
BOOK NOTICES / BOEKAANKONDIGINGS

BIBLIOGRAPHY / BIBLIOGRAFIE

Borchardt, C F A, & Vorster, W S (eds) 1988. *South African Theological Bibliography vol 3. Suid-Afrikaanse Teologiese Bibliografie deel 3*. Pretoria: University of South Africa. Pp 503. Price R46,50.

This instalment of the *South African Theological Bibliography*, edited by C F A Borchardt and W S Vorster, covers the period between 1981 and 1984. Users are reminded that the *SATB* only contains bibliographical entries of material published in South African journals. Also included are locally presented dissertations and theses, inaugural lectures and series produced by local universities. Since the appearance of *SATB 2*, a number of new journals have been launched, of which the particulars are reflected in the present volume.

The present volume follows the same division of particulars as did the previous ones. Like *SATB 2*, it also contains a subject index, which proved to be a very useful aspect of *SATB 2*. Entries in the index are arranged alphabetically, each sub-entry requiring to be read in conjunction with its main entry.

This is a major work, like the two previous ones. It is an indispensable tool which no theologian in South Africa can do without.

Professor Vorster is Director of the Institute for Theological Research, University of South Africa, and Professor Borchardt teaches at the Department of Church History, University of Pretoria.

BLACK THEOLOGY / SWART TEOLOGIE

Goba, Bonganjalo 1988. *An agenda for black theology: hermeneutics for social change*. Johannesburg: Skotaville. Pp 126. Price R16,25.

According to Goba, doing theology in South Africa constitutes a problem and a challenge. It is a problem because of the nature of our political situation, in which blacks are not expected to think critically, nor, for that matter, to theologize. For many of them, it is always a risk to think and express their views openly, a risk which can lead to one's death. Cases in point are Steve Biko and many unknown heroes of the black struggle in South Africa. It is a challenge especially for black Christians, for it is an invitation to test the authenticity of their faith and to make a contribution to the current struggle for freedom in South Africa, and, for that matter, the world.

This book is Goba's challenge to members of the black Christian community to reflect critically about the relevance of their faith in the current oppressive situation.

He does this by reflecting on the nature, the context, the praxis and the goal of black theological reflection. His last chapter deals with the theology of the oppressed.

Bonganjalo Goba is a lecturer at the Chicago Theological Seminary. A leading exponent of black theology, he used to work at UNISA's Theological Department, and is a signatory of the Kairos Document.

Maimela, Simon 1987. *Proclaim freedom to my people. Essays on religion and politics*. Johannesburg: Skotaville. Pp 152. Price R14.

There is perhaps no greater service to South Africa which the Church could perform at the present time than that of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, which demands that God's people should live in liberty and serve their fellows as free human beings. The mission to proclaim liberation and freedom has always been a difficult one for the Church to fulfil. But despite the difficulty and opposition to its message from forces of oppression, the church is under divine obligation to proclaim liberty to God's people, who often find themselves suffering from various forms of physical and spiritual bondage.

It is an open secret that South African society is riddled with many contradictions, and foremost among them is the fact that we pride ourselves of being a Christian country; yet our society has fashioned, nurtured, tolerated and carried to its logical consequences one of the most brutal and oppressive social systems known to humanity: *apartheid*.

In order to maintain their position of dominance over the black majority, the white minority has had to resort to ruthless means of suppressing black political and economic dissent, however peaceful that dissent might be. Put somewhat differently, fearing that they might some day be toppled and subjugated by the black majority, whites not only turned their backs against Christian values best summarized in the 'Golden rule' (Mt 7:12, 22:39), but also lost faith in democracy and its rules of fair play.

The incompatibility between the social arrangements in South Africa, and the ethos of the gospel has challenged and exercised the minds of those who believe that the message of the gospel is essentially one of liberation of and freedom for God's people. Accordingly, they believe that the Church must take stock of its mission and proclaim liberty to the people of God in fulfilment of its calling.

Against this background Maimela then proceeds to deal with:

theology and ideology;
the gospel of liberation;
Christian hope and social responsibility.

Simon Maimela is a minister of the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, and a Professor of Theology at the University of South Africa.

