

BOEKAAANKONDIGINGS / BOOK NOTICES

ETIJK/ETHICS

Monsma, Stephen V 1984. Pursuing justice in a sinful world. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 100, including an appendix. Price R17,30 at Lux Verbi.

As a Christian political scientist with years of experience in active political life, Monsma understands the balance of thought and action that politics demands. He realizes the imperfections of the political world often make Christians shy away from getting directly involved with it. But, he points out, these are structural evils, symptoms of a disease - not inevitable characteristics. Christians should get politically involved and fight against these evils in an attempt to make politics and government what God intended them to be: tools to help us create a just society.

The book explains how the various aspects of politics can be positive if pursued as a means to serve others rather than a way to satisfy personal desires for power.

Stephen Monsma taught political science at Calvin College for several years, and served for eight years in the Michigan legislature. He has written two other books.

Curry, Dean C (ed) 1984. Evangelicals and the Bishops' pastoral letter. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 254, including a foreword by Archbishop John J O'Connor, endnotes, and a summary of the Bishops' pastoral letter. Price R17,95 at Lux Verbi.

Organized around two major themes of the 1983 American Catholic Bishops' pastoral letter - Biblical perspectives on war and peace, The just war in a nuclear age, The morality of using nuclear weapons, The morality of deterrence, and Promoting peace in a nuclear Age - this volume represents a serious and exhaustive effort on the part of a group of well-qualified American evangelicals to weigh into the current nuclear weapons debate. In keeping with the pluralism that is part of the Protestant tradition, the authors represent a wide variety of theological and political perspectives, from which they address this complex issue which confronts all Christians.

Richard John Neuhaus, director of the Center on Religion and Society, describes this book as "a real achievement...This important book reminds us that we cannot care usefully about peace unless we think clearly about peace. The authors advance both deeper caring and clearer thinking."

Dean C. Curry is chairman of the Department of Political Science at Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania.

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Zink, Jörg 1985. *Turn toward life: The Bible and peacemaking.* Translated from German (Vielleicht ist es noch nicht zu spät) by Victoria Rhodin. Philadelphia: Fortress Press. Pp 126. Price R20,30 at Lux Verbi.

This penetrating book recounts the recent history of the peace movement in West Germany - a mass movement for disarmament which has been spearheaded by the Protestant church. Through a series of biblical meditations on Old and New Testament texts, Zink delves into the political and theological issues raised by crises of the arms race and environmental destruction, and challenges readers to become active peacemakers and agents of reconciliation through a faith response to these crises.

Jörg Zink is a pastor of the Evangelical Church in West Germany, and one of that country's most prolific and popular authors.

Victoria Rhodin, the translator, is program director of Peace Education on the American Friends Service Committee, Dayton, Ohio.

Simon, Arthur (revised edition) 1984. **Bread for the world**. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 219, including notes and four appendices. Price R19,05 at Lux Verbi.

This award-winning introduction to world hunger has been acclaimed by economists and novices alike.

It has initiated thousands of ordinary readers into the hunger movement, and has also served as a text at colleges and universities across the USA. Using simple, clear language, the book describes hunger and links it to social and economic causes. It features the crucial role that US policies play.

The author writes: "One stroke of the President's pen or one vote by Congress can have a positive or negative impact on hungry people that dwarfs private efforts on their behalf." He provides evidence that citizen action can bring about important policy changes. **Bread for the world** is a call for action.

Arthur Simon is the founding executive director of Bread for the World, a Christian citizens' movement on world hunger and poverty. His book won the National Religious Book Award in 1976 after its original publication in 1975.

Wenberger, Robert N 1985. *Life in the balance*. Exploring the abortion controversy. Grand Rapids: Erdmans. Pp 184, including summary and reflections, and an index. Price R19,05 at Lux Verbi.

Few issues have preoccupied the minds and emotions of Americans in recent years as has the abortion controversy. The arguments for and against abortion are many and varied - moral, ethical, biblical, theological, legal - and their presentations have ranged from the highly technical to the simplistic and dogmatic.

In this book Robert Wenberger looks at all the major arguments from the whole spectrum of positions on the abortion issue. He does so both earnestly and fairly, taking care to point out that most of the arguments follow soundly from their premises, and that most of the parties to the debate are altruistically motivated. Cutting through the sensationally prejudicial language often used in arguments about abortion, Weinberg clearly lays out what merit the various arguments have individually, so readers can compare them sensibly.

Writing out of an evangelical Protestant tradition, Wenberger nevertheless looks fairly and with an open mind at all of the arguments. And although his discussion entails fine points of medicine and philosophical argumentation, he presents it in a thoroughly accessible fashion, making this book valuable for anyone who wants a nonconstraining presentation of this crucial issue.

Robert Wenberger is Professor of Philosophy at Westmont College, Santa Barbara, California.

## OLD TESTAMENT/OLD TESTAMENT

Armerding, Carl E 1983. *The Old Testament and criticism*. Grand Rapids: Erdmans. Pp

134, with index of names, and Scripture references. Price not given.

Although many conservative scholars have had reservations about biblical criticism since its rise a century ago, Carl Armerding contends that critical rationalism need not be antithetical to belief in a divinely inspired Word of God. Indeed, says Armerding, the evangelical scholar - mediating the traditional conservative view and the rational critical view of Scripture - is able to use all the tools of historical, philological, and literary study, while still retaining biblical categories of revelation, inspiration, and history.

