

BOOK NOTICES

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Inclusion in this section does not preclude subsequent review of a book. Where two prices are given, separated by a slash, the second is for the paperback edition.

Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *Ezra-Nehemiah: A Commentary*. The Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1988. 366 pp. \$29.95.

A fresh look at two of the most difficult and neglected books of the Bible. Blenkinsopp discusses the historical and theological issues that are involved in Ezra-Nehemiah to give readers a clearer and more objective picture of emergent Judaism, and, by implication, Judaism as a whole.

Boylan, Anne M. *Sunday School: The Formation of an American Institution, 1790-1880*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1988. xii + 225 pp. \$26.50.

A landmark study that is the most complete, substantial, and sophisticated treatment of the American Protestant Sunday school. It will undoubtedly become the standard book in its field. Boylan's work is a thematic study of the social functions of evangelical Sunday schools from their shaky origins in the 1790s to their consolidation in the 1870s.

Bruce, F. F. *The Canon of Scripture*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988. 349 pp. \$19.95.

F. F. Bruce brings his formidable scholarship to bear on one of Christianity's basic issues. While covering the canonization of both the OT and NT, his major concern is with the NT.

Carson, D. A., and H. G. M. Williamson, eds. *It Is Written: Scripture Citing Scripture*. Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1988. xx + 381 pp. \$59.50.

Composed of essays in honor of Barnabas Lindars, the present volume differs from many *Festschriften* in that it is a tightly organized unity rather than a disparate collection of essays. These essays bring together a great deal of material that helps the reader better grasp the fact that the use of Scripture in Scripture is part of a process that extends beyond any one corpus.

Cwiekowski, Frederick J. *The Beginnings of the Church*. New York: Paulist Press, 1988. viii + 222 pp. Paperback, \$9.95.

Beginnings of the Church traces the story of the church in an ecumenical perspective from its origins in the ministry of Jesus to the end of the NT period. It focuses on the dramatic shifts that have taken place in the way scholars understand the first generations of the Christian church.

Dussel, Enrique. *Ethics and Community*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1988. xii + 260 pp. \$26.95/\$13.95.

A comprehensive introduction to what liberation theology has to say about ethics and morals. Dussel makes a fundamental distinction between two types of ethical systems (i.e., community ethics and social morality), treats ten questions basic to a discussion of ethics, and examines several contemporary issues requiring an ethical stance.

Evans, C. Stephen. *Wisdom and Humanity in Psychology: Prospects for a Christian Approach*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1989. 161 pp. Paperback, \$7.95.

Evans aims at demonstrating the possibility and viability of a distinctively Christian psychology. "The chief barrier to this," he writes, "is . . . the empiricist picture of psychology as an objective, value-neutral affair, which is properly modeled on the natural sciences, or on a certain picture of the natural sciences."

Farrow, Douglas. *The Word of Truth and Disputes about Words*. Winona Lake, IN: Carpenter Books, 1987. xiv + 234 pp. Paperback, \$11.95.

This volume aims at incorporating balance in scriptural interpretation between free-thinking libertarianism on the one hand and an authoritarianism that overly stretches inerrancy on the other hand. The author argues against an inflexible stance in defending inerrancy. The church, he holds, must affirm both its commitment to the Word of Truth and its discomfort with unnecessary disputes about words.

Ferguson, Sinclair B., David F. Wright, and J. I. Packer, eds. *New Dictionary of Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988. xx + 738 pp. \$24.95.

An evangelical reference work containing more than 600 original articles penned by over 200 scholars from around the world. While not as "weighty" as most of its genre, this volume provides readable insights on many theological topics and bibliographies on most of them.

Gileadi, Avraham, ed. *Israel's Apostasy and Restoration: Essays in Honor of Roland K. Harrison*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988. xiii + 325 pp. \$24.95.

Unlike most works of this type, the present *Festschrift* presents preassigned essays on a unifying theme in an at-

tempt to break new ground in biblical scholarship. Its twenty-four essays focus "on central and peripheral aspects of Israel's apostasy and restoration in the light of prophetic thought" (p. xiii).

Granberg-Michaelson, Wesley. *Ecology and Life: Accepting Our Environmental Responsibility*. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1988. 200 pp. \$12.95.

As a volume in Word Books' Issues of Christian Conscience series, *Ecology and Life* faces one of the fundamental crises of modern civilization. The treatment seeks to enlighten the Christian community regarding its responsibility on an issue not directly confronted by Scripture.

Grudem, Wayne. *The First Epistle of Peter: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1988. 239 pp. Paperback, \$5.95.

Grudem's work is a contribution to the "new generation" of Tyndale NT commentaries. It replaces the volume by A. M. Stibbs and A. F. Walls. The updated series is still aimed at the non-specialist in biblical studies.

