

Joshua, God's covenants with his peoples, and the Christian Bible. Accordingly, for example, the leadership of Joshua, the role of Rahab, the parallels between Israel's crossing of the Jordan and her crossing of the Reed Sea, and the significance of the circumcision and the celebration of the Passover are emphasised. On the other hand, some chiasms mentioned are unconvincing (e.g., Josh 21:43–45 [p. 284], or 24:19–20 [p. 306]), and in some instances the chiasm observed does not correspond with the explanation given for it (e.g., 10:14 [p. 199]); cf., however, the well observed example 3:6–7 (p. 108) with a good interpretation. Hence the commentary shows once more the well-known difficulty of analysing Joshua in literary terms.

The strength of the commentary is that Hess provides detailed geographical and archaeological evidence as he describes the events and places within the Promised Land and as he discusses their strategic value for Israel. For each of the places mentioned in the second section Hess includes the name as it appears in the New International Version, whether it is mentioned in the Masoretic Text and the Septuagint (for 15:21–62 and 19:1–48 he distinguishes between the Alexandrinus and the Vaticanus), the Israelite and the Arabic name, and the location within the Promised Land; where possible he also includes the name of the tell which represents the location of the ancient town today. Hess furthermore connects the geographical situation with the biblical account of the military aspects of the conquest, thus providing a strategic explanation for the conquest. In conjunction with the maps provided the reader gets a good idea of Israel's strategy in the conquest and the geography of the Promised Land. Among the questions treated are, for example, why did the Canaanites not attack Israel as they crossed the Jordan despite Israel's lengthy preparation, which the Canaanites must have observed? Or, why did the Canaanites prepare for a battle with Israel although they could not face her earlier?

To sum up, this commentary offers a well worked explanation of the archaeological and geographical situation in Palestine during the conquest. Hess illustrates Israel's strategy in the conquest by explaining the geographical situation and strategical value of the places mentioned. In terms of a literary interpretation of Joshua, this commentary is another example of the difficulty one encounters here; nevertheless Hess manages to identify the main literary features such as the plot and the

main characters of the stories. As each passage is concluded with a homiletic application, this commentary also demonstrates to the reader the relevance of Joshua for one's life as a Christian.

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***The Making of the New Testament:
Origin, Collection, Text and Canon***
Arthur G Patzia

Leicester: Apollos, 1995, 205 pp. £11.99
pb. ISBN: 0-85111-443-1

RÉSUMÉ

Patzia est professeur assistant de Nouveau Testament et directeur de la faculté de théologie de Fuller aux USA. Son livre s'interroge sur la manière dont le Nouveau Testament a été compilé. Il est destiné aux étudiants qui commencent l'étude du N.T. Il sera un instrument utile, à la fois pour les étudiants et les professeurs, et trouvera une place méritée dans les bibliographies des cours des universités, des écoles bibliques et des facultés de théologie européennes et américaines, où la théologie biblique est prise au sérieux.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Dr. Patzia ist außerordentlicher Professor für Neues Testament sowie Direktor des Fuller Theological Seminary. Sein Buch The Making of the New Testament beleuchtet die "Wie"-Fragen der Zusammenstellung des Neuen Testaments. Es ist an College-Studenten gerichtet, die ins Studium des Neuen Testaments einsteigen. Es wird eine brauchbare Hilfsquelle für Studenten wie Lehrer darstellen und somit zu Recht in den Bibliographien der unteren Studentenjahrgänge an Universitäten, Colleges und Seminaren in Europa und den USA auftauchen; überall dort, wo biblische Theologie ernstgenommen wird.

Arthur Patzia's Making of the New Testament sets itself the task of explaining the 'how' of New Testament compilation. He perceives his audience to be the college student, who is taking his or her first steps in the world of New Testament studies.

The work certainly appears to fit within such a remit covering as it does, the literary world of the New Testament (19–34), the

Gospels (35–67), Pauline literature (68–89), other New Testament literature (90–101), the criteria of Canonicity (102–111), the transmission of New Testament documents (112–136), and Textual variants and Textual Criticism (137–149).

