

Review by George Nicol, *JSOT* 43 (2019) 141-42.

MOORE, MICHAEL S., *What Is this Babbling Trying to Say? Essays on Biblical Interpretation* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2016), pp. xix + 348. \$42.00. ISBN 978-1-4982-0852-9.

This collection brings together 17 of M.'s previously published essays spanning the years 1983 to 2004. Now revised and updated, they are arranged in three parts: 'Torah', 'Prophecy and Apocalyptic', and 'Wisdom and Other Writings'. The first part comprises 'Another Look at Balaam', 'Balaam the "Prophet"?' and 'Role Preemption in the Israelite Priesthood'; the second has 'Yahweh's Day'; 'Jeremiah's Progressive Paradox'; 'Jeremiah's Identity Crisis'; 'The Laments in Jeremiah and 1QH: Mapping the Metaphorical Trajectories'; 'Jehu's Coronation and Purge of Israel'; 'Big Dreams and Broken Promises: Solomon's Treaty with Hiram'; 'Searching in Sheba: The Desire for "Biblical Literacy"'; and 'Resurrection and Immortality: Two Motifs Navigating Confluent Theological Streams in Daniel 12:1-4'. The third contains 'Ruth the Moabite and the Blessing of Foreigners'; 'To King or Not to King: A Canonical-Historical Approach to Ruth'; 'Job's Texts of Terror'; 'Human Suffering in Lamentations'; 'Bathsheba's Silence'; and "'Wise Women" or "Woman Wisdom?": A Biblical Study of Gender Roles'. There is a lengthy bibliography, and author, subject and textual indexes. The collection showcases the breadth of the author's interests and the facility with which he applies the tools of his trade to the tasks he undertakes. Many of the footnotes refer to books and articles that have appeared since the original publication of these articles, which indicates that M. has maintained an interest in matters he has addressed at various stages of his career and has now sought to bring such matters up to date.

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