

**Alma Brodersen, *The End of the Psalter. Psalms 146–150 in the Masoretic Text, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Septuagint* (Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft 505; Berlin: De Gruyter 2017). ISBN 978-3-11-053476-4; e-ISBN (PDF) 978-3-11-053609-6; e-ISBN (EPUB) 978-3-11-053495-5; ISSN 0934-2575. Price \$114.99/€91.00.**

In essence, the question that is posed in this book is whether or not the last five psalms of the Hebrew psalter form a single unit. To answer this, the author has made a detailed examination of each psalm as transmitted by three traditions: the Masoretic Hebrew text (MT), the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS) and the Greek translation or Septuagint (LXX). The psalms are discussed in reverse sequence (Pss. 146–150) to avoid any subjectivity. Each psalm is given the same analysis: first the text and a translation are set out, then its form is provided. This comprises its outline, and a discussion of its syntax, structure and poetic devices. Next, inner-biblical references are discussed, followed by a description of content, which comes in the form of a set of questions, e.g. ‘What is “new song” in Psalm 149:1<sup>MT?</sup>’ (p. 99). Lastly, the genre, date and unity of the psalm are discussed and an overall interpretation is provided. The same sequence of analytical steps is then applied to each psalm as found in the Qumran texts and in the Septuagint version. To close, an overall comparison between these three editions is made. The closing chapter sets out the conclusions, with summaries of each chapter. The author finally concludes that ‘Psalms 146–150 are originally separate texts’ (p. 270).

This study clearly represents a considerable amount of detailed analysis and it is good that there are footnotes rather than endnotes, but some tables might have been helpful. A subject index and an index of sources are provided. There is only one (very minor) mistake: the Watson cited in n. 157 (p. 246) is Rebecca Watson, not me. Also, the author’s otherwise comprehensive bibliography (pp. 279–307) might have included the analytical studies by Jan Fokkelmann on the psalms, e.g. *The Psalms in Form: The Hebrew Psalter in its Poetic Shape* (Leiden 2002). Dr Alma Brodersen, whose previous book was *Die Bedeutung der Schöpfungsaussagen für die Theologie von Psalm 147* (Neukirchen-Vluyn 2013), has indeed given us a careful, meticulous and above all objective analysis of these poems using a novel approach. It could well be emulated and applied to other biblical or ancient texts as transmitted by different traditions.