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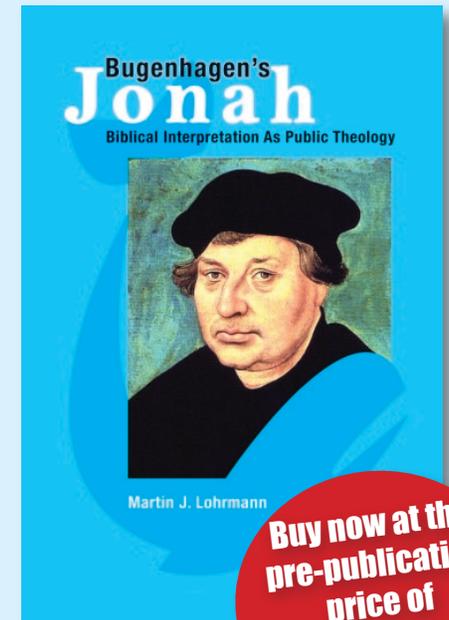
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Bugenhagen's Jonah



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The
public theology of
Luther's pastor
and one of the
Reformation's
great but
largely-forgotten
figures

About the book ...

Bugenhagen's Jonah

Biblical Interpretation As Public Theology

When the University of Wittenberg reopened after the Smalcaldic War in 1547, Johannes Bugenhagen, Wittenberg's chief pastor and a professor at the university, began lecturing on Jonah. He first saw these lectures as a way to build up faith in his shaken community. As the months passed, Bugenhagen adapted his work to address the controversies that arose in the war's aftermath, especially those provoked by Emperor Charles V's 1548 religious edict, the Augsburg Interim. In his published Jonah commentary, Bugenhagen richly and publicly articulated an evangelical Lutheran faith that was confronting political threats, religious uncertainty, and the recent death of Martin Luther. By studying Bugenhagen's context, biblical theology, and Lutheran faith, this study brings a vital perspective to contemporary questions of how Christian faith can serve daily life.

Bugenhagen's Jonah makes several significant contributions to Reformation studies. It is the first book published in English about Bugenhagen in over eighty years. It integrates diverse fields of study (including biblical interpretation, ecclesiology, worship, social reform, and church history), draws upon the latest international scholarship, and translates original sources. Finally, the emphasis on Bugenhagen as a "public theologian" highlights the relationship between faith and daily life for every age.

About the author ...

Martin J. Lohrmann is a pastor and a teacher in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has earned degrees from Valparaiso University (B.A. 1999), Wartburg Theological Seminary (M.Div., 2004), and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, (Ph.D., 2010).

About Bugenhagen ...

Johannes Bugenhagen (1485-1558) was the chief pastor in Wittenberg and a professor at that city's university. For decades he worked closely with Martin Luther and Philip Melanchthon to put church reforms into practice.

After Luther's death in 1546, Lutherans in Germany lost a war against Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, who wanted to bring Protestants back into the Roman fold, by force if necessary.

Bugenhagen addressed that situation in lectures on the book of Jonah. Published in 1550, his Jonah commentary shows how the Wittenberg reformers read the Bible, what they stood for, and how they responded to crisis on the basis of their faith.

Bugenhagen's last major work, the commentary also reveals the mature theology of one of the Reformation's great but largely forgotten figures.

What others are saying ...

With this first major study of Johannes Bugenhagen in English, Martin Lohrmann allows Wittenberg's reforming pastor to step out from the shadows of his more famous colleagues, Martin Luther and Philip Melanchthon, in order to claim his rightful place as Wittenberg's premier public theologian. . . .

By using Bugenhagen's most important, and previously unexamined commentary on the prophet Jonah, from 1550, the author skillfully combines insights from the history of biblical interpretation with the challenging context of life as an evangelical (Lutheran) theologian after Luther's death in 1546. Thus, not only does Lohrmann delineate Bugenhagen's new insights into the prophet to Nineveh, he also uncovers new information about Luther's early theological development. . . .

This book also provides exciting new evidence for the existence of a Wittenberg school of biblical interpretation, one that never divorced exegesis from the immediate theological context, thereby shaping a new prophetic word for the public of Bugenhagen's day. Anyone interested in gaining fresh insights into the origins of Lutheran theology and biblical interpretation—theologians, church historians, interested pastors and laypersons, and scholars of sixteenth-century thought—will profit immensely from Lohrmann's research.

Dr. Timothy J. Wengert
The Lutheran Theological
Seminary at Philadelphia