

Editor's Page

Randall W. Younker
Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary
Andrews University

Gerhard Hasel, former dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and Professor of Old Testament at Andrews University, was a major player in the development of Adventist theology—especially in the areas of Old Testament and biblical hermeneutics. His book, *Old Testament Theology: Current Issues in the Present Debate* was a major contribution to OT theological studies and was adopted widely as a text by many seminaries, regardless of denominational affiliation. His views heavily influenced a generation of church leaders and scholars. The students he influenced now occupy many of the senior professorships and administrative posts throughout the Seventh-day Adventist educational system and church. While not one of the initial founders of the Adventist Theological Society (contrary to popular belief in some quarters) he soon joined the society and would become one of the society's early presidents.

In this issue we are pleased to publish several papers that were presented in a special symposium honoring Dr. Hasel's contributions in OT and Biblical Hermeneutics. We begin with an article that highlights the legacy of Dr. Hasel by one of his students and (later) colleagues, Richard Davidson. This is followed by Eugene Merrill's article, "Archaeology and Old Testament Biblical Theology: Their Interface and Mutual Informativeness." Gerhard Hasel was particularly interested in the role of archaeology in understanding the Bible as is evident in the fact that his son, Michael Hasel, who has contributed, "Life Sketch of Gerhard Hasel," chose archaeology as his special field of study. The distinguished OT scholar, Walter Kaiser, has provided us with the insightful, "The Hasel-Kaiser and Evangelical Discussions on the Search for a Center or *Mitte* to Biblical

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Theology” which highlights Hasel’s contribution to the debate on the center of OT theology. Dr. Michael Hasel’s “Life Sketch,” which gives a brief overview of the life of his father, is followed by a Bibliography of Dr. Gerhard Hasel’s literary works.

The remainder of the offerings in this issue round out areas that Dr. Hasel was certainly interested in. We have a study by Samuel Nunez entitled, “Narrative Structure of Daniel 8: A Text Linguistic Approach.” Next is Fernando Canale’s “Vision and Mission - Part 1”; Joseph Kidder’s “Christ, the Son of the Living God: the Theme of the Chiastic Structure of the Gospel of Matthew,” Ranko Stefanovic’s “The Meaning and Message of the Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)” and Dave Thomas’ thought-provoking “An Unconventional Look at the Challenge of Theodicy.”

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An additional website resource can be found at: www.perspectivedigest.org. *Perspective Digest* provides significant theological articles, but in a more accessible manner for the general public. Our newest resource is: ATSAcademy which can be found at: www.atsacademy.org and contains video resources explaining important, contemporary theological issues.

We trust that you will enjoy these resources from ATS and that you will be blessed and enriched by the articles published in this issue.

Randall W. Younker is Professor of Archaeology and History of Antiquity and Director of the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in Near Eastern Archaeology from the University of Arizona. He also holds a degree in Religion and an M.A. in Biology. He has served as the editor of *JATS* since 2009. younker@andrews.edu