

## FOREWORD

This is the second volume of collected essays from Walter Brueggemann originally written for Festschriften; the first was *The Role of Old Testament Theology in Old Testament Interpretation: And Other Essays* (Cascade Books, 2015). These essays demonstrate his discerning analyses of biblical texts. But more than that, they articulate the depth his theological insight, as well as his social analysis.

In his Preface, Brueggemann notes that these essays highlight his enduring interest in the books of Jeremiah and Psalms. I would also point out that a recurring theme here is God's created order. This focus has long been a major theme of Brueggemann's work. His volume *The Land: Place as Gift, Promise, and Challenge in Biblical Faith* (Fortress, 1st ed., 1977; 2nd ed. 2002) was a breakthrough volume for the theological reading of the Old Testament and was the lead volume in the series *Overtures to Biblical Theology* (for which he was one of the editors). And he has continued to participate in the conversation of how our reading of the Old Testament is a powerful resource for understanding our sense of place, rootedness, and connectedness to the land.

What these essays provide me is a reminder of the imaginative potentialities within the ancient texts. I find new dimensions, new dynamics, new possibilities after reading Brueggemann's essays on texts that I have repeatedly read, translated, studied, and written on. It humbles me, but also energizes me.

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