

disciplinary approach to biblical studies that attempts to make use of the strength of different disciplines.

On the other hand, there are a number of issues with this work that undermines its conclusions. First, there is the issue of which text Walters used. Walters uses NA<sup>27</sup> for both her text and punctuation. While NA<sup>27</sup> is a useful tool, its eclectic nature causes some serious difficulties for the evaluation of different stylistic features. To Walters' credit, she does propose that future study should be applied to the Bezaen text of Acts.

Second, there are issues in the determination of the evidence to be used. While Walters is aware of the inability of modern scholarship to determine some of the ancient prose syllable divisions, there are a few other instances in which the ancient sources are somewhat vague, or outright disagree about the nature and definition of what counts of examples of a particular literary features. As a result, Walters is forced to choose which definition/evaluative method to use.

Another problematic example of what counts as evidence would be the dissonance category in which word dissonances are calculated for Luke and Acts. While a statistically significant result occurred abdicating the same author for Luke and Acts, a large amount of data was not able to be calculated because there were not enough occurrences to make it statistically significant for chi-square calculations. In this case, nine of the thirteen dissonance combinations were omitted, with all but two of them being separated by only one instance. This selection of evidence, and the omission of some similarities between Luke and Acts, undermines Walters' conclusions.

Overall, Walters provides a new approach for determining the authorial unity of Luke and Acts. While her statistical findings suggest that there is reason to doubt the scholarly consensus, there are a few issues that undermine her findings and, as a result, her work is not entirely convincing.

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***From Pentecost to Patmos: Acts to Revelation:  
Introduction and Survey***

**Craig L. Blomberg**

Nottingham: IVP, 2008. 592 pp. £20 h/b. ISBN 978-1-84474-052-0.

**SUMMARY**

Blomberg has provided a worthy sequel to his earlier volume on *Jesus and the Gospels*. For Acts and each New Testament letter Blomberg treats the questions of introduction and then offers a detailed survey of the contents. This is a well-done first year NT survey textbook for students and all others interested in the NT. Careful study of this volume will lay a solid foundation for Christian ministry.

**ZUSAMMENFASSUNG**

Blomberg hat eine beachtliche Fortsetzung seines früheren Bandes *Jesus and the Gospels* [*Jesus und die Evangelien*] vorgelegt. Er behandelt Einleitungsfragen der Apostelgeschichte und eines jeden Briefes des Neuen Testaments und bietet jeweils einen ausführlichen inhaltlichen Überblick. Das Werk stellt ein gelungenes Unterrichtsbuch dar und verschafft Studenten im ersten Jahr und allen, die am Neuen Testament interessiert sind, einen Überblick. Das sorgfältige Studium dieses Bandes legt eine solide Grundlage für den christlichen Dienst.

**RÉSUMÉ**

Ce volume vient s'ajouter à celui du même auteur sur Jésus et les Évangiles. Pour les Actes et les épîtres du Nouveau Testament, Blomberg traite des questions d'introduction et propose un survol détaillé du contenu de ces écrits. C'est là un manuel très bien fait pour débutants en théologie et autres personnes intéressées par le Nouveau Testament. L'étude sérieuse de ce manuel permettra de poser des bases solides pour le ministère.

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One volume English language textbooks and introductions to the New Testament abound. Several good volumes are available from an evangelical perspective. So in one sense, I have not been eagerly awaiting Blomberg's book. However those who, like me, have used and value Blomberg's excellent textbook *Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction and Survey* (Leicester: Apollos, 1997) will be pleased to see that Blomberg, distinguished Professor of New Testament at Denver Seminary, has produced a volume on the remaining parts of the New Testament.

In the brief 'Introduction', Blomberg describes the origin and aims of the book. While other volumes in the field concentrate on matters of introduction, theological significance or specialised forms of analysis that have been growing in popularity, Blomberg concentrates 'on detailed mastery of the meaning of texts of Scripture themselves' (2). Therefore he only offers the most crucial items of introduction in enough detail to provide the necessary background for correctly interpreting NT books. The emphasis lies 'on surveying the actual structure and contents of each book, the main points in each section, the distinctive exegetical cruxes, and several key terms for contemporary application' (3). Blomberg adopts what he calls a 'broadly based evangelical perspective' (3). However, he has read widely, 'interacted with a broad cross-section of scholarship, and tried to offer representative sampling of approaches across a wide spectrum of theological commitments' (3).

