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Kostenberger's "Handbook on Hebrews through Revelation" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Köstenberger, A. J. (2020). *Handbook on Hebrews through Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic. 286 pp. \$34.99. ISBN 9781540960184.

Andreas Köstenberger's *Handbook on Hebrews through Revelation* is part of Baker Academic's three-volume series of New Testament handbooks, edited by Benjamin Gladd. The series seeks to bridge the gap between introduction and commentary, and Köstenberger's *Handbook* achieves this admirably. With the knowledge of a scholar and the skill of a teacher, Köstenberger examines each of the general epistles and Revelation at a level deeper than the average New Testament introduction but more succinct than most exegetical commentaries. This volume is informed by biblical scholarship and driven by the biblical text itself, presented in a manner that lends itself to ready reference.

This *Handbook* examines the books in the order of the English Bible, with a chapter devoted to each book. Second and Third John, however, being short and sharing an implied author, are combined into one chapter. Each chapter provides an introduction examining the author, date, genre, audience, occasion, structure, and central message of the book being studied. Köstenberger then walks through each book by section, digging into the details of what each book says and how it says it. Each chapter ends with a bibliography for that biblical book, divided into (1) commentaries and (2) articles, essays, and monographs.

The *Handbook* features charts and diagrams, as well as clear headings and running heads, facilitating easy navigation. Rooted in the text, this work focuses on main ideas with more nuanced or complicated matters relegated to footnotes. Köstenberger minimizes use of jargon, defining potentially unfamiliar terms within the flow of the writing. He uses Greek terms only where they are helpful and transliterates them to accommodate biblical students at any level. This *Handbook* also includes Scripture and subject indexes, increasing its value as a reference work.

Ideal for sermon or lesson preparation, as well as enhancing personal Bible study, this work is a valuable resource for any library serving pastors and laity. Undergraduate students would find this useful for content-rich assignments on Hebrews through Revelation. Graduate students and above should be able to write on the level of this *Handbook* but may find Köstenberger's work to be a stimulating conversation partner in the process of interpretation.

Reviewer

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