

CONTENTS

<i>General Editors' Preface</i>	13
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	15
<i>Abbreviations</i>	17
<i>Bibliography</i>	19
<i>HOSEA</i>	25
INTRODUCTION	27
A. Hosea the Prophet	27
B. The Historical Context and Audience of Hosea	29
C. The Book of Hosea as a Literary Work	31
1. The Hebrew Text and Versification	31
2. Literary Devices, Genres, and Metaphors	31
3. Historical Development of the Text	32
4. Structure and Outline of the Text	32
D. Theological Themes	34
1. Political Alliances, Infidelity, and Trust in One Deity	34
2. An Inner Disposition	35
3. Knowledge of God	35
4. The Reality of Divine Judgment and the Victory of Divine Grace	36
COMMENTARY	37
I. Superscription (1:1)	37
II. Hosea's Marriage (1:2—3:5)	40
A. Hosea, Gomer, and Their Children (1:2-9)	40
B. The Promise of Restoration (1:10—2:1)	50
C. The Lawsuit (2:2-23)	53
1. The Charge (2:2-5)	54
2. A Blockade (2:6-8)	56
3. Stripping Bare (2:9-13)	57
4. Alluring into the Wilderness (2:14-15)	59
5. Removal of Baals (2:16-17)	60
6. The Promise of Peace and a New Marriage (2:18-20)	60
7. The Promise of Blessings (2:21-23)	61
D. The Hope of Reconciliation (3:1-5)	65

III. Oracles of Judgment and Restoration (4:1—14:8)	71
A. Messages of Judgment and Hope (4:1—11:12)	71
1. Yahweh's Lawsuit (4:1-19)	71
a. Divine Indictment (4:1-3)	71
b. Charges against Priestly Leaders (4:4-14)	74
c. Charges against Worship (4:15-19)	80
2. Yahweh's Judgment (5:1—6:6)	83
a. Indictment against Leaders and the People (5:1-7)	83
b. Sound the Alarm (5:8-15)	87
c. A Call to Repentance (6:1-3)	92
d. Yahweh's Exasperation (6:4-6)	95
3. Rebellion Gone Rampant (6:7—7:16)	98
a. From the Earliest Days (6:7-11a)	98
b. A Nation of Bandits (6:11b—7:3)	99
c. A Nation as Hot as an Oven (7:4-10)	101
d. A Nation without Sense (7:11-16)	103
4. Covenant Broken—the Evidence (8:1-14)	106
a. Sound the Trumpet (8:1-3)	107
b. King Makers and Idol Makers (8:4-6)	108
c. Sowing and Reaping (8:7-14)	109
5. The Day of Celebration Becomes the Day of Mourning (9:1-9)	114
6. Ephraim, a Withered Root (9:10-17)	121
7. A Portrait of Exile (10:1-8)	127
8. Impending Calamity (10:9-15)	131
9. The Rebellious Child and the Forbearing Parent: A Glimpse of Hope (11:1-11)	135
10. A Tale of Two Kingdoms (11:12—12:1)	145
B. Concluding Messages of Hope (12:2—14:8)	146
1. Living Up to a Namesake (12:2-9)	146
2. Divine Faithfulness—Human Rebellion (12:10—13:13)	151
3. Divine Contemplation—Divine Decision (13:14-16)	158
4. A Liturgy of Repentance (14:1-8)	162
5. Wisdom Epilogue: Call for Reflection (14:9)	167
<i>JOEL</i>	171
INTRODUCTION	173
A. Joel the Prophet	173
B. The Historical Context and Audience of Joel	174
C. The Book of Joel as a Literary Work	176
1. Literary Devices and Genre	176
2. Historical Development of the Text	176
3. Reliance upon Prophetic Tradition	177
4. Hebrew Versification	177
5. Flow of Text and Structure	177
D. Theological Themes	178
1. Disaster and the Call to Prayer/Call to Return	178

2. Who Knows? The Qualification of Prophetic Theology	179
3. The Day of the Lord as Both Judgment and Salvation	179
4. The Past as Paradigm for a Hope-filled Future	180
5. The Spirit of God	180
6. Zion Theology	180
7. Proto-Apocalyptic Thought	180
COMMENTARY	183
I. Superscription (1:1)	183
II. Locust Plague and Resolution (1:2—2:27)	185
A. A Portrait of Calamity (1:2-7)	185
B. Call to Mourning (1:8-20)	189
C. Enemy on the Horizon (2:1-11)	194
D. Call to Repentance (2:12-17)	199
E. A Jealous God Acts (2:18-27)	203
III. The Cosmic Day of Yahweh and the Establishment of the Reign of God (2:28—3:21)	208
A. After Deliverance . . . (2:28-32 [3:1-5 HB])	208
B. Judgment against the Nations (3:1-16a [4:1-16a HB])	212
C. Final Restoration (3:16b-21 [4:16b-21 HB])	217
AMOS	221
INTRODUCTION	223
A. Amos the Prophet	223
B. The Historical Context and Audience of Amos	224
C. The Book of Amos as a Literary Work	226
D. Historical Development of the Text	227
E. Flow and Structure of the Text	227
F. Theological Themes	228
1. The Day of Yahweh	228
2. Deuteronomic-Prophetic Retribution	229
3. Justice, Covenant, and Worship	229
4. Lord of the Nations	230
5. The Divine Change of Plans	230
COMMENTARY	233
I. The Roaring Voice of Yahweh (1:1-2)	233
II. Indictment against the Nations and Israel (1:3—2:5)	237
A. Aram (1:3-5)	238
B. Philistia (1:6-8)	240
C. Tyre (1:9-10)	240
D. Edom (1:11-12)	241
E. Ammon (1:13-15)	242

