

history of scholarship, candid with the serious questions, yet committed to the significance and relevance of the text for modern readers.

Walla Walla College  
College Place, WA 99324

RONALD L. JOLLIFFE

Hartley, John E. *The Book of Job*. The New International Critical Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1988. xiv + 591 pp. \$27.95.

One opens each new volume of a major commentary series with anticipation. Does the author have enough new material to warrant another commentary? John Hartley's volume is a welcome answer in the affirmative. It is good enough to make the standard works on Job appear ancient.

The commentary, in good evangelical tradition, proposes to meet the needs of pastors, scholars, and students. It succeeds by balancing technical information with devotional and homiletical suggestions.

The commentary's fairly extensive introduction has the usual comments on date and authorship, etc., but it also includes an interesting section citing parallels with other ancient literatures of the East. Another useful section charts the affinities of the book of Job with other OT books—especially Isaiah. The introduction concludes with a helpful seven-page bibliography of the most important works. This is the only bibliography in the volume, though the text has references that are not in the bibliography.

The subject index is followed by an index of authors quoted and a scripture index. Intertestamental works and nonbiblical texts are indexed as well. Concluding the indexes are one listing Hebrew verbs and another composed of extrabiblical words (Akkadian and Ugaritic). These are features of thorough work and enhance the volume's usefulness.

The main commentary consists of an introduction to the section of Job under discussion, the text, and exegesis. The comments are fairly brief but insightful. Most of the technical data are relegated to the somewhat extensive footnotes.

Hartley says that the author of Job "has no sacred cows to protect" (p. vii). A similar type of openness can be credited to Hartley, who often refrains from taking a position.

In discussing authorship, Hartley enumerates the characteristics of the author, but fails to name a possibility. He concludes that the author has a large vocabulary, is acquainted with nature, is knowledgeable of Egypt, etc.; but he does not even mention the tradition of the Jews and the early church that sets forth Moses as the author. In addition, the chart of parallels between the phraseology of Job and other OT books does not list parallels with the Pentateuch.

Hartley is also fairly noncommittal regarding the date of the book's composition, believing that the evidence for any position is inconclusive. However, he does not mention any date earlier than the seventh century B.C., the earliest date considered possible by most modern scholars. Hartley favors this date to account for the similarity between Isaiah's (suffering) Servant Songs and the book of Job.

Unlike many other modern commentators, Hartley cautions against major apportioning of verses in chaps. 24-31 to achieve a full third cycle. This adherence to the text as it stands is commendable.

Hartley's openness extends even to the book's theology. In his comments on chap. 19, for example, he lists four possible views regarding Job's belief in the resurrection.

An interesting feature of the commentary is a section at the end of each speech titled "Aim" that attempts to "interpret each pericope as it relates to that message." The "Aim" sections also seek to relate the contribution of each message to that of the whole book.

The major contribution of Hartley's work is the bringing together of much recent scholarship on the book of Job. This has been needed for some time. Because of limitations in size, one cannot expect any one volume to be exhaustive, but Hartley must be commended on his selection of what to include, for his personal insights, and for his general openness to various views.

Berrien Springs, MI 49103

GORDON CHRISTO

Mangum, John M., ed. *The New Faith-Science Debate: Probing Cosmology, Technology, and Theology*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1989. x + 165 pp. Paperback, \$9.95.

This collection of essays is the fruit of a 1987 global consultation in Larnaca, Cyprus, sponsored by the Lutheran Church in America (now the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and the Lutheran World Federation. The themes pursued were the impact which science and technology have made on the world and the recognition that pastors, congregations, seminaries, and denominations generally seem to be oblivious to the implications of that impact for the work of the churches.

There are ten essays, which bear the following titles: "The Current Scientific World View," "The Challenge of Science to Theology and the Church," "The Challenge of Theology to Science and the Church," "The Challenge of the Church to Science and Theology," "The Task of the Church in the New Scientific Age," "How High-Tech Is Changing American Society," "Genetic Engineering: Our Role in Creation," "Asian World Religions and Post-modern Science," "Scientific Research Is My Christian Vocation," and