

BOOK NOTICES / BOEKAANKONDIGINGS

SYSTEMATICS / SISTEMATIESE TEOLOGIE

Anderson, Ray S 1982. On being human: Essays in theological anthropology. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 34. Price + R20,90 at Lux Verbi.

- * What does it mean to be human?
- * How does a right understanding of personhood affect decisions on critical life situations?
- * What implications does a Biblical perspective on personhood have for the pastoral ministry of healing and hope?

In answering these questions, Ray Anderson focuses on the person as determined by and sustained by the creative power of God. He explores the implications of a Biblical understanding of personhood for such critical issues as human sexuality, family relationships, abortion, and death. And he breaks new ground in relating pastoral care and counseling to contemporary issues which challenge Christians and their understanding of the meaning of human life.

Ray S Anderson, Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Theology and Ministry, Fuller Theological Seminary, is the editor of **Theological Foundations for Ministry** (Eerdmans, 1979).

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Boff, Leonardo 1986. Ecclesiogenesis: The base communities reinvent the church. (Translated by Robert R Barr), Collins. Pp 115, available at Lux Verbi.

Leonardo Boff, one of the leading proponents of liberation theology, analyses the theology of base Christian communities.

In all parts of the developing world, but particularly in Latin America, base Christian communities are giving a new presence and relevance to the Church. The energetic faith which these communities generate and the fundamental questions they raise about what the church is and how it should op-

rate in the modern world, pose a great challenge to the European church: are they a model which the church should learn from, or reject?

With a wealth of supporting evidence from the Fathers and respected theologians of every era, Boff makes his case of the need for the church to rethink its structure radically if it is to continue the mission for which it exists.

Boff's vigorous analysis also brings fresh light to bear on fundamental issues such as Jesus' conception of 'church,' the ordination of women and the role of the lay helper in the church.

Leonardo Boff, a Franciscan priest, was educated in his native Brazil and Munich, Germany. He is author of numerous books, including *Jesus Christ Liberator* (1978); *Liberating grace* (1981); and with his brother Clodovis, *Salvation and liberation: In search of a balance between faith and politics* (1984).

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Hoekema, Anthony A 1986. **Created in God's image.** Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 260, including a bibliography and indices. Price + R52,70 at Lux Verbi.

The author briefly summarizes the views of prominent theologians from Irenaeus to Berkouwer on the meaning of the image of God.

The image, according to Hoekema, must be seen as having both a structural and a functional aspect - as describing both what we are and what we do. The image of God, seen in its fullness in Jesus Christ, involves us in a threefold relationship: to God, to others, and to nature. This image goes through four stages: the original image (before the Fall), the perverted image (the image not lost, but corrupted by the Fall), the renewed image (growing likeness to Christ), and the perfected image (in the life to come). Hoekema also examines Biblical teachings on the self-image.

The book further discusses the origin, spread, and nature of sin. The historicity of the Fall is maintained and defended. Though the author supports the traditional Reformed doctrine of 'total depravity' as a description of the state of unregenerated persons, he prefers to use the expression

'pervasive depravity' for this concept. The role of common grace in restraining sin is also discussed. Two concluding chapters examine the concept of the whole person and the Biblical dimensions of human freedom.

All Hebrew and Greek words have been transliterated, and technical terms are defined in the notes. The book includes an extensive bibliography, as well as indices of subjects, names and Scripture references.

Anthony A Hoekema is Professor of Systematic Theology, Emeritus, at Calvin Theological Seminary. His previous books include **The four major cults** and **The Christian looks at himself**.

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Jewett, Paul K 1985. Election and predestination. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 139 plus indices (pp 7). Price + R18,86 at Lux Verbi.

Drawing on his years of teaching theology to students in a multi-denominational setting, Paul Jewett here provides a concise introduction to the thorny issues of election and predestination.

He includes a brief survey of historical interpretation of the doctrine, an assemblage of the relevant Biblical data, a consideration of the concept of corporate election, and then, most substantially, an exploration of the complexities of individual election. He also provides extended analyses of some of the major formulations of the doctrine, including those of Calvin, Barth, Arminius, and Amyraut.

Election and predestination have been difficult and controversial issues throughout the whole history of the church. Paul Jewett's book is a clear and balanced presentation that encourages readers to draw their own conclusions on this important subject.

Paul K Jewett is Professor of Systematic Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary and the author of **Man as male and female** and **The ordination of women**, both published by Eerdmans.

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Newbigin, Lesslie 1986. Foolishness to the Greeks: The Gospel and Western culture. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 150 plus bibliography and index (pp 6). Price + R21,55 at Lux Verbi.

In this book, Lesslie Newbigin attempts to look at modern Western culture through the eyes of an outsider and to ask, 'What would it mean to confront this culture with the gospel?'

