

Comentari als Fets dels Apostols. Volume 1. 'Jerusalem': configuració de l'església judeocrient (Ac 1.1-5.42). Volume 2. 'Judea i Samaria': Genesi de l'església cristiana a Antioquia (Ac 6.1-12.25). By Josep Rius-Camps. Pp. 312 and 400. (Col·lectania Sant Pacià, 43 and 47.) Facultat de Teologia de Catalunya/Editorial Herder, 1991 and 1993. ISBN 84-86065-25-9. Paper n.p.

The titles indicated above represent volumes one and two of a projected four-volume commentary on Acts. The following volumes will be entitled 'Fins als confins de la terra': les tres primeres fases de la missió al paganisme (Ac 13.1-1g.20) and 'Roma': ajornament per la marrada a Jerusalem i darrera fase de la missió (Ac 1g.21-28.31). 1g.21-28.31). The commentary, in which one can note a great deal of erudition and care, is directed to those who are not acquainted with the Greek language, and is written in a style which the author intends to be similar to other commentaries such as *Das Neue Testament Deutsch*, 'The New International Commentary on the New Testament', or the *Evangelisch-katholischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament*. Each volume is divided into sections, according to the structure which the author finds in the text. After giving his own translation in Catalan, he discusses questions of textual criticism, and this is followed by ample commentary on each verse. Each comment begins with an explanation of the literary figure and internal divisions of the respective section. Various excursus are also inserted.

The principal peculiarity of this work consists in the desire to maintain the Alexandrian Text (TA) separate from the Western Text (TO). The author is so convinced that each form has its own character that he offers a parallel translation of each, leaving aside the question as to which of the two readings is earlier. He does not definitely take sides with either of the two forms, in order to avoid mixing the nuances and theological tendencies proper to each one. He plans to include an appendix dealing with the double text problem at the end of the work. The commentary is principally based upon the TA, commonly accepted as the standard text, but also takes into account the variations of the TO.

For the remaining part, the commentary is fundamentally based on the author's previous works which deal with the significance of Paul's journey to Jerusalem, his mission to the pagans, and the origins of the church in Jerusalem and in Antioch. He considers Luke to be the author of both the Gospel and Acts, which together form one unified work articulated into two books with parallel frameworks. He thus includes Acts within the evangelical genre, that is, as a theological genre with a historical reference. He gives great importance to the literary personality of Luke, whom he considers not only as the literary artist of the *we-passages*, but also as the material author of all the discourses.

The author employs a method which he qualifies as 'analytic inductive' in the priority which he gives to internal critical arguments. The commentaries contain an enormous deal of information on parallels taken from Luke and Acts, intermixed with linguistic and literary notes. Historical and social discussions are comparatively rare. The presence of continuous references to original words and to literary figures, as well as long clauses between brackets, often overloaded with further references, make the reading somewhat difficult. Many of the interpretations are original: some of them are worth considering, but many others are based on weak evidence and fit much too easily into the author's scheme.

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