

## BOOK BRIEFS

*The World That Perished*, by John C. Whitcomb, Jr. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1973. 155 pages. \$1.95 (paperback).

This volume sets forth in popular form the basic Biblical and scientific evidence for the Genesis Flood. Throughout the book, the author affirms the trustworthiness of the Biblical account. The book contains numerous photographs illustrating such phenomena as rapid formation of stalactites and stalagmites, the formation of mountains, and the recent formation of the island of Surtsey in order to counter the modern speculation that billions of years were necessary to produce the earth.

*The Divine Covenants*, by Arthur W. Pink. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1973. 317 pages. \$.75.

This reprint (Pink died in 1952) emphasizes the thesis that God's dealings with men are all based on His covenant engagements with them. The book contrasts grace and works; and the author affirms that, from the beginning, God's dealings with men have rested on a covenant of grace. Pink presents studies of God's covenants with Adam, Noah, Abraham, the Hebrew nation, and David. The book concludes with chapters on the Messianic Covenant and the Covenant allegory.

*Evangelistic Sermons*, by James P. Westberry. Nashville: Broadman. 1974. 124 pages. \$1.95 (paperback).

These evangelistic sermons, by a longtime pastor of Morningside Baptist Church, of Atlanta, stress the wonder of God's mercy. The work lacks freshness.

*God Being My Helper*, by Ralph Herring. Nashville: Broadman. 1973. 139 pages. \$2.50 (paperback).

This reprint of a 1955 book presents the presence of the Holy Spirit as comforter and guide.

*Real Life in Christ*, by T. B. Maston. Nashville: Broadman. 1974. 122 pages. \$1.95 (paperback).

This study of the true nature of the Christian life was written by a retired professor of Southwestern Baptist Seminary.

*The Story of Religion in America*, by William W. Sweet. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1973. 429 pages. \$4.95 (paperback).

This work, which appeared in 1930, is now made available in paperback as a Baker reprint. The book explains the religious aspects of our national life and relates them to political, economic, and social factors. This work remains valuable for any student of the American religious scene.

*Philosophy of Religion*, by Elton Trueblood. Grand Rapids: Baker. 324 pages. \$3.95 (paperback).

This Baker reprint of a standard work is not written in the familiar "popular style" of Trueblood. The volume is a serious attempt to expound the essentials of a philosophy which enables persons to be intellectually honest and sincerely devout.

*The G. Campbell Morgan Library*, by G. Campbell Morgan. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1973. 7 vols. (paperback).

These paperbacks range in price from \$1.50 for *God's Perfect Will* (108 pages) to \$2.95 for *The Triumphs of Faith, Expositions of Hebrews 11* (192 pages). In addition to the two reprints listed above the series also includes *The Missionary Manifesto, Expository Messages on the Great Commission, The Practice of Prayer, Malachi's Message For Today, Discipleship*, and *The Answers of Jesus to Job*. This library has been established to make available selected reprints of some of the outstanding writings of the prominent Bible expositor, G. Campbell Morgan. His expositions remain helpful to today's Bible student.

*Eyes to Behold Him*, by Michael Gaydos. Carol Stream (Ill.): Creation House, 1973. 139 pages. \$4.95.

A young evangelist, an ordained cleric of the Roman Catholic Church, searches for himself, his church, and his God. This moving autobiography testifies to the great work God is doing in our day. Almost totally blind, the author experienced a miraculous healing that opened up for him new life in Christ, resulting in a Spirit-filled ministry of the Word that is embracing both Catholics and Protestants.

*The Roots of Ritual*, edited by James D. Shaughnessy. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1973. 251 pages. \$3.95 (paperback).

The authors of the essays that make up this book disagree that modern man has outgrown his need for ritual. They contend for the importance of ritual observances in both civil and religious areas. Subjects considered range from a consideration of ritual in liturgy to its role as reflected in church architecture.

*For Goodness' Sake*, by Edith Patterson Meyer. Nashville: Abingdon, 1973. 176 pages. \$4.95.

This is the story of "growing up in a New England parsonage," in which the author gives tribute to her parents and spells out the essential values which governed and guided their lives.

*Searchlight on Bible Words*, compiled by James C. Hefley. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1972. 198 pages. \$4.95.

In this book the compiler, a full-time free-lance writer, assisted by John Beekman of the Wycliffe Bible Translators, puts together nearly two hundred stories about how the Wycliffe Bible translators translated some hundred Bible words into the language of the various tribes throughout the world. By reading these accounts, the reader is convinced of the importance of knowing the original languages and the cultural backgrounds of the Bible.

