

BOEKAANKONDIGINGS/BOOK NOTICES

KOMMENTARE/COMMENTARIES

Beek, M A 1984. **Prediker/Hooglied.** G F
Callenbach bv. 231 bladsye met literatuurlys.
Prys R38,25 by Lux Verbi.

Qohelet (Prediker) word gewoonlik gereken tot die wysheidsliteratuur van die Ou Testament. Dit trek veral aandag vanweë die skynbaar volslae pessimisme wat daarin verwoord is. Dr Beek gaan uitvoerig daarop en op ander vroeë soos outeurskap, moontlik Aramese oorsprong en die teologiese van Qohelet in. Sy slotsom lui: "Ik ken geen enkel bijbels geschrift waarin so hevig en so warm getuigd word van het goede dat een mens ervaart en dat wordt ontvangen als een gave van God. Hiermee verdient het geschrift, geliefd en omstreden, zijn opvallende plaats in de Heilige Schrift."

Ook in die kommentaar op Hooglied word die outeursvraag bespreek. 'n Oorsig oor die geskiedenis van die uitleg van die boek word gegee. By die verskomentaar word deurlopend aandag gegee aan die betekenis wat in Hooglied aan die eros, onderskeie van die agape toegeken word. Die outeur verwys in hierdie verband na 'n "salomonisch humanisme" wat, geskenk van God, dankbaarheid, blydschap en verantwoordelikheid wek.

Die besondere aan Hooglied is dat gelykwaardigheid tussen man en vrou veronderstel word. Die vrou kom openhartig aan die woord en tree nie as ondergeskikte op nie. En daarmee kom 'n boodskap na vore wat ryk aan inhoud is.

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Collins, John J 1984. **Daniel - with an Introduction to Apocalyptic Literature.**
Eerdmans. 120 pages including Glossary. Price
R29,80 at Lux Verbi.

This book is Volume XX in a series of 24 volumes that will present, according to a standard outline and methodology, a form-critical analysis of every book or unit of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible). Fundamentally exegetical, each volume will examine the **structure, genre, setting, and intention** of the biblical literature in question. It will also study the history behind the form-critical discussion of the material, attempt to bring consistency to the terminology for the genres and formulas of the biblical literature, and expose the exegetical procedure in such a way as to enable students and pastors to engage in their own analysis and interpretation.

In his introduction to Jewish apocalyptic literature, John J Collins examines the main characteristics and discusses the setting and intention of apocalyptic literature. Collins begins his discussion of Daniel with a survey of the book's anomalies and an examination of the bearing of form criticism on them. He goes on to discuss the book's place in the canon and the problems with its coherence and bilingualism. Collins's section-by-section commentary provides a structural analysis (verse-by-verse) of each section, as well as discussion of its genre, setting, and intention. The book includes bibliographies and a glossary of genres and formulas that offers concise definitions with examples and bibliography.

John J Collins is Professor of Religion at DePaul University.

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Van der Woude, dr A S 1984. Zacharia. G F
Callenbach bv, 325 bladsye met literatuurlys
en register. Prys R44,20 by Lux Verbi.

Die outeur het reeds in dieselfde reeks kommentare oor Miga, Jona/Nahum, Habakuk/Sefanja en Haggai/Maleagi die lig laat sien. Nou wend hy hom tot die baie en moeilike probleme rakende Sagaria, wat deur die eeue heen baie geboei het. Na die verskrikking van die ballingskap, in 'n tyd van maatskaplike, godsdienstige en ekonomiese krisis, klink Sagaria se hoopvolle boodskap. In die uitleg hiervan stel Van der Woude die leser deurgaans op hoogte van die standpunte van ander kommentare, maar gaan tegelyk 'n eie weg. Hy sien die naggestigte byvoorbeeld as integrale deel van Sagaria se visioene. 'n Heel nuwe uitleg van hoofstukke 4 en

11 word daarom aangebied. Ook op ander plekke is daar afgewyk van die tradisionele interpretasie. So word na aanleiding van 3:8 en 6:11vv 'n heel nuwe visie op die messiaanse verwagting van die profeet voorgedra. In alles is die outeur bedag daarop om die betekenis van Sagaria se boodskap vir vandag aan te toon.

ETIEK/ETHICS

Bock, Paul (tr/ed) 1984. Signs of the Kingdom - A Ragaz Reader. Eerdmans. 127 pages with selected Bibliography. Price R19,05 at Lux Verbi.

