

The author demonstrates that in spite of the pledge by some Seventh-day Adventists of loyalty to the government, the Seventh-day Adventist Church was destined by the Soviet authorities for extinction. Thousands of Adventists were arrested during the time of Stalin. Many perished in the Gulag. Virtually no organized activity was possible because of strict police surveillance. Yet police agents and provocateurs were afoot to entrap even those individual believers who held their faith deeply private, as was the case with these fourteen arrested in Bila Tserkva in 1952.

Perhaps the most disturbing revelation after reading this book is that the author observes that the Soviet regime was violently opposed not only to open dissent, but was unable to tolerate even private dissent from the individual lives of such obscure individuals. People, living on the margins of Soviet society, without any influence, and who furthermore did not attempt to actively disseminate their views were actively sought out and persecuted. Their private diaries (attached to case files) reveal sincere sympathy toward the Soviet regime. The not so subtle message of *Conscience on Trial* about this trial is that the Soviet regime simply did not tolerate any deviation from its core atheistic agenda.

Each person from this trial was poor, barely literate, and living in the lowest underclass of a supposedly classless socialist society. Yet these "little people" whose lives are now remembered thanks to this author are real people whose pure and humble lives despite their demise cannot leave the reader unmoved. Unlike other historical narratives that have focused on the more sensational episodes of Soviet history, Hiroaki Kuro-miya's book presents a vivid portrayal of one episode in one of the darkest periods of Soviet history. The book thus provides an intimate attempt to look into the minds of non-conformist believers.

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Salvation Accomplished by the Son: the Work of Christ, by Robert A. Peterson. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012. 565 pp. + 10 pp. appendix + 12 pp. bibliography + 13 pp. general index + 19 pp. scripture index. ISBN 978-1-4335-0760-1. Hardcover, US\$29.17.

Robert A. Peterson is a professor of systematic theology at Wheaton Theological Seminary. Hence the author writes from the perspective of a Calvinist and as an Evangelical. The purpose, he states, is "to show something of the profundity, massiveness, and magnificence of the

work of Christ for us sinners" (p. 13). He argues that all aspects of Christ's life including all of the stages of the events in Christ's life from the incarnation to the second coming are aimed at the redemption of sinners.

In order to meet this goal, Peterson divides the book into two main parts. The first part focuses on the nine events in Christ's life related to his redemptive actions. Despite the fact that these events demonstrate the redemptive power of Christ, they still need further explanation. Thus the pictures in the Bible function as an interpreter of the events (p. 16). In the second part of the book the author continues with six pictures of Jesus' saving events.

Underscoring these chapters, Peterson's main thesis is that humans can only be saved by the work of Jesus, not by any of their own deeds. Of the nine events in Christ's life, the two most essential events are the death and resurrection of Jesus. Just these two events alone are repeated numerous times throughout the book (cf. pp. 60, 61, 117, 195, 251, 262, 273, 551-554). Of the remaining seven events, they demonstrate "additional aspects of Christ's saving work" (p. 23). Hence, the two primary events (death and resurrection of Christ) enlighten everything else, especially Christ's incarnation (p. 27), sinless life (pp. 46, 60, 273, 551, 554), ascension (pp. 156, 159, 161, 181), session (sitting at the right hand of God) (pp. 192, 193), Pentecost (pp. 211, 214, 216-217), intercession (pp. 237-238), and second coming (pp. 257-259); for the second part are Christ our reconciler (pp. 281, 283, 308), redeemer (pp. 322-323), legal substitute (pp. 372, 392), victor (pp. 413, 441-442, 446, 451), second Adam (pp. 478-481), and sacrifice (pp. 512, 527).

There are two interesting ideas within this volume. First, it appears that he accepts the literal ministry of Jesus Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, a concept that is rarely embraced by a Calvinist and an Evangelical scholar. He notes that "Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was finished; nothing could be added to it, but his priestly ministry is bigger than his sacrifice and involves the presentation of his perfect sacrifice in heaven" (p. 177). He furthermore divides the ministry of Jesus into two phases, the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and his intercession in the heavenly sanctuary (p. 229). He notices a dual role within the atonement, specifically "the sacrificial role of his atonement on the cross" as well as "the intercessory role of his atonement in heaven" (p. 240). This understanding of Christ ministering in the heavenly sanctuary, he regretfully admits, is a concept largely ignored by many Protestants (p. 239). Another interesting idea Peterson notes is that while most scholars describe Pentecost as the 'second blessing' of God after Jesus' ascension, he refers the event instead as having a "unique place of Pentecost in redemptive history" (p. 215).

One problematic area that I noticed was his chapter (p. 10) titled "Christ our reconciler." Whereas all the earlier chapters started with OT background, the author skips the OT background in this section where he said before that it should be (cf. p. 275), but the book would have been much richer if he had simply added the few additional pages that it required.

Altogether, the author successfully fulfilled the goal to present all aspects of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. Peterson furthermore in this book gives a fresh perspective about how the work of salvation can be understood by looking at the life and teachings of Jesus Christ as a whole. Such a resource will no doubt help Bible students better understand and appreciate Christ's redemptive work.

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The Ellen G. White Letters and Manuscripts with Annotations. Vol. 1, 1845-1859, by Timothy L. Poirier, ed. Hagerstown, MD: Review & Herald, 2014. 986 pp. Hardcover, US\$44.99.

Ellen G. White as an author is probably best known through her many published works such as the *Desire of Ages*, *Steps to Christ*, and *The Great Controversy*. It is not as well known, however, that the many of her faith-inspiring insights came from personal letters and unpublished messages to individuals or groups. By reading these insights and messages in their original form, including their elemental and foundational expressions, gives a much richer context for the serious student of Ellen G. White's life and writings.

This volume is the first in a series that makes available previously unpublished letters and manuscripts written by Ellen G. White from 1845 to 1859. Every known extant letter and manuscript published during this period (approximately 240 texts) is included in this volume.

Another valuable aspect of this book are the annotations provided with each letter and manuscript delivered as footnotes. Although these appear in a fine font, the annotations remain a goldmine of information which help to make them more understandable. The annotation "contains the date of composition, the identity of the addressee, background of the events and issues alluded in the text, and even clarifies the archaic expressions contained in the text" (p. 62). Thus the reader is given enough historical contexts to make it easier to understand and appreciate the content of each text.