Armerding applies this synthesis of approaches - the traditional and the critical - to four major branches of criticism: literary (or source) criticism, form criticism, structural analysis, and textual criticism. Cautioning against misuse of these critical methods, he demonstrates how each method can be conscientiously used by faithful scholars to enrich their understanding of the Old Testament text.

Ronald Youngblood of the Bethel Theological Seminary comments: "Carl Armerding's book *The Old Testament and Criticism* fills a genuine need in Old Testament studies. It brings together lucid summaries of various modern methods used by scholars to better understand the text of the Old Testament, and it includes helpful brief discussions not only of how those methods work in actual practice, but also of their limitations. Evangelicals concerned about the meaning of the Old Testament will not want to be without this splendid little volume."

Carl Armerding is Principal and Professor at Regent College, Vancouver.

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Coats, George W 1983. *Genesis: with an Introduction to narrative Literature*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 322, including a glossary. Price approximately R31,00 at Lux Verbi.

Genesis, with an introduction to narrative literature is volume I 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 the introduction to this volume, George Coats discusses narrative in general and the principal Old Testament narratives in particular. He then sets the book of Genesis in its larger Old Testament context, analyzing its major sections and subsections. Each of the succeeding chapters treats one of the major sections. A bibliography of relevant works appears at the end of each unit. The book concludes with genre and formula files, which list all the relevant genres and formulas and the texts in which they occur.

George Coats is Professor of Old Testament at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, Kentucky. He has published numerous articles and several books on pentateuchal studies.

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Murphy, E Roland. 1983. **Wisdom literature: Job, Proverbs, Ruth, Canticles, Ecclesiastes and Esther.** Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 185, including a glossary. Price approximately R31,00 at Lux Verbi.

This book is volume XVIII in the series described above.

This volume examines the books of Job, Proverbs, Ruth, Canticles (Song of Songs), Ecclesiastes, and Esther. Previous

form-critical work is carefully evaluated, and the result is a thorough-going form-critical treatment of this part of the Old Testament. The work is enhanced by bibliographies for each Old Testament book and a glossary of genre terms.

Roland Murphy is George Washington Ivey Professor of Biblical Studies at the Duke University Divinity School.

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Hamlin, E John 1983. *Inheriting the land*. A commentary on the book of Joshua. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 207. Price approximately R22,85 at Lux Verbi.

"The Old Testament alive in the Church: this is the goal of the series *International Theological Commentary*," the editors write in the preface to this book.

International both in scope and authorship, and theological in approach, the series moves beyond a descriptive-historical text as Holy Scripture. It aims, first, to develop the theological significance of the Old Testament and second, to emphasize the relevance of each book for the life of the Church.

Recognizing that in our age, especially, a commentary on the Bible must transcend the parochialism of Western civilization, the *International Theological Commentary* is sensitive to issues that are the special problems of those who live outside the "Christian" West. Authors from more than seventeen countries, representing a wide range of geographical, ideological, and ecclesiastical backgrounds, read the Hebrew text of the Old Testament in the twin context of Israel and our present day.

In keeping with the international character of the series, John Hamlin's commentary on Joshua pays more than usual attention to the fulfillment of the third part of God's

promise to Abraham, "By you all the nations of the earth shall bless themselves," as well as to the roles played by non-Israelites such as Rahab and the Gibeonites. Hamlin also takes full account of issues such as war and liberation, land distribution and management, and personal fulfillment.

Among the important theological insights revealed in this commentary are God's faithfulness to his oppressed people, the importance of land to the covenantal idea, the establishment of a new society based on justice, freedom, and loyalty and secured through covenant teaching and covenant bonding, and kingdom struggles leading to kingdom victory and pointing to God's final victory.

John Hamlin is an American who taught for many years in Singapore, and was for 20 years President and Professor of Old Testament at Thailand Theological Seminary. He has written two other books.

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Anderson, Robert A 1984. **Signs and wonders.** A commentary on the book of Daniel. Pp 158. Price approximately R20,35 at Lux Verbi.

In the same series as the above-mentioned, comes the commentary on Daniel by R A Anderson.

From start to finish it depicts Daniel as an exemplar of loyalty to God, a faithful Jew in an alien culture. As such Daniel is a source of inspiration for those who find themselves in parallel circumstances - beset by the disadvantages of their subservient position, faced with the threat of dire physical suffering and even death, and enticed to apostasy.

Like Joseph in Egypt, however, Daniel does not withdraw from the world, but participates in it. And through prayer, adherence to Torah, and trust in his God - who is in fact



the God of the world - Daniel perseveres and is enabled to triumph over the world.

Robert Anderson is Professor of Old Testament Studies, Ormond College, University of Melbourne.

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Van Selms, A 1985. Job. A practical commentary. Grand Rapids: Erdmans. Pp 160, including a preface by the translator, John Vriend. Price approximately R21,45 at Lux Verbi.

This new series (called Text and Interpretation) 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 Text and Interpretation 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.

A van Selms was, until his death, Professor of Semitics at the University of Pretoria.

Text and Interpretation is the English translation of the original Dutch series "Tekst en Toelichting."

\* Loyalty: the calling of the people of God. Aspects like: what God desires, the anguish of God, and the gift of loyalty appear in this chapter.

\* Freedom and commitment: God's Covenant Loyalty. Different forms of loyalty are pointed out, and also specific pericopes from Scripture, e.g. Ps 89 and 11 Sam 7.

\* Stories of human loyalty: the stories of David, David and Jonathan, Hanun, Barzillai, and Hushai and David are discussed. Other stories of political conflict, and also stories of family relationships come under discussion.

