

study guide for isaiah

Study Guide for Isaiah: Unlocking the Depths of a Prophetic Masterpiece

study guide for isaiah is an invaluable resource for anyone seeking to understand one of the most profound and complex books of the Bible. The Book of Isaiah stands out not only for its poetic beauty but also for its rich theological insights and prophetic visions that span judgment, hope, and restoration. Whether you are a student of theology, a curious reader, or someone preparing for a Bible study group, this guide will help you navigate Isaiah's intricate layers with clarity and confidence.

Understanding the Context of Isaiah

Before diving into the verses, it's crucial to grasp the historical and cultural backdrop of Isaiah. This context enriches your reading and helps uncover the deeper meanings behind the text.

The Historical Setting

Isaiah prophesied during a turbulent era in Judah's history, roughly between 740 and 700 BCE. The kingdom faced threats from powerful empires like Assyria, and politically, it was a time marked by instability and moral decline. Knowing this helps explain Isaiah's frequent calls for repentance and his vivid descriptions of impending judgment.

The Author and Structure

Traditionally attributed to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz, the book is often divided into three sections by scholars:

- **Proto-Isaiah** (Chapters 1–39): Focuses on judgment and warnings to Judah and other nations.
- **Deutero-Isaiah** (Chapters 40–55): Offers messages of comfort and hope during the Babylonian exile.
- **Trito-Isaiah** (Chapters 56–66): Centers on restoration and the future glory of Jerusalem.

Understanding this division helps in interpreting the shifts in tone and theme throughout the book.

Key Themes to Explore in a Study Guide for Isaiah

Isaiah contains a wealth of theological and prophetic themes. Here are some essential ones to focus on during your study.

Judgment and Redemption

One of the primary themes in Isaiah is the tension between God's judgment against sin and His promise of redemption. Isaiah's prophecies often begin with warnings about the consequences of rebellion but move toward the hope of restoration. This duality is a powerful reminder of God's justice and mercy.

The Messiah and Messianic Prophecies

Isaiah is renowned for its Messianic prophecies, which Christians interpret as foretelling the coming of Jesus Christ. Passages like Isaiah 7:14 ("The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son") and Isaiah 53 (the suffering servant) are pivotal texts. A study guide for Isaiah should highlight these predictions and explore their significance both historically and theologically.

God's Sovereignty and Holiness

Throughout the book, the sovereignty of God is emphasized. Isaiah presents God as supreme over nations, nature, and history. His holiness is repeatedly proclaimed, challenging readers to respond in reverence and faithfulness.

Tips for Studying Isaiah Effectively

Diving into Isaiah's rich content can be overwhelming, but with the right approach, your study can become more meaningful and manageable.

Use a Reliable Bible Translation

Because Isaiah's language is poetic and sometimes complex, choosing a clear and accurate Bible translation is essential. Versions like the ESV, NIV, or NRSV tend to balance readability with faithfulness to the original text.

Leverage Commentaries and Study Notes

Studying Isaiah alongside trusted commentaries can clarify difficult passages and provide historical insights. Many study Bibles include notes specifically on Isaiah, which can guide you through cultural references and word meanings.

Break the Book into Sections

Given Isaiah's length and thematic diversity, tackling it in smaller chunks helps maintain focus. Consider studying one section at a time—such as chapters 1–12 for judgment and hope or chapters 40–55 for comfort during exile.

Reflect on the Prophecies

Isaiah's prophecies often require thoughtful reflection. Ask questions like: How do these messages apply to the original audience? What do they reveal about God's character? How might they relate to modern faith contexts?

Exploring the Literary Style and Symbolism in Isaiah

Isaiah's literary richness is part of what makes it a masterpiece. Appreciating its style enhances comprehension and appreciation.

Poetry and Imagery

Isaiah uses vivid imagery—such as mountains trembling, lions lying down with lambs, and the light breaking into darkness—to convey spiritual truths. Recognizing these poetic devices helps readers engage both intellectually and emotionally.

Symbolic Numbers and Names

Numbers like seven and twelve appear with symbolic significance, often representing completeness or God's people. Names such as Immanuel ("God with us") carry deep meaning tied to God's promises.

