

God's Pattern for Creation: A Covenantal Reading of Genesis 1. By W. Robert Godfrey.
Phillipsburg, New Jersey: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2003.

141 pages. \$10.99 (paper).

President of Westminster Seminary in California (*Alliance* council member) W. Robert Godfrey has written a book on Genesis 1 in the spirit of John Calvin, which is to say that it is nothing more than a brief and clear exposition of the Scriptures. Godfrey is clearly convinced that the contemporary debate among conservatives over creation is a problem that can best be solved by allowing God's word to *both ask and answer* the important questions. The body of this text runs just over eighty pages, and after an historical introduction it is comprised of only three chapters: the first three days of creation, the final four days, and the message of Genesis 1. In the space of seventy some-odd pages of exegesis the lay reader is confronted with the simple message of the biblical text, and most readers will probably be shocked at how much of its message has been garbled by over-familiarity and polemical abuse. Helpful appendices set forth Calvin's own reading of the text, summarize the Reformed Confessions on creation, and contextualize the Westminster Standards on this point.

No doubt some embroiled in contemporary creation debates will see this book as just one more *datum* to be incorporated into running arguments. But fair readers will see this as a fine piece of biblical scholarship written by a non-expert for a non-expert audience. The result is a faithful meditation on Scripture's witness to God's work of creation that is edifying for all, and required reading for those wishing to broaden their understanding of Genesis 1.