

Second, what safeguards are there to keep the canon principle from becoming a subjective instrument by which the scholar superimposes his own interpretation upon the text? It seems to this reviewer that in a great many cases insufficient information is available to decide why a given pericope is found in its present position. Redactional judgments at best rely on inference; hence, in the final analysis, many of Childs's specific proposals appear dependent upon his own reading of the final form.

Also, we query still further: What authoritative role did the pre-canonical materials play before they reached final form? These earlier stages were "regarded as canonical," Childs admits, but only in the final form "in which the normative history has reached an end" can the "full effect of this revelatory history" be perceived (p. 76). The fixed canon hence exercises a "critical norm" (*ibid.*) over the way earlier stages are hermeneutically to be read. Assessment of earlier canonical stages is difficult no matter whatever the method, but does not Childs's canon principle further widen the chasm between us and the precanonical period? While the role of the final form of the text has been neglected in critical scholarship, Childs's emphasis may simply swing the pendulum in the opposite direction. Balance between both historical and religious dimensions seems desirable, but such balance is not achieved at the expense of one over the other.

Despite these misgivings, this reviewer finds Childs's work to be impressive and indispensable for further exegetical work. He has charted a new path and has challenged scholarship to follow. Undoubtedly he will be with us for some time to come.

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Conybeare, F. C., and Stock, St. George. *A Grammar of Septuagint Greek*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1980. [73 pp.], \$5.95.

In 1905, Ginn & Co. of Boston published the joint work of Conybeare and Stock, *Selections from the Septuagint*. This original work was comprised of three parts: (1) an introduction to the LXX, (2) a grammar of LXX Greek, and (3) selected readings from the text of the LXX. Of these three sections, the analysis of LXX grammar was the most important contribution.

Because this work has been out of print for some time, yet is frequently referred to in scholarly discussion, and inasmuch as no adequate replacement has as yet been forthcoming, Zondervan Publishing House has issued

a reprint of pp. 25-100 of Conybeare and Stock's original work, which contains their treatment of LXX grammar.

The book is divided into the two major divisions familiar to all Greek students—Accidence and Syntax. Under Accidence, changes in classical usage are noted that have been passed on and can be seen in the Greek NT. Also noted are changes in classical usage that appear in the LXX—but are not seen in the NT.

Under Syntax, besides examples of evolutionary changes in the Greek language that appear in the LXX—e.g., the decline of the participle as seen by its misuse—, scores of examples of the influence of the Hebrew language on LXX Greek are noted. As one would expect, many of these are seen in NT Greek.

The student of NT Greek will appreciate the work of Conybeare and Stock as to how and at what points the Greek of the LXX has influenced the NT, and will also value the contribution of this small grammar when moving from reading the NT to reading the OT in the Greek language. Without the insights contained in this work, many of the forms in the LXX would appear foreign and would prove difficult to understand.

Zondervan is to be congratulated for having the foresight to make this grammar available in its new form.

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The Expositor's Bible Commentary. Frank E. Gaebelin, gen. ed. 12 vols. Vol. 9: *John-Acts* (*John* by Merrill C. Tenney, *The Acts of the Apostles* by Richard N. Longenecker). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1981. xvi + 573 pp. \$19.95.

The preface in vol. 9 of *The Expositor's Bible Commentary* states the following aims and presuppositions of the editorial staff and the writers: (1) to present a "new and comprehensive commentary" of the Bible that is written "by expositors for expositors"; (2) to take advantage of the resources of contemporary evangelical scholarship in producing a new reference tool for understanding the Scriptures; (3) to establish the meaning of the text at the time and in the context of its writing; and (4) to present a work that is readable, yet scholarly. The presuppositions of those who produced this work are "the divine inspiration, complete trustworthiness, and full authority of the Bible." They are committed "to the supernatural Christianity set forth in the inspired Word" (p. vii).

The expositions of *The Gospel of John* and *The Acts of the Apostles* are preceded by (1) an "Introduction" that deals with the background of the book, authorship, date, literary form and structure, etc.; (2) a selected