CONTENTS

Preface xi

PART I
Prophetic Responses to the Struggles of God's People

Chapter 1: Prophecy in Ancient West Asia 3

1. Terminology 3
2. The Phenomena of Prophecy Outside Israel 4
   2.1. Biblical Sources 4
   2.2. Outside Biblical Sources 5
3. Comparison of Ancient Israelite Prophecy with that of Ancient West Asia 7

Chapter 2: Origin of Prophecy in Ancient Israel 9

1. Introduction 9
2. Scholars' Views 10
3. Biblical Tradition 10
4. Evaluation 11

Chapter 3: Non-Literary Prophets (The Former Prophets) 13

1. Introduction 13
2. Prophetic Guilds 13
3. Individual/Court Prophets 14
4. Individual Prophets 15
5. Nature and Characteristics of Early Prophecy in Ancient Israel 18
6. Lifestyle of Early Prophets 19
7. Popular Attitude Towards Ecstatic Prophecy 20

Chapter 4: Classical / The Writing Prophets 22

1. Introduction 22

2. Conditions of Israel the 8th Century BCE 23
2.1. Political Condition 23
2.2. Socio – Economic Condition 23
2.3. Religious Condition 24
3. Prophets of the 8th Century BCE 25

Chapter 5: Prophetic Call and Inspiration 29

1. The Call 29
2. Prophetic Inspiration 31
3. Prophetic Ways of Communication 31
4. Forms of Prophetic Speech 33

Chapter 6: Role of Prophets in Ancient Israel 36

1. In Political Life 36
2. In Religious Life (Worship) 38
3. Failure of Worship 39
4. Prophetic Attitudes Towards the Worship and Its Practices 41
4.1. Amos' Attitude Towards Worship 41
4.2. Hosea's Attitude Towards Worship 42
4.3. Micah's Attitude Towards Worship 44
4.4. Isaiah's Attitude Towards Worship 44
4.5. Jeremiah's Attitude Towards the Cult 45
5. Conclusion 47

Chapter 7: The 7th Century BCE Prophets 49

1. The Events at the End of the 7th Century BCE 49
2. Prophets of the 7th Century BCE Prophets 50
3. Condition of the People of Israel in Exile: People's Response to the Fall of Jerusalem and Exile 52
4. Prophets in the Exilic and Post-Exilic Periods 55
4.1. Ezekiel 55
4.2. Jeremiah 56
4.3. Deutero Isaiah 57
4.4. Haggai 58
4.5. Zechariah 59

Chapter 8: Important Themes in the Message of the Prophets 60
1. Election 60
2. Covenant 61
3. Justice and Righteousness 63
4. Zion Tradition/Zion Theology 65
5. Yahweh, the God of all Nations 67
6. Prophetic Understanding of History 67
7. The Day of Yahweh 69

Chapter 9: Detailed Study of Deutero Isaiah 72
1. Authorship 72
2. Reasons for Separating Chapters 40-55 73
   2.1. Historical Reason 73
   2.2. Literary Reason 73
3. Message of Deutero Isaiah 73
   3.1. The Sovereignty of God 73
   3.2. New Creation 74
   3.3. New Exodus 75
   3.4. Monotheism 77
   3.5. Deutero Isaiah's Attitude Towards Idols 78

Chapter 10: The Servant Songs 80
1. Introduction 80
2. Identity of the Servant 80
3. Mission of the Servant 82

Chapter 11: Exegesis on Selected Texts 83

Bibliography 115