

GERHARDS, MEIK, *Samson als Bild Christi* (Oberurseler Hefte Ergänzungsbände, 26; Göttingen: Edition Ruprecht, 2022), pp. 296. €54.32. ISBN 9783846903797 (hardback).

As the title suggests, this monograph deals exclusively with the Christian reception of the character of Samson. In this regard, it continues the author's earlier work on Jonah and Ruth. The first half of G.'s present book is devoted to methodological considerations with a focus on how the Christian Church through the ages has emphasized the unity of the Old and New Testaments and accordingly endeavoured to read the material in the former in such a way that it becomes fruitful for Christian theology. The second half is devoted to Samson. It asks poignantly how it is possible to transform the strange character of Samson into a type for Christ. Much depends on the affinity between Samson's and Jesus' respective deaths. Both, although in very different ways, are conceived as saviours sent to redeem God's people and both are depicted as victorious through their deaths. The typology gains additional support as both characters are labelled a *našir* (Matt. 2.23). As to the potential problems of embracing the typology due to Samson's use of unbridled violence, M. demonstrates the marginality of these concerns: much Christian reception understands the OT war scenes in a derived sense of spiritual warfare. This is not a systematic survey of Samson in Christian reception. For that, the selection of commentators (Luther, Jerome) is too haphazard; it is rather a thoughtful exploration of the methodological considerations of traditional Christian exegesis of the OT and how the OT has been made relevant to Christian readers.

LENA-SOFIA TIEMEYER

GOLDINGAY, JOHN, *Joshua* (BCOT Historical Books; Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2023), pp. xx + 507. \$54.99. ISBN 978-1-5409-6461-8 (hardback), 978-1-4934-4005-4 (e-book).

G. continues to produce major commentaries on a wide range of biblical books (Psalms, Hosea–Micah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Second Isaiah, Daniel), along with more popular volumes (Samuel, Kings, Job, etc.). To the former category now may be added his excellent commentary on Joshua, the first to appear in the new Baker series itemized above. Each chapter or pericope includes an overview; G.'s own English translation, already published in *The First Testament* (2018), along with relevant textual notes; verse-by-verse interpretation; and theological reflection (including echoes in the NT and Christianity more generally). The 57-page Introduction is a model of clarity and exposition, especially since G. does not shy away from topics raised by post-modern sensibilities, such as violence, colonialism, etc. He provides a balanced and moderating voice to these topics, for example when he writes, 'And given that scarcely any people has always lived where it is now, hardly any nation can cast the first stone in discussions of migration, settlement, conquest, and displacement' (p. 4). This reviewer especially enjoyed G.'s discussion of authorship, as he compares Joshua to 'a script that issues from work in a writers room' (p. 7) (for movies, television programmes, etc.)—and of course the same could be said about most if not all of the narrative books in the Bible. In addition to the usual Author Index and Scripture Index, the volume includes an extensive Subject Index (nine pages!). This volume belongs on the bookshelf of every biblical scholar and advanced student.

GARY A. RENDSBURG

GREENWOOD, KYLE R., and DAVID B. SCHREINER, *Ahab's House of Horrors: A Historiographic Study of the Military Campaigns of the House of Omri* (Studies in Biblical Archaeology, Geography, and History; Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2023), pp. xx + 168. \$22.99 (paperback), \$19.99 (e-book). ISBN 978-1-68359-648-6 (paperback), 978-1-68359-649-3 (e-book).

Focusing on the Omride wars (1 Kgs. 20, 22, and 2 Kgs. 3) rather than on Ahab, the authors promise 'an intelligent synthesis' of 'biblical and extrabiblical testimonies'. To demonstrate their method, they seek to reduce the 'tension' between the Tel Dan stele and the biblical accounts (2 Kgs. 8–10) of the Omride dynasty's downfall. Discussions of LBA Israelite–Aramean interaction