

BOEKAANKONDIGINGS/BOOK NOTICES

KOMMENTARE/COMMENTARIES

Ebeling, Gerhard 1985. **The Truth of the Gospel: an exposition of Galatians.** Philadelphia: Fortress Press. Translated by David Green. Pp.276 including notes, and indices of Biblical passages and subjects. Price R47,80 at Lux Verbi.

In this extensive exegesis of the Epistle to the Galatians, Gerhard Ebeling strives to open "our eyes to the explosive force that produced this text, a force which, through this text, can explode over and over again." Using rigorous technical tools, Ebeling interprets Galatians in such a way that "the truth of the Gospel" confronts the general reader as well as the specialist. He clarifies and emphasizes the relevance of this implication to the real-life struggles of contemporary Christians.

Commenting on this impressive interpretation of a major document of the Christian faith, Hans Dieter Betz of the University of Chicago states: "In his final lecture course on Galatians, Ebeling has returned to the New Testament exegesis with which he began his long and distinguished theological life. One can only admire the unity he has achieved between exegetical detail, theological comprehension, and human honesty and profundity."

Gerhard Ebeling is Professor Emeritus of Fundamental Theology and Hermeneutics at the University of Zürich.

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Knight, George A F 1984. **Servant theology - A commentary on the book of Isaiah 40-55.** Edinburgh: The Handsel Press. Pp.204. Price R22,90 at Lux Verbi.

Martin-Achard, Robert & Re'emi, S Paul 1984. **God's people in crisis: Commentary on the book of**

Amos, and a commentary on the book of Lamentations. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm B Eerdmans. Pp.134. Price R20,60 at Lux Verbi.

International in both scope and authorship, and theological in approach, the **International theological commentary** moves beyond a descriptive-historical approach to offer a relevant exegesis of the Old Testament text as Holy Scripture. The series 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.

George Knight of New Zealand, now retired, has had a distinguished career as a Biblical scholar, author, professor, and pastor in Hungary, Scotland, New Zealand, the United States, and the Pacific Islands.

Robert Martin-Achard is Professor of Old Testament at the University of Geneva, Switzerland.

Paul Re'emi, a Hebrew Christian who lived and worked in Israel for twenty years, is now a minister with the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh.

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Knight, George A F 1985. The new Israel: a commentary on the book Isaiah 56-66. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm B Eerdmans. Pp.126. Price \$ 5.95.

"Isaiah provides us with a picture," writes George Knight, "a pattern of revelation, hewn out of the facts of history."

In this book, which serves as a sequel to the author's **Servant theology** (the **International theological commentary** on Isaiah 40-55), Knight focuses primarily on the theological themes of each chapter of Isaiah 56-60, with appropriate attention to significant critical issues.

Emphasizing Israel as "a light to the nations," Knight is concerned throughout with theological issues of contemporary, international scope. He sees Isaiah as addressed to the social, historical situation not only of its own day but of this day as well, with significance for Jews and Muslims as well as Christians - "a book meant for all who come after."

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Whittaker, Molly 1984. **Jews and Christians: Graeco-Roman views.** Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 286. Price not given.

This is volume 6 in the series Cambridge Commentaries on Writings of the Jewish and Christian Worlds 200 B.C. to A.D. 200. This volume deals with Graeco-Roman sources. The series is a response to an experienced lack of readily usable texts of the literature which is often called pseudepigrapha, but which is more accurately defined as extra-Biblical or para-Biblical literature. In this series, and therefore in this volume, carefully chosen extracts from the texts, rather than complete books, have normally been provided for comment. The introductory material leads naturally into the text, which itself leads into alternating sections of commentary.

Within the severe limits imposed by the size and scope of the series, the contributor attempts to provide for the student and general reader the results of modern scholarship, but assumes no specialized theological or linguistic knowledge.

This book is a very useful work of reference indeed.

ETIK/ETHICS

Ogletree, Thomas W 1985. Hospitality to the stranger -Dimensions of moral understanding. Philadelphia: Fortress Press. Pp.162, which include Subject and Author indices. Price R26,25 at Lux Verbi.

This contribution to fundamental ethics deepens our awareness of the exceedingly rich and complex nature of the moral life. Ogletree here sketches out the systematic components of Christian ethics, relating them to symbolic ethics - the mediation of Christian traditions of moral understanding - and practical ethics - the critical appropriation of scientific studies of factors controlling human action. The informing metaphor of this work, hospitality to the stranger, suggests the central dynamic in moral experience: "to be moral is to be hospitable to the stranger."