Incorporating Isaiah into Personal or Group Study

A study guide for Isaiah isn't just for solo reading—it can enrich group discussions and personal devotion alike.

Discussion Questions to Ponder

Encourage deeper engagement by asking questions such as:

- What does Isaiah teach us about God's justice and mercy?
- How do the prophecies of the Messiah impact your understanding of Jesus?
- In what ways can Isaiah's call to repentance speak to our lives today?

Journaling and Meditation

Writing down insights or prayers inspired by Isaiah can solidify your learning. Meditating on key verses, like Isaiah 40:31 ("But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength"), offers spiritual encouragement.

Memorization of Key Passages

Memorizing meaningful verses from Isaiah can provide comfort and guidance. Consider passages such as Isaiah 6:8 ("Here am I. Send me!") or Isaiah 41:10 ("Do not fear, for I am with you").

Resources to Enhance Your Study Guide for Isaiah

To deepen your understanding, consider these helpful tools and materials:

- **Study Bibles:** The ESV Study Bible and NIV Study Bible include detailed notes on Isaiah.
- **Commentaries:** Works by scholars like John N. Oswalt or J. Alec Motyer offer comprehensive insights.
- **Online Platforms:** Websites such as Bible Gateway or Blue Letter Bible provide easy access to various translations and study aids.
- **Audio and Video Lectures:** Many seminaries and pastors have free Isaiah series that explain the book chapter by chapter.

Immersing yourself in these resources alongside your reading will make the study of Isaiah more rewarding and impactful.

Isaiah's message continues to resonate across centuries, offering timeless wisdom, hope, and a glimpse into the divine plan. Using a thoughtful study guide for Isaiah ensures that you don't just read the text but truly engage with it, unlocking the profound truths that this prophetic book holds.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the best study guide for understanding the Book of Isaiah?

The best study guides for Isaiah often include commentaries by scholars such as John N. Oswalt or the NIV Application Commentary series, which provide historical context, theological insights, and practical applications.

How can a study guide help me interpret the prophecies in Isaiah?

A study guide helps by explaining the historical background, cultural context, and literary structure of Isaiah, making the prophecies clearer and more relevant to modern readers.

Are there study guides for Isaiah suitable for beginners?

Yes, there are beginner-friendly study guides that break down complex passages into easy-to-understand language, such as devotional guides or Bible study workbooks specifically designed for newcomers.

What themes should I focus on when studying Isaiah?

Key themes in Isaiah include judgment and salvation, the holiness of God, the Messiah and suffering servant, and the hope of restoration and peace.

Can a study guide for Isaiah be used for group Bible studies?

Absolutely, many study guides include discussion questions, background information, and application points that are ideal for group settings.

Where can I find free study guides for the Book of Isaiah online?

Free study guides for Isaiah can be found on websites like Bible Gateway, Blue Letter Bible, and various church ministry sites that offer downloadable PDFs and lesson plans.

Additional Resources

Study Guide for Isaiah: An In-Depth Exploration of the Prophetic Text

study guide for isaiah serves as an essential resource for scholars, students, and religious practitioners seeking a thorough understanding of one of the most complex and theologically rich books in the Old Testament. The Book of Isaiah, attributed to the prophet Isaiah, spans a wide historical and thematic range, blending poetic prophecy with vivid imagery and messianic expectations. This study guide aims to dissect Isaiah's intricate narrative, contextual background, and theological significance while offering a comprehensive framework for academic and devotional study.

Understanding the Structure and Context of Isaiah

The Book of Isaiah is traditionally divided into three major parts: First Isaiah (chapters 1–39), Second Isaiah (chapters 40–55), and Third Isaiah (chapters 56–66). Each section reflects distinct historical contexts and themes, which makes a segmented approach critical when using a study guide for Isaiah.

First Isaiah primarily addresses the socio-political turmoil in Judah during the 8th century BCE, focusing on the Assyrian threat and calls for repentance. Second Isaiah shifts to the Babylonian exile period, offering profound messages of comfort and hope. Third Isaiah looks forward to the restoration of Jerusalem and the inclusive vision of God's kingdom.

