

appearance of the book of Revelation, see Naphtali Lewis and Meyer Reinhold, eds., *Roman Civilization*, vol. 2, *The Empire* [New York, 1955], pp. 279-280). Nevertheless, Maxwell's fair and pertinent discussion on pp. 210-212 must be given full recognition, as he indicates that for wills "Romans preferred the traditional hinged pair of wooden tablets coated with wax" and that in Roman history there were seven-sealed scrolls that were not wills (as well as those that were). In any event, the shade of difference between Maxwell and me on this matter is insignificant, and I would heartily concur with his conclusion that the "Bible tells us only what happened as each seal was broken. We are on surest ground when we limit ourselves to this" (p. 212).

The publication contains an extensive bibliography on pp. 542-551 (though various of the titles that are included seem to stray somewhat from the subject of the volume itself). And there are helpful topical and scriptural indexes on pp. 552-573.

In closing this review, I would like to reiterate that *God Cares*, volume 2, is truly a scholarly production, even though its popular style might lead a reader at first glance to consider the publication as only a popular narrative. Popular in style it indeed is, and Maxwell is a master artist in his use of the English language. But the book also contains an amazing wealth of carefully researched and well-documented information that, in my view, makes it also a very useful tool indeed. And moreover, Maxwell's goal of showing how "God cares" (a fundamental purpose of the book of Revelation itself) is achieved with heart-warming splendor. Finally, I must confess that I am both astonished and delighted that the publisher could make available such a large, attractive, and informative volume for such a modest price!

Andrews University

KENNETH A. STRAND

The NIV Study Bible: New International Version. Kenneth Barker, general editor. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing House, 1985. xxi + 1,950 + 157 + 16 pp. \$33.95.

Soon after the complete NIV was published in 1978, it became virtually the standard modern-speech translation of the Bible for evangelical Protestants. The appearance now of this massive study edition, after five years of hard work by a large team of conservative scholars, is sure to enhance the version's popularity even further.

The publisher's claim that the number of notes and helps is far greater than available in any other Study Bible may very well be correct. The nature

and method of these notes and helps are very clearly set out in the volume's Introduction. There are nearly 20,000 study notes explaining words and concepts, illuminating (theologically) difficult verses, drawing parallels between people and events, describing historical and textual contexts, and showing "how one passage sheds light on another." There is a cross-reference system (printed in the center margin between columns) with 82,000 entries, a concordance with 35,000 entries ("the largest ever bound together with an English Bible"), and numerous charts, maps, essays, and indices. The forty maps are first-rate and include sixteen in full color, produced by Carta of Jerusalem.

It is forthrightly announced that "doctrinally, the Study Bible reflects traditional evangelical theology"—meaning inerrantist, but not sectarian. Students of a less conservative persuasion should not, however, presume that the tone is obscurantist or unscholarly, though it is sometimes defensive. The notes generally reflect carefulness and learning. As an example of the tone, we may look at a part of the note to Jude 14:

"The quotation is from the Apocryphal [sic] book of Enoch, which purports to have been written by the Enoch of Ge[nesis] 5, but actually did not appear until the first century B.C. The book of Enoch was a well-respected writing in NT times. That it was not canonical does not mean that it contained no truth; nor does Jude's quotation of the book mean that he considered it inspired." The word *prophesied* in this verse is said to be "not in the sense of supernaturally revealing new truth, but merely in the sense of speaking things about the future that were already known."

Each section of the Bible (such as the Synoptic Gospels), as well as each Bible book, receives a concise introduction that includes an outline. Isogogical positions taken are predictably conservative. Thus, the internally claimed authorship of a book is accepted without question, but defended where necessary (e.g., Petrine authorship of 2 Peter, and—much less emphatically—Solomonic authorship of Ecclesiastes). But traditional attributions unsupported by scriptural attribution are questioned and even denied (e.g., Pauline authorship of Hebrews). At points where evangelicals differ doctrinally or exegetically (e.g., Rev. 20:2), the annotators evenhandedly set out more than one option of interpretation, though not necessarily all options.

This study Bible is available in both black- and red-letter editions, and the copy supplied to this reviewer was the latter. In deciding what words to print in red, the editors were guided by what the translators had ascribed to Jesus *within quotation marks*. Thus we find red print at Acts 20:35 and 1 Cor 11:24, 25, but not at 1 Cor 7:10. John 3:16-21 is attributed to Jesus, rather than to the Evangelist.

The typography and layout are legible and pleasing, the paper and binding strong and attractive. Bible students who favor the NIV will

undoubtedly find much to like in this edition, and they cannot help but learn a great deal from it.

Andrews University

ROBERT M. JOHNSTON

Young, Davis A. *Christianity and the Age of the Earth*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982. 188 pp. Paperback, \$7.95.

In his second book-length contribution on issues of science and Scripture, Davis A. Young addresses the question of the appropriate Christian stance regarding the age of the earth. The eleven chapters are divided into three unequal but fairly distinct parts.

Part One, "Church History and the Age of the Earth," traces some principal trends in the discussion, beginning with the Greek philosophers, and continuing with Christian thinkers from the early church to the twentieth century. While a number of pre-Christian Greek writers held the earth to be very old, they had no means of determining just how old. A general distrust of Greek science led early-church writers to steer clear of its speculations. In the early-church period from Augustine onward, nearly all Christian theologians posited an age for the earth of about 5,500 years. The Renaissance brought a renewed interest in fossils and diluvial theories. Crucial to the development of geology in this period was the work on the principles of rock strata (stratigraphy) by Niels Steensen (Steno).

By 1750, Steno's framework began to influence the infant discipline of geology, leading to various neptunist (oceanic) and plutonic (volcanic) theories of sedimentation and fossil preservation. With increasing geological field work, it seemed clear to some that a short age could not be correct. Young demonstrates how the publication of early estimates of the age of the earth led Christians who wished to retain the Bible's creation account to propose harmonizations from what appeared to be two contradictory conclusions regarding the earth's age. The "restitution theory," proposed by some Christian theorists, suggested an indeterminate period between Gen 1:1 and 1:2ff. In addition, the "day-age theory" saw in the "days" of Gen 1 very long periods of time. Some exegetes began to question the completeness of the biblical chronologies upon which a young-earth view rests. In the twentieth century many theologians accommodated to the evidence of great-earth age, while many other Christians reacted with new commitments to the young-earth viewpoint that is characteristic of modern "scientific" creationism.

In Part Two, "Scientific Considerations and the Age of the Earth," Young reviews four avenues of scientific inquiry which have attracted the attention of short-chronology advocates. Young suggests that the evidence of geological stratigraphy, sedimentation, fossilization, and related areas,