

**Marvin A. Sweeney**, *TANAK: A Theological and Critical Introduction to the Jewish Bible*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press ([www.fortresspress.com](http://www.fortresspress.com)), 2012. Pages, xv + 544. Cloth, \$59.00.

Marvin Sweeney is at the cutting edge of Hebrew Bible research, especially on the prophets. He is one of the few Jewish scholars who believes that a Jewish biblical theology is possible; he gives the features of this on pages 3–41. The threefold Hebrew canon is a theological statement that presents the Torah as foundational. The Prophets present God as judging Israel and Judah for failure to achieve the ideal of the Torah while the Writings anticipate the restoration of the ideals of Israel articulated in the Torah. Unlike its Christian counterpart, Jewish biblical theology is not selective but focuses on the entire text of TANAK (Pentateuch/Torah, Prophets/Neviim, Writings/Kethuvim). It is above all dialogical, seeing the differing viewpoints in the Bible as intentional and the Bible itself as beginning an ongoing dialogue, concerning the character of God and humans, that continues in the faith community. Sweeney handles the Torah according to its consecutive themes (pp. 55–167), but the rest of the book by book. This work is for students and pastors.