

Samareitikon as Exemplified in Anonymous Readings in Leviticus Attested in M<sup>r</sup>. There are no indexes and no list of contributors with miniature biographies. Nonetheless, L. has provided scholars of the Samaritan Pentateuch with an invaluable tool for research and scholarly consideration. Each contribution is definitive in the sense of defining the issues and clearly addressing them; but each essay also leaves questions open which certainly need to be addressed in future work. As such, then, they look both to the present as accomplished research and to the future as research needing to be done. Readers will benefit from this volume and should certainly take advantage of the opportunity.

JIM WEST

NIGGEMANN, ANDREW J., *Martin Luther's Hebrew in Mid-Career: The Minor Prophets Translation* (Spätmittelalter, Humanismus, Reformation, 108; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2019), pp. xiv + 411. €129.00 (hardback or e-book). ISBN 978-3-16-157001-8 (hardback), 978-3-16-157002-5 (e-book).

This careful study fills a very significant gap in our understanding of the most famed of (early) modern translators. Previous work focused upon Luther's Psalm translations, yielding information about his early efforts in interpreting and translating biblical Hebrew. N. adds a thorough study of Luther's Minor Prophets, comparing work first published in 1532 (Luther's first German translation of these texts) with later editions, and with his lectures and commentaries. The choice of case study is well made, since it also enables N. to explore the connect—or, more accurately, disconnect—between what Luther claims as interpretative principles (as, e.g., in the 1530 letter 'On translation') and his actual practice. Across four central chapters, Luther is exposed as inconsistent in his approach to Hebrew obscurities, attentive to the affect of his lexicon (seeking the 'highest emotional punch', p. 111), rich in his application of inner-biblical exegesis, and creative in his use of mysticism as a hermeneutical tool. Throughout, N. gives special attention to Luther's concept of *Anfechtung*, illuminating the semantic field around this difficult concept in Hebrew, Latin and German. This is doctoral research of an exceptionally high quality. Much of the detailed data collected and analysed is provided in tabulated form as an appendix to the main text (118 pp.), so that others may scrutinize and build upon N.'s approach. There are also multiple indexes, covering different languages, topics and ancient texts.

IONA C. HINE

OFER, YOSEF, *The Masora on Scripture and its Methods* (trans. Michael Glatzer; *Fontes et Subsidia ad Bibliam pertinentes*, 7; Berlin: De Gruyter, 2019), pp. xii + 286. £118.00 (hardback or e-book), £18.00 (paperback). ISBN 978-3-11-059574-1 (hardback), 978-3-11-073667-0 (paperback), 978-3-11-059348-8 (e-book).

Both experts on the Masorah and neophytes to the topic will wish to read this excellent book by one of the world's leading authorities. The intent is not to replace the invaluable work by Israel Yeivin (O.'s mentor), *Introduction to the Tiberian Masorah*, trans. E.J. Revell (1980) (Heb. original 1972/2003), but rather to supplement that work and to provide further guidance in the often arcane subject of Masoretica. O.'s book covers every topic imaginable, as treated by the Masorah: orthography, accent marks, vocalisation signs, open and closed paragraphs, layout of poetic sections, Ketiv and Qeri,

the interconnectedness of Masorah Parva and Masorah Magna, and more. Pride of place is given to the Aleppo Codex, no surprise given the author's decades-long research into this most important manuscript, though naturally the St Petersburg (Leningrad) Codex and other early codices also are referenced throughout. In addition, O. devotes one chapter to the Babylonian Masorah. Moreover, there are chapters on topics such as Masorah and Hebrew grammar, Masorah and biblical exegesis, and Masorah and Halakha. Most importantly, since so much of O.'s scholarship, along with that of other Israeli scholars such as M. Breuer, M. Cohen, A. Dotan, J. Penkower, and the aforementioned I. Yeivin, has appeared only in Hebrew during the past half-century, the appearance of this book in English will be a boon to scholars worldwide. Best of all, O.'s easy style makes for pleasurable reading as he conducts the student through the wonderful world of the often inscrutable Masorah. Scores of images from biblical manuscripts enhance the volume. Finally, note the very affordable paperback version of this book.

GARY A. RENDSBURG

PENNER, KEN M., *Isaiah* (Septuagint Commentary Series; Leiden: Brill, 2020), pp. viii + 722. €199.00/\$239.00 (hardback or e-book). ISBN 978-90-04-42677-1 (hardback), 978-90-04-42723-5 (e-book).

Half of this large volume is devoted to reproducing the text of Isaiah in the Codex Sinaiticus with an apparatus that draws attention to variants in other major manuscripts and editions, with a facing translation documenting patristic citations (a useful feature). The introduction argues forcefully against any form of contemporization by the translator and also explains that the commentary is on the Greek text and its early reception, not on its role in the textual criticism of the HB. The commentary itself gives close attention to Greek grammar and syntax and mostly lives up to its stated aim. It also raises some difficulties, however. For instance, at 9.10 [Heb. 9], 10.9, and probably 11.11, there are clear references to the story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11 (not derived from the Hebrew text), but remarkably not a word is said about them in the commentary. Equally, P. cannot always be relied on when he passes comment on the relation between the Greek and the Hebrew. The first letter of *ba'al* in 1.3, for instance, is not the Hebrew preposition *beth!* (His comment may be referring to a word in the previous verse.) And in 1.1 the words 'which he saw' certainly have a counterpart in the MT; what is odd is that the clause is repeated in the LXX. It is clear from these sorts of example that readers will need to check very carefully when they use this commentary if they are not to be sometimes seriously misled.

H.G.M. WILLIAMSON

SHEPHERD, DAVID, JAN JOOSTEN, and MICHAËL N. VAN DER MEER (eds.), *Septuagint, Targum and Beyond: Comparing Aramaic and Greek Versions from Jewish Antiquity* (JSJSup, 193; Leiden: Brill, 2020), pp. viii + 356. €116.00 (hardback or e-book). ISBN 978-90-04-41671-0 (hardback), 978-90-04-41672-7 (e-book).

A collection of essays, most of which were delivered at a joint session of the International Organization for Targumic Studies and the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies in association with the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament at Stellenbosch in September 2016, with the aim of revisiting the