

BOOK NOTICES

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Inclusion in this section does not preclude subsequent review of a book. Where two prices are given, separated by a slash, the second is for the paperback edition.

Anderson, A. A. *2 Samuel*. Word Biblical Commentary, vol. 11. Dallas: Word Books, 1989. xl + 302 pp. \$24.99.

Anderson argues in this commentary that 2 Samuel is a central book in scripture. It has served as a direct source for, or influence on, the books of Kings and Chronicles, the Prophets, the Psalms, and the NT. The volume provides a fresh translation with detailed explanatory notes concerning original word choices.

Anderson, Bernhard W., ed. *The Books of the Bible*. 2 vols. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1989. xxxi + 847 pp. \$175.00.

The Books of the Bible is a reference work aimed at lay readers. It contains an essay on "The Bible as Sacred Literature"; introductory essays to the OT, NT, and Apocrypha; and essays on each book of the Bible, each dealing descriptively with the content, purpose, and theological perspective of the various biblical books. The first volume covers the OT, while the second focuses on the Apocrypha and NT. The essays are written by 55 prominent scholars.

Anderson, Francis I., and Freedman, David Noel. *Amos: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*, The Anchor Bible, vol. 24A. New York: Doubleday, 1989. xlii + 979 pp. \$30.00.

The publication of *Amos*, the forty-seventh volume issued in The Anchor Bible, marks the silver anniversary of this well-received commentary. This newest volume in the series provides a new translation of the text and nearly 1,000 pages of analysis and contextualization of this relatively short biblical book.

Balswick, Jack O., and Balswick, Judith K. *The Family: A Christian Perspective on the Contemporary Home*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1989. 325 pp. \$24.95.

This book presents a comprehensive, up-to-date view of family life from a Christian perspective. It covers the theological and social aspects of family life, marriage as the foundation of family life, parenting as the expansion of family life, sexuality as identity in family life, communication as the heart of family life, the social dynamics of family life, and family life in modern society.

Buchanan, George Wesley. *Typology and the Gospel*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1987. x + 142 pp. \$23.50/\$11.50.

This study provides facts, analyses, and hypotheses that are related to typology as it was understood by Jews and Christians in NT times. Among them are the

Jewish concepts of time and the repetition of deliverances, such as those from Egypt, Babylonia, and Greece. These deliverances, argues Buchanan, are reflected in the literary structure of the Gospels.

Bull, Malcolm, and Lockhart, Keith. *Seeking a Sanctuary: Seventh-day Adventism and the American Dream*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1989. xi + 319 pp. \$25.95.

Viewing Adventism as a widely misunderstood, but important, American religious movement, Bull and Lockhart argue that it is a deviant response to the American Dream. Adventism, the authors seek to demonstrate, has provided its adherents sanctuary from America in much the same way that America has offered sanctuary to generations of immigrants from Europe. By presenting itself as an alternative to the Republic, Adventism rapidly came to operate in the social sphere, as well as the religious, as Adventists replicated the institutions of American society. Against this background the book traces the historical and social development of Adventism.

Carmody, Denise Lardner, and Carmody, John Tully. *Exploring American Religion*. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Co., 1990. xii + 376 pp. \$29.95.

This book provides a very helpful survey of American religion. It contains three parts. Part one provides a succinct history of American religion and thus sets a chronological framework for the rest of the book. Part two discusses the American religious world view, considering what Americans have thought about important religious problems and theological options. Part three deals with contemporary trends and identifies

the challenges now facing American religion.

Cashdollar, Charles D. *The Transformation of Theology, 1830-1890: Positivism and Protestant Thought in Britain and America*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1989. xii + 489 pp. \$35.00.

The Transformation of Theology is a pathbreaking treatment of the impact of positivism on the development of nineteenth-century American theology. In a major reinterpretation, Cashdollar identifies positivism as the central intellectual issue of the era. Positivism at first meant the ideas of August Comte, while later in the century the term indicated a more general opposition to supernatural religion. The book demonstrates how positivism altered Protestant orthodoxy in both subtle and radical ways.

Collins, Kenneth J. *Wesley on Salvation: A Study in the Standard Sermons*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1989. 142 pp. Paperback, \$7.95.

