

# INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF BIBLICAL STUDIES

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The following abstracts or reviews have been published in vol. 55:2008/09

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## 140 Martin Rösel, Bibelkunde des Alten Testaments

This introductory textbook on the Old Testament (eighth, revised edition), although meant for the beginning student of theology, is nevertheless sophisticated. Two sections of about equal length deal with (1) all the books included in the canonical Old Testament (including the deuterocanonical or apocryphal literature), and (2) major themes such as the history of Israel, creation, exodus and conquest, the names of God, the types of lyrics found in the book of Psalms, women, theodicy, and the like. Highly recommended to German students. (One point of criticism, however: in the section on the Decalogue, pp. 128–130, the author states that the original version of this text is the one included in Exod 20; the article by F.L. Hossfeld, listed in the bibliography on p. 130 argues, quite convincingly, that the version given in Deut 5 is the older text.) – Glossary, diagrams, illustrations.

*Neukirchener Verlag, Neukirchen-Vluyn (2008) X/1–222 (BL)*

## 272 Lothar Perlitt, Deuteronomium

The present fascicle of Perlitt's magisterial commentary on Deut 1–12 presents his notes on the rest of Deut 4:1–40 (begun p. 279 of the previous fascicle) plus the complete notes on Deut 4:41–43 and 4:44–49. For the interpretation of these chapters, H. Spieckermann is Perlitt's foremost dialogue partner. – the biblical guild is eagerly awaiting the rest of this fine and judicious commentary that presents the "Göttingen approach" to Deuteronomy.

*Biblischer Kommentar Altes Testament 5,5; Neukirchener Verlag, Neukirchen-Vluyn (2008) 321–400 (BL)*

## 383 Thomas Willi, Chronik. 1. Teilband: 1 Chronik 1,1–10,14

This commentary – the only up-to-date one on Chronicles in German – appeared first in fascicles that have begun to be published in 1991. The attentive reader may detect the commentator's increasing attention to 'intertextuality' with other biblical books, especially the Psalms. Willi consistently interacts with international scholarship, represented in the first place by Sarah Japhet, Gary Knoppers, and S. Zalewski. It is to be hoped that Willi continues his valuable commentary, bringing it to completion in Germany's most prestigious series (and eventually offering the introductory material that the author has chosen to write after having done the exegetical job).

*Biblischer Kommentar Altes Testament 24.1; Neukirchener Verlag, Neukirchen-Vluyn (2009) VIII/1–335 (BL)*

## 396 Klaus-Dietrich Schunck, Nehemia

This installment of Schunck's commentary on the book of Nehemiah includes the continuation of the notes on Neh 11:3–36; complete notes on Neh 12:1–26; 12:27–43; 12:44–13:3; and most of the notes on Neh 13:4–31. All of these passages, while reflecting the presence of a Nehemiah Memoir, are heavily marked by redactional expansions and modifications. All of Neh 12:44–13:3 is secondary. – May the author continue his fine exegetical work and complete a commentary that was begun in 1998.

*Biblischer Kommentar Altes Testament 23,2/5; Neukirchener Verlag, Neukirchen-Vluyn (2008) 321–400 (BL)*

434 Hans-Jürgen Hermisson, Deuterjesaja [Lieferung 13]

As it happens when a commentary is issued in individual fascicles, one does not always get complete chapters or sections. In the present case, we are offered the rest of the exegesis of Isa 49:14–26 + 50:1–3; the complete exegesis of Isa 50:4–11 (pp. 97–150); and the beginning of the commentary on Isa 51:1–8. The commentary includes an interesting note on a possible reference to a fiery hell (possibly echoing Egyptian notions, pp. 138–139). – The author also writes that he no longer attributes Isa 48:17–19 to the “immediate-expectation” layer (vol. 1, p. 139 of the present commentary).

*Biblischer Kommentar Altes Testament XI.13; Neukirchener Verlag, Neukirchen-Vluyn (2008) 81–160 (BL)*

614 Peter Riede, “Die auf JHWH vertrauen, sind wie der Berg Zion, der nicht ins Wanken gerät” (Psalm 125,1). Zur Verbindung von Anthropologie und Kosmologie in Psalm 125

This is a thorough exegetical study of Ps 125. The author highlights the notion of stability, ascribed both to Mount Zion and the believer.

