



GERHARD FRANZ HASEL

1935-1994

Born in Vienna, Austria, Hasel grew up in Germany. At the end of his secondary school he entered a trade school in electrical engineering. In 1952 he was distinguished as the best apprentice in the state of Hessen and subsequently received a full scholarship at the Technical University in Darmstadt. Turning it down, Hasel enrolled instead at the Seventh-day Adventist Marienhöhe Seminary and completed a licentiate in theology in 1958. He traveled to the United States and completed a B.A. in Theology at Atlantic Union College in 1959.

Hasel continued his education at Andrews University, receiving an M.A. in systematic theology in 1960 and a B.D. in New Testament in 1962. In 1961 he married Hilde Schäfer in Chicago. Hasel served as a

pastor in Boston for a year before receiving an invitation to be assistant professor of religion at Southern College of Seventh-day Adventists in Tennessee. In 1966 he was ordained to the gospel ministry.

In 1967 Hasel began a 27-year teaching career at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. He finished his Ph.D. in Biblical Studies at Vanderbilt University in 1970. His dissertation title was "The Origin and Early History of the Remnant Motif in Ancient Israel." From 1976 to 1982, Hasel chaired the Old Testament department. In 1976 he also became the director of the new doctoral programs at the Seminary, a position he maintained until his death. From 1981 to 1988 he was dean of the Seminary.

The church to which he had gladly committed himself often asked Hasel to participate in different meetings, including Bible conferences and pastoral workshops around the world. Especially fruitful was his work with the Biblical Research Institute, for which he wrote several papers on Daniel and on hermeneutics. In addition, Hasel worked very closely with the Geoscience Research Institute, presenting papers and serving as editorial consultant for the journal *Origins*. At the time of his death he had completed a major article on the judgment for a forthcoming Biblical Research Institute volume on Adventist theology.

Hasel read papers at learned societies and gave lectures at seminaries and universities around the world. He was a regular participant of several societies, among them the American Academy of Religion, the Society of Biblical Literature, the International Society for the Study of the Old Testament, and the Adventist Theological Society, of which he had been the president since 1990.

Hasel's writings, especially in the fields of Old Testament and biblical theology, are numerous. His books on biblical theology are well-known. His articles and book reviews have been published in journals such as *AUSS*, *JSOT*, *ZAW*, and *Biblica*, as well as in church periodicals. He contributed extensive chapters to several books. His dictionary articles have appeared in the *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*, and *Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Alten Testament*. A full bibliography, prepared by Hasel's son Michael, currently a doctoral study in archaeology at the University of Arizona, will be published in a future issue of *AUSS*.

An automobile accident in Ogden, Utah, took Hasel's life on August 11, 1994. At the time he was John Nevins Andrews Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Theology, and director of the Ph.D. and Th.D. programs at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

Death truncated several writing projects. Hasel was working on two commentaries for Eerdmans' New International Commentary on the Old Testament series: Amos and Hosea. Another task left unfinished was his contribution to Zondervan's forthcoming *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology*, of which he was associate editor.

Hasel's demise is felt, not only by his wife and children, but also by his colleagues and the world-wide community of which he was a productive and respected member. To honor the memory of Gerhard F. Hasel, *AUSS* is planning a special issue for 1996. Contributions by colleagues, friends, and former students—especially in the areas in which he wrote and lectured—are invited for that number.