

De Waard, Jan, and Smalley, William A. *A Translator's Handbook on the Book of Amos*. Stuttgart and New York: United Bible Societies, 1979. 274 pp. Paperback, \$2.50.

For several years the United Bible Societies has been publishing a series of translator's handbooks and guides for both the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures. As part of this series, this handbook is not intended solely as a guide for the translation of Amos, but also as an introduction to the translation of the Latter Prophets in general. (Likewise, the handbook on Ruth introduces translation of historical narrative, and the guide for selected Psalms provides information on the poetry of the Writings.)

The present volume begins with an introduction to Amos as a book and to the more general problems of translation in Amos. Included is a discussion of the geography involved, the literary styles, and the use of subheadings in a translation.

Next, there is a passage-by-passage and verse-by-verse guide to translating Amos. This makes up the greater part of this publication. Here great care is taken to do no more interpretation than absolutely necessary for the purpose of translation. This portion is about 170 pages, and the notes to it take up another 50 pages. (Inasmuch as these notes often contain the most important information, this handbook is best read with two bookmarks.) The RSV and TEV translations are placed in parallel throughout in order to illustrate translation under two models—formal and free. Other translations are occasionally quoted, when useful.

An appendix places emphasis on the chiasmic structures to be found in Amos, as well as on other structural elements. There are a glossary and an index. Unfortunately, there is no bibliography.

Before making use of this handbook, the reader must first understand the purpose of UBS in producing the series: (1) to distribute the Scripture portions where translations are available, and (2) to translate Scripture into languages where part or all of the Bible is unavailable. As the Bible is already available in most major languages, the target languages for translational work tend to be the local and tribal languages and dialects. A great deal of space in the handbook is dedicated to the special problems of these languages. Some of the discussion may be applied to the more widely known languages, such as the propriety of using poetry or prose, the available types of poetry, and the proper uses of the forms of 2d-person address. Other problems are solely those of local cultures, such as the translation of terms, concepts, climates, etc., that are foreign to the local receptor language and environment. This book, then, is an excellent aid for missionaries who are translating (or retranslating) the Latter Prophets for their congregations and adopted people.

There is also much value, however, for the reader who remains in a monolingual region dominated by a major world language (especially English). The translating guide is a verse-by-verse linguistic and textual commentary on Amos. Almost every feasible option for the translation of idioms and figures of speech is discussed, in terms of accuracy, credibility, and usefulness. The parallel use of the RSV and TEV for illustration is very handy.

The book is refreshingly committed to the MT. Some hypothetical variants are mentioned, but not recommended. The philosophy seems to be that if there is no textual evidence for a suggested variant, the variant would better be treated as commentary rather than as text.

The notes make an important contribution to the usefulness of this book. Not only do they round out the discussion of the text, but they also contain important references, thus becoming an excellent resource for the student who is beginning studies in Amos. The lack of a bibliography, however, is unfortunate, and the student must go to the section dealing with the particular text of interest in order to find the pertinent resources.

For those interested in chiasmic structures, the appendix not only outlines these with regard to the book of Amos itself, but also describes how chiasmic structures may be found in a piece of literature.

Finally, the fact that this handbook was designed for the purpose of translation into local receptor languages may be a great benefit for even those readers who are not involved in such projects. In emphasizing the problems of translation into a local receptor language, the discussions also confront the student with the distance which separates Amos from our own society. Indeed, far from being superfluous for the western student, this book helps such a student to see more fully the forcefulness of Amos; and it may bring, as well, the realization that various peoples of the third world may more readily be able to understand Amos than many a western student highly educated in the Hebrew language.

In closing, it should be mentioned that this handbook presupposes a basic knowledge of Hebrew and the availability of a good lexicon and grammar.

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Kantzer, Kenneth S., and Gundry, Stanley N., eds. *Perspectives on Evangelical Theology*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House, 1979. x + 289 pp. \$9.95.

Perspectives on Evangelical Theology is a selection of papers read at the Thirteenth Annual meeting of the Evangelical Theology Society. The papers deal with systematic, biblical, philosophical, and pastoral theology.