

Whitcomb, John C., and Donald B. DeYong. *The Moon: Its Creation, Form and Significance*. Winona Lake, Indiana: BMH Books, 1978. 180 pp. \$7.95.

Both the publishers and the authors deserve commendation for producing an extraordinarily attractive, well laid out and well illustrated volume (there are 29 color and 24 black-and-white illustrations).

Readers who have been accustomed to thinking of the moon as an inactive "dead" object will be surprised at the extensive evidence for present geologic activity on the moon that is summarized in chap. 5. Two chapters (2 and 3) are given to a summary and discussion of various explanations for the origin of the moon. The chapter on distinctive features of the moon (5) provides impressive evidence for purposeful design of the Earth-Moon system. Moon worship is treated briefly in Appendix II.

Technical concepts and terminology are explained so as not to be a barrier to a reader who does not have a scientific background. Extensive references are provided for the convenience of readers who wish to investigate more deeply any of the topics that are presented.

While *The Moon* is an excellent source of scientific information, its major thrust is theological. Pages 56-68 contain an excellent set of references on creationism, catastrophism, and critique of evolutionary models. The first appearance of sun, moon, and stars for a Creation-Week observer on the surface of planet Earth is placed by conservative interpretation of Gen 1:14-19 within the fourth day of a literal week. There is division among conservative interpreters as to whether Moses additionally specified only that the extra-terrestrial luminaries were also brought into existence by the God whose activities he is describing, or that furthermore these luminaries were created *ex nihilo* on Day Four. *The Moon* is dedicated to a defense and explication of the latter of these views. Individuals who favor the former and less restrictive of these views would appeal to the "language of appearance" principle of interpretation that is ably presented by Whitcomb and DeYoung on pp. 66-67.

In their efforts to provide evidence for a recent creation of the universe beyond that which is derived from the Hebrew-Christian Scriptures, the authors present highly questionable discussions of geomagnetism and radiometric dating. The discussion of geomagnetism (pp. 59-61) assumes that the sequences of reversed magnetization which characterize both igneous and sedimentary features throughout the world have been incorrectly interpreted to indicate a reversed geomagnetic field at the times when the reversely magnetized portions were formed. This discussion also ignores the extensive paleomagnetic intensity data which indicate that the geomagnetic field has exhibited both increase and subsequent decrease over the past 4000 years.

In the opinion of this reviewer, the best suggestion for harmonizing radioactive sequence data with the cosmological viewpoint of the authors is

that which is expressed on p. 102—a “recent creation . . . with built-in internal complexity.” Their discussion of radiometric dating does not give appropriate recognition of the integrity or the scientific carefulness that characterizes the great majority of the individuals who develop radiometric data. It gives a grossly inadequate and confusing presentation of the natural processes by which radiometric “clocks” may be “reset.” Table IV-4 would require extensive and major revision to portray accurately the radiometric age data on the moon material. The suggestion that C-14 dating “will probably be credited with million—and billion—year ages” (p. 103) is implausible in view of the consideration that a mass of solid pure C-14 greater than the presently-known size of the entire universe would be required to extend the range of C-14 dating (of that mass) beyond two million years.

In preparing this review my intention is for it to serve as an aid to assist readers in obtaining the greatest benefit from *The Moon*, rather than as a faulting of the book.

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Zerwick, Max, and Grosvenor, Mary. *A Grammatical Analysis of the Greek New Testament*. Vol. 2. *Epistles-Apocalypse*. Rome: Biblical Institute Press, 1979. xxxvi, + pp. 457-778, + 15 pp. \$15.00.

This is the second and final volume of this title, the first covering the Gospels and Acts (published in 1974). The pagination for the main part of the book continues that which was begun in the first volume. The preface is written by Mary Grosvenor since Father Zerwick had died in 1975. All the preliminary material included in the first volume is also included in this one. So also are the paradigms of verbs at the end. The main part follows the same format as the first volume, and the description and evaluation of this section is the same as for that volume. See AUSS 13 (1975): 296 for the review of the first volume.

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