For each NT book Blomberg begins with introductory considerations. This is followed by abbreviated remarks in commentary form on the most central, interesting, relevant and/or controversial details of the book. Next we have, in Blomberg's own words 'passage-by-passage (at times even verse-by-verse) comments with footnotes to where specific concepts or quotations originate or to where fuller discussion of issues may be



found. Finally, one finds brief remarks with respect to the contemporary application and a selective bibliography of works for further study' (4; advanced and intermediate commentaries, introductory, other studies; the footnotes and bibliography are limited to English-language publications available to introductory theological students). Each chapter ends with review questions. In addition, italicised material, maps, charts and diagrams make the volume user friendly. Altogether, the book can best be described as a detailed survey of the NT, for all its worth and with the limitations of that emphasis.

The introduction contains brief reflections on the canon. The volume does not contain a historical or theological introduction to this part of the New Testament (Acts and the Epistles) or to the relationship of Jesus and the Gospels to Acts, the letters of the New Testament and the Book of Revelation. Neither does the volume offer a concluding chapter, summarising the purposes and theological emphases of these parts of the New Testament or their relationship to the first non-canonical writings of the ancient church.

*Part one* offers a detailed introduction to the Book of Acts ('The Gospel moves out', 9-82; 'because it appears immediately after the Gospels in canonical sequence and because it forms the narrative context into which many of the epistles may be inserted with greater understanding', 3).

*Part two* on Paul and his letters begins with a survey of Paul's life and ministry (85-114). The letters appear in chronological order as best as it can be reconstructed: Galatians: The Charter of Christian Liberty (117-37) The Thessalonian Correspondence: A Balanced View of Christ's Return

1. Thessalonians: Christ Is Coming Soon (139-49)
2. Thessalonians: But Not That Soon! (151-62)
- The Corinthian Correspondence: Countering Misguided Views about Christian Maturity
- 1 Corinthians: Internal Immaturity and External Hel- lenizing Threats (163-202)
- 2 Corinthians: Increasing Maturity but Infiltrating Judaizing Threats (203-32)
- Romans: The Most Systematic Exposition of Paul's Gospel (233-69)
- The Prison Epistles: General Introduction (271-73)
- Philemon: A Christian Response to Slavery (275-84)
- Colossians: Christ as Lord of the Cosmos and the Church (285-301)
- Ephesians: Unity in Diversity as a Witness to the 'Powers' (303-23)
- Philippians: Rejoice in All Circumstances (325-41)
- The Pastoral Epistles: General Introduction (343-49)
- Titus: A Manual on Church Order (351-57)
- 1 Timothy: How to Pastor a Church and Turn It Away from Heresy (359-73)
- 2 Timothy: Pass It On (375-83)

Part three covers the other writings of the New Testament (387-560) under the following headings:

- The Epistle of James: 'Faith without Works Is Dead' (387-408)
- The Epistle to the Hebrews: The Superiority of Christ (409-39)
- 1 Peter: Perseverance Despite Persecution (441-60)
- The Epistle of Jude: 'Contend for the Faith' (461-71)
- 2 Peter: 'Where Is the Promise of His Coming?' (473-83)
- The Epistles of John: The Tests of Life
- 1 John: Countering the Secessionists (485-98)
- 2 John: The Secessionists Attack from Outside (499-501)
- 3 John: The Secessionists Take Over Inside? (503-07)
- The Book of Revelation: God's Plans for Cosmic History (509-60)

The volume closes with indexes of subjects, authors and Scripture references (561-77). It well achieves the goals that Blomberg set for himself and his readers:

... to better understand first-century Christianity, the literature it produced that came to be treated as uniquely sacred, and through it a better appreciation of the Lord Jesus Christ, worshipped by this fledgling church, often in hostile circumstances and facing difficulties remarkably similar to those the church faces today throughout the world, despite the changes in cultural and technological forms in which those challenges may be cloaked (6).

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### ***Central Themes in Biblical Theology: Mapping Unity in Diversity***

**J. S. Hafemann, P. R. House (eds.)**

Nottingham: IVP, 2008. 336 pp. £20, pb, ISBN 978-1-84474-166-3.

#### **SUMMARY**

The seven essays of this volume are written by leading North American evangelical biblical scholars. They focus on seven themes that span the whole Bible and show its essential theological unity: the covenant relationship, the commands of God, the atonement, the servant of the Lord, the day of the Lord, the people of God and the history of redemption. This volume is a welcome introduction to the contents of biblical theology.

#### **ZUSAMMENFASSUNG**

Die sieben Aufsätze dieses Bandes stammen von führenden evangelikalen Theologen Nordamerikas. Sie konzentrieren sich auf sieben Themen, welche die gesamte Bibel umfassen und deren wesentliche theologische Einheit aufzeigen: Bundesbeziehung, Gebote Gottes, Versöhnung, Gottesknecht, Tag des Herrn, Volk Gottes und Heilsgeschichte. Das Buch stellt eine geschätzte Einführung in die gesamtbiblische Theologie dar.