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Review of Ian Hussey (ed.), *Preaching with an Accent: Biblical Genres for Australian Congregations*

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Preaching with an Accent: Biblical Genres for Australian Congregations. Edited by Ian Hussey. Macquarie Park: Morling, 2019. 978-0-9945-7266-0, 310 pp., \$35.00.

Reviewer: *Rodney A. Palmer, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.*

Several books have been produced on preaching to different cultural and ethnic groups in recent years, and *Preaching with an Accent* is another such volume targeting Australians. The book is edited by Ian Hussey, a lecturer and director of Post-Graduate Studies at Malyon Theological College, an affiliate institution of the Australian College of Theology. It is a compilation of thirteen contributors from different denominations who all possess depths of knowledge about the Australian culture.

The book focuses on aiding Australian preachers with the important tasks of hermeneutics and contextualization, which will result in biblically sound sermons that are appropriately applied to twenty-first century Australia. The first chapter provides a cultural exegesis of Australians. The typical Australian is characterized as individualistic, egalitarian, rule-based, monochronic, secular, postmodern, pluralistic, anti-institutional, multicultural, wealthy, consumeristic, anxious, depressed, and time-poor. This chapter also lays the foundation for the proceeding chapters, as the highlighted cultural characteristics form the basis for the contextualization process conducted by each contributor.

Each of the remaining twelve chapters focuses on a specific biblical genre and follows a similar structure as outlined by Hussey:

1. Introduction: discussion of the general issues related to preaching this collection of books
2. The hermeneutical task: insights into the interpretation of these books

3. The contextualization task: insights into the particular message of these books for Australian culture
4. A sample sermon: an example of the type of sermon that can be preached to an Australian congregation, provided with some comments on the hermeneutical and contextualization tasks that have influenced the shaping of this particular message (7).

One of the apparent weaknesses of the volume, which the editor was quick to admit, was the gender imbalance among the contributors. In acknowledging this weakness, Hussey explained that there were very few “women preaching academics in Australia to draw on” (7). This revelation underscores the need for greater intentionality in the recruiting and mentoring of Australian female scholars in the field of homiletics.

Although *Preaching with an Accent* was primarily written for Australian preachers, it should not deter non-Australians. In addition to obtaining a concise overview of the Australian culture, readers will also better understand how to preach sermons that will connect with Australians scattered across the globe. This volume serves as an excellent template for homileticians who are desirous of producing a guide for preaching from their respective cultural or ethnic backgrounds. Overall, the book will aid preachers in avoiding the pitfall of preaching biblically sound sermons with “accents” their listeners cannot comprehend because the messages are misapplied contextually. This tome is well-suited as a supplemental text in a contextualized preaching class.



Preaching in/and the Borderlands. Edited by J. Dwayne Howell and Charles L. Aaron, Jr. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2020. 978-1-5326-6465-6, 167 pp., \$24.00.

Reviewer: Jesse Welliver, Luther Rice College and Seminary, Stonecrest, GA.