

*Christian Experience and Views of Ellen G. White*, 64). She gave an example of how "God dealt with Peter when he was about to send him to preach to the Gentiles" (*A Sketch of the Christian Experience and Views of Ellen G. White*, 64) in Acts 10. She also understood her authority in 1910 as "to correct specious errors and to specify what is truth. The Lord has revealed many things pointing out the truth, thus saying, 'This is the way, walk ye in it'" (Letter 127, 1910). Thus, E. White's writings are not set up as infallible commentary or new light but only point to the Bible and its existing truth.

Overall, this book is highly recommended to those who want to study E. White's writings in a balanced way. Seventh-day Adventist ministers and church members should read this book in order to avoid misunderstanding her writings. This book can be utilized as one of the textbooks in classes related to E. White studies.

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*The State of New Testament Studies: A Survey of Recent Research*, ed. Scot McKnight and Nijay K. Gupta. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2019. 496 pp. + 7 pp. index. ISBN 978-0801098796. Hardcover or softcover.

NT studies is a lively and very dynamic area of academic research. Every year brings many articles, books, monographs, and commentaries that try to provide a fresh perspective on the NT texts themselves, the different aspects of their context, and their theology and contemporary application. Navigating in this enormous sea of scholars' opinions and approaches is not an easy task even for specialists, let alone for those who are just beginning their journey. The book *The State of New Testament Studies: A Survey of Recent Research* by Baker Academic is designed to help in this process.

This collection of essays was inspired by and designed to become a continuation of the book *The Face of New Testament Studies: A Survey of Recent Research*, edited by Scot McKnight and Grant R. Osborne and published by the same publisher in 2004. For fifteen years since that time, NT studies' landscape has somewhat changed. To orient the readers of the current state of the field, Scot McKnight and Nijay K. Gupta gathered a new team of more than twenty experts whose contributions constitute *The State of New Testament Studies: A Survey of Recent Research*.

The book consists of an introduction and twenty-three chapters, which, in their turn, are organized into four unequal parts. Part I, "Ancient Context," presents two essays: "Early Christianity and the Roman Empire" and "Women in the Jewish, Greco-Roman, and Early Christian World." Part II (chapters 3–6) addresses the issues of interpretation. Here, the reader can find the discussion on hermeneutics, the NT usage of the OT, the genre of the Gospels, and the NT Greek. Part III includes essays on Jesus (chapter 7); on Paul (chapters 9 and 10); as well as on some topics of NT theology: Christology (chapter 8), eschatology (chapter 11), and ethics (chapter 12). Finally, the book's biggest part (chapters 13–23), part IV, focuses on scholarly debates about concrete NT books. The authors describe the current state and prospects of studying each of the four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, Romans, Hebrews, the Epistle of James, the Petrine Letters, the Epistles of John, and Revelation.

The book covers nearly all the main areas of NT studies so that almost every NT student will find in it something interesting and useful. A thorough analysis, rich bibliography, and authors' thoughtful reflections not only teach a lot about recent research in the NT but also stimulate new academic investigations. In this process, such auxiliary tools as "Scripture and Ancient Writings Index," "Author Index," and "Select Subject Index" that this volume has are beneficial.

Due to space limitations, it is not possible to review the ideas of every chapter of the book. But there are some features shared by many essays that deserve to be mentioned here. McKnight and Gupta call them "major trends in the current state of NT scholarship" (p. 1). Helping the reader to trace these tendencies is, as it seems, one of the main merits of this book as a whole.

First of all, the contributors testify to an increase in tools, methods, and approaches. Second, it is evident that modern scholars are interested not so much in "objective reading" as in global and diverse perspectives, especially those of various marginalized groups (an inspiring factor for those outside the White, Anglo-Saxon world). Third, the researchers' focus now includes not only the life of Jesus and the Pauline theology but also such historically neglected texts as Acts, Revelation, and the General Epistles. Fourth, of particular importance is reading the NT in its historical (Judaism and the Roman Empire), linguistic (Greek grammar and syntax as well as computer-assisted tools), and rhetorical (performance criticism) contexts. Fifth, a new phenomenon has emerged, theological interpretation, that has turned attention to confessional perspectives and precritical literature on the Bible. And finally, reception history and history of interpretation play an essential role in modern NT scholarship.

However, the focus mainly on new trends has a downside. The book lacks any discussion of NT textual criticism (unlike *The Face of New*

*Testament Studies: A Survey of Recent Research*). Does it mean that nothing has happened in this area for the last fifteen years and it experiences a decline? The chapter on hermeneutics and exegesis discusses only perspectives of theological interpretation of Scripture and reader-response hermeneutics (African-American, womanist and feminist, Latinx, and postcolonial biblical interpretations). Some essays restrict themselves precisely to publications that appeared after 2004 and, as a result, do not provide the necessary background for the current debates.

For unknown reasons, the reader will also find nothing in the book about recent research of Paul's correspondence with the Corinthians and the Pastoral Epistles, although both areas do not cease to draw scholars' attention. In some chapters, the shortage of critical engagement with the literature reviewed is evident. The authors present researchers' approaches or opinions without evaluating them and depicting their strengths and weaknesses (see, e.g., the description of discourse analysis in chapter 6, the presentation of Daniel Kirk's view on the Synoptic Gospels' Christology in chapter 8, or the entire chapter 19 on the Epistle to the Hebrews). At last, there are some questions about "Select Subject Index." As was said, it can be a helpful tool, but the principles used to create it are unclear. Some important subjects, such as apocalypics, are totally absent while the references to those included in the index are often not full (e.g., narrative criticism/narratological readings).

Notwithstanding these deficiencies, *The State of New Testament: A Survey of Recent Research* is a remarkable and timely work. Therefore, all seriously interested in NT research, especially students and professors, will undoubtedly benefit from reading this book or its parts.

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*Humanism and the Death of God: Searching for the Good after Darwin, Marx, and Nietzsche*, by Ronald E. Osborn. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017. viii pp. + 232 pp. + 16 pp. bibliography + 8 pp. index. Hardcover. US\$ 80.00.

One Adventist author that does not shy away from tackling difficult questions is Ronald E. Osborn (b. 1975). His *Humanism and the Death of God: Searching for the Good after Darwin, Marx, and Nietzsche* is a carefully researched book, building a strong case against philosophical naturalism's