

Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Acts of the Apostles*. Sacra Pagina. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1992. xvi + 568 pp. \$29.95.

A sequel to his *Gospel of Luke* in the same series (Sacra Pagina [Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1991]), Johnson's commentary on Acts cannot truly be appreciated apart from that book. For example, the authorship of Luke-Acts is treated in the first volume and not mentioned in the second. Throughout the volume on Acts, reference is made to the commentary on Luke.

Johnson considers Acts to be "apologetic history" (xii). Luke shaped his history of the early church with creative mastery in order to "defend God's activity in the world" (7). Furthermore, Luke convincingly made "his story of Jesus and of Christian beginnings a prolongation of biblical history" (12). He did so by the use of prophetic imagery and patterns. The religious themes stressed in Acts are the Holy Spirit, God's activity in the church, and the universality of divine salvation through Jesus Christ (14-17).

The plan of the book is simple. In this commentary, Acts is divided into four parts: "Raised Prophet and Restored People" (1:1-8:3); "Expansion of God's People" (8:4-15:35); "Apostle to the Gentiles" (15:36-22:29); and "Imprisoned Apostle" (22:30-28:31). Each section is, in turn, divided into subsections. For each there is an original translation, verse-by-verse notes, an interpretation, and a bibliography. Nearly a hundred pages of indexes include an index of Scripture; another of ancient writings, both Jewish and Greco-Roman; one of early Christian writings; and finally, one of modern authors.

Johnson's translation of Acts aims "at clarity and readability." To that end, the "biblicisms and complex sentences" are sacrificed "in favor of shorter sentences and idiomatic equivalencies." In addition, Johnson has attempted to use inclusive language in his translation of a text that is "pervasively androcentric" (xi). The result is clear and readable, but it lacks the elegance usually attributed to Acts.

The verse-by-verse notes deal with varied issues. In textual matters, Johnson admits his debt to Metzger's *Textual Commentary*, "which has made everything so much easier for his successors" (xii), and only mentions the Western text when it is significantly different. Greek words are transliterated (with a fairly obnoxious iota subscript apparently added by hand) and immediately translated. To clarify meaning, ample reference is made to passages of Scripture, as well as to Jewish, Greco-Roman, and early Christian writings.

The interpretation of each segment summarizes the passage with emphasis on the theological meaning as seen by Luke. A few Greek words and a sprinkling of Bible references appear in these sections, but in general the reading is smooth and coherent. Johnson's insights into the meaning of Acts of the Apostles are well expressed and based on the careful research suggested by the notes and the bibliography of each section.

As Johnson provides a short bibliography for each segment of the commentary, there is no general bibliography. This is understandable, but makes it hard to have a general idea of the sources used. In the preface, Johnson

notes a few general works to which he is indebted. The lists show a wide spectrum of references from both sides of the Atlantic; they come from journals, multi-author books, and single volumes.

The publishers intended that this volume, as well as the others in the *Sacra Pagina* series, would be useful to biblical professionals, graduate students, theologians, clergy, and religious educators, within and without the Catholic community (jacket). Johnson's work will clearly stand beside such classics as Haenchen and Bruce.

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NANCY J. VYHMEISTER

Kempinski, Aharon, and Ronny Reich, eds. *The Architecture of Ancient Israel from the Prehistoric to the Persian Periods*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 1992. xiv + 332 pp. \$48.00.

This handsome volume, dedicated to the memory of the late Immanuel Dunayevsky, is the first work in the 150-year history of archaeological work in Israel that attempts to provide a representative overview of architectural development from the prehistoric to the Persian periods. Designed as a handbook for both students and professional archaeologists, the architectural features of specific periods are compiled from numerous sites excavated in the area of ancient Israel, in order to provide a general survey of developments about all areas of architecture from domestic aspects to fortifications. The contributors, all of whom are Israeli archaeologists, bring a wealth of expertise from their respective areas of specialty.

The volume is divided into four parts. The first part, entitled, "Materials and Fashions of Construction" (1-27), includes articles by R. Reich and E. Netzer on the materials and technology of buildings in ancient Israel as well as possible causes of their destruction. The second part, "The Genesis of Architecture," includes articles on "Building Activities in the Prehistoric Periods Until the End of the Neolithic Period" (O. Bar-Yosef, 31-39) and "Domestic Architecture of the Chalcolithic Period" (Y. Porath, 40-48).

The third part contains seven chapters by A. Kempinski, A. Ben-Tor, I. Beit-Arieh, R. Cohen, and D. Bahat on "The Early and Intermediate Bronze Age" (51-93). The fourth part, "The Middle and Late Bronze Ages" (97-187), comprises eight chapters on dwellings, tombs, temples, and urbanization, by A. Kempinski, M. Ben-Dov, E. D. Oren, J. J. Baumgarten, R. Gonen, and A. Mazar. The last section, "The Iron Age" (191-309), includes eight chapters by A. Kempinski, R. Reich, E. Netzer, Z. Herzog, Y. Shiloh, Z. Meshel, and E. Stern, on domestic architecture, palaces, administrative structures, fortifications, and water systems.

A convenient "Glossary of Architectural Terms" by R. Reich and H. Katzenstein and an index of site names and geographical regions enhance the usefulness of this volume.