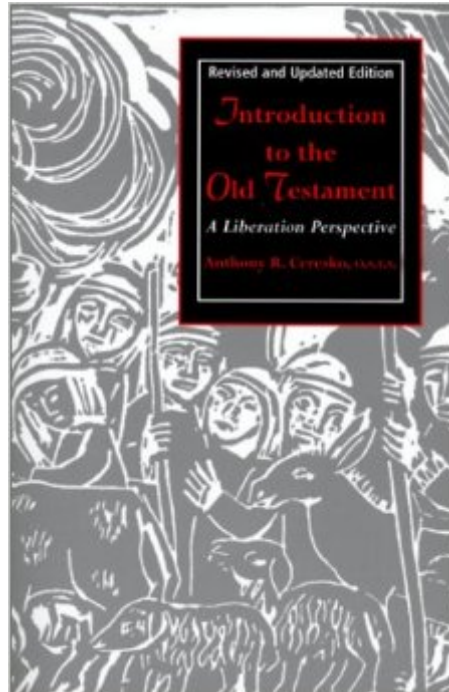


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# Introduction To The Old Testament: A Liberation Perspective



## Synopsis

Applying Norman Gottwald's thesis on Israel's origins, Cereski argues that Israel was formed through a process of social revolution, inspired by the memory of runaway slaves and their worship of a God whose cult mandated radical social equality and justice.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Don't let Ceresko's title scare you off. He does apply a Liberation Theology perspective to the Old Testament, but the scholarship is first rate and main stream. It is a well-rounded and user-friendly help in understanding the Hebrew Bible. Each chapter pretty much stands on its own so you can start anywhere you wish, e.g., the Psalms. This was the most helpful text for my seminary class on the Old Testament.

I really enjoyed reading Anthony Ceresko's book. It was comprehensive in scope with brief summations of the entire text, highlighting important verses. My only reservation is that Liberation was mentioned in the intro and the conclusion, but was not a dominant theme throughout the body of the work. I have found Dr. Jose P. Miranda's books, "Marx and the Bible" and "Being and the Messiah" to focus exclusively on the liberation theme of justice. Ceresko's book is mainly an academic treatment of the OT, presenting the scholarly views of the text and discoveries in archaeology that contribute to the context of the OT, but not focusing on the theme of liberation or social justice as prominently as Miranda. Overall, I did enjoy reading an academic treatment of the

text and the author provided much commentary and analysis instead of just summarizing the OT as Sweeney does in his intro.

Studying the OT can be very difficult if you do not have a good guide. Biblical commentaries are also very book-centric and cannot give you the overall setting and historical justification! So, this book rocks! I just love Ceresko's approach to social justice and I am a very conservative person. He explores the fact that the early Israelites were nomads. Struggling to find land and leadership of their own. He gives the reader a very good, easy to understand view of times before, during and post-exilic (after Babylonian exile). Great overview of the prophets. The content is accurate and backed up with facts and references. The reading level is between high school and college, but not too difficult. worth it! give it a try!

It is well-written, easy to follow, and gives a concise view of the Old Testament. I think it is good for beginners, but there would have to be more research to find a balance (it shouldn't be the end all, be all) on Old Testament views. It is; however, a great book to have in your library if you are a student (and believer) of the Bible.

This book is very well written and interesting. While I must confess I have not finished it yet, what I have read has already helped to explain what at first glance appeared to be inconsistencies in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Textbook for a class on the OT. I have heard some of the ideas before, but the treatment here is systematic and puts ideas in perspective. I've skimmed the chapters on the Pentateuch and history, but not the wisdom books and prophets. I'm looking forward to the class.

It is difficult to find a reasonably priced, scholarly yet easily readable OT Intro text. I had been using the Boadt *READING THE OLD TESTAMENT*, which I enjoyed, when our professor recommended Ceresko's book as a good and more recent alternative. If a person were to study both of these texts, paying attention to the bibliographies, one would be well served.

I am so pleased with this purchase. It was right on time for my classes and has proved its weight many times over. I have shared the text with others and encouraged them to purchase their own copy for their own personal library and future references from .com. I cannot imagine anyone

ignoring the opportunity to purchase their own text books at great prices!!!

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