Leonhard Ragaz (1868-1945) was a leading figure in early 20th century Swiss religious socialism, a movement that paralleled the social gospel movement in America and helped to arouse Protestantism to its social responsibility. Through the journal he edited, **Neue Wege**, Ragaz regularly interpreted current events in relation to God's action in history as he understood it.

Best known because of his association with the Blumhardts, Barth and Brunner, Ragaz has received little attention in his own right from audiences outside Switzerland because there has been no substantial translation of his works into English. Now Paul Bock has selected and translated a representative sampling of Ragaz's work that provides a solid introduction to his thought and the ways in which it developed.

Following a biographical sketch of Ragaz, the book presents excerpts from his books, articles, sermons, pamphlets, and addresses. Some of the selections offer insights into Ragaz's understanding of the theological foundations of social action; others present his views on socialism, violence, and other topics, including many currently debated issues: war and peace, faith and economics, unemployment, and the international political and economic order.

A valuable contribution to the study of 20th century theology, **Signs of the Kingdom**, affords English-speaking readers the opportunity to examine firsthand the writings of an important though critically neglected theologian.

Paul Bock is Professor of Religion at Doane College, Crete, Nebraska.

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Longenecker, Richard N 1984. New Testament Social Ethics for Today. Eerdmans. 108 pages including an extended but selected bibliography. Price R11,30 at Lux Verbi.

The contents of this book stem from four lectures first given by Longenecker on "The Relevance of New Testament Social Ethics for Today" during 1979 and updated since. On the subject of his book, Longenecker notes: "For the majority of Christians, the significance of the New Testament for social ethics is shrouded in mystery Personal ethics ... are another matter.... A large part of our confusion regarding Christian social morality stems from our uncertainties regarding the place of the New Testament in forming a Christian social consciousness How should the New Testament be used in the various areas of social concern?" To answer this question, Longenecker proposes a developmental hermeneutic, which distinguishes between "declared principles" and "described practices" in the New Testament writings.

With this distinction in mind, he focuses on the three couplets of Galatians 3:28 - "neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female" - showing how these matters were treated in early Christian thought and explaining their meaning for us today. In so doing, Longenecker lays a hermeneutical foundation for the much larger discussion of Christian social ethics.

Richard N Longenecker is Professor of New Testament, Wycliffe College, University of Toronto.

Verhey, Allan 1984. The Great Reversal - Ethics and the New Testament. Eerdmans. 246 pages with extensive notes and three indexes. Price R28,30 at Lux Verbi.

There is no denying, writes Allen Verhey, that churches today are called to discern the shape and style of life "worthy of

the gospel of Christ" in the twentieth century. Even in the face of changing situations and new moral problems to address, the contemporary church stands self-consciously in a tradition of which the New Testament is a normative part.

In this major new study of New Testament ethics, Verhey examines first of all the ethic of Jesus, for it is there that the tradition begins. He then analyses the different forms in which the early church handed down the memory of Jesus' words and deeds in the development of a moral tradition. Next he deals with that tradition as it came to canonical expression in the New Testament writings.

In the last part of the book Verhey focuses on the use of the New Testament in the continuing moral tradition of the church, surveying proposals for the use of Scripture, identifying the critical methodological questions, and defending a "modest proposal" for the use of Scripture. It is a proposal deduced from what he calls the Chalcedonian consensus through which the "floodwaters" of fundamentalism and liberalism today could be stemmed.

Allen Verhey is Associate Professor of Religion at Hope College, Holland, Michigan.

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Walsh, Michael & Davies, Brian (eds) 1984.
Proclaiming Justice and Peace - Documents from John XXIII to John Paul II. Collins. Price R17,50. at Lux Verbi. 345 pages with index.

This volume contains the ten documents which together constitute the most authoritative and most recent social teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.

In the twenty years 1963-1983, the moral dilemmas and choices facing our world have multiplied and become both urgent and more complex. The Popes have proclaimed the Christian perspective on these issues, responding to the signs of the times in the light of the Gospel and within the tradition of the social teaching of the Church.

These statements treat of questions such as the organisation of the world of work, the relationship between worker and employer, the ownership of property; the rights and duties of individuals in society, and of the state towards the individual and towards other states; the fundamental question of justice, particularly in relation to the third world countries in the "North-South" confrontation; the search for peace.

Michael Walsh has provided a succinct and perceptive general introduction, which situates these statements within the historical context in which they were written, and traces the development of papal thinking on the major issues of our time.

A detailed analytical index, and brief introductions to each document add to the value of this collection.

