

Contents

1.	A Personal Prologue for Preachers	11
2.	Why the Old Testament Is Necessary for the Church	21
3.	The Approach to the Bible, the Community-creating Word	27
	The Creative Word	27
	The Effects of Historical Criticism	29
	Recovering the One Story	32
4.	Basics of Sermon Preparation	39
	The Use of Rhetorical Analysis	39
	The Use of Form Criticism	44
	Forms in the Prophetic Literature	47
	Forms in the Psalms	49
	The Conversations of the Text	52
	The Pairing of Old and New Testament Texts	56
	Outlining the Sermon	59
5.	Preaching from the Narratives	61
	The Text as Control of Imagination	66
	The Special Character of Genesis 1–11	71
	More About Genesis 12–50	74
	Creating a People: Exodus–Joshua	76
	In the World, but Not of It: Deuteronomy–2 Kings	82
6.	Preaching from the Law	93
	Israel's Confession in the Law	94
	The Law's Context of Grace	96
	Why Israel Obeys the Law	97
	The Law as Guide to Love	99
	The Law as Sanctifying	101
	The Distortion of the Law	103
	Preaching from the Law	105

7. Preaching from the Prophets		109
The Function of Prophets	110	
The Prophetic Word	113	
The Goal of the Prophets	117	
Proclaiming the Prophetic Message	118	
The Lectionary and the Pairing of Texts	123	
Non-Lectionary Texts from the Prophets	125	
Linking Text and Congregation	132	
8. Preaching from the Psalms		137
The Psalms in the Church	138	
The Origin of the Psalter	140	
Difficulties in Preaching from the Psalms	141	
Approaching a Psalm for Preaching:		
Psalms 131, 48, 32, 104	147	
Other Homiletical Uses of the Psalms	159	
9. Preaching from the Wisdom Literature		165
Preaching from Traditional Wisdom	170	
Personified Wisdom	173	
The Book of Job	176	
The Book of Ecclesiastes	180	
Notes		185