

Holbrook, Frank B., ed. *Issues in the Book of Hebrews*. Daniel and Revelation Committee Series, vol. 4. Silver Spring, MD: Biblical Research Institute, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 1989. xiii + 237 pp. \$7.95.

As can be readily ascertained from the title page, *Issues in the Book of Hebrews* is a book edited and published by the Biblical Research Institute of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (SDA). Its preface, "To the Reader," as well as various statements throughout the book, makes clear that it is written primarily for SDA readers and deals with issues that are of specific doctrinal interest to SDAs. Its agenda arises out of recent (1980 and subsequent) challenges from within the SDA Church to certain doctrinal positions regarding the ministry of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary. The Daniel and Revelation Committee of the Biblical Research Institute, which was directly responsible for producing this volume, makes clear in the preface that the major question which the committee has attempted to answer is: "Does the book of Hebrews invalidate the two-phased priestly ministration of Christ which the sanctuary types and other passages of Scripture indicate?" (xiii).

The book begins with a consensus report by the Daniel and Revelation Committee on their discussions of the many papers submitted for their study. Following this come several papers representative of the consensus view. The four articles written by William G. Johnsson include two articles reprinted from *The Sanctuary and the Atonement*, edited by Arnold V. Wallenkampf and W. Richard Leshar (Washington, DC, 1981). The others are by Herbert Kiesler, Richard M. Davidson, Alberto R. Treiyer, and Alwyn P. Salom. Two short articles on technical terms by Alwyn P. Salom and George E. Rice, both reprinted from *Andrews University Seminary Studies*, have been added as appendices.

Johnsson's first article gives an overview of the book of Hebrews. His second article discusses—and affirms—the reality of the heavenly sanctuary. Then follows an exegesis of selected controversial passages by Kiesler, who concludes that Hebrews does not intend to explain in depth the nature of Christ's priestly ministrations. It emphasizes the inadequacy of the Levitical system and directs the reader to the living High Priest now ministering in God's presence for us.

In an article on Heb 9:23 Johnsson concludes that the book of Hebrews does not address the question of **when** the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary takes place. Hebrews only affirms **necessity** for it.

Johnsson's fourth article studies the Day of Atonement allusions in Hebrews, to determine whether or not they point to the cross as the antitype of the Day of Atonement ritual. He concludes that these allusions are not central to the argument in Hebrews, but serve merely to point out the total inadequacy of the Levitical system to cleanse from sin.

Davidson's article on typology in Hebrews is a condensation of material from his dissertation, *Typology in Scripture* (Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press 1981). He finds that "the sanctuary typology of Hebrews possesses unique vertical and cultic dimensions," which is evidence that "vertical sanctuary typology . . . is part of the fundamental biblical perspective on typology" (186).

Treyer studies whether the typology in Hebrews represents antithesis or correspondence. He concludes that, although all shadow-types by their very nature are limited, the correspondences are consistently affirmed rather than denied. "Therefore, it is incorrect to refer to the typology of Hebrews as antithetic or oppositional typology" (197).

The final chapter by Salom takes a theological approach to the book of Hebrews, covering much of the same ground encompassed by earlier chapters in an exegetical fashion. His general conclusion is a direct response to the initial question. The book of Hebrews does not deny the SDA doctrine concerning the two-phased ministry of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary or any question involving time relative to this ministry, because it does not address the issue. The author of Hebrews had other concerns.

The book is well organized and very readable. At the beginning of each chapter, except the first, there is an editorial synopsis. Then follows an outline of the chapter. These editorial additions make the book easier to read. There are a number of mechanical errors throughout the book, but on the whole it seems well edited. The layout makes for a good visual impression and easy reading.

Issues in the Book of Hebrews is must reading for SDAs who wish or need to be informed regarding current representative SDA thinking on the book of Hebrews and its relation to the doctrine of the two-phase priestly ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary. It is also recommended for others who would like another scholarly perspective on some of the key issues in the book of Hebrews.

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Mason, Rex. *Preaching the Tradition: Homily and Hermeneutics after the Exile*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990. ix + 325 pp. \$49.50.

The realization that the church has been increasingly excluded from public policy has quickened exegetical and theological interest in the postexilic period when Judaism was supposedly in a similar position of political impotence. Rex Mason, a lecturer in Hebrew and Old Testament Studies at Oxford University, reflects this interest. Through his analysis of postexilic "addresses," Mason seeks "an illuminating window into the life,