ETHICS / ETIEK

Samuel, Vinay, & Sugden, Chris (eds) 1987. *The Church in response to human need*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 268. Price at Lux Verbi: R38,60.

An important contribution to the ongoing discussion of the church's relationship to social development, this book contains the revised conference proceedings from the consultation 'The Church in response to social need', held in Wheaton, Illinois, in June 1983.

In the papers collected here, writers from five continents consider whether the Bible indicates any method for ministry among the poor; the place of the poor in God's plan; God's purpose and the movement of human history; the nature of the gospel and human culture. In addition to the individual papers, the book includes the statement 'Transformation', which was produced by the consultation as a whole.

The book includes chapters on:

- Development: its secular past and its uncertain future;
- Culture and social change;
- Culture and planned change;
- Social justice and human liberation;
- Toward evangelism in context;
- Justice, freedom, and social transformation.

Vinay Samuel is Executive Secretary of Partnership in Mission Asia, and a pastor in Bangalore, India. He was chairman of Wheaton '83 Consultation.

Christopher Sugden is Registrar at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies in England. Samuel and Sugden previously edited *Sharing Jesus in the Two Thirds World*.

Womer, Jan L (ed & tr) 1987. *Morality and ethics in early Christianity*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press. Pp 135. Available from Lux Verbi at R22,05.

This the 8th volume in the series Sources of early Christian thought.

The purpose of this series is to allow an English-reading public to gain firsthand insight into early times for Christianity, by making available in a modern, readable English the fundamental sources which chronicle how Christianity and its theology attained their normative character. Whenever possible, entire patristic writings or selections are presented. The varying points of view within the early church are given their opportunity to be heard. An introduction by the translator and editor of each volume describes the context of the documents for the reader.

In this volume we have a few of many documents from the early centuries of Christianity that deal with a variety of themes related to morality and ethics. Christians, in their struggle to develop their self-identity, had to confront the

religious and ethical teachings of Judaism, classical Greek philosophy, and a host of Greco-Roman religious cults.

How are Christians different? In what ways, if any, are they similar?

Their faith and life were permeated with the eschatological belief that God's power was at work in their lives and in all the events of history. The Christian community, the church, was being led by God to the fulfilment of his divine purpose. Moral law came from God, and was an integral part of creation itself. Unlike much of Greek philosophy, Christianity looked upon ethics as part of the relationship to God, rather than as an independent discipline. As we see in the documents, these beliefs provide a foundation upon which early ethnical thought and moral rules were built.

Jan Womer is Principal and Lutheran World Federation Lecturer at Mansfield College, Oxford, England.

NEW TESTAMENT / NUWE TESTAMENT

Smit, Dirkie 1988. *Hoop in lewe en lyding ... Oordenkings en Bybelstudie uit 1 Petrus*. Kaapstad: Lux Verbi. Pp 100. Verkrygbaar by Lux Verbi teen R11.

'Ons leef in 'n tyd en situasie waarin net vlugtende, volstruispolitiek-Christene dit regkry om ver van lyding te leef.'

Inderdaad.

Nuutgemaakte Christene, mense wat werklik 'anders' wil leef, volgens 'n radikaal nuwe styl, ervaar onontvlugbare grade van lyding: hulle word skeef aangekyk, beswadder, selfs aktief benadeel. Dan is die versoeking sterk om hul Christelike beginsels prys te gee om aan dié lyding te probeer ontkom.

Maar *1 Petrus* sê ons moenie, ons hoef nie te swig nie. Soos eeue gelede wil dié brief Christene oortuig om te bly hoop te midde van pyn en lewensontwrigting wat alle vorms van lyding bring.

Hoop in lewe en lyding is 'n derde bundel in 'n reeks besonder gewilde oordenkings bedoel vir:

- preekstof;
- persoonlike en groep-Bybelstudie;
- bidure en wyksbyeenkomste;
- voorleespreke.

Professor Smit is verbonde aan die Departement Sistematiese Teologie aan die Universiteit van Wes-Kaapland. Twee van sy vorige bundels het gehandel oor Kolossense (*Christus is die Heer!*) en Hebreërs (*Die geloof is dan ...*).

Johnson Luke T 1986. *The writings of the New Testament. An interpretation.* Philadelphia: Fortress. Pp 593. Price at Lux Verbi R42,75.

