

J.-N. Aletti, M. Gilbert, J.-L. Ska, S. du Vulpillières. *Vocabulaire raisonné de l'exégèse biblique: Les mots, les approches, les auteurs*. Éditions du Cerf: Paris, 2005. ISBN: 2204073806. Pp. 159. €25.00.

1. This dictionary presents the special vocabulary of biblical exegesis. It is divided into four sections: the different books of the Bible (by M. Gilbert), diachronic or historical-critical approaches (J.-L. Ska), synchronic approaches (J.-N. Aletti), and general vocabulary and terms taken from English and German (S. du Vulpillières). As the introductory remark says, there are 1200 items, some of which appear more than once because of this division into sections that are independent from one another. In this respect the index, covering more than 10 pages, will be extremely helpful.

2. The short articles explaining the head-words concentrate on essential information. However, criteria of choice and order of entries are not always clear. This is especially true for the first section ("The Bible and its contents"). Its first subdivision may serve as a telling example of the problem: first a few introductory items are defined ("Bible," "chapter/verse," "reference," "stichos," "hemistich," "distich"). Then there are five pages on the Hebrew Bible, two on the Septuagint, and two on the New Testament. Concerning the Hebrew Bible, the information on the three parts of the TaNaK is disparate. Three sentences summarize the contents of the "Law"/Torah; there follow the entries "Decalogue," "Covenant Code," "Holiness Code," "Deuteronomic Code." With regard to the "Prophets," a short article discusses the Former Prophets (also mentioning "Deuteronomic History"); the Latter Prophets include the "minor prophets" and the more special items "Second Isaiah," "songs of the Servant," "Jeremiah's confessions," "Ezekiel's torah." Much more space is dedicated to the Writings ("psalm," "doxology," "sapiential," "Book of Job," "alphabetic poem," "megillot" with Sukkot and Purim—the remaining three festivals are mentioned in the text—"Chronist," etc.).

3. Though the criteria of choosing (and omitting) entries are also not quite clear there, the sections on diachronic and synchronic approaches to the Bible will be the most useful ones. The latter offers the vocabulary of narrative and rhetorical analysis plus epistolary analysis (but why is there an extra subsection on criticism of St. Paul's writings?).

4. Four appendices present a number of renowned biblical scholars, lists of abbreviations of biblical books and of abbreviations of books, series and periodicals often cited, and bibliographic reference to three books dealing with vocabulary of biblical exegesis.

5. Basically, it seems a very good idea to provide students with a dictionary of vocabulary of biblical exegesis. However, as the arrangement within the sections and subsections of this booklet is not systematic, but sometimes rather associative, and because the entries in part I are not listed in alphabetical order, students will not find it easy to use.

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