

Psalms and sermonic writing, and Christocentric focus will certainly appeal to the general readership.

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Heinz, Daniel, ed. *So komm noch diese Stunde! Luthers Reformation aus Sicht der Siebenten-Tags-Adventisten*. Lüneburg: Advent-Verlag, 2016. 370 pp. Softcover. EUR 19.80.

In 2017, Protestants celebrate a very special jubilee, the quincentenary of Dr. Martin Luther's posting of his ninety-five theses about the Catholic indulgence, which is designated as the birthday of the Protestant Reformation. Innumerable books and articles have been published on Luther's life, his works, and his heritage. And this year, of course, the number is again going to increase considerably.

An interesting new perspective is given in this book edited by Daniel Heinz, written entirely in German. It deals with several aspects of Luther's Reformation from the Seventh-day Adventist perspective. The editor himself contributes five essays. As former Dean of the faculty of Theology at Bogenhofen Seminary (St. Peter/Hart, Austria) and presently head of the Archive of Seventh-day Adventists in Europe (Friedensau, Germany), he has authored books about the history of Adventists in Austria and Germany, as well as a biography of Ludwig Richard Conradi, the missionary of Europe. Added to this are numerous articles on Adventist history in Europe and other books he edited, mainly in the same field.

Another major contributor is his father, Hans Heinz, author of nine essays in this book. He is well known for his expertise on Catholic theology and Reformation history. He has published many theological articles and books, lectured for more than twenty years at Bogenhofen Seminary, and has been president of this institution for seven years.

The remaining fifteen essays are authored by other Austrian and German Adventist scholars (in alphabetical order): Thomas Domanyi, Walter Eberhardt, Johannes Hartlapp, Denis Kaiser, Dieter Leutert, Christian Noack, Rolf Pöhler, Winfried Vogel, Daniel Wildemann, and Reiner Zimmermann. The preface is written by Artur Stele.

This collection of essays moves from "Reconsidering: 'Repent, Germany, in the time of grace'" (part one), and "Evaluation: 'The Bible alone is the right lord and master'" (part two) to "Preserving: That the time of his kingdom may come soon!" (part three).

The topics dealt with include biographical aspects (Luther's vita, important journeys and places, his merits in terms of the German language, and Christian hymns), historical backgrounds (Europe and Catholicism in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries), Luther's view on pivotal doctrines (justification, baptism, and communion), his understanding of important Adventist teachings (the Sabbath, baptism and Anabaptists, and eschatology and the return of Christ), and implications for today's Adventist understanding

of crucial theological issues (human liberty, assurance of salvation, faith as a result of divine love, Ellen White's appreciation for Luther, and the desire for Christ's second coming).

The articles are written in a style that is easy to understand, even for non-theologians or non-historians, and is published by the German Adventist publishing company. It is a work meant for both the Seventh-day Adventist Church member and the scholar. Most of the references point to Luther's own writings, sermons, or talks, and less to secondary sources. Many major events and minor details are presented without any further reference, likely due to the fact that there is such a vast number of modern scholarly publications on Luther's life, along with corresponding historical-theological facts. While it is interesting to have such a wide range of topics, from Luther's time to ours, from certain doctrines to more general theological attitudes, it seems to me that the following essays stand out because of their particular Adventist perspective: "Conflict or Consent—The Doctrine of Justification in Ecumenical Discourse," "The Unfinished Reformation—Luther and the Sabbath" (both by Hans Heinz), "Luther's Understanding of Christ's Return in his Time" (Johannes Hartlapp), "Hoping for Perfection—Luther and the End Time" (Winfried Vogel), "Ellen White about Martin Luther—An Adventist Recognition" (Denis Kaiser).

An alleged weakness might be the fact that a few of the twenty-nine essays are reprints of former journal articles, although they are updated and revised. While the evaluation of Luther's work, achievements, and heritage is generally appreciative, it also is a critical, but fair, description of his limits and failures. One article of the main contributor, Hans Heinz, may serve as an example. While he underlines in his essay on Luther and the Sabbath that the central question was not about the right day of rest according to the Scriptures, but rather about the authority of the Church, Heinz develops a brief overview of Luther's understanding in his earlier years (1513–1524), his conflict with Karlstadt (1524), and his sermons and interpretations afterwards (1524–1544). Evaluating Luther's explanations in the catechism, his anti-Jewish polemic, his lectures about Genesis, and his opposition to the Anabaptists, Heinz makes clear (though without verbally mentioning it) that this topic (the biblical Sabbath) was one of Luther's limits. He emphasizes that the Anabaptists were the more consequent reformers, hinting at the fact that the Reformation must ever continue—even beyond the limits set by Martin Luther himself.

This honest view on Luther is one of the great strengths of this book. It is not just another volume about this important historical character, perhaps condemning him because of his anti-Jewish polemic and his hermeneutical fallacies, or adoring him for his outstanding courage in the face of the overly powerful Roman Catholic Church and the emperor. It is a valuable contribution as a balanced evaluation.

Most importantly, it breaks ground for a new and varied Seventh-day Adventist perspective on the different aspects of Luther that are interesting,

especially for Seventh-day Adventists, their understanding of the Reformation, and key corresponding theological issues.

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Jobes, Karen H., ed. *Discovering the Septuagint: A Guided Reader*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2016. 351 pp. Hardcover. USD 39.99.

The field of Septuagint (hereafter, LXX) studies has mushroomed in recent years, with numerous articles, monographs, and collections of essays. Consequently, the book under review is a wonderful tool for intermediate Greek students interested in reading the LXX. The author/editor, Karen Jobes, is a recognized scholar in both LXX and New Testament studies. She is assisted in each section by one or more students who took her LXX courses or worked as her teaching assistants. The contribution of her nine assistants attests both to Jobes's pedagogical expertise and to the fact that the approach used here has succeeded in providing students with the necessary skills for reading the LXX.

The book begins with an introduction to the LXX, followed by ten selections from nine books covering a variety of genres, such as law, poetry, narrative, and prophecy. Each of the ten chapters begins with an introductory discussion of the biblical passage and a selected bibliography. Then comes the main section, which consists of the Greek text with various notes that include remarks on vocabulary, morphology, syntax, and translation technique (how it typically translates various Hebrew expressions). This is followed by the NETS translation (Albert Pieterma and Benjamin G. Wright, eds., *A New English Translation of the Septuagint*, [Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007]) of the passage. Each chapter also has a list of the LXX verses that are quoted in the New Testament. At the end of the book, there is a short glossary of technical terms and an index of New Testament LXX citations organized by order of occurrence in the New Testament.

The Greek text used in this book is that of Rahlfs-Hanhart (2006), which consists of the text of Rahlfs's 1935 edition with minor corrections. The author's choice of text is understandable, since the larger text-critical editions are either incomplete (Brooke-McLean) or partially published and still in production (Göttingen). Moreover, though the text chosen misses the more extensive text-critical notes of the other editions, it is the more affordable text that beginning students will likely buy.

This book seems ideally suited for introducing readings from the LXX in an intermediate Greek class. It is also a useful means of exposing students to Koine Greek outside of the New Testament. Nevertheless, it is important for those using this book to be aware of the fact that, since the order of the chapters follows the order in which texts appear in the LXX, and the chapters are primarily selected for genre variety, there is no obvious progression in the difficulty of the passages chosen.

On the other hand, students' interest in the LXX is certainly not limited to wanting to read more Greek, but also includes textual, hermeneutical, and