

material that has previously been bypassed in scholarly considerations of wealth in the book of Revelation.

Simon P Woodman

Thinking and Seeing with Women in Revelation

Lynn R. Huber

LNTS 475; London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2013, 978-0-567-11024-4, £60.00, x + 204 hb

This is a rich and diverse book, the aim of which is to explore how visual and literary images of women in the text of Revelation invite and persuade the reader to actualize the narrative, both in its original context and in the work of later visionaries who reinterpret these images. Using a definition of metaphor which ‘captures the ancient notion that metaphor’s rhetorical power resides in its ability to make things visible to the “mind’s eye”’ (p. 33), the intensely visual images of the Whore of Babylon and the Bride of Christ are explained as representing familiar conceptual domains (e.g., Woman as Nation/Container). Examples from contemporary Roman and Jewish texts and art are offered to set Revelation’s use of images of female figures and their underlying conceptual structures in context. Subsequent chapters explore the writing of Hildegard of Bingen and Hade-wijch, from the Middle Ages, and the art of Gertrude Morgan and Myrtice West, from the twentieth-century Southern States of America, for the way they ‘envision’ along with John of Patmos. The shared conceptual domains enabled by the images, it is argued, produce new interpretations in new contexts.

There is a freshness of approach here which moves the feminist debate about Revelation and its use of female imagery, and whether or not it is liberating for women, into a new dimension. The theory of metaphor employed throughout makes sense of the diversity of examples, and allows for the complexity of women’s interpretations of the text to be heard. Traditional biblical scholars will find the earlier chapters of the book most congenial and enlightening, but the later chapters also contribute helpfully to a wider debate about the responses of women to Revelation.

Alison M. Jack

Visions of the Apocalypse: Receptions of John’s Revelation in Western Imagination

Bruce Chilton

Waco, TX: Baylor, 2013, 978-1-60258-982-7, \$29.95, vi + 169 pb

Chilton introduces readers to Revelation’s impact history through brief illustration of controversy surrounding its canonicity and interpretation from earliest times. Six further chapters chart its *Wirkung* through the centuries. Chapter 1 focuses on ancient millenarianism and especially on Papias and Irenaeus. Chapter 2 chronicles the shift towards a more symbolic and transcendent reading via Platonism, featuring Origen and Dionysius of Alexandria as well as Eusebius, Tyconius or Augustine. Chapter 3 majors on Roger of Hoveden and Joachim of Fiore, describing a move from a partly realized eschatology to more futurist readings. Chapter 4 straddles later mediaeval reception of Joachim



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