Newbigin looks first at the broad issues raised by any cross-cultural communication of the Gospel. He then focuses his discussion on modern Western culture, examining its essential features and the present signs of its disintegration. This leads to the main thrust of the book - the crucial question of how Biblical authority can be a reality for those who are shaped by this culture.

He goes on to consider what would be involved in the encounter between the Gospel and modern science (which he calls the core of our culture), politics, and economics. Finally, he discusses the task of the church in bringing about this missionary encounter.

Unlike the many theological studies of Gospel and culture that look at Western culture from within, or studies of cross-cultural mission that emphasize mission from the First World to the Third World, this book treats the First World as mission field, offering a unique perspective on the relationship between the Gospel and modern Western culture.

For nearly forty years Lesslie Newbigin served as a missionary in India and has long been active in international mission and ecumenical organizations. He is the author of several books, including *The other side of 1984* and his recent autobiography, *Unfinished agenda*.

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Van Till, Howard J 1986. The fourth day: What the Bible and the Heavens are telling us about the creation. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 277 plus indices (8 pp). Price + R26,97 at Lux Verbi.

In this comprehensive and rigorously argued book, Howard van Till draws on both Scriptural evidence and scientific investigation to construct a theologically sound and

scientifically coherent perspective on the nature of the cosmos.

He begins with the premise that neither the Biblical nor the scientific view of the cosmos is complete in itself. While Scriptural exegesis indicates that the cosmos is creation - the handiwork of God, who creates, preserves, governs, and provides for it - scientific investigation indicates that the cosmos is a complex of material systems that behave in reasonable, predictable ways. Taken together, these two accurate and compatible views form a unified vision of the cosmos.

Since evolution and creation deal with distinctly different questions, says Van Till, both concepts can be taught with integrity in schools - not as alternatives, but as complementary views of the universe and its history. Van Till's high respect for Scripture as the authoritative revelation of God and his thorough acquaintance with contemporary science make this book a valuable contribution to current debates over the relation between Christianity and science.

Howard J van Till is Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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Erlor, R J & Marquard, R (eds) 1986. A Karl Barth reader. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 116, including a Karl Barth chronology, and a list of his works translated into English. Edited and translated by Geoffrey W Bromiley. Price at Lux Verbi +R18,38.

Prepared for the 1986 celebration of the Karl Barth centennial, this selection from Barth's sermons, letters, addresses and published writings serves as an excellent introduction to his thinking and faith for those who do not have the time or the background to read Barth's voluminous writings in their entirety.

By allowing Barth himself to speak from the wealth of his writings, this book offers a wide range of readers an opportunity to appreciate Karl Barth as a theologian, as a Christian, and as a fellow human being.

The selections, which cover all of Barth's active life, are drawn largely from writings that are not readily available in

English. Designed for students and non-students, theologians and laypeople, this reader is a strong but humble testimony to life centred in Christ.

ETHICS / ETIEK

Marshall, Paul 1984. Thine is the Kingdom: A Biblical perspective on the nature of government and politics today. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 153 plus notes (pp 7). Price + R19,70 at Lux Verbi.

Current 'Christian' politics tends to consist of either vague generalizations from Scripture that are hardly enough to give political direction, or secular political ideology with only a veneer of faith. What we need, says Paul Marshall, is a Christian framework for understanding politics. This book is a beginning step in discovering and describing such a framework.

Marshall stresses that politics is neither a realm apart from the Gospel nor the centre of the Gospel. It is one part of our overall Christian service, whose goal is that all aspects of human life should be reconciled by God through Jesus Christ.

Marshall provides a thorough understanding of politics as an institution and offers a Christian analysis of policies related to the welfare state and to international relations, especially the nuclear arms race.

The whole discussion is set in the context of the 'between times' in which we live - in a world which is sorely corrupted by sin, but which nevertheless remains under God's law and preserving order.

Paul Marshall is Senior Member in Political Theory at the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto. He is the author of **Human rights in Christian perspective.**

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Neuhaus, Richard John 1986. Dispensations: The future of South Africa as South Africans see it. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 317, including notes. Price + R44,77 at Lux Verbi.

This book is about the people of South Africa: black, white, 'coloured,' and Indian. It is also about economics and politics and revolution, but chiefly it is about people and their fears and visions for their troubled land. It is not the last word on South Africa, but it is the word of those who have an enormous stake in South Africa's future.

Richard John Neuhaus has been listening to South Africans talk about their country over the course of the past fifteen years, and here, with a keen sense for detail and vivid description, he records what he has learned. From across the racial and political spectrum he has elicited candid and often moving responses to the questions: What do you think of South Africa today? Of what it is becoming? Of what it could become?

