

professional theologians to maintain the ascendancy they enjoyed as council *periti*, the ecumenical ferment, the dialogues with humanists and Marxists, Vatican politics, dissident lay groups. All these and more are treated in the highly readable and swiftly moving style of the former Jesuit.

Hebblethwaite's volume is fair and balanced, and the amount of reading and research involved has clearly been enormous. Some will surely fault him on his interpretations, though few, I think, will question the facts. The volume's major weakness is that Hebblethwaite's identification of his sources is so haphazard. Only in half of the cases does he give the origin of his direct quotations. Still, the author is so well informed and so competent as a reporter—he was at one time the editor of the prestigious Jesuit periodical *The Month*—that even conservative readers will find his presentation informative.

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Jaroš, Karl. *Shechem: Eine archäologische und religionsgeschichtliche Studie mit besonderer Berücksichtigung von Jos 24*. Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis, Vol. 11. Freiburg (Schweiz): Universitätsverlag, 1976. 279 pp. 193 figs.

This is Jaroš's habilitation work at becoming Professor for OT at the Theologische Hochschule at Linz, Austria, in 1974. By tackling the history of Shechem, the author undertook a task complicated for two reasons: (1) After Jerusalem, Shechem was probably the most important city of Palestine and played an extremely significant role in biblical history, as is evidenced by the frequent mention of the city in the OT and extra-biblical sources, all of which he was forced to analyze, evaluate, and interpret; and (2) archaeological work has intermittently been carried out at Shechem over a period of more than sixty years, while the results of the numerous excavation campaigns were available to him only in either an incomplete or preliminary form. It must be said at the outset that the author has acquitted himself in an admirable way.

The first and longest chapter deals with the results of the archaeological exploration of Shechem. It started in 1913 when Ernst Sellin began excavations at the site of *Balaṭah*, where the remains of ancient Shechem had been discovered and correctly identified only ten years earlier. Although the German expedition which was resumed in 1926, after an interruption caused by World War I, made very important discoveries during the eight seasons of work from 1926-1934, most of its records were destroyed during World War II; therefore, only preliminary or in part sketchy reports are available for describing the excavation results. For the American excavations undertaken from 1957-1973 preliminary reports of ten seasons of work have appeared. In addition to these reports, two comprehensive treatments of the archaeological work carried out at Shechem until 1964 were published in 1965, one by G. E. Wright (director of six campaigns), *Shechem, the Biography of a Biblical City*, and the other by this reviewer, "Shechem, History and Excavations of a Palestinian City," *JEOL* 18 (1964): 284-306. These, however, do not treat the work done following the 1964 campaign.

Jaroš has made good use of all published material. He quotes, e.g., Wright's

book *Shechem* fifty-two times, and this reviewer's "Shechem" article forty-one times. He has also made serious and usually successful efforts to understand the results of the excavations and to use only the latest published views of the archaeologists as based on the interpretations of the available evidence. However, the reader should be aware of the fact that an outsider cannot have the insight into every detail of the complicated history of the ruins that were excavated under half a dozen directors over a period of sixty years. Therefore, Jaroš should not be blamed for having misrepresented the archaeological history of the city when the writers of the final publication of the Shechem explorations—when and if ever it will see the light of day—will look at things differently in some respects. One must certainly admit that the author has done a yeomanly work of exceptional merit on the basis of the archaeological materials available to him.

Jaroš's book contains a practically complete bibliography of the archaeological work carried out at Shechem until 1974 (pp. 163-166), but the following items, not available to the author when his study was written, must now be added: Robert G. Boling, "Excavations at Tananir 1968," *BASOR Supplemental Studies*, No. 21 (1975): 25-85; William G. Dever, "The MB II C Stratification in the Northwest Gate at Shechem," *BASOR* 216 (Dec. 1974): 31-52.

Jaroš presents first a brief history of the excavations. This is followed by a description of the architectural remains of Shechem and by a presentation of selected objects from the chalcolithic period down to the final destruction of the city toward the end of the 2d century B.C. His descriptions are usually clear and agree with the facts, as this reviewer can attest as having served as a staff member of the Shechem expedition for several seasons. Furthermore, the understanding of the author's discussions of the archaeological evidence is greatly facilitated by the lavish inclusion of nearly 200 illustrations, in the form of photographs, plans, and drawings.

