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work, written with clarity, cogency, and great erudition, is a joy to read and a strong challenge to much of contemporary scholarship, which often imposes an evolutionary model on the development of early christology.


This rich collection of essays is a translation and adaptation from the German original that appeared in 1996. The portrayal of the mysterious “Suffering Servant” in Isaiah 53 is a key text for both Judaism and Christianity. To probe the meaning of this text in its original context and its roles in later Jewish, New Testament, and early Christian tradition, ten prominent European scholars provide essays. An extensive bibliography and detailed index are also included, enhancing the value of this work, particularly for biblical scholars of both traditions.


This book proves that no part of the Bible—however insignificant it may seem—can escape scholarly scrutiny. James Kelsoffer, who teaches New Testament at Saint Louis University, uses considerable scholarly skill to explore the Baptist’s diet of locusts and wild honey. After considering the background on what is “wild” honey and what place bugs—including locusts—had in ancient diets, Kelsoffer concludes that while this diet might signal John’s ascetical style, it is more likely meant to underscore his association with the wilderness and evoke Israel’s origins there. This is a work of serious scholarship and helps add to our understanding of the biblical world. At the same time, for those who want to bone up for their next round of biblical trivial pursuits, this book has a wealth of information.


Baptist professor of Scripture Warren McWilliams tackles an enormous pastoral issue in this helpful book. After a brief reflection on the “justice” of God as presented in the Bible, the author addresses a host of thorny questions often raised by Christians who suffer, ranging from suffering, and grief. In each instance, he is in dealing with the often unusual style is clear and engaging, making the book a helpful guide.


This book, intended for a general audience, is a popular self-help book with a practical title: “Preparing,” “Work Smarter,” “Safeguarding Your Sanity.” False Christian Preacher: An Exposé of False Christianity. Whether this formula will work for you is not clear, but some readers may find its approach helpful. In the end, the book reads more like a self-help book than a study of the Bible, despite its claim to be based on the Bible.

J. Philip Newell, Celtic Leaves: 244. Cloth, $20.00.

Saint Patrick’s Day has come and gone, but this book is a timely gift anyway. Composed of short entries on Scripture, art, and Irish tradition, it is organized into seven days of the week with a short phrase of Scripture, some reflection on the beautiful color: prints from Ireland, and contemporary selections. This book is perfect for the eye and for meditation.


This is a contribution to a new genre, the religious commentary, one that emphasizes a different approach to the biblical text. This is not another analytical and dispassionate treatment of the biblical text; instead, it is a profound and passionate theological message of the Church. Professor Jaroslav Pelikan writes with this in mind, and he does so with great skill. He moves through the Acts, providing theological and historical context, and gives a clear and concise summary of the key theological implications of key passages in the New Testament. This book is a valuable resource for students of the Bible and for anyone interested in understanding the history and theology of the early Church.


The direct dialogue between N. T. Wright and his critics is long overdue, and this volume brings it to the fore. Wright’s arguments are clear and well-documented, and his critics are equally forceful. The essays in this volume are a valuable resource for anyone interested in the ongoing debate between Wright and his critics.