

journal will welcome the stated theological stance: confidence in the truth of the inspired text, respect for its authority, interpretation according to the analogy of faith. The Micah commentary was published simultaneously in German.

In twenty-four pages of introduction Schibler covers the prophet and his times, his book and its theology. He traces the history of critical study of Micah, assesses the arguments, and adopts the 'synchronic' approach, which enables him to interpret the book whole, rather than dissected into a multitude of small, unconnected sections. Schibler believes these can be accounted for by different situations and audiences, and he would date the prophecies in the eighth century. The reign of Hezekiah provided Micah with his messianic hopes, while his invitation to northerners to take part in the Jerusalem passover (2 Chr. 30:6) depicted for Micah a 'remnant' (2:12, 13).

The commentary on the text is rigorous. The Hebrew is transliterated when reference to it is necessary, and variants are noted and assessed. Literary devices are pointed out as an aid to exegesis; e.g. the symmetry and parallelism between 5:7 and 5:8, where the conflict between the comparison 'dew from the Lord' and 'like a lion' is resolved in the light of 2 Samuel 7 and 8. In one David was a source of blessing, in the other a conqueror. Throughout the commentary the views of other commentators are taken fully into account. Only after due consideration of these does Schibler explain his own preference or his personal interpretation.

The result is an instructive and straightforward exposition of a difficult little prophecy. Schibler writes clearly and simply, carrying along with him even this foreigner whose French is rusty, and convincing me of the appropriateness of an eighth century background for an adequate understanding of Micah's prophecy. Moreover Schibler's interpretation is enlightening theologically. The author's learning has in no way diminished his faith, rather the contrary; he deals faithfully with both human treachery that results in ruin and with God's truth and mercy (7:20), that are to be fully revealed in Jesus Christ. This scholarly but positive approach interprets Micah for today.

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**Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels**  
**Joel B. Green, Scot McKnight, I. Howard Marshall (eds.)**

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**SUMMARY**

*This is the first of an intended library of reference volumes on the New Testament literature. It contains 200 articles (a number by eminent scholars), and Scripture and subject indexes. The important topics are generally well treated; some minor articles are less useful.*

**RÉSUMÉ**

*Le dictionnaire réalisé sous la direction de J. B. Green, S. McKnight, I. H. Marshall, est le premier d'une collection d'ouvrages de référence sur le Nouveau Testament en projet. Il contient deux cents articles (nombre d'entre eux par d'éminents spécialistes) avec des index des textes bibliques et des sujets abordés. La perspective est 'évangélique' au sens large. Les sujets importants sont, en général, fort bien traités; quelques articles, de moindre importance, n'ont pas la même utilité.*

**ZUSAMMENFASSUNG**

*Dies ist der erste Band einer geplanten Sammlung von Nachschlagewerken zur neutestamentlichen Literatur. Er enthält 200 Beiträge (einige von hochangesehenen Wissenschaftlern) und ein Stichwort- und Bibelstellen-register. Wichtige Themen werden im allgemeinen gut bearbeitet; einige kleinere Beiträge sind weniger nützlich.*

The dust jacket of this huge volume heralds the work as 'A Compendium of Contemporary Biblical Scholarship'. If one were to add the word 'evangelical' to that designation, one would be just about right. This volume is part of a welcome effort by InterVarsity Press to create a library of reference volumes for research into various aspects of the New Testament literature, giving expression to the best of evangelical thinking (it must be said that 'evangelical' is taken in an extended sense!). This is the volume on the Gospels, to be followed by one on Paul.

It is difficult to know where to start with such a book. The articles are arranged alphabetically, and vary in length from two columns to several over 15 pages. There are about 200 articles,



conveniently indexed at the back of the book. There are also immense biblical and subject indexes. With over 200 references under the topic 'Church' one might legitimately wonder how useful some of the index entries will be. The list of ninety plus contributors is wide-ranging, including a number of familiar names as well as a number of less-known scholars.

Each entry follows a standard format. There is usually a brief definition or introduction of the topic, followed by an outline if the topic is of sufficient length. Then the treatment ensues, often beginning with a discussion of how the topic relates to any biblical or extra-biblical background, followed by discussion of the topic in the light of its presence in the Gospels. The Gospels are often individually cited to appreciate the various treatments of the given topic among the canonical writers, with the Synoptics frequently seen in distinction to John's Gospel (the distinction is not as great as many would contend for). Occasionally there is application of the topic to other New Testament writers or to the contemporary Christian context. Each entry concludes with a bibliography. Most of the sources are in English, with sufficient information so that they can be found by a diligent student. There are also abundant cross-references, making it relatively easy to find the proper heading of a topic.

The selection of authors and their topics for a dictionary of this sort is always a tricky one. Does one ask a scholar whose views are already well-known, or does one ask a scholar who has not written on a topic before? Does one ask a well-established scholar, who perhaps has not recently rethought a topic, or does one ask a younger scholar, who may be a bit idiosyncratic? These kinds of questions seem to have been well-handled in the assignment of articles for this dictionary. In this kind of book, some of the writers one might have expected are to be found, such as F. F. Bruce on canon, F. W. Danker on benefactor, H. W. Hoehner on chronology and the Herodian dynasty, B. D. Chilton on Judaism, rabbinic traditions and targums, G. N. Stanton on Q, G. R. Osborne on redaction criticism, R. H. Stein on the synoptic problem, and G. D. Fee on textual criticism. For the most part (although not without exception) the entries by the better known scholars present solid arguments for the traditional and accepted evangelical perspective on the topic. One might wish for a little more creativity in the assessment and closer attention to some recent developments in a few of them. Several of the articles by younger scholars devolve into grocery lists of references, with the information present but without the requisite narrative to tie it all together. Fortunately, this is usually (though not always) confined to articles on less significant

topics. Most of the important topics, such as the individual Gospels, the major criticisms, and a wide variety of other expected topics (e.g. parables) are treated. There are also several very pleasant surprises, such as an article on typology by C. A. Evans and on preaching from the Gospels by S. Greidanus.

An especially nice feature of the dictionary is when several different authors write on similar or related topics, giving a welcome depth because of their complementary perspectives. For example, D. C. Allison, Jr. and T. J. Gedder write articles on apocalyptic and apocalyptic teaching, with Allison also writing on eschatology. Similarly, and of even more importance, there is an article on Christ by L. W. Hurtado, as well as individual articles on logos (D. H. Johnson), son of David (D. R. Bauer), son of God (D. R. Bauer), and son of man (I. H. Marshall). Although space constraints are a factor, a similar approach would have had beneficial results in several other areas, such as in the discussion of literary and rhetorical criticism, where comparable and complementary treatments in relation to other criticisms would have been appropriate.

I cannot attempt to mention all of the contributors – many of whose excellent articles I have had to pass over in this review. Instead, I can speculate on how this book might be used. Although it is probably too expensive to be used as a textbook, it certainly could supply required readings for courses in the Gospels or on Jesus, where reasonably short yet comprehensive introductions to a variety of topics are required. A lay readership will find it useful in this regard also. This volume will certainly prove helpful for teachers and pastors, as well. Those wanting to keep up with current thinking or to refresh their memories on topics they may have studied earlier will find good material here. Teachers of varying levels will find everything from their next lecture to representative positions argued by well-informed scholars to helpful bibliographies. In all, this volume is a significant success and bodes well for future, similar projects.

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