

BOOK NOTICES

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Inclusion of a book in this section does not preclude it from being subsequently reviewed. Those interested in reviewing one of the books below in a future issue of *AUSS* may send a request by e-mail to auss@andrews.edu.

Bartlett, David L. *Christology in the New Testament*. Core Biblical Studies. Nashville: Abingdon, 2017. xii + 170 pp. Softcover. USD 29.99.

This book introduces the reader to the nature and works of Christ as presented by the NT writers, noting the major, unique contributions of each NT author, especially those of the four evangelists. The author takes the reader on a brief journey through the NT, exploring the key titles, hymns, prayers, practical exhortations, parables, and narratives about Jesus in order to highlight the major christological teachings therein. The most useful feature of the book is its sections on “further reading” (included at the end of each chapter) that identify significant scholarly works on NT Christology.

M. L. T. Jr.

Biles, Deron J., ed. *Pastoral Ministry*. A Treasury of Baptist Theology. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2017. xviii + 203 pp. Softcover. USD 29.99.

The ten essays in this edited volume are written by professors of Christian ministry who are affiliated with Baptist seminaries or by pastors who are involved in the leadership of the Baptist church. The book builds on the biblical analogy of the shepherd.

Each essay sheds light on a specific aspect of Christian ministry, drawing insights from the biblical imagery of the shepherd.

D. B.

Carroll, John T. *The Holy Spirit in the New Testament*. Core Biblical Studies. Nashville: Abingdon, 2018. xviii + 178 pp. Softcover. USD 29.99.

This book is a “gateway” text for NT Pneumatology. Via a “literary close reading” of *πνεῦμα* texts, Carroll leads the reader on a journey through precursor texts, such as the Tanak (ch. 2) and Second Temple Jewish writings (ch. 3), and the key literary sets of NT writings (chs. 4–8). The final chapter surveys some of the many pneumatological trajectories and themes that have emerged from interpretation of the NT throughout the ages of church history. The end of each chapter provides “further reading” resources that assist the reader in identifying the most significant scholarly works on NT Pneumatology to date.

M. L. T. Jr.

Chester, Tim. *Bible Matters: Making Sense of Scripture*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2017. vi + 192 pp. Softcover. USD 16.00.

This book was written for the purpose of motivating Christians to read the Bible on a daily basis. Chester stresses that the reader of the Bible hears God's voice and encounters God's presence. The first half of the book focuses on God's act of speaking through the Bible, whereas the second part deals with characteristics of the Bible, such as its relationality, intentionality, sufficiency, reliability, and accessibility.

D. B.

Chou, Abner. *The Hermeneutics of the Biblical Writers: Learning to Interpret Scripture from the Prophets and Apostles*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2018. 251 pp. Softcover. USD 23.99.

In the quest for an appropriate biblical hermeneutic, Chou analyzes the hermeneutic of the biblical prophets and the apostles. He argues that the biblical writers reused existing Scripture, utilizing the same methodology, which he calls a hermeneutic of obedience. The continuity between the prophets and the apostles leads the author to the conclusion that contemporary readers of Scripture should follow in their footsteps interpretively by adopting their same hermeneutic.

D. B.

Conway, Colleen M. *John and the Johannine Letters*. Core Biblical Studies. Nashville: Abingdon, 2017. xii + 188 pp. Softcover. USD 29.99.

Conway introduces the reader to how scholars read John's Gospel

and his Epistles. Besides exploring questions regarding historical puzzles, literary design, theological concepts, and the ideology of the Johannine literature, the author also explores the different methods that biblical scholars use to interpret these texts.

D. B.

Cosgrove, Mark. *The Brain, the Mind, and the Person Within: The Enduring Mystery of the Soul*. Grand Rapids: Kregel. 180 pp. Softcover. USD 18.99.

In this book, Cosgrove, a professor of psychology, challenges claims made by scientists and skeptics who frame their neuroscientific findings in a way that contradicts the Christian worldview. In his view, the essence and the function of the brain cohere with biblical teaching. Besides this, the book also discusses brain-related issues, such as free will, "God spots," personality, and life after death.

D. B.

Curtis, Edward M. *Interpreting the Wisdom Books: An Exegetical Handbook*. Handbooks for Old Testament Exegesis. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2017. 204 pp. Softcover. USD 21.99.

