

In spite of these caveats, I plan to use the book in a seminary class I teach in Christianity and the World Religions. While there are a diversity of authors, the book fits together and flows smoothly. The editors have done their job well. If you want a good, one-book introduction to this issue, read this volume. The editors are right in saying that the debate on this topic in the evangelical community is "intense and fierce," dominating all other discussions (12). This book gives you a ringside seat to this theological boxing match and may even serve as an invitation to climb into the ring yourself.

Andrews University

JON L. DYBDAHL

Horsley, Richard H. *Galilee: History, Politics, People*. Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1995. vii + 357 pp. Cloth, \$30.00.

In his book, *Galilee: History, Politics, People*, Richard Horsley tackles a long-neglected subject concerning the people inhabiting the region north of Israel, i.e., Galilee. Divided into three parts, the book presents the plight of the Galileans in terms of their relationship with Rome and with the capital of Israel, Jerusalem. Horsley draws upon both epigraphical and archaeological evidence to lend evidence to his analysis. Unfortunately, the biased writings of Josephus and literature from the early rabbinic period are the most "reliable" primary sources and archaeological evidence is scarce or is only currently becoming available through excavations.

Part 1, History, briefly outlines the major events which shaped the history of the territory of Galilee during the last centuries B.C. and first centuries A.D. This historical outline is subdivided into three parts: Monarchy, Jerusalem rule, and the Roman reconquests. During the period of the monarchy and the construction of the first temple, Galilee was subordinate to Jerusalem and the building enterprises of King Solomon. This subordination, however, was not greeted with open arms by the Galileans, who sought independence and separation from the "tyranny" which came from the holy city to the south.

With the conquest of the Near East by Roman armies, Galilee remained under Jerusalem rule during early Roman times. The rise and expansion of the Hasmonean family in Jerusalem did little to relieve the hardships in Galilee as taxes and other infringements caused much hardship. Because Galilee was under the rule of Jerusalem did not mean that the Galileans considered themselves part of Israel, as many differences existed between the Israelites who inhabited Jerusalem and those who lived and worked in Galilee.

With the death of Herod in 4 B.C., the territories of Galilee, Perea, and Judea revolted. Rome responded by putting down the rebellion in typical Roman manner, dividing the territory, and terrorizing the local population.

Part 2, The Rulers of Galilee in Roman Times, discusses the situation of Galilee under Roman rule and under the Temple and priesthood of Jerusalem. After the initial conquest, Rome consolidated direct control over Palestine through self-governing cities (governed by client-rulers) by which peace in the countryside could be maintained. Besides this Roman oppression, the governing body of the temple-state located in Jerusalem also laid claim to Galilee. The

priesthood, Temple, Torah, and Pharisees all contributed to the control of the territory to the north through increased taxation and by the dissemination of the teachings found in the Torah.

This section of Horsley's book concludes with a discussion of the changes that Herodian and Roman rule brought to Galilean cities. The rebuilding of Sepphoris and the construction of the new city of Tiberias ushered in a time of expedient urbanization for the small villages of Galilee. Like the earlier subjugation under Solomon, this urbanization was met by Galilean hostility, illustrated by the looting of the palace in Tiberias in 66 A.D. Out of this chaotic environment, however, the important societal role of the patriarchs and rabbis developed among upper-class Galileans to mediate between Galilee and Rome.

Part 3, Galilean Village Communities, touches upon village life in Galilee and how the family, the most basic social unit, changed and adjusted to royal rule. Because of increased demands of taxation, the primarily agrarian villages of Galilee spiraled downward into debt and experienced the breakdown of their basic social units.

Richard Horsley's book is a very thorough and thoughtful exploration of the state of Galilee during Roman and Hasmonean rule. It is an important addition to the research and study of the political, economic, and social history of this much neglected territory north of Israel.

Andrews University

PHILIP R. DREY

House, Paul R. *1, 2 Kings*. New American Commentary, vol. 8. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995. 432 pp. \$27.99.

Paul House is associate professor of OT and chair of biblical studies, Christian education, and philosophy at Taylor University, Upland, Indiana. His writings include *Zephaniah: A Prophetic Drama*, *The Unity of the Twelve*, *Old Testament Survey*, numerous articles, and *Beyond Form Criticism*, which he contributed to and edited.

The New American Commentary series affirms the divine inspiration, inerrancy, complete truthfulness, and full authority of the Bible," and uses the New International Version as its standard translation. The series focuses on two concerns: "the theological unity of each book and of Scripture as a whole," and "the conviction that the Bible primarily belongs to the church"—that is, without ignoring the contribution of scholarship to the understanding of the Bible, this series "concentrates on theological exegesis . . . providing practical, applicable exposition" to "build up the whole body of Christ."

From the onset House recognizes that 1 and 2 Kings are books that have been neglected by both preachers and laymen. Preachers find it difficult to prepare sermons on the books of the OT, particularly the historical books, because they seem to offer very little material of a devotional character, and laymen tend to question the relevance of events that transpired three millennia ago. To overcome these barriers House suggests the need of "developing the ability to read the books' stories as mirrors of today's world. Historical situations such as war, poverty, political corruption, and oppression are permanent symptoms of the human