A study that expounds upon the very heart and center of Wesleyan theological effort—the doctrine of salvation. Based upon the “Standard Sermons,” the book moves from prevenient grace, through convincing grace, to justification, the new birth, assurance, ethics, and Christian perfection. Collins’ work is set forth as “a reliable guide to the theology of the sermons.”

Dawn, Marva J. *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Ceasing, Resting, Embracing, Feasting*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1989. xvii + 217 pp. Paperback, \$10.95.

Combining biblical theology and research into Jewish traditions with many

practical suggestions, this book shows how theological insight can undergird daily life. It gives the reader both motivation and methods for enjoying—rather than merely observing—a special holy day. The work highlights four aspects of Sabbath observance: ceasing, resting, embracing, and feasting. Thus it emphasizes the active, as well as the passive, values of a day of rest.

Douglas, J. D.; Elwell, Walter A.; and Toon, Peter. *The Concise Dictionary of the Christian Tradition: Doctrine, Liturgy, History*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1989. 419 pp. \$19.95.

The Concise Dictionary is a handy, one-volume work that briefly defines and describes nearly 3,500 terms and names from the history, teachings, and liturgy of the church. It includes names and terms that are often difficult to find in standard dictionaries.

Ellingsen, Mark. *The Evangelical Movement: Growth, Impact, Controversy, Dialog*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1988. 496 pp. \$24.95.

The purpose of this book is to stimulate dialogue between mainline churches and the evangelical movement. In achieving that goal, Ellingsen provides a brief history of the evangelical movement, describes the institutional framework of evangelicalism, explores characteristic evangelical themes in the guise of a quest for orthodoxy in modern dress, develops a biblically-based theology for dialogue with the mainline churches, and suggests that evangelical-mainline dialogue might be a prelude to revival.

Finegan, Jack. *Myth & Mystery: An Introduction to the Pagan Religions of the Biblical World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1989. 335 pp. \$24.95.

Finegan examines nine pagan religions in existence during both the OT and NT times. Working from the primary sources, the author covers the Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Zoroastrian, Canaanite, Greek, Roman, Gnostic, Mandaeen, and Manichaean religions. The book carefully documents not only their beliefs, practices, writings, and history, but also their relation to the biblical faith. The result is a profile of the religious milieu of the biblical world.

Firmage, Edwin B.; Weiss, Bernard G.; and Welsh, John W., eds. *Religion and Law: Biblical-Judaic and Islamic Perspectives*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990. xii + 402 pp. \$37.50.

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all understand law as inseparable from religion. The chapters in this volume all take the intimate relationship between law and religion as their starting point. With one exception the chapters are concerned with the concept of holy law as developed within the Bible and the great monotheistic faiths. The 21 contributions cover their topic from a great variety of angles, including the significance of the Decalogue, a glimpse of the suzerainty treaty structure after 30 years, the consequences of image prohibition on Jewish art, and so on.

Gaustad, Edwin S. *Faith of Our Fathers: Religion and the New Nation*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1987. xi + 196 pp. \$15.95.

In this provocative book, Gaustad examines the tensions in American religion during the first 50 years of national history along two widely separated tracks: 1) those embodied in a small intellectual elite and 2) those cherished by large numbers of less powerful people. The two tracks never did meet. The resulting tension has led

to varying interpretations of the meaning of religion under the United States Constitution.

Geisler, Norman L. *Christian Ethics: Options and Issues*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1989. 335 pp. Paperback, \$16.95.

The present work represents a substantial reworking of Geisler's *Ethics: Alternatives and Issues* (1971). While there is a continuity with the previous text, much of the content and thought is new. It includes an analysis of contemporary issues not previously explored and a refinement of earlier viewpoints.

Greenway, Roger S., and Monsma, Timothy M. *Cities: Missions' New Frontier*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1989. xiii + 321 pp. Paperback, \$18.95.

Cities offers a global overview of urban missions and introduces readers to "some exciting new dimensions of Christian ministry centered in cities." After laying a solid biblical foundation for urban missions, the authors explore many practical issues. Chapters include treatments of opportunities to reach "all peoples" provided by current immigration patterns in North America, the challenge of burgeoning Third-World cities, effective methods of spreading the gospel, and ameliorating urban social problems.

