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Triumph of the Lamb

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for cooperative efforts between practitioners of the more traditional forms of historical analysis and proponents of new scientific approaches.

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Triumph of the Lamb

Ted Grimsrud

Foreward by Willard M. Swartley

Scottsdale, Pennsylvania and Kitchener, Ont.: Harold Press
189 pp., \$13.95

Attracted by the Mennonite concern for discipleship and peacemaking, the author joined the Mennonite Church in 1981. Currently he is a candidate in Religion and Society at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

According to the subtitle, the book intends to be a Self-Study Guide in the Book of Revelation. Each section contains study questions and a brief interpretation of the passage. In the eyes of the author, Revelation expresses "a timeless philosophy of history" in which God's people struggle with evil until eventually God will destroy evil and establish the Kingdom. Giving up Hal Lindsay's approach to the Bible (19), the author flatly states that "Revelation was not originally written for twentieth century Americans" (20). A prophet does not foretell the future but rather "forthtells" God's truth in the present (22).

The place and date, he maintains, are those when the church was persecuted by the Roman Empire and some of its Jewish opponents (22), i.e. during the last decades of the first century.

Unfortunately, the interpretation of the text is less satisfactory; it is too brief and too vague at many passages. In a brief remark he says the birth of the Messiah (Rev. 12:22) means the cross of Christ (90). The number 666 (Rev. 13:18) supposedly means "false religion" (104).

Concerning "Armageddon" (Rev. 16:16) and the "eighth king" (Rev. 17:11) the author remains indecisive (123, 133). The same is true of the 1000 year reign of Christ (Rev. 20:1 ff; cf. 151).

These criticisms notwithstanding, the volume is a useful guide to a method of instruction in Revelation. However, a teacher should consult other recent commentaries, for instance, those of Schuessler-Fiorenza and the like.

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