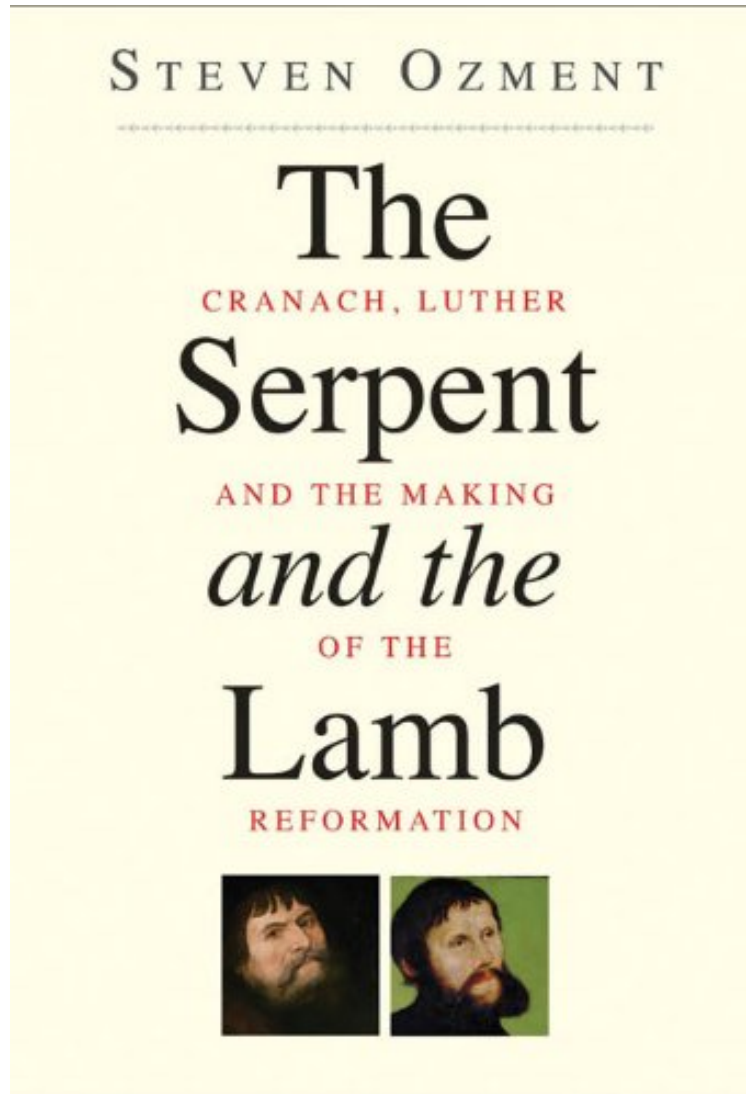


The Serpent and the Lamb: Cranach, Luther, and the Making of the Reformation

Steven Ozment

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



 Download

 Read Online

#1064344 in eBooks 2012-01-03 2012-01-03 File Name: B006O8WWYO | File size: 25.Mb

Steven Ozment : The Serpent and the Lamb: Cranach, Luther, and the Making of the Reformation before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Serpent and the Lamb: Cranach, Luther, and the Making of the Reformation:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Peter Bastien Wonderful art history. 27 of 27 people found the following review helpful. where is Cranach? By Clint Schneklath I have always thought of Cranach primarily in relationship to other people, either in the shadow of Durer or Martin Luther, to be precise. A few years back I stood in front of the altar paintings Cranach painted in Wittenberg, Germany, and they remain some of the most vivid and

memorable paintings I have ever encountered. They made me wish to know more about the author. This book makes that happen. It is outstanding social history, examining the social economic situation that made Cranach's work, and especially his cooperative publishing work with Luther, possible, but then it also goes through Cranach's art, period by period, and offers historical and magisterial art interpretive insights. There are plenty of prints in the book, interspersed black and white and a center section of color reproductions. The book would have benefited from even more. However, what is there suffices. If you are interested in entering this Reformation period through a new door, this is the perfect book through which to enter. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Vindication of Cranach By Bror Erickson This is one of the best histories of the reformation I have ever read. The focus is on Cranach, and it does deal with his relationship to Luther, which was beneficial to both, but it concentrates on Cranach's contributions to the reformation. In doing this, Steve Ozment vindicates a man whose art, career and character have been unduly maligned over the years, showing him to be the genius that he most certainly was. The book traces Cranach's career as an artist, from his early days as a proteacute;geacute; of Durer, to his end as a faithful subject of the Saxon rulers and child of the Reformation. Throughout the book are high quality pictures, and detailed explanations of the meaning of the art and what Cranach was trying to do. Hired early on as court painter by Frederick the Wise, Cranach was in Wittenberg long before Luther and had a relationship with the Elector that allowed him to be a go between for Frederick and Luther. Cranach had earlier studied art up and down the Danube, and chased Durer for a while before developing his own style, that eschewed that of the contemporary Renaissance style, especially when it came to his representations of nudes. A lot of time is dealt with Cranach's nudes, and understandably so. For one, Cranach was "King of the Nudes" in his day, thanks in large part to developing his own style that did not over sexualize the nude woman, and yet somehow made it more sensuous than if the sexual organs had been more dramatized. But Cranach also used the nude to promote Reformation theology especially as it dealt with family and sex motifs of a cultural revolution breaking free from a repressive Roman Catholic take on sex and family. In the Lutheran Reformation sex is good and to be celebrated between a man and his wife, it is what God wants of us. The nude, as Cranach painted it, celebrated this new found freedom of man to pursue marriage and enjoy sex and family. Cranach could paint a girl nude, and as no other send the message, "here is a chaste woman." I was a fan of Cranach before. I love his paintings. I am a much bigger fan now. I have also come to understand that if you don't understand Cranach, you don't understand the Reformation. The secret to understanding any culture is its art. The secret to understanding the culture of the Lutheran Reformation, is to understand Cranach

This compelling book retells and revises the story of the German Renaissance and Reformation through the lives of two controversial men of the sixteenth century: the Saxon court painter Lucas Cranach (the Serpent) and the Wittenberg monk-turned-reformer Martin Luther (the Lamb). Contemporaries and friends (each was godfather to the others's children), Cranach and Luther were very different Germans, yet their collaborative successes merged art and religion into a revolutionary force that became the Protestant Reformation. Steven Ozment, an internationally recognized historian of the Reformation era, reprises the lives and works of Cranach (1472ndash;1553) and Luther (1483ndash;1546) in this generously illustrated book. He contends that Cranach's new art and Luther's oratory released a barrage of criticism upon the Vatican, the force of which secured a new freedom of faith and pluralism of religion in the Western world. Between Luther's pulpit praise of the sex drive within the divine estate of marriage and Cranach's parade of strong, lithe women, a new romantic, familial consciousness was born. The "Cranach woman" and the "Lutheran household"mdash;both products of the merged Renaissance and Reformation worldsmdash;evoked a new organization of society and foretold a new direction for Germany.

ldquo;Ozment describes Cranach's many-faceted character . . . [and] makes a compelling case for Cranach's importance as an artist and man of faith whose collaboration with the great Reformer was central to the spread of Protestantism.rdqquo;mdash;Debra Bendis, Christian Century