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Book Reviews

Mare, W Harold, **The Archaeology of the Jerusalem Area** (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1987, 323 pp hard \$19.95); reviewed by Warren Vanhetloo. This is a fascinating book, hard to put down. It begins with general information and a survey of time periods. Pre-Davidic evidences are presented in 22 pages, the Herodian and Roman periods in 75 pages. Diagrams and photographs add to the value. Those who have visited Jerusalem or studied there will much appreciate the author's presentation.

Dowley, Tim, editor, **Discovering the Bible Archaeologists Look at Scripture** (Grand Rapids: Wm B Eerdmans Publ Co, 1986, 144 pp hard \$14.95); reviewed by Gordon H Lovik. In covering the archaeology of Palestine a team of conservative authors have provided a beautifully illustrated introduction to biblical archaeology. The material is set forth in simple language and is easily grasped. After a presentation of the field of archaeology, various practical questions are answered using archaeology and ancient customs. Among the chapters are Meeting at the Well, What Happened at the City Gate?, The Farmer and His Implements. Since I have taken students to Israel to study and plan to in the future, I intend to make this required reading. Every student of Scripture will profit from reading this volume.

Goslinga, C J, transl by Ray Togtman, **Joshua, Judges, Ruth** (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publ, Regency Ref Lib, 1986, 558 pp \$24.95); reviewed by Charles E McLain. This volume is a translation from the Dutch. The author's works were originally published in 1927 (Joshua) and 1933-38 (Judges and Ruth). The publisher's claim that "it represents the best in conservative" scholarship is well taken. The author has presented his material in a clear and concise manner. The text is easily read and readily understood. Although the Scripture text is taken from the NIV the author and translator make continual reference to the original language as well as to several other English translations and the author's own translation. The frequent footnotes supply a wealth of information including evaluation of textual problems and variations, references to the LXX and rabbis, word studies, geographical references and descriptions, and the translator's clarification and updating of material. The absence of maps, bibliography, and indices in no way detracts from the value of this volume. Both serious student and layman alike should find this volume to be a source of beneficial reading, a helpful tool for study, and a welcomed addition to their library.

Ridderbos, J, **Isaiah** (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publ Regency Ref Lib, 1985, 580 pp hard \$24.95); reviewed by Warren Vanhetloo. This is another translation from a set of Dutch commentaries by conservative Reformed scholars. The NIV text is printed for each section. Translation and editing have produced a simple, flowing, usable commentary. Of the sections sampled, only 7:14 was disappointing. The English speaking portion of the world has gained a worthy study of an important prophetic book.

Verhoef, Pieter A, **The Books of Haggai and Malachi** (Grand Rapids: Wm B Eerdmans Publ, 1987, 364 pp hard \$21.95); reviewed by Warren Vanhetloo. This is a commendable addition to the New International Commentary series. The author, a professor of OT in South Africa, is conservative and scholarly. He deals

with structural analysis and nuances of the Hebrew in a way that is helpful for the most advanced but not confusing to those unfamiliar with Hebrew.

Kistemaker, Simon J, **James and I-III John** (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1986, 425 pp hard \$18.95); reviewed by Gordon H Lovik. The volume is another contribution of this author to the set of NT commentaries begun by William Hendriksen. Each section has an outline, a discussion, practical applications and a limited examination of Greek words (phrases, constructions). The remarks are in the main helpful but there are places where his Reformed theological predisposition rather than the text determines his interpretation (I Jn 2:2). All in all the reader will find the work current in scholarship being acquainted with recent writings of these NT books.

Aland, Kurt and Barbara Aland, **The Text of the New Testament** trans Erroll F Rhodes (Grand Rapids: Wm B Eerdmans Publ Co, 1987, 338 pp hard \$29.95); reviewed by Gordon H Lovik. Those familiar with textual criticism will immediately recognize the significance of this volume. The authors have been major contributors to this discipline both in articles and modern editions of the Greek New Testament. The volume is patterned after the Old Testament work by Ernst Wurthwein. It is the most up to date work on the subject and includes several valuable chapters. The editions of the New Testament from Erasmus are discussed with appropriate comments. The authors' view of early textual transmission is presented clearly. Particularly helpful is the discussion of how to use the modern Greek editions (the Nestle-Aland 26th and the GNT 3rd). Additional contributions come from the praxis of textual criticism using selected passages. Since most colleges and seminaries use these modern texts, it is helpful to understand the text theory behind them. With the 65 illustrative plates and other helpful chapters this volume will become the major text in its field being supplemented by the works of Metzger and others. While there may be disagreement with assertions and conclusions found in the book, all can benefit from the clear presentation of its material.

Erickson, Millard J, **Concise Dictionary of Christian Theology** (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1986, 187 pp hard \$9.95); reviewed by Warren Vanhetloo. As to size and content, this concise dictionary fulfills its stated purpose of providing a handy reference for a student to carry to the classroom or to have at hand during theological reading. Identifications are very brief but clear and accurate. Inclusion of individuals and events makes the book additionally helpful.