The people we meet here are those who are shaping the future of South Africa - or who want to shape it: Afrikaner clerics and bureaucrats, leaders of the English community; Allan Boesak; Desmond Tutu; Beyers Naudé; Mangosuthu Buthelezi; wealthy Indian professionals and businessmen in Durban; members of the African National Congress. These are people who have thought long about South Africa and its place in the world - and about their own places in South Africa now and in the future.

Their views on race and justice and nationhood and the prospect of peaceful change are diverse and often conflicting. Some South Africans are convinced that time has run out for South Africa. Others believe this is a time of new beginnings and high promise. Many frame their answers assuming eventual black majority rule. Some regret a retreat from pure apartheid. Others expect a form of power sharing. Most are profoundly uncertain.

Today South Africans are living at a crucial moment in their country's history. While the Western world debates the future of South Africa in its legislative bodies and its media, the people whose voices are heard so eloquently in this book must live with the reality of the present and future South Africa - whatever that holds.

Richard John Neuhaus has been observing South African affairs since the 1960s, when he was active in the civil rights movement and pastor of a large black parish in Brooklyn, New York. He is now Director of the Center on Religion and Society in New York City and Editor of **The Religion**

and Society Report. His previous books include *The naked public square* (Eerdmans, 1984).

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Kinghorn, J (red) [1986]. Die NG Kerk en apartheid. Johannesburg: Macmillan. Pp 263.
Prys: 29,95 plus AVB.

Hierdie boek, wat onder redakteurskap van dr Johann Kinghorn van die Departement Bybelkunde van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch saamgestel is en waaraan vier ander teoloë, 'n sosioloog en 'n regsgeleerde meegewerk het, is met twee oogmerke geskryf: Eerstens om saaklik so goedge dokumenteerd as moontlik inligting te verskaf oor die uitsprake en standpunte van die NG Kerk oor die bevolkingskwessie. Tweedens word die uitsprake en standpunte geëvalueer en enkele rigtinggewende voorstelle met die oog op die toekoms gemaak.

Die boek verteenwoordig een van die mees grondige ondersoeke oor hierdie onderwerp sedert die verskyning van **Ras, volk en nasie**. Die groot waarde van die studie is daárin geleë dat dit berus op navorsing wat noukeurig, geduldig en billik aan die hand van primêre bronne geskied. Die fokus is hoofsaaklik op ontwikkelinge sedert die dertigerjare van hierdie eeu, maar, wat sekere aspekte betref, word teruggerek na rigtinggewende besluite wat reeds in die vorige eeu geval het. Naas suiwer teologiese aspekte, word die boek verryk deur 'n uiteensetting van die juridiese profiel van apartheid, asook 'n sosiologiese oorsig oor die uitwerking van hierdie sosiaal-politieke beleid. Besonder waardevol is die uitgebreide bibliografie van primêre literatuur.

Die studie lewer op nugtere, saaklike wyse 'n oorweldigende bewys van hoe 'n aanvanklik positiewe doelstelling (konkrete hulp aan lidmate in die knellende sosiaal-ekonomiese toestande van die dertigerjare) uiteindelik daartoe gelei het dat 'n hele kerk verstremgela geraak het in die tentakels van 'n ideologie wat soveel skade en pyn veroorsaak het en waaruit hy hom alleen met die grootste moeite sal kan loswikkell. Die boek eindig egter met 'n hoopvolle uitsig: as die NG Kerk sy oorspronklike (evangeliese) besorgdheid oor die sosiaal-ekonomiese ontredde lidmaat kan uitbrei om nie slegs mense van een bevolkingsgroep, maar **alle** gelowiges in dergelyke omstandighede in te sluit, is daar 'n weg terug om weer sy ware roeping as kerk na te kom.

Die boek voorsien in 'n dringende behoefte aan saaklike inligting en oorwoë besinning. In 'n tyd waarin al hierdie sake weer in herbesinning is, is dit verpligte leesstof. Die oortuigende bevindinge sal nie eenvoudig geïgnoreer of met oppervlakkige kritiek van die tafel gevee kan word nie. Wie daarvan wil verskil, sal dit op grond van minstens dieselfde deeglike bronnestudie en diepgrypende teologiese beredenering moet doen. Die aandag wat die boek reeds sedert sy verskyning geniet het, is 'n aanduiding van watter invloed dit op enige verdere diskussie oor hierdie sake sal hê.

Naas die redakteur het ook die volgende persone bydraes gelewer: Carl Borchardt, Bernard Combrink, Etienne de Villiers, Johann Groenewald, Flip Theron en Marinus Wiechers.

NEW TESTAMENT / NUWE TESTAMENT

Barth, Karl 1986 [1976]. Witness to the Word: A commentary on John 1. (Ed: W Fürst; Tr: G W Bromiley). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 165, including indices. Price + R26,11 at Lux Verbi.

