

*Thy People Shall Be My People and Thy God My God: The 22d Annual Sidney B. Sperry Symposium*, Brigham Young University, 1993 (Deseret Book, 1994)

The 1993 Sperry Symposium on the Old Testament, *Thy People Shall Be My People and Thy God My God*, is also relevant to studies of the other standard works, particularly the New Testament.

Outstanding contributions include Terry Ball's explanations of botanical imagery in Isaiah, applicable to the words of Jesus; Jennifer Clark Lane's discussion of adoption and redemption in the old Testament and in Paul's writings; and Dana Pike's work on seals and sealing.

Thomas Valletta discusses the Exodus as a type of the Plan of Redemption, and Catherine Thomas provides a spiritual and historical background for Israel in the New Testament through Israel's provocation in the wilderness. Frank Judd compares Melchizedek to Enoch, and both prophets to Christ, relevant to Hebrews 7; and Dale LeBaron connects Elijah's modern day and biblical significance. Kelly Ogden and Donald Parry discuss the testimonies and symbolic prophecies of the ancient prophets about Jesus' earthly ministry.

More focused on the Old Testament, but still broadly insightful, are Gaye Strathearn's examination of Pharaoh's introduction to Jehovah through Sarah and Abraham; Andrew Skinner's article on Jacob, covenant making, and personal revelation; Lyman Redd's analysis of Aaron's consecration; and Robert Matthew's discussion of our heritage from Joseph of old.

This collection, largely written by the rising generation of LDS biblical scholars, offers clear and competent treatments of topics that are of great interest to Latter-day Saints.

—Christy Dunn

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*The Apostle Paul: His Life and Testimony: The 23d Annual Sidney B. Sperry Symposium*, Brigham Young University, 1994 (Deseret Book, 1994)

Each of the twelve essays compiled from papers given at the 1994 Sperry Symposium is worth reading. Some pieces are homiletic, others scholarly. All treat either Paul's milieu or his epistles, several using methods of biblical criticism to elucidate Paul's literary and historical context. From their faithful viewpoints, authors refreshingly engage questions such as, Can Paul's epistles be read as a secondary account of resurrection eyewitnesses, collectively acting as another "gospel"? (R. L. Anderson: Yes.) Has new documentary evidence pronounced Paul a Jewish heretic, Hellenistic philosopher, or *sui generis* Christian? (C. W. Griggs: None of the above. Paul's documented identities are ambiguous.) Was the Jerusalem Council the first general conference or a preschismatic caucus? (R. J. Matthews: More the latter; however, the impending crisis was diverted by leaders' diplomatic patience.)

Several articles offer philological critiques: interpreting Paul's "adoption" as "redeemed by a kinsman" (J. C. Lane); distinguishing

Paul's "rhetoric" from evil "sophistry" (G. L. Hatch); and analyzing Christ's "emptiness" in Hebrews (C. J. Ostler).

Exposition pieces of Pauline doctrines (interpreted in comparison with other LDS scripture) include these topics: the witness of the Holy Ghost (R. C. Reeve Jr.); spiritual gifts as signs and/or blessings (R. C. Freeman); Paul's major themes—for example, justification and exclusive salvation (R. L. Millet); the worldwide mission of the Church (G. Stathearn); upright living (J. G. Scott); and beneficial martyrdom (M. W. Middleton).

—Charles Randall Paul

quotations concerning his character from those who knew him well give readers a vivid picture of the man. Glimpses of Joseph Smith Sr. in a range of settings—his home life, his missionary work, and his calling as the first patriarch—demonstrate his undying faith and devotion to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

—LaMar E. Garrard

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*The Father of the Prophet: Stories and Insights from the Life of Joseph Smith Sr.* by Mark L. McConkie. (Bookcraft, 1993)

Just before his death in Egypt, Joseph the son of Jacob prophesied that from his seed a seer would be raised up "called Joseph and it shall be after the name of his father" (JST Gen. 50:33). Nephi repeats this prophecy (2 Ne. 3:15), which he likely obtained from the brass plates. With his book *The Father of the Prophet*, Mark McConkie captures the spirit of that ancient prophecy by honoring the seer's father, Joseph Smith Sr.

The author provides his readers with a well-researched look at this early Saint, pointing out that the foreordination of Joseph Sr. places him in company with other great men such as Abraham. Detailed physical descriptions and colorful