The author's line of thought is neatly divided into six chapters, including:

Her procedure is shrewdly and carefully chosen. She begins not with theological premises, but with narratives of human mutuality and fidelity. She secondly dares to take on the vexed question of covenant. And thirdly, the author pays attention to contemporary issues both at the outset and in her bold conclusion.

In her first book, *The Meaning of Heseb in the Hebrew Bible* (1978, Missoula, Mont: Scholars Press) Sakenfeld pursued fresh, basic research concerning Old Testament meanings of faithfulness. In the present volume she advances those studies in important ways, with keen sensitivity and with a discerning eye on contemporary, societal issues.

**Sakenfeld, Katherine D** 1985. *Faithfulness in action: loyalty in biblical perspective*. Fortress Press. Pp 158, including Scripture index. Price not given.

Lapide, Pinchas E. 1984. Hebrew in the Church. The foundations of Jewish-Christian dialogue. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 266 with extensive bibliography and various indices. Price R54,15 at Lux Verbi.

One of the important ecumenical projects of our day is a renewed interest in Jewish-Christian dialogue. Dr Lapide, a prominent Israeli religious scholar and an orthodox Jew, has already stimulated this dialogue by means of his previous books. The present book is to be regarded as the only comprehensive survey of all the efforts among Christians and Jews from New Testament times onward to translate the New Testament and Christian liturgy into Hebrew.

As Lapide has a thorough knowledge of biblical, Mishnaic and Modern Hebrew, he is able to evaluate the different attempts at translating Christian literature in the "sacred language", Hebrew. His comments on Bible translation, Modern Hebrew as no more the language of the Hebrew Bible (although school children in Israel easily read the Qumran texts of pre-Christian times) and the degree of success that Christian missionaries have in converting to Christianity Jews in Israel, are of special interest.

Lapide's book, originally published in German, and translated by Ernest Rhodes into fluent English, is most informative. Although some Christians may differ from the author on certain points, this book will surely further Jewish-Christian dialogue.

## NUWE TESTAMENT/NEW TESTAMENT

Greenlee, J Harold, 1985. Scribes, scrolls and Scripture. A student's guide to New Testament textual criticism. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 102, including two indices. Price approximately R16,65 at Lux Verbi.

Despite persistent and often heated discussions about the validity of biblical criticism and its effect on Christian faith, many Christians know little about the background of the New Testament. How were the books of the Bible originally written? How did they come down to us through the centuries? How do we account for differences among the ancient manuscripts and among the modern translations based on them? In this book Harold Greelee addresses these and related questions to introduce the student and lay reader to New Testament textual criticism.

Among the topics he considers are the methods and tools employed in producing ancient manuscripts; the history of biblical text; the basic principles of textual criticism and how they are applied; and the effect of textual criticism on our understanding of the Bible.

"The most important thing," writes Greelee, "is to believe and obey the New Testament, not merely to know the story of its origin. Yet the lack of acquaintance with the history of the New Testament as we have it today has led to misunderstanding and confusion."

This book will go a long way toward clearing up that confusion, and Greelee's balanced treatment will help to allay the suspicion with which many evangelicals regard textual criticism.

Harold Greelee, for many years Professor of New Testament Greek at Asbury Theological Seminary, is currently a missionary of OMS International and an international translation consultant for Wycliffe Bible Translators. He has written one other book.

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Van Hartingsveld, L. 1985. *Revelation. Text and Interpretation: a practical commentary.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 103, including a preface by the translator, John Vriend. Price approximately R16,65 at Lux Verbi.

Practical and expository, this new series (called Text and Interpretation) 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 Text and Interpretation 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.

Van Hartingsveld was, until his death, a minister in the Dutch Reformed Church, most recently at Wapenveld, the Netherlands.

Text and Interpretation is the English translation of the original Dutch series *Tekst en Toelichting*.

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Harris, Murray J 1985. *Raised immortal. Resurrection immortality in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 304, with four indices: modern authors, subjects, references and principal Greek words. Price at Lux Verbi approximately R34,25.

While many books have been written about the Gospel teaching regarding the resurrection of Jesus, few go on to consider resurrection (whether of Jesus or others) in the Epistles, and fewer still attempt to relate all this to the theme of immortality. In this book Murray Harris does just that, exploring not only the New Testament data on resurrection and immortality as separate themes, but also,

and more importantly, the relation between these two ideas in New Testament teaching.

Taking up the idea of resurrection first, Harris studies various aspects of the resurrection of Christ, the resurrection of believers, and the concept of "general resurrection." Next he discusses the immortality of God and of man in the New Testament and compares this with the Platonic view of immortality. Finally, he examines the relation between resurrection and immortality, analyzing the key New Testament passages, and concluding that these two ideas are inseparable and complementary.

Murray Harris has lectured extensively in New Zealand, Great Britain, and the USA. He was Professor of Biblical Greek and New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Illinois, and is now Warden of Tyndale House, Cambridge.

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**Petersen, Norman R** 1985. **Rediscovering Paul**. Philemon and the sociology of Paul's narrative world. Philadelphia: Fortress Press. Pp 308. Price at Lux Verbi approximately R63,80.

In this groundbreaking work, Norman Petersen integrates contemporary literary-critical, sociological, and anthropological insights into the traditional arena of historical-critical methods. He demonstrates how these new approaches can be used to interpret biblical texts, especially Paul's letters. The letter to Philemon serves as a case study. Yet Petersen focuses on the narrative world of Paul as well, for one cannot be truly understood without the other.