Karl Barth's lectures on the first chapter of the Gospel of John, delivered at Münster in 1925-26 and at Bonn in 1933, came at an important time in his life, when he was turning his attention more fully to dogmatics. Thus, theological interpretation was his primary concern, especially the relation between revelation and the witness to revelation, which helped to shape his formulation of the role of the written (and spoken) word vis-à-vis the incarnate Word.

The text is divided into three sections - John 1:1-18, 19-34, 35-51, with the largest share of the book devoted to the first section. Each section begins with Barth's own translation, followed by verse-by-verse and phrase-by-phrase commentary on the Greek text. Although Barth's interpretation is decidedly theological, he does take up questions of philology and textual criticism more thoroughly than in his other works.

Much has happened in Johannine scholarship since these lectures were first delivered, yet they remain valuable today - 100 years after Barth's birth - both for their insights into the Gospel and into Karl Barth.

Brown, Colin 1985. That you may believe: Miracles and faith then and now. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 231, including indices. Price + R16,70 at Lux Verbi.

Can any intelligent man or woman believe in miracles today? Can one believe in Jesus without believing the miracle stories? And if Jesus performed miracles during his life on earth, can't we also expect miracles today?

In this book Colin Brown, author of the highly acclaimed **Miracles and the critical mind**, returns to the subject of Jesus' miracles, this time writing for the general reader. Drawing on the world of scholarship, but avoiding a detailed philosophical discussion, Brown clearly lays out the arguments for the reader who is not a trained philosopher or theologian.

All who have questions about the meaning of miracles and their role in Christian faith today will find here a fresh look at this subject that has puzzled people for centuries.

Colin Brown is Professor of Systematic Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. He has written several books and is the editor of **The new international dictionary of New Testament theology**.

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Bruce, F F 1984. The Gospel of John. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 425, including index. Price + R25,85 at Lux Verbi.

In this major new commentary on the Fourth Gospel Bruce leads the reader through the rich and complex words of the Evangelist in a careful verse-by-verse exposition that will enrich our understanding of the original text, its historical context, and its relevance for the Christian life today.

An introduction discusses the Gospel's authorship, its significance for the early Church, and its message. The biblical text which is printed at the beginning of each section of the commentary is Bruce's own translation from the Greek of the Nestle-Aland edition of 1979.

Writing primarily for general readers interested in serious Bible study, rather than for the professional or the specialist student, Bruce draws on years of careful study to communi-

cate the Gospel's meaning and message. The numerous footnotes and thorough bibliography provide valuable information on available sources for the reader interested in pursuing further study.

F F Bruce was, until 1978, Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis at Manchester University (England). A prodigious author, he has written numerous books on biblical and historical subjects, including many commentaries, and serves as the General Editor of the **New international commentary on the New Testament**.

PASTORAL THEOLOGY / PASTORAAT

Anderson, Ray S & Guernsey, Dennis B 1985.
On being family: A social theology of the family. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 168. Price not given.

In this book, Ray Anderson, a pastor theologian, and Dennis Guernsey, a family sociologist, explore the connections that produce the marvellous, complicated, and often contorted human family.

The central thesis of the book is that God has placed human persons in a created order for which the covenant love of God provides the fundamental paradigm for parenting, sexuality and marriage, and the formation of family life. From the perspective of the church as the new family of God, the human family is liberated from its own failures and fears, and each person is affirmed as having a place in God's kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, to whom we are connected by grace, we are all brothers and sisters. We are family.

Ray S Anderson is Professor of Theology and Ministry at Fuller Theological Seminary and the author of several books, including **On being human** (Eerdmans, 1982).

Dennis B Guernsey is Associate Professor of Marriage and Family Ministries, and Director of the Institute for Marriage and Family Ministries at Fuller Theological Seminary. Both authors are ordained ministers.

Firet, Jacob 1986. **Dynamics in pastoring.** Translated by John Vriend. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 317, including bibliography and indices. Price + R65,49 at Lux Verbi.

A unique and important contribution to practical theology, this book poses and opens up for discussion a number of important theological questions relating to the pastoral ministry. Jacob Firet has restricted himself to a biblical-theological approach that culminates in the construction of a theological model of ministry and ministerial role-fulfilment relating to preaching, teaching, and pastoral care. He makes liberal, though critical, use of the social sciences in his study, especially psychology, social psychology, and pedagogics.

In speaking of 'dynamics in pastoring,' Firet has in view the essential principles of ministry, the dynamics inherent in ministry without which no 'ministry' occurs. He makes a distinction between two sets of dynamics: the **hermeneutic moment** - the impetus toward understanding - and the **agogic moment** - the impetus toward change. In practice these two moments are bound up with one another; in fact they presuppose each other. But for the purpose of practical-theological analysis and research they are to be distinguished. The focus of this book is the agogic moment.

