

## PREFACE

Literary analysis of the Bible, in which rhetorical criticism has played a significant role, has gained broad acceptance among biblical scholars in recent years. In light of this development we felt that scholars already working in literary criticism as well as others wishing to become more actively involved would profit from a volume which provided a comprehensive bibliography for each testament. While the focus of the bibliographies is on rhetorical criticism, numerous other works have also been included, either because they substantially parallel what rhetorical critics have done, or because they provide important insights on literary artistry and the way it was practiced by biblical writers. If the volume is comprehensive, it certainly cannot claim to be exhaustive, both because so many works are already in print, and because the growing interest in the literary artistry of the Bible is leading to many new publications.

There are some differences in the way rhetorical criticism is defined and how it functions in the two testaments. This will become evident as the reader compares the two introductory essays and consults the various bibliographic entries for the two testaments. It goes without saying, however, that the commonality is quite substantial, just as it is between rhetorical criticism and other areas of literary analysis. To a substantial degree, the differences in definition result from the different character of the two testaments and the different environments in which they arose.

It is our hope that amassing what has been written and putting it into a larger perspective will provide a ready tool to facilitate research in this productive field of inquiry.

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