The title and the subtitle *Unique Insights into Biblical word concepts illustrated by "translation treasures" from Wycliffe Bible Translators*, may be a little misleading. If one is interested in how the different

tribes understand and express some Bible concepts, or if he is looking for sermon illustrations, this is a good source book. However, if one is interested in accurate and comprehensive understanding of Bible words, he will be disappointed.

*A Matter of Eternity*, Selections from the writings of Dorothy L. Sayers. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1973. 139 pages. \$4.50.

Dorothy L. Sayers stands in the great tradition of English writers—Chesterton, Lewis, Williams, and others—who make Christian theology a challenge and a joy to read. These excerpts represent the full range of the author's work. The reader shares something of the author's excitement over Christian doctrine. The kind of book one returns to again and again!

*O Susan!*, by James W. Angell. Anderson (Ind.): Warner Press, 1973. 125 pages. \$4.95.

Here is the true story of a family's search for meaning in the wake of sudden death. At 21, Susan's life was ended in a tragic car accident. *O Susan!* records the agony of a family's honestly confronting a deep personal tragedy.

*The Word of the Lord*, by John R. Bisagno. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1973. 149 pages. \$4.95.

This is a series of pastoral messages designed to meet the common crises of the Christian life. "Let us look closely at what we can learn from the Word of the Lord," says the author. This is the first step in finding the answer to critical problems. The Word of the Lord is here interpreted in vigorous, contemporary language.

*By the Power of the Holy Spirit*, by David M. Howard. Downer's Grove (Ill.): Inter-Varsity Press, 1973. 172 pages. \$1.75 (paperback).

The Missions Director of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship draws on his experiences as a missionary in Colombia to explain how the Holy

Spirit unites the body of Christ, empowers for service, and imparts gifts to individuals to strengthen the whole body. He discusses questions such as: What is the baptism of the Spirit? What are the gifts of the Spirit? How are they related to world evangelism? A helpful book in seeking the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

*The Public Speaker's Handbook of Humor*, by Helen and Larry Eisenberg. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1972. 319 pages. \$2.95 (paperback edition)

Part of the *Speakers' and Toastmasters' Library*, this handbook includes quips, puns, stories and readings carefully organized. The book is fully indexed. Materials must be viewed in appropriate contexts to have relevance, and the earnest master of ceremonies will pick and choose his materials from a vast store of possibilities (the book contains thousands of items).

*Historic Patterns of Church Growth*, by Harold R. Cook. Chicago: Moody Press, 1971, 128 pages. \$1.98 (paperback).

The author seeks to answer the question, Why do some churches grow at a phenomenal rate while others lag behind? Five churches, remarkable for their development, are selected from ancient and recent cultures (Armenian, Celtic, Hawaiian, Karen of Burma, and Batak of Sumatra). Ethnic, religious, cultural, and social backgrounds are analyzed; and the result is a worthwhile contribution toward promoting church growth particularly in "missionary" areas of the world.

*Earth's Most Challenging Mysteries*, by Reginald Daly. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1972. 403 pages. \$3.95.

This is rather disappointing. The topic has to do with the theories that have been developed to explain the important geological difficulties. The thesis is that the confusion caused by conflicting theories is the result of blind adherence to the theory of evolution as established fact. The disappointment is not the result of the commendable topic and thesis; it is rather the result of the lack of organization, the lack of development of a conclusion, the dependence upon secondary sources (even

for quotations), overdependence upon quotations strung together somewhat miscellaneously, improper documentation of sources, and repetitions, and the use of words in critical statements that elicit an automatically negative response. One can only regret that such a great effort was not directed toward a more mature, scholarly, and less pettily antagonistic approach on the same premises.

*Made For Each Other*, by John W. Drakeford. Nashville: Broadman, 1973. 152 pages. \$4.95.

This is a volume in a series entitled, *Sexuality in Christian Living*. Parents, pastors, and counselors helped plan the series, written for children, teen-agers, and young adults, to provide factual information and guidance in developing Christian attitudes toward sex. In this book, the author seeks to help young adults.

*A Study Guide to Amos*, by D. David Garland. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1973. 96 pages. \$1.50 (paperback).

In a thematic approach to the book of *Amos* the author extracts from the life of the prophet lessons particularly relevant to the contemporary church.

*Plain Talk on Acts*, by Manford George Gutzke. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1972. 221 pages. \$7.95 (paperback).

The fourth printing of this book witnesses to its wide acceptance. This section-by-section exposition of *Acts*, written in lay language, is richly devotional and replete with applications for daily living.

*Speaker's Source Book for Talks to Teens*, by Louis O. Caldwell. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1972. 149 pages. \$1.95 (paperback).

Particularly designed for youth leaders, this compilation of resource materials should help to relate the Christian message to today's younger generation. Here are hundreds of quotations, anecdotes, statistics, and poems to enliven any talk to teens.