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Beal's "First & Second Kings: Apollos Old Testament Commentary" (Book Review)

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of doing theology. It continues with a discussion of the Tanakh as the foundation of Hebraic and Christian teaching. Part two focuses on the people of God as an Abrahamic family and discusses the implications of the fact that Christianity really began with Abraham. Part three introduces readers to the person of God in decidedly Hebraic terms. Part four explores life with God through worship, prayer, repentance, and wrestling with God. The final part looks to the future, gently binding old wounds between church and synagogue and proposing that Christians and Jews can benefit from mutual understanding. It also proposes that readers can flourish and uphold society through the study of scripture. The jewel of this book is its attention to rabbinical writings as legitimate commentary on the scriptures.

Readable but scholarly, this book may serve as a part of the curriculum for theology students or as reference material for theological research. It includes review questions at the end of each chapter and a generous bibliography. Satisfyingly theological, it weaves around doctrinal minutia to help all Christians explore their Hebraic heritage.

First & Second Kings: Apollos Old Testament Commentary,

by Lissa M. Wray Beal, Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014. 615 pp. \$45.00.
ISBN 978-0-8308-2509-7

*Reviewed by Sean J. McNulty, Director of Library Services,
Arizona Christian University, Phoenix, AZ*

This lengthy tome is part of the Apollos Old Testament Commentary series. The target audience of the this commentary, like the rest of the series, is preachers, teachers and students of the Bible. That audience will find this work very helpful, insightful, and enjoyable to read. It is comprehensive in its treatment of the biblical text. The commentary begins with an introduction which covers such issues as date, authorship, theology, and critical issues of contemporary scholarship. Beal discusses the commonly held scholarly view regarding the influence of Deuteronomy on 1 and 2 Kings, and the chronological problems of Kings directing readers to the important works on this issue.

Beal deals with each biblical chapter as a unit for the most part. Sometimes she finds it necessary to cover more than one chapter in a unit. Each chapter or unit is made up of five sections. The first is a fresh new translation of the biblical text that can be compared with other translations. Then a section on notes follows. The scholar will find them useful since they deal with grammar and textual variants between the Masoretic, the Septuagint, and other ancient translations. Then follows a section on form and structure. This section includes an analysis of the text for rhetorical

devices and sources that the biblical passage relied on. Next is a comment section which interprets the text paragraph by paragraph relating it to its ancient Near Eastern context and its relationship to other biblical texts. Finally, there is a section entitled explanation which discusses the theological message of the chapter or unit and relates the respective passage under consideration to the New Testament and the church. This last section is useful to the pastor who desires to apply Kings to the local church. Beal interacts with current scholarship citing scholarly literature throughout the commentary. The commentary has an extensive bibliography of 39 pages, citing works that have been published as recent as 2013. The scholar will find this bibliography very useful for further research. This is a commentary every college and seminary library should have in its collection.

First Peter: Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament,
by Greg W. Forbes. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2014. 229 pp. \$24.99;
ISBN 9781433676024

Reviewed by Michael Bain, Director of Library Resources, Point University, West Point, GA

A “General Introduction to the Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament Series” affirms this is not a traditional commentary, and it is not. The intent is to stand between the Greek text (UBS⁵) and a commentary. The book fulfills that intent.

The table of contents covers five pages and includes the forty-two topics “For Further Study.” The book concludes with an exegetical outline, a grammar index, and a scripture index. The grammar index is particularly helpful as a source of examples of grammatical constructions.

Prefatory materials include discussion of authorship, historical setting, date, outline, and recommended commentaries. Forbes gives considerable and deserved attention to “The Use of the Imperative in 1 Peter” and “Imperative Participles in 1 Peter.” The style and contents of the Greek of 1 Peter make these treatments obligatory and Forbes makes numerous references to this material throughout the text.

Each paragraph of the Greek text is treated with a structural analysis which is almost as detailed as a formal sentence diagram. Each Greek phrase receives discussion including textual variants, vocabulary, parsing of significant verbs, and grammatical analysis. Treatment includes reference to translations of numerous English versions, views of commentators, and where appropriate, various options for how to render a grammatically challenging word or phrase. Forbes also offers bibliographies on topics for further study and homiletical suggestions.