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Evangelicals struggling with the issue of the historicity and genre of biblical prose narrative will find this volume provocative and challenging. Disagreeing with the eminent literary critic Meir Sternberg, Brichto classifies biblical prose narrative as essentially fictional, not historiographic. Most evangelicals, like this reviewer, will find this problematic, but Brichto's discussion raises questions that evangelicals must address and hopefully can answer.

Robert B. Chisholm Jr.

A Guide to the Study of Greco-Roman and Jewish and Christian History and Literature. By Philip Walker Jacobs. New York: University Press of America, 1994. 132 pp. Paper, \$23.50.

Designed to be a historical "reference guide," this work nicely parallels Jewish and Christian history and literature with Greco-Roman history and literature. While left-hand pages convey Jewish and Christian history and literature, right-hand pages present parallel Greco-Roman history and literature. In addition the work gives the reader an excellent synthetic and chronological overview of key political figures and historical events as well as key literary figures and literary works from 200 B.C. to A.D. 359.

This is an excellent resource tool, though this reviewer disagrees with the dates given by Jacobs for Daniel, Zechariah 9-14, most of Paul's epistles, and the Gospels. Several other disagreements may also be noted. First, it seems unlikely that Antigonus, king of Judea, ruled in "cooperation" with Rome, 40-37 B.C. (p. 26). Antigonus joined forces with Rome's archenemy, the Parthians, to overthrow Phasael, Herod, and Hyrcanus II. Phasael, Herod, and Hyrcanus II controlled Judea with Rome's blessing. Although Phasael and Hyrcanus II were captured, Herod escaped. After placing his wife and family in safety, Herod went to Rome where Octavius, Anthony, and the senate declared Herod king of Judea (40 B.C.), and they promptly gave Herod permission to overthrow Antigonus. In fact Anthony's legate, Sossius, helped Herod recapture Galilee. Disagreement also exists with the suggestion that Jesus lived around 7 B.C.-A.D. 30 (p. 32). Jesus may have been born as early as 4 B.C. and died as late as A.D. 33 (Harold W. Hoehner, *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ* [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1977]).

In addition to these disagreements this reviewer is also disappointed in how Jacobs handled or eliminated some information. He ignored the reign of Herod the Great's grandson, Agrippa II (A.D. 50-92), and he was overly concise in his handling of Antiochus III's defeat of Egypt (p. 2) and Paul's missionary journeys (p. 44). In his brevity Jacobs did not identify Antiochus's victory at Panium as being in A.D. 198 as a result of the fifth Syrian War (cf. Dan 11:14-17). When referring to Paul, Jacobs does not clearly identify Paul's three journeys, and he skimps on information concerning the places Paul visited. Also the bibliography does not include Schürer's *The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ* (Edinburgh: Clark, 1973) and Shemuel Safrai and M. Stern's *The Jewish People in the First Century* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1976). Nevertheless these glitches can be overcome by personalizing the work (i.e., adding pertinent Scripture references and information the reader deems profitable).

Despite the disagreements and disappointments, *A Guide to the Study of Greco-Roman and Jewish and Christian History and Literature* would be an asset to any pastor or teacher's library. Its greatest strength is how rapidly one can find concise historical and literary information within a chronological context. A reader can get "the big picture" quickly and easily. The index of literature and the index of persons as well as the comments in the text itself enable the reader to get to the crux of a historical event, person, or literary work instantly.

Herbert W. Bateman IV

Introduction to New Testament Exegesis. By Werner Stegner. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1993. 197 pp. \$15.99.

This translated work comes from the pen of the professor of New Testament exegesis and biblical theology and history at the University of Cologne. The first half of the book considers exegetical issues of interpretation and the historical-critical method, while the second half applies aspects of the method to various biblical texts to show how they work. Stegner also gives much attention to linguistic order and how to identify key linguistic elements in a passage. This is probably the most helpful material in this survey, since the way linguistic structures are related to each other helps show the text's meaning. This little work can be read with profit by those who seek to teach exegesis to students with an eye to structure, though the application of historical-critical method in some of the examples is too harsh.

Darrell L. Bock

John among the Gospels: The Relationship in Twentieth Century Research. By D. Moody Smith. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1992. xiii + 210 pp. \$13.00.

This work deals with an age-old problem in Johannine studies: the relationship of the Fourth Gospel to the Synoptic Gospels. Smith begins with a statement of the problem and then shows how 19th-century scholarship arrived at the consensus that John knew and used the Synoptics. Smith then demonstrates how that consensus was first challenged and then was dissolved in the early part of this century. The new consensus, that the Fourth Gospel is independent of the Synoptics, won the day.

In lucid style Smith shows how the 20th-century consensus, although not abandoned entirely, has significantly eroded. The work is very readable, especially for what amounts to a report on the status of contemporary scholarly research on this topic. Smith's main objective is not to pass judgment on current or past scholarly opinions but to report them and show their interactions. This book is helpful for serious students of the Gospels, especially the Gospel of John. It will no doubt be of less interest to those not working in the field.

W. Hall Harris III