
BOOK NOTICES / BOEKAANKONDIGINGS

OLD TESTAMENT / OU TESTAMENT

Verhoef, P A 1989. *Die boek Haggai*. Kaapstad: N G Kerk-Uitgewers. Pp 67. Prys R15,30.

Prinsloo, W S 1990. *Die boek Joël*. Kaapstad: N G Kerk-Uitgewers. Pp 115. Prys R18,30.

Hierdie twee kommentare op die boeke Joël en Haggai onderskeidelik is die nuutste toevoegings tot die gewilde 'Skrifuitleg vir Bybelstudent en Gemeente' (SBG)-reeks wat deur die Algemene Sinode van die N G Kerk se kommissie vir Bybelverklaring en Bybelvertaling ontwikkel word.

Die SBG-reeks is daarop gerig om die bestaande *Verklarende Bybel* (van dieselfde kommissie) aan te vul en kan gebruik word as gids by Skrifuitleg vir enige Bybelstudent of binne gemeenteverband. Dit is in maklik toeganklike Afrikaans geskryf, hoewel dit gegrond is op deeglike en wetenskaplike eksegeese. Met hierdie gids in die hand kan die boodskap wat die profete vir die kerk van Jesus Christus in die hede het, meer toeganklik word. Die kommentare bevat benewens 'n vers-vers verklaring van die teks, 'n kort inleiding ten opsigte van die historiese agtergrond van die onderskeie profete.

Prof Verhoef is 'n emeritus-professor in Ou Testament aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch. Hy is 'n spesialis op die gebied van die kleiner profete ná die ballingskap en het ook reeds 'n meer wetenskaplike kommentaar oor Haggai, *The books of Haggai and Malachi* (Eerdmans 1987) gepubliseer.

Prof Prinsloo is 'n hoogleraar in Ou-Testamentiese vakke aan die Universiteit van Pretoria. Hy is die outeur van *Die boek Rut* (ook in die SBG-reeks), asook van wetenskaplike artikels oor die boodskap van die profeet Joël.

NEW TESTAMENT / NUWE TESTAMENT

Mazamisa, L W 1987. *Beatific Comradship: an exegetical-hermeneutical study on Lk 10:25-37*. Kampen: J H Kok. Pp 212. Price not quoted.

This study on the parable of the Good Samaritan is the author's doctoral thesis, completed at the Theologische Academie in Kampen in the Netherlands.

The question may well be asked whether something new can still be said on the parable of the Good Samaritan. Mazamisa acknowledges this question but indicates that, thus far, most of the research on Lk 10:25-37 has been done by theologians from the 'North'. The author attempts, however, to read the parable by not only identifying with the 'charitable' Samaritan, but by also concentrating on the wounded

man on the side of the road. The study consists of an anatomy of modern literary theories, an exegetical and hermeneutical analysis and some final remarks.

Dr Mazamisa is a senior lecturer in Religious Studies at the University of Cape Town.

Breytenbach, C (Red-ed) 1988. *Church in context. Early Christianity in social context/ Kerk in konteks. Die vroeë Christendom in sosiale verband*. Pretoria: N G Kerkboekhandel. Pp 132.

Hierdie bundel opstelle onder redaksie van prof. Cilliers Breytenbach behandel drie fasette van die vroeë Christendom: a) die persoon van Jesus van Nasaret, b) die identiteit van Christene as navolgers van Jesus Christus en c) enkele aspekte van die sosiale konteks van die vroeë Christendom. Die bundel wil die leser begelei om nie net die vroeë kerk nie, maar ook die hedendaagse kerk teen die agtergrond van sy sosiale konteks te verstaan.

Die bundel bevat die volgende opstelle:

De Villiers, P G R. Inleiding: Bybel, kerk en konteks.

Van Zyl, H. Die kleintjies en geringstes in die Matteus-evangelie.

Scheffler, E. On suffering in Luke's gospel.

Breytenbach, C. Die identiteit van 'n Christenmens.

Van der Watt, J G. Broederliefde in 1 Johannes.

Draper, J. The social milieu and motivation of the community of goods in the Jerusalem church of Acts.