Thomas Ogletree is Professor of Theological Ethics and Dean of the Theological School, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey.

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Hazelton, Roger 1985. Graceful Courage -A venture in Christian humanism. Philadelphia: Fortress Press. Pp.127. Price R11,85 at Lux Verbi.

In this eloquent and profound book, Roger Hazelton explores what it means to "be human." Stating that "we cannot take the human measure without considering the presence and practice of courage in lived experience," he contends that the ability to endure what cannot be changed and to change what cannot be endured, is a vital measure of our humanness.

This ability - a crucial element in the Christian virtues of loving, believing, and hoping - evokes the grace of God and enables us to confront the struggles and ills of "fully, truly human life" better.

Roger Hazelton is Abbot Professor of Christian Theology, Emeritus, at Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Center, Massachusetts.

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Marty, Martin E 1984. Being good and doing good.
Philadelphia: Fortress Press. Pp.128, including seven illustrations by Terry O'Brien. Price R11,85 at Lux Verbi.

This book begins with a review of the human impulse to teach morality. After raising the question of whether or not morality can be taught, the author presents an array of reasons why moral laws and values are taught - by non-Christians as well as Christians. Dr Marty then reviews vision of human goodness, including those in the Bible, and various evidences of something gone wrong in human life.

In the face of this reality the author addresses the question of what goes wrong and presents many explanations. A look at bases for being good and doing good leads the reader to the Christian gospel. In this gospel human beings who aren't good by nature are declared good by God, and are called and empowered by God to do good in both the public and private spheres of life.

Martin Marty is the Fairfax M Cone Distinguished Service Professor at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago.

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Everett, William Johnson 1985. Blessed be the bond: Christian perspectives on marriage and family.
Philadelphia: Fortress Press. Pp.130. Price R16,65 at Lux Verbi.

William Everett here explores the interplay of personal, social, and religious dynamics in domestic life. After demonstrating how personality, marriage, family, and household have become differentiated from each other, he investigates their relationship to

such religious symbols as vocation, covenant, sacrament, and communion. Everett's theological position is fully informed by a critical appropriation of the social sciences - all within a systematic framework for a theological engagement with the social and personal dimensions of marriage and family, and a comparative and ecumenical framework for understanding various Christian approaches to marriage and family relations. His startling conclusion is that church and society should focus on parenting, rather than on marriage, to pursue their historic values.

Everett is Director of the OIKOS project on Work, Family, and Faith in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

OU TESTAMENT/OLD TESTAMENT

Bruce, F F 1983. Israel and the nations.
Great Britain: The Paternoster Press. Pp.254 including
index. Price at Lux Verbi R16,90.

This book was originally published in 1963, but has been reprinted and revised several times. Its contents is divided into twenty-eight different chapters. This latest edition also contains genealogical and chronological tables, a bibliography, abbreviations and an index of subjects. The list of thirty-six illustrations consists of plates and three maps. These indicate positions of places mentioned in the text, but omit relief features and numerous other places, for the sake of clarity.

It covers Israel's beginnings since circa 1300 B.C. up to the war with Rome and the end of the second temple in 70 A.D. Other nations, such as the Assyrians, Philistines and the Romans are discussed only in their relation to Israel and her history.

Even twenty years after its first publication, **Israel and the Nations** continues to be used as a textbook for the period of history it covers. For this edition a few corrections were made, and the text was also brought up to date.

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Soggin, J Alberto 1984. A history of Israel: from the beginnings to the Bar Kochba revolt, A.D.
SCM Press Ltd. Pp.436 including indices.

This first edition was translated by John Bowden from the Italian *Storia d'Israele, dalla origini alla rivolta di Bar-Kochba, 135 d.C.*, published by Casa Editrice Paieia, Brescia. The comprehensive paperback publication is divided into four major parts. Part One deals with introductory problems, such as context, methodology, bibliography, sources, David and Solomon. The Biblical tradition is discussed and it is pointed out why one has to take into account four different series of narratives about the origins of people and events.

In Part Two traditions about the proto-history of the Patriarchs, Egypt and Exodus, the Conquest and Judges are thoroughly discussed. Part Three concerns the two kingdoms up to the time of the Assyrian invasion, the different invasions that took place, and Judah until the exile. Part Four deals with the different periods under the Persian Empire, the Macedonians, Diadochi and the Romans.

