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Book Review. - Literatur

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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.

DER JÜDISCHE GOTTESDIENST IN SEINER GESCHICHTLICHEN ENTWICKLUNG. By Ismar Elbogen. Hildesheim: Georg Olms Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1967. xvi and 635 pages. Paper. DM 22.80.

Recent years have brought a plethora of reprints, some of basic scholarly works, others of books that ought to have passed into the oblivion of historical bibliography. The present volume, a reprint of the third edition of 1931, belongs to the former class.

Elbogen covers the history and meaning of Jewish corporate worship as it is constituted in modern times. Thus he omits discussion of private worship and of the ritual connected with the sacrificial system. After a short introduction on the scope of his volume, he describes, in the first major section, Jewish daily prayer (with emphasis on the morning service), the Sabbath and feast day services, the reading and interpretation of the Scriptures in worship, and sacral poetry.

The second major section treats the history of Jewish worship from the origins of the synagog down till modern times. Cross sections are given of three major periods: the first period lasts till the Talmudic period, the second corresponds roughly to the medieval period, the third to the modern world. The last section of the book discusses the physical arrangements for worship, the synagog officials, and so on.

The work is characterized by a careful use of source material (with liberal citation), by an exhaustive knowledge of modern bibliography (the notes added to the second and third editions cover over 80 pages), and by a clarity of exposition that aids a reader not already familiar with Jewish worship forms. The cost of this reprint is amazingly low.

The publisher deserves a wide sale of this basic and important volume.

EDGAR KRENTZ

THE SECOND EPISTLE GENERAL OF PETER AND THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF JUDE: AN INTRODUCTION AND COMMENTARY. By Michael Green. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1968. 192 pages. Cloth. \$3.95.

This is the 18th volume of *The Tyndale New Testament Commentaries*; it continues the design and format of the series. A rather full introduction is followed by a commentary written for those without Greek; it is based upon a careful textual analysis and study. Green has used the major works by modern scholars, although this reviewer was surprised to find no reference to the commentary in the Meyer series by Knopf (1912) or to the recent volume by Spicq (1966).

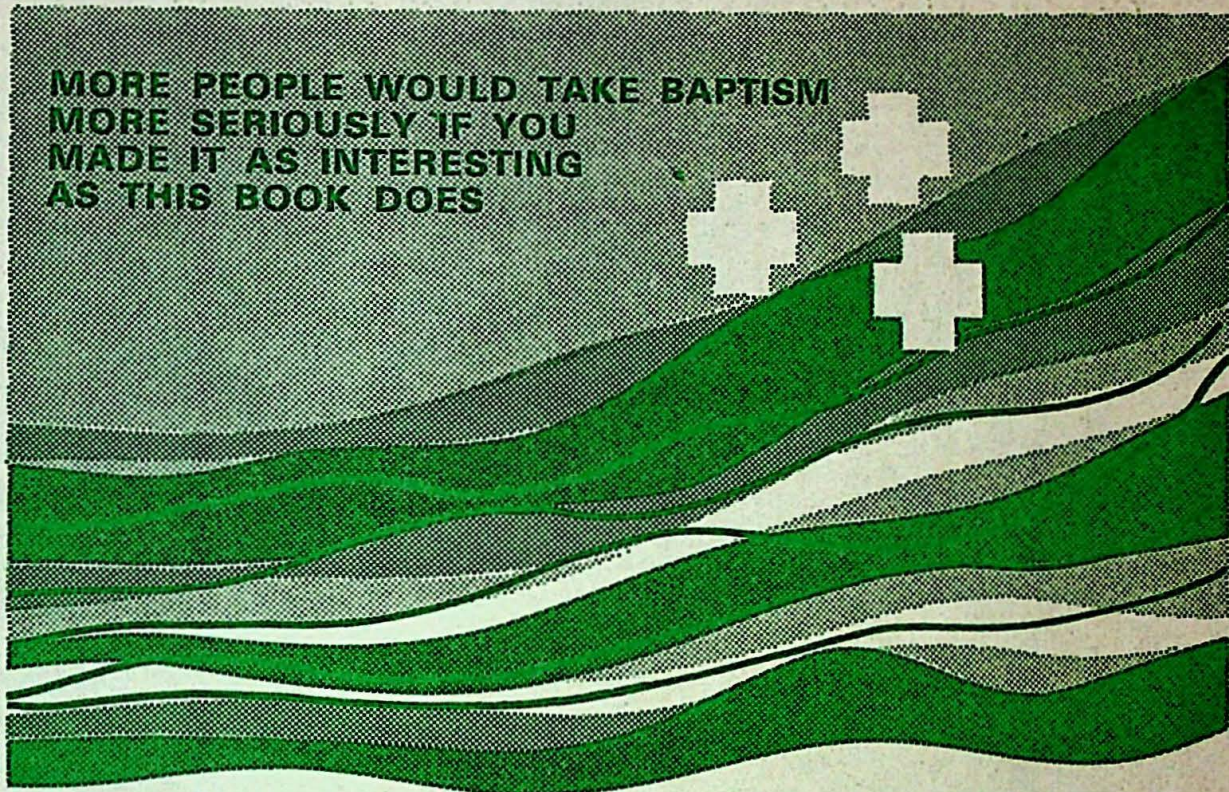
Green accepts the authorship by Peter and Jude (the brother of Jesus) as best fitting the data of the text and the external evidence. He accounts for the relationship between Jude and 2 Peter 2 by the hypothesis of a "standardized form of catechesis" lying behind them. And 2 Peter he dates somewhere between A.D. 61 and Peter's death—Jude between A.D. 70 to 85. The opposition in both letters is a form of gnosticism that is best dated in the first century.

Green rules out pseudepigraphy not on principle but because it does not fit the historical data.

The commentary on the epistles is full, arguing the case against differing interpretations. This commentary should aid in making these two little-read epistles become alive and become relevant for today's church.

EDGAR KRENTZ

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