An effective study guide for Isaiah must provide clear historical timelines and background information to help readers navigate these transitions. Understanding the geopolitical realities—such as the Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian empires' influence—is crucial for interpreting Isaiah's prophecies with accuracy.

Historical and Cultural Context

Isaiah's prophecies were delivered during a time of great upheaval. The northern kingdom of Israel had already fallen to Assyria, and Judah faced imminent threats. This backdrop is essential to grasp the urgency and tone of Isaiah's messages. A well-rounded study guide includes archaeological findings, comparative literature from neighboring cultures, and scholarly interpretations to enrich the reader's comprehension.

Theological Themes and Literary Features in Isaiah

A significant strength of any study guide for Isaiah is its ability to highlight the book's key theological motifs. Isaiah is notable for its portrayal of God's holiness, justice, and sovereignty. The text intertwines themes of judgment with profound hope, especially through the promise of a coming Messiah.

One of the most studied aspects is the "Servant Songs," poetic passages that describe a servant figure who will suffer for the redemption of others. These passages are foundational for Christian messianic interpretations and offer rich material for theological reflection.

From a literary perspective, Isaiah employs diverse forms such as oracles, narratives, and poetry. The use of vivid imagery—like the "swords beaten into plowshares" metaphor—demonstrates the book's

artistic and rhetorical power. A comprehensive study guide carefully analyzes these literary devices to empower readers to appreciate Isaiah's stylistic nuances.

Key Themes Explored

- **Judgment and Salvation:** Isaiah balances warnings of divine judgment against Israel's unfaithfulness with promises of redemption.
- **The Messianic Hope:** The prophetic vision of an ideal king who will establish justice and peace.
- **God's Sovereignty:** Emphasizing God's control over nations and history.
- **Social Justice:** Calls for care of the poor, widows, and orphans reflect ethical imperatives.

Utilizing a Study Guide for Isaiah: Features and Approaches

When selecting or using a study guide for Isaiah, it is important to assess the features that enhance understanding and engagement. A good study guide typically includes:

Chapter Summaries and Verse-by-Verse Commentary

Detailed summaries help readers grasp the overarching narrative flow, while verse-by-verse commentary provides insight into difficult or ambiguous passages. This dual approach supports both casual readers and advanced students.

Cross-References and Parallel Texts

Isaiah's influence extends beyond the Old Testament, with numerous references in the New Testament and other Jewish writings. Study guides that integrate cross-references enable readers to trace thematic and prophetic connections across biblical literature.

Maps, Timelines, and Historical Notes

Visual aids and historical annotations assist in situating Isaiah's prophecies within real-world events. This contextual grounding is invaluable for academic study and sermon preparation.

Discussion Questions and Application

Interactive elements, such as reflection questions or practical applications, enrich personal or group study. These features encourage critical thinking and spiritual engagement with the text.

Comparing Popular Study Guides for Isaiah

The market offers a range of study guides for Isaiah, each varying in depth, style, and target audience. For instance:

- **Academic Commentaries:** Provide exhaustive historical-critical analysis, ideal for theological students and scholars. They often require prior biblical knowledge.
- **Devotional Guides:** Focus on spiritual insights and practical application, suitable for laypersons and church groups.
- **Hybrid Guides:** Blend scholarly research with accessible language, appealing to a broad audience.

A discerning reader should consider their study goals when choosing a guide—whether to gain scholarly expertise or to deepen personal faith.

Challenges in Studying Isaiah and How a Guide Can Help

Isaiah's text presents several challenges, including its complex structure, archaic language, and culturally distant references. Moreover, the shifting historical contexts within the book can confuse readers trying to follow a linear narrative.

A well-crafted study guide for Isaiah addresses these difficulties by:

- Clarifying ambiguous passages through linguistic and historical analysis.
- Providing background on ancient Near Eastern customs and politics.
- Offering thematic breakdowns to aid in thematic coherence.
- Suggesting supplementary resources for deeper exploration.

This methodological support enables readers to unlock the text's richness without becoming

overwhelmed.

Integrating Isaiah's Message into Modern Contexts

While Isaiah is firmly rooted in ancient history, its messages resonate today. The study guide for Isaiah often includes sections on contemporary application, linking themes of justice, peace, and hope to current social and ethical issues.

