

Development

Snaith, Norman H., Study Notes on Bible Books, The Psalms A Short Introduction (London: The Epworth Press) 1945

pp. 13-14 The general judgment upon this theory of Gunkel's is that he has performed a most useful service in pointing out the various types of psalms. On the other hand his theories are far too rigid, and he tends to regiment his material in the style which is characteristic of German scholarship generally. In so far as he is describing general tendencies his theories are sound, but his analysis can scarcely be pushed legitimately to the lengths which such accurate classification demands. When he attempts to date the various psalms according to his strict categories, he is on very debatable ground. Men do not advance in serried masses. There are men in every age who write laments and those who compose thanksgivings. There is no 'close time' in the history of a nation when one particular type of song is written. On the contrary there are the prophets, the men who speak out of their time, either pioneers who blaze the trail, or those who think the old ways are best.