

# Contents

Acknowledgements	vii
How to Use this Book	ix
Introduction	xi
1 Why Read the Old Testament ?	1
2 Why Did the Writers Write?	13
3 Are the Books in the Right Order?	27
4 What Really Happened: How Do We Know, and Does It Really Matter?	41
5 What is the Old Testament About?	55
6 In the Beginning	69
7 Terrorists or Visionaries? The Contribution of D	83
8 Wholeness and Holiness: The P Traditions	97
9 Introducing the Prophets	109
10 Even the Good Times are Bad	120
11 A Time for Reflection	131
12 Beyond Blame	141
13 First Things Last	151
14 God of History	163
15 I'm a Righteous Man – Get Me Out of Here!	175
16 Israel: The Musical	187
17 Those Were the Days!	199

---

18 Five Scrolls and a Prophet	211
19 Work in Progress	222
References	227
Index of Bible References	233