
IVP Academic Alert

IVP Academic's Book Bulletin for Professors • Volume 17 • Number 1 • Winter 2008

Inside

3 | Who Gets to Narrate the World?

The late Robert Webber challenges Christians to repent of their cultural accommodation and reclaim the story God has given us to proclaim and live.

4 | Sin & Grace in Counseling

Mark McMinn presents the latest book in the IVP Academic/CAPS partnership.

5 | New & Noteworthy

Urban youth ministry finds its voice, inclusivist evangelicals receive food for thought and a number of books get their second wind.

Wheaton Theology Conference: Rediscovering the Trinity

"Rediscovering the Trinity: Classic Doctrine and Contemporary Ministry" will be the focus of the 2008 Wheaton Theology Conference to be held April 10-12. Speakers include Miroslav Volf, John Franke, Kevin Vanhoozer, Edith Humphrey and Gordon Smith. For more information, visit wheaton.edu/theology/theo_conf. ■

Classic Handbook Gets the Dictionary Treatment

From time to time, we realize that a good book we've previously published has the potential to be an even better book. So it was with the *Historical Handbook of Major Biblical Interpreters (HHMBI)*, published in 1998.



Don McKim

While the *Handbook* did . . . okay, we felt that its sales never adequately reflected its quality or the reception it deserved. In reviewing its performance a few years ago, we came to the conclusion that what was really needed was to transform this handbook

into a full-length dictionary. Thus the *Dictionary of Major Biblical Interpreters (DMBI)* was born, and Don McKim was more than happy to reprise his role as its editor.

The *DMBI* was released in November, and Joel Scandrett, its project editor, recently spoke with Don McKim about it.

Scandrett: Don, to begin with, how would you summarize the importance of students, pastors, biblical scholars and theologians having an understanding of the history of biblical interpretation?

McKim: Knowing about the history of biblical interpretation helps us in a number of ways. For one thing, it shows us the great varieties of insights that have emerged as scholars and the church have struggled with trying to understand Holy Scripture. As soon as we think we have it

continued on page 2

Philosophy & Theology Merge, God Triumphs

Interestingly enough, Bill Hasker informed us, "This is a book I never intended to write." Well, we're glad he did.



Bill Hasker

The Triumph of God Over Evil is a broad-ranging and full-scale essay on the problem of evil in the context of contemporary philosophy. It is meant to be informative and challenging for professional philosophers and accessible to readers who have the interest and patience to fol-

low a careful philosophical treatment of the issues.

This is a renewed effort in the vein of theodicy, taking up a somewhat unusual theme of the triumph of good over evil and placing the problem in the context of the goodness of God and creation and God's redemption of us from sin and evil. Hasker recognized that making a full response to

the problem of evil, rather than taking a piecemeal approach, would call for an overall account of evil and suffering which in turn calls for "drawing on the resources of Christian theology more deeply than is customary in philosophical writings."

The result is a book that overcomes some of the disadvantages of a purely philosophical approach by integrating a Christian theological response to the problem of evil. This book, then, is a serious contribution to Christian reflection on God, creation, evil and God's victory over it and takes its place as a comprehensive work of contemporary philosophy.

Stephen Evans says that this is "serious and original work of philosophy that will engage thoughtful pastors, educated lay Christians of an intellectual bent, and advanced undergraduates in

continued on page 3

McKim, continued from page 1

figured out, another viewpoint pops up to challenge our “certainties”! Another benefit is that it reminds us that God can speak through the whole Bible in ways we do not expect. Just as we find the “unexpected” among scholars’ or churches’ interpretations, so we never know what new and unexpected insights the Holy Spirit may bring to us as we continue our study of the Bible.

Scandrett: When we published the *HHMBI* ten years ago, interest in the history of biblical interpretation was fairly strong. How would you compare that level of interest to what we see today? What has changed?

McKim: I think a number of newer resources in the past decade have increased interest in the history of biblical interpretation. The IVP Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture is one of these. The spread of Internet resources that make both ancient texts as well as classical biblical commentaries available is another. Relatedly, there is growing interest in the “theological interpretation” of Scripture that goes beyond what we find in exegetical commentaries. As newer methods of approaching biblical texts emerge, we will continue to find insights from the past that have been overlooked before. So this is an exciting time! As someone said about history itself, “The past is prologue.” Another person paraphrased this to say, “It means ‘you ain’t seen nothin’ yet!”

So also in biblical interpretation. We can expect new insights to continue to emerge as we study those who have gone before us as biblical interpreters.

