

Book Reviews

Donald T. Williams. *The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit* (Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1994, 242 pp., \$17.99) reviewed by Warren Vanhetloo.

Every believer will appreciate the clarity and simplicity of this presentation. God's extensive work of self-revelation culminated in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus revealed God to human beings just by being who He was, as well as by what He said. The work of the Holy Spirit is to make clear to believers throughout this present dispensation the person and work of Jesus. His appointed ministry is to glorify Jesus. His work is never self-exalting or self-exhibiting. His work of inspiration gave us a permanent, trustworthy account of the supreme revelation of Jesus. His work of illumination enables each believer to obtain proper comprehension and appreciation of the revealed Word. The Holy Spirit not only guided in the completion of special revelation for us, He also completes the divine provision for our redemption within us. Holy Spirit application of the great salvation purchased by Christ includes calling, regeneration and conversion, and the process of growth/sanctification. The author gives Biblical reasons refuting claims of a second blessing, of a baptism of the Spirit separate from conversion, and of speaking in tongues. The book is readable, interesting, definitely beneficial.

Douglas R. McLachlan, *Reclaiming Authentic Fundamentalism* (Independence, MO: American Association of Christian Schools, 1993, 166 pp., paper, \$9.95) reviewed by Warren Vanhetloo.

Dr. McLachlan has a distinct style of analysis, arrangement, and presentation that is both refreshing and challenging. Those who have heard him speak hear his voice throughout as they read these chapters. The task of living an authentic Christianity takes on a vital urgency as he develops God's patterns for our conduct. Chapters include hindrances to a balanced fundamentalism, identifying true leadership, rediscovering authentic evangelism, practicing authentic proclamation, implementing authentic separation, and recovering our spiritual vitality. Dr. McLachlan properly opposes misrepresentations of fundamentalist Bible believers by critics. He deals fairly with some of the failures of fundamentalists of the past. His heart burden is to aid a new generation to know and live the new life as God portrayed it in His Word. All who desire to know the truth can profit from his emphasis.

Alfred J. Hoerth, Gerald L. Mattingly, and Edwin M. Yamauchi, eds., *Peoples of the Old Testament World* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994, 400 pp., hard, \$29.99) reviewed by Charles E. McLain.

The present volume was stimulated both by "significant new archeological and historical data" that has accumulated since 1973 when D.J. Wiseman published his work, *Peoples of Old Testament Times* (p. 11) and by the conviction that an "up-to-date survey of ancient Near Eastern peoples" was needed (p. 11). The editors have assembled an able and well-qualified panel of contributing writers to accomplish their purpose.

The text is divided into three sections: (1) Mesopotamia: surveying the Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrians, and Persians; (2) Anatolia, Syria-Palestine, and Egypt: including the Hittites, Canaanites and Amorites, Phoenicians, Arameans, Philistines, and

Egyptians; and (3) Transjordan: surveying the Ammonites, Moabites, and Edomites. Each section is divided into chapters dealing with a separate ethnic group. Each chapter varies as to its content due to the extent of material available but generally includes such topics as the geography of the land, history, culture, religion, political structure, contacts with Israel, etc. The authors have admirably transformed both extensive and obscure materials of history and archeology into easily digestible, pertinent presentations. Each chapter concludes with a limited bibliography of well-selected works to aid in further research. The volume includes a time line, map and a number of illustrations (more maps would be helpful). An extensive "subject index" improves the usefulness of this volume.

One would have to agree with Alan R. Millard's evaluation of this volume. He states, "The essays in this volume weave together the results of recent study and discovery, long-known facts, and the biblical text to create pictures of the peoples of the Old Testament world. The authors have made them as complete and accurate as possible, aiming to give a better understanding of the distinctive features of ancient Israel—God's revelation of himself through its history" (p. 10).

It would be hard to imagine where one could find more clearly presented, salient material brought together on such an extensive selection of ANE peoples in one volume. This volume allows both the average Bible student and scholar immediate access to a wealth of pertinent, up-to-date information--allowing a personal glimpse into the Ancient world.

Fred Moritz, *"Be Ye Holy"* (Greenville, SC: Bob Jones University Press, 1994, 134 pp., paper, \$8.95) reviewed by Warren Vanhetloo.

Dr. Moritz is a powerful preacher and a commendable Bible scholar. His persuasion that God's holiness is the key to Biblical separation is clearly set forth in just over one hundred pages. The thrust of his development is that separation is not sufficient of itself but must be linked to evangelism. His presentation begins with an

investigation of holiness, dealing with biblical passages and theological implications. Additional chapters treat personal separation, ecclesiastical separation, separation from a Christian brother, and the spirit of the separatist. Readers will appreciate the clarity and the straightforward development, as well as the sweet tone of endeavor to be of help and encouragement to fellow believers.

B. H. Carroll, *Baptists and Their Doctrines* (1995, 277 pp., cloth, \$29.95); W. A. Criswell, *Why I Preach That the Bible Is Literally True* (1995, 271 pp., cloth, \$24.99); Timothy George, *Baptist Confessions, Covenants, and Catechisms* (1996, 282 pp., cloth, \$24.99); R. G. Lee *Payday Someday* (1995, 280 pp., cloth, \$24.99); Basil Manly, Jr., *The Bible Doctrine of Inspiration* (1995, 282 pp., cloth, \$24.99); Bertha Smith, *Go Home And Tell* (1995, 278 pp., cloth, \$24.99); Jesse C. Fletcher, *Bill Wallace of China* (1996, 276 pp., cloth, \$24.99). Nashville: Broadman & Holman; reviewed by Warren Vanhetloo.

These volumes make up a new series, *Library of Baptist Classics*. These reprinted titles are easy to read and definitely pertinent. They provide rich food for an evening of light reading as well as challenging sources for those engaged in research. The editors, Timothy and Denise George, have done a commendable job of choosing, editing, and formatting. Classic messages of the past, personal testimonies of God's special grace and favor are thrilling for every generation.

Trent C. Butler, ed., *Holman Bible Dictionary*, (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 1991, 1450 pp., cloth, \$28.99) reviewed by Warren Vanhetloo.

Looking for an impressive gift for a birthday, graduation, or Christmas? This is a helpful tool for pastor or layman, in addition to being beautiful. There are over six hundred full-color photos, illustrations, charts, and maps. Color tabs aid rapid location of alphabetical groupings. As a sample, the article on grace by John

Polhill occupies nearly two pages, double column. After a general identification follow sections on grace in the Old Testament and grace in the New Testament. Related words (mercy, steadfast love) are considered, and Paul's use is extensively developed. It is wise for homes to have two or three good Bible dictionaries. Pastors ought to have a variety and regularly use them as a first tool of Scripture investigation. This handy Bible dictionary will prove to be most beneficial.