

# Table of Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Acknowledgements .....                                      | 9  |
| Abbreviations.....  | 11 |
| 1. Introduction .....                                       | 19 |
| 1.1 What we talk about when we talk about prophets.....     | 19 |
| 1.1.1 Constructs of prophecy .....                          | 23 |
| 1.1.1.1 Definitions of prophecy .....                       | 24 |
| 1.1.1.2 Divination and prophecy .....                       | 25 |
| 1.1.1.3 Ancient Hebrew prophecy and biblical prophecy ..... | 28 |
| 1.1.2 Prophetic terminology and the lexeme נביא .....       | 32 |
| 1.1.3 “False” prophecy .....                                | 37 |
| 1.1.3.1 Theology, morality and ethics .....                 | 40 |
| 1.1.3.2 Socio-anthropology and ideology.....                | 44 |
| 1.1.3.3 Psychology and ecstasy .....                        | 46 |
| 1.1.3.4 Tradition-history .....                             | 49 |
| 1.1.3.5 Summary of debate.....                              | 50 |
| 1.1.4 Summary .....   | 51 |
| 1.2 Methodology .....                                       | 53 |
| 1.2.1 Semantics.....  | 53 |
| 1.2.2 Close reading .....                                   | 58 |
| 1.3 Structure.....  | 62 |
| 1.4 Corpus.....   | 63 |
| 1.5 Aims.....   | 65 |
| Part I – Semantics .....                                    | 67 |
| 2. Semantic analysis of נביא in Jeremiah .....              | 69 |
| 2.1 Nominal forms of נביא (“prophet”).....                  | 70 |
| 2.1.1 Morphology .....                                      | 70 |
| 2.1.2 Syntagmatic data.....                                 | 71 |
| 2.1.2.1 Collocations with נביא .....                        | 71 |
| 2.1.2.2 נביא as subject of a finite verb .....              | 75 |
| 2.1.2.3 נביא as object of a finite verb .....               | 80 |
| 2.1.2.4 נביא with a non-finite verb .....                   | 84 |
| 2.1.2.5 Summary .....                                       | 89 |
| 2.1.3 Paradigmatic data.....                                | 89 |
| 2.1.4 Summary of נביא.....                                  | 95 |

|                               |  |     |
|-------------------------------|--|-----|
| 2.2                           | Verbal forms from נבא ("prophecy") .....           | 95  |
| 2.2.1                         | Morphology .....                                   | 95  |
| 2.2.2                         | Syntagmatic data.....                              | 96  |
| 2.2.2.1                       | Collocations with נבא .....                        | 96  |
| 2.2.2.2                       | Subjects of נבא .....                              | 98  |
| 2.2.2.3                       | Verbal phrases with נבא .....                      | 99  |
| 2.2.2.4                       | Summary .....                                      | 101 |
| 2.2.3                         | Paradigmatic data.....                             | 102 |
| 2.2.4                         | Summary of נבא.....                                | 104 |
| 2.3                           | Conclusion .....                                   | 104 |
| Part II – Close reading ..... |  | 109 |
| 3.                            | Prophets and authority: Jeremiah 1:4–19.....       | 111 |
| 3.1                           | Preliminary remarks.....                           | 111 |
| 3.2                           | Jeremiah 1:4–10.....                               | 111 |
| 3.2.1                         | Text and translation .....                         | 112 |
| 3.2.2                         | Prophet to the nations .....                       | 113 |
| 3.2.2.1                       | Divine support .....                               | 114 |
| 3.2.2.2                       | Nations and kingdoms .....                         | 120 |
| 3.2.3                         | Sending the prophets.....                          | 124 |
| 3.2.4                         | Prophet like Moses .....                           | 132 |
| 3.2.5                         | Summary.....                                       | 135 |
| 3.3                           | Jeremiah 1:11–14.....                              | 136 |
| 3.3.1                         | Text and translation .....                         | 137 |
| 3.3.2                         | The first vision: Jeremiah 1:11–12 .....           | 137 |
| 3.3.3                         | The second vision: Jeremiah 1:13–14.....           | 139 |
| 3.3.4                         | Summary.....                                       | 142 |
| 3.4                           | Jeremiah 1:15–19.....                              | 143 |
| 3.4.1                         | Text and translation .....                         | 144 |
| 3.4.2                         | Opposition and attack .....                        | 145 |
| 3.4.3                         | Summary .....                                      | 147 |
| 3.5                           | Conclusion .....                                   | 147 |
| 4.                            | Prophets and polemics: Jeremiah 23:9–40.....       | 151 |
| 4.1                           | Preliminary remarks.....                           | 151 |
| 4.2                           | Jeremiah 23:9–15 .....                             | 151 |
| 4.2.1                         | Text and translation .....                         | 152 |
| 4.2.2                         | Concerning the prophets .....                      | 154 |
| 4.2.3                         | Prophets and priests .....                         | 161 |
| 4.2.3.1                       | Jeremiah 5:31; 6:13    8:10; 14:18; 23:11 .....    | 162 |
| 4.2.3.2                       | Jeremiah 2:8; 4:9; 18:18; 23:33–34; 26:11, 16..... | 167 |

