

Acknowledgments

My study of the Old Testament began in a debate with my seminary roommates about an Old Testament Theology class taught by Prof. John H. Sailhamer. A major turning point in my biblical education came when I read his article, “The Messiah and the Hebrew Bible” (*JETS* 44 [2001]: 5–23). Indeed, I often refer to one of its footnotes as “the footnote that changed my life.” It reads:

To say the Pentateuch is about the Messiah is not yet to say it is about Jesus. Those are two separate and equally important questions. We must first ask whether the Pentateuch is about the Messiah and then ask whether Jesus is the Messiah. The Pentateuch (and the rest of the Hebrew Bible) tells us there will be a Messiah. The NT tells us that Jesus is the Messiah spoken of in the Hebrew Bible. It does so by identifying Jesus as the one about whom the Hebrew Bible speaks.

This simple but profound observation about the relationship between the two-testament witness of Scripture to Jesus the Messiah set me on an enduring path of Old Testament study. It is with great fondness that I dedicate this book *in memoriam* to Prof. Sailhamer.

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הודו ליהוה בייטוב כי לעולם חסדו