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Meynell's "What angels long to read: Reading and preaching the new testament" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Meynell, M. (2017). *What angels long to read: Reading and preaching the new testament*. Carlisle, United Kingdom: Langham Partnership. 238 pp. \$19.99. ISBN 9781783682669

The title of this small book automatically piques the interest of Christians who might wonder what angels really would like to read, but are unable to read for some reason. With this thought on the back burner of my mind, I started reading this book. The title is based on 1 Peter 1:12 “*Even angels long to look into these things.*” With this verse in mind, the author works his way through the New Testament explaining God’s plan. This is not an introductory textbook to the New Testament. There is no lengthy discussions of dates, authorship, or other issues commonly found in such textbooks. Neither is this book a one volume commentary of the New Testament. There is no space given to the synoptic problem, the ending of the gospel of Mark, or who wrote the book of Hebrews. Meynell is focused on picking a few examples from the Gospels, Acts, Paul’s letters, and finally the book of Revelation to tell God’s story.

So why was this book written? The author explains in the preface that Jesus gave the disciples (and us) what we call the Great Commission so that they and we would go out and proclaim the gospel to the world. In turn, churches would be established growing through the faithful preaching and teaching of the whole Bible. This cycle will continue until Jesus comes back to take His children back to heaven with Him.

Knowing that the church has not done a very good job at fulfilling the mission tasked by our Master, Meynell has written this book to help the church get back on track again. Because this book is published in England, and the author being English, one might not be familiar with the publisher nor the author. As well, the spelling of words reflects British English rather than American English. One author we are familiar with and who worked alongside Meynell was John Stott.

Although designed for preachers, this book is helpful for the layperson as well. The author does not use complicated theological terminology, nor try to convince the reader of a particular systematic theology. Instead, the author expects that the reader believes the Bible and will read it. The book is divided into four sections. The first section deals with the Gospels and the book of Acts. Because Jesus was such a

masterful story teller, Meynell spends a big section on the parables. The third section focuses on the letters of the New Testament. Last, but not least, the final section deals with the book of Revelation. After his concluding remarks, the author includes four appendices to help those who need some further helps with several topics.

I enjoyed reading this book. It is not a heavy, doctrinal piece that one has to wade through. There are many other books that go into more depth and have lots of well-known references quoted throughout, but this book does fill a niche, and therefore I highly recommend it for your library.

Reviewer

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