Gunton, Colin E. *The Actuality of Atonement: A Study of Metaphor, Rationality and the Christian Tradition*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1989. xiv + 222 pp. \$24.95.

Gunton combines a new examination of the doctrine of atonement with a study of the nature and working of theological language. The author shows

how traditional metaphors of atonement—drawn from the battlefield, altar, and law court—are expressions of the meaning of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and he examines their bearing on human life in today's world. The book demonstrates the theological significance of the inquiry into these central metaphors and relates them to the life of the Christian community.

Lightfoot, J. B., and Harmer, J. R., trans. *The Apostolic Fathers*. 2d ed. Edited and revised by Michael W. Holmes. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1989. xvi + 347 pp. \$17.95.

The updating of this classic work constitutes a revision of the English translation of 1891. Where Holmes has significantly revised the original translation, he has included the original in a footnote. The second edition also has new introductions to both the entire work and to each of the documents. These offer students an assessment of each writing's historical context, theological themes, and relevancy for contemporary evangelicals. The editor has also provided extensive textual notes whenever one or more of a select group of English translations follow a reading different from that adopted in the present text.

Malherbe, Abraham J. *Paul and the Popular Philosophers*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1989. xvi + 192 pp. \$19.95.

In this book the author seeks to provide a better understanding of philosophy contemporary to Paul and the apostle's relationship to that philosophy. This volume presents the technical investigations that undergird Malherbe's recent book, *Paul and the Thessalonians: The Philosophic Tradition of Pastoral Care* (Fortress Press, 1987).

Moreland, J. P. *Christianity and the Nature of Science*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1989. 263 pp. Paperback, \$14.95.

As an examination of the interface between science and Christianity, Moreland's book dispels the notion that science is a matter of rational analysis and Christianity a matter of faith. He demonstrates how the biblical record regarding the origin of life can and should be a legitimate consideration in scientific study.

Murphy, James L. *The Reluctant Radicals: Jacob L. Beilhart and the Spirit Fruit Society*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1989. xii + 263 pp. \$32.50.

This book details the little-known history of a charismatic communal society that derived its tenets largely from Christian Science, Spiritualism, Theosophy, and Adventism. Murphy sheds new light on the origins of the society, particularly its relationship with cereal foods magnate Charles W. Post. The group believed that mankind was still in the "bud" stage and had yet to reach spiritual fruition.

Neuhaus, Richard John. *The Catholic Movement: The Paradox of the Church in the Postmodern World*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1987. xi + 292 pp. \$19.95.

Writing for an interdenominational audience, Neuhaus elaborates his belief that the Roman Catholic Church is in a critical position to help Christians define their relationship to a troubled world. Working from the person and philosophies of Pope John Paul II, Neuhaus sets forth the controversial argument that John Paul's papacy has

strengthened the world movement toward Christian unity and has made the Church a more effective voice in world affairs.

Noll, Mark A. *One Nation Under God? Christian Faith and Political Action in America*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1988. xv + 213 pp. \$14.95.

Noll examines the interaction of religion and politics in the American Revolution, the drafting of the Constitution, the campaign of 1800, the presidency of Lincoln, the fight against slavery, the push for Prohibition, the civil rights movement, and the recent rise of the new Christian right. He argues that Christians have too often relied on all-or-nothing strategies that have as much potential for creating serious problems as for producing a positive effect on political results.

Waltke, Bruce K., and O'Connor, M. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990. xiii + 765 pp. \$37.50.

Waltke and O'Connor's *Introduction* is in two senses an intermediary grammar of the language of the Hebrew Bible. It is, first of all, a grammar designed for study by those who have mastered the fundamentals of the language and possess a good grasp of phonology and morphology as well as a working vocabulary. Second, it is an intermediary between basic study and the vast array of research literature, a tool to prepare readers to take up that body of writing as they take up the corpus of ancient Hebrew scriptures. Thus the *Introduction* is both a textbook and a reference work. Beyond that, it fills the need for an up-to-date intermediate and advanced grammar of biblical Hebrew in English.