

evidence for her conviction. It may be that faith can weather the storms of doubt because it finds enough evidence of a public nature to dispel the doubts, or at least to defuse their power. But one may also find that the power of one's early experience, the private evidence that planted the seeds of faith to begin with, is sufficient to sustain it during the strongest intellectual gales.

The account Karl Rahner gives of his experience will sound familiar to many. "I find myself a believer and have not come upon any good reason for not believing. I was baptized and brought up in the faith, and so the faith that is my inheritance has also become the faith of my own deliberate choice, a real, personal faith."

Another reason to question the use of "levels" language with reference to different epistemic situations is that it seems to undervalue an essential characteristic of faith. As generally described, faith exhibits an "in spite of" quality. It involves trust in the absence of conclusive evidence or proof. Faced with overwhelming, or coercive, evidence, one would have no need—indeed, there would be no room—for faith. In that case, one's belief would simply be the product of the evidence. If one's embrace of certain beliefs involves faith, it seems, there must be a distance between what she affirms and what the evidence fully supports. What seems to be a relative deficiency from a purely epistemic standpoint therefore seems to be an essential feature of faith. If so, then the highest epistemic level in Clayton and Knapp's scheme is not necessarily superior to some of the other positions they describe.

Wolfhart Pannenberg's distinction between the "trusting certainty of faith" and "absolute theoretical certainty" may be helpful here. Because "faith lives from the truth of its foundations," it is entirely appropriate for us to assess the evidence that supports the claims of faith. But since true faith consists in the "total committal of one's existence in the act of trust," we distort the nature of faith if we seek to extend this theoretical credibility into "an absolute theoretical certainty."

However tempting it is to tweak their formulations, the fact remains that Clayton and Knapp provide a wonderfully nuanced account of responsible belief. I can't recall any discussion of religious epistemology that is more sensitive than theirs to the complex experience of those who find themselves grasped both by the power of religious commitment and the summons to intellectual responsibility. The authors have placed us all in their debt.

Loma Linda University

RICHARD RICE

Dunbar, S., Gibson L. J., and Rasi, H. M., eds., *Entrusted: Christians and Environmental Care*. Mexico: Adventus, 2013, x + 286 pp. Paper, \$19.95.

A range of environmental issues have increasingly challenged Christians to consider the appropriate balance between consumption and preservation of limited resources, given the declining condition of our sinful planet. *Entrusted* is a collection of 23 articles that offer concise yet comprehensive introductory responses to these pressing issues. Under the editorial leadership of Dunbar, Gibson, and Rasi, a group of authors with diverse backgrounds (including

theologians, ethicists, scientists, environmentalists, and educators) have taken the task to guide Christians through these urgent matters by providing a theory and practice of earth stewardship grounded in the biblical mandate pronounced in Gen 1:27-30. All authors share a Christian worldview and build upon this common foundation with tools unique to their education, enriching the exposition with key insights from their area of expertise.

The book is structured in five sections, covering five main themes: Christians and the Environment, Animal and Environmental Ethics, Human Health and the Environment, Biodiversity and Conservation Strategies, and Environmental Education.

The first section is an overview of the biblical foundations for earth stewardship. Through a host of Bible verses, the writers show the extensive involvement God manifests in His care for all creation, and challenge us to consider our attitude toward animals and nature in light of God's example. The section does a marvelous job at highlighting biblical details referring to animals and/or nature that often are overlooked. Once unearthed, these details beckon the reader to rethink many familiar passages. Stories, laws, covenants and commands, poetry, feasts, and prophecies gain more depth and become more relevant as we discover how nature or animals are involved. From the opening section, the authors establish that there is a correlation between one's worldview and the care for nature, and state the belief in God as a foundational presupposition. Rasi makes a compelling case for a theocentric (versus anthropocentric or ecocentric) approach to environmental care. This biblical worldview and theocentric approach invites the reader to exercise free will by making responsible choices driven by an understanding of God's relation to His creation and the interconnection of all creatures, and not by greed, selfishness, and a desire to display power. The section concludes with Tonstad's exegetical case for Satan being the destroyer of the earth, while God is the healer, "no less [ . . . ] of the earth than of human creation" (60).

Section two tackles the relationship between humans and animals. Gerald Winslow makes a distinction between animals and other life forms (such as plants) and offers good argumentation that all animals (pets and wild animals alike) should be treated with equal care, though guided by specific principles based on the particularities of that animal. In view of this, he holds that, while humans and their basic needs come first, a plant-based diet is ethically preferable when possible, and that injuring animals for sport and entertainment is wrong (71). The section continues with an overview of the principles guiding animal research, wherein Mark Carr calls for higher standards than the already rigorous "Reduce, Refine, Replace" ethics of the AAALAC (77). Such higher standards, he suggests, should arise from our understanding of "dominion" in Gen 1:28 as responsible stewardship versus selfish use and abuse (79-80), and from our view of animals as having moral status (or moral value—that is, they are "so valuable that [they] should be treated with special regard" (77)). Sandra Blackmer gives the reader insight into the animals' living conditions in industrialized farms today. Through concise yet frank and graphic descriptions, we learn of what the animals suffer from

birth to transport to slaughter, the impact of this treatment on the farm workers and the environment, and individual action we all can take. The last chapter offers a categorization of GMOs (genetically modified organisms) and an evaluation of the risks each type of GMO involves.

Section three covers the connection between environment and human health. Roy Gane analyzes key biblical passages that suggest an interrelation between the physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional dimensions of the human being (114), and elaborates on the impact that laws of restraint, rest, respect, and abstinence have upon human and environmental health. Dunbar emphasizes that “human health is intimately integrated with biodiversity in almost every conceivable way” (127), and educates the reader on the risks of biodiversity loss and ecosystems disruptions with specific, eye-opening examples. The section concludes with a presentation of the interconnection between geologic material and processes, and human health.

Section four goes more in detail on biodiversity and conservation strategies which, understood with the heart of a dedicated Christian, have great potential to make a difference for the better for the entire creation. Section five concludes the book with six chapters that guide Adventists on how we can contribute to holistic environmental health through practical measures to take in our homes, our institutions and industries.

*Entrusted* is a rich, much needed contribution to our theoretical and practical appreciation of the call to support a holistic earth health. It is written in an engaging style that maintains the reader’s interest with many key insights from highly qualified contributors.

It is evident that a biblical worldview shapes the direction of thought of the authors of the book. The implications of their shared Christian worldview upon the research and proposals may be viewed as faulty by other professionals. Since the presuppositions are stated and affirmed from the beginning and throughout the book, however, a fair reading of their work must take into consideration the reference points they choose and consistently apply.

The book tends to be a little repetitive in some key thoughts. This is possibly a result of the authors’ enthusiastic commitment to Scriptures, and an estimated occurrence for multi-authored books. A more thorough editorial scrutiny could have prevented the duplications without losing central ideas, and thus make the reading experience smoother.

The strength of the book resides in the variety of perspectives presented, substantiated with a solid number of primary and secondary references particular to the different areas of expertise. These perspectives enable the reader not only to get educated on the topic, but also to participate intelligently and responsibly in earth stewardship. The divine mandate to care for the earth is given to all humans, and therefore the initiative is always timely and valuable. The book is accessible to a general audience, and I believe that its transformative information can inspire us and those in our care both individually and collectively.

Berrien Springs, Michigan

ADELINA ALEXE