For example, Isaiah's emphasis on social justice challenges modern readers to consider systemic inequalities. The prophetic vision of peace invites reflection on conflict resolution and reconciliation efforts in today's world.

By bridging the ancient and modern, study guides make Isaiah's timeless wisdom accessible and relevant.

As readers engage with a study guide for Isaiah, the multifaceted nature of this prophetic book gradually unfolds. From its rich literary artistry to its profound theological insights, Isaiah continues to inspire and challenge across generations. Whether for academic study or personal growth, a reliable guide is indispensable in navigating this monumental scriptural work.

Study Guide For Isaiah

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study guide for isaiah: Making Isaiah Plain Randal S. Chase, 2011-11-30 Making Isaiah Plain is an essential new study guide for the challenging words of the man who Nephi called the Prophet, and whose teachings the Savior commanded us to read. A companion to the study of Isaiah in the Old Testament and in the Book of Mormon, this volume is without question, the most helpful guide to Isaiah available today. Dr. Randal S. Chase, a veteran CES and Institute instructor, provides insights into the culture, language, meaning, and chronology of the writings of Isaiah in a relaxed and understandable style. The stories, quotes, examples, maps and illustrations are unequaled in any other reference guide of its kind in print today. Readers will find themselves gaining insights and understanding from Isaiah that have eluded them before. The cover features the famous 1896 woodcut/painting of Isaiah by Gustave Dore.

study guide for isaiah: Bible Study Guide: Isaiah Volume 1 Andrew J. Lamont-Turner, Step into the fierce brilliance of prophetic fire. This verse-by-verse study of Isaiah chapters 1 to 20 opens the gates to one of Scripture's most powerful, poetic, and politically charged books. With unapologetic clarity and prophetic urgency, Isaiah confronts injustice, exposes hollow religion, and unveils the towering holiness of God. Judah's sins are laid bare, her leaders called to account, and the surrounding nations warned: divine judgment is not theoretical—it's imminent. But judgment is

never the end of the story. In the midst of oracles and woes, flickers of hope burn with fierce promise: a remnant will return. A child will be born. A ruler will come, not with pomp, but with righteousness, wisdom, and peace. Assyria may crush empires, but it is only a tool in the hands of the true King. Egypt and Cush may tempt Judah's trust, but salvation belongs to the Lord alone. This in-depth exposition walks readers line by line through every verse, tracing Isaiah's warnings, imagery, historical setting, and theology. From courtroom indictments to throne room visions, from the collapse of empires to the whisper of "Immanuel," each chapter peels back layers of ancient prophecy with modern relevance. Whether you're a student of Scripture, a preacher of the Word, or a seeker of clarity in a world of confusion, this study roots you in the unshakable reality of God's sovereignty, holiness, and grace.

study guide for isaiah: Isaiah The Navigators, 2019-01-08 Fiery Holiness, Burning Hope With word pictures to spark your imagination, the preeminent prophet Isaiah paints pictures of the holy and composes symphonies of hope. Witness the double-edged dynamic of God's holiness, both burning away sin in the furnaces of His judgment and refining the humble so they are fit for His presence. God the looming judge also sends the Suffering Servant, who takes our sorrows upon Himself. Watch Isaiah bring these seeming contradictions to dramatic resolution in his magnificent masterwork. LifeChange LifeChange Bible studies will help you grow in Christlikeness through a life-changing encounter with God's Word. Filled with a wealth of ideas for going deeper so you can return to this study again and again. Features Cover the entire book of Isaiah in 18 lessons Equip yourself to lead a bible study Imagine the Bible's historical world Study word origins and definitions Explore thoughtful questions on key themes Go deeper with optional projects Find the flexibility to fit the time you have

study guide for isaiah: Isaiah: An Introduction and Study Guide C.L. Crouch, Christopher B. Hays, 2022-07-28 C. L. Crouch and Christopher B. Hays introduce the Book of Isaiah in its diverse historical contexts, tracing its origins and development over several centuries: beginning with the career of the prophet Isaiah ben Amoz in eighth century Jerusalem, continuing with a late seventh century edition and the further revisions made in the late sixth century, and concluding with final shaping during the Persian Period. At each stage Crouch and Hays pay close attention to the historical, cultural, and theological conversations that influenced the book's aims and interests. Crouch and Hays discuss the theological and literary continuities among the book's contributors, as well as where language and concerns differed from generation to generation. They also consider the reception history of Isaiah and what the text has meant to people through history. With suggestions of further reading at the end of each chapter, this guide will be an essential accompaniment to study of the Book of Isaiah.

