



Volume 60 | Issue 1

Article 25


4-28-2017

Rubin's "The complete Jewish study Bible: Insights for Jews & Christians" (Book Review)

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Recommended Citation

Botticelli, Jill (2017) "Rubin's "The complete Jewish study Bible: Insights for Jews & Christians" (Book Review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 60 : Iss. 1 , Article 25.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol60/iss1/25>

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In the above examples, we see evidenced the fact that while Christology inserts itself a priori into anthropological discussions amongst those to whom it is a general admission, the conclusions remain dependent on theological constructs to state something that is necessitated only by one's presumption. That is not to say that these conclusions are wrong, but that they depend entirely upon ideas that cannot be proven apart from an admission of faith. Even in Barth's argument, the most evolved of those discussed in that it channels what can be known about man by means of his Creator through the humanity of Jesus Christ, what can be known is only substantiated by what is wholly unknowable to us: the means by which Christ can be both fully God and fully man. This is not a problem if limited to the construct of theological debate, but pure Christology is not the issue, rather the intersection of that and anthropology to which is introduced ideas independent of claims of faith. Even within the realm of faith, there is not simply Christological concerns, but also those of soteriology, pneumatology, ecclesiology, and so on.

In final summation, this book does an excellent job in what it sets out to do: provide an examination of the effects of Christology on anthropology throughout history as represented by those who the author deemed best fit to illustrate it. However, it does not adequately address the fundamental issues of the topic that relegate its results to purely theological concerns. While this would be a good book to source when writing on an issue that is specifically addressed in one of the essays, it is not particularly useful in the realm of anthropology at large. It suffers from a lack of definitive answers concerning man, instead juxtaposing God with us to create a narrative that only the most indoctrinated Christian will comprehend. Perhaps the author himself states it best, saying, "even if we affirm Jesus is the ultimate answer ... [He] is an answer that leads to more questions (p. 233).

Reviewer

Elijah Hosse, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Rubin, B. (Ed.). (2016). *The complete Jewish study Bible: Insights for Jews & Christians*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers. 1990 pp. \$49.95. ISBN 9781619708679

Newly released is an updated version of the *Complete Jewish Bible* designed to merge the two worlds of Christianity and Judaism in one comprehensive study Bible. *The Complete Jewish Study Bible* describes itself as "Illuminating the Jewishness of God's Word" and does so through the collaborative effort of over thirty contributors of both Christian and Jewish faith. This Messianic translation by David A. Stern of the Tanakh (Old Testament) and B'rit Hadashah (New Testament) has been augmented with a variety of study tools including topical and thematic articles, enhanced book introductions, historical background and cultural notes, and Scripture readings for

Jewish observations. An interesting inclusion is the use of original Hebrew proper names provided with a helpful pronunciation guide. Use of these names in the New Testament is an intriguing feature that engages the reader. Over a hundred articles are dispersed throughout the text and have been organized into the following twelve topics or themes: Covenants, The Torah, Jewish Customs, Messianic Prophecy, The Names of God, Anti-Jewish Scriptural Interpretations, The Shabbat, Salvation and Atonement, The Holy Days of Isra'el, Jewish-Gentile Relations, The Land of Isra'el and The Tabernacle. Each article is color coded to indicate as to which theme it is related. In a brief comparison this Bible reads complementary to other modern versions. For example: John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only and unique Son, so that everyone who trust in him may have eternal life, instead of being utterly destroyed."

General Editor, Barry Rubin gives a fitting statement in explaining the need for such a work by stating "this study Bible contains information from Jewish sources to explain a thoroughly Jewish book – the Bible – written by Jews, about Jews, initially for Jews in the Jewish land of Israel." He does not disappoint in providing a systematic Jewish perspective within a predominately Christian market of Bible study tools.

The Complete Jewish Study Bible is a unique and significant work that would make a valuable addition to a personal or academic library.

Reviewer

Jill Botticelli, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Horton, M. (2015). *Core Christianity: Finding yourself in God's story*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 171 pp. \$14.99. ISBN 978031052566

Michael Horton's *Core Christianity* is a good introduction to theology and the study of the Scriptures. It is a helpful beginning place for those who are new to the Christian faith or those who would like to study the Bible but are not sure where to start.

Horton begins the book by explaining 'the 4 D's': drama, doctrine, doxology, and discipleship. Although he claims that these will help guide the discussion of core Christianity, they became more of a distraction than an assistance. In fact, the entire book feels a little disorganized, without a clear direction. Understandably, the whole of Christianity is hard to explain in under two hundred pages. However, considering the intended audience, some areas could benefit from more clarification.