The study also includes eighteen plates, extensive notes, Biblical references and an index of moderns scholars quoted in the text.

Alberto Soggin is Professor of the Old Testament at the Waldensian Faculty in Rome, Lecturer at the University of Rome, and Visiting Professor at the Pontifical Institute.

SISTEMATIEK/SYSTEMATICS

Jennings, Theodore W Jr (ed) 1985. The vocation of the theologian. Philadelphia: Fortress Press. Pp.149, including index. Price R19 at Lux Verbi.

Nine distinguished contributors - Thomas J J Altizer, José Miguez Bonini, John B Cobb, Jr, James H Cone, Langdon Gilkey, Gordon P Kaufmann, Geoffrey Wainwright, Rosemary Radford Ruether, and Theodore W Jennings, Jr - here articulate their vision of the theological task and invite others to share with them in the "challenges and excitement" of constructive theological work.

A stimulating introduction to theology and the theological task, the book examines such wide-ranging topics as process theology, liberation theology, feminist theology, black theology, and the more traditional forms of philosophical and ecclesial theology.

The subject matter includes titles such as *Theology as Churchly Reflection*, *Theology as Public Vocation*, *Theology as the Interpretation of Faith for Church and World*, and *Theology as Reflection upon the Roots of Christian Culture*.

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Reumann, John 1985. *The supper of the Lord - The New Testament, ecumenical dialogues, and faith and order on eucharist*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press. Pp.225, including subject and Scripture indices. Price R33,45 at Lux Verbi.

The Supper of the Lord is the meal that simultaneously unites and divides the churches. In this timely book, John Reumann examines the major trends and proposals concerning the Eucharist which have emerged in the last thirty years. Focusing on two sets of motifs, those which have resulted from Biblical studies, and those which have resulted from ecumenical dialogue, he not only discusses present issues, but also alludes to possible future developments.

Reumann stresses the importance of the "bilateral dialogues" that have been taking place since 1963, including the Lutheran-Reformed, Lutheran-Roman Catholic, Anglican-Roman Catholic, and Lutheran-Episcopal discussions. He gives particular emphasis to the questions raised by the Faith and Order Statement, **Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry (BEM)** of 1982, a statement unparalleled in its attempt to present agreements and convergences by theologians of most major churches.

John Reumann is the Ministerium of Pennsylvania Professor of New Testament Studies and Greek, Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia.

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Rusch, William G 1985. Ecumenism - A movement toward church unity. Pp.133, including notes. Price R16,25 at Lux Verbi.

The thesis of this unique and readable book is that, "properly understood, ecumenism is first and foremost a unity issue."

Tracing concisely the history of the ecumenical movement, William Rusch here reveals how modern Biblical and historical studies have served as resources for ecumenism. He examines the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U S A, the World Council of Churches, and several major ecumenical dialogues. He then focuses on four traditions in ecumenism today - Anglican, Lutheran, Orthodox, and Roman Catholic - and explores where the ecumenical movement will lead the churches in the future. In his final analysis, ecumenism is not a human enterprise, but a "gift of the spirit, of a God who continually surprises his people."

Intended for parish pastors and laity alike, this work will have wide popular appeal. A significant feature is the preface by James R Crumley, Jr, Bishop of the Lutheran Church in America.

William Rusch is Director of Ecumenical Relations in the Lutheran Church in America.

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Santmire, H Paul 1985. The travail of nature - The ambiguous ecological promise of Christian theology. Philadelphia: Fortress Press. Pp.274, including extensive notes and index. Price R40,60 at Lux Verbi.

In his preface Santmire writes:

"This study is written with two sometimes overlapping groups of people in mind: first, environmentalists, students of ecology, humanists, and all others who are concerned about attitudes toward the natural world; second, those who have self-consciously identified themselves with the Christian faith, and who are concerned to

become better acquainted with the teachings of their own tradition concerning the meaning and value of the natural world.

"In a day when the Christian tradition has received a lot of bad press from environmentalists and others with reference to its alleged failure to take nature seriously, it is hoped that this study will correct some uncritical judgements, while it attempts to assess some liabilities as well in a critical fashion.

"As for those who self-consciously identify themselves with the Christian faith, it is hoped to show that the theology of nature need not be a theologically questionable area of interest, indeed that it is richly rewarding."