The book offers a unique 'reader guide' to the New Testament. It is aimed at 'those who want to understand the origin and shape of the New Testament writings, but are unable to find a comprehensive introduction that is neither repellingly technical, nor appallingly trivial.' It is called an 'interpretation' rather than an 'introduction', because most introductions are either handbooks, devoted to the communication of information concerning a narrow range of scholarly issues, or popularized versions of conventional scholarly wisdom for students. In contrast, this book tries to provide a genuine interpretation of Christianity's earliest writings, and focuses on the most important issues concerning their interpretation.

The book succeeds admirably in this goal it has set itself, and produces a novel way of introducing the reader to the New Testament. It is well informed about the latest research, but resents it in a way which is both inviting and stimulating to the non-technical reader. This is an intelligent guide for both the theological student and informed layman, and has all the signs of becoming a most successful publication.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY / SISTEMATIESE TEOLOGIE

Welch, Claude 1985. *Protestant thought in the Nineteenth Century vol 2, 1890-1914.* New Haven: Yale University Press. Pp 315. Price not given.

A comprehensive account of the principal Protestant theological concerns and writers from 1870 to World War I. Welch discusses both major and minor thinkers, placing them within such overarching themes as the nature of faith and the relationship of church and society.

This volume appears after a considerably greater lapse of time than was anticipated when volume I was published in 1972. Nonetheless, the two volumes still need to be considered parts of a single work on the development of Protestant thought (especially theology) in the nineteenth century.

The principal concerns of late-nineteenth-century religious thought seems to fall naturally into three categories: faith, history, and ethics, as well as their relations to one another. The interpretation is therefore ordered (mostly) in relation to those topics, not as a schema rigidly or artificially imposed, but as a way of throwing light on the principal individual efforts and debates of the period.

The scope of this book is evident from the titles of the different chapters:

- * Albrecht Ritschl: faith, history, and ethics in balance;
- * Faith viewed from within: the problem of certainty;
- * Faith viewed from without: the 'objective';
- * Christianity and other faiths: the history of religions and the finality of the Christian religion;
- * History and faith;

- * Evolution and theology: détente or evasion?
- * Ethics, church, and culture;
- * Ernst Troeltsch: faith, history, and ethics in tension.

Claude Welch is dean emeritus and professor of historical theology at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley.

OLD TESTAMENT / OU TESTAMENT

Vosloo, W 1986. *Méér as net 'n storie*. Pretoria: NGK-Boekhandel Transvaal. Pp 270. Prys R29,50.

Dié boek wil die leser op 'n nie-tegniese wyse help om die Ou Testament beter te verstaan. Om dit te bereik, volg die skrywer die verhaallyn van die Bybel self, en behandel hy die stof in vier hoofdele, naamlik die pre-monargiese tydperk, die verenigde ryk, die twee koninkryke, en die ballingskaps- en na-ballingskapstydperk. Hoewel die nadruk dus op die verhalende dele van die Ou Testament val, word die nie-verhalende stof ook daarby ingewerk.

Oor sy lesers sê die skrywer:

Die publikasie het verskillende leserskringe in die oog. Eerstens is dit bedoel om studente in die teologie, Bybelkunde en Bybel/godsdiensonderrig te help om hulle Bybelkennis te verbeter. Verder is daar gedink aan die gewone Bybellesers wat die Ou Testament beter wil verstaan, en wat vra na die betekenis daarvan vir die daaglikse lewe. Daarom is moeilike teologiese terme, besprekings van literêr-historiese probleme en die behandeling van ingewikkelde inleidingsvraagstukke sover moontlik vermy, sodat selfs 'n hoërskoolkind met vrug die boek sal kan gebruik. Daarby is dit nie net geskryf as 'n hulpmiddel by persoonlike Bybelstudie nie, maar ook as handleiding vir Bybelstudiegroepe.

Voorts gee die skrywer duidelike riglyne vir die gebruik van die boek deur die verskillende lesersgroepe. Die boek is baie netjies uitgegee en die sketse, oorsigskaarte en spesifieke vrae vir ondersoek en bespreking verhoog die bruikbaarheid. Hier is 'n besonder nuttige en aantreklike publikasie wat 'n wye leserskring verdien.

