

Doukhan, Jacques. *Aux Portes de l'Espérance. Essai biblique sur les prophéties de la fin*. Dammarie les Lys, France: Editions Vie et Santé, 1983. 316 pp. (Price not indicated.)

Jacques Doukhan in this volume, "At the Doors of Hope," has produced an elegant, creative study of biblical prophecies concerning the end, keyed to the theme of restoration in Hos 2:14-19, where the Valley of Achor (trouble) becomes a Door of Hope.

Part One, "View of a Prophet," contains a chapter on "A Revelation from Above," concerning Hebrew prophetism; and a second chapter, "A Vision of the Future," which shows how "the glance of the biblical prophet embraces, beyond the particular experience, the vast horizon of history on the grand scale."

In Part Two, "View of the End," three chapters deal, respectively, with the OT apocalyptic book of Daniel, in "The Judgment"; with Rev 14:6-12, in "The Cry"; and with Dan 11 in conjunction with Rev 16, in "The War." The author very skillfully exhibits the parallels and correlations between these two apocalyptic books of Daniel and Revelation, and in his discussion illuminates other biblical passages, as well.

In Part Three, "The Irruption of God," the first chapter, "Like a Thief," focuses on 1 Thess 4:16-5:11; and the second chapter, "At the Awakening," treats the resurrection passages Job 19:25-27 and 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-44.

The final chapter, "The Lord is My Shepherd," is a moving, poetic conclusion to this well-reasoned, beautifully written exposition.

The author, himself of Jewish-Christian background, has an outstanding ability to penetrate the meaning of the Hebrew text and to understand its language; and he has a literary gift in French, his native tongue, that makes this book a joy to savor. His powers of analysis are also richly employed in this work.

After forty-one pages of notes, some of which are lengthy discussions, Doukhan includes a two-page chart showing "The Parallelism of the Prophecies of the End," and a one-page chart, "Chronology of the Prophecies of the End." Ten pages of "Selective Bibliography" are followed by an analytic index, and the table of contents. His dedication reads: "In memory of my brother André, dead of despair, sadly I dedicate this book to the despairing ones of the world."

The book should be translated into English (the author is capable of doing this), and thus it would be more readily available to a wide popular audience.