Pivotal to Firet's position is that when God comes to people through the intermediary of pastoral role-fulfilment, he aims at a change in their psycho-spiritual functioning. This change occurs through the intermediary of an interhuman relationship. The specifically agogic for Firet is located in the effort by which the minister of the gospel hopes to achieve this change in the way a human being functions and in the nature of this change.

Finally, Firet brings together many of the concepts he has developed in earlier parts of the book and shows concretely how God works through pastoral action to lead a person to change and understanding. He explores what the implications of this are for the pastor and the pastor-to-be, ending with the slogan of Luther, 'To be a pastor is to be always in the making.'

Geared for pastors, seminarians, and professors of practical theology, **Dynamics in pastoring** reestablishes the entire field of pastoral theology on its Scriptural foundations. It has been widely used as a textbook in the original Dutch edition, and

this first English edition is sure to be a welcome new resource in the study of pastoral theology.

Jacob Firet has been Professor of Practical Theology at the Free University in Amsterdam since 1968.

OLD TESTAMENT / OU TESTAMENT

Coggins, Richard J & Re'emi, S Paul 1985.
Israel among the nations: Nahum, Obadiah, Esther. (Series: International Theological Commentary) Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 136, including bibliographies. Price + R16,70 at Lux Verbi.

This commentary concerns writings which emerged from three successive stages in Judah's decline and captivity - the century of fear engendered by the Assyrian menace (addressed in Nahum), the shock and disorientation that followed the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem (Obadiah), and the necessary dilemma of adapting yet maintaining their uniqueness in an alien setting (Esther). All three books reflect the efforts to maintain faith despite continued assaults on traditional views of the nature of God and the Covenant.

Richard Coggins, the author of the commentaries on Nahum and Obadiah, is Senior Lecturer in Old Testament Studies at Kings College, London.

Paul Re'emi, who wrote the commentary on Esther, is a scholar of both German and French universities who served for many years as presbyter of the Church of Scotland in Israel.

REFERENCE BOOKS / NASLAANWERKE

The international standard Bible encyclopedia. 1986. (Eds: G W Bromiley, E F Harrison, R K Harrison, W S Lasor, L T Geraty and E W Smith, Jr.) 4 volumes. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Vol 3: pp 1060. Available from Lux Verbi.

First published in 1915, **The international standard Bible encyclopedia** has long been considered a standard among biblical reference works. And now, after more than fifteen years of

extensive rewriting and careful editing, the first revision of this classic work since 1929 is available. Combining the defining function of a dictionary with the encyclopedia's presentation of comprehensive information, the revised **ISBE** summarizes the state of knowledge about each of its topics and leads the reader to further sources of information and insight.

ISBE is an invaluable source of information for any student of the Bible - scholar, pastor, or layperson. It includes articles on every name of a person or place mentioned in the Bible, as well as all other terms in the Bible that have theological or ethical meaning. The transmission, study, and interpretation of the Bible are also covered thoroughly. Based on the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, the **Encyclopedia** contains cross-reference entries to the forms used in the King James Version and the New English Bible, making it more readily accessible to a wider range of readers.

This work represents the scholarship of hundreds of contributors from many specialized fields of biblical research. Excellence in design and typography combined with meticulous editing make this **Encyclopedia** the ideal reference work: accurate, comprehensive, and up-to-date.

Geoffrey W Bromiley, General Editor, is Emeritus Professor of Church History and Historical Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California. He is best known as the translator of numerous theological books, including the 9-volume **Theological dictionary of the New Testament** ('Kittel').

Everett F Harrison, Associate Editor for New Testament, is Emeritus Professor of New Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary.

Roland K Harrison, Associate Editor for Old Testament, is Professor of Old Testament at Wycliffe College, University of Toronto.

William Sanford Lasor, Associate Editor for Biblical Geography and Archeology, is Emeritus Professor of Old Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary.

Lawrence T Geraty, Consulting Editor for Archeology, is President and Professor of Archeology and the History of Antiquity, Atlantic Union College, South Lancaster, Massachusetts.

Edgar W Smith, Jr, Project Editor, is Reference Book Editor for Wm B Eerdmans Publishing Company.

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The world of the Bible. 1986. (Eds: A S van der Woude, M J Mulder, B J Oosterhoff, J Reiling, H N Ridderbos, W C van Unnik. Translated by Sierd Woudstra.) Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 392, including indices. Price + R92,32.

Exploring the various aspects of the biblical world to help set the Bible in its proper context, this new reference work is actually like six books in one: geography, archeology, languages, textual criticism, history, and institutions are all covered here in considerable depth and detail.

Contents

Geography of the Biblical lands: the physical geography, flora, fauna and human life of Palestine and the surrounding lands ... New Testament geography.

Archeology of Palestine and other Biblical lands: the problems and task of archeology ... the development of Palestinian archeology and its significance.