However, a word of criticism is in order at this point. The pictures lack captions, a serious deficiency noticed when one uses the book. The "Picture Index" on pp. 185-189 presents merely the sources of origin for all pictures, but says nothing about their nature. As the reader follows the text and looks up the pictures referred to by numbers in the text, he can usually understand what the author wants to say, but he often feels that a caption would have been most helpful. E.g., the plan No. 6 (p. 194) shows the locations of "Fields I-IX and XIII-XIV," but there is no plan in the book that contains "Fields X-XII." The plans Nos. 7-11 (pp. 194-197) are practically useless because they lack explanatory captions. Most pictures have been reproduced from earlier publications without having been given supplementary information. The result is that the reader unacquainted with the material looks at many pictures with bewilderment and frustration. Since the publisher has enriched this publication so lavishly with pictures, it would have been a small additional expense to have captions and interpretative explanations added to them. They would then have been much more meaningful to the reader.

Another criticism pertains to the numbering system of the headings and subheadings of the text of chap. 1. On p. 26, e.g., the following subheading is found: "4.1.2.2.2.2. MB II B (ca. 1750-1650 v. Chr.)." Even the "Table of Contents" on pp. 9-10 fails to provide the answer to all the numerals, whose

significance can be ascertained only by following the headings and subheadings of chap. 1 from the beginning. It will then be discovered that the system of numerals means: 4 = "Results of the Archaeological Excavations"; 1 = "Architecture"; the first 2 = "Bronze Age"; the second 2 = "Middle Bronze Age"; the third 2 = "MB II"; and the last 2 = "MB II B." This system is so cumbersome that even the author never uses it anywhere in his book for cross references, but refers back by means of the book's page numbers. Therefore, one cannot see for what purpose this system was introduced in the first place.

Chaps. 2 and 3 deal with the exegesis of the passages mentioning Shechem in the OT—except Josh 24—and extra-biblical sources. Here again Jaroš shows himself well acquainted with the tremendous mass of books and articles that have been written on Shechem, and he treats the source materials and the opinions of other scholars with judicious and balanced expertise. What makes his study so valuable is the fact that the author takes the results of the archaeological work effectively into consideration wherever they shed light on his subject matter. Chap. 4 presents a summary of the contents of the studies of the preceding chapters. Chap. 5, the last chapter, is devoted to Josh 24. It must be said that with regard to this chapter there will probably be few scholars who will agree with the author's views. Although he acknowledges the fact that Josh 24 is considered by many scholars as "a historical source for a Shechem covenant of the twelve tribes," he emphatically maintains that it is not so (p. 139, n. 1). He only allows the possibility that "Joshua, the stone and the tree" mentioned in Josh 24:26 are historical (p. 150). In rejecting the thesis of Martin Noth and his followers, who believe in the existence of an Israelite amphictyony with Shechem as the center, the author is in good company, for many scholars have recently expressed themselves in a negative way with regard to this matter. But this does not mean that because the hypothesis of an amphictyony in early Israel cannot be maintained, therefore the whole story of Josh 24 must be rejected. There are other points of interpretation in the chapters dealing with the history of Shechem from literary sources where this reviewer does not share the author's views, but the space available for this review does not allow discussion of such differences of opinion.

The work seems to be comparatively free of errors. In reading the book the following mistakes were noticed: p. 60, the Ba'al figurine was not found in 1965, a year when no excavations were carried out, but in 1964; pp. 94-96 and 114 contain several typographical errors of Hebrew characters; p. 96, not the word *mtnym*, but rather the word *qtn* in I Kgs 13:10 should perhaps be translated "penis," according to Köhler-Baumgartner's *Lexicon* (p. 835); p. 100, Shechem is not mentioned in the "Ächtungstexte" published by K. Sethe, but only in those edited by G. Posener. Also, on p. 104, the Samaria ostrakon mentioning Shechem is No. 44, but Fig. 187 on p. 277, reproduced from D. Diringer's *Iscrizioni*, shows Nos. 43 and 44, two separate tax notes together, because the sherds, before anything was written on them, came from the same vessel; in the reproduction process No. 43 should have been detached from No. 44 since it has no bearing on the subject under discussion.