

Božo Lujčić

Tragovima biblijskih prostora i događaja: Biblijsko-teološki i povijesno-arheološki uvidi i poruke (*Following the Trails of Biblical Locations and Events: Biblical-Theological and Historical-Archeological Insights and Messages*)

Kršćanska sadašnjost, Zagreb, 2016, 442 pages

In 2016, Kršćanska sadašnjost published the book, *Following the Trails of Biblical Locations and Events: Biblical-Theological and Historical-Archeological Insights and Messages*, by the author Božo Lujčić. In this book, Božo Lujčić, a renowned Catholic Biblical scholar and the author of more than a dozen books, deals with the topic of the Holy Land. As was emphasized in the foreword, twenty years ago the book, *God's Trails: Biblical Locations and Events* was published, and was used as a sort of a guide for visitors to the Holy Land. However, due to the passage of time, experience gained, and the need to offer readers a better insight into the Holy Land, the author decided to write a new, systematically organized book in which he tried to remove the omissions he noticed in the previous one, and to offer new insights into biblical locations and events, as well as to add new content into the book.

The book is comprised of seven main sections, each one divided into chapters and sub-chapters. The first section provides a brief history of Israel; the second section offers the description of the geographical layout of the Holy Land and its features, while the third section offers a brief description of the main religions which have occupied the area throughout history. From sections four to seven, the author focuses on four selected geographical areas which are of special importance for Christianity: Jerusalem and the surrounding area, Bethlehem and the surrounding area, Jericho and the surrounding area, and Samaria and Galilee. In covering each area, the author introduces an abundance of historical information, traditions, and insights which are likely unknown to a wider readership, followed up with many photos that help picture said areas and locations for the readers. At the end of the sub-chapters, the author often brings “messages” in which he tries to offer the reader the meaning and the messages from certain events or locations that apply to our time, and he explains what can be learned from them. By doing this, the author helps bring the locations or events from the past to life, making them relevant for today’s readers who may never have a chance to visit those places.

The book, *Following the Trails of Biblical Locations and Events* is one which

will truly help the reader become engaged with the biblical locations and events. Very well written and illustrated, this book is an excellent source of historical information, and it offers an insight into the society and the culture of the time. In this way, it can prove to be very helpful for a wider reading audience, but it is also useful for understanding and interpreting Bible passages. While there is no lack of such literature in English, it is very rare in Croatian, making this work even more valuable. The book is recommended for a wider reading audience, and especially to theology students, who will find it helpful in their work.

Ervin Budiselić

Fisher Humphreys

Razmišljanje o Bogu (*Thinking About God*)

The Bible Institute, Zagreb, 2016, 264 pages

In September 2016, the Bible Institute in Zagreb published a book by the author Dr. Fisher Humphreys called *Thinking About God*. Fisher Humphreys was a professor of theology at the *New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary* as well as professor emeritus at *Samford University*. He is the author of nine books, and he has written numerous articles.

It is very important that the Croatian edition of the book, *Thinking About God*, saw the light of day 22 years after its second, revised edition. It was first published in English in 1974. At the time, it was a textbook of sorts for the subject, Introduction to Christian Theology, as seen through the perspective of an Evangelical Christian theologian. The book was written in simple language with scientific background, and the author attempted to convey theological doctrines to a wide circle of people in a way that is easy to understand. In this respect, this theological book is not only reserved for theologians. This approach is why the book can be used, not just for a personal studying of theology, but also as an introduction and a guide to the world of theology in church fellowships, theological schools, and seminaries. It is very important that the author lists materials for further study at the end of every chapter. In this way, both theology students and those who wish to know more about theology can deepen their knowledge.

At the beginning of the book, there are two forewords by the author. The first foreword comes from the second revised English edition, while the other was written by the author for the Croatian edition. Following are twelve chapters that deal with various areas of Christian theology.

In chapter one named, *Theology*, the author starts by analyzing the basic definition of theology. Everybody who thinks about God is, in fact, dealing with theology. Theology is divided into popular theology and academic theology. Popular theology is the name for the kind of theology that is engaged in by people who are not experts in the matter. On the other hand, academic theology is the