This work articulates a "sociology of letters", explores the social structures which underlie the social relations of the actors in Paul's world, and deals with the systems of belief, knowledge, and value that define the identities of these actors and motivate their actions. Here is cutting-edge scholarship.

Norman Petersen is Washington Gladden Professor of Religion at Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts, and an editor of *Semeia*, the experimental journal in religion.

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Barrett, C K 1985. *Church, ministry, and sacraments in the New Testament*. Exeter: The Paternoster Press. Pp 110, including index of New Testament passages, and index of names and subjects. No price given.

This small volume contains the Didsbury Lectures which the well-known New Testament scholar, C K Barrett delivered at the British Isles Nazarene College, Manchester, in November 1983.

In a non-technical manner Barrett here sets forth his mature understanding of the passages in the New Testament which refer to the church, its ministry, and its sacraments. His book can be summed up as the assertion of a paradox, and the drawing of an inference from that paradox.

The paradox is the proposition that in the New Testament the church is at the same time central and peripheral. The inference is that those who would understand and interpret the church, fall into error when they neglect one or other limb of the paradox.

Writing for a general audience, Barrett examines many New Testament texts as well as some writings from the early church fathers to see how the church, its ministry, and its sacraments are central and secondary in the New Testament, and how the beliefs and practices of apostolic day relate to later developments.

Bringing the fruits of his widely respected scholarship to bear on the issue, as well as his long involvement in Methodist Anglican dialogue, Barrett shows that these are not mere

The four essays presented here explore some of these new perspectives for studying biblical texts. The discussion touches on the following aspects: text and history, the role of redescription in the transmission of texts, narrative, reader-response (the reception and production of meaning), intratextual and extratextual reference, interaction of author-reader-text, etc. Theoretical remarks are well illustrated with examples drawn from biblical texts (Matthew 13, Mark 4, Samuel 12).

Recent research in literary theory has opened up new perspectives regarding this problem. The emphasis has shifted from congruence to reference. Therefore, the question has shifted to: "In what way does the text refer to reality?"

The classic historical critical formulation of this problem can be stated as follows: "What is the relationship between the actual event and the way in which it is presented in the text?" Clearly, the emphasis is on congruence!

The relationship between text and reality, between the "world" created by the written text and the "real" world as it exists outside of the text, has always been an intriguing and difficult riddle to solve for literary critics. In the case of biblical texts, the issue is even more puzzling because these texts do not only refer to specific historical events, but claim that the message they carry is indissolubly bound up with the course of history.

Lategan, Bernard C & S Vorster, 1985. Text and reality. Aspects of reference in biblical texts. Philadelphia: Fortress Press; Atlanta: Scholars Press. Pp 128. No price given.

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theoretical issues, but are of crucial importance for inter-church cooperation and reunion.



Two basic assumptions underlie the discussion: reference can only be considered adequately within the framework of a broader hermeneutical theory, and reference may offer a more satisfactory approach to the problem of history in biblical texts.

Prof Bernard Latagan teaches in the Department of Biblical Studies at the University of Stellenbosch, and Prof Willem Vorster is director of the Institute for Theological Research at the University of South Africa.

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Cranfield, CEB 1985. Romans. A shorter commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 338. Prys ongeveer R25,10 by Lux Verbi.

In 1975 en 1979 het die twee omvangryke dele van Cranfield se kommentaar op Romeine in the International Critical Commentary verskyn. Die huidige boek is 'n verkorte en verwerkte weergawe van die groot kommentaar met die gedagte van die skrywer dat "a shorter, less detailed, Greekless, version of it might perhaps be welcomed both by some students who have no Greek and also by a wider readership." Dit is presies wat hierdie korter kommentaar bied, en sal ongetwyfeld deur baie lesers nuttig gebruik kan word.

Die oorspronklike kommentaar geniet hoë aansien onder uitliggers en in hierdie meer toeganklike vorm word die kern van Cranfield se insigte vir 'n baie wyer kring beskikbaar gestel.

## HERMENEUTIEK/HERMENEUTICS

Jandini, R, Thiselton, A C & Walhout, C 1985. The responsibility of hermeneutics.

The mission, says Darrell Guder in this book, is to complete the work of salvation that God began in the incarnation of his son Jesus Christ. The message is the gospel - the good news of the incarnate Christ. And the messengers are the Body of Christ - the church - who have been called to be his witnesses. Only as we understand Christ's incarnation and

What is the church's mission in the world? What message does it proclaim, and who is to proclaim it?

Guder, Darrell L. 1985. Be my witness. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp. 237. Price approximately R26,25 at Lux Verbi.

### THEOLOGIE/SYSTEMATIESE THEOLOGIE

Die drie skrywers het saam 'n navorsingsprojek aan die Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship in Grand Rapids onderneem, en wat hier aangebied word, is die resultaat van 'n jaar se navorsing en interdisiplinêre gesprek. Thiseiton het hom met sy omvattende studie "The Two Horizons" reeds as 'n leidende figuur op die gebied van die hermeneutiek verwerf, en in hierdie nuwe studie voer hy sy insigte aansienlik verder.

Die gemeenskaplike vertrekpunt is dat taal nie die setel van betekenis is nie. Betekenis is die resultaat van 'n komplekse proses waarin 'n hele netwerk van handelingde deur sowel die skrywer as die leser in die produusering en gebruik van tekste uitgevoer word.

'n Baie interessante poging van twee literatuurwetenskaplikes (Lundin en Walhout) en 'n Nuwe-Testamentikus (Thiseiton) om die jongste ontwikkelinge op hul onderskeie vakgebiede in 'n nuwe hermeneutiese benadering te ontwikkel.

Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp. 129. Prys ongeveer R22,90 by Lux Verbi.

the church's role in proclaiming its meaning, according to Guder, can we understand our calling to be witnesses of God's salvation.

Written out of Guder's wide-ranging experience as a minister and professor in the United States and Europe, and especially his work with the Fuller Seminary Institute of Youth Ministers and with Young Life, this book will challenge students and educated laypeople to grapple with serious theology about the church as it relates to what Christians are doing daily about their faith.

Darrell Guder is Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty at Whitworth College, Spokane, Washington.



Padilla, C René 1985. *Mission between the times: Essays on the Kingdom. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 199. Price approximately \$10.95p.*

One of the premier representatives of orthodox evangelism in Latin America, René Padilla here offers a Latin American perspective on the different aspects of the mission of the church.

All mission must proceed in the context of the principles of the whole of the Kingdom of God, says Padilla, and that entails an evangelism fully integrated with a concern for social responsibility. While Padilla shares many of the concerns voiced by liberation theologians, he nevertheless rejects liberation theology on the grounds that it has become a secular ideology that is distant from the true gospel imperative.

Heartfelt and incisive, this book will be valuable to anyone interested in missiology, the church in Latin America, or an

evangelical perspective on the issues that have given rise to liberation theology.

René Padilla is General Secretary of the Latin American Theological Fraternity and pastor of a Baptist church in Buenos Aires.

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Shenk, Wilbert R (ed) 1983. *Exploring church growth*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 312, including a general index, and an index of Scripture references. Price at Lux Verbi approximately R26,25.

During the past twenty years the phenomenon of "church growth" - especially as it has been known under the dynamic leadership of Donald McGavran and the School of World Mission, Fuller Theological Seminary - has resulted in an impressive array of book, articles, reports, and theses.

While freely acknowledging their debt to the church growth school, the contributors to this volume wish to explore further the premises, principles, and goals of church growth. Firmly convinced that church growth is more than empirical data and effective methods, and that there is nothing approaching a "complete book of church growth", they aim not simply to offer definitive answers, but rather to open up fresh lines of enquiry - historical, experiential, methodological, and theological. Thus, while interacting with previous studies, the authors view their work as a constructive contribution to the search for a more adequate understanding of church growth patterns.

Contributors to this volume include Alfred C Krass, Harvie M Com, Orlando E Costas, John H Yoder, Harry R Boer, and C René Padilla.

Wilbert Shenk is Vice President for Overseas Ministries, Mennonite Board of Missions.

Berkhof, Hendrikus 1985. *Introduction to the study of dogmatics*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 114. Translated by John Vriend. Price approximately R19,05 at Lux Verbi.

"An introduction that aims to initiate" is how Hendrikus Berkhof describes this book, in which he provides beginning students and interested general readers with a concise guide to what to expect - and what not to expect - in the field of dogmatics.

Berkhof begins by defining dogma and dogmatics, and sets dogmatics in its context within the perspectives of faith and science, and in time and space. He then describes the foundations of dogmatics - that is, the framework within which dogmatics should be studied. Material dogmatics - the building on that foundation - is usually divided into several parts (God, Christ, Israel, the Holy Spirit, and other themes), which Berkhof examines individually in the book's final section.

In a day when Christians see a need to produce and study explanations of their faith, Berkhof has provided a useful tool to enable them to understand what dogmatics really is, so that they can then account for their faith in a systematic, thorough, and understandable way.

Hendrikus-Berkhof, a Dutch theologian whose works have been well-received around the world, is also the author of a major work in dogmatics, *Christian Faith: an introduction to the study of the faith* (Eerdmans, 1979).

*Introduction to the study of dogmatics* is the English translation of the Dutch *Inleiding tot de studie van de dogmatiek* (Kok - Kampen, 1982).

God's word encounters us today as law, gospel, and guidance. Hans Schwarz here examines the word of God as the central means of grace "through which God discloses himself to us." Working within a contemporary, ecumenical context, Schwarz offers a historical and theological defense of Baptism,

**Schwarz, Hans 1985. Divine communication: Word and sacrament in biblical, historical, and contemporary perspective. Philadelphia: Fortress Press. Pp 162, with three indices: of names, of biblical references, and of subjects. Price approximately R28,00 at Lux Verbi.**

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David Wells is Andrew Mutch Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and the author of four books.

One of the 17 contributors to this book wrote a concluding chapter on the future of reformed theology.

This book provides penetrating analysis of these five traditions and the two leading theologians of each. The result is an important advance in our understanding of what Reformed has meant and what it should now mean in the late twentieth century.

Modern reformed theology in America has shown astonishing variety in its expression. Grouped under the name "Reformed" are, in fact, five diverse traditions - the Princeton theology, Westminster Calvinism, the Dutch schools, Southern reformed thought, and Neo-orthodoxy.

**Wells, David F (ed) 1985. Reformed theology in America: A history of its modern development. Grand Rapids: Erdmans. Pp 317. Price at Lux Verbi approximately R45,90.**

especially infant baptism, and correlate confirmation. He then addresses the Lord's Supper, highlighting its historical significance through a consideration of its historical development. Throughout the book, he stresses the relevance of biblical and historical foundations to the present-day worship of the church.

Hans Schwarz is Professor of Protestant Theology at Regensburg University, Federal Republic of Germany.

Fackre, Gabriel 1984. *The Christian story: A narrative interpretation of basic Christian doctrine*. Pp 319, including appendices, an extensive bibliography, and a subject index. Price at Lux Verbi approximately \$11.15.