Scandrett: What are the most significant changes we’ve made to the *DMBI* that set it apart from its predecessor?

It also provides the most detailed yet succinct treatments of the major biblical interpreters available. Other books that consider major figures feature less material than is found here. They usually cover more interpreters or add interpreters in with other materials dealing with the Bible. This *Dictionary*, how-

As soon as we think we have [biblical interpretation] figured out, another viewpoint pops up to challenge our “certainties”!

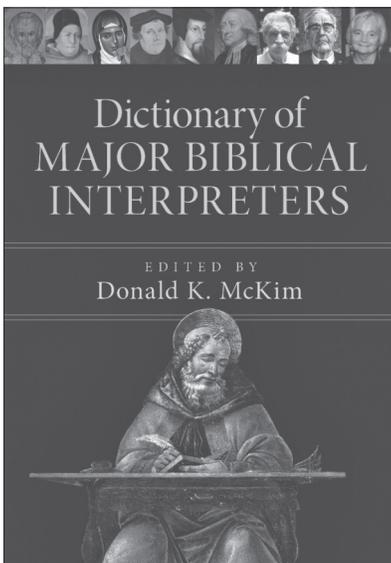
McKim: The basic change in form is that this is now an A-to-Z dictionary instead of a historically oriented volume by time periods. This provides ease of use. The biggest change, though, is the new content, which doubles the number of entries for interpreters. We now have a much fuller picture of important biblical interpreters than in the previous volume. In addition, we have updates to the major period pieces that were a most helpful part of the earlier book. Scholars have added material to these entries that reflects recent developments in scholarship or fills out more fully some of the elements of the earlier works. Another highly useful feature is the bibliographies for each entry. Our articles are excellent introductory pieces to the interpreter, and are both broad as well as deep in their treatments. But they also open the doors to further study of the interpreter. The up-to-date bibliographies now make it possible for serious, in-depth study to take place. This is a major help for scholars and an excellent resource for all who become fascinated by a particular interpreter and want to read both primary as well as secondary sources to follow their curiosity.

Scandrett: What will readers find here that they won’t find elsewhere?

McKim: To me, the *DMBI* and its predecessor,

deals in detail with major figures, and almost all the articles are clearly structured in a similar way: First, the article presents a general description of the interpreter and provides basic biographical facts. Next, the article describes the interpreter’s historical and intellectual context, which are formative influences on the interpreter. Third, the interpreter’s key interpretive principles are presented, including their major works and contributions. Fourth, there is consideration of the significance of the interpreter for the history and practice of biblical interpretation. Finally comes the bibliography divided into “Works,” which are the materials written by the interpreter, and “Studies,” which are the materials written about the interpreter. I think this clear structure is unique. The level of detail found in the articles has been amazing to me. The entries are written by scholars, many of whom are internationally recognized and experts on the specific figures about whom they write. It has been a great gift to enlist these colleagues for this work, and they have made an outstanding contribution to the history of biblical interpretation for years to come.

Scandrett: The *DMBI* includes well over two hundred articles on individual interpreters. Of course, many more could have been



Triumph, continued from page 1

philosophy and theology, as well as professional philosophers.”

The Triumph of God Over Evil: Theodicy for a World of Suffering is the first volume in our Strategic Initiatives in Evangelical Theology series. We think this will make a real contribution to the ongoing exploration of this

Christian voice and witness.

Highly selective, this series will work as a kind of “university press” within IVP Academic, offering highest-level academic works that are of special significance for evangelical scholarship and witness within the church catholic and in the academic world.

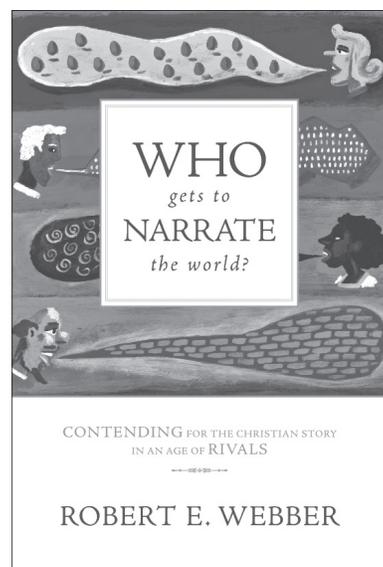
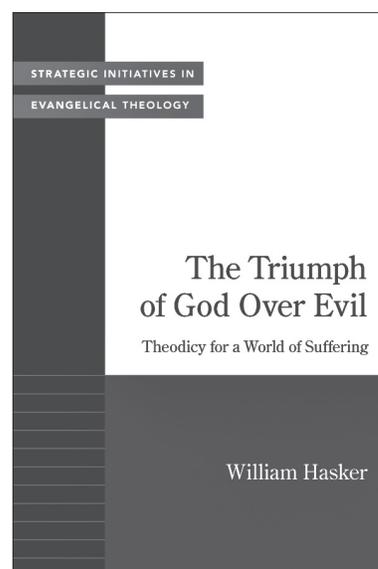
- Roger Lundin, Blanchard Professor of English, Wheaton College
- Mark A. Noll, Francis A. McAnaney Professor of History, University of Notre Dame
- Margaret Kim Peterson, Associate Professor of Theology, Eastern University
- Kevin Vanhoozer, Research Professor of Systematic Theology, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School ■

