

Reflections

reading notes

APRIL 2005—*Christian Fiction*

There is a big market for Christian Fiction. What I mean by “Christian Fiction” is imaginative literature that is written from a distinctly Christian perspective.

The “Left Behind” series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins is a twelve-volume multi-million dollar publishing event and sells as Christian Fiction. Unfortunately, it is written from the vantage point of the premillennial notion of end times.

But for those who are amillennial there is *The Last Disciple*, by Hank Hanegraaff and Sigmund Brouwer. Hanegraaff and Brouwer have done their homework to give the reader an accurate depiction of life in ancient Rome a few years prior to the destruction of Jerusalem.

Another series of books written in historic fiction depicting life for early converts to Christ just prior to the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD is “The Mark of the Lion,” written by Francine Rivers. The three volumes are titled, *A Voice in the Wind*, *An Echo in the Darkness*, and *As Sure as the Dawn*. (This is the next set I plan to read.)

Several of the ladies in our congregation have read “The Mark of the Lion,” and each one has had a favorable response to the books. For example, Roma Lacuata, the wife of one of our elders, critiqued the books by writing,

I thoroughly enjoyed Francine Rivers’ trilogy, “The Mark of the Lion.” In fact, it was difficult to put the books down. The plot is interesting, and not predictable. Rivers is biblically sound for the most part. I found myself wanting to be a better person, wanting to let Christ shine through me because of reading these books.

Kathy Oyen, another sister knowledgeable in the Scriptures, has read the series and writes,

The series of books by Francine Rivers was extremely interesting because they took you back to a time in Christian history that I was very familiar with (intellectually), yet I had never put myself in the position to think what it would, or could have been for the Christians during that time in our history. She is an excellent writer and the reading really flows, in fact I could hardly put them down. They are not just of interest to women either. My husband is in the process of reading them now, and he was pleased when he got to the part about the gladiators.

While this type of literature can be tricky and or treacherous in that it has the potential for smuggling false theology into our thinking while our guard is down, it can be a fine form of pleasure and learning. Good fiction can illustrate propositional truth.

