

Morris, Leon. *Apocalyptic*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1974. 105 pp. Paperback, \$1.95.

It is always a welcome occasion when a useful tool is updated and reprinted. This new edition of Morris's handy little work on ancient apocalyptic literature is no exception. The considerable strength (and some weakness) mentioned in my review of the original edition of 1972 still remains (see *AUSS* 12 [1974]: 150).

Actually, few changes have been made in the original text other than some reorganization of the material, plus the addition of a new chapter: "Apocalyptic and the Old Testament" (pp. 75-84). This chapter fills a lacuna, and aptly treats Daniel, Isa 24-27, Ezek 38-39, Joel, and Zech 9-14. Morris takes account of differing opinions as to whether or not the aforementioned materials are truly apocalyptic, and he opts for a position which seems to place them as being somewhat intermediary between full-fledged Jewish apocalyptic and the earlier OT prophetic and wisdom literature. One might suspect that had Paul D. Hanson's recent extensive study *The Dawn of Apocalyptic* (Philadelphia, 1975) been available to Morris, he would have found it useful for further development of his thesis; but it does seem strange that in this new chapter he has failed to mention Hanson's earlier studies that were available to him—especially the one in *Int* 25 (1971):454-479, from which he has quoted in another context (on p. 66 in both editions). Perhaps even more puzzling is the fact that Morris uses Hanson in that other context for the purpose of characterizing the historical perspective of apocalyptic as illustrated in *Daniel* (!), whereas in this new chapter Morris seems confident that Daniel's "essence" is other than apocalyptic (see pp. 80-81)!

Like its forerunner, this enlarged edition of *Apocalyptic* is indeed a useful compendium. The addition of a bibliography (pp. 102-105), lacking in the first edition, enhances further the value of the present publication. And happily, the new book comes at no increase in price!

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Perrin, Norman. *Jesus and the Language of the Kingdom: Symbol and Metaphor in New Testament Interpretation*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1976. 225 pp. \$10.95.

The author focuses on two major interrelated aspects of the teaching of Jesus—the kingdom of God and the parables. The whole message of Jesus is directed to the kingdom, and the major theme of the parables is the kingdom. In this work the author is not interested in the historical study of these *per se* but concentrates rather on the hermeneutical understanding of kingdom and parable. For this the method he employs is chiefly literary criticism.

Understanding myth as a complex of stories which men regard as "demonstrations of the inner meaning of the universe and of human life" (p. 22) and symbol as "a relatively stable and repeatable element of perceptual experience, standing for some larger meaning or set of meanings which cannot be given, or not fully given, in perceptual experience itself" (p. 29),