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HUMANITIES

Religion

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The following review appeared in the March 2012 issue of CHOICE:

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Ruether, Rosemary Radford. **Women and redemption: a theological history.** 2nd ed. Fortress, 2012. 332p bibl index
afp ISBN 9780800698164 pbk, \$39.00

Feminist theologian Ruether (Claremont Graduate Univ. and School of Theology) here offers an updated history of women and theology, ranging from the time of Jesus to coverage of indigenous feminists. She connects the contemporary work of theologians like Ada-Maria Isasi-Diaz and Mary Daly to 19th-century suffragists, the medieval Hildegard of Bingen, and the biblical Phoebe. In this helpful, updated introduction to feminist Christian theology (1st ed., CH, Jan'99, 36-2718), Ruether balances general history with particular personalities. Chapters conclude with thought-provoking research questions. Rather than being a work of feminist theology trying to rescue the role of women in Western history, this is a march through Christian history with an eye to women's role in making theology. Ruether also parses the relationship between secular and religious feminism in a way that puts them in conversation. The addition of a ninth chapter highlights the contributions of postcolonialism in feminist theology. The only hesitations with this book concern the very nature of feminist theology. The "young" theologians in this book, born in the 1940s-50s, are now in their 60s and 70s. Ruether makes much of an emerging interest in ecology among feminists, but does not give adequate attention to the history of this phenomenon. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Lower- and upper-level undergraduates. --*K. A. Dugan, Northwestern University*