JHS</i>	<i>Journal of Hebrew Scriptures</i>
<i>JNES</i>	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>
<i>JSOT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSOTSup	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series
<i>JSS</i>	<i>Journal of Semitic Studies</i>
KAT	Kommentar zum Alten Testament
KJV	King James Version
LHBOTS	Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies
LXX	Septuagint
MSS	Manuscripts
MT	Masoretic text
NCB	New Century Bible
NCBC	New Cambridge Bible Commentary
<i>NIB</i>	<i>The New Interpreter's Bible</i> (12 vols.), ed. L. E. Keck (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994–1998)
NICOT	New International Commentary on the Old Testament
<i>NIDB</i>	<i>The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i> (5 vols.), ed. K. Doob Sakenfeld (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006–2009)
NIV	New International Version
<i>NKZ</i>	<i>Neue kirchliche Zeitschrift</i>
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
OAN	Oracles against the Nations

*List of Abbreviations*

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OTE	<i>Old Testament Essays</i>
OTG	Old Testament Guides
OTL	Old Testament Library
OTS	<i>Oudtestamentische Studiën</i>
OUP	Oxford University Press
PEQ	<i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i>
SBL	Society of Biblical Literature
SBLAB	Society of Biblical Literature Academia Biblica
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBLSymS	Society of Biblical Literature Symposium Series
SBTS	Sources for Biblical and Theological Study
SJOT	<i>Scandinavian Journal of Theology</i>
SOTSMS	Society for Old Testament Study Monograph Series
SWBA	Social World of Biblical Antiquity
TB	<i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>
TDOT	<i>Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament</i> (15 vols.), ed. G. J. Botterweck and H. Ringgren (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 1974–1995)
TOTC	Tyndale Old Testament Commentary
VT	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
VTSup	Vetus Testamentum Supplement Series
WMANT	Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
ZAW	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>