

Foreword

THE ESSAYS IN THIS VOLUME comprise the first of three volumes of Walter Brueggemann's contributions to *Festschriften*. These hidden gems are an important component to his oeuvre because they allow the reader to see him take on very brief passages (chapters 7 and 8), longer passages (chapters 3 and 5), biblical themes (chapters 2, 4, 6), as well as methodological issues (see chapters 1 and 9)—all at the highest level.

What continually intrigues me in reading Brueggemann's books, articles, and essays are not only his detailed analyses and clarity of writing, but also his broad interests and his ability to cut through all the distractions to the meat of the matter. My experience of reading Brueggemann is that I am always getting a fresh take—an angle of vision that challenges, broadens, and provokes me. One will find an excellent entry-point into his approach to exegesis in his *A Pathway of Interpretation*.¹ Furthermore, I recommend Davis Hankins's essay that provides a provocative analysis of Brueggemann's work in relation to contemporary philosophers and theorists.²

As one reads these essays one is acutely aware that all of these essays are interconnected with Brueggemann's Old Testament theology both leading up to it and flowing out of it.³ Perhaps my biggest professional disappointment is that I began as biblical studies editor at Fortress Press a few months too late to edit that volume.

1. Brueggemann, *A Pathway of Interpretation: The Old Testament for Pastors and Students* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2008).

2. Hankins, "Introduction," in Brueggemann, *Ice Axes for Frozen Seas: A Biblical Theology of Provocation*, edited by Davis Hankins (Waco: Baylor University Press, 2014), 1–18.

3. Brueggemann, *Theology of the Old Testament: Testimony, Dispute, Advocacy* (Minnesota: Fortress, 1997).