OU TESTAMENT/OLD TESTAMENT

Hayes, John H & Prussner, Frederick C 1985.
Old Testament Theology: Its history and development. London: SCM. 279 pages plus index. Price R45,90 through Oxford University Press.

This comprehensive study covers the history and main problems of Old Testament theology from its beginnings to the present day, in a clear account with full bibliographies.

Part One deals with earliest developments, including the question of when Old Testament theology as a discipline may be said to begin. It extends from the Reformation to de La Peyrere and Spinoza. Part Two extends the account through the eighteenth century. Part Three first surveys the major movements of nineteenth-century theological thought and the study of Old Testament theology and religion during this time, charting the decline of Old Testament theology as a discipline and the rise of the 'History of Israelite Religion'.

Part Four describes the 'rebirth' of Old Testament theology after the First World War and surveys the Old Testament theologies of that period. The last part surveys more recent Old Testament theologies and considers continuing and contemporary issues in Old Testament theology, ranging from

narrative theology to the question whether the Old Testament may be said to have a centre.

John H Hayes is Associate Professor of Old Testament at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, in Atlanta, Georgia.

SISTEMATIEK/SYSTEMATICS

Neuhaus, Richard John 1984. The naked public Square - Religion and Democracy in America.
Eerdmans. 280 pages including Index. Price
R32,25 at Lux Verbi.

Underlying the many crises in American life, writes Richard John Neuhaus, is a crisis of faith. It is not enough that more people should believe or that those who believe should believe more strongly. Rather, the faith of persons and communities must be more compellingly related to the public arena. "The naked public square"- which results from the exclusion of popular values from the public forum - will almost certainly result in the death of democracy.

The great challenge, says Neuhaus, is the reconstruction of a public philosophy that can undergird American life and America's ambiguous place in the world. To be truly democratic and to endure, such a public philosophy must be grounded in values that are based in Judeo-Christian religion. The remedy begins with a recognition that democratic theory and practice, which have in the past often been indifferent or hostile to religion, must now be legitimated in terms compatible with biblical faith.

Neuhaus explores the strengths and weaknesses of various sectors of American religion in pursuing this task of critical legitimation. Arguing that America is now engaged in an historic moment of testing, he draws upon Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish thinkers who have in other moments of testing seen that the stakes are very high - for America, for the promise of democratic freedom elsewhere, and possibly for God's purpose in the world.

An honest analysis of the situation, says Neuhaus, shatters false polarizations between left and right, liberal and conservative. In a democratic culture, the believer's respect for nonbelievers is not a compromise but a requirement of the believer's faith. Similarly, the democratic rights of those outside the communities of religious faith can be assured only by the inclusion of religiously-grounded values in the common life.

The naked public square does not offer yet another partisan program for political or social change. Rather, it offers a deeply disturbing, but finally hopeful, examination of Abraham Lincoln's century-old question - whether this nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure.

Richard John Neuhaus is the author of many critically acclaimed books and articles on theology and the role of religion in the modern world. A national leader in movements for civil rights and peace, he lectures widely in the United States and abroad, and his work has been the subject of feature articles in **The New York Times**, **Harper's** and scholarly journals. He is Director of the Center on Religion and Society and Editor of **Lutheran Forum**.

About this book Stanley Hauerwas comments: "Neuhaus's book should be required reading for all who would contemptuously dismiss the rise of political consciousness among the religious conservatives Whether you agree or disagree with Neuhaus's view of the role of religion in the public square, you cannot help but find his analysis a valuable aid for thinking about such issues."

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Thurmer, John 1984. A detection of the Trinity. Paternoster. 93 pages.

This is in many ways a remarkable book (-let?). There cannot be many books on the Trinity that are at once short, lucid and positive. This one is. Furthermore, in 93 pages the writer combines the "academic" and the "devotional", biblical scholarship and systematic theology and all this while drawing on the writings of the detective novelist of yesteryear, Dorothy Sayers - hence the first word in the title of the book. No wonder Bishop Ramsey describes the

book as "fascinating in its drawing together of some biblical themes often overlooked, the thinking of Dorothy Sayers and some of the strands of traditional theology."

Basically this book poses the question: **What**, in human thought or experience, can God, the Holy Trinity, resemble? It is the ever recurring question of the analogy between God and man. Thurmer finds his answer in the triad of Idea, Activity and Power, not to "... be taken in a philosophical or scientific sense, but "in the sense intended by the poet and the common man." It is intriguing to follow his exposition of the Trinity along these lines, but one cannot escape the conclusion that the logic of the argument is not new. In fact one can faintly hear Aquinas in the background.

