

This is a marvelous book. Moberly is dealing with highly significant issues and questions, and he does so with care, sensitivity, and wisdom. I highly recommend it.

Gregory J. Laughery

The Enduring Authority of the Christian Scriptures

D. A. Carson, ed,
London: IVP, 2016 (1240 ss).

This is a massive volume comprising a lengthy Introduction, thirty-four chapters, and a Q & A at the end. Major sections deal with the following topics: Historical, Biblical / Theological, Philosophical / Epistemological, and Comparative Religions.

In the Introduction, Carson offers a broad overview of what he sees as the contemporary discussion regarding the nature of Scripture. He surveys a diversity of perspectives from those that question the authority of Scripture, to those who defend it in one form or the other. Carson also offers a very brief summary of the major sections and the chapters addressed to particular issues within them. At the outset of this book, he makes it clear that he is pro-inerrancy and anti-historical criticism. His apologetic tone is evident. Thus, this book is not an exploration, as much as it is a defense of one view of the nature of Scripture.

The first nine chapters deal with historical issues on the authority of the Bible. They include looking at various views of Scripture from the Patristic period through Augustine, and the Reformers, to German pietism, Wesleyan theology, Old Princeton, Karl Barth, and Roman Catholic perspectives from the nineteenth century to the present.

The following fourteen chapters delve into Biblical and theological issues. There are several chapters on the Old Testament, the Old Testament and the New, and others on how history and theology are connected. Further topics in this section include, God, God and the Bible, literature, and myth.

In the next six chapters the authors take up philosophical and epistemological questions. A diversity of issues such as truth, non-foundationalism, authority, science, and inerrancy are examined.

There are then four chapters devoted to a comparison of religions. Hindu, Muslim, and Buddhist texts and claims are discussed and compared to the biblical text.

One chapter is dedicated, following Augustine, to taking and reading the Bible.

Lastly, several pages of Q&A on the authority of Scripture with Carson responding complete the volume.

There's plenty of material here, but the book carries a steep price. By and large all the chapters are coherent and share the same perspectives on Scripture, no matter what particular topic is addressed. If you're interested in a rather conservative defense of the traditional doctrine of the authority of Scripture presented in a diversity of ways, then this book is for you. The list of contributors is impressive and the authors do a credible job with an aspect of scholarly work (apologetics), without however questioning their initial presuppositions on the nature and status of the biblical text. It is and always has been God's inerrant Word and in their opinion nothing can change that. Thus, the Bible, for these interpreters, is the norm for all truth at all times.

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