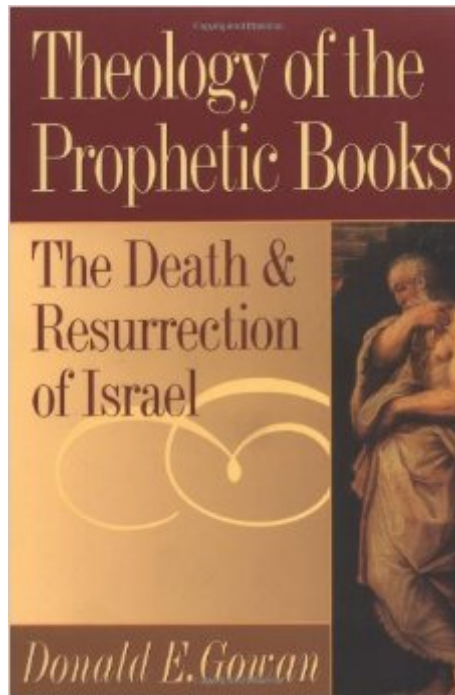


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Theology Of The Prophetic Books: The Death And Resurrection Of Israel



Synopsis

Donald Gowan offers a unified reading of the prophetic books, showing that each has a distinctive contribution to make to a central theme. These books--Isaiah through Malachi--respond to three key moments in Israel's history: the end of the Northern Kingdom in 722 BCE, the end of the Southern Kingdom in 587 BCE, and the beginning of the restoration from the Babylonian exile in 538 BCE. Gowan traces the theme of death and resurrection throughout these accounts, finding a symbolic message of particular significance to Christian interpreters of the Bible.

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Customer Reviews

In The theology of the prophetic books, Donald Gowan exposes the prophets and brings out the distinctive contribution of each of them with a great insight into the major moments in Israel's beautiful history. He elaborates on the fall of the two rival kingdoms of the North and the South (722 BC and 587 BC respectively) and their restoration beginning from the Babylonian exile which dates as far back as 538. This is indeed a great contribution to the theology of rise and fall of Israel. Gowan, unlike many other prophets scholars does not deal with the general phenomenon of prophecy but to the message of the canonical prophets which are Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the twelve minor prophets. His book can be summarized into two major parts. The first part treats the Assyrian threat and the eventual death of Israel. This was made even more easy by the relative weakness that Israel suffered at that time. Jeroboam was king of the Northern kingdom (785-745) and during those years Israel enjoyed relative peace and prosperity but when he died after twenty

years of reign (was succeeded by Zachariah), the Assyrians invaded them. The prophets (Amos, Hosea, Micah and proto-Isaiah) who give us some ideas on what was going on, think that God was at work in the midst of the disaster and that there was a reason for it. But why will God inflict such a big blow on Israel which apparently was no worse than the other neighboring states? It is when we consider the questions and answers such as these that we really see how Gowan is so unique in his style of treating the prophetic books. Israel is indeed Yahweh's firstborn (Exod 4:22). Because they occupied such a prioritized position before Yahweh, any nonsense from them was not to be smiled upon by Yahweh.

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