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study guide for isaiah: Old Testament Study Guide, Pt. 2 Randal S. Chase, 2010-12-01 Old Testament Study Guide, Pt. 2: Deuteronomy to Solomon. This volume is the second of three on the Old Testament. It covers the Bible from the Book of Deuteronomy to the reign of King Solomon. We read Moses' counsel to his people during the final days before his translation. We follow the children of Israel into the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua, beginning at Jericho and ending with the total conquering of all the lands promised to Abraham. We are introduced to the Judge-Heroes, including but not limited to Gideon, Deborah, and Samson. We read of the rise of the prophet Samuel and reigns of Saul, David, and Solomon. We thrill at the faith and gifts of David and mourn over his fall from grace. We are inspired by the wisdom of Solomon and the beauty of the House of Lord He built at Jerusalem, but are saddened by his idolatry in his old age. Along the way, we become familiar with the ministries and teachings of Elijah, and Elisha, and the courage and faith of Job. The cover features an extremely rare photograph of the rock (es-Sakhara) inside the Dome of the Rock, which at one time stood inside the Holy of Holies of Solomon's temple.

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study guide for isaiah: Old Testament Study Guide, Pt. 3 Randal S. Chase, 2010-12-01 Old Testament Study Guide, Pt. 3: The Old Testament Prophets. This volume is the third of three on the Old Testament. This volume is an unusually large volume that includes nearly all of the Old Testament prophets, their teachings and warnings to their people, and their prophecies of the coming of the Messiah and the latter days. It covers the period of the Bible from the end of King Solomon's reign through the end of the Old Testament, including the ministries of Jonah, Micah, Hosea, Amos, Joel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Haggai, Nehemiah, Zechariah, and Malachi (Elijah and Elisha were covered in Volume 8). We are taken from 826 BC to 430 BC, when the Old Testament closes. Then finally, we read of the Intertestamental Period between the ministry of Malachi and the rise of John the Baptist to open the New Testament. The cover features a classic painting of Daniel in the lion's den, painted by Riviere in 1890.

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study guide for isaiah: Book of Mormon Seminary Home-Study Guide The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2013-10-22 The home-study seminary program is designed to help you strengthen your understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ and apply its teachings in your daily life through a study of the scriptures. For your study this school year, you will first complete reading assignments from the scripture text for this course—the Book of Mormon—and then you will complete the individual lessons. Once a week you will meet with a seminary teacher to submit your work and participate in a weekly lesson. Seminary is a daily religious education program. Prayerfully studying your scriptures should be a daily practice. You will need to work on your seminary assignments each school day, even though you will not attend a seminary class each day. There are 32 units to be completed during the course. The reading chart on page viii shows what you should study for each unit. Your teacher will help you understand when each unit is due. The lessons in this

study guide should each take about 30 minutes to complete, in addition to your daily scripture study. You should have two scripture study journals (or two notebooks), separate from your personal journal, in which you will write the assignments from the study guide activities. Each week that you meet with your teacher, you should turn in the scripture study journal containing the completed assignments from the study guide activities you completed for that week. Your teacher will read and respond to the assignments and return that scripture study journal to you the following week. You could also write your responses on paper in a loose-leaf binder and turn in the pages you did that week. Then, when your teacher returns the pages, you could put them back into the notebook.

