



Carson, D. A. and G. K. Beale, eds.

Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament

Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2007. Pp. xxviii + 1239.
Hardcover. \$54.99.

Nick Norelli

Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

New Jersey

My regular readers know that I don't have any shortage of books that I have to review for publishers, so for me to take time that could be spent on reading and reviewing those titles and use it to review a book that I don't *have* to, makes a pretty strong statement. It says that this book is so good that I felt it necessary to tell others about it.

I've had my eye on this volume since last year, and even requested a copy for review, but due to the size and cost of it, Baker wasn't able to fulfill the request. It was only through earning an Amazon gift certificate through Amazon's Associates program that I was able to offset the cost and pick this volume up, and trust me, I'm extremely glad that I did! I can't express how pleased I am with the *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*, but I'll try.

For starters, it's a massive volume, much bigger than I thought it would be. It's the size of any of the IVP Black Dictionaries. In fact, it sits on my bookshelf proudly beside the four IVP dictionaries that I own (and looks quite at home in that spot). I was also very happy with the double-column format and the way the commentary was set up. For some reason I expected it to read like dictionary articles, but in point of fact it reads like a commentary.

The passages are delineated and then commented on, but the manner of commentary varies from book to book. For example, the commentary on John is full of charts while there aren't any in the commentary on Luke. The commentary on Mark follows a format of listing: A. The NT

Context; B. The OT passage in context; C. The OT passage in Judaism; D. The OT passage in Mark; and E. The theological use of the passage. The commentary on Romans takes a more thematic approach, dividing the commentary into broad sections, i.e., “The Opening of the Letter: The Apostle to the Gentiles to the Called Saints in Rome (1:1-15);” “The Body of the Letter: God’s Righteousness Revealed in the Gospel and Hidden in the Promise of Mercy for Israel (1:16-11:36);” and “The Closing of the Letter: Apostolic Exhortation for the Church at Rome (12:1-16:27).” These broad sections are further divided into subcategories focusing on specific themes. One thing that all of the commentaries share in common is wonderfully detailed bibliographies at the end of them. These bibliographies vary from about half-a-page (Philippians) to twelve pages (Mark) in length.

And I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the commentaries went above and beyond what I expected of them, which was simple treatments of the OT passages that are directly quoted or alluded to in the NT. In point of fact, they address a variety of ancient Jewish and Greco-Roman literature in providing the background for the passages in question. The commentators make use of the Aramaic Targums, the Old Testament Apocrypha & Pseudepigrapha, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Rabbinic literature such as the Mishnah, Tosefta, and Babylonian & Jerusalem Talmuds, and Midrash. Citations of the Early Church Fathers, Josephus, the Nag Hammadi texts, and various Latin and Greek works litter the pages of this volume. There’s a full seventy-six page index of scripture and other ancient writings to keep track of it all.

The list of contributors is spectacular, and has introduced me to a few scholars whose works I haven’t read before:

- Matthew — Craig L. Blomberg
- Mark — Rikk E. Watts
- Luke — David W. Pao & Eckhard J. Schnabel
- John — Andreas J. Köstenberger
- Acts — I. Howard Marshall
- Romans — Mark A. Seifrid
- 1Corinthians — Roy E. Ciampa & Brian S. Rosner
- 2Corinthians — Peter Balla
- Galatians; Philippians — Moisés Silva
- Ephesians — Frank S. Thielman
- Colossians — G. K. Beale
- 1 & 2 Thessalonians — Jeffery A. D. Weima
- 1 & 2 Timothy; Titus — Philip H. Towner
- Hebrews — George H. Guthrie
- General Epistles — D. A. Carson
- Revelation — G. K. Beale & Sean M. McDonough

I really can't commend this volume enough. I imagine that this will be the standard reference on this subject for years to come. Every student of the NT should have a copy of this in their personal library. I know that I'm going to benefit greatly from it in my studies, and I'm sure that you will as well. Happy reading!