



The Virtuous Reader (Studies in Theological Interpretation): Old Testament Narrative and Interpretive Virtue

Richard S. Briggs

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"The author invites us to consider those happy and healthy dispositions that Scripture itself elicits from those who would understand it. His learning is comprehensive, engaging not only 'the usual suspects' but also interpreters as varied as Wittgenstein and Mark Twain. Most important, Richard Briggs models the virtues of which he writes."--**C. Clifton Black**, Princeton Theological Seminary

"Briggs combines sophisticated theological hermeneutics with close attention to the biblical text and a probing interaction with the literature of biblical commentary, both ancient and modern. The result is immensely readable--fresh discussions leading to readings of the Old Testament that are both memorable and persuasive."--**Walter Moberly**, Durham University

"A terrific book! Briggs significantly advances the conversations about biblical interpretation and Christian character through his rich exegetical studies and his philosophical and theological insights. This book should be read by biblical scholars, theologians, ethicists, and pastors alike."--**L. Gregory Jones**, Duke University

"Extremely well informed both about hermeneutics and philosophical conceptions of virtue, Briggs aims to show connections between the act of reading and the character of the reader. The Old Testament itself, he argues, not only implicitly projects an ideal virtuous character within its texts but also gives clues to the kinds of virtues expected of the reader. A most welcome addition."--**Gordon McConville**, University of Gloucestershire

"Briggs addresses the important question of what it takes to be a virtuous reader of Scripture. Demonstrating the virtue of 'receptivity,' Briggs develops his answer through close attention to biblical texts and commends as well the virtues of humility, trust, and love. Here is a timely alternative to the dubious virtue of detached objectivity that undermines a true reading of Scripture."--**Murray Rae**, University of Otago, New Zealand

"Briggs has given us ways to think coherently about achieving that trust in Scripture as Word of God that the text itself enjoins, yet without descending into a naiveté that would undermine the 'tough-minded' critical virtues. A contribution of great value."--**David Lyle Jeffrey**, Baylor University

"Here Briggs inaugurates an important new quest: thick descriptions of interpretive virtues derived from concrete engagement with biblical texts. Disputes are likely to break out along his readers' way, but Briggs is a careful, well-informed, and thought-provoking guide for the journey."--**Daniel J. Treier**, Wheaton College

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