All of which goes to say, this book expounds mainstream Christian tradition about God by using modern analogies to reconfirm the old-old truth that God became Man to be with us for ever. To redetect this fundamental truth, Thurmer's book is a valuable aid.

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Van de Beek, dr A 1984. Waarom? Over lijden, schuld en God. 354 bladsye met register.
G F Callenbach bv. Prys R32,20 by Lux Verbi.

Hierdie boek is 'n poging om toegang te bied tot die moeilike terrein van die vrae oor lyding, skuld en Godsbestuur. 'n Mens kan langs een van twee weë so 'n toegang vind - deur of van die almag of van die goedheid van God uit te gaan. In albei gevalle loop jy dan groot risiko's. Die skrywer "probeer" elkeen van die twee toegangsweë in 'n poging om nie 'n eksklusiewe keuse vir slegs een te maak nie. Geen eensydige sisteem is die oplossing nie, maar 'n omgaan met God binne die spanningsveld tussen albei toegangsweë. Verskillende modelle word aan die orde gestel en die skrywer vind dat daar in elkeen iets belig word van die omgang van God met mense, omdat dit tegelyk iets belig van die omgang van mense met God. Eers in die aktuele omgang van God en mens kry elke model sy betekenis en vul hulle mekaar aan.

Die boek is bedoel vir almal wat teologies geïnteresseerd is en nie net vir vakteoloë nie.

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Wolters, A M 1985. Creation regained: Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview. 98 bladsye. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans. Prys R18,30 by Lux Verbi.

Die outeur is medeprofessor in Godsdienst en Teologie-/Klassieke Tale aan Redeemer College, Hamilton, Ontario.

In hierdie boek bied Wolters 'n oriëntasie in 'n Reformatoriese lewensbeskouing. Hy skryf duidelik, op die punt af en maak ruim gebruik van toepaslike voorbeelde. Dis bevatlik genoeg om die gewone lidmaat te stig, en indringend genoeg om die filosoof en teoloog te prikkel.

Ten aanvang bespreek hy die aard van 'n lewensbeskouing, onderskei dit van filosofie en teologie, en vergelyk 'n aantal lewensbeskouings wat deur Christene gehuldig kan word.

Vervolgens bespreek hy skepping, sondeval en verlossing as steunpunte vir 'n Reformatoriese lewensvisie. Hy kritiseer die gangbare dualisme van heilig en sekulêr, en stel 'n integrale benadering voor waarin tussen struktuur en rigting onderskei word. Die hele skepping is goed, die hele skepping is meegesleur in die val, en die verlossing is op die hele skepping gerig. Die skepping as sodanig is nie boos nie; die skepping is boos insoverre dit in 'n afvallige rigting ontplooi word.

In 'n tyd waarin gereformeerd dikwels as onttrekking aan die lewe verstaan word, slaag Wolters daarin om dié lewensiening as beaming en genieting van God se skepping voor te stel.

ALGEMEEN/MISCELLANEOUS

Bossy, John 1985. Christianity in the West. Oxford University Press. 171 pages plus indices. Price R14,35.

This is a book about Christianity in its medieval sense: a body of people, their beliefs and superstitions and their way

of life. Professor Bossy aims to improve understanding of what happened to Western Europe during this crucial period by renouncing the use of the term 'Reformation' and its implication that a bad form of Christianity was replaced by a good one.

Slightly over half the book is taken up with an absorbing and original account of traditional or pre-Reformation Christianity. The sacraments of the Church - from baptism to the last rites - still fulfilled Augustine's concept of their function as the skeleton of the social body.

The second half explores the forces that were tending to undermine these classic rites of passage, which lent significance and sanctity to people's lives. Professor Bossy describes the regimes (both Protestant and Catholic) which superseded the older ways, and examines the consequences of the disintegration of traditional Christianity.

John Bossy is Professor of History at the University of York. His **The English Catholic Community 1570-1850** was published in 1976, and he is writing a volume on the Counter-Reformation in the Oxford History of the Christian Church series.

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Bratt, James D 1984. **Dutch Calvinism in modern America**. Eerdmans. 329 pages with bibliography and index. Price R13,95 at Lux Verbi.

In this book Bratt takes a look at the Dutch in America from the late 19th century to the present. A comprehensive study of an ethnic subculture, the book is in large part a study of the group's religious history as well, since, as Bratt points out, the contours of the Dutch presence in America have been overwhelmingly shaped by the church and its subsidiary organizations.

Although the book is extensively and scrupulously documented, Bratt has infused his scholarship with a considerable amount of anecdote that is by turns poignant and tragic and hilarious.

