

Balz, Horst, and Schneider, Gerhard, eds. *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament*. Vol. 1. English trans. by Virgil P. Howard and James W. Thompson. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990. xxiv + 463 pp. \$39.95.

One cannot peruse a volume like the *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament* without thinking of predecessors such as Kittel and Friedrich's *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, Colin Brown's *New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*, and the Bauer, Arndt, and Gingrich *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (BAG). Like its three antecedents, the Balz and Schneider volume comes to us as a translation from a German original and seeks to deal with the meaning of NT words in light of both linguistic tools and the literature of prior studies in the NT. The *Exegetical Dictionary*, therefore, bears the marks of both a lexicon and a theological dictionary.

While the editors readily admit their debt to *TDNT*, there are a number of differences between the two works. The bibliographies are understandably more up-to-date than most of the *TDNT* volumes. Although the authors of the articles in the *Exegetical Dictionary* are recognized NT scholars, the desire to serve pastors and students as well as scholars has led to the use of transliteration, the elimination of much scholarly jargon, and ultimately (when vol. 3 has been translated) an index of English words for the use of those who cannot find articles on particular words by means of the Greek.

In contrast to *TDNT* all NT words, not just those of theological importance, are discussed, although much more briefly. Of particular note is the systematic avoidance of lengthy discussions of a word's occurrences in Greek literature, the LXX, and the Apostolic Fathers, and of the implications of Jewish literature and other backgrounds. Instead the primary focus is on the word's occurrences in the NT, its general semantic field, and the impact on its meaning of the various contexts in which the word occurs. It quickly becomes evident that while the *Exegetical Dictionary* serves a useful purpose, it does not replace *TDNT* as a source of reference.

In contrast to the three volumes translated and edited by Colin Brown, Balz and Schneider limited the contributors to scholars, lest a broadening of the author base to pastors and church officials should dilute the quality of the discussions or create an unevenness of treatment. While Brown offers a popularized alternative to *TDNT*, therefore, the *Exegetical Dictionary* differs significantly from both.

In contrast to Bauer, Arndt, and Gingrich, the *Exegetical Dictionary* confines itself to words occurring in the NT and offers extensive articles on words of major importance (such as *hamartia* by P. Fiedler [65-69]; *baptizo* by W. Bieder [192-196]; *graphē* and *graphō* by H. Hübner [260-264]; *dikaïosunē*, *dikaioō*, and *dikaïōma* by K. Kertelge [325-335]; and *ekklēsia* by J. Roloff [410-415]). The attempt to cross-reference words of similar root and meaning is extremely helpful but is not carried out consistently (compare the article on *agō* [24-25]—which leaves the uninitiated reader totally unaware that words such as *exagō* *paragō*, *prostagō*, and *proagō* exist—with the article on *akoloutheō* [49-52], which

should have provided a consistent model for the discussion of other compound verb roots.) Nonspecialists will normally, however, find the *Exegetical Dictionary* easier to use than BAG.

Perhaps 75-80 percent of the entries are unsigned, in which case they were prepared by the two editors. These unsigned entries are limited to an indication of gender and declension in the case of nouns, or a boldfaced number denoting how many sets of endings in the case of adjectives, followed by transliteration, a short definition or two in English, and often a short paragraph of explanation. If the discussion cites every occurrence of the word in the NT, the definition is followed by an asterisk. The bulk of the entries are made up of signed articles, ranging in length from a couple paragraphs to nearly a hundred. The articles were written by over 100 scholars from ten countries, although the use of the German language in the original no doubt necessitated that the overwhelming majority be from Germany, with a half-dozen each from Switzerland and Austria. The volume is intentionally ecumenical in its use of both Protestant and Catholic contributors.

The textual base of the *Dictionary* is the 26th Edition of Nestle-Aland, but variants are taken into consideration whenever a given author considers them significant.

Although no comment is made on principles of translation or editing, some sense of the procedure can be obtained with a little effort in comparison. Unlike Colin Brown's major revisions of the *Theologisches Begriffslexikon zum Neuen Testament*, the changes from the German original of Balz and Schneider (*Exegetisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament*) are minimal. The translation could be described as "dynamic" in the sense that it attempts to capture the intent of the original while abandoning the complexity of German syntax. The result is an English dictionary that is as clear and easy to understand as if it had been freshly written in English. In most cases the translation proceeds line by line with the original; the occasional editorial rearrangements do not add or subtract significantly from the content. At times an English work will be added to a bibliography or a German work deleted. All in all, a fine English work has resulted with a minimum of additional effort.

Although the print is rather small in places, it is clear and easy to read. I am aware of no typographical errors in the sections that I sampled. Some pages of my working copy fell out almost immediately, however. Since the volumes are fairly expensive, the publisher must not allow such defects to continue. The set, when completed, should provide a popular and handy first reference for students of the NT. Scholars who desire a more thorough treatment of a NT word will continue to peruse its predecessors.

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Dever, William G. *Recent Archaeological Discoveries and Biblical Research*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1990. x + 189 pp. \$17.50.

The setting of Dever's book is a series of lectures delivered in April 1985 as part of the "Samuel and Althea Stroum Lectures in Jewish Studies," University