Systems of writing and languages in the world of the Bible: systems of writing and nonbiblical languages ... Hebrew and Aramaic as Biblical languages ... Greek as the language of the New Testament.

Textual witnesses and textual history of the Old and New Testaments: an introduction to the nature and goals of textual criticism and its importance ... the textual witnesses of the Old Testament, including the Hebrew Textus Receptus, the Qumran Scrolls, the Samaritan Pentateuch, and the Ancient Versions ... the history and transmission of the text ... the procedure of textual criticism ... the textual witnesses of the New Testament.

History of the Ancient Near East: the history of the world of the Bible up to the beginning of the 2nd century AD.

Biblical Institutions: institutions of ordinary life, including marriage, family, monarchy and state, weights and measures, slavery ... religious institutions, including priests and Levites, the ark, the temple, the calendar, the festivals.

Characterized by sound, up-to-date scholarship, **The world of the Bible** will be valuable to laypeople, pastors, and students who want to broaden their understanding of the general Biblical context. Footnotes are seldom used, but the bibliographies

supplied throughout the text point the reader to in-depth treatments of the various topics discussed. The colour and black-and-white illustrations and maps further enhance the wealth of information presented here about the land, history, language, content, and interpretation of the Old and New Testaments.

A S van der Woude is Professor of Old Testament and Director of the Center for Qumran Studies at Groningen University in the Netherlands.

MISCELLANEOUS / ALGEMEEN

Estep, William R 1986. Renaissance and Reformation. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 316, including bibliography and index. Price + R46.20 at Lux Verbi.

Although the Reformation is a fundamentally important period, says William Estep, it is often misunderstood - in part because many of its interpreters have tried to make its events fit their own interpretive mould. In **Renaissance and Reformation**, Estep has attempted 'to allow the Reformation to bear witness to itself' so that the true meaning of this religious revolution is clear.

After an introductory overview of medieval Europe, Estep presents the essential features of the Renaissance and examines its relationship to the Reformation. In returning to the wisdom of the ancients, the Renaissance showed the Reformers how they could effect a renaissance in the life of the church. In his thorough exploration of the many facets of the Reformation, Estep pays particular attention to those individuals whose lives and work significantly determined the religious and spiritual direction of the period - Wycliffe, Huss, Erasmus, Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin.

Readable as well as informative, **Renaissance and Reformation** is a valuable major text for undergraduate and seminary courses in Reformation history.

William R Estep is Distinguished Professor of Church History and Chairman of the Historical Division, School of Theology, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. His previous books include **The Anabaptist story** (Eerdmans).

Neuhaus, Richard John (ed) 1986. Unsecular America. (Essays by F Johnson, E C Ladd, G M Marsden & R J Neuhaus). (The encounter series.) Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 158. Price +R23,64 at Lux Verbi.

1986. **Virtue - public and private.** (Essays by J H Billington, G Meilaender, R E Rodes Jr, B Semmel.) (The encounter series.) Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 81. Price + R15,71 at Lux Verbi.

'Dialogue' is one of American religion's shopworn terms. Although there is much talk about dialogue, very little of it actually takes place. Religious discourse - especially about politics and public affairs - is increasingly polarized; there is much contestation, but little conversation. If truths are to be tested, however, there is no substitute for dialogue.

Arising out of conferences sponsored by the Center on Religion & Society in New York City, the **Encounter series** presents the dialogue of a diverse group of theologians, ethicists, philosophers, and public policy experts from across the political and religious spectrum. The subjects under discussion are as varied as evangelical political theory, Jews in unsecular America, the renaissance of religion in the public arena, church-state conflict, the changing mission of the Black Church, and the idea of virtue in the modern world. Each volume includes not only the essays presented at the conference, but also a lively narrative of the subsequent discussion, which allows the reader to experience more fully the actual give-and-take of genuine dialogue.

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Vassady, Béla 1985. Limping along ... Confessions of a pilgrim theologian. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 244. Price + R29,30 at Lux Verbi.

'It is better to limp along the path of God's Word than to dash with all speed outside it,' wrote John Calvin in his **Institutes**; Béla Vassady has borrowed Calvin's words for both his life's motto and the title of this fascinating autobiography. More than just a collection of remembrances, this book is a theological autobiography - a confession and a profession of God's grace and power in the life of one man and his family.

When he arrived in America in 1946 at the age of 44, Béla Vassady was already a well-known and respected theologian in his native Hungary. He and his family had just lived through the long bombardment of Budapest, which drove them for months into unsanitary cellar-shelters while the Russian Communists and the German Nazis fought each other from street to street and from house to house.

In America he continued his distinguished career with teaching positions at several prestigious seminaries, including Princeton, Fuller, the University of Dubuque, and Lancaster. In addition he lectured and preached widely and worked tirelessly for evangelical and ecumenical causes in a variety of organizations.

