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Review

Urga, Abeneazer G., Naylor, Michael P., and Smither, Edward L. (eds), *Reading Revelation Missiologically: the Missionary Motive, Message, and Methods of Revelation*, William Carey Publishing, Littleton, Colorado: 2025, ISBN 9781645086802, 250pp.

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Revelation is often considered an obscure and divisive book; thankfully, the chapters in this volume demystify some of its key aspects. Part 1 explores the missionary motives in Revelation, including a study on the Holy Spirit's person and role, the nature of God's mission to reveal God's love, and the glorious promise to which Christians cling: the future of God's eternal presence with the redeemed. In part 2, the message of Revelation is interrogated, exploring the importance of both judgment and salvation in God's message, how suffering connects to effective witness, and Revelation's political import. Part 3 discusses missionary methods, including inter alia the role of translation, hospitality, and worship.

The various authors take care to explain the rationale for discerning which themes are incorporated into God's mission, to ensure that the mission of God is derived from the text, and to note ways in which Revelation both responds to its initial context and applies to God's people today. Rather than getting caught in debates about the timeline of specific events mentioned or of the identity of figures mentioned, the authors have freedom to examine larger questions.

For example, Cornelia van Deventer's chapter explores the Holy Spirit's presence and role in the book, revealing that he is both the send and sending

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Spirit who directs worship to God and who strengthens God's people for witness. Thus, Revelation deepens one's understanding of the Spirit's nature and role in the divine mission, as the Spirit speaks alongside Father and Son to bring revelation to the churches. Andrea L. Robinson's chapter, "Subversive Suffering", examines the two witnesses of Rev. 11:3-13, demonstrating how God transforms their suffering, using it as a means to guide unbelievers to salvation. As Robinson explains, "More than consolation, John calls the church to radical reformation and courageous witness" (95), to trust that just like the Lamb who was slain, God will work through the suffering of faithful saints to bring about the promised salvation. God's mission clearly calls for the participation of the church. Considering missionary methods, Kwa Kiem-Kiok's contribution asks difficult questions about discipleship and politics, drawing from an Asian context. His chapter explores how worship can shape God's people to be disciples in every aspect of their lives, including how to engage faithfully with the political realm, such as by providing social services to all people without discrimination.

Commendably, the editors manage to maintain a fairly consistent writing style throughout the volume. The division of the book into three parts helps organise and display the unity of the chapters. One reason this volume is valuable is that Revelation provides a vision of the results of God's mission, giving direction from where the church currently is to where it will finally find itself. Therefore, Revelation has a unique place in missiological considerations, and the volume provides a perspective that is often overlooked in missiological discussions and in studies of Revelation.

This volume is valuable to a range of audiences: missiologists wanting to deepen their theological rooting, New Testament scholars curious to see how a missional hermeneutic is applied to a notoriously difficult book, and readers who have been exposed to missional theology and are looking for concrete examples with which to better understand the approach. There are one or two weaker essays, but overall the quality is well-maintained. The volume is affordable, and therefore it can easily be added to one's personal library, rather than being limited to university libraries. The volume offers wise insights into how Revelation calls God's people to participate in divine mission, as well as highlighting particular contours of it. *Reading Revelation Missiologically* is a

strong example of a missional hermeneutic, drawing forth riches from the biblical text while keeping those insights framed by God's mission.

The diverse voices in this volume repeatedly demonstrate that the missional roots of Revelation are worthy of deep contemplation, and this contemplation will profoundly impact the Christian understanding of the mission of God's people. It is easy to make much of certain details in Revelation, while missing the larger picture and key points about God and God's mission; this book rectifies that error and restores the beauty, wonder, and clarion call of the final book of the Bible.