Die skrywer is Professor in die Departement Ou Testament, Teologiese Fakulteit B, Universiteit van Pretoria.

HERMENEUTICS / HERMENEUTIEK

Van Schoor, M 1986. *Wat is kommunikasie?* Pretoria: Van Schaik. Pp 205. Prys onbekend.

Vir diegene wat 'n basiese inleiding tot die ietwat moeilik vaspenbare vakgebied 'kommunikasiekunde' soek, sal die tweede uitgawe van Van Schoor se boek 'n nuttige oriëntering bied. Die bedoeling is om nie alleen 'n oorsig te gee van die kernbegrippe van die vak nie, maar ook 'n inleiding in die geskiedenis van die denke oor kommunikasie en die mensbeskouings wat aan die grondslag van daardie denke lê.

Van Schoor waarsku teen die 'naïewe en gevaarlike' stelling dat die mens nie anders kan as om te kommunikeer nie. Teenoor die populêre opvatting van kommunikasiekunde wil hy die 'smal weg' bewandel, deur met 'n kritiese instelling, eers terug te delf in die verlede, en sodoende tot 'n nuwe begrip en omskrywing van die verskynsel van kommunikasie te kom.

MISCELLANEOUS / ALGEMEEN

Deist, Ferdinand 1988. *Laat my volk trek!* Kaapstad: Tafelberg. Pp 147. Prys R21, plus A V B.

Deur die eeue heen was die eksodusverhaal uit die geskiedenis van Oud-Israel vir verskillende maatskaplike en volksgroepe in tye van nood 'n bron van besieling. Daarin kon hulle 'n spieëlbeeld van hul eie krisissituasie sien: magtelose mensies onder die hiel van 'n meedoënlose verdrukker, iemand wat voor hom verskyn om hul vryheid te eis. En dan die heerlike, wonderbaarlike ingrype van God wat met magtige goddelike dae teen die verdrukker optree:

- * In die Duitsland van die sestende eeu het dit die boerebevolking aangespoor tot 'n verset wat later in 'n bloedige revolusie geëindig het.
- * Vir die gewone Engelse burgers van die volgende eeu het dit 'n wekroep geword tot grootskaalse hervorming.
- * Die verhaal het sy rol gespeel in die verhouding hier te lande tussen Afrikaner en Engelsman.
- * Dit vorm deel van die grondstof vir die veelbesproke Kairosdokument.

Maar wat sê hierdie verhaal eintlik? Wat sê dit vir ons werklik van die verdrukker en die verdrukte en die ingrype van God? En waar lê die raakpunt tussen Skrifuitleg en politiek en gehoorsaamheid aan God?

In *Laat my volk trek!* nooi Deist die leser om weer na hierdie bekende Skrifgedeelte te kyk, núút te kyk. Kernagtig, maar op sy kenmerkend onderhoudende manier skets hy vir die leser die ontwikkeling wat dié stuk geskiedskrywing oor 'n tydperk van driehonderd jaar deurloop het, hoe dit deur Bybelskrywers uitgebou is, en nuwe

aksente bygekry het. En dit alleen maak hierdie werk al uitnemend leeswaardig en insiggewend.

Maar Deist gaan verder. Vir hom gaan dit nie daarom om kategoriees stelling in te neem oor die geldigheid van die bevrydingsteologiese interpretasie van Eksodus 1-14 nie. Eerder het ons hier te doen met 'n oproep tot besinning - en dan 'n uitnodiging om dit sáám te doen. Want in isolasie geïnterpreteer, word die waarheid so maklik skeefgetrek ...

Laat my volk trek! is 'n boek vir die huidige tyd. Dis 'n boek vir elkeen wat wil erns maak met die soeke na die wil van God, ook met Suid-Afrika en sy mense.

Ferdinand Deist is Professor in die Departement Ou Testament, Universiteit van Suid-Afrika.

Stackhouse, Max L 1988. *Apologia. Contextualization, globalization, and mission in theological education*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 237. Available from Lux Verbi at R35,55.