Hubbard, Robert L. *The Book of Ruth*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1989. xiv + 317 pp. \$26.95.

An in-depth treatment in which Hubbard shows how the author, with great literary artistry, used the story of Ruth and Naomi to treat important theological themes as well as to delight his audience.

Larkin, William J. *Culture and Biblical Hermeneutics: Interpreting and Applying the Authoritative Word in a Rela-*

tivistic Age. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988. 401 pp. Paperback, \$16.95.

This volume grapples with the challenge that historical and cultural relativism poses to the hermeneutical process when applied to the Bible. Larkin explores both the origin and the current state of biblical hermeneutics. He also develops a biblical theology of hermeneutics and culture.

Lotz, David W., with Donald W. Shriver and John F. Wilson, eds. *Altered Landscapes: Christianity in America, 1935-1985*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1989. xi + 387 pp. \$27.95/\$17.95.

Altered Landscapes covers the most significant developments in American Christianity and religion during the past half century. It especially focuses on the evolving American churches and the changing theological disciplines. Twenty-one impressive scholars have supplied chapters for this tribute to Robert T. Handy.

McKim, Donald K. *Theological Turning Points: Major Issues in Christian Thought*. Atlanta, GA: John Knox Press, 1988. xiv + 211 pp. Paperback, \$13.95.

A one-volume work that introduces people with a limited theological background to the history of Christian theology. It traces the major Christian doctrines from their biblical roots through crucial "turning points" in their historical development.

Merrill, Eugene H. *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1987. 546 pp. \$24.95.

Merrill presents a comprehensive history of Israel from a conservative

evangelical perspective. The author approaches the OT documents "as the Word of God, with all that implies for its worth and authority as [a] historical source" (p. 16). Careful attention is also given to the literary and archaeological sources of the ancient Near East.

Morris, Leon. *The Cross of Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1988. x + 118 pp. Paperback, \$7.95.

Following a clear statement of the biblical teaching of the utter necessity of the cross and a brief consideration of some representative traditional views, Morris breaks new ground with chapters on the cross as the answer to the pervasive modern maladies of futility, ignorance, loneliness, sickness, death, and selfishness.

Oden, Thomas C., ed. *Phoebe Palmer: Selected Writings*. New York: Paulist Press, 1988. xii + 364 pp. \$24.95.

One of the latest volumes in the Sources of American Spirituality series, *Phoebe Palmer* is an important addition to the literature on the development of the American holiness movement. While largely a collection of Palmer's published and unpublished writings, the volume also contains a significant essay on her life and place in history.

Osborne, Kenan B. *Priesthood: A History of Ordained Ministry in the Roman Catholic Church*. New York: Paulist Press, 1988. vii + 388 pp. Paperback, \$14.95.

Osborne considers the ordained ministry from the standpoint of Jesus as the primordial minister. Written from a Roman Catholic perspective, *Priesthood* enhances the multiple nature of ministry in the Christian Church, and helps

pinpoint the main issues in the ecumenical dialogues of our contemporary world.

Pinnock, Clark H., ed. *The Grace of God, the Will of Man: A Case for Arminianism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1989. 318 pp. Paperback, \$14.95.

This volume defends the proposition that God is a dynamic personal agent who respects the freedom he chose to delegate to human beings and that he relates sensitively to them in the outworking of his plans for the whole of history. The essays come from a wide range of scholars representing several traditions.

Ross, C. Randolph. *Common Sense Christianity*. Cortland, NY: Occam Publishers, 1989. 266 pp. \$19.95.

Common Sense Christianity is an iconoclastic broadside by an analytic philosopher against simplistic "Christian" assumptions. Aimed at fundamentalism, the book both evokes and provokes thought from its readers on all sides of the sensitive topics it treats.

Springett, Ronald M. *Homosexuality in History and the Scripture: Some Historical and Biblical Perspectives on Homosexuality*. Washington, DC: Biblical Research Institute, 1988. x + 173 pp. Paperback, \$6.95.

Springett treats homosexuality in terms of definition, OT background, OT texts bearing on the topic, the classical NT background, the Hellenistic NT background, and the NT on homosexuality. The book provides broad coverage of a current social issue.

VanGemeran, Willem. *The Progress of Redemption: The Story of Salvation from Creation to the New Jerusalem*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1988. 544 pp. \$19.95.

The Progress of Redemption emphasizes the continuity between the two testaments. The book's underlying thesis is that humans will live in dialectic tension across a series of polarities until the eschaton. VanGemeran relates each epoch in biblical history to the place of Jesus in bringing in the New Heaven and New Earth.