

*The NIV Interlinear Hebrew-English Old Testament. Volume 3: I Chronicles—Song of Songs.* Edited by John R. Kohlenberger, III. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982, 601 pp.

The third in a projected series of four volumes, this book maintains the distinctive features that characterized the first two. The complete text of the *NIV* is printed in the outside margin, and the Hebrew text, following *BHS*, is spaced out so that a very literal English may be printed underneath each Hebrew word. The *ktiv-qere* variants are included in the footnotes. The ordering of the books follows the Greek (and English) versions. The series is useful for students and for ministers with only an elementary knowledge of Hebrew, but like similar helps it must not be abused by those who think interlinear English translations provide profound insight into the semantic range of Hebrew words and syntax.

D. A. Carson

*A Harmony of the Words and Works of Jesus Christ: From the New International Version.* Edited by J. Dwight Pentecost. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981, xx + 183 pp., paper.

The two dominant features of this harmony: (1) It is based on the *NIV*; (2) its order and structure obviously tie it to Pentecost's companion volume, *The Words and Works of Jesus Christ*, also published by Zondervan. For the first feature we may be grateful, but the second is as much a limitation as a strength. For Bible colleges that use the companion volume as a standard text, this *Harmony* will doubtless prove very welcome; for institutions that find such an approach in need of more critical interaction with other approaches to the gospels, the *Harmony* will prove of little use. It contains none of the critical essays found in some other English-language harmonies (e.g. the old standard by A. T. Robertson or the recent harmony based on the *NASB*, not to mention more sophisticated ones) and fails to establish a rationale for the general approach and structure that are adopted. For instance, the *Aland Synopsis*, in Greek or English, provides the parallels to each passage from each gospel. This results in repetition but does not prejudge historical, chronological, literary and theological issues in quite the same way this volume does. The *NIV* deserves a more comprehensive volume.

D. A. Carson

*Chronological and Background Charts of the New Testament.* By H. Wayne House. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981, 156 pp., paper, spiral binding.

The charts in this book are divided into four sections. The first, titled "General Material," includes eighteen charts on such topics as Literary Classification of the New Testament, Early Patristic Quotations of the New Testament (total counts, but no references), Liquid and Dry Measures, Sermons and Speeches in the New Testament, Old Testament characters in the New Testament, and more. The second section, under the title "Backgrounds to the New Testament," includes chronological charts on such topics as the Structure of Roman Society, The Roman Military System, Graeco-Roman Deities, First-Century Procurators of Judea, The Seleucids, The Reckoning of Passover, and a list of Rabbinic

Writings. The third section of the book offers nineteen more charts on "The Gospels," covering such topics as Suggested Solutions to the Synoptic Problem, Contents of Hypothetical Q, Contrasts Between the Synoptics and John, both a Chronology of the Ministry of Jesus and An Alternate Chronological Table of Christ's Life, and lists of Nature Miracles and of Healing Miracles. The final section, "The Apostolic Age," concludes with fifteen more charts. These include The Kerygma of the Early Church, Paul's Missionary Journeys, Theories Concerning the Authorship of Hebrews, Interpretations of Revelation, and a pair of charts setting forth the Northern and Southern (*sic*; most literature prefers "North" and "South") Galatia theories.

The author has brought together a fair bit of useful material. Occasionally I wondered why certain charts were included (is it helpful to be given a transliteration of the Greek headings of the books of the NT as printed in modern Greek New Testaments?), or what principle of selection was operating when critical theories to do with North and South Galatia or the authorship of Hebrews were schematized but nothing similar was done for, say, Jude or James or John or Philippians. Although House has sought to be fair to the points of view he presents (and they are almost always exclusively evangelical options, others being excluded), his charts vary considerably in quality. Perhaps this is to be expected from the nature of the material he is attempting to schematize. But some charts, at least, are so reductionistic that it is arguable that the material in them should never have been presented in this form. It is one thing to list the procurators of Judea or the emperors of Rome; here you are either right or wrong. It is another thing to list the books of the Apocrypha—without observing that the list was not standardized in the first century. It is still another to present one chart on "The Reckoning of Passover" (based on Hoehner's work), with a footnote to Jaubert, without any mention of half a dozen other theories. But weakest of all are charts with titles like "Books of the New Testament Classified Doctrinally." The theme of Matthew, we are told, is "Jesus the Messiah as King"; of John, "Jesus the Messiah as Son of God." Kingsbury would not be pleased; more important, reductionism becomes actual distortion, and the chart is unhelpful at numerous points.

In short, this work is useful for beginning students of the NT but should be used with care.

D. A. Carson