Wenham, John W, **The Enigma of Evil** (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publ, Academic Books, 1985, 223 pp paper \$7.95); reviewed by Warren Vanhetloo. This is a theistic apologetic treatment of several philosophic problems of evil. Published originally as *The Goodness of God*, it asserts the supremacy of Christian theism over all contenders. The author maintains as basic that "The Bible, undiluted and unadorned, takes us to the only God, the God who is, the God who has revealed himself in word and deed, the God with whom we have to do."

Yohn, Rick, **Living Securely in an Unstable World** (Portland: Multnomah Press, 1985, 250 pp paper \$8.95); reviewed by Warren Vanhetloo. This book presents practical, everyday applications of thirteen major Scriptural terms: predestination, election, substitution, atonement, imputation, propitiation,

regeneration, redemption, forgiveness, justification, reconciliation, sanctification, and adoption. The approach and presentation is that of a pastor. Although not as such a theology, comprehension of theological distinctions is evident.

Leech, Kenneth, **Experiencing God** (San Francisco: Harper & Row Publ, 1985, 500 pp hard \$20.95); reviewed by Warren Vanhetloo. The emphasis of this book in conservative terms is that personal conversion is crucial. The author, of the Church of England, presents stimulating studies in the framework of liberal theology. Those who use the book will benefit, but will need to sort out biblical fact and historical invention.

McKim, Donald K, editor, **How Karl Barth Changed My Mind** (Grand Rapids: Wm B Eerdmans Publ, 1986, 186 pp paper \$9.95); reviewed by Warren Vanhetloo. These are brief summaries by some twenty-four theologians of every stripe. They are not criticisms of Barth but surmised benefits. Bromiley assesses: he has called theology back to its proper object in God and has also related theology firmly to the church's mission. Bernard Ramm unfortunately misrepresents fundamentalism in his portion.

Kaiser, Walter C Jr and Ronald F Youngblood, editors, **A Tribute to Gleason Archer** (Chicago: Moody Press, 1986, 324 pp hard \$15.95); reviewed by Warren Vanhetloo. These essays evaluate critical methodologies, reexamine historical research, and weigh several exegetical areas. The book is a worthy contribution to OT scholarship, but too technical for use by the average pastor.

Estep, William R, **Renaissance and Reformation** (Grand Rapids: W B Eerdmans Pub Co, 1986, 331 pp paper \$19.95); reviewed by James Stitzinger. This volume is a highly readable up-to-date survey of the Reformation period by a well-known Baptist scholar. It fulfills a great need for scholarly literature on the Reformation which is fair and accurate with respect to the Anabaptist movement. The volume is valuable because of the breadth of its coverage as well as its coverage of political, social, and cultural background material which aids so much in understanding the Reformation period. It is recommended as a text book as a useful work for getting acquainted with the entire Reformation period.

MacBeth, H Leon, **The Baptist Heritage, Four Centuries of Baptist Witness** (Nashville, 1987, 850 pp hard \$14.95); reviewed by James Stitzinger. This is a significant, major comprehensive contribution to Baptist history which should quickly become a standard and respected work. This study accepts the English separatists descent theory finding Baptist beginnings in the 17th century. The work does not supercede Robert Torbet's standard, *A History of Baptists* (3rd edition, Valley Forge, Judson Press, 1973), but rather complements it and provides fresh insight. While the author's personal views do not appear to be those of fundamental Baptists he does make an effort to be fair to them and others across the board. This work is readable and interesting both to laymen and students of Baptist history. It will be a valuable text book in the seminary class room and is definitely recommended.

Walton, Robert C, **Chronological and Background Charts of Church History** (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Pub House Academie Books, 1986, 96 pp paper \$8.95); reviewed by James Stitzinger. The author presents an extensive collection of

charts surveying many aspects of church history. These charts, both historical and theological in nature, reflect a broad understanding of church history on the part of the author. This reviewer has always seen great value in the use of charts to clarify and distinguish various aspects of historical studies. The book is a welcome supplement for students studying church history. It is amazingly free of theological bias.

Ziefle, Helmut W, **Theological German: A Reader** (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1986, 283 pp paper \$14.95); reviewed by James Stitzinger. This work is a collection of German Bible texts as well as texts of German theologians. In addition to the text there is also included vocabulary as well as exercises for an English-speaking student seeking to learn theological German. The book represents a much needed addition to the available materials in this important area.

Hendricks, Howard G, **Teaching to Change Lives** (Portland: Multnomah Press, 1987, 166 pp hard \$9.95); reviewed by Gordon H Lovik. Communicating is essential if God's Word is to be lived. This book is about seven strategic concepts in teaching. Using an approach similar to Gregory's *Seven Laws of Teaching*, Hendricks sets forth the Law of the Teacher, Education, Activity, Communication, Heart, Encouragement and Readiness. With illustrations from his many years of teaching and questions (challenges for the reader) at the end of each chapter this volume will bring great profit for pastor and teacher alike. I would require this material to be taught to every Sunday school teacher. I commend it highly.

Ryken, Leland, **Windows to the World** (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publ, Probe Ministries, 1985, 192 pp paper \$7.95); reviewed by Warren Vanhetloo. The author deals both with principles of writing literature and with hints for enjoying literature. He shows that literature not only entertains but also influences the reader. Chapters treat literature as recreation, how writers influence their audience, literature and morality, etc. Day school English teachers will find this most helpful.

*A call to preach includes first a call to
prepare.*