

dissonance there found: thus Proverbs is composed of three disparate voices, while Ecclesiastes is subject to a similar tripartite division. Yet to allege that a work is un-systemic in shape as evidenced by textual juxtapositions is incompatible with the presupposition that the final form of the work is itself the product of conscious scribal editorship. Nevertheless, the increased sensitivity to the complex shape of the biblical text that such a reading encourages will be valuable to both non-specialists and students attempting to engage with these difficulties for the first time alike.

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Psalms

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HOSSFELD, Frank-Lothar, and ZENGER, Erich

Psalms 3: A Commentary on Psalms 101-150; edited by Klaus Baltzer.

Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2011.

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Despite the title, this is Hossfeld and Zenger's second commentary on the Psalms in the Hermeneia series. Having first published a commentary in German on the text of Psalms 1-50 (*Neue Echter Bibel* series, 1993), these giants of Psalms scholarship went on to publish the first of three anticipated volumes in English, *Psalms 2: Psalms 51-100* back in 2005. *Psalms 2* quickly established itself as *the* standard academic commentary on this portion of the Psalter and *Psalms 3*, quite simply, reinforces that reputation. This is the most comprehensive discussion of the Psalter for our generation and these two volumes provide a fitting 'replacement' for Hans-Joachim Kraus's Augsburg commentaries of the 1980s.

The pattern of the volume is familiar: bibliography is followed by an idiomatic translation (with notes), comprehensive analysis of all issues relevant to the given text (genre, structure, *Sitz im Leben* etc.) and a detailed exposition of the text. There are several features that make Hossfeld and Zenger's volumes particularly attractive: 1) they pay close attention to the canonical context of each psalm and discuss the meaning of each text in the context of its neighbours; 2) the authors are not shy about drawing out the theological significance of each poem; 3) as Christian commentary, Hossfeld and Zenger also address questions of reception and use of a text in the New Testament where appropriate; and, 4) the authors make good use of illustrations from a wide variety of ancient Near Eastern steles and reliefs to illustrate particular features of given poems. The tragic death of Erich Zenger prior to the publication of this volume makes its significance all the more poignant. This collection of commentaries will, undoubtedly, become the standard academic discussion of the Psalms for the present generation.

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