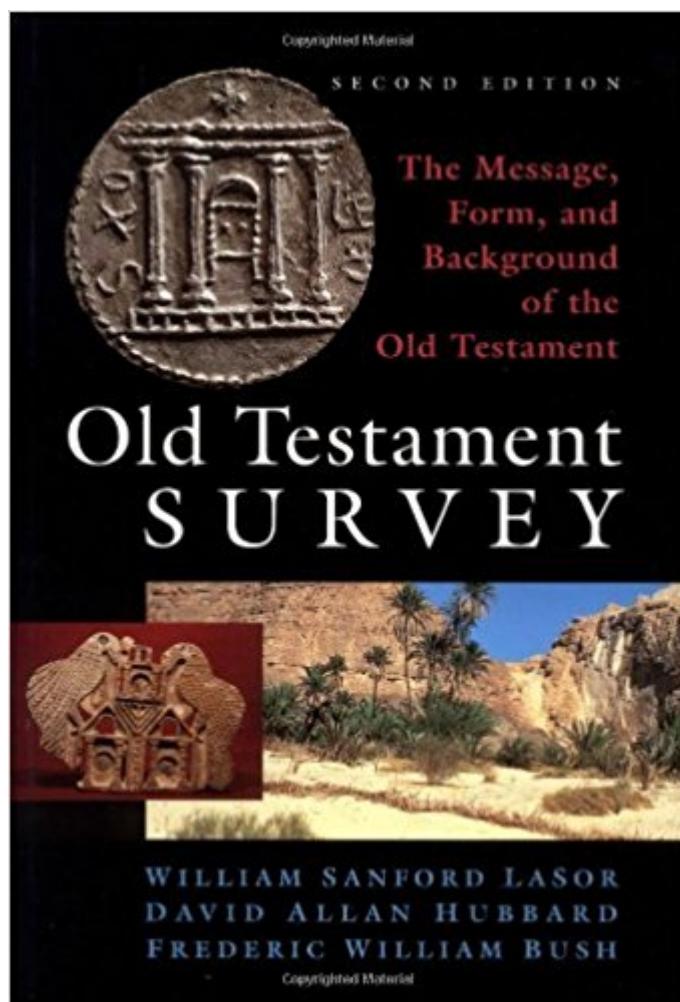


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# Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form, And Background Of The Old Testament



## **Synopsis**

This standard textbook on the background, content, and message of the Old Testament is now thoroughly revised and updated and takes full account of new research in the field of Old Testament studies. This second edition features a new chapter on archaeology and the Old Testament by Robert E. Cooley, and other key chapters have been updated and expanded by leading scholars in the field of biblical studies—Leslie C. Allen, John E. Hartley, Robert L. Hubbard Jr., William B. Nelson Jr., Nancy Heidebrecht, and John E. McKenna.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Since its publication in 1982, *Old Testament Survey* has served as the standard textbook on the background, content, literary quality, and message of the Old Testament. The second edition of this excellent work has been thoroughly revised and updated to take into account new research in the field of Old Testament studies. The book now also includes important new contributions from six leading biblical studies scholars: Leslie C. Allen, James R. Battenfield, John E. Hartley, Robert L. Hubbard Jr., John E. McKenna, and William B. Nelson Jr. Reflecting the best of evangelical scholarship, *Old Testament Survey* provides a comprehensive study of the nature and contents of each of the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and also considers the historical data and theological themes relevant to the Hebrew Scriptures. Part 1 covers the five books of the Pentateuch. Part 2 studies the books of the Prophets, with special consideration given to the birth and history of Israel's monarchy, the role of prophets and prophecy, and the nature of Hebrew

poetry. Part 3 examines the Writings, including a special study of wisdom literature in general. Part 4, which has been relocated from the front of the book to the back, contains studies of various background themes necessary for understanding the Old Testament: "The Authority of the Old Testament for Christians", "Revelation and Inspiration", "The Concept of Canon", "Formation of the Old Testament", "Geography", "The Chronological Puzzle", "Archaeology", and "Messianic Prophecy". All of the revisions and enhancements undertaken in this volume will make Old Testament Survey even more serviceable for college and seminary use as well as for study by scholars, pastors, and interested lay readers.

William Sanford LaSor(1911-1991) was the professor emeritus of Old Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. David Allan Hubbard (1928-1996) was president emeritus and professor emeritus of Old Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. Frederic William Bush is Senior Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Studies at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California.

I used this as a textbook for a seminary Old Testament class. I was surprised almost immediately at the non-dogmatic nature of it, and by some of the statements in it that would put many emotional conservative Christians up in arms. The authors are objective, although it is clear at the same time that they do believe the Bible. All three of the original authors went to Fuller Theological Seminary, and each of them read and approved each of the chapters that the others wrote (which I researched because of several surprisingly controversial statements--surprising for most conservative evangelicals--regarding issues, especially the inerrancy of the Bible). The couple other reviews I read are right: it looks like the authors take some Old Testament books to be allegorical rather than historical, and they present very good evidence for doing so; although as other reviewers also said, this is not stated explicitly. I would give the book 4.5 stars if possible. It's a keeper.

This is a great textbook that provides the historical and theological overviews of each book of the Bible. However, it's one strength is also the weakness in that each book is treated in short treatises concerning theological themes, historical issues, arguments for/against authorship and dating, as well as contemporary writings. Overall, a great beginning resource (especially for those in their first/second year of undergraduate work), but don't expect too much from this resource. The conservative stance in this book is handled nicely without belittling those of critical stances, and the value from this book comes in the sheer simplicity in which it breaks each book down into key

sections/themes/theological stances.

First of all, remember that this book is presented as a survey, not a theology. As such, don't expect it to come out with all guns blazing, standing up for any particular theological perspective. It is a useful introductory-level text for students starting out in OT study. It is not a devotional work. It will help inform the student of many of the live issues in OT scholarship, and point them in some useful directions for further investigation. The Kindle edition is reasonable but not great. The contents are fully indexed, including chapter sections, which is great. Diagrams, charts and tables have been scanned from a print copy and inserted clumsily and crookedly. I had trouble viewing them on my old DX so I imagine any of the standard size Kindles would be even more problematic. I resorted to viewing diagrams on my PC instead. There is also the usual fashionable plethora of somewhat vaguely relevant photographs of archaeological objects scattered throughout that really just break up the text. Maps are often inserted sideways for some reason. However these problems don't make the book unreadable as in many worse Kindle editions. I would recommend the book to a college level student.

There's a lot of information in this book. As I read through it, I struggled for many reasons. I often felt like it was not well-organized, it was wordy so much so that I had to reread paragraphs or sentences multiple times to figure out what was being said, and even then I didn't always figure it out. Often, theological words were used that I had no idea the meaning of and had to look up online. It seems like this book was written for a more advanced scholar than for an average reader.

Great in-depth look at the structure, background, and theological meaning of the OT! If you're a student OR just looking for an Old Testament background for your sermon prep, this is a great resource!

I needed this textbook for school. It is very enlightening as to the origins of the books of the Old Testament, history of the near Far East; just a very good first book for someone wanting to go deeper in their study of the bible.

I am a seminary student. I adored this book, one of the best I've read in school (and I'm graduating this semester, lord willing). This book has an excellent balance of historical, theological, and other information. It's very comprehensive, well written, and highly accessible without sacrificing depth.

and quality. I recommend it even to "casual" readers who aren't in seminary.

Has a strong historical presentation, versus theological. I was hoping for more relating of the Old Testament to the New

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