

The two chapters in Part IV raise the questions, respectively, of the validity today of Christ's healing commission to the twelve and the seventy and of the approach to be taken towards healing as a ministry of the modern church. As to Christ's healing commission, there are certain restrictive aspects in the way in which the mission charge (of which the healing commission was a part) was set forth to the twelve and to the seventy, and this fact leads Wilkinson to consider that the commission was "local and temporary" (p. 166). Although his line of argument on this point merits serious attention, one might query whether his own view of the matter might not possibly be a bit too restrictive. However, his final chapter makes clear that he places a certain (and valid, I believe) emphasis on modern medical missionary activity, and also sets forth the efficacy of prayer, the Word, and touch in the church's present-day healing ministry (pp. 176-179). In that final chapter he provides, as well, an informative succinct historical survey of healing and medical practice. His emphasis on the church's *community* aspect with respect to modern healing is noteworthy, too.

Although one would naturally disagree from time to time with some of Wilkinson's conclusions, the volume as a whole shows remarkable insightfulness and balance. It provides fascinating reading that is medically and theologically competent, organized in such a way as to be easy to follow, analytical in a manner that keeps up the reader's suspense and interest, and written in lucid style and clear language.

The chapters contain useful endnotes. There is also a select bibliography (pp. 181-185); and there are indexes of subjects, authors, words (Hebrew and Greek), and main NT references (pp. 187-195).

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Young, G. Douglas, ed. *Ugarit in Retrospect*. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1981. xv + 238 pp. \$12.50.

This book is the result of a rather remarkably ambitious undertaking. Ancient Ugarit, located at Ras Shamra on the coast of Syria, and the cuneiform alphabetic tablets that were found there first came to the attention of the archaeological world with the discovery of that site in 1929. To commemorate the half century that has passed since that discovery, and the contribution that Ugarit and its tablets have made to our understanding of the ancient world in which the people of the Bible lived, the Mid-West Region of the Society of Biblical Literature and the Middle West Branch of the American Oriental Society jointly organized a symposium on this subject, held at the University of Wisconsin in Madison on February 26, 1979. The present volume represents papers published from that sym-

posium. Appropriately, the volume is dedicated to Claude Schaeffer, the excavator of the site and the discoverer of its tablets.

In general, the papers of the conference represent the high quality of presentation that one would expect as befitting of such an occasion. Some of the studies give broad summaries of the state of the art of the subjects treated, while others deal with more specific and detailed matters, but all appear to be generally well done.

The book is divided into three sections. The first deals with history and archaeology, the second treats the subjects of language and literature, and the third and final section consists of an overall summary essay contributed by the noted Ugaritologist Cyrus Gordon.

The first section begins with two historical studies, one written from the standpoint of Ugarit looking at the powers occupying the land around it and the other looking towards the sea. In studying "Ugarit and the Great Powers," M. C. Astour has discussed the relations of Ugarit locally with other city-states in Syria in the Late Bronze Age, and with the great powers of the time—the Hittites to the north, Mitanni to the east, and Egypt to the south. The fortunes of Ugarit oscillated in relationship to which of the great powers was in control of the area at any given time. This cycle of political control followed a Hittite-Egypt-Hittite pattern during this period. With the establishment of peace between these two powers in the early 13th century B.C., Ugarit's commercial prospects prospered. E. Lindner's study, "Ugarit: A Canaanite Thalassocracy," explores the Ugaritic texts that deal with the city's maritime trade and activities.

Since it was the French who excavated Ugarit, it is only appropriate that two of the archaeological studies contributed to this volume come from French scholars. P. Bordreuil has dealt with the recently discovered Ugaritic texts from the nearby site of Ras Ibn Hani. The summer palace of the kings of Ugarit appears to have been located at that site, where excavations began in 1975. Two of these new texts, both cultic in nature, are transliterated in full here, and one of these is translated. J. Margueron has provided the summary study to this first section of the book, under the title "New Perspectives of the Excavations." It provides a discussion of stratigraphy, architecture, and ceramics at Ugarit.

Also included in this first section are three further studies that deal with sites or areas other than at the city of Ugarit. D. I. Owen has treated relations between Ugarit and Aphek on the coast of Palestine, through an Akkadian cuneiform tablet found at Aphek. It mentions both the governor of Ugarit and an Egyptian official at Aphek to whom the former wrote. Since this Egyptian official is known from other sources to have served under Ramesses II, this text provides nice historical, archaeological, and chronological cross-correlations, coming as it does from a "government house" at Aphek that was destroyed in the mid-13th century B.C.

R. Giveon's further examination of Egyptian relations presents a study of the name of Ugarit in Egyptian sources and a treatment of some Egyptian objects excavated at Ugarit. R. Dornemann's discussion of the archaeological relations of Ugarit puts the findings from that site in the larger context of similar findings from elsewhere in Syria.

In the first study of the second section of the book, V. Sasson provides a positive statement analyzing some of the Ugaritic epics from the standpoint of current theory in "Folklore Scholarship." P. C. Craigie gives an overview of various aspects of relating Ugaritic texts to words and ideas in the Hebrew Bible. He concludes that while much progress has been made thus far in this area, much work also remains yet to be done. D. Pardee examines current theories of metrical analysis in biblical and Ugaritic poetry and finds them all largely wanting in terms of fitting the form of the material in the texts. B. Margalit has re-examined the geographical setting of the Aqhat epic and argues, once again, that it should indeed be connected with Kinnereth or the Sea of Galilee in Palestine. M. Pope returns to one of his favorite topics, the cult of the dead, and elucidates some relations between it and passages in several Ugaritic texts. Cyrus Gordon then summarizes what he has found of central interest in all of the papers presented. This is followed by the ten-page text of a panel discussion by four of the participants on various points of interest in Ugaritology, interspersed with various comments by Gordon as moderator and with questions and comments from the floor. The volume concludes with a bibliography and six sets of indices.

All in all, I found this volume to meet its goals quite successfully. The papers were carefully and thoughtfully prepared, whether plowing through narrow details or providing broad summaries. Of most specific interest to readers of this journal probably will be Craigie's review of relationships between Ugarit and the Bible. Considering the close linguistic relationships involved and the amount of illumination already derived from Ugaritic for the understanding of biblical Hebrew, any careful student of the OT will do well to take full cognizance of the interesting range of significant studies on the history and literature of the ancient world of Western Asia that have been brought together in this publication. The two regional societies that organized the symposium from which this volume has developed are to be congratulated upon their achievement.