F. Moab (2:1-3)	243
G. Judah (2:4-5)	243
III. Oracles against Israel (2:6—6:14)	246
A. Israel's Crime and Punishment (2:6-16)	246
B. Covenant Responsibility (3:1-2)	252
C. Cause and Effect (3:3-8)	254
D. Indictment against Samaria and Bethel (3:9-15)	256
E. Indictment against "Secondhand" Oppressors (4:1-3)	260
F. Call to Worship (4:4-5)	262
G. A Rehearsal of Divine Attempts to Save (4:6-12)	264
H. Doxology One (4:13)	267
I. A Song of Death (5:1-3)	269
J. A Second Call to Worship (5:4-7)	271
K. Doxology Two (5:8-9)	274
L. Social Justice and a Call to Proper Worship (5:10-15)	276
M. An Unexpected Day of Mourning (5:16-20)	281
N. Reflecting on True Worship (5:21-27)	284
O. Indictment against Indulgence and Pride (6:1-14)	287
IV. The Visions of Amos and the Confrontation with Amaziah (7:1—8:3; 9:1-4)	294
A. The Visions of Amos (7:1-9; 8:1-3; 9:1-4)	294
1. Vision of Locusts (7:1-3)	296
2. Vision of Fire (7:4-6)	297
3. Vision of a Plumb Line (7:7-9)	297
4. Vision of a Basket of Summer Fruit (8:1-3)	298
5. Vision of the Temple Destruction (9:1-4)	299
B. Interlude: Amos-Amaziah Confrontation (7:10-17)	302
V. Oracle against Israel (8:4-14; 9:5-10)	308
A. Social Condemnation (8:4-14)	308
B. The Final Doxology (9:5-6)	319
C. A Leveling of Identity (9:7-10)	322
VI. Editorial Conclusion: Hope Beyond Judgment (9:11-15)	328
<i>OBADIAH</i>	337
INTRODUCTION	339
A. Obadiah the Prophet	339
B. The Historical Context and Audience of Obadiah	340
C. The Book of Obadiah as a Literary Work	341
1. Genre	341
2. The Development of the Text and the Relationship to Other Prophetic Texts	341
3. Movement and Structure of the Book	342

D. Theological Themes	343
1. The Day of the Lord and the Nature of Judgment	343
2. Yahweh as Lord of the Nations, Covenant Partner, and Vindicator	343
COMMENTARY	345
I. Edom's Judgment and Destruction (vv 1-14)	346
A. Announcement of Judgment (vv 1-4)	346
B. Edom's Destruction (vv 5-9)	348
C. Rationale for Judgment (vv 10-14)	349
II. Judah's Salvation (vv 15-21)	352
A. The Day of the Lord (vv 15-16)	352
B. Zion's Restoration (vv 17-18)	353
C. Prose Conclusion (vv 19-21)	354
<i>JONAH</i>	357
INTRODUCTION	359
A. Jonah the Prophet	359
B. The Historical Context and Audience of Jonah	360
C. The Book of Jonah as a Literary Work	361
D. Theological Themes	363
1. The Mission of God	363
2. Creation, the Sovereignty of God, and Universal Grace	363
3. The Open-endedness of the Narrative	364
COMMENTARY	365
I. Episode 1: Escape and Rescue (1:1-16)	365
II. Episode 2: A Song of Gratitude (1:17—2:10 [2:1-11 HB])	372
III. Episode 3: A Reluctant Messenger, an Unexpected Response (3:1-10)	379
IV. Episode 4: An Angry Messenger, a Compassionate God (4:1-11)	385
<i>MICAH</i>	393
INTRODUCTION	395
A. Micah the Prophet	395
B. The Historical Context and Audience of Micah	396
C. The Book of Micah as a Literary Work	397
1. Literary Features and Genres	397
2. Historical Development of the Text	398
3. Micah and Intertextuality within the Prophets	399
4. Flow and Structure of the Book of Micah	399
D. Theological Themes	401
1. Divine Judgment and Divine Promise	401

2. Socioeconomic Condemnations and True Worship	401
3. Authentic Prophetic Ministry	402
4. The Answer of Divine Grace and Forgiveness	402
COMMENTARY	403
I. Superscription (1:1)	403
II. Judgment and Hope: Series 1 (1:2—2:13)	405
A. Oracles of Judgment (1:2—2:11)	405
1. Against the Centers of Power (1:2-16)	405
2. Against Self-Serving Socioeconomic Practices (2:1-11)	418
B. A Glimmer of Hope (2:12-13)	427
III. Judgment and Hope: Series 2 (3:1—5:15)	429
A. Condemnations of Judah's Leadership (3:1-12)	429
B. Oracles of Hope (4:1—5:15)	436
1. A Vision of Restoration (4:1-13 [4:1-14 HB])	437
a. Nations' Pilgrimage to Zion (4:1-5)	437
b. Yahweh Will Gather the Exiled People (4:6-8)	439
c. Judah's Exile to, and Rescue from, Babylon (4:9-10)	440
d. Victory over the Enemy Nations (4:11-13)	441
2. A Ruler from Bethlehem (5:1-6 [4:14—5:5 HB])	442
3. The Emerging Kingdom (5:7-15 [5:6-14 HB])	447
a. Judah's Triumph over Enemy Nations (5:7-9)	447
b. Yahweh's Judgment of Idolatrous Nations (5:10-15)	448
IV. Judgment and Hope: Series 3 (6:1—7:20)	454
A. The Divine Lawsuit (6:1-16)	454
B. Lamentation with Hope (7:1-20)	465
1. Jerusalem's Lament (7:1-7)	466
2. Anticipation of Deliverance (7:8-10)	468
3. Restoration and Rebuilding of Jerusalem (7:11-17)	470
4. Who Is like Yahweh? (7:18-20)	472