

## EDITORIAL

Dear valued readers, partly because of the pandemic, it has taken us longer than usual to complete this Spring 2021 issue of *Andrews University Seminary Studies*. We are happy that you can now access it; and with the new year 2022 unfolding before us, we hope and pray that you will be richly blessed.

We have also discovered that several of our international subscribers have not been able to receive our last issue on time because the different postal services we depend on have not always delivered mail as expected. We apologize for any inconvenience you experienced and will continue to resolve all cases of missing journals that you bring to our attention.

The issue before you contains a selection of articles sharing scholarship from various disciplines, including Old Testament, New Testament, Theology, and modern Church History.

First, Mark Östring presents “An Apologia for an Earlier Commencement for Day 1 of Creation: A Structural Analysis Based on a Work Correspondence.” The author offers a new assessment of the two-stage-creation position that seeks to separate the creation work of Gen 1:1 from the creation work in Gen 1:2-2:4. He highlights literary and linguistic challenges to such a position and reads Gen 1:1-5 as a cohesive unit that describes the first day of creation. In contrast to the two-stage-creation position, Östring argues that the creation of “the heavens and the earth” in Gen 1:1 does not refer to the universe but to a cosmic-subspace identified as the human universe.

In the second article, “Resolving the Confusion in Revelation 6:11,” Edwin Reynolds detects problems in the traditional translation, “until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete” (ESV), as it appears in the opening of the fifth seal of the seven-seal cycle (Rev 6:1-8:5). Reynolds shows that the Greek NT does not contain “the number of” or necessitate such interpolation. He explores the text’s grammatical, literary, and historical aspects; and concludes that the intended meaning does not include a quantitative completion of a certain disputed number of martyrs. Instead, the text suggests a qualitative completion of the character of the faithful believers. Reynolds’s work sheds light on the Christology of the book of Hebrews in relation to Christ’s function as a priest after his resurrection.

Our third article is a study by Francis Gayoba, on “Classical Theism in John Wesley’s Sermons,” that explores how Wesley’s doctrine of God relates to the strict classical theism found in the Anglican Articles of Religion. Did the English reformer move away from the official theology of the Church of England in which he remained a faithful member until his death? Gayoba

supports his affirmative answer by analyzing how Wesley relates to the attributes of God (omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience, eternity, and love). Wesley's preaching modified classical theism to allow for the temporal eternity and reciprocal love of a God who is personally involved in human time and affairs.

In the fourth article, "Acceptance to Expedience: A Comparative Analysis of Ellen G. White's and Arthur G. Daniells's Counsel for Race Relations," Jon-Philippe Ruhumuliza presents research that aims for a deeper understanding of the relations of racism and church policies. This is accomplished by a study of two major figures in Adventist church history: Ellen G. White and Arthur G. Daniells. While the latter served as a General Conference president (1901-1922), the former functioned as the prophetic voice and moral conscience of the church. Through careful analysis of primary texts, Ruhumuliza shows how the longest serving GC president sought to support his policy initiatives for racial separation by a selection of White's statements on the topic. Ruhumuliza demonstrates how these selections were at times incomplete and taken out of their original context, distorting the actual perspective of White who opposed race-based policies.

In addition to these articles, our book reviews introduce twenty-one recent and important books among which you may find resources that are helpful for your continuing education and research.

Finally, we ask you to consider our call for articles on the subject of Truth and Information Warfare. See the inside back cover.

We hope that you find this issue of our journal to be a blessing as you "give attention to reading" (1 Tim 4:13).

*MFH and OMG*