Originally published in 1978, *The Christian story* examines in an introductory manner the basic Christian doctrines of God, the Fall, Covenant, Christ, the Church, Salvation, and Consummation. Gabriel Fackre interprets these basic beliefs as "chapters in the biography of God."

This revised edition reflects recent theological dialogue as well as the author's own areas of study in recent years: Fackre has included a new section on narrative theology in general, an expanded discussion of the role of Scripture in theology, and a revised treatment of eschatology. The updated bibliography and the appendix with study guides increase the usefulness of this already popular introduction to the rudiments of the Christian faith.

Gabriel Fackre is Abbot Professor of Theology at Andover Newton Theological School.

Hebblethwaite, Brian 1984. *The Christian hope*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 244, including an index of names and topics, and one of biblical passages. Price at Lux Verbi approximately R28,60.

At every step in the history of the Church a central element in Christianity has been hope - whether hope for the individual or hope for society, whether hope in this world or in the world to come.

In this book Brian Hebblethwaite examines the basis of Christian hope and the history of its interpretation to achieve a balanced picture of the different views of Christian hope throughout history.

He begins with a look at the background of Christian hope in the Old and New Testaments, from the faith of Israel through the acts of God in the story of Jesus. He goes on to offer a history of Christian attitudes towards the future as they have been expressed throughout the centuries. Hebblethwaite focuses his survey in particular on the modern period and the way in which modern scientific discovery has affected Christian understanding of the future of our world.

With its clear explanation of a basic Christian concept, this book will provide an excellent introduction for college students and interested laypersons, as well as a helpful guide for those who teach them.

Brian Hebblethwaite is Dean of Chapel and Director of Studies in Philosophy, Theology, and Religious Studies at Queens' College, Cambridge, and University Lecturer in Divinity.

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Gunton, Colin 1985. *Enlightenment and alienation: An essay towards a Trinitarian theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 166,



including notes, an index of authors, and an index of subjects. Price at Lux Verbi approximately R30.

In this critique of the legacy of the Enlightenment for Christian theology, Colin Gunton focuses on the concepts of truth, freedom and faith. He argues that in these areas the emphasis of Enlightenment thought on knowledge which is observable and objective has alienated us from understanding or believing in whatever cannot be seen or scientifically deduced, and cut us off from reality, from ourselves, and from God. But the trinitarian structure of Christian belief contains within itself the resources to overcome this alienation and achieve an integrated perspective. Gunton finds in the doctrine of the Trinity - especially in Jesus Christ, in whom the mysterious and divine joined the physical and observable - a way to give validity both to scientific frames of thought and to religious belief.

Lesslie Newbigin writes in the book's foreword: "Absorbing and illuminating ... (this book) deals in lucid fashion with the most fundamental issues which haunt us as human beings who are the heirs ... of that movement which those who first participated in it calls "The Enlightenment".... Colin Gunton gives us grounds for ... the confidence that there can be enlightenment without the alienation and the scepticism which so easily tumbles into nihilism and despair. For this I am grateful."

Colin Gunton is Professor of Christian Doctrine at King's College, University of London.

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Vos, Arvin 1985. Aquinas, Calvin, and contemporary Protestant thought. A critique of Protestant views on the thought of Thomas Aquinas. Christian University Press. Pp 178. Available at approximately R25,45 from Lux Verbi.

Most Protestants, says Arvin Vos, know little or nothing of Thomas Aquinas's thought, and so they have no way to grasp its relevance for today. In this book, Vos points out a number of ways in which Protestants have as a whole traditionally misinterpreted the works of Aquinas, and he challenges the common Protestant understanding of the nature and significance of Aquinas's work.

Vos, himself a Reformed Protestant, describes a number of prevailing Protestant suppositions about what Aquinas is saying, and then proceeds to show by argument and substantial citation from the full range of Aquinas's texts that such suppositions are in fact groundless. He also provides some reasoned speculation concerning the origins of the Protestant misreadings.

In the end, Vos's book is a plea for a re-evaluation of the theology of Thomas Aquinas. Easily accessible to an undergraduate audience, the book will be of interest to scholars and general readers alike.

Arvin Vos is Professor of Philosophy at Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green.

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**Roth, Robert Paul** 1985. **The theater of God. Story in Christian doctrines.** Philadelphia: Fortress Press. Pp 191, including subject and name index, and index of Scriptural references. Price R30 at Lux Verbi.

The question of reality is not limited to philosophy and science. It is also a burning issue in theological discussions. What is the nature and status of the reality of God, of Jesus Christ, of creation, of redemption, of the church, etc? How can this reality be articulated and experienced in an authentic way? How can a systematic theologian articulate the Christian doctrines effectively?

Traditionally, systematic theologians tried to answer the question by abstractions, whether monistic, dualistic or pluralistic. Roth criticizes theological objectivity as inadequate because it lacked the subjective dimension of personal involvement. On the other hand, direct subjectivity is also inadequate because it is obscurantist and wishful.

Roth is experimenting with another option. According to him a **narrative hermeneutics** is a more adequate way of answering the question because the reality is seen as story. "We live in a story-shaped reality. Reality is story" (p. 6).

In story, both objective and subjective dimensions are embraced. Roth is concerned, descriptively, about the account of the story (reality) of faith. This takes him to the problematic issue of narrative ontology. In this regard he is opting for the redescriptive and innovative function of metaphorical language. The language of metaphor is primary and the language of logical discourse is secondary. For systematic theology, Roth says, the primacy of metaphor points the way for an adequate way of thinking about reality.

