

BOOK BRIEFS

The Spirit of Christ, by James R. Bishop. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1968. 64 pages. 95¢ (paperback).

Dr. James R. Bishop, founder of the South India Bible Institute in India, gives a series of expositions on the ninefold fruits of the Spirit with the intent of making Christ relevant in today's world. This is a seasoned and successful missionary's presentation of the *personal, practical holiness* which characterizes a life indwelt by the spirit of Christ.

God Up There, by David Cairns. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1967. 111 pages. \$2.95.

This little book, by the professor of theology at the University of Aberdeen, re-examines in a popularly-written discussion format the central doctrine of the Divine Transcendence. The author urges that the transcendent God must be regarded as the supreme reality, and that this demands a continuing engagement and encounter with other thinkers. In this connection he discusses Emil Brunner, Paul Tillich, Werner Pelz, John Robinson, and the concept of "this-worldly transcendence."

By Oath Consigned, by Meredith G. Kline. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1968. 110 pages. \$3.75.

In noting the close relationships between biblical and other ancient Near Eastern covenants, and in considering the continuity between the Old Testament and the New Testament, the author provides a more authentic identification of the covenant signs of circumcision and baptism.

Inside Jerusalem, by Arnold Olson. Glendale, California: G. L. Publications, 1968. 241 pages. 95¢.

This small paper bound book is written by a Protestant clergyman, a sympathizer with Israel and a believer in a literal fulfillment of prophecy. He describes the tensions that mounted in Jerusalem while he was visiting there a few days prior to the outbreak of the six-day war in June of 1967. After the war he returned to Israel, met with representative leaders and entered with some depth into the life and thought of the young nation. The chief value of the book is the description of the rise, growth and present condition of the state of Israel, seen through the eyes of an evangelical Christian.

The author regards the events in the Holy Land as a fulfillment of prophecy nothing short of miraculous. He expects the Temple to be rebuilt eventually even at the cost of desecrating Moslem holy places and buildings. The book ends on a note of faith and hope which is perhaps the best that can be said under the circumstances.

Israeli-Arab Conflict and the Bible, by Wilbur M. Smith. Glendale, California: G. L. Publications, 1967 and 68. 162 pages. 95¢.

The author has spent many years studying the Bible, and biblical prophecy has been one of his keen interests. His purpose in this small volume is to bring this background to bear on current events in the Holy Land. Much of the book consists of quotations from the Bible, with numerous Scripture references. Many of the passages quoted, which have to do with the return of the Jews, are regarded by most Bible scholars as references to the restoration after the Exile in Mesopotamia. It will impress many readers as somewhat arbitrary, to say the least, to assign these ancient prophecies to the modern return of the Jews to their homeland.

Dr. Smith gives three reasons for believing that these prophecies refer to modern time rather than to the sixth century B. C. These reasons are first, that the return under Ezra and others was from Mesopotamia rather than from the whole earth. This argument has some plausibility, but when one considers the characteristics of Hebrew prophecy and poetry, it fails to be convincing. The second reason is found in Isaiah, chapter 11, verse 11, in which the return is called the second. If one puts himself back in the eighth century B. C. he would likely regard the first return as from Egypt, under Moses, and the second from a wider distribution following the Babylonian exile. The third point is somewhat more convincing, namely that these prophecies of the return imply that Israel

will remain in the land, which she did not do following the return authorized by Cyrus. Dr. Smith rightly criticizes those who allegorize or spiritualize these prophecies. He himself tends to prefer a literal interpretation. Yet, too often, in the judgment of this reviewer, the author's judgment is affected by his desire to see a literal fulfillment of prophecy in recent events in the Holy Land. There seems to be a tendency to apply prophecies of the future to situations of debatable relevance.

The Hungering Dark, by Frederick Buechner. New York: The Seabury Press, 1969. 125 pages. \$3.95.

A book of meditations remarkable not only for its insights into the predicament of modern man in his dispirited alienation from God, but even more for the biblical light it sheds on this drama of "hungering darkness." The author's unforgettable imagery and his moving use of Scripture are reminiscent of the late C. S. Lewis.

The Journey That Men Make, by James Armstrong. Nashville: Abingdon, 1969. 159 pages. \$3.50.

"Nothing in creation is fixed. Life is ever changing. So too with human personality. You are always in the process of becoming what one day you will be." From this premise, Bishop Armstrong guides us toward self-evaluation by exploring the "where to" and the "what for" of life. In raising crucial questions such as these, he helps us shape worthy goals and develop Christian character.

The Foundations of Jewish Ethics: Volume I of the Teachings of Judaism, compiled by Dr. Simon Bernfeld and translated by A. H. Koller. New York: Ktav Publishing House, 1929, 1968. 265 pages. \$6.95.

This is another of the reprints being offered to the public by Ktav of important Jewish works that have been out of print for some time. This volume includes essays by Leo Baeck, I. Elbogen, A. Loewenthal, S. Bernfeld, and S. Hochfeld. The subjects treated include morality, freedom of the will, purity of soul and equity. An introduction to the volume is provided by Samuel Karff. This volume was assembled for publication first in 1922. The fact that it had its origin in Europe before the rise of

Hitler gives it an increased interest and significance to the reader of today. The volume is concerned primarily with morality and ethics. The essays stress freedom of man's will and hence his responsibility for moral behavior. There is a tendency in the book to be optimistic about human nature. Had it been written after the Second World War with its enormous atrocities, it doubtless would have had a more pessimistic tone. Because it deals primarily with sources of Jewish ethics, it remains a valuable source book for the insights of Jewish leaders of the Middle Ages and the modern period which still have a striking relevance to existence today.

Our Speech Betrays Us, by Wendell Wellman. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 1968. 23 pages.

Mr. Wellman has provided a brief and simple introduction to an issue just about as important as any in our day or any day, namely, the use of the tongue. He gets at his subject by treating, step by step, the statement in the Nazarene *Manual*: "Taking the name of God in vain, quarreling, returning evil for evil, gossiping, slandering, spreading surmises injurious to the good name of others." He is especially communicative in his section on gossiping. Throughout, the use of quotations, both scriptural and extra-scriptural, add materially to the usefulness of the pamphlet.

It is to be hoped that a full-scale volume on this subject is forthcoming.

Life Is Tremendous, by Charles E. Jones. Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1968. 96 pages. 95¢ (paperback).

Charles "Tremendous" Jones is a man overflowing with the excitement of living. This book is the simple outline of his philosophy of life. At its heart is an unqualified commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The burden of the author is to see learning leadership come forth which will motivate others to the higher life. His simple messages offer many practical guidelines for action. Reading them is an exhilarating experience.

Life in One's Stride, by Kenneth Hamilton. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1968. 91 pages. \$1.65 (paperback).

A brief introduction to the life and thought of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, whose influence has grown steadily since his death at the hands of the Nazis near the close of World War II.

The Lenten Sourcebook, by Herbert Lockyer. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1968. 192 pages. \$4.95.

A volume rich in materials for Lenten programs and Lenten preaching and prayers. The author presents a "balanced" view of this season in the church year; Lent has its tender as well as its stern aspect, its song as well as its sorrow. This book should inspire a high quality of Lenten preaching as well as a diversity of approach.

The Word Comes Alive, by Wayne E. Ward. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1969. 112 pages. \$2.95.

A little book with content that justifies its title. A professor of theology at Southern Baptist Seminary shows how otherwise dry biblical preaching can be set forth as God's living Word. For purposes of biblical interpretation he discovers for us five basic literary units or patterns in the Bible, and for each he presents a vivid example in point.