



Volume 65 | Issue 1

Article 20

5-23-2022

Bazyn's "Creation groans on" (book review)

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Recommended Citation

Ellis, Alec K. (2022) "Bazyn's "Creation groans on" (book review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 65: Iss. 1, Article 20.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol65/iss1/20>

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Book Review



Bazyn, K. (2021). *Creation groans on*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers. 146 pp. \$17.00. ISBN 9781725294639

Ken Bazyn is the current editor of the Religious Book Club, the author of numerous poetry book and other topics such as his reflection of sin in *The Seven Perennial Sins and Their Offspring*. In this collection of 59 poems, he evokes the beauty and awe of nature that is all around us. Each poem is also accompanied by a black-and-white photograph taken by the author. The introduction is an insight into where our rationalistic culture is, at least perceived by Bazyn, because it acts an apologetic for poetry and appreciation for nature. He walks the reader through a broad overview of the many saints and mystics in history who discovered that the natural world can teach us something about the divine. He points us to Job who said, “But ask the animals, and they will teach you” (Job 12:7a, NIV). And with that quote he offers to the reader his poetry as just that.

The book is well-presented and the images add an extra layer to the text. Poems such as the eponymous “Creation Groans On” and “God Wants Only Lambs” are overtly religious, but many are not. The themes, imagery, and language run the gamut of the human experience with the natural world. But it is in the specific Christian themes that this books shines. A perusal of nature poetry books at any bookstore will reveal how rare this is to find on the shelf. The book can be recommended to any who wish to be transported to and inspired by the wonders of Creation.

Reviewer

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