

Jobs, Karen H. *1 Peter*. 2nd ed. BECNT. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2022. 335pp. + 13pp. (back matter).

Karen Jobs was the professor of New Testament Greek and Greek exegesis at Wheaton College from 2005 until her retirement in 2015. She received her PhD in biblical hermeneutics from Westminster Theological Seminary in 1995. Her research interests are biblical hermeneutics, the Septuagint, Hebrews, the general epistles, and Esther. This volume is a revised edition of Karen Jobs's *1 Peter* commentary in the Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament series. The volume is a fine example of the series. It does an excellent job of fulfilling the series' goals by packaging excellent scholarship in a form accessible to scholars, pastors, and even the educated layperson. The commentary's first edition (2005) was already one of the better commentaries on 1 Peter but was due for revision. The overall structure of the commentary is unchanged, consisting of three sections.

The first section is a sixty-one-page introduction. Topics discussed in the introduction include the significance of the letter, date/authorship (apostolic, pseudonymous, or both), challenges to Petrine authorship (the Greek of 1 Peter, the *Sitz im Leben* of 1 Peter, 1 Peter's dependence on Paul, and the spread of Christianity), evidence for Petrine authorship, destination, recipients, the origin of 1 Peter, the purpose of the letter, the use of the OT in 1 Peter, major themes/theology, literary unity/genre, and an outline of the book. This introduction does an excellent job of giving an overview of the significant issues confronting students of 1 Peter.

The second section is the commentary, which is 260 pages long and divided into five sections. The first segment is 1:1–2, the greeting. The second segment is 1:3–12, the letter's opening, a reassuring message to God's people. The third segment, 2:11–4:11, discusses why and how God's people should live godly lives. The fourth segment, 4:12–5:11, is a message of consolation to the suffering church. The last segment, 5:12–14, is the letter's closing and greetings.

The last section is an excursus of fourteen pages. This excursus is a discussion of the nature of 1 Peter's Greek. The principal section of the excursus is a syntactical study consisting of seventeen criteria. The criteria are applied to 1 Peter, 1 Thessalonians, and Hebrews. The analysis is displayed in a helpful chart on page 333. This analysis in the excursus attempts to demonstrate from the Greek syntax of 1 Peter any evidence of bilingual interference. Jobs concludes that there is definite evidence of a Semitic influence in the Greek of 1 Peter.

Two notable features from the first edition are carried over. One is Jobs's proposal that the recipients of 1 Peter were converted elsewhere besides Asia Minor (most likely Rome). Jobs argues that the converts were living in Asia Minor because Claudius used periodic expulsion of undesirables to colonize different areas of the empire to keep the peace in Rome. Jobs admits that this is a minority position. Still, she thinks it is the best explanation for how Christianity spread to Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bythynia, since most of these regions were not evangelized by any known apostle. The second feature is her in-depth analysis of LXX usage in 1 Peter. She specifically compares the uses in 1 Peter against their original LXX context.

There are five notable additions to the second edition. First, Jobs provides a refreshed translation based on the NA28 Greek text. The author's translation is used in the commentary unless otherwise

noted. Second, the author adds additional text-critical information for some OT quotations. Third, she standardizes references to the Greek OT. Jobes refers to the Pentateuch as the LXX and the rest of the books as the OG (Old Greek). The entire Greek OT is referred to as LXX/OG. Fourth, bibliographic information was revised and supplemented. Lastly, a section on the use of the OT in 1 Peter was added to the introduction.

There are five positive aspects to this commentary. The first positive aspect is accessibility to many different types of readers, as only a basic level of Greek is required. It is helpful for readers of all levels, just like the original 2005 commentary. The second positive aspect is its emphasis on the argument of 1 Peter rather than critical issues. It is undoubtedly essential that any commentary deal with important critical issues. Still, it is more important not to let the evaluation of the critical issues interfere with the explanation of the argument of a book. The third positive aspect is Jobes's discussion concerning the arrival of Christianity in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bythynia. The fourth positive aspect is the in-depth analysis of OT quotations, which directly affects exegesis. This is a complex area in NT exegesis, and Jobes does an excellent job navigating the issues. The last positive aspect is the excursus on the quality of the Greek. The excursus is very helpful in refuting one of the major arguments against Petrine authorship. It provides strong evidence against the prevalent idea that the Greek of 1 Peter was too good for a first-century fisherman to write.

This reviewer sees only one negative aspect in this commentary: There does not seem to be enough extra content to justify the revision. I would recommend that a person who does not have the original 1 Peter commentary buy the more recent edition. Still, I am unsure how valuable this second edition would be for someone who owns the original commentary. The only exception to this caveat would be scholars specializing in the Petrine correspondence, who will want to get this second edition for its updated bibliography.

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