But what about history and truth? In a narrative hermeneutics, history is not abandoned, because there is much in common between history and story. They are both episodic and sequential. The narrative of Scripture has much within it that is historical, but stories are not the same as history. The reader needs to recognize elements of the non-historical and see them to have reality that is given, not just subjectively invented.

This raises the issue of explanation. History looks for causes which ask for an explanation. History also describes people and events which are enmeshed in comedy and tragedy that transcend ordinary causes. This is where story plays a significant role. Stories provide a position from which the historian can look at the world anew. Stories will heighten our sensitivity to see the world as it really is, and stories will lift us heuristically beyond the present world as to create a new reality. Stories construct an alternate world, due to the fact that stories have an element of surprise. This element is very important for theology. The kind of story that reality is, is always different from our human

construction of it. This is due not only to the sinful corruption we make of our comprehension and apprehension of reality, but also to the surprises given by God, the author of reality.

The Bible is God's story for us. More, not only is the Bible full of stories, some historical and some not, but the Bible itself is a grand and cosmic story where God is the unique centre of the stage and we are with him.

Regarding the problem of truth, Roth is opting for the following thesis: truth cannot be reduced to historical evidence. There are many kinds of truth: empirical, rational, theoretical, hypothetical, historical, traditional, mythical, personal - and **story truth**. For Roth, story truth includes all the mentioned kinds of truth, and more. The "more" refers to truths about such realities as creation, resurrection, and final consummation - realities which can be verified only by the presence of the Holy Spirit as he works in the community of faith.

In the prologue the author is giving the reader certain "instructions". He wants to see what the doctrines of creation, redemption, Christ, the Trinity, baptism, etc, will look like, cast in the shape of story rather than in analogues to previously used in the history of theology. He goes on to make the following disclaimer: "This is an experiment in thought. Experiments sometimes fail. This is no exception. But I have unfettered my imagination just to see what will happen."

As an experiment in theology the author presented the reader with a nailbiting, but creative, valuable experiment which opens the eye of the reader for an alternate reality.

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introduction, a foreword and an appendix.  
Price R14,95.

This paperback is number 4 in the series Black Theology.

In the introduction Dr Mokgethi Motlhabi writes, inter alia: "We may speak of two stages in Black Theology in South Africa so far. The first was polemic and definitional (introductory), with some passing allusions to method. The second I will call quasi-academic. Because of the full that has followed the early attempts at Black Theology, I have referred to them as phase I and recommended the embarking on phase II.

"The essays in this volume may be regarded as a new beginning in engaging in black theological reflection. They are issued from two conferences organized by the Institute for Contextual Theology through its Black Theology Task Force. Some of the essays take Marxist analysis seriously. In this way they introduce in Black Theology an element which has long characterised Latin American liberation theology.

"To the extent that Marxist analysis is introduced and to the extent that there will be progress in black theological reflection once more, we may say that phase II of Black Theology has begun."

Contributors to this book are: Bonita Bennett, Frank Chikane, Bonganjalo Goba, Shun Govender, Julian Kunnie, Simon Maimela, Takatso Motokeng, Bernadette Mosala, Itumeleng Mosala, Mokgethi Motlhabi, John Ngubane, Lebamang Sebidi and Buti Thagale.

## ALGEMEEN/MISCELLANEOUS

De Gruchy, John 1986. *City Justice: Prayers, meditations and readings from South Africa*. London: Collins. Pp 261, including two indices. Price at Lux Verbi R11,95.

This collection reflects the spirituality of the Christian struggle against the heresy of apartheid and its social manifestations. It challenges and enlightens Christians in every part of the world.

The relationship between prayer and politics, spirituality and action has perforce been worked out in the heat of events in South Africa. John de Gruchy has collected reflections and readings from the early days, when African Christians were caught together in a maelstrom whose outcome is still uncertain.

Arising out of the South African confrontation, the readings - from scripture, contemporary poems, published material, prisoners' letters, statements from the dock - reflect the pain and anger, and also the confidence and hope of Christians caught up in impossible circumstances.

**Cry Justice!** has a lasting impact: it is at home within the long tradition of spirituality: it balances the present and the particular with the universal drama of the Christian struggle to live in the world: it juxtaposes the biblical and the immediate in a totally valid way. It offers a genuine spirituality for Christians everywhere.

John de Gruchy is Professor of Christian Studies at the University of Cape Town, a minister in the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, and editor of The Journal of Theology for Southern Africa. He has written three other books, and co-edited one.

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Hick, John 1985. **Problems of religious pluralism.** Macmillan. Pp 148, including notes and index. Price not given.

How, from a religious point of view, should we understand the fact that there is a plurality of religions? Religious

people generally assume that the tradition into which they were themselves born, is true and that the others are in varying degrees false. But such an assumption is obviously arbitrary, and hard to defend. The alternative is a pluralistic vision of the world religions as embodying different awarenesses of and response to the one infinite divine Reality.

John Hick, a leader in this field, here explores this pluralistic option, showing its philosophical basis, unfolding its implications, and considering many kinds of objection to it. The result is controversial but persuasive.

John Hick is Danforth Professor of the Philosophy of Religion at the Claremont Graduate School, California. He has written nine other books, and was the editor of another five.

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**Kitawaga, Joseph M (ed) 1985. The history of religions: Retrospect and prospect. Macmillan. Pp 186, including an afterword by Gregory D Alles and the editor, notes about the nine contributors, as well as an index and notes. Price not given.**

In this important volume, leading scholars and practitioners in the discipline of the history of religions (Religionswissenschaft) consider the current state of their field, including its background, methods, scope, and significance.