Nortjé, L. Die vrou in die vroeë Christendom.

Vorster, J N. Die vroeë Christene en die politiek.

Nicol, W. Epiloog.

Pretorius, E A C 1988. *Die brief van Jakobus*. Kaapstad: N G Kerk-Uitgewers. Pp 134. Prys: R21,00.

Die brief van Jakobus is 'n verdere toevoeging tot die gewilde Skrifverklaring vir Bybelstudent en Gemeente (SBG)-kommentaarreeks wat deur die Kommissie vir Byvelvertaling en -verklaring van die Algemene Sinode van die N G Kerk ontwikkel word. Die trant van die aanbieding van hierdie reeks is van so 'n aard dat dit in die smaak sal val van lesers wat graag dieper as die oppervlak wil delf, terwyl die gewone kerklike leser ook daarby sal baat vind.

Dr. E A C Pretorius is professor in Nuwe Testament aan Unisa.

Tyson, J B 1984. *The New Testament and early Christianity*. New York: MacMillan. Pp 458. Price not quoted.

This study concerns two interrelated areas: the documents known as the New Testament and the movement called early Christianity. It is the conviction of the

author that the usual separation of NT studies and the study of early Christianity should be challenged. Books that concentrate exclusively on the New Testament fail to do justice to the fullness of the early Christian movement. The New Testament should therefore be studied within the context of all the other documents produced at that time.

This book is an expanded and reorganized version of the author's *A study of early Christianity* (1973).

Joseph B Tyson is lecturer in New Testament at Southern Methodist University.

Cilliers, J 1990. *Meer as mossies. Oordenkings en Bybelstudie oor die Onse Vader-gebed*. Kaapstad: Lux Verbi. Pp 67. Prys: R9,30.

Die skrywer van hierdie Pinksterreeks oor die Onse Vader-gebed verduidelik die titel daarvan soos volg: 'Sekerlik een van die aangrypendste tonele in die natuur is 'n klomp klein voëltjies wat met oopgesperde bekke vir die moedervoël skree: Voed ons! Hulle is volkome afhanklik van dié voeding, en daarom van die moeder. Wanneer hulle honger is, vra hulle: Gee ons vandag ons daaglikse brood!' Die mens is vir God baie meer werd as mossies (Matt 6:25-33) en daarom leer Jesus ons dat ons op 'n soortgelyke wyse en in alles op die Vader kan vertrou.

Hierdie publikasie is deel van 'n reeks oordenkings waarin titels soos *Christus is die Heer*, *Die geloof dan is ...*, *Hoop in lewe in lyding* (almal deur Dirkie Smit) en *Vreemde geluk* (Coenie Burger) reeds verskyn het. Die reeks bevat by elke oordenking ook vrae vir persoonlike bepeinsing of vir groepsbespreking. Dit is dus besonder geskik vir bidure, wyksbyeenkomste en besprekingsgroepe.

Dr. Johan Cilliers is 'n medeleraar in die NG-gemeente Stellenbosch Sentraal.

Dormeyer, D & Hauser, L 1990. *Weltuntergang und Gottesherrschaft*. Mainz: Matthias Grünewald Verlag. Pp 156. Price: DM 12,80.

People in the late twentieth century, in the wake of the Tschernobyl disaster, are living with the real fear of a possible cosmic catastrophe. The authors of this study raise the question whether Christian and Jewish apocalyptic have any message of hope for our age, or whether it actually increases uncertainty and fear.

They conclude that Christian apocalyptic do, in fact, contain the hope for a new beginning, a hope which inspires apocalyptic people to work towards change.

Detlev Dormeyer is a professor at the Katholisch-Theologische Fakultät, Universität Münster. Linus Hauser is attached to the Studium der Theologie, Philosophie und Gesellschaftswissenschaften in Frankfurt.

CHURCH HISTORY / KERKGESKIEDENIS

Stevenson, J (ed) 1989. *Creeds, councils and controversies. Documents illustrating the history of the church AD 337-461*. Revised with additional documents by W H C Frend. Cambridge: University Press. Pp 410. Price: approximately R93,50.