This series will work as a kind of “university press” within IVP Academic.

perennial issue. This series was developed to allow evangelicals to fully participate in the discussion of current issues both within and beyond evangelicalism. It will serve the evangelical church by providing a venue for discussion and debate about matters vital to the health and crucial to the future direction of evangelical theology, but it will also allow those who do their scholarship from within an evangelical theological framework to present their concerns and findings to the larger church and to the wider academic world without muting their essentially

We are especially pleased to have a number of outstanding folks assist us by serving on our advisory board:

- Hans Boersma, J. I. Packer Professor of Theology, Regent College
- C. Stephen Evans, Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy and the Humanities, Baylor University
- Joel B. Green, Professor of New Testament Interpretation, Fuller Theological Seminary
- Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, Professor of Systematic Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary



Who Gets to Narrate the World?

The late Robert Webber believed this question to be the most pressing issue of our time. Christianity in America, he preached, will not survive if Christians are not rooted in and informed by the uniquely Christian story that is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This is the burden of Webber’s final book, *Who Gets to Narrate the World? Contending for the Christian Story in an Age of Rivals*. Convinced that American evangelicals are facing the demise of their entire way of life and faith, Webber challenges his readers to rise up and engage both the external and

internal challenges confronting them today. This means that Christians must repent of their cultural accommodation and reclaim the unique story—the Christian story—that God has given them both to proclaim and to live.

Webber’s argument is hard-hitting and provocative. Not all readers will agree with his assessments or predictions, especially those regarding Islam and the future of the West. But agree or not, this book succeeds in challenging evangelicals to consider who, indeed, gets to narrate the world. ■

McKim, continued from page 2

added. Can you explain why you included these and not others? What were your criteria?

McKim: This was a challenge. The earlier book had to be very selective. It was “easy as pie” to say a certain figure who has been “major” was left out. Now the same thing may be said for the *DMBI*, but not quite so easily! The biggest drawback to the book is the lack of women interpreters and of those from non-Western contexts.

Basically, I was looking for figures who had made significant contributions to biblical interpretation. This usually took the form of those who had written biblical commentaries. In the early church and through the Reformation period these were major theologians as well—people like Origen, or Augustine, or Luther and Calvin. In later periods, biblical scholars ended up writing most of the commentaries, with some exceptions—most notably, Karl Barth. But other contributors to biblical scholarship are acknowledged here as well, such as those who have provided new theories or paradigms or emphases. These include scholars such as, for example, the Old Testament scholar George Mendenhall with his views of covenant, and Bruce Metzger, who made so many contributions on New Testament textual matters and biblical translation.

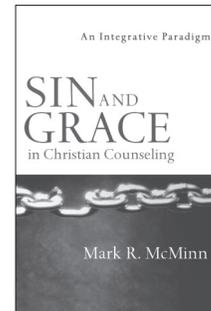
One more element needs to be noted. In expanding the list of interpreters from the first book to the second, we decided that we should limit the new entries to those who are no longer living. Without this provision, the whole host of contemporary interpreters

would vie for inclusion! As it is, the *DMBI* is a good bit longer than originally conceived. So we had to draw that line. Sadly, some major biblical interpreters died while the volume was being put together. So they are included in the *Dictionary*, but would not have been had they lived longer. Unfortunately, several of our contributors from the first and the second volumes have died as well.

Scandrett: In addition to their use as reference works, our dictionaries often end up being adopted as academic textbooks. Do you see the *DMBI* having textbook potential?

