

Martin, R. A. *An Introduction to New Testament Greek*. Dillsboro, N.C.: Western North Carolina Press, 1978. vi + 205 pp. Paperback, \$6.95.

There are many Greek grammars already on the market, but new ones keep coming out. One reason for this is the dissatisfaction on the part of some concerning available grammars for one reason or another and the feeling that one can improve upon them. This grammar of R. A. Martin is, I believe, a definite improvement. Of course, one cannot really get a total feel of a grammar until one uses it; but as I examine this grammar I am impressed with its clarity and the obvious care with which it has been put together. It is evident that the author has a knack for teaching, and that he has the student in mind rather than his colleagues who may think that many of his explanations are not necessary.

Some helpful features are the treatment of syllabification, short lessons with good exercises, explanations of grammatical terms (even simple ones), Greek readings, ample illustrations of points made, listing of principal parts of commonly used verbs, good explanation of participles and their uses, exercises especially with the *mi* verbs to establish confidence in recognition of these forms, and an English-Greek Vocabulary in addition to the Greek-English Vocabulary. Many other helpful features enhance the book.

To further improve the volume, more readings could be added, infrequent forms could be eliminated (even though they may appear necessary to complete the conjugation), and the sequence of lessons could be improved (the contract verbs appear in Lesson 4).

As a whole this grammar is excellent. Students especially, but teachers also, will appreciate it.

Newbold College  
Bracknell, Berks., England

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Oliver, W. H. *Prophets and Millennialists: The Uses of Biblical Prophecy in England from the 1790s to the 1840s*. Auckland, New Zealand: Auckland University Press, 1978. 269 pp. \$15.00.

Primarily a social historian who has been diverted into the study of millennialism through his research into the life and teachings of Robert Owen, Oliver became increasingly aware of, and puzzled by, Owen's frequent use of millennial terminology. This prompted him to undertake a study of millennialism in England during the early nineteenth century in an attempt to discern exactly what Owen intended by his use of the vocabulary and symbolism of millennialism. The result is a well-researched monograph which helps clarify both the nature and the extent of millennial speculation in England during the half century following the outbreak of the French Revolution.

Oliver's thesis is that in these decades "the habit of looking at the world in a manner shaped by biblical prophecy was a normal and widespread activity" (p. 239). Consequently, he argues, the vocabulary, the imagery, and the symbolism of prophecy were employed not only in millennial speculation, but on behalf of a wide variety of political and social causes. This assertion is supported by an analysis of the millennial view of the wide spectrum of biblical expositors and social prophets. They range from John Henry Newman to Joanna Southcott and include such figures as George Stanley Faber, Edward Irving, Henry Drummond, William Cuninghame, Edward Bickersteth, John Ward, James Smith, and Robert Owen. Through this analysis Oliver is able to delineate clearly the widespread interest in prophetic and millennial speculation in England at the time.