



## BOOK REVIEW

### Layman's Bible Study Notebook

By Irving Jensen, Harvest House Publishers, \$19.95,

1068 pages

*Reviewed by Larry Dinkins, TH*

All of us are familiar with the abrupt ending to Koos Fietje's life and ministry some years ago. What many may not know is at the start of his second term Koos began a systematic study of God's Word, filling many notebooks with personal discoveries. Someone said that one exercise had a profound effect on Koos and contributed greatly to his own spiritual life and in turn his ministry.

Like Koos, most of us sense a need for more systematic and inductive Bible study. A few minutes in Daily Light is helpful, but it will never replace independent, first hand discovery of Bible truths. A book which has helped me maintain this goal is called the Layman's Bible Study Notebook, one of 50 Bible study books written by Irving Jensen.

The strength of LBSN is that it breaks down each New Testament book into complete units of thought. Then using parallel versions (KJV and TLB) it takes one through the three cardinal principles of Bible study: **observation, interpretation and application.** The more literal KJV is used for ob-

serva- tion and interpretation, while TLB provides practical applications of truth and doctrine. Both versions have study questions as well as topical headings and a simple outline.

The LBSN allows one to study at his own pace. If you average 10 units (20 pages) per week you could finish the New Testament in one year. I personally chose a slower pace, using the LBSN for my devotions and thus took over 3 years to finish. What I have now is a personal record of personal discovery in all 27 books. Such notations have proved helpful in my present Bible study and particularly as an aid in preaching and teaching.

If you are looking for a systematic, firsthand Bible study for devotions or deeper study, may I commend the LBSN. It is well worth \$20.00.