McKim: I was pleased to read that Robert Yarbrough in his cover endorsement indicated he will make this volume a “mainstay in my History of Interpretation course.” May his tribe increase! InterVarsity Press has made this book remarkably affordable—a huge plus these days for which I am most appreciative. So I do hope it will have textbook potential. Anyone interested in how the Bible has been understood can find treasures in this book. It is a great book for browsing or—if you are really disciplined—for reading an entry a day! My hope is that this book will stimulate others like it, and will capture the imagination of scholars and students by opening new windows of interpretive insights. I hope it will be a gift both to the academy and the church as people who engage in biblical interpretation gratefully receive what has been given to us by those who have gone before, those who also worked with the biblical texts in order to increase both faith and understanding. ■

McMinn to Integrate Sin & Grace



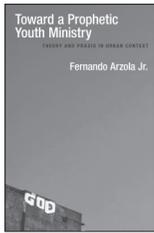
CAPS BOOKS
from IVP Academic

Mark McMinn has long struggled with how to give both sin and the grace of God their due place in counseling. His own experience has attuned him to the fact that these elements of Christian theology

have not been properly related in intentionally Christian approaches to psychotherapy, giving rise to competing paradigms. In *Sin and Grace in Christian Counseling: An Integrative Paradigm* McMinn wants to correct this theological imbalance and bring into closer coordination approaches to counseling taken by Christians. McMinn also makes use of the integrative model he and Clark Campbell developed and offer in their book, *Integrative Psychotherapy* (IVP Academic).

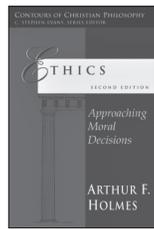
This book is featured as a part of our joint venture with the Christian Association for Psychological Studies (CAPS). A welcome addition to the series and a resource for professional psychotherapists, students, pastors and nonlicensed counselors. ■

New & Noteworthy



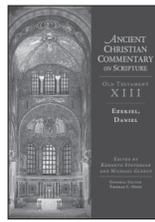
For a long time, the conventional wisdom was that any book on youth ministry, regardless of content or orientation, would work in the classroom or on the youthworker's blog,

in the suburbs or the city. That's no longer the case. Fernando Arzola Jr. addresses an enormous gap with *Toward a Prophetic Youth Ministry*, providing a substantive resource for the classroom to better prepare youth workers for thinking about and ministering in the urban context.

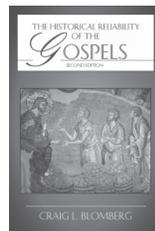


Almost twenty-five years ago, Arthur Holmes provided a slim survey called *Ethics for the Contours of Christian Philosophy*. With over 60,000 copies in print, it has proved useful for several generations of students. So we thought it was due for a facelift and update, taking into account some of the changes in the philosophical landscape since that time. Arthur agreed, and the new edition is out.

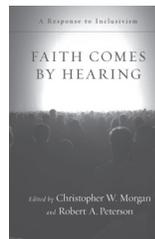
The Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture continues to move toward comple-



tion with this dual volume on the prophets Ezekiel and Daniel. Volume editors include Bishop Kenneth Stevenson from England and Michael Glerup from the ACCS office, with an introduction to Daniel by Thomas McCollough.



Craig Blomberg has extended the usefulness of his study in this second edition of *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels* with 30 percent new or updated material, including extensive bibliographic updates. Students of the Gospels are all in his debt.



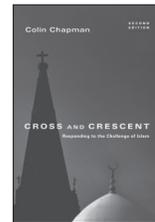
What is the fate of the unevangelized? The traditional position has fallen out of favor with some evangelicals. *Faith Comes by Hearing: A Response to Inclusivism*, edited by Robert A. Peterson and Christopher W. Morgan, is a passionate but irenic response to the arguments of those who believe that the

unevangelized can (or might) be saved apart from an explicit faith in Jesus.



This updated edition of what has become a standard text in business courses around the country explores the foundational Christian concepts of holiness, justice and love.

Alexander Hill's penetrating case studies on such topics as employer-employee relations, discrimination and affirmative action, and environmental damage make *Just Business* as down-to-earth as ever.



The second edition of *Cross and Crescent*, a standard introduction to the history, beliefs and practices of Islam, features new and revised chapters on terrorism, political realities and how Western attitudes have changed in recent years. As before, Colin Chapman brings remarkable sensitivity and humanity to a question that too often incites hostility and suspicion. ■

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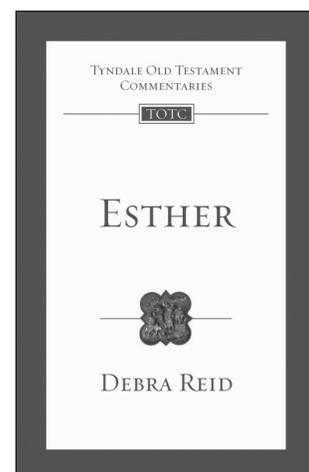
Tyndale Commentaries Enjoy New Look

A year ago we announced that for the first time both the Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries and the Tyndale New Testament Commentaries would be available exclusively from InterVarsity Press. That was only the beginning. Over the coming year, we will be completely retypesetting all the Tyndale Commentaries, producing them in a larger, more attractive format and redesigning the covers so the entire series will match. But there is more yet.

