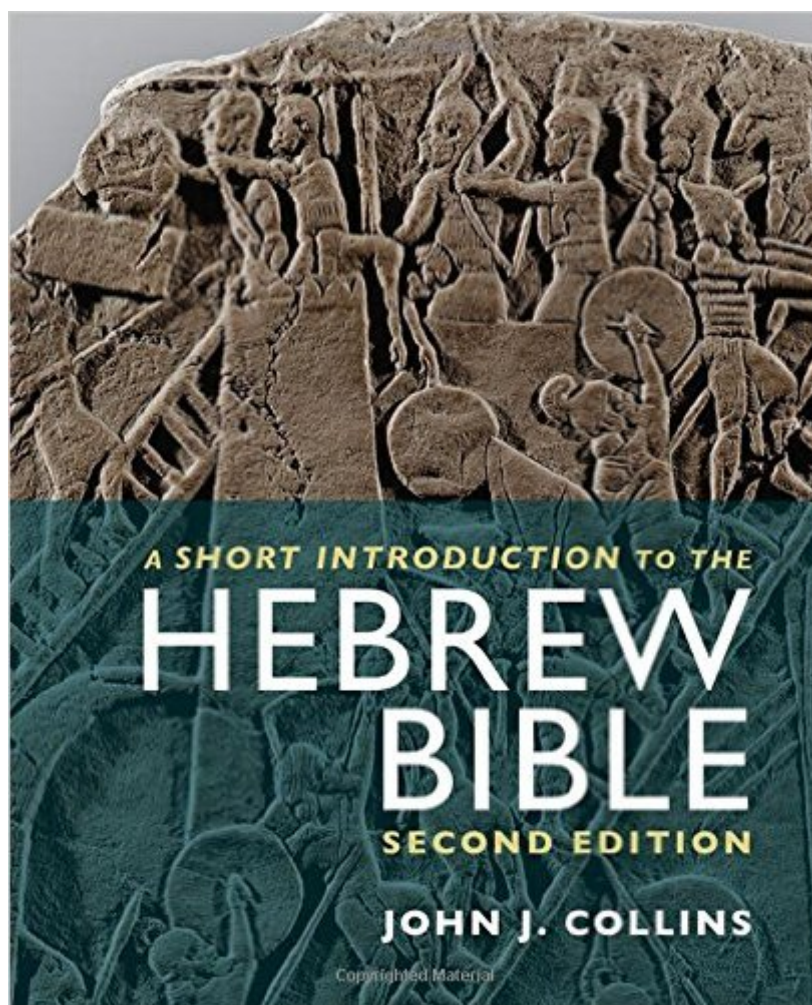


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# A Short Introduction To The Hebrew Bible: Second Edition



## Synopsis

A marvel of conciseness, John J. Collins' *A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible* is quickly becoming one of the most popular introductory textbooks in colleges and university classrooms. Here the erudition of Collins' renowned *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible* is combined with even more student-friendly features, including charts, maps, photographs, chapter summaries, illuminating vignettes, and bibliographies for further reading. The second edition has been carefully revised to take the latest scholarly developments into account. A dedicated website includes test banks and classroom resources for the busy instructor.

## Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Fortress Press; 2 edition (July 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1451472943

ISBN-13: 978-1451472943

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 7.4 x 0.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #28,970 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Criticism & Interpretation > Old Testament](#) #58 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Bible Study > Old Testament](#) #75 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Old Testament](#)

## Customer Reviews

I'd like to thank the folks at Fortress Press for providing a digital review copy of this volume. This 2nd addition has been updated and improved with respect to the first volume. As, Dr. Collins mentions in the preface, the bibliography is updated with only minor changes to the text. He also updated his analysis regarding the flood in chapter 2. Like the first volume, this is built with the student in mind considering the general overview of subject material. There are no footnotes in this body of work which the author explains why, however there is a list after each chapter for the student to pursue. The book is divided into 4 sections, Part One: The Torah/Pentateuch, Part Two: The Deuteronomistic History, Part Three: Prophecy, Part Four: The Writings. Part One has 8 chapters starting with the Ancient Near East providing a sweeping overview of its history. Progressing to the nature of the Pentateuch Narrative, Primeval History, The Patriarchs, The Exodus, Sinai, Priestly

Theology and Deuteronomy. Part Two consists of 6 chapters covering Joshua, Judges, 1&2 Samuel and 1&2 Kings traditionally known as the Former Prophets. Broad strokes of its history continue in this section of the book, including how key parts of this history is marked by speeches from Joshua, Samuel, Solomon. Then explains how this history was put together through the remaining 5 chapters. Part Three, chapters 15-20, covers all the Prophets both Major & Minor. Dr. Collins starts this section with the Ancient Near East prophetic material as a back drop to provide the student with context material regarding prophecy. Then provides the background of prophecy through Israel and its historical context including mentioning the prophetic book being edited with later situations in mind. Dr. Collins then explains this reasoning through modern scholarship. From this point on, he provides the student with details and time frames of the Prophets and the covenants involved. Part Four, Chapters 21-29, are the Writings, which is explained as a catchall category. Dr. Collins also explains there are different orders of the books and provides the reader with a brief history as to how this came to be, including the differences of the Hebrew, Catholic, Protestant Greek Bibles. I do need to mention the differences that make up the above Bibles are discussed in more detail in the beginning of the book. Overall, I found this Short Introduction to be well worth its cost.

Well written, comprehensive, plenty of references to allow those interested (or confused!) to read further. My only negative comment is that it is very much condensed, and my ignorance of Middle Eastern history has made it difficult to appreciate some of the parallels drawn. The biblical analysis is very interesting and enjoyable to read.

Have just finished Mentoring a 9 mos. EfM study of the Old Testament using the Bible and Collins short introduction. It was a great accompaniment to understanding the O.T., its audience and message. Far too frequently, still, people tend to focus on the translated words rather than their meanings and Collins does a fine job in his explanations. So said, if one approaches the Bible with an inerrant or literal view this is not a book for your study. If; however, one can examine and consider the scripture's greater message, in context, Collins offers much edification. Am aware, though I've not read, Collins' unabridged edition and would suppose its depth is much greater than this introduction, but there's plenty here for those yet unschooled in Old Testament scholarship.

This is the book we use in EfM training and it is clear and concise, with information that is understandable, even for the lay person. It is a real help in teaching the Old Testament.

A great resource for those wanting ongoing Old Testament studies from a modern point of view.

I just finished using this book for a Hebrew Bible class and was very disappointed. It is a well written book but the author seems to focus more on disproving the Old Testament than explaining it. I brought this to the attention of my professor and his explanation was that this class is taught at a public institution so that is what's required.

easy to read, concise. really is a beneficial history but for all extensive purposes this is a text book. so with that, there is no index, which is just lazy. This isn't a piece of literature to just go through, this is to be used as a resource, a guide...and with no index, it becomes useless during a situation when you're desperate to find information. also the "glossary" is just simply a poor attempt at a glossary...again, seems lazy. I'm surprised this is a "second edition" as it seems like Collins and his editors finished the subject matter of the book and just said..."yea that'll do" hopefully the third edition includes an at-length index and a glossary worth checking.

Solid foundation for newcomers to the Hebrew Scriptures.

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