

BOOK REVIEWS

The book of Isaiah, Chapters 1-39

New International commentary on the Old Testament by John N. Oswalt
WM. B. Eerdmans Pub. Mich. 1986 \$ 29.95

In addition to brief discussion of title, occasion, canonicity, and text, Oswalt's Introduction provides more substantial discussions of several issues crucial to the book of Isaiah: the historical background, the unity of the book (which he defends), the date, and the authorship (Oswalt argues that the whole book should be attributed to Isaiah of the eighth century). His most extensive discussion concerns the book's theology; the four topics that he sees as most important for Isaiah's thought are God, humanity and the world, sin, and redemption. He also discusses problems in interpretation before concluding his introduction with a detailed outline and a thorough bibliography.

The author offers his own translation of the Hebrew text, with textual and philological notes to support it. The commentary proper is lucid, expository, and theological; Oswalt sets forth Isaiah's message both to his audience and to us today.