

Foreword

For far too long, the Lukan writings have been viewed as an unwanted “step-child,” when considered alongside the “theological genius” of Paul or the author of the Fourth Gospel. In particular, Luke has been criticized for advocating a triumphalistic “theology of glory” that pales when compared with Paul’s more theologically astute “theology of the cross.” Reactions to this oversimplified and somewhat entrenched view that have emphasized the church’s suffering in Acts (to the neglect of the resurrection) are likewise inadequate. Either reading is, in my opinion, a poor misreading of the text. Finally, Dennis Horton has come along to offer a balanced assessment of Luke’s theology in this regard, demonstrating that death *and* resurrection are inextricably tied together as a central literary motif in the Lukan narrative of Acts. The study continues to be relevant today to those Christian communities seeking a word of hope and life in a world of suffering and death.

Although there have been a few studies on related themes, no one has addressed the issue in the same way as Horton; that is to say, no one has presented an argument that accounts for the evidence as comprehensively and competently as he does. In addition to his contributions to the exegesis of Acts, Dr. Horton also contributes greatly to our understanding of the concept of a “literary motif” (a much used and little understood term) and its potential use to describe literary features of biblical narrative. Horton’s work in this area, too, stands out among those who have attempted to trace literary motifs in biblical literature for its precision and care. All in all, this is a well-argued monograph that is clear and concise and deserves a careful hearing by those interested in the death and resurrection motif in Acts, in particular, and in theological and literary readings of Acts, in general.

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