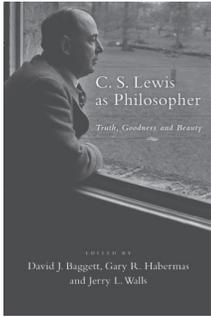
Esther by Debra Reid is the first of all-new replacement volumes which are planned

for the whole Old Testament series in the coming years. Under the direction of series editor David G. Firth and consulting editor Tremper Longman III, the format of the new volumes will place each passage in its literary setting, offer exegesis of the passage and highlight significant theological themes.

Craig Blomberg has said that "the Tyndale volumes have long been the premier shorter-length commentary series on both Testaments throughout the English-speaking world." ■



The Socratic Lewis



Apparently it takes three editors and thirteen contributors to account for the philosophical thought of C. S. Lewis! Jerry Walls, Gary Habermas and David Baggett team up with the likes of Peter Kreeft, Jean Bethke Elshtain and Victor Reppert (and others) to give us *C. S. Lewis as*

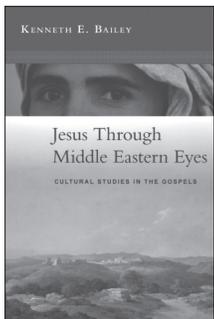
Philosopher: Truth, Goodness and Beauty.

While Lewis was not a professional philosopher, his background, education, and experience teaching and being president of the Oxford Socratic Club prepared him significantly for contributing to the perennial philo-

sophical debates of his time. Of course, many of his most influential writings are essentially works of popular philosophy.

This volume explores Lewis's philosophical legacy. Along the way most readers will gain a deeper appreciation of philosophy itself and the issues that continue to challenge a defense of the Christian faith. Arranged around the three classical themes of Truth, Goodness and Beauty, this book will be of value especially to philosophy students and lovers of Lewis's thought who want to explore and benefit from his reflections on these ideals, ideals that ultimately, Lewis would claim, lead us to the Source of them all in whom they are perfectly joined. ■

Bailey Doles out Exegetical Treasures



For decades, Ken Bailey has been teaching readers of the New Testament to understand the sacred text in light of Middle Eastern peasant culture, a culture he is steeped in and which has undergone little change in the last twenty centuries. In *Jesus Through Middle Eastern*

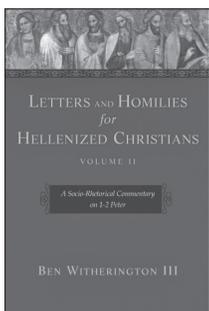
Eyes, Bailey brings forth exegetical treasures both new and old from this storehouse of cultural insight.

Beginning with Jesus' birth, Bailey leads readers on a kaleidoscopic study of Jesus throughout the four

Gospels. He examines the life and ministry of Jesus with attention to the Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes, Jesus' relationship to women and especially Jesus' parables. Bailey lifts away the obscuring layers of modern Western interpretation to reveal Jesus in the light of his actual historical and cultural setting.

For those who have benefited from Bailey's work over the years, this book will be a welcome and indispensable addition to their library. For those unfamiliar with Bailey's work, this book will introduce them to a very old, yet entirely new way of understanding Jesus. ■

Witherington Rounds Third



With the release of *Letters and Homilies for Hellenized Christians, Volume 2: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on 1-2 Peter*, Ben Witherington III completes a unique three-volume set of commentaries on the so-called Pastoral and General Epistles.

Witherington manages to shed fresh light on these letters or homilies both by examining them within their differing social milieus and by highlighting the rhetorical strategies of their authors.

These commentaries serve to supplement rather than replace other works, and "Bridging the Horizons" sections make them especially relevant to current and prospective pastors and Bible teachers. "Closer Look" sections provide expanded discussion of issues related to contemporary theological, pastoral or apologetic concerns. These three volumes bring nearly to completion Ben's exegesis of the whole New Testament and serve to prepare the way for a two-volume work of New Testament theology, forthcoming from IVP Academic in 2009. ■

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P.O. Box 1400
Downers Grove, IL 60515-1426
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Vol. 17, No. 1
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