The problem with this particular work (as with all attempts to 'introduce' a topic) is that the reader is confronted with a wealth of material which they hardly have time to assimilate before the writer invites the reader to join him in an altogether different realm of discussion. On the plus side, Patzia is quick to point the reader to other sources which can be explored at the reader's leisure. This in itself makes Patzia's work a welcome tool for those beginning New Testament study, not to mention those charged with the task of teaching New Testament.

As with all 'broad-brush' introductions, there are questions which are raised which cannot be answered within the scope of the work. Such questions for this reviewer include: why do we have to describe the Apostle Paul as 'Hellenistic' (p.69) and what place do the earliest Christians who were illiterate have in the Making of the New Testament? Further, in places, recent scholarship appears to have been overlooked. An example of this would be L. T. Johnson's, *The Writings of the New Testament* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986), which although mentioned in the bibliography, is missing from the scholarly interaction within the book; of which there is much. We might be forgiven for thinking that Johnson would have been a key dialogue partner for Patzia.

It may well be that time and space prevented interaction with Johnson, and the speed of discussion necessitated unanswered questions. The Making of the New Testament will be a useful book to have on one's shelves; but one cannot help feeling that its omissions will prevent it from moving from the 'useful category on our shelves to the 'important'.

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The Message of 2 Peter & Jude: The Promise of His Coming

Dick Lucas and Christopher Green

Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press (The Bible Speaks Today), 1995, 270pp.
£9.99. ISBN: 0–85111–149–1

The Message of 1 Timothy & Titus: The Life of the Local Church

John R. W. Stott

Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press (The Bible Speaks Today), 1996. 232pp.
£9.99. ISBN: 0–85111–172–6

RÉSUMÉ

Les commentaires de cette série se veulent à la fois précis dans l'exposition du texte biblique et pertinents pour la vie contemporaine. Outre l'exégèse non technique, ils fournissent un guide d'étude destiné à aider les chrétiens à mieux comprendre le texte et à le mettre en pratique. Les auteurs du volume intitulé Le Message de 2 Pierre et Jude montrent les similitudes et les différences entre ces deux lettres, pour ce qui est des idées et du contenu, du contexte situationnel et des visées, et ils trouvent des applications stimulantes du message de ces deux lettres du Nouveau Testament pour l'Église du XX^e siècle. Dans Le Message de 1 Timothée et Tite, Stott montre que le souci prédominant de Paul pour la vérité dans les trois lettres pastorales est particulièrement pertinent pour notre culture contemporaine submergée par l'esprit du post-modernisme.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Die Kommentare in dieser Serie haben das Ziel, sowohl akkurat in der Auslegung des biblischen Textes zu sein, als auch relevant für zeitgemäßes Leben. Zusätzlich zu der nicht-technischen Exegese, bieten sie einen Studien- teil, der Christen helfen soll, den Text besser zu verstehen und auszuleben. In dem Band The Message of 2 Peter & Jude zeigen die Autoren sowohl die Ähnlichkeiten, als auch die Unterschiede dieser beiden Briefe auf bezüglich des Gedankengutes und Inhalts, des jeweiligen Sitz im Leben und der Absichten, und sie finden anregende Anwendungen dieser beiden neutestamentlichen Briefe für die Gemeinde im zwanzigsten Jahrhundert. In dem Band The Message of 1 Timothy and Titus zeigt Stott auf, wie relevant das überragende Anliegen des Paulus mit der Wahrheit in allen drei Pastoralbriefen für unsere Kultur ist, die eingetaucht im Geist der Postmoderne ist.

It is the threefold ideal of the series The Bible Speaks Today to be accurate in the exposition of the biblical text, relevant for contemporary life, and readable. The goal is to find a sound balance between serious exegesis on the one hand and practical application for today's church on the other hand. Generally, the