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Book Review

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BOOK REVIEW

All books reviewed in this periodical may be procured from or through Concordia Publishing House, 3558 South Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63118.

ARCHÄOLOGIE UND ALTES TESTAMENT: FESTSCHRIFT FÜR KURT GALLING. Edited by Arnulf Kuschke and Ernst Kutsch. Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck), 1970. 363 pages. Cloth. DM 90.00.

Galling, for whose 70th birthday this volume was prepared, has been a leading student of the archaeology and history of the Old Testament. A listing of his books and articles covers more than seven pages. It includes a monograph on Israel's election traditions, a textbook for the history of Israel, a commentary on Ecclesiastes, several contributions to commentaries written by others, and the very important *Studien zur Geschichte Israels im persischen Zeitalter*. He has contributed dozens of dictionary and encyclopedia articles and served as one of the editors of the third edition of *Die Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart*.

The 31 essays in German, French, and English have no unifying theme and reflect the wide range of topics pertaining to Galling's competence. In addition to a number of exegetical studies, an international team of colleagues and students contributed articles on geography, archaeology, ancient literature, musical instruments, and architecture. Among the more interesting items is Kutsch's proposal to derive the word *berith* (covenant) from a root meaning to see or to choose for a specific assignment. A primary nuance of the noun is then found to be "stipulation" or "obligation."

Walter Zimmerli continues his studies on exilic theology by showing that the promise of release in the jubilee year was reinterpreted to mean that God would free Israel from captivity in the 50th year. Zimmerli notes that Ezekiel's plans to rebuild the temple and Jerusalem (Ezekiel 40—48) were received by the prophet in the 25th

year of his captivity (halfway to deliverance) and that the measurements in this symbolic rebuilding are all multiples of 25.

The late Paul W. Lapp submitted a study of the Persian period of Palestinian pottery with important data coming from the Concordia excavation at Taanach.

RALPH W. KLEIN

MATTHIAS CLAUDIUS: SEIN WEG UND SEINE WELT. By Urban Roedl. Hamburg: Friedrich Wittig Verlag, 1969. 352 pages. Cloth. Price not given.

Claudius (1740—1815) was a German Lutheran poet and author. For a while he was editor of the *Wandsbecker Bote*, but he spent most of his adult life as a free-lance writer, and he published eight volumes of his works. He wrote poetry as well as prose; he wrote both in a light and in a serious vein. He collected sayings and letters, wrote book reviews and meditations meant for edification. His writings consist of short pieces.

In the age of Rationalism he remained a believing Lutheran, treasuring the heritage of the Reformation. His wide interests in theological questions may be gauged from his translation of Fénelon.

A biography which reaches a third edition almost commends itself. The author has a delightful style. He tells the life story of Claudius with due sympathy and with an appreciation of the literary, spiritual, and economic struggles which his subject endured. Claudius deserved a biographer who could tell about him in this fashion.

Claudius was a contemporary of Goethe, Herder, Hamann, Klopstock, Lessing, and Kant. He seems to have known all of these men personally. Roedl's biography, therefore, gives us valuable insights into the literary as well as the theological aspects of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

CARL S. MEYER