Curtis intends to assist pastors, scholars, and students in accessing the theological and ethical treasures that the biblical wisdom literature stores. In six chapters, the book introduces the reader to the art of interpreting this unique body of biblical literature, assists the interpreter in all the necessary exegetical

steps, and finally guides the reader on the path from text to sermon.

D. B.

Emerson, Matthew Y. *The Story of Scripture: An Introduction to Biblical Theology*. Hobbs College Library. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2018. xvi + 95 pp. Hardcover. USD 19.99.

The author suggests that the four major biblical themes—creation, fall, redemption, and new creation—form a metanarrative of the sixty-six canonical books. After an introduction to biblical theology, Emerson discusses these four themes throughout Genesis, the rest of the OT, and the NT in three different chapters. He argues for a cohesive story that is centered on Jesus. In an additional chapter, other biblical themes—including covenant, kingdom, creation, and mission—are discussed. The concluding chapter addresses areas of practical application for biblical theology, such as preaching, teaching, counseling, doctrine, and Christian life.

D. B.

Glynn, John. *Best Bible Books: New Testament Resources*. Edited by Michael H. Burer. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2018. 318 pp. Softcover. USD 27.99.

This book is considered the eleventh edition of John Glynn's *Commentary and Reference Survey*. Prolific NT scholars review and rate hundreds of NT resources, including introductions, commentaries, dictionaries, reference works, etc. In addition, they give

advice for building a “must-have” reference library for laypersons, religion students, and pastors. This is definitely a wise investment for any person aiming to build a personal library in NT studies or seeking guidance in approaching the vast amount of available resources.

D. B.

Hildreth, D. Scott. *Together on God's Mission: How Southern Baptists Cooperate to Fulfill the Great Commission*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2018. xv + 87 pp. Softcover. USD 14.99.

This book gives a clarion call to Southern Baptists to reconnect with their denominational identity. In three parts, Hildreth guides readers through a brief history of the development of the Southern Baptist Convention (all centered around the principle of cooperation); biblically connects this cooperative identity as the means through which Southern Baptists fulfill God's mission; and encourages Southern Baptists, young and old, to support the denomination's cooperative efforts.

D. M. B.

Longman III, Tremper, and John H. Walton. *The Lost World of the Flood: Mythology, Theology, and the Deluge Debate*. The Lost World Series 5. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2018. x + 189 pp. Softcover. USD 18.00.

The latest addition to the Lost Worlds Series challenges readers' perceptions and understandings of the biblical flood narrative. Through a series of logical propositions

that engage questions of biblical interpretation, Ancient Near East history, biblical theology, and science, Walton and Tremper hope to bring greater nuance to the conversations surrounding this relevant and controversial topic.

D. M. B.

Miles, Todd L. *Superheroes Can't Save You: Epic Examples of Historic Heresies*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2018. xiv + 194 pp. Hardcover. USD 19.99.

Professor of theology at Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon, Todd L. Miles, provides a creative and popular introductory textbook on Christology. He engagingly discusses and biblically evaluates seven of the major christological heresies of church history (namely Docetism, liberalism, modalism, Arianism, adoptionism, Apollinarianism, and Eutychianism). To generate contemporary interest in Christology, he utilizes the present fascination in pop-culture with DC and Marvel superheroes as his pedagogical springboard, illustratively matching up one superhero with each of the seven heresies (Superman, Batman, Ant-Man, Thor, Green Lantern, The Incredible Hulk, and Spiderman, respectively). Every chapter contains five parts that are followed by discussion questions and suggestions for further study: (a) an introduction to the superhero, (b) a discussion of the heresy that the particular superhero illustrates, (c) an application of who currently commits the heresy and how it is relevant today, (d) an exploration of what the

Bible says about the heresy, and (e) a rationale for the importance of rejecting the heresy and upholding the biblical teaching about Christ. This book can be of service to pastors and teachers as a pedagogical resource; some theology professors might even consider using it as an undergraduate textbook.

M. L. T. Jr.

Nogalski, James D. *Introduction to the Hebrew Prophets*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2018. xx + 288 pp. Softcover. USD 29.99.

This introductory text focuses its attention only on the latter prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel) and the minor prophets. In addressing the typical introductory questions of these prophetic books, Nogalski gives special consideration to the formation of these texts. He argues that they are the result of generations of composers and that they represent, in their final form, the work of communities and not that of just one individual.

