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Book Review: Gerardo Aste, SJ: *Dando razones de nuestra esperanza: III—Jesús, el hombre que es Dios*

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This book is the third in a series and could be used by academics, but also targets lay Christians who have faith questions about the person of Jesus Christ. The reflections are most certainly theological and while they draw largely on sacred Scripture, they are presented in a structured way as fitting a systematic theologian trained at the Gregorian in Rome. In the first two books in the series Aste has already addressed the questions of the problem of evil, free will, and what happened in the forty to seventy years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. This book presents the teaching of the church from a Gospel perspective and centers on two principal teachings: (1) Who is Jesus and what does the church believe about him? and (2) What is the way of Jesus and how should we follow him?

Overall, the book succeeds in answering the questions posed, but would probably be best enjoyed by a non-Scripture scholar or educated lay Christian. The author's primary source is the Bible, and while there are a few references to Scripture scholars like John Meier, most of the non-biblical references come from the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius. The first section of the book is dedicated to the public life of Jesus, and while good, is surpassed by the second part dedicated to the hidden life of Jesus, which brings a unique approach to describing

the family life, background, religious formation, and education of Jesus. Also novel was the author's description of Jesus's use of the word "Abba" to show how deeply Jesus felt the compassion and mercy of God the Father.

A. saves some important christological questions for last, deftly describing the difficulties and consequences of accepting both the humanity and divinity of Jesus in our affirmation of the Incarnation. This book is both systematic and well written and would be well suited for scholars who do some work with Spanish-speaking church groups, or for priests, ministers, and lay leaders who work with educated Spanish speakers and are looking for a systematic approach to teach about Jesus with lay formation groups.

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