

BOOK REVIEWS / BOEKRESENSIES

D. Brent Sandy & Daniel M. O'Hare. *Prophecy and Apocalyptic. An annotated bibliography* (IBR 4). Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007. 240 pages. Paperback. US \$28.00, ISBN 978-0-8010-2601-0

An annotated bibliography in the technological driven twenty first century immediately raises a few questions: is there still a place in academia for printed works of this nature? Is such an undertaking not doomed to be dated before the publication process even gets underway? Is it possible to cover any field adequately in this way? After reading through this volume one has to acknowledge that questions like these are all answered in a very satisfactory manner. The authors have provided post graduate students and researchers with a valuable tool.

This book is one of fourteen envisaged in a series sponsored by the Institute for Biblical Research (IBR). The four volumes on the Old and six on the New Testament follow the traditional demarcation of these texts. For the Old Testament this means that the volume under review is supplemented by ones on The Pentateuch, Historical Books, and Poetry and Wisdom. A further four volumes on methodology will deal with issues related to “introduction” and “theology” of the two Testaments.

In each of the two parts of the book (Prophecy and Apocalyptic) publications are listed under the following sections: Information and Orientation; Definition and Identification; Conception and Communication; Composition and Compilation; Transmission and Interpretation. Each section is subdivided into meaningful smaller sections with narrower foci. Every section and its smaller subsections are introduced by a short description of its specific focus.

In the authors' preface they clearly spell out why what their criteria were for inclusion (and exclusion). Reference is made to a web address (p. 13) that should give access to “hundreds of sources” not included in the printed copy. Unfortunately, the link provided did not work when I tried it. The authors focused their attention on publications in English, or those translated into English in the case of important works that appeared in other languages. Only a few entries occur where such English translations of the work under discussion are not available (e.g. on pp. 63, 144, 227 [French]; and pp. 65, 79, 150, 155, 173, 213 [German]). The primary aim of the volume is to provide an overview of the present status in die field, while also introducing new researchers to the older classics.

The annotations provide brief, but valuable summaries of the content of each of the 558 publications listed. The authors did not include commentaries on individual books in their survey. It will boil down to knit picking if one

were to engage in arguments as to why certain publications were not cited, while others were included. Hence this reviewer will only note that the last subsection (Transmission and Interpretation) of Part 1 of the book that deals with Prophecy could have included subsections on the new developments related to ecological and post colonial readings of the prophetic texts. In a similar vein it should be noted that the subsection on Textual History of the prophetic texts is quite brief. The work concludes with a name index in which the names of a number of past and present OTSSA members also duly appear.

This book, and hopefully the rest of this series, will prove to be valuable assists to anyone studying the prophetic and apocalyptic literature of the Old Testament on any level.

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