

scheme, particularly because of the uncommon conclusions to which it leads him. The breadth of scholarship for which the Anchor Bible series continues to be respected is honored again by this volume. But whether or not Hill, Childs (1986), and Barth (1991) all belong to the same "new biblical theology" school (46) will remain unresolved if membership in this club simply rests in a claim to take history and revelation seriously, for few, whether in theology or OT/HB studies, would disqualify themselves from any school on these accounts. Neither avid practitioners of the historical-critical method, nor those who view it as an unwarranted assault on orthodoxy may be expected to describe themselves as viewing either history or revelation unseriously.

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Jasper, David, Stephen Prickett, and Andrew Hass, eds. *The Bible and Literature: A Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1999. xv + 333 pp. Paperback, \$62.95.

Weathers, Stephen, Jack Welch, and Darryl Tippens, eds. *Shadow & Light: Literature & the Life of Faith*. Abilene, TX: Abilene Christian University Press, 1997. 391 pp. Paperback, \$33.95.

Two interesting literature anthologies have recently appeared. They differ greatly, and so would classes in which they might be used.

*The Bible and Literature: A Reader*, edited by David Jasper and Stephen Prickett, is published by Blackwell, which is known for its theoretical and cultural studies, so it is not surprising that the book's approach is essentially literary and secular. Jasper is Dean of Divinity at Glasgow University and editor of the journal *Literature and Theology*. Prickett is an English professor at Glasgow.

Please note the "and" in the title, rather than the more common "as." *The Bible and Literature* presents eighteen passages from the KJV—from the Creation stories of Gen 1–2, to nine verses on Jacob's wrestling match, to the entire Song of Songs, to Rev 21—and, following each passage, from six to fifteen literary selections that allude to, reshape, or draw from the story. Sometimes these selections are fine, and perhaps little-known, poems that approach the story with devotional intent. Other selections are quite unexpected, such as that taken from Jacques Derrida's *Of Grammatology* as comment on John 1. Many of the authors are famously unbelieving, and others twist the biblical text to their own agendas. A number of selections are drawn from literary criticism rather than literature *per se*, but of course the postmodern approach grants the theoretical the status of the literary.

To read what modern authors have made of the biblical text can be disturbing, yet also invigorating. I can imagine this book sparking lively class discussions. As it is aimed at readers with little biblical knowledge, including the KJV text is a good idea. The thorough critical apparatus is also helpful. In addition to a good general introduction, Prickett has contributed a long introduction to "Biblical and Literary Criticism: A History of Interaction," and Jasper another on "Literary Readings of the Bible: Trends in Modern Criticism." Each passage from the Bible is followed by a "Commentary" on literary approaches to the reading and a bibliography of selected criticism. These help make this book a good introduction for seminary students who

want to understand the contributions of literary criticism to theology.

What most surprised me about *The Bible and Literature* was the brevity of many of the prose selections—often only a paragraph. This is fine for showing an allusion and leading into a discussion, but literature teachers are used to dealing with chapters or stories rather than half-page quotations. Clearly, the book's focus is intertextual relationships between texts rather than the literary appreciation of the text itself.

*Shadow & Light: Literature & the Life of Faith*, by Stephen Weathers, Jack Welch, and Darryl Tippens, is a very different sort of book. The layout and printing are attractive. The book contains no biblical passages, and the introduction is only seven pages. There is no bibliography or critical commentary—only one paragraph of introductions to authors.

The book contains three sections: essays, fiction, and poetry. The selections are outstanding. They represent a variety of Judeo-Christian stances, but all raise thought-provoking ethical and/or spiritual questions that can lead to intense class discussions. Most of the writings are less "Judeo-Christian literature" than they are literature by Christians and Jews. In the essay section are selections by John Donne, Samuel Johnson, John Henry Newman, Thomas Merton, Flannery O'Connor, Frederick Buechner, Henri Nouwen, Annie Dillard, Robert A. Fink, and A. N. Wilson. Most selections are six to ten pages and are long enough to discuss for a whole class period. Some are whole essays, while others are sections from books or journals.

The fiction section is especially strong, with stories or chapters by great writers: Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Cather, Katherine Anne Porter, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Eudora Welty, Flannery O'Connor, John Updike, Larry Woiwode, Alice Walker, and Albert Haley. Most of these authors are regularly taught in the secular classroom. However, having the best faith-building work by these authors together in one place is a boon to teachers and students alike. While *Shadow & Light* would not be appropriate for courses in either biblical literature or the *Bible and Literature*, it would be excellent for an Introduction to Literature course, even in a state university.

If I must quibble, it must be because at 391 pages the book is too short. If I used it as a textbook I would have to teach the whole thing, but I prefer to pick and choose. The poetry section, at eighty pages, is too brief, especially given that half of it is contemporary poetry. It includes poems by Donne, Herbert, Vaughan, and Hopkins, but I want more of their work! In addition to four Middle English lyrics, I would like to see big chunks of *Pearl* and *Piers Plowman*. There are five Milton sonnets, but there is nothing of *Paradise Lost*. Where is Christina Rossetti's "Goblin Market"?

While I find both anthologies interesting and useful, *Shadow & Light* is the one I would use in a literature class, though I would supplement it with some extra poetry and perhaps two or three novels or allegories. *The Bible and Literature* is not really appropriate for a literature class the way such classes are generally taught. On a more serious note, I could not in good conscience assign a 350-page textbook that costs \$62.95 in papercover. Despite my quibbles, however, I'm pleased to have both books on my shelf.

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