SUSSEX HOLIDAY READING

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Category: Reviews

This holiday I read a number of novels from the library, all of which were good escapist stuff and none of which are worth reviewing. I did thoroughly enjoy The Few: The American "Knights of the Air" Who Risked Everything to Save Britain in the Summer of 1940 by Alex Kershaw. This readable book tells the story of American fighter pilots who flew with the RAF during the Battle of Britain, though they had to give up their citizenship to do so. The book doesn't give much extra detail about the Battle itself (read Fighter: The True Story of the Battle of Britain by Len Deighton for that) but it does present an intersting vignette on the history.

I also read From Eden to the New Jerusalem: Exploring God's Plan for Life on Earth by T. Desmond Alexander. In brief, this is a thematic history of the Bible. It takes subjects such as God's presence on earth, God's sovereignty and the problem of evil and shows how they are developed through Scripture. There is a full review available here, so I'll just give a few comments. The book has some useful ideas and is worth a read if you are interested in Biblical Theology. However, it left me rather confused as to what it was trying to do. It is a short book and cannot enter into any detail about any of the subjects it treats, yet it persists in giving huge numbers of detailed footnotes - sometimes amounting to more than half the page. If the author had written a popular book or a more thorough academic one, I think we would have been better served.

The same confusion between academic and popular writing does not exist in N.T Wright's Jesus and the Victory of God (Christian Origins and the Question of God, Volume 2). I read a couple of hundred more pages of this and hope to finish it sometime in the next few months. Meanwhile, if you are interested in Wright, you could do worse than read Clayboy's NT Wright for Dummies.