Apologia is about contemporary theological education - its current state, and its future. While many current trends in seminaries and departments of theology bring important new insights to the study of religion, says Max Stackhouse, they also erode - sometimes unwittingly - the capacity to speak of God, truth, and justice with warranted confidence. Theology is thereby undermined in all arenas - not only in academia, but in the life of the church and society.

This book not only exposes the frailties of several current ideologies, but also draws noted scholars from five continents and a seminary faculty into an interdisciplinary discussion of the most significant recent literature on theological education. The results are fresh proposals for the reconstructing of theological education on foundations that are contextually alert, globally concerned, and mission-orientated.

Apologia is a ground-breaking work, a book that begins and ends in dialogue, and points toward the ways in which Christian theology will have to redefine itself if it is to shape, and not merely reflect, the context in which we live.

Max Stackhouse is Herbert Gezork Professor at Andover Newton Theological School in Massachusetts. His previous books include *Creeeds, society, and human rights* and *Public theology and political economy*.

Marsden, George M 1987. *Reforming fundamentalism. Fuller Seminary and the new evangelicalism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 319. Available from Lux Verbi at R44,65.

'The best telling of the story of the past,' writes George Marsden, 'relies on a balance of the general and the particular.' In this book, a sequel and companion to his widely-acclaimed *Fundamentalism and American Culture* (Oxford, 1980),

Marsden uses the history of Fuller Theological Seminary - a durable evangelical institution - as a lens through which to focus an examination of the broader story of evangelicalism and fundamentalism since the 1940s.

In fact, at the time of the school's founding in 1947, 'evangelicalism' and 'fundamentalism' were not considered separate entities. Though Fuller Seminary later became so thoroughly identified with the 'new evangelicalism' (or neo-evangelicalism) that its fundamentalist roots are sometimes overlooked, in the school's early years it was in striking ways a fundamentalist institution with a thoroughly fundamentalist constituency.

Charles Fuller and the school's other founders, including Harold Ockenga, Wilbur Smith, Carl Henry, and Harold Lindsell, were consciously bound by allegiances to three major religious movements (although they did not usually see the three as distinct): classical Protestant Christianity, the American evangelical heritage, and fundamentalism. Their goal was to establish an institution that would train evangelists to counter the inroads of modernism, and that would at the same time serve as a center for evangelical scholarship.

Marsden's detailed history relies heavily on primary sources: personal recollections and correspondence of the seminary's founders, and discussions with students and staff from throughout the school's history. Although the story of Fuller Seminary provides the framework for this fascinating look at a segment of American religious history, Marsden's careful and knowledgeable attention to the surrounding worlds of mainline denominations and stricter fundamentalism makes this book a major contribution to the study of a movement that has played an important role in shaping American culture.

George Marsden, widely regarded as a leading authority on American fundamentalism, is Professor of the History of Christianity in America at the Divinity School, Duke University. He has written and co-authored other books.

Wink, Walter 1986. *Unmasking the powers. The invisible forces that determine human existence*. Philadelphia: Fortress. Pp 227. Price at Lux Verbi R31,30.

Following his widely acclaimed *Naming the powers*, the present volume is the second in a projected trilogy on the subject. The book analyzes the forces of evil in a contemporary setting, and how they infiltrate human life on many levels and in unsuspected ways.

In his familiar forceful and incisive style, the author discusses a wide variety of themes, all related to the way in which evil penetrates and influences human experience. By unmasking these methods, he also provides the basis for a counter-move.

Walter Wink is a Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Auburn Theological Seminary in New York.

James, Eric 1987. *A life of Bishop John A T Robinson. Scholar, pastor, prophet.* London: Collins. Pp 340. Price £15.

For all who have come to know the remarkable person of John Robinson, this biography would be a welcome addition on the bookshelf. Perhaps best known for his sensational book *Honest to God*, which caused a stir throughout Europe and the rest of the Western world in the nineteen-sixties, not everyone is aware that he was not only a brilliant student and influential churchman, but also a very accomplished and respected New Testament scholar.

But then, he was all but a conventional figure, and reading this book makes it clear why he was always in the thick of things.

In the field of the New Testament, his latest book, *Redating the New Testament*, in which he argues for a very early dating of most of the New Testament books, he remains true to character.

This biography is well written, and covers the full life of this remarkable man, up to his death in 1984.