*Michaela Bauks et al. (eds.), Was ist der Mensch, dass du seiner gedenkst (Ps 8,5). Aspekte einer theologischen Anthropologie; Neukirchener Verlag, Neukirchen-Vluyn (2008) 421–434*

797 François Bovon, Das Evangelium nach Lukas. 4. Teilband: Lk 19,28–24,53

This is the fourth and concluding instalment of Bovon’s magisterial commentary on the gospel of Luke, presented in Peter Strauss’s German translation of the French manuscript. From volume to volume one could see how during the two decades of work on his commentary, Bovon’s interest in ‘reception history’ or the history of interpretation has increased. Thus each section of the commentary ends with several pages in which a certain passage was understood or responded to from patristic times onwards (generally until the theology of Karl Barth). At the end of the volume, there are indexes that cover all four volumes: passages from Luke and Acts, Greek words, subjects.

*Evangelisch-katholischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament III.4; Neukirchener Verlag, Neukirchen-Vluyn (2009) VIII/1–670*

854 Hans Weder, Ursprung im Unvordenklichen. Eine theologische Auslegung des Johannesprologs

John 1:1–18 uses an early-Christian liturgical hymn that has been reworked and adapted for its present location in the gospel of John. Weder offers an interpretation both of the (reconstructed) hymn and the present biblical text. The message of the Logos remains concealed in the prologue, but the message is then given in the course of the subsequent narration.

*BThSt 70; Neukirchener Verlag, Neukirchen-Vluyn (2008) 1–156*

1009 Peter Müller (ed.), Kolosser-Studien

Nine papers deal with as many subjects relating to Colossians. The subjects dealt with include: the political background of the prologue (A. Standhartinger), the hymn Col 1:15–20 (J. Sánchez Bosch), the portrait of the apostle in Col 1:21–2:5 (Z. Geréb), social and political metaphors (B. Heininger), world view and group-related notions of space (L. Bormann), the household codes in Colossians and Ephesians (D. Hellholm), the epilogue as key to Colossians (G. Röhser), from Colossians to Ephesians (G. Sellin), the problem of the Pauline ‘school’ (P. Müller). Several passages – Col 1:15–20; 3:11 – remain difficult to understand and resist the effort of interpretation.

*BThSt 103; Neukirchener Verlag, Neukirchen-Vluyn (2009) VIII/1–197 (BL)*

1292 Thomas Wagner (ed.), Neues Testament und antike Kultur. Bd. 5: Texte und Urkunden

This is an anthology of 256 ancient documents (in German translation) that are relevant for New Testament interpretation. Ancient papyri figure along with Josephus, Vergil, Plato, Cicero, and the Mishnah. Very useful for students and scholars.

*Neukirchener Verlag, Neukirchen-Vluyn (2008) IX/1–262*

1753 Ulrich Wilckens, *Theologie des Neuen Testaments. Band II: Die Theologie des Neuen Testaments als Grundlage kirchlicher Lehre. Teillband 2: Der Aufbau*

The author offers the following chapters as part of what are still the prolegomena of this major treatise of New Testament theology: the gospel and its messengers; baptism and the new life thereby initiated (including a sub-chapter on sexuality); the Eucharistic meal, center of ecclesiastical life; the essence of the church; the church in the history of salvation; the meaning of the law for Christians; how the church remains faithful to the truth of the gospel (especially through apostles and office holders); prayer and praise as central to Christian life; creation, state and world; eschatology and Last Judgment; the triune God. Each section ends with a prayer.

*Neukirchener Verlag, Neukirchen-Vluyn (2009) XVIII/1–364 (BL)*

1807 Jens Adams, *Paulus und die Versöhnung aller. Eine Studie zum paulinischen Heilsuniversalismus*

Paul est-il universaliste ou particulariste en ce qui concerne le salut des hommes? L'auteur de cette thèse (Université de Tübingen, faculté de théologie protestante) offre un sommaire de la recherche (pp. 7–82) et une série d'études exégétiques, surtout des textes de l'épître aux Romains (Rom 1,16–17; 3,21–26; 4,1–25; 5,12–21; 8,28–30; 11,32), pour en conclure que Paul croit effectivement au salut de toute l'humanité. Pourtant, Paul insiste sur le fait que le salut vient uniquement du Christ, et que sans le Christ il n'y a pas de salut. *Extra Christum nulla salus*.

*Neukirchener Verlag, Neukirchen-Vluyn (2009) X/1–469 (BL)*