

G. R. Beasley-Murray

The Book of Revelation, New Century Bible Commentary

London: Marshall, Morgan and Scott, 1974.

The Book of Revelation is unique in character in the New Testament with its apocalyptic style, full of symbols whose classic O. T. example is the book of Daniel. In fact, Revelation does make use of apocalyptic, prophetic and epistolary literary forms. Our commentator, G. R. Beasley-Murray has succeeded in conveying to us that John spoke to his fellow Christians in a way that appears unusual to an uninitiated modern reader. Scholarship and love of the Word of God appear in rare combination in this first-rate commentary on Revelation.

The theme of apocalyptic literature was the coming of the day of Lord and the Kingdom of God, which was also related to the process of history so that a philosophy of History in which God is the sovereign actor emerges. Our commentator rightly and convincingly clarifies the Christological aspect of the book. Christ is the Alpha and the Omega (22:13), God is (1:8). Christ is the mediator of creation (3:14), redemption (ch. 5) and the final kingdom (19:11ff.). He is the Lamb of God, the Messiah whose self-sacrifice wrought the greater exodus (ch. 5). The kingdom is of the Lord God as well as of Christ (11:15; ch. 20-22). For Beasley-Murray the core of the book is ch. 4-5 in which we have the vision of God and the Lamb. God's intervention seen from the incarnation to the parousia, is presented as forming one con-