In Bratt's analysis of the fitful progress of Americanization that this close-knit religious community has undergone, we are treated to the sharp insights of a bemused and sometimes disaffected insider. Included is a chapter on novelists Arnold Mulder, David Cornel DeJong, Frederick Manfred, and Peter DeVries - four sons of the Dutch who fled the subculture only to reflect upon it almost obsessively from the outside.

Well written, scholarly, and highly readable, **Dutch Calvinism in Modern America** will have wide appeal among both academic and general readers.

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De Gruchy, John W 1984. Bonhoeffer and South Africa. Eerdmans. 152 pages with appendix (The Barmen Declaration). Price R17,95 at Lux Verbi.

In this stimulating book, John W de Gruchy points out the relevance of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's thought for the life of the church in South Africa today, engaging in dialogue the theology of Bonhoeffer and the theology of South Africa.

Both Bonhoeffer's theology and his life bore witness to the need for Christians to come face to face with the pressing political and social issues of the day. Bonhoeffer believed that to bear an authentic witness to Christ in certain settings was to go against the stream; the church in South Africa, says De Gruchy, faces the challenge to be just such a "troublesome witness." He finds in Bonhoeffer's theology direction and liberation for the oppressed - as well as for the privileged, who need to be "freed for others."

Finally, in this fiftieth anniversary year of the Barmen Declaration, De Gruchy discusses how that document, and the Confessing Church from which it came, are seen as a model to many Christians in South Africa, in their struggle to live in a repressive society.

Throughout, the book demonstrates the abiding significance of Bonhoeffer's theology, which, according to De Gruchy, derives

from the fact that he was, before all else, a witness to Jesus Christ.

John W de Gruchy, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Cape Town, is the author of **The Church Struggle in South Africa**.

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Marsden, George (ed) 1984. Evangelicalism and modern America. Eerdmans. 220 pages with selected bibliography and index. Price R21,45 at Lux Verbi.

This volume has two main purposes. The first is to help describe and explain the re-emergence of evangelicalism as a formidable force in modern America. Certainly, thirty years ago few would have predicted the solid place of evangelicalism in American life today.

The second purpose of this book is to help assess the character and quality of the evangelical return to prominence. Most of the essayists represented here are evangelicals, and all of them have sympathy with evangelicalism. They realize, however, that recent evangelical successes have been mixed blessings. So this volume, although largely descriptive, also has the purpose of taking a critical look at evangelicalism's relationship to modern America.

George Marsden is Professor of History at Calvin College.

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Walsh, Michael (ed) 1985. Butler's Lives of the Saints (concise edition). Tunbridge Wells, Kent: Burns & Oates. 436 pages plus indices. Price R24,30 through Oxford University Press.

This is 'one of the great classic works on Christian sainthood', as Cardinal Basil Hume has described it. Originally published in the mid-eighteenth century, it has twice been revised in this century, up-dated and expanded. But it has

only been published hitherto in its four-volume form which runs to over 2500 entries and nearly 3000 pages.

It was to make the work available to many more readers that the publishers commissioned this one-volume 'concise edition'. The basic form of the original is retained - with the saints listed chronologically month by month on their feast days which is usually the date of their death, or their 'birthday' into Heaven. For each day of the year one saint is given. This makes the book ideally suitable for devotional reading as well as for historical background on all periods of Church history.

While he has not neglected the older, traditional saints, the editor, Michael Walsh, has concentrated on the more modern and better documented saints' lives; but at the same time he is able to show the tradition and continuity from the early past. He also casts his net widely in terms of nationality of origin or adoption and has written fresh articles of his own on recently canonised saints, like the two Americans St Elizabeth Bayley Seton and St John Nepomucene.

Mr Walsh has followed the text of the 1956 edition of Butler's Lives of the Saints revised by Herbert Thurston, S J, and Donald Attwater. He has also followed the dating of the New Calendar. As a result a particularly valuable feature of this book is the 'Index of Saints'. This reproduces the full index from the complete edition of Butler's Lives of the Saints; it highlights the saints included in this volume; it is also the handiest list of saints available which contains the most recent canonisations as well as the new revised dating.

In his Introduction Mr Walsh records the life of Alban Butler and the history of this, his most famous book. He has aimed to preserve the quality of the original despite the fact that he, and Butler's previous editors, have updated and modified the text. One other aspect he has also changed: pious exhortations have been deleted. As he eloquently expresses it 'the saints, with all their achievements and all their eccentricities, should be allowed to stand up for themselves. They do not need apologists to commend them to our attention!'