At a time when departments of religion and religious studies are proliferating in liberal arts colleges, the discipline of the history of religions is facing new challenges and methodological questions. One of the most important problems is the very identity of the field. What distinguishes the history of religions from such related disciplines as theology, philosophy of religion, and phenomenology on the one hand, and such "scientific" approaches as comparative mythology,

cultural area studies, and the sociology, psychology, and anthropology of religion on the other?

And, within the field, what is the relation of studies of specific religions to the study of religious experience as a whole? Defining the discipline as a unique contribution to the study of humankind is one of the themes of this volume.

Other issues discussed by the contributors include the changing outlook and concerns of *Religionswissenschaft* from the Enlightenment to the present, and the current and future tasks the field must address.

The history of religions offers no single answer to these questions and issues. Rather, it airs the differing thoughts of some of the finest minds and most influential figures in the discipline.

Joseph Kitawaga is Professor of the History of Religions and former Dean of the Divinity School, the University of Chicago. He has written two books, and has edited several volumes.

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Van Leeuwen, Mary Stewart 1985. *The person in psychology* - a contemporary Christian appraisal. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans. Pp 264, including index. Price R28,00 at Lux Verbi.

This book is volume 3 in the series *Studies in a Christian world view*, sponsored by the Institute for Advanced Christian Studies, and developed under the editorial direction of Carl F. Henry. It is a series offering Christian perspectives on the world of learning.

Of this volume Paul C Vitz from the New York University writes:



"A rich, challenging book ... one that, in particular, every Christian who is a serious student of psychology should read and reflect on. The author addresses various topics bearing on social psychology, personality theory, research methods, etc, but her most general concern is to show the need for a major paradigm shift, one that will greatly change our present understanding of what is called 'scientific' psychology. The exciting thing is that the book helps bring about this very shift - one that will provide a more humane, realistic and valid understanding of the person."

Mary Stewart van Leeuwen is Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. She is the author of *The sorcerer's apprentice*.

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**Goldberg, George** 1984. *Reconsecrating America*. Grand Rapids: Erdmans. Pp 145, including index, preface and introduction. Price at Lux Verbi R25,45.

"The current controversy over church-state relations in America, in particular the issue of prayers in public schools, governmental support of parochial schools, and displays of religious symbols in public places, is unfortunate and unnecessary. A constitutional amendment to resolve these issues would be worse."

So begins the introduction to this readable and fascinating book, in which George Goldberg argues convincingly for a return to the original understanding of religious freedom as set forth in the First Amendment to the Constitution - for a "reconsecrated" America in which multisectarian groups are again able to express their religious beliefs freely and nonpreferentially.

George Goldberg is a member of the bars of the State of New York, the District of Columbia and the United States Supreme Court. He has written several books.

Hopfe, Lewis M 1983. *Religions of the world*. London: Collier Macmillan Publishers. Pp 491, including a map of religions of the world, a time line, many illustrations, a glossary of major terms and persons, and an index. Third edition. Price R31,50.

Being already in its third edition, this book has already established itself as an authoritative introduction to the religions of the world. The new edition follows the same narrative style and approach as the earlier editions, and consequently the reading matter is never too technical.

Readers first are introduced to the basic vocabulary of the field and to some of the theories of the origins of religion. Then the major religions are discussed: the historical and cultural factors that produced them, the lives of their founders, their basic teachings and their historical development, and current status in the world. Native American Indian and African religions are outlined in two chapters, and then the four religions that arose in India (Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism and Sikhism) and the three in China and Japan (Taoism, Confucianism and Shinto) follow.

The final section on religions that arose in the Middle East includes Zoroastrianism, as well as the three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Especially pertinent is the concluding section on "Islam in the modern world" in the light of recent events in Iran, and her conflict with Iraq.

Beverly, John 1985. *C S Lewis and the search for rational religion*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp 182, with notes and index. Available at Lux Verbi, Cape Town. Price: R23,35.

C S Lewis's writings boldly reverse the common view that religious belief is not open to rational discussion. Lewis took Christian apologetics as seriously as he took Christianity itself. Since the audience of apologists consists mainly of unbelievers, the apologists cannot appeal to the Bible. Apologetics is the attempt to discover how far we can get "on our own steam" (*Mere Christianity*, p 37). Lewis's confidence that Christian apologists in the above sense can succeed, springs from his own past experience. If there was ever a purely philosophical conversion, it was Lewis's. He always went out of his way to let people know that he did not want to become a Christian, and that he became one only because the evidence seemed to allow no other alternative. In *Mere Christianity* he states his challenge thus: "I am not asking anyone to accept Christianity if his best reasoning tells him that the weight of the evidence is against it."

In this book philosopher John Beverluis takes Lewis's challenge seriously, and sets out to see whether the evidence - as presented by Lewis in his apologetic writings - is in fact for or against Christianity.

Beverluis systematically dissects Lewis's arguments, and finds them wanting: "His arguments for the existence of God fail", says Beverluis. "He is even guilty of trying to harmonize incompatible philosophical traditions. And so the failures accumulate, the inconsistencies remain, and the case for Christianity has not been made."

In the end, Beverluis suggests, Lewis stands as paradigm of steadfast personal commitment to orthodox Christianity, but a failure as a proponent of the traditional Christian apologetic.

In a market-place saturated with worshipful tributes to Lewis, this decidedly iconoclastic volume will serve as a distinctive counterpoint, and should generate a good deal of discussion among Lewis's large following.