D. B.

Pace, R. Scott. *Preaching by the Book: Developing and Delivering Text-Driven Sermons*. Hobbs College Library. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2018. xvi + 123 pp. Hardcover. USD 19.99.

Reminding the reader of the beauty, as well as the deep responsibility of preaching God's word, Scott proposes a seven-step methodology that offers the reader a systematic approach for preparing sermons that are faithful to and driven by the biblical text. The book is

designed for those beginning to explore their gifts in preaching and for seasoned pastors who plan to refine their gospel proclamation.

D. B.

Price, Randall, and H. Wayne House. *Zondervan Handbook of Biblical Archaeology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2017. 408 pp. Hardcover. USD 42.99.

This book serves as an archeological resource for the pastor, the scholar, and the layperson. It is a thorough introduction to the study of biblical archeology, which provides a framework for its sequential sections that survey significant archeological research and discoveries in connection with the OT, NT, and intertestamental period. Its photos, maps, and charts provide helpful visual aids throughout.

D. M. B.

Putman, David, and Ed Stetzer. *Breaking the Missional Code: Your Church Can Become a Missionary in Your Community*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2018. 244 pp. Softcover. USD 14.99.

What is unique about the most “successful” churches in North America? According to Putman and Stetzer, successful churches have broken the missional code. This book takes readers through the steps to breaking the code and shows them how to apply missiological principles in their ministries. This is the softcover version of the previously published hardcover (2006).

D. M. B.

Senesi, Dino. *Sending Well: A Field Guide to Great Church Planter Coaching*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2017. xvi + 282 pp. Softcover. USD 16.99.

Seasoned church-planting coach Dino Senesi provides practical guidance for those who mentor church planters or who train church-planting coaches. Divided into three sections, this book will systematically show coaches and trainers how to build, develop, and deliver high quality coaching to every church planter in North America.

D. M. B.

Sweeney, Marvin A. *The Pentateuch*. Core Biblical Studies. Nashville: Abingdon, 2017. xxx + 144 pp. Softcover. USD 29.99.

The author of this beginner introduction to the Pentateuch discusses the literary structure and the central themes of each book of the Torah, while interacting with up-to-date scholarship. In Sweeney’s reading of the Pentateuch, source criticism plays an integral role.

D. B.

Torrance, Andrew B., and Thomas H. McCall, eds. *Knowing Creation*. Perspectives from Theology, Philosophy, and Science 1. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018. 352 pp. Softcover. USD 36.99.

This volume is a compilation of interdisciplinary perspectives on understanding creation. Among the contributors are scholars from the fields of theology, biblical studies,

philosophy, and science. This volume encourages the reader to consider how to engage in more constructive conversations about faith and science.

D. M. B.

Torrance, Andrew B., and Thomas H. McCall, eds. *Christ and the Created Order*. Perspectives from Theology, Philosophy, and Science 2. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018. 304 pp. Softcover. USD 36.99.

How does Christology connect with creation? This second volume of the new series, *Perspectives from Theology, Philosophy, and Science*, deepens the conversation of the first volume, *Knowing Creation*, with interdisciplinary perspectives on the relationship between creation and the person of Christ. Theologians, biblical scholars, philosophers, and scientists challenge the reader to deeply consider the impact of Christology on understanding the natural created order.

D. M. B.

Wax, Trevin K. *Eschatological Discipleship: Leading Christians to Understand Their Historical and Cultural Context*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2018. xii + 269 pp. Softcover. USD 29.99.

In this book, Trevin K. Wax argues that eschatology and discipleship have been divorced from one another for far too long. His work attempts to bridge the two together again, restoring a biblical understanding of discipleship that

is holistic, contextualized, and, thus, “eschatological.” This enables followers of Jesus to face their current contextual challenges “in the light of God’s coming kingdom” (2). To accomplish this task, Wax defines for the reader the key terms he uses throughout the book (ch. 1) and explores relevant foundational teachings of the OT and NT (chs. 2–4). The next part of the book introduces the reader to “rival eschatologies” in North America (ch. 5), such as the Enlightenment, the sexual revolution, and consumerism, and the subsequent three chapters (chs. 6–8) demonstrate how eschatological discipleship equips Christ-followers to counter them. The book concludes with a survey of three common formulations of evangelical discipleship and explores how adding an eschatological component would benefit each of them.

M. L. T. Jr.