

Goheen, Michael W., ed. *Reading the Bible Missionally*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans. 357 pages.

This book is a collection of the essays by fourteen authors. Most of the essays were presented at the 2013 conference entitled “A Missional Reading of Scripture” held at Calvin Theological Seminary. Drawing from this common background, the book has a clear overarching thesis: Mission is a central theme to the biblical narrative so that reading the entire Bible through the lens of mission is both appropriate and entails helpful implications for our interpretation of Scripture, theology, preaching, and theological education.

The book is structured to respond to questions that may arise for the reader, especially about definitions, examples, and implications related to the material covered. The first part of the volume introduces the concept of missional hermeneutics and explores what it means for mission to become a key perspective in viewing the biblical narrative. Then it offers case studies for reading and interpreting passages in both the Old and New Testaments. Thereafter, the volume discusses how preaching and theological education can be informed by reading the Bible with a missional hermeneutic.

In spite of the number of authors included in the book, there seem to be no representatives from Asian, African, or Latin American nations. In this sense, the primary intent of the book is to engage with the North American context. This is clear in the preface, which states, “The term, ‘missional’ has become pervasive in North America.” Given the increased interconnectivity and rapid globalization all around the world, including in Western countries, this restriction can be problematic. The global scholarship on mission should be reflected in discussing how to apply a missional hermeneutic. There are many non-western authors as globally recognized scholars who can engage the topics covered in this volume, for example, Tite Tiénou, Amos Yong, Sebastian Kim, Seyoon Kim, Simon Chan, and C. René Padilla, etc. If the perspectives of non-western scholars were included in this volume, the book would present a fuller missional reading of the Bible.

Nevertheless, this book still merits our attention in that it efficaciously challenges our ways of reading the Bible by providing new and deeply nuanced approaches to using a missional hermeneutic. More than this, it shapes our understanding of the missional nature that the church has. Anyone who is interested in and has been followed the dialogue of about the “missional church” will want to read this volume.