



Volume 65 | Issue 1

Article 27

5-23-2022

Porter and Fays' "Luke-Acts in modern interpretation" (book review)

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Recommended Citation

Keesing, Karen (2022) "Porter and Fays' "Luke-Acts in modern interpretation" (book review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 65: Iss. 1, Article 27.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol65/iss1/27>

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Book Review



Porter, S. E. & Fay, R. C (Eds.) (2021). *Luke-Acts in modern interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic. 392 pp. \$31.99 ISBN 9780825445699

Editors Porter and Fay curated essays by ten different contributors who have chosen and researched prominent, influential scholars specializing in the New Testament within Luke-Acts in Modern Interpretation. This work is part of the Milestones in New Testament Scholarship (MNTS) series. Porter and Fay stated that the “MNTS will often shine a light on significant scholars who have been overlooked, while also giving space to those whose names are nearly synonymous with the books they studied” (p. 9). The book is a well-rounded compilation of biographical essays on Lukan Theologians, like F. F. Bruce, Martin Dibelius, and Loveday C. A. Alexander, to name a few.

The book starts with a brief introduction describing the series, a short preface, and a list of the contributing authors. Then the book gets into a more formal introduction written by the editors, which logically maps out the rest of the information. The strength of this book is dedicated to showcasing two centuries worth of Lukan scholarship running the gamut of conservative to avant-garde points of view and the varied cultural environments which affected 19th and 20th-century theologians and their interpretation of New Testament scholarship. The book concludes with the editors’ comments and Scripture and author indexes.

This book was written for an academic audience and gave refreshing biographical and cultural insights into the lives of the scholars that have been carefully and thoroughly researched. Each essay tells the life story of each theologian and creates a history and a timeline of New Testament studies. Porter and Fay noted that “the varied figures within this volume will reflect both continuity and discontinuity within Lukan scholarship” (p. 11). This book cannot be pigeonholed into showcasing one simple, cohesive point of view on Lukan theologians, and that is what Porter and Fay are aiming for. The editors want readers to know that “each of these scholars endeavored to interpret Lukan literature for their day and age” (p.14). With that being said, this book is recommended for academic settings.

Reviewer

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