

The Nature of New Testament Theology: Essays in Honour of Robert Morgan
Christopher Rowland & Christopher Tuckett, eds.
Oxford: Blackwell, 2006, 1-4051-1174-7, £19.99, xix + 314 pb

This fitting tribute to Robert Morgan traces 'both the descriptive and existential (in the non-technical sense of that word) approaches to what is called New Testament Theology' (p. xii). The 'A list' range of contributors to the collection makes for not only stimulating but also imaginative and stunning reading.

Following Rowan Williams's foreword, selected treasures include John Barton's look at 'Biblical Theology: An Old Testament Perspective' and Adela Yarbro Collins view on 'Apocalypticism and New Testament Theology'. Philip Esler introduces 'New Testament Interpretation as Interpersonal Communion: The Case for Socio-Theological Hermeneutics' and Ulrich Luz considers 'The Contribution of Reception History to a Theology of the New Testament'. Gerd Theissen outlines his 'Theory of Primitive Christian Religion and New Testament Theology: An Evolutionary Essay' and Heikki Räisänen works 'Towards an Alternative New Testament Theology: "Individual Eschatology" as an Example'. Christopher Rowland and Zoe Bennet factor in praxis in their essay 'Action is the Life of All: New Testament Theology and Practical Theology' and Frances Young explores 'The Trinity and the New Testament'.

The essays are not themed, but rather presented alphabetically according to the author's surnames. This serves to ensure that the sheer diversity of perspectives on 'New Testament Theology' presented here are not compromised by a strait-jacket typology, nor indeed are subject/labour divisions promoted between more biblical-studies orientated and more theologically orientated positions. This volume is a must-have on any student or scholar's shelf.

Louise Lawrence

Neues Testament und Antike Kultur. IV. Karten Abbildungen Register

Kurt Erlemann, Karl Leo Noethlichs, Klaus Scherberich & Jürgen Zangenberg, eds.
Neukirchen-Vluyn: Neukirchener, 2006, 3-7887-2039-5, €29.90, 207 pb

This book rounds out the previous three volumes of this excellent series. (A fifth volume, of primary texts, is also in preparation.) The book contains 69 pages of black-and-white photographs, maps and diagrams, 17 pages of abbreviations, just under 100 pages of indexes, biographical details of the dozens of contributors to the series, and a few *corrigenda* to the previous volumes.

The diagrams range from standard ones, such as the Stegemann's social pyramid, to specially commissioned ones, such as the maps of Judaea and its neighbours at various stages of the first centuries BCE and CE. A generally successful attempt has been made to render the photographs and maps legible despite the limitations of the small format and the standard printing method (there are no plates). One exception is the over-ambitious (and incorrectly titled) single-page map of all the provinces and major cities of the Roman Empire. All the material in the book is helpful and interesting. It is not of great use without the previous volumes, but anyone who has bought any of those will also want this one.

Peter Oakes