

As the fly cover to 'Human Origins and the Image of God' recognises, human evolution and our uniqueness has long been a central theme in the fields of philosophy, theology and the sciences, most particularly biology and anthropology. The nineteen essays collected here in honour of Wentzel van Huysteen (2004 Gifford Lecturer) at his retirement from Princeton Theological Seminary are written by scholars in these interdisciplinary fields, all of them inspired by his friendship. They provide 'snapshots' of the 'state of the art' in their various research areas and provide an impressive diversity of perspectives.

Here lies the strength and weakness of the book. On the upside, for the busy pastor, the essays can be read at one sitting, awaken you out of intellectual slumbers and provide challenging reflections to chew on. The most engaging essay and one I recommend to get one going, is Michael Ruses, "Some tough Questions for Christians".

On the down side is the 'snapshot' aspect of these essays. They provide really interesting creative ideas in current academia, but many seem wobbly for lack of historical grounding, especially in philosophy (not a criticism that could be levelled at Wentzel). Not a single reference is to be found to Mircea Eliade and the History of Religions, none to the extraordinary work of Teilhard de Chardin, none to Carl Jung's Image of God and so I could go on (no feminist perspectives either!).

I have never met Wentzel van Huysteen, but perhaps because I have travelled a similar intellectual journey since the 1970's, I feel as if we have been fellow travellers, only he was in the first class compartment.

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