The first edition of *Creeds, councils and controversies*, edited by J Stevenson, appeared in 1966 and became an essential source book for students of the later patristic period.

Prof W H C Frend now continues the work of his predecessor with a complete revision of the earlier edition. The notes and bibliography are updated and the documents are regrouped, to enable the reader to follow the development of particular themes. Furthermore, while only a few documents have been omitted, nearly forty have been added - either to illustrate better the thought and teaching of a group or individual or to connect and clarify an important sequence of events. All the revisions have been carried out with the needs of both students and teachers in mind.

J Stevenson, who died in 1983, was a Fellow of Downing College, Cambridge. W H C Frend, now retired from the chair of Ecclesiastical History at Glasgow University, is Priest-in-charge of Barnwell, Petersborough, and a fellow of the British Academy.

DOGMATICS / DOGMATIEK

Johnson, A F & Webber, R E 1989. *What Christians believe. A biblical & historical summary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. Pp 480. Price not quoted.

The authors, both from an Evangelical background, take up the challenge 'to write a general theology that will serve every group of Evangelical Christians - a theology that affirms the unity we have in the essentials, yet allows for the diversity we hold in matters of secondary importance' (p ix).

In attempting the seemingly impossible, i e 'to unpack the *universally* accepted theological themes of Christianity' (p xi) or, in the words of the title, '*What (all?)(Evangelical!) Christians believe*', the authors' intention is to move away from a rigid theological system of thought, utilizing three working principles:

- 1) Theology is not a system of divinely revealed truth. Truth, instead, concerns a Person, i e Jesus Christ (Joh 14:6).
- 2) Accepting the reality of plurality in theology - also amongst Evangelicals themselves - because of the recognition that theological systems reflect the cultural contexts in which they are or were written.
- 3) Following a historical approach, as reflected in the lay-out of the work: the historical development of certain theological themes is traced from the pre-Mosaic era, through the entire church history until the contemporary era. The question whether

this work does, in fact, formulate what is universally accepted in Christianity, remains for the reader to judge.

Alan F Johnson is professor of New Testament and Christian ethics at Wheaton College, Illinois. Robert E Webber is professor of Theology, also at Wheaton College, Illinois.

Haller, W 1989. *Die heilsame Alternative. Jesuanische Ethik in Wirtschaft und Politik*. Wuppertal: Peter Hammer Verlag. Pp 195. Price not quoted.

The aim of this refreshing book is to make it clear that the ministry of Jesus, understood as a grassroots undertaking, does present an alternative that could liberate contemporary politics and economics from its enslavement to the quest for power and money.

The ministry of Jesus is depicted to be full of tension and actuality. A healing alternative does in fact exist, which could provide new impulses for various contemporary problems in micro- and macro-ethics like unemployment, slums and others.

SCIENCE OF RELIGION / GODSDIENSWETENSKAP

Lewis, I M 1989. *Ecstatic religion: A study of Shamanism and spirit possession*. London and New York: Routledge. Second edition. Pp 200. Price not quoted.

States of spiritual possession in which believers feel themselves to be 'possessed' by the deity and raised to a new plane of existence, are found in almost all known religions.

This book offers a comprehensive sociological approach to the experience of spiritual possession. It looks at the psychological, aesthetic, religious and socio-cultural aspects of possession and compares and discusses African shamanism, the classical shamanistic religions of Arctic Asia and South America, Haitian voodoo, the cult of Dionysos, Christian mysticism, and other forms of religious ecstasy.

In this new, completely revised and expanded edition Professor Lewis further explores the social and political significance of spirit possession and shamanism. He stresses that mystical experience is grounded in, and must relate to, the socio-political environment in which it arises. He makes, for example, an important distinction between central possession cults and marginal cults. The former, he argues, are usually dominated by male ecstasies and thus reinforce official morality and established power relations. Marginal cults, on the other hand, are often a form of protest on the part of the oppressed in a society- particularly women.

I M Lewis is Professor of Anthropology at the London School of Economics and is the author of several books on anthropology and religion.