And so ten chapters follow, dealing inter alia with the roots of classical Christian thought about nature, gnosticism, Augustine, Aquinas, Reformation Theology, secularization, personalism (Barth, de Chardin) concluding with an ecological reading of Biblical Theology.

NUWE TESTAMENT/NEW TESTAMENT

Edwards, R A 1985. *Matthew's story of Jesus*. Philadelphia: Fortress. Pp.95. Prys by Lux Verbi R10,80.

Die opbloeï in belangstelling in die letterkundige en veral die verhalende aspek van Bybelse materiaal is een van die opvallende ontwikkelinge in die jongste tyd. Hierby fokus die aandag veral op die **verhaaltegniek** wat deur Bybelse skrywers gebruik word om hul boodskap effektief oor te dra. Die verwagte of beoogde reaksie van die leser word gevolglik ook deel van die ondersoek.

Hierdie navertelling van Matteus se storie oor Jesus voltooi 'n reeks van vier - soortgelyke studies het reeds oor Markus (Werner Kelber), Lukas (O.C. Edwards) en Johannes (Robert Kysar) verskyn.

Hierdie boek (en trouens die reeks as geheel) bied 'n uitstekende inleiding vir diene wat graag met hierdie nuwe rigting kennis wil maak. Tegnieke terminologie word heeltemal vermy, en selfs lesers wat geen vorige ondervinding van hierdie benadering het nie, sal met

gemak en vrug die boekie kan lees. Die herontdekking van die verhalende karakter van die Bybelse teks is een van die belangrike winspunte van die jongste ondersoek.

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Patte, Daniel 1948. Preaching Paul: Fortress resources for preaching. Philadelphia: Fortress. Pp.95, met indeks. Prys onvermeld.

Die skrywer is bekend vir sy strukturele analises van Nuwe-Testamentiese tekste, wat gewoonlik op 'n hoë vlak van abstraksie plaasvind, en sekerlik nie as maklike leestof beskryf kan word nie.

In hierdie preekhulp slaan hy egter 'n heeltemal ander toon aan, deur die resultate van sy analises nou in maklik verstaanbare en konkrete vorm aan te bied. Die boek volg die interessante patroon deur telkens 'n bepaalde stelling te maak, wat hy dan met materiaal uit Paulus se briewe illustreer. In werklikheid kan elke teks (daar is in totaal 15 van hulle) as die hoofgedagte van 'n preek dien, waaromheen die ander gewens wat hy aanvoer gebou kan word.

Op hierdie wyse laat Patte heelwat vryheid aan die individuele prediker oor om sy eie styl en aanpak te volg, terwyl hy aan die ander kant meer as genoeg materiaal uit die briewe self verskaf waarmee die preek opgebou kan word. Vir sowel predikers as Bybelstudiegroepe kan hierdie boekie waardevolle diens lewer.

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Mc Intire, C T & R R Wells (edd) 1984. History and historical understanding. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. Pp.142 met indeks. Prys by Lux Verbi R18,30.

Geskiedenis as die gesprek tussen hede en verlede en die verhouding tussen geskiedenis en geloof bly boeiende onderwerpe vir enigiemand wat op die terrein van die Bybelse wetenskappe besig is.

In hierdie bundel, wat in 'n sekere sin die gesprek van die vroeëre publikasie **A Christian view of history?** voortsit, skryf verskillende deskundiges op die gebied van die kerkgeskiedenis en die algemene geskiedenis oor hierdie tema. Nie alleen word die jongste ontwikkelinge wat betref die verstaan van die historiese proses bespreek nie, maar ook basiese begrippe soos tyd, wording, verifikasie en kultuurskepping kom aan die orde.

Hoewel die bydraes wesenlike probleme van histories-filosofiese aard ondersoek, is dit nogtans in 'n maklik verstaanbare trant geskryf, wat dit toeganklik maak vir die algemene leser wat 'n belangstelling vir hierdie soort onderwerp het. 'n Sentrale tema wat telkens in die bydraes terugkeer, is die vraag of die gelowige se verstaan van die historiese proses anders as dié van die nie-gelowige is, en, indien wel, waarin hierdie verskil bestaan.

Die boek bevat heelwat verwysings na verdere literatuur wat deur die gefinterseerde leser verder opgevolg kan word.

In sy geheel is dit 'n nuttige en stimulerende inleiding tot die probleme van geskiedskrywing vanuit 'n Christelike perspektief.