study guide for isaiah: *Arise and Shine* Allyson Golden, 2024-02-20 An empowering, encouraging message to be a light for Christ amid the darkness and pain in this world, by the inspirational Instagram writer of Words Are Golden. “The practical guide you need to stop questioning your purpose and instead give the gift God has graciously placed within you.”—Ashley Morgan Jackson, bestselling author of *Tired of Trying* When the darkness of the world feels overwhelming, we wonder, Where can I find light? And even more, How can I be the light? Pediatric nurse Allyson Golden faces the hardest realities of life—and death—every day. She longed to be a light for Christ in every patient’s room, but she didn’t know what that looked like when she could hardly find that light herself. As Allyson immersed herself in Scripture, she began to understand the transformative truth that we have no power to shine on our own, but the Light of the World shines through us—and no darkness can overcome it. In *Arise and Shine*, Allyson explores our deepest questions: • Can Jesus shine through me even when I doubt His presence? • Does shining God’s light mean being cheerful all the time? • How can I hold on to God’s light—and is that even a thing? • Why is it so hard to give my burdens to God? • Is the darkness ever going to go away? With practical action steps at the end of every chapter, *Arise and Shine* helps you renew your mind, recharge your spirit, and take a positive step forward, because nothing can dim the light inside of you.

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study guide for isaiah: *Isaiah Study Guide* Nellie E. Constance, Tom M Constance, 1988-01-01

study guide for isaiah: *A Brief Survey of the Bible Study Guide* Zondervan,, 2015-12-01 The Bible is the inspired Word of God, and over the centuries it has changed people’s lives and led them to God. Yet sometimes it can be a difficult book to understand. The culture in which the Bible was written is so different from our own that at times we struggle to understand what it means or how it is relevant to our modern lives. In this 14-session video Bible study (DVD/digital sold separately), Bible professors John Walton and Mark Strauss give you the background you need to successfully understand even the difficult parts of the Word of God. They provide an overview of the Bible’s key themes, show what the teachings meant to the people at the time, and explain how those teachings apply to your life today. By the end, you will have a greater understanding of Scripture, know how all the books work together, and understand what God has done to make a way for you to come to him. This study guide includes: Group discussion questions and notes to help you get the most out of the fourteen video sessions in *A Brief Study of the Bible Video Study* An overview of each book of the Bible and a daily reading plan Between-sessions Scripture passages, reading tips, and key stories to help you dig into the content Additional facts to help you understand the situations behind the story Sessions include: Introduction Genesis—Exodus Leviticus—Deuteronomy Joshua—1 Samuel 2 Samuel—2 Kings 1 Chronicles—Nehemiah Esther—Psalm 90 Psalm 91—Song of Songs Isaiah—Lamentations Ezekiel—Malachi Matthew Mark—Acts 8 Acts 9—Philemon Hebrews—Revelation Designed for use with *A Brief Survey of the Bible Video Study* (sold separately).

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study guide for isaiah: Reading the Bible Study Guide William C. Creasy, 2025-08-12

Following the structure of Reading the Bible, this corresponding study guide offers assessment questions, exercises, and visuals designed to support deep learning experiences in each book of the Bible by unveiling its rich literary genres and ancient Near Eastern origins. Recognized as among the top two percent of educators in the U.S., Creasy challenges the notion that the Bible is simply an anthology, instead revealing it as a collection of 'little books' that warrant meticulous exploration. The Reading the Bible Study Guide includes: Maps to help understand the land of the Bible better Questions about the narrative features of each biblical book Summaries of the chapters from the main book Discussion questions to facilitate group engagement in classroom, church, or small group settings With the aim of nurturing knowledgeable readers of Scripture who can both comprehend and apply its teachings within their own life, this study guide serves as an indispensable guide for those seeking a profound understanding of the world's most influential text. For use with Reading the Bible by Dr. Bill Creasy. Together, the book and study guide make a perfect combination for group Bible study programs in churches, schools, and seminaries!

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2025-07-24 This study guide offers an authoritative overview of the current scholarship on Exodus. Introducing the significance of Exodus within the Pentateuch and the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible it addresses major critical issues around content, archaeology and historicity. Mark W. Scarlata addresses various theological approaches to Exodus in the light of recent scholarship, with suggestions for further reading. His analysis also gives particular attention to the central role of Moses within the book and his theological import in the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible. With suggestions of further reading at the end of each chapter, this guide will be an essential accompaniment to study of the Book of Exodus.

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