

The Bible in Review

The Old Testament and Related Topics

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David R. Bauer and Robert A. Traina, *Inductive Bible Study: A Comprehensive Guide to the Practice of Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: BakerAcademic (www.bakerpublishinggroup.com/bakeracademic.com), 2011. Pages, 446. Cloth, \$34.99.

Traina's inductive method of investigation consists of three steps: observation, interpretation, and appropriation. It encourages the reader to do what can be done in critical reading by oneself before turning to the biblical experts. However, this method should not be seen as an uncritical approach, for the reader is directed to employ the standard critical analyses in seeking to discover the meaning of the final—or canonical—form of the text. Standard critical methods also play a role in the interaction between the reader's preunderstandings, doctrinal creeds and commitments, and the witness of the biblical text itself. While this book is heavily theoretical, each aspect of the interpretive theory is carefully and thoroughly examined and then applied to the analysis of 2 Timothy 3:16-17. The method of inductive study is really meant for the lay reader, but this book itself is for serious students or scholars.

Walter Brueggemann, *The Practice of Prophetic Imagination: Preaching an Emancipating Word*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press (www.fortresspress.com), 2012. Pages, 176. Cloth, \$25.00.

The reflections in this book rest on the firm foundation of three words: imagination, prophetic, and preaching. In fact, these three words have been the backbone of much of Brueggemann's writing through the years. He has woven the theme of religious imagination into many of his books; he has championed the power of this imagination as found in the writings of the biblical prophets; and he has recognized and written about the responsibility of the preacher to enflame today's church with that same prophetic imagination. Brueggemann never flinches from the ever-present demands of the biblical message, not because he is prophetic but

because the message is. This study will inspire and challenge the scholarly and the non-scholarly alike.

The Catholic Children's Bible. Winona, MN: St. Mary's Press (www.smp.org), 2013. Pages, 2000. Paper, \$27.95.

This is not a collection of favorite Bible stories, but a complete Bible, the Good News Translation. Still, many of the well-known Bible stories are highlighted and given added attention when they appear in the text. For example, in Exodus 12 the feast of Passover is further explained. Here the children are invited to think of times when they have been saved, and then they are encouraged to act out the biblical scene. The pages are well laid out with large print and adequate spacing. Age-appropriate pictures are placed throughout the book. Colored tabs help to locate the various biblical books. In lieu of footnotes an asterisk appears after some verses, indicating that more information can be found in the Appendix at the end of the book. There one also finds a Bible Time Line, helpful maps, and aspects of Catholic culture such as the list of corporal and spiritual works of mercy, basic prayers, an explanation of the rosary, and a list of biblical passages for "special times." This is a fine resource for children.

John J. Collins, *Joel, Obadiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.* New Collegeville Bible Commentary. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press (www.litpress.org), 2012. Pages, 149. Paper, \$6.95.

John Collins's exceptional knowledge of apocalyptic thinking and writing makes him eminently qualified to discuss the books gathered in this volume. They are often referred to as "minor prophets" because of their length, not because of their lack of importance. In the Introduction he writes for each of the books Collins places the book within its respective historical context, thus highlighting its religious significance for that time. However, he also relates its messages to other prophetic writings and draws out its contemporary implications as well. Collins carefully uncovers the messianic hopes expressed by these prophets, thus preparing the way for a later Christian interpretation. As with all volumes in this series, the biblical text is taken from the NABRE. Questions for review and discussion are found at the end of the book.

Miguel A. De La Torre, *Genesis.* Belief: A Theological Commentary on the Bible. Louisville: Westminster John Knox (www.wjkbooks.com), 2011. Pages, 380. Cloth, \$35.00.

The volumes in this commentary series are written by scholars from theological disciplines other than biblical studies. De La Torre is professor of Social Ethics and Latino/a Studies. It is through this lens that he reads the book of Genesis and then uses the biblical message he uncovers as a source for his own liberationist ethical reflection. Though he does employ some of the critical tools of biblical scholarship, his work is more an exercise in hermeneutics than it is exegetical. Throughout the book De La Torre steps away from the commentary briefly and treats various