

ASIAN  
**HORIZONS**

Vol. 4, No. 1, June 2010

## Book Review

**Dr. Sebastian Mulloparambil, ed., *Dynamism of the Word of God and Biblical Personalities*, Dharmaram Publication, Bangalore, 2009.**

History is the realm of God's revelation. It is through the word that he acts and reveals himself in history. This word of God is creative, dynamic, saving, guiding, revelatory, dialogical and challenging (Heb 4:12). The dynamics of the word of God and its influence on the biblical personalities are profoundly analyzed in the book *Dynamism of the Word of God and Biblical Personalities* edited by Sebastian Mulloparambil.

The book explores in depth the following biblical personalities: Abraham, Moses, Jeremiah, Deutero-Isaiah, Amos, Jonah, Mary, John the Baptist, Peter, the Beloved Disciple, and Paul. It is a scholarly and at the same time spiritually nourishing book which gives us a vision of the impact and transformation of the word in the lives of biblical personalities and how the word can be effective in our lives too. These articles are well-researched, documented and illustrated and at the same time easily comprehensible and enjoyable for all readers.

In the introductory article "Word of God: Living and Active (Heb 4:12)" Joseph Pathrapankal points out the great responsibility of the theologians and exegetes to explore the wider dimensions of the word of God and to make them available to the people of God in the changing and challenging circumstances of contemporary society. Thomas Kalayil in "Abraham, Listening to the Word of God," presents the great patriarch of ancient Israel as one who listened, heard, and lived the word of God. In "The Fire of the Liberating Word and Moses" George Edayadiyil speaks of the influence of the word in the life and mission of the great liberator of the Israelites, Moses.

In "A Transforming Word: Jeremiah's Agony and Ecstasy" Paul Kalluveetil discusses the burden the prophet felt at the beginning of his mission and how he tried to escape from it. Later he overcomes that temptation and surrenders himself to the persuading and over-powering Word. The next essay, "The Saving Word in Second Isaiah", by Sebastian Mulloparambil, emphasizes that the word of God is the sole abiding reality (Is 40:8) and is creative and effective (55:10). The word was active yesterday, accomplishes new things today, and will have its fulfillment tomorrow.

Joy Kakkanattu in "The Lion Roars... The Dynamics of the Word of God in the Life and Ministry of Amos" points out that Yahweh's word irresistibly compelled the prophet to proclaim His message. Those who hear the word of God are forced to take

action as they would at the terror of a lion's roar. Sebastian Mulloparambil in "The Flight of Jonah and the Might of Yahweh: The Dynamism of the Word in the Book of Jonah" portrays the word of God as something to be heard and obeyed and shows how God uses people for his service. Benny Thettayil in "John the Baptist, the Mentor of Jesus" discusses the way John the Baptist grew and became strong in spirit and prepared the way for Jesus.

Paul Savio Pudussery in "The Dynamics of the Word of God in the Life of Blessed Virgin Mary" shows Mary as a great biblical personality shaped and directed by the word of God. Her response is the best example of a human response to the Word. In the next essay, "The Dynamism of the Word of God in the Life and Mission of Peter", Sebastian Adichilath points to Peter as the guardian of faith.

Antony Edanad in his "The Beloved Disciple and the Incarnate Word" reveals the deep personal love between John the Evangelist and Jesus. In John's Gospel, the Word is a title for Jesus, and the words of Jesus are identified with God's words. In the last article Benny Nalkara discusses how Paul considered the ministry of the word as his essential task (1 Cor 9:16). In his preaching, Paul identifies the word with Christ himself (1 Cor 1:23).

This book comes with a forward by Augustine Thottakara, Rector of Dharmaram College. Dharmaram Publications has taken up the publication of this work. It is an original contribution in biblical scholarship and any serious reader will find it a source strength and inspiration. While congratulating all the contributors, especially Sebastian Mulloparambil, for the publication of this book, I wish and pray for a wide readership for this scholarly book.

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