With a cast of characters that includes some of the leading names of this century in theological and ecumenical circles, this book will be of particular interest to ministers and theologians; but Vassady's illustration of what it means to live a truly joyful Christian life in the face of challenging circumstances, makes the book appealing to Christian general readers as well.

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Barth, K 1986. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.
Translated by Clarence K Pott. Grand Rapids:
Eerdmans. Pp 60, including a foreword by John
Updike. Price at Lux Verbi + R9,80.

'With an ear open to your musical dialectic, one can be young and become old, can work and rest, be content and sad: in short, one can live'. Thus John Updike quotes Barth addressing Mozart, in a tone, Updike says, 'of profound gratitude'.

Karl Barth, one of the 20th century's most prominent theologians, was a lifelong devotee of Mozart and his music. This book, originally published in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Mozart's birth in 1956, is fittingly reissued in English translation in 1986, the 100th anniversary of Barth's birth. Karl Barth died in 1968.

Clarence Pott, the translator of this volume, is Emeritus Professor of Germanic Languages, the University of Michigan.

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Louw, Johannes P (ed), 1986. Sociolinguistics and communication. (UBS Monograph Series, No 1.) Pp 156. Price R10. Available from the General Secretary, Bible Society of South Africa, P O Box 6215, Rogge Bay.

This monograph is the fifth title in a series published by the Bible Society of South Africa, as well as the first in a new series of the World League of Bible Societies. The objective of this latter series is to publish meaningful research in the field of translations.

This volume is the result of a seminar held at the University of Stellenbosch in January 1984, under the auspices of the Institute for Inter-languages Communication of the Bible Society of South Africa.

The book deals with a number of complex cultural factors and interpersonal relationships which can change or elucidate the meaning of a text.

There are six chapters, viz:

- * sociolinguistics and translating
- * some aspects of the sociolinguistics of Bible translation and exegesis, and of religious language
- * reception and sociolinguistics
- * the role of the sermon in intergroup relationships: results of a content-analysis program
- * sociolinguistics and its role in text analysis
- * case studies.

COMMENTARIES / KOMMENTAAR

Lategan, B C 1986. Die brief aan die Galasiërs . Kaapstad: NG Kerk-Uitgewers. Pp 117. Prys R12,50 plus AVB

Hierdie deeltjie verskyn in die bekende 'swart reeks' onder redateurskap van prof E P Groenewald. Wat die Nuwe Testament betref, is die reeks nou feitlik volledig - slegs Matteus en Openbaring moet nog verskyn.

Hierdie verklaring volg die algemene benadering van die reeks deur die jongste navorsingsresultate op nie-tegniese wyse aan die leser deur te gee. Griekse woorde en teologiese vaktaal word dus vermy en die nadruk val op 'n verklaring wat direk vir die algemene Bybellezer toeganklik sal wees.

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Loader, J A 1986. Ecclesiastes. A practical commentary. (Series: Text and Interpretation.) Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 136, including a preface by the translator, John Vriend. Price at Lux Verbi + R19,95.

Practical and expository, the series of paperback commentaries aims to provide the reader with clear and concise explanations of every book of the Bible.

Each commentary begins with an introduction, which discusses the origin of the book of the Bible under consideration, as well as its author, composition, and related matters. The commentary proper treats the Scripture text section by section, to help readers understand the book as a whole.

Fully acquainted with contemporary biblical scholarship, the contributors to this series offer solidity but freshness, making the work both reliable and up to date - a valuable tool for pastors, laypeople, and anyone who is interested in the text and meaning of the Bible.

J A Loader is Professor of Semitics and Old Testament at the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

DOGMATICS / DOGMATIEK

Santmire, H Paul 1985. The travail of nature. The ambiguous sociological promise of Christian theology. Pp 271. Price at Lux Verbi + R40,60.

This is a rather unusual book on a much neglected theme. In a fascinating, extremely well-structured and logic manner, with the display of a good knowledge of philosophy and the history of doctrine, the author sets himself the task of writing a Christian theology of nature. He wants to answer the (as he calls it) 'popular accusation' that 'Judaism and Christianity have long been concerned with justice and compassion for the acts of man to man, but have traditionally assumed nature to be a mere backdrop for the human play.'

At the outset he discerns three so-called 'root metaphors' which, according to him, bridge the distance between the pre-reflective and reflective elements of all religious ex-

periences. These metaphors finally shape the traditions of theological reflection, although in a presupposed, unreflected way. The habitual employment of one or more of these root metaphors is what is generally called 'theological motif.' The three metaphors which he discerns he respectively calls the 'metaphor of ascent,' the 'metaphor of fecundity,' and the 'metaphor of migration to a good land.'

