

**Konrad Schmid**, *The Old Testament: A Literary History*. Translated by Linda M. Maloney. Minneapolis: Fortress Press ([www.fortresspress.com](http://www.fortresspress.com)), 2012. Pages, xiv + 321. Cloth, \$49.00.

Konrad Schmid, professor of Old Testament Studies and Jewish History at the University of Zürich, qualifies his work as “not a new project but newly of interest” (p. 22). It combines aspects of Israelite history, history of Israelite religion, introduction to the Old Testament, and theology of the Old Testament. The texts are discussed within historical epochs (not according to canonical sequence) and according to types of literature, in their linkages (horizontal and vertical), and in their different stages of growth. The Decalogue, for example, is treated (pp. 137–38) under “The Literature of the Babylonian Period.” The perspective is that of the Old Testament as essentially a literary document of the Persian and Hellenistic period (pp. 24, 26), with P as the basis for the Pentateuch, not only in the techniques of redaction but also conceptually (p. 148). This work for scholars, ministers, and students is state of the art. Hopefully, the second edition bibliography will balance the German works with more works/translations in English.