ETHICS / ETIEK

Huber, W & Reuter, H-R 1990. *Friedensethik*. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer. Pp 365. Price not quoted.

The issue of peace is probably the key theme in political ethics in the nuclear age. In this remarkable work the authors develop an understanding of peace to enable us to tackle the contemporary (and future) political, social and ecological agenda with discretion.

In the first part various historical perceptions of the nature of peace are analyzed and systematized in the form of models. In the next part the authors develop their own systematic perspective on peace, relating this to contemporary problem areas. This understanding of peace proves to be comprehensive enough to cover contemporary political power struggles, intergroup tensions and the ecological crisis, and put these in theological perspective.

Wolfgang Huber teaches systematic theology and social ethics at the University of Heidelberg. Hans-Richard Reuter is a researcher for the Forschungsstätte der Evangelischen Studiengemeinschaft in Heidelberg.

Linzey, A & Regan, T 1989. *Animals and Christianity. A book of readings*. London: SPCK.

What does the Christian tradition say about the condition, purpose and rights of the animal creation? This comprehensive anthology presents a wide diversity of views, with key extracts from the Bible as well as from major theologians of the past and present.

The readings are divided into five sections:

Part 1 Attitudes to creation

Part 2 The problem of pain

Part 3 The question of animal redemption

Part 4 Reverence, responsibilities and rights

Part 5 Practical issues (including animal sacrifices, animal experimentation, fur-trapping, hunting for sport, intensive farming, killing for food).

This book provides an orientation on the issue of animal ethics from a theological perspective.

CONTEXTUAL THEOLOGY / KONTEKSTUELE TEOLOGIE

No neutral ground: South Africa's confrontation with the activist churches 1989.
An Africa Watch Report. Pp 147. Price \$ 10.

This book documents the cases of more than one hundred local clergy and church workers in South Africa who experienced harrassment, detention and torture because of their clerical activities.

The report at the same time pays tribute to the resistance of the church in the squatter camps, rural areas and 'homelands' of South Africa. It describes the way the South African government reacted to activities such as church services for political prisoners, ministering to traumatized activist youth, detainees and banned persons. The focus is not on the internationally acclaimed campaigns of the church leadership. The report concludes that the activist church in South Africa by and large remains committed to non-violent methods to end *apartheid* and has thus contributed to the minimalizing of bloodshed.

Africa Watch is a human rights organization which was established in May 1988 to monitor and promote respect for internationally recognized human rights in Africa.

Villa-Vicencio, C 1988. *Trapped in apartheid. A socio-theological history of the English-speaking churches*. Cape Town: David Philip. Pp 250. Price not quoted.

A great deal of literature on *apartheid* has seen the light in recent years. Prof Villa-Vicencio makes an important contribution in this regard with the first comprehensive analysis of the role of the English-speaking churches in the South African society.

The first part of the study is historical and well documented. The second part provides a sociological analysis of the role of religion in society. It is complemented by a theological perspective on the role churches should play in society.

The conclusion of the study is suggested by the title: trapped within the dominating structures of the *apartheid* state, and their own traditional commitment to impartiality and moderation, the English-speaking churches of South Africa face the question on which side they are. Does the Christian church have any contribution to make in the liberation of the oppressed in South Africa?

Charles Villa-Vicencio is Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town. He is co-editor of *Apartheid is a heresy and Resistance and hope*.

CHURH LAW / KERKREG

Sinodale Regskommissie 1987. *Kerkorde, Bepalinge en Reglemente van die Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk in Suid-Afrika*. Hersien deur die sinode in die jaar 1987. Kaapstad: N G Kerk-Uitgewers. Pp 249. Prys: R36,00.

Die nuwe uitgawe van die *Kerkorde, Bepalinge en Reglemente* soos hersien deur die sinode van die Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk in Suid-Afrika (d w s die Wes-Kaapse Sinode) is tans beskikbaar. Die publikasie bevat die kerkorde en reglemente soos vasgestel deur die Algemene Sinode van 1986. Dit bevat verder ook die vasgestelde vorms vir die gebruik van gemeentes en ringe, asook die besluite en aanbevelings van die Sinode van die Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk in Suid-Afrika van 1987.