|         |   |     |
|---------|---|-----|
| 4.2.3.3 | Jeremiah 2:26; 8:1; 13:13; 32:32 .....          | 173 |
| 4.2.4   | Summary .....                                   | 176 |
| 4.3     | Jeremiah 23:16–24 .....                         | 177 |
| 4.3.1   | Text and translation .....                      | 177 |
| 4.3.2   | It will (not) go well for you .....             | 179 |
| 4.3.2.1 | Jeremiah 5:12–14 .....                          | 181 |
| 4.3.3   | Prophets and the council of YHWH .....          | 183 |
| 4.3.4   | Summary .....                                   | 187 |
| 4.4     | Jeremiah 23:25–32 .....                         | 189 |
| 4.4.1   | Text and Translation .....                      | 189 |
| 4.4.2   | Prophets and deceit .....                       | 191 |
| 4.4.2.1 | Jeremiah 14:11–16 .....                         | 195 |
| 4.4.2.2 | Jeremiah 29:21–23 .....                         | 196 |
| 4.4.3   | Prophets, dreams and visions .....              | 197 |
| 4.4.4   | Summary .....                                   | 199 |
| 4.5     | Jeremiah 23:33–40 .....                         | 200 |
| 4.5.1   | Text and translation .....                      | 201 |
| 4.5.2   | Message of YHWH .....                           | 202 |
| 4.5.3   | Summary .....                                   | 204 |
| 4.6     | Conclusion .....                                | 204 |
| 5.      | Prophets and nations: Jeremiah 27:1–28:17 ..... | 209 |
| 5.1     | Preliminary remarks .....                       | 209 |
| 5.2     | Jeremiah 27:1–15 .....                          | 210 |
| 5.2.1   | Text and translation .....                      | 211 |
| 5.2.2   | The yoke of Babylon .....                       | 214 |
| 5.2.3   | Prophets and diviners .....                     | 217 |
| 5.2.4   | Summary .....                                   | 218 |
| 5.3     | Jeremiah 27:16–22 .....                         | 219 |
| 5.3.1   | Text and translation .....                      | 220 |
| 5.3.2   | The temple vessels .....                        | 221 |
| 5.3.3   | Prophets and intercession .....                 | 222 |
| 5.3.4   | Summary .....                                   | 224 |
| 5.4     | Jeremiah 28:1–11 .....                          | 225 |
| 5.4.1   | Text and translation .....                      | 225 |
| 5.4.2   | Jeremiah and Hananiah (part 1) .....            | 227 |
| 5.4.3   | Prophecy according to Jeremiah .....            | 232 |
| 5.4.3.1 | Salvation and doom .....                        | 233 |
| 5.4.3.2 | Discernment and Deuteronomy 18:20–22 .....      | 238 |
| 5.4.4   | Summary .....                                   | 242 |
| 5.5     | Jeremiah 28:12–17 .....                         | 244 |
| 5.5.1   | Text and translation .....                      | 244 |

|       |                                       |     |
|-------|---------------------------------------|-----|
| 5.5.2 | Jeremiah and Hananiah (part 2) .....  | 245 |
| 5.5.3 | Summary .....                         | 246 |
| 5.6   | Conclusion .....                      | 247 |
| 6.    | Conclusion .....                      | 251 |
| 6.1   | Summary of findings .....             | 251 |
| 6.1.1 | Function and nature of prophecy ..... | 251 |
| 6.1.2 | Dreams and visions .....              | 252 |
| 6.1.3 | Being sent .....                      | 253 |
| 6.1.4 | Prophets, priests and cult .....      | 255 |
| 6.1.5 | Salvation and doom .....              | 256 |
| 6.1.6 | Legitimacy and authority .....        | 257 |
| 6.2   | Contributions to research .....       | 259 |
| 6.2.1 | Definition of נביא .....              | 259 |
| 6.2.2 | Cultic prophecy .....                 | 260 |
| 6.3   | Summary .....                         | 263 |
|       | Bibliography .....                    | 265 |
|       | List of Tables .....                  | 299 |
|       | Index of Authors .....                | 300 |
|       | Text references .....                 | 306 |
|       | Index of Subjects .....               | 327 |