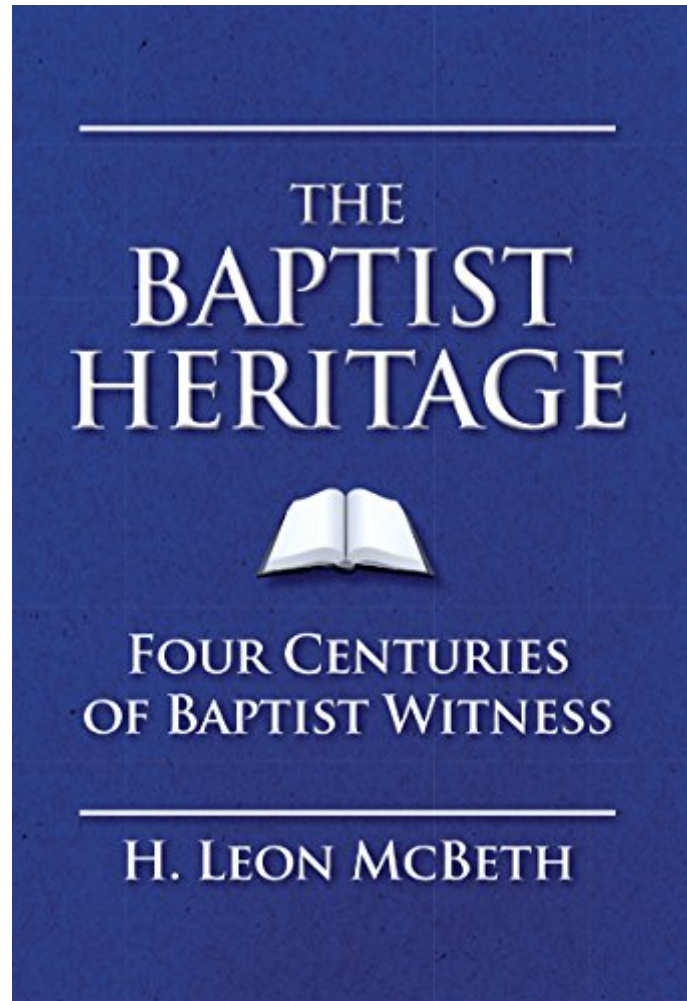




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The Baptist Heritage



Synopsis

The Baptist Heritage: Four Century of Baptist Witness H. Leon McBeth's 'The Baptist heritage' is a definitive, fresh interpretation of Baptist history. Based on primary source research, the book combines the best features of chronological and topical history to bring alive the story of Baptists around the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Decent book with tons of great info. this was a mandatory text for a seminary course. If you're a history buff you'll probably love it. Obviously it's presented from a very Baptist perspective, but there's no surprise there (or shouldn't be). There doesn't seem to be much objectivity since it is written by a Baptist for Baptists about Baptists. As a graduate level text my expectation is for a broader academic experience... What do other denominations think about the Baptist heritage. I think I would have gotten more out of a collection of essays - or at the very least to have a broader ecumenical assessment. I didn't like the presentation format personally. The author brings up the

same subject multiple times in different places. If I want to learn about the "Downgrade Controversy" I want all the info in one place - that's my personal preference, but McBeth presents it in bits and pieces as the story 'unfolds' so-to-speak. Lastly, the book was published in '87. Not that what happened 400 years ago has changed since '87, but maybe some new insights - new scholarship... something to breathe some new life into this text would be nice.

McBeth's work is essential reading if you're interested in where the Baptists came from and why we are the way we are. The book was published in 1987, so the later chapters that deal with "current events" are dated, but the accounts of origins and developments through the middle of the 20th century are complete and convincing. Interestingly, in spite of the book's length, I found myself wishing for MORE detail about some subjects, especially the development of fundamentalism within Baptist circles in the 20th century. If that subject interests you, Marsden's *Fundamentalism and American Culture* fills the gap nicely. Highly recommended.

This was a seminary textbook, and was very valuable to me. Perhaps the best feature, for me, was the attention paid to Baptist history outside of the US and UK--as a Canadian, I found McBeth's attention to Baptists in Canada most helpful. I'd strongly recommend getting the accompanying volume - *Source Book for Baptist Heritage* - which is, unfortunately, not available for Kindle, but has excerpts of many hard-to-find source documents.

The book ended up being much more enjoyable than what I originally thought. For the most part it was somewhat engaging and does provide a wealth of information. The one down side is because of the age of the book (1987) there is obviously a gap between when the book was published and modern day that the book does not cover. However, it is still worth the read, as it does greatly show how the Baptist Church grew and branched off into many different directions.

Like all history books, this one is written from a specific point of view. However, the author does an excellent job of giving a comprehensive overview of Baptist history. It is old, so one will need to read another book for a history of the last 30 years.

This book goes into great detail of the source documents regarding Baptist history. With so many differing views on Baptist history and with those who wish to push history into their own theological disposition; McBeth goes straight to the source by letting history speak for itself. It is refreshing to

learn Baptist history aright and see God working His will in Baptist history. I reccomend this to the pastor and the layman alike, who wishes to be discerning about history.

Timely and accurate book with hearts to know more of the movement of God in the past,present and the future.Keep on unearthing the values and good heritage for posterity. God's work done in righteousness would be peaceful and fruitful till eternity.

This was required reading for my course in Baptist history in seminary, and I had Dr. McBeth as a professor. This is an important book and should be read by anyone who is interested in where Baptists came from.

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