

THEOLOGY IN A NEW KEY. By Robert McAfee Brown. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1978. 212 pp. \$6.95 pb.

In 1966 the author of this book wrote a review of one of God-Is-Dead Altizer's books in which he opined that Altizer either could not or did not wish to take the trouble to write clearly or that the subject matter was incommunicable, and that in the future he should try to communicate clearly. Could it be that two ^{so quickly write} one of the reasons history has already written Finis over the God-is-dead movement ^{are} is that it did not have articulate spokesmen? If so, then ~~predict~~

~~a bright future for liberation theology as long as Brown is one of its proponents.~~
bright, since its subject matter is quite clear and a proponent like Brown knows how to communicate.
liberation theology's future is ^{assured} as long as Brown is one of its proponents.

The author arbitrarily chooses to discuss only the Latin American form of liberationism, rather than trying to include the European, African and American facets of it. After a historical survey of forces that shaped liberationism, he succinctly outlines ~~that~~ six distinguishing emphases, interacts with the ^{relevant} biblical material, and proposes ~~a basic~~ restructuring of social, political, personal and ecclesiastical life.

The reviewer feels that this is probably the best single book one can read to get a good overview of liberation theology. ~~Unlike Cone, Brown is~~ The argument is well-reasoned (unlike Cone's works); the handling of biblical material more straightforward (unlike Bonino, for example); and the impossibility of rapprochement ^e between liberationism and evangelicalism clearly stated (unlike Evangelicals and Liberation, ed. Armerding). ^{the recent} *But weaknesses are also glaring.* This is not to say that the liberation position is ^{glaring} without weaknesses. When Brown gets into a corner biblically, he takes refuge in the claim that all people read the Bible "selectively" (an admission that liberationists do too!). When he talks about restructuring, ~~perhaps~~ a personal testimony might have been helpful as to ~~how he is doing~~ what he is doing.

To sum up: a good overview and a startling reminder of the growing importance and influence of liberation theology.