2015

Sabin's "Tending to Eden: Environmental Stewardship for God's People" (Book Review)

Tami Echavarria Robinson
Whitworth University

The Christian Librarian is the official publication of the Association of Christian Librarians (ACL). To learn more about ACL and its products and services please visit http://www.acl.org/

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl

Recommended Citation
Robinson, Tami Echavarria (2015) "Sabin's "Tending to Eden: Environmental Stewardship for God's People" (Book Review)," The Christian Librarian; Vol. 58 : Iss. 1 , Article 53.
Available at: http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol58/iss1/53

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Christian Librarian by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolfe@georgefox.edu.
Spring: Connecting with God,  
by David, Chelsea & Sarah Simon. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform,  
Reviewed by Patricia A. Conrad, Librarian, Clearwater Christian College, Clearwater, FL  

This short, compact book metaphorically reads like a gentle spring rain, as it softly reminds us that God desires us to have a committed relationship with Him. Spring represents renewal, and author David Simon follows that theme throughout the book by offering examples and parallels between the seasonal rhythms of spring with the wisdom of Scripture, especially pertaining to Passover. It was in spring when God told Noah to begin again. When Jesus was twelve, he began his public ministry during Passover. Jesus, a Torah-reading Jew, would become the blood of the lamb for us at Passover.

Simon’s book would make an excellent choice for a Bible group seeking an introduction to the Passover Seder. It takes on a Bible study format, with poignant questions posed throughout the chapters. Intended as a guide, this book does not offer depth or scope on the study of the Passover; it does, however, contain a readable explanation of Passover and Seder practices, such as rules regarding cleanliness, cooking, children’s roles, and the taking of wine. Simon’s book is not an academic or scholarly work; it is more of a group experience meant for sharing.

Although the book contains a handful of cosmetic/presentation flaws, it is forgivable and does not detract from the text.

Bible study groups could read this book and be encouraged to sponsor a Haggadah under the leadership of a Messianic Jew who understands the tradition of the Seder symbolisms. Simon’s book is a reminder that as Christians, we should consider the significance of Passover, reflect on its meanings, and study in Scripture how it connects us to God year-round, not just during spring.

Tending to Eden: Environmental Stewardship for God’s People,  
ISBN 9780817015725  
Reviewed by Tami Echavarria Robinson, Coordinator of Instructional Services,  
Whitworth University  

God entrusted stewardship of earth’s environment to Adam in Genesis 1:28-30, a topic insufficiently discussed in Christian community. Seldom does the church explore the topic of the symphony of creation, created to sing praise to the Creator.
This symphony is being silenced to feed human convenience and consumption habits. Most get information sporadically, without context, making it difficult to form a coherent picture of environmental issues and their ramifications. This book expertly interweaves the current state of the environment with the biblical responsibility of man to care for God’s creation. Deforestation, desertification leading to climate change, watersheds, the carbon dioxide cycle, burning of fossil fuels, and resultant starvation and persistent poverty are all linked to each other so that the reader is able to follow the natural cycle of climate, flora and fauna on the environment and on humans living in it. With our divine charge to care for the poor (Deut. 15:11), Christians should be concerned about climate change.

The author is the executive director of Plant With Purpose, a nonprofit Christian environmental organization with operations in seven countries. His writing reveals his deep care for God’s creation, both human and environmental. He writes in a context of storytelling and discourse easily readable by the average layperson. The narrative is rich and engaging and will be of interest to those knowledgeable about the environment, and illuminating to those who are not. His honest discussion of the scope of global relief efforts is refreshing, including a contrast with the types of efforts that inadvertently encourage the persistence of poverty. He contrasts this with a thoughtful analysis of the causes of failure to solve poverty, and hopeful integrated solutions that have worked in Plant With Purpose’s experiences in the countries they serve. People and their environment are part of the same system; to harm one is to harm the other. This book is highly recommended and should be mandatory reading for all Christians and those interested in genuinely aiding the impoverished.

The Traitor’s Heir,
ISBN 9781782640752

Reviewed by Sherill L. Harriger, Library Director, Poutious Learning Resource Center, Warner University, Lakes Wales, FL

When is a traitor a traitor? That question is what confounds the reader of The Traitor’s Heir as the life of Eamon Goodman unfolds. Eamon grew up believing in the River Realm and the Master who rules with an iron fist. The Master, also known as Edelred, demands complete and utter servitude to him and him alone and assures unfaltering allegiance from the people with the aid of the Gauntlet, his chosen army. Being sworn in as a member of the Gauntlet, protecting the River Realm,