

## Book Review

**A Call to Commitment: An Exegetical and Theological Study of Deut 10, 12-11, 32 –Thomas Karimundackal, Würzburg: Echter Verlag GmbH, under Forschung zur Bibel series, 2017. Pp. 371, ISBN 978- 3- 429- 04-4008.**

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**T**his book is an abbreviated version of the author's doctoral thesis submitted to the University of Innsbruck in October 2016 and published in the renowned research series, Forschung zur Bibel by the Echter Verlag. This study aims to show the theological significance of Deuteronomy 10:12-11:32 in the larger context of Deuteronomy and its interpretation, tracing the possible connections of the text within the compositional frame of Deuteronomy and to the rest of the Old Testament. The choice of the pericope itself speaks of the author's innovative mind, since, "there is no monograph or hardly any research article on Deut 10:12-11:32, discussing its' various aspects" (p.15). With a meticulous analysis of the text he proves that the unit of his study (Deut 10:12-11:32) is a hermeneutical key to understand and to interpret the theology of Deuteronomy. While the methodology used is mostly synchronic, contextual and theological, the grammatical, syntactical and semantical aspects are also taken into consideration.

The author has divided the book into four chapters. The first chapter (pp.18-67) is an attempt to show that the text un-

der concern (Deut 10:12-11:32) is an independent unit and it is placed meaningfully within the book of Deuteronomy with a theological purpose. The author has succeeded in his attempt as he minutely observes the common elements and motifs which connect the pericope to the rest of Deuteronomy.

The second chapter (pp.68-98) examines the structure of the text and its dynamics. The author identifies the multifaceted dynamics of the text by pointing out the temporal (pp.89-90), spatial (pp.91-93), character (pp.93-95) and thematic (pp.95-96) movements and it is shown that the text is progressively built from one section to the other revealing its forward looking nature. At every section, the author has beautifully summarised the various elements of movements in graphical forms which is indeed a praise - worthy effort from the author.

The structure and dynamics elaborated in the second chapter is carried forward in the third chapter (pp.100-274) in order to interpret the text. Each subunit is taken up separately, examining the literary characteristics from a synchronic perspective. The author's personal observations, perceptions, choices and inter-textual comparisons, and various scholarly approaches and opinions are taken into consideration to serve this purpose.

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The final chapter (pp.275- 333) summarises the exegetical and theological findings of the text. The author, with a meticulous literary analysis, shows that various theological motifs of Deuteronomy converge in 10:12-11:32 illustrating it as a summation of Deut 1: 1-10:11 and a link to Deut 12: 1- 34:12 (pp. 275-289). The author, then, identifies certain major themes of the text, such as the incomparability of Yhwh (pp.289-299), the distinctiveness of Israel (pp.301-310), Yhwh's gift of land (pp.311-316), the law

and obedience (pp.317-319), justice (pp.319-321), blessing and curse (pp.321-324), instruction of the Torah (pp.324-326), true worship of Yhwh (pp.326-328) etc. and shows their theological and hermeneutical connections with a theological triangle (p.329).

The author has also looked into the theological actualisation and relevance of the text for us today by extending the triangular theological paradigm (p.329) to humankind and earth as an extension of Israel and the Promised Land (p. 330-333). The extensive Bibliography (pp.336-371) in different languages shows the dedication and hard work put to bring out the uniqueness of this study.

This book, sure, will be of great help to those looking for an exegetical methodology for their work and an incentive for more research in the Old Testament.

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“The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.” — Isaac Asimov

“The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.” — Socrates

“Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to reform (or pause and reflect).” — Mark Twain

“The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool.” — William Shakespeare

“In a good bookroom you feel in some mysterious way that you are absorbing the wisdom contained in all the books through your skin, without even opening them.” — Mark Twain