ALGEMEEN/MISCELLANEOUS

Diehl, Judith Ruhe 1985. **A woman's place - Equal partnership in daily ministry.** Philadelphia: Fortress Place. Pp.12, which includes notes on each chapter. Price R14,24 at Lux Verbi.

A woman's place confronts the persistent problem of identifying, affirming, and supporting ministries of the laity - especially lay women - outside normal denominational structures. Focusing on the ministry of women in church and community, this book highlights the peculiar problems facing women as they minister in their homes, places of employment, parishes or congregations, and in the world. Judith Diehl discusses two major difficulties: exclusive language within and outside the church, and Biblical scholarship and interpretation, which have tended to exclude females as co-equals in creation and as freed persons in Christ. Diehl contends, as well, that congregations and church bodies have, through their hierarchies,

often precluded women from equal partnership in spreading the gospel by word and deed.

Written by a female member of the laity, this work is an invaluable resource and guide, not only for women but for all members of the laity and clergy.

Judith Diehl is an active lay member of the Lutheran Church in America.

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Piediscalzi, Nicholas & Thobaben, Robert G 1985.
Three worlds of Christian-marxist
encounters. Philadelphia: Fortress Press. Pp.220.
 Price at Lux Verbi R35,80.

The book is prefaced by the editors as follows:

"This volume grew out of our participation in dialogues and our fifteen-year-old team-taught, interdisciplinary course, Christian-Marxist Dialogues — the only one of its kind in the United States. Eventually, we included a dialogue in our course, an effort which resulted in the publication of **From hope to liberation: Towards a new marxist-Christian dialogue.** Next we began to participate in international dialogues on a regular basis. Finally, we served as the co-directors of two North American dialogues which were sponsored by Christians Associated for Relations with Eastern Europe. Our involvement in all of these activities introduced us to the wide variety of encounters which were taking place in the world and to many of their leaders.

"As a result, we came to see a need for a single text that would present and assess the different types of Christian-Marxist relationships now operative, and that would be intelligible to scholars, students, and educated lay persons. With the invaluable advice and help from many individuals whom we met from and in different parts of the world, we were able to produce this volume."

Thus this volume brings together discussions held in the first, second and third worlds. Reports on dialogues in Italy, Canada, USA, Poland, Yugoslavia, DDR, Cuba, India and Africa are included.

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Himmelfarb, Martha 1983. Tours of hell - An apocalyptic form in Jewish and Christian literature. Philadelphia: Fortress Press. Pp.198, including a comprehensive bibliography, a list of sources consulted, as well as an index. Price not given.

"From the ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead to Dante's Divine Comedy, the living have attempted to describe the world of the dead."

In this unusual and fascinating work, Martha Himmelfarb explores the tradition of tours of hell found in Jewish and Christian apocalypses of late antiquity and the early Middle Ages. Focusing on seventeen texts, many of which have never before been treated in detail, Himmelfarb highlights the various elements which the journeys have in common - a hero or heroine, a heavenly revealer, and descriptions of the punishments awaiting those in hell. The texts, preserved in five languages, and spanning a thousand years of history, include Hebrew texts, Christian texts in Greek, Latin, Ethiopic, and Coptic, Muslim texts, medieval visions, and other related literatures.

Martha Himmelfarb is Assistant Professor of Religion at Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

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Smith, Gary Scott 1985. The seeds of secularization: Calvinism, culture, and pluralism in America, 1870-1915. Christian University Press, a subsidiary of Eerdmans. Pp.239, including extensive notes on each of the ten chapters, and an index. Price R34,40 at Lux Verbi.

In America today, discussions about the role of religion in the public arena fill the air waves, the printed page, and everyday conversation. Many of the specific issues Americans are now debating have long histories. Arguments about how religion relates to education, politics, economics, science, morality, and social relationships were as vigorous in the 1880s as they are in the 1980s.

In this book Gary Smith examines these debates during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and traces the developments during these years which prepared the way for the increasing secularization of American life. He focuses principally on the most resolute and articulate opponents of secularization during that period - the Calvinist community.

The contours of contemporary American culture might have been quite different, says Smith, if the early Calvinists had not overlooked the approach of cultural pluralism in their battle against secular humanism. In our day, when "secular humanism" is widely discussed but rarely understood, Smith's study can help Christians understand the source and process of secularization and can enable them to avoid the mistakes of the past in their approach to it.