

BOOK REVIEW

Subash Anand, ed., Wald-Bulcke Bible Bhahya, New Delhi: Media House, 2018, pages 1192 with a Foreword by Dr. Subash Anand. ISBN: 978-81-934421-5-9.

The Holy Bible is the most loved and lived Book of Christians. There can be no Christianity without listening to Christ and the Bible. The Christians hear God's continuous communication through the books of the Bible. Every Christian then approaches the Bible with reverence and confidence and commends oneself to God's powerful Word that he/she be guided by its salvific and inspiring wisdom. The Bible enriches the inner life of a believer and leads him/her towards a dignified course of action in everyday life appropriating the beatitudes of a righteous life. The Bible unfolds before us God's directions and directives in the history of human beings. Discovering the God of Creation, Redemption, and Sanctification in the pages of the Bible is the fundamental and numinous key to fall in love with God of the Bible. In reality, this God could be known and loved. Christianity is thus meant to be a relational religion: first, on a vertical direction between humans and God and, second, on a horizontal alignment between ourselves and those around us. As we encounter God's Word, we have an opportunity to share our different perspectives and insights thus to broaden the horizon of our human vocation. So, Biblical literacy is an essential enhancement for every Christian believer to lead an authentic life. The Apostle Paul knew that "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The *Wald-Bulcke Bible Bhashya* (Wald-Bulcke Bible Commentary), edited by Subash Anand, is dedicated to the great memory of late Fr. Stanislaus Wald S. V. D. (1904-1968) and late Fr. Camille Bulcke S. J. (1909-1982) the veteran writers of Word of God in Hindi language. Dr. Fr. Stanislaus Wald S. V. D came to India in 1932 and he translated the Old Testament into Hindi

in 1963. Fr. Dr. Camille Bulcke S. J. came to India in 1935 and gave the Hindi translation of New Testament in 1977. Hence the title of this Commentary carries their pertinent names to perpetuate their persistent hard-work and great remembrance.

I want to congratulate the editor and the contributors of this Hindi Bible Commentary because it is for the first time such an integrated work has come out in the Hindi Christian world. The Hindi speaking Christian communities were lacking a full Hindi Bible Commentary. And happily, here we have a unique gift from Fr. Subhash, a most awaited work in Hindi! Fr. Subhash has done an incomparable contribution to the Church and Christian believers by consolidating the efforts of many experts in Bible and publishing this distinctive work. Right from June, 2009, Rev. Dr. Subhash Anand tried to get the collaboration of experts, both men and women, who were engaged in teaching Bible in different Major Seminaries. In fact, a Commentary of Bible in Hindi was an inevitable need of the time. More than 75 Biblical experts from different corners of India have prepared this Commentary giving importance to each book of Bible and they have also contributed Articles on many fundamental, appropriate, and circumstantial themes involved in the Bible. The Commentary has 1192 pages and is divided into four parts: 1). On each Old Testament Book; 2). On each New Testament Book; 3). 39 Articles related to the Biblical backgrounds and expositions of various contextual themes of the Bible; and 4). 17 Articles on the basic outlooks and characteristics of Biblical world, incidents, and histories. Out of hundred and thirty nine entries in the Commentary, 47 Articles are written by Prof. Dr. Subhash Anand, the creative and erudite editor of this Commentary. Some of the articles are written in English language and are translated by students of Theology. The translation reviewers, Chand Mulchandani, Consolata PSA, Immanuel Baxla S. J., Nutan Joshi and Subhash Anand took very special efforts to make the texts of Commentary truly error free.

“There are some things that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they

do the other Scriptures" (2 Peter 3:16). But this Commentary helps its readers to understand authentically and lucidly what God wants to communicate. This is written by well-known and popular theologians. Commentaries offer greater understanding with background information on authorship, history, setting, and themes of the Bible. The orderly and thematic exposition of the Old and New Testaments can be found in this commentary. It is well-written in a clear and plain language that everyone can easily follow the theme and interpretations. The presence of maps and graphic expositions are remarkable to learn about authentic aspects of the history and geography of Biblical land and people.

Almost all commentaries attempt to explain the passage in terms of some system of theology. In other words, the commentary is an explanation of how the Bible fits together and what it means. Since a Bible commentary is written by human authors, it will reflect the beliefs and perspective of those writers. As a whole this serious Book is a great achievement and a remarkable attempt in introducing the Biblical authors' concerns and the theology of the Church. The advantage of a Bible commentary is that one can quickly gain perspective on the text's meaning, as understood by the commentary's authors. One caution concerning Bible commentaries is that since the commentary itself is not Scripture, it is important for a reader to weigh what he reads against other sources, as well as his own Spirit-led analysis. I am happy to state that this volume of Bible commentary in Hindi assists to comprehend the genuine and pertinent themes and perspectives of the Bible.

Prof. Dr Anto Amarnad CMI