

great deal of information that was previously unavailable. The volume, however, is not without its weaknesses, including a large amount of redundancy. While some redundancy is to be expected in a collection of symposium papers, much of it could have been eliminated from this book in the editorial process.

The serious student will also look in vain for an index. If one had been included, this book would be more useful as a resource tool. Especially is this true with regard to this volume, since the same topics are often treated in different settings.

Fortunately, the virtues of the book outweigh its structural weaknesses. Several of its chapters will probably not be surpassed in published form, since they deal with detailed analyses of aspects of Andrews's life and work that would be out of place if they were given equivalent space in a systematic biography. As such, *J. N. Andrews* will remain an important secondary source for the study of early Adventist development, even after the publication of a definitive biography. The book, therefore, is not only of current value as the only extensive scholarly study of Andrews, but it will have permanent value for students of Adventiana.

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Maxwell, C. Mervyn. *God Cares*, vol. 2: *The Message of Revelation for You and Your Family*. Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1985. 573 pp. Paperback, \$14.95.

*God Cares* is a two-volume set dealing primarily with the apocalyptic books of Daniel (treated in volume 1) and Revelation, the major subject area covered in the present volume. It should be noted, however, that actually a "Part I" in this new publication devotes some 35 pages (pp. 13-47) to Jesus' "Olivet Discourse" as recorded in Matt 24:1-25:46, before Revelation is treated. Then "Part II: Revelation" follows, from p. 49 through p. 540. Although the author, C. Mervyn Maxwell, Chairman of the Church History Department in the Theological Seminary of Andrews University, has apparently included Jesus' Olivet discourse because of its references to the prophecies of Daniel and because it too has apocalyptic elements (excellent reasons for its inclusion as part of this volume), there are some parallels, as well, between this Olivet discourse and the book of Revelation, a fact noted by many commentators. Maxwell indeed recognizes such parallels, but he wisely avoids pushing them too far and refrains from making the so-called "Synoptic Apocalypse" the groundwork for his study of the book of Revelation.

Like its companion volume, this second volume of *God Cares* is written in informal and popular style. The intended readership is obviously foremost and primarily a general one, rather than NT specialists. Nevertheless,

the book is of truly scholarly stature—carefully researched, cognizant of current discussion on the book of Revelation, and responsive to the major questions that arise in connection with a study of this Bible book.

The general interpretational stance which Maxwell takes is the “historicist,” inasmuch as this is the one which most genuinely reflects the perspective of historical presentations in apocalyptic literature (and also parallels the closely related book of Daniel). As a starting point in getting into the text of Revelation, Maxwell deals with the literary structure of the book, which he terms “The Organization of Revelation”—his title for a chapter on the subject (pp. 54-65). He has adopted basically (with a few modifications) an outline of chiasmic structure which I first presented some three decades ago and which is currently in print in my *Interpreting the Book of Revelation*, 2d ed. (Naples, Florida, 1979). This sets forth eight major visions in the Apocalypse. After Maxwell’s initial presentation of the outline (across the top half of two facing pages, 60-61), the outline is repeated for each major section of Bible text treated, with the particular section under discussion being enlarged and color-coded in each case. This device helps the reader to follow readily the flow of the biblical narrative.

Each chapter in this publication has four parts: (1) an introduction, (2) the Bible text as given in the RSV, (3) the commentary proper, and (4) a section entitled “Your Questions Answered” (which addresses significant questions frequently raised in connection with the book of Revelation). Documentation is afforded in “endnotes” at the close of each chapter.

The volume is profusely illustrated with photographs, sketches, diagrams, tables, maps, etc.—many of them in color. Some of these are simply artists’ pictorializations that have apparently been added by the author (or by the publisher?) basically for aesthetic purposes, so as to make the book more attractive to the general reader. Many of the pictures, sketches, and diagrams of various sorts—as well as the maps that are included—do much more, however, than simply enhance the volume’s physical appearance. One readily thinks, for example, of the sketch on p. 211 of a seven-sealed scroll from 335 B.C., and the photographs of precious stones provided on p. 532.

In virtually any sizable publication—and especially in a volume of this massive proportion—a reviewer will inevitably find some points of difference from the author. Aside from a few minor divergences in the literary outlines of the book (nothing at all to quibble about!), it does seem to me that Maxwell has given less credence than the case merits to the view that a seven-sealed Roman will or testament lay in the background as at least one of the sources for the seven-sealed scroll in Rev 5. I opt for such a possibility inasmuch as a will or testament fits well the context of the pericope in Revelation *and* in view of the fact that seven-sealed Roman wills are known to have been in use in the Roman East at about John’s time (for an example given in English translation and dated to within a half century of the

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!

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*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