Biblical examples of each is the account of Moses at Sinai, a Psalm like Psalm 104 where the fullness of the creation is praised, and the migration of Israel towards Canaan.

The first metaphor stands adverse to the last two, which attract one another. In the first one, which is also called the 'spiritual motif,' the aim is a transcendence of nature to an otherworldly, spiritual unification with the deity. The metaphors of fecundity and migration to a good land form the ecological motif. Here the physical, nature, the creation as such, forms the central point of reference in theological reflection.

Santmire then goes on to prove the ambiguity of Christian theology, as far as these two seemingly conflicting motifs are concerned, by taking a look at the history of Christian doctrine. This brings one to probably the most fascinating part of his book, for it gives the opportunity of looking at people like Irenaeus, Origin, Augustine, Francis of Assisi, Thomas Aquinas, Luther, Calvin, Karl Barth and Teilhard de Chardin from a rather exceptional viewpoint.

The book ends with Santmire's own endeavour to write an ecological theology, because he is of the strong opinion that the data of both the Old Testament and the New Testament allows us to develop an ecological reading of biblical faith, focussing on the theme of the land of promise and the fecundity of God. This he does despite the fact that he admits that in Scripture there is a certain ambiguity, as reflected in Colossians and Ephesians on the one hand, and John's Gospel and Hebrews on the other hand, between the primacy of the ecological and spiritual motifs.

Despite the fact that purely ecological questions like those of nuclear waste, and the chemical poisoning of rivers, do not yet occupy the prime place amongst the concerns of South African society, the theme of the book is extremely relevant to the local situation as well.

Considering South Africa's many Third World problems of housing and feeding, the following question of Santmire will explain why his theme is also just as relevant to this country: 'What becomes of the church's sacramental life if it accepts an alienated view of nature as its own? If its members are alienated from nature, will they not be tempted to seek some kind of "angelic" escape from their obligations to tend to the health and feeding of all, globally as well as locally?' (p 8).

Paul Santmire is the author of another book, **Brother earth: nature, God and ecology in a time of crisis**, and is currently serving as pastor of the Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield, Connecticut.

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Van Huyssteen, Wentzel 1986. Teologie as kritiese geloofsverantwoording. Teorievorming in die sistematiese teologie. Reeks: RGN-studies in Navorsingsmetodologie nr 2. ISBN 0 7969 0318 2

In hierdie epogmakende werk op die gebied van sistematiese teologie in Afrikaans stel Van Huyssteen die vraag aan die orde: wat presies gebeur in die proses van teorievorming waarin ons alledaagse geloofstaal skynbaar getransformeer kan word tot teologiese teorieë wat inderdaad daarin sou kon slaag om sowel op ons insig as op ons ervaring te appelleer?

Dit gaan in hierdie werk dus om 'n 'fundamenteel-teologiese problematisering van die sistematies-teologiese denkwysse self.' Dit beteken nie dat daar met minder erns gewerk word as "die sistematiese teoloog wat direk met kontekstuele problematiek besig is nie, maar wel met 'n ander erns: die erns van die teoloog wat - juis ter wille van die kernboodskap van die Christelike geloof - die kontekstualiteit van die teologie wil geldig maak deur eers die geloofwaardigheid van sy eie denkprosesse te bevra.' Trouens, dit is Van Huyssteen se oortuiging 'dat kontekstualiteit of werklikheidsbetrokkenheid in die teologie eers volledig tot sy reg kan kom wanneer die vraag na 'n nog dieperliggende werklikheidsbetrokkenheid eers gevra is: die vraag na die realiteitsgehalte, geldigheid of geloofwaardigheid van ons teologiese uitsprake self.'

Die inhoud van die boek sien soos volg daaruit:
hoofstuk 1: die logiese positivisme

- hoofstuk 2: teologiese reaksie op die positivistiese wetenskapsmodel: Karl Barth
- hoofstuk 3: die kritiese rasionalisme: Karl Popper
- hoofstuk 4: die kritiese rasionalisme en die teologie: William W Bartley
- hoofstuk 5: Thomas S Kuhn: die paradigma-teorie en die vraag na die herkoms van teologiese denkmodelle
- hoofstuk 6: Wolfhart Pannenberg: teologie as wetenskap van God
- hoofstuk 7: Gerhard Sauter: teologie as kritiesargumentatiewe wetenskap
- hoofstuk 8: die aard van teologiese uitsprake
- hoofstuk 9: kriteria vir 'n krities-realistiese rasionaliteitsmodel in die sistematiese teologie.

Prof W van Huyssteen is hoof van die departement Bybelkunde aan die Universiteit van Port Elizabeth. Sy vorige publikasies sluit in **Teologie van die rede** (Kampen, 1970) en **Geloof en Skrifgesag** (Pretoria, 1982).