

New Testament Commentary. Exposition of the Epistle to the Hebrews.

by Simon J. Kistemaker,
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reviewed by Johan D. Tangelder

When Dr. William Hendriksen died in January, 1982, he left behind a legacy of a thoroughly Reformed-evangelical commentary series on the four Gospels and all the epistles of Paul with the exception of I and II Corinthians. Personally I have found them excellent for Bible study and sermon preparation. Hendriksen had the gift to make complex ideas clear.

Dr. Kistemaker, who has been given the task to continue with the series, has proven to be a worthy successor. His commentary on Hebrews is free from technical language so that not only the pastor, but also the lay person can read the explanation of a text without much difficulty. Greek words, phrases and constructions are at the conclusion of each section for those acquainted with this language. Each chapter contains an introduction, comments about doctrinal considerations, and a summary. The practical helps, the poetry, hymns and psalms quoted, the sound exegesis, and the fine writing style makes for easy reading. I congratulate Dr. Kistemaker with this wonderful achievement.

Dr. Kistemaker has been a professor of New Testament at the Reformed Theological Seminary since 1971 and is chairman of this department. He was a home missionary for two years in Vernon, B.C., and then professor of Bible at Dordt College for eight. He is a past president of the Evangelical Theological Society, which he now serves as secretary-treasurer.

The document known as the Epistle to the Hebrews is the most elegant and sophisticated, and perhaps the most enigmatic, text of first-century Christianity. Its author is unknown and the circumstances of its composition remain mysterious. Its argumentation is subtle; its language refined; its imagery rich and evocative.Â The rhetorical artistry of this exordium surpasses that of any other portion of the New Testament.¹² The period falls into three Cite this Item. 1:5â€”14 A Catena of Scriptures: The Son and the Angels.Â After the hortatory interlude our author returns to exposition. Up to this point he has focused on the majesty of the Son, Godâ€™s instrument in creation who is now enthroned in majesty. But the story of the Son encapsulated in the opening verses is not simply one of glory.