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Nettles' "Living by Revealed Truth: The Life and Pastoral Theology of Charles Haddon Spurgeon" (Book Review)

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helpers. His goal is to diagram them and emphasize the dynamics of the kinds of ‘loves’ that drive each one. One of the novel’s main characters, Ivan Petrovich, is in a way Dostoevsky’s alter ego, and the whole book became a type of author’s memoir. For this reason, the novel has a very personal and emotional quality, which comes out through Dostoevsky’s word choice. The book contains many “nervous” and “sad” words, which assume the role of a guide, in order for the reader to explore the realities describing states of the human soul. Jakim’s translation attempts to penetrate the “fine structure” and get into the word-fabric of Dostoevsky’s text, as he himself states in the preface. Therefore, in his translation, he does a marvelous job of choosing English words which connect the reader to the emotions of the text, and which stand out enough for the reader to recognize them and be impacted by them on their journey through this novel. Another detail, which plays a great role in the dynamic of the text, is punctuation. Dostoevsky, for the sake of the character of his story, seemed to suspend normal punctuation, and Jakim is very faithful to this component in his translating endeavor.

Authors such as Fyodor Dostoevsky do not have a deficit of people willing to take on the task of translating their valuable and culture-defining novels. With a plethora of translations on the bookstore shelves, one might question the need for another “new” translation of 19th century Russian novel, to which Boris Jakim might respond, “the texts that form our culture contain messages that cannot be simply translated word by word, but must be translated thought by thought in order to be able to move the reader in his own language.” Contemporary readers will benefit from this faithful and intriguing English version of the classic Russian title. Libraries with liberal arts collections should consider this version a worthwhile purchase.

**Living by Revealed Truth: The Life and
Pastoral Theology of Charles Haddon Spurgeon,**

by Tom Nettles. Ross-shire, Scotland: Mentor Imprint, 2013.

683 pp., \$40.00. ISBN: 1781911223

*Reviewed by Robert Burgess, Head, Acquisitions, Midwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri.*

Charles Spurgeon is one of the most significant figures in Christian history. This English Baptist preacher wrote and published more than any other Christian. Spurgeon pastored the Metropolitan Tabernacle, which was the largest Protestant church in the Victorian era. He also set up several schools and orphanages in London. Tom Nettles, professor of historical theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has spent his entire career researching and writing on Baptist history.

Nettles not only gives historical information on the life of Spurgeon, but also his views on specific points in theology. The strength of this book is that the author heavily quotes Spurgeon’s sermons and writings to indicate how Spurgeon’s

theology impacted his preaching, ministries, and evangelism. Nettles clearly designs his writing to make his book biographical and theological. Each chapter focuses on a different theology or pivotal moment in his life.

This book will appeal to pastors, historians, and theologians. However, the high scholarship and writing style of this book would overwhelm those who have not studied Spurgeon and his writings. Nettles' new book could assist many in historical research of Spurgeon as well as help in sermon preparations. The combination of a legendary pastor's life with the authorship of an esteemed professor makes for a valuable scholarly work.

Invitation to the Psalms: A Reader's Guide for Discovery and Engagement,

by Rolf A. Jacobson and Karl N. Jacobson. Grand Rapids:
Baker Academic, 2013. 184 pp. \$15.00. ISBN: 9780801036446

*Reviewed by Robert Burgess, Head, Acquisitions, Midwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri.*

Relevance and practical application make the Bible hard to read for many believers. The book of Psalms has proven difficult for modern readers because of the construction and intended audience of the Psalms. Rolf and Karl Jacobson, professors at Luther Seminary and Augsburg College respectively, have written an engaging guide on how to read and experience the psalms. In their previous collaboration, *Crazy Book: A Not-So-Stuffy Dictionary of Biblical Terms*, the Jacobson brothers interpret scripture in an informal and humorous tone. The theme of their most recent publication is to teach about the psalms in a simple way so that believers "may learn to read, pray, sing, shout, chant, and wonder the psalms" (2). The authors present the psalms with a fresh outlook in order to create a deeper appreciation of the book to the reader. By focusing on the construction, genres, voice, metaphors, and theology of the psalms, the reader will gain a historical understanding of the psalms. This book is intended for those who have are not scholars of Hebrew or have studied the Psalms in depth, but are open to learning the significance of this book, what it means to the rest of the Bible, and its practical application to Christian life.

This book would assist researchers who are interested in studying the different types of psalms in the Bible. By analyzing the scriptures and carefully explaining their significance, the authors shed light on questions that a reader may have about the Psalms. This book will have a profound effect on believers who have struggled to read the Psalms. The authors provide a general guide through the Psalms that could be used in either a personal or corporate Bible study. Old Testament professors may find that this book provides a textbook to use in their classes as a way of allowing modern students to learn and experience the Psalms. The Jacobson's book would also serve as a great resource for a variety of bible colleges and seminaries. Believers of any Christian faith will find this book useful in Old Testament studies.