

thus well taken. Western Christianity's overemphasis on correct doctrine or propositional truth has to some extent obscured the concept of relational truth capable of integrating knowledge and practice, faith and action.

Looking Both Ways is a thorough and thought-provoking analysis of a dilemma every enlightened Christian must face, since sociology's secular, humanistic foundations are shared by other disciplines. It is by looking critically at the assumptions of both Christianity and sociology that Perkins has succeeded in providing a larger perspective: Whatever else they are, "social science is a metaphysical exercise" and "Christianity is a collective human endeavor" (p. 24). Each benefits by learning from the other, and in this intersection lies the challenge of faith as praxis. Presenting that challenge is one of the many contributions of this excellent and enlightening book.

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Rast, Walter E., ed. *Preliminary Reports of ASOR-Sponsored Excavations 1980-84*. BASOR Supplement Series, No. 24. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1986. 164 pp. Paperback, \$20.00.

This volume is the second in a series incorporating preliminary reports of ASOR-related excavations. Its intent is to publish archaeological reports in the shortest possible time after their completion.

Each study focuses on the results of either the initial or the most recent season of excavation for each site covered. Due to their introductory nature, a necessary tentativeness about conclusions is maintained, though there is frequent reference to earlier discussions and/or field reports where appropriate. Fuller treatment must, of course, await the final excavation reports.

The geographical areas represented in this volume are Turkey, Israel, and Jordan. It begins with the 1983 season at Sardis as reported by C. H. Greenewalt, M. L. Rautman, and R. Meriç. Material remains from the various sectors on the site and in a regional survey span from EB through Byzantine times, though the most prominent features examined were from the Lydo-Persian and Late Roman periods. The second report (by R. Bull, E. Krentz, and O. Storvick) covers the ninth season (1980) at Caesarea Maritima. The excavations were concentrated in Fields C and G, which are located just south and north, respectively, of the Crusader Fortress. Important finds include slight evidence of a Roman *cardo* beneath the Byzantine one, and the major city wall (W 8001) from Herodian Caesarea.

The third report (by E. Oren, M. Morrison, and I. Gilead) is on the 1982 and 1983 seasons of the Land of Gerar Expedition. The project includes systematic mapping and surveying of the Gerar and Besor Wadi Systems. The present report, however, deals with the excavations at Tell

Haror and the Chalcolithic site of Gerar 100. Areas D, E, and G produced impressive evidence for an Iron Age mudbrick wall, towers, and revetment surrounding the site. In the following section, R. Smith and A. McNicoll report on the 1982 and 1983 seasons at Pella and its larger vicinity. The eleven areas of excavation revealed material ranging from as early as the Palaeolithic to as late as the Ayyubid period.

The fifth section (by L. Geraty et al.) focuses on the first season (1984) at Tell el 'Umeiri and vicinity. The Madaba Plains Project has two major emphases. The first, which takes the form of a regional survey, is more anthropological in nature, stressing the "food system" concept. The second is the Tell itself where four fields were opened up (A-D). Significant finds include a large structure comparable to the "Western Tower" at Tell Beit Mirsim, a casemate wall with associated glacis, a defensive wall protecting the spring, an EB IV domestic area, and a seal impression of the Ammonite King Ba'alīs (cf. Jer 40:14). The final report (by G. O. Rollefson and A. H. Simmons) is over the 1984 season at the Neolithic village of 'Ain Ghazal, where a definite period of transition (Phase S-III) from aceramic to ceramic now seems to have been determined.

Each study contains preliminary remarks on pottery, objects, and stratigraphy connected with brief historical summaries where appropriate. The volume contains a considerable number of figures, maps, pictures, plans, and tables which aid in the decipherment of the written material and help the reader to reconstruct the remains three-dimensionally. Two minor faults were the inconsistency in spelling of the word Tell (Tel) in the Gerar report, and the unfortunate error of "Middle or Late Bronze period" (instead of Byzantine period) on p. 34 in the report on Caesarea.

A couple of problematical matters of interpretation might briefly be mentioned. Area B at Gerar 100 is a one-phase Chalcolithic settlement dominated by pits, some of which, it is suggested, were used as dwellings (p. 80). However, one of the excavators (I. Gilead) has since argued against this interpretation for similar structures at Beer-Sheba (cf. "A New Look at Chalcolithic Beer-Sheva," *BA* 50 [1987]: 110-117), and this would suggest similar implications for Gerar 100. Glueck's conclusions regarding settlement in the Southern Transjordan continue to be modified as there is significant evidence for MB and LB sedentary activity at Tell el 'Umeiri (p. 117), though evidence for the surrounding area is somewhat weaker (pp. 117, 125-126).

The editors of this series of reports have done scholars a favor by providing a means whereby the preliminary results of excavations may appear in print rapidly. The excavations of this volume took place between 1980 and 1984. Therefore, the series thus far seems to be reaching its goal. In a day when there is much call for archaeologists to publish their results quickly, this series of "Preliminary Reports" is to be commended.