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Duesing's "Adoniram Judson: A Bicentennial Appreciation of the Pioneer American Missionary" (Book Review)

Robert L. Burgess

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

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Book Reviews



Adoniram Judson: A Bicentennial Appreciation of the Pioneer American Missionary,

edited by Jason G. Duesing, Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2012.

184 pp. \$22.00. ISBN 9781433677656

*Reviewed by Robert L. Burgess, Digital Resources Librarian,
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX*

Without doubt one of the most significant people in the history of protestant Christianity is Adoniram Judson. He was the very first overseas American missionary. This book reflects on his significance to American missions as well as his evangelistic efforts. It contains topics on various parts of his life written by church historians and mission professors from various Southern Baptist Convention seminaries. These professors have spent several years in the field of evangelical, conservative theology. This book was the last book in the series, entitled “Studies in Baptist Life and Thought.” The volume is edited by Jason Duesing. At the time of publication, Duesing was vice president for strategic initiatives and a professor of historical theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Currently, he serves as provost at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The topics covered in this book include Judson’s conversion, call to missions, conviction of baptism, his ministry, and the lives of his three wives. This book is not a biography of Judson, but contains engaging essays on his life. The essays document his successes, failures, depression, and significance of his ministry. This book will challenge the reader to have a global mindset of Christianity.

This book would be of interest to anyone with an interest in missions and evangelism. It could also help form a philosophy of missions for seminary students. The book does cover at length Judson’s change of beliefs regarding the necessity of believer’s baptism once he entered the mission field. Even though the book has a very strong Baptist stance on baptism, members of other evangelical protestant denominations will still find the book informative and relevant.

The book is very clearly written. Even though the book includes different voices that focus on various topics, the authors are united in their purpose and goals. This book provides a fresh look into the life of Judson and will be valued by Baptist scholars for years to come.