

Fisher, Neal F. *The Parables of Jesus: Glimpses of God's Reign*. Rev. ed. New York: Crossroad Publishing Co., 1990. xiv + 178 pp. Paperback, \$9.95.

A revised edition of a volume first published in 1979, Fisher's approach is to deal with the parables with respect to God's Reign. He arranges his book under three parts: Part I—The Coming of God's Reign; Part II—Entering God's Reign; Part III—Living in God's Reign. In his first edition he used the phrase "the New Age" but because of its current usage he has used "God's Reign" instead. At the end of each chapter, Fisher has a section on "Questions and Suggested Methods" for discussion. This shows the work is directed toward laypersons who would read and discuss the book in small groups.

In his early chapters Fisher attempts to indicate the similarity between our situation and that of Jesus' day, i.e., we are both living at the intersection of two epochs. At the end, again based on this similarity, he encourages us to bring about the kingdom in our age.

Fisher emphasizes that the parables are an invitation for us to participate in and make a decision for the Kingdom. Jesus offers us an alternative view of the world, at the same time interpreting what kind of persons we are.

In the foreword Fisher indicates he will not deal with literary questions. His objective rather is focused on the themes of Jesus in the parables. For this reason, the author does not advance any new approaches or methodologies. However, it would have been profitable to discuss the current status of parable interpretation to help laypersons understand how parables are being seen today. In making a comparison between the ages, it is not clear whether Fisher sees our time as unique in comparison to that of Jesus or whether this kind of situation is present throughout history.

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Hamilton, Victor. *The Book of Genesis Chapters 1-17*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1990. 944 pp. \$27.95.

The Book of Genesis, Chapters 1-17, by Victor P. Hamilton, is the first Genesis volume to appear in The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. The commentary itself is divided into two major divisions: "Introduction" and "Text and Commentary."

The "Introduction" has eight sections: "Title," "Structure," "Composition," "Theology," "Problems in Interpretation," "Canonicity," "The Hebrew Text," "Bibliography." The essays about Genesis' "Composition,"