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# THE EVANGELICAL QUARTERLY

*A Theological Review, International in Scope and Outlook, in Defence of the Historic Christian Faith*

Editor : F. F. BRUCE, M.A.

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## EDITORIAL

**T**HE congratulations and best wishes of all readers and friends of THE EVANGELICAL QUARTERLY go to our Consulting Editor, Professor Burleigh, on his appointment as Principal of New College, Edinburgh, in succession to Dr. John Baillie.

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**T**HE first Summer Schools to be held in Tyndale House, Cambridge, since the opening of its new library and residential wing in April of this year have benefited greatly by the increased facilities thus provided. The research library is now housed as a library should be on the ground floor of the new wing. Ample allowance has been made for the expansion of the library, and resident readers can pursue their studies in the library itself with the utmost convenience and comfort. The upper floor contains a number of well-appointed study-bedrooms. Those foundation-members of the Tyndale Fellowship for Biblical Research who planned such a residential library fifteen years ago have good cause for grateful satisfaction as they survey this dream come true. Nor is that all. The provision of a residential library was but the means to an end. The increasing number of younger men and women who have been associated with Tyndale House and who are now finding their way into academic posts at home and overseas bears witness to the way in which that end is being achieved.

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**O**UR French colleagues who publish *La Revue Réformée* continue to make it an organ of information and enlightenment for the whole Reformed world. Frequently they take up the whole of one issue (and occasionally two) with the publication of an important Reformed text—it may be a historic document or a discussion of

some topic of contemporary moment. The third and fourth issues for 1955 were published in one volume of 180 pages and present a modernized text of Beza's *La Confession de Foi du Chrétien*, with the Reformer's preface and an introduction and notes by Michel Réveillaud. The first issue for 1956 gives an account of the Société Calviniste de France, the body which has *La Revue Réformée* as its organ, with information about its present situation, the projects which it has on hand, and the ways in which friends and well-wishers may help it to achieve its ends. The second issue for 1956 (the latest to come to hand) presents a treatise of 128 pages by Professor Pierre Lestringant, Dean of the Free Faculty of Protestant Theology in Paris, on a subject of great interest at the present time: *Le ministère de l'Église auprès des Malades*.

The *Free University Quarterly* for June, 1956, includes a critical but not unsympathetic study of "The Race Problem in South Africa" by Professor Bavinck, who has recently returned to Holland from a visit to South Africa; a translation and discussion of a long letter written in Arabic in 1671 by the Patriarch of Antioch, in which the doctrines of Calvinism are described and attacked; and an account of "The States-General in the Netherlands", by Professor J. van Anel, which readers outside Holland will find particularly informative.

The current (May, 1956) number of *The Westminster Theological Journal* contains an important article by Professor E. J. Young on "The Teacher of Righteousness and Jesus Christ", which is a valuable corrective to some of the wilder pronouncements that have been made about this aspect of the study of the Dead Sea Scrolls. This is followed by the first part of a paper on "The Imputation of Adam's Sin", by Professor John Murray, which is in essence an exposition of Romans 5: 12 ff. This is but one indication of the attention which Professor Murray is paying at present to the Epistle to the Romans. The commentary on this epistle in the New International Commentary on the New Testament is expected from him in due course, and this sample of his expository ability whets our appetite for the completed work.

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**C**HRI**STIANITY** **T**ODAY is the title of a new periodical for the promotion of evangelical faith and action which will begin publication on October 15, and will appear fortnightly thereafter. It is to be edited by Dr. Carl F. H. Henry at 1014-22 Washington Building, Washington 5, D.C., and the list of correspondents and contributing editors includes many names well known to our

readers, such as O. T. Allis, G. C. Berkouwer, G. W. Bromiley, F. E. Gaebelin, Billy Graham, G. A. Hadjiantoniou, P. E. Hughes, N. C. Hunt, Pierre Marcel, S. W. Murray, J. C. Pollock, Bernard Ramm, W. Stanford Reid, W. Childs Robinson, N. B. Stonehouse, J. R. W. Stott and J. G. S. S. Thomson. "*Christianity Today*", says the prospectus, "will endeavour to present in a positive and constructive way the basic truths of the Christian faith taught in the Scriptures. Mindful of the great creeds of the historical evangelical churches, it will be neither reactionary nor static. It will apply the Biblical revelation vigorously to contemporary life." We shall look forward with interest to its appearance.

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MR. DONALD J. WISEMAN, of the Department of Western Asiatic Antiquities in the British Museum, has edited an important work entitled *Chronicles of Chaldaean Kings (626-556 B.C.) in the British Museum*. The texts in question belongs to the category which has been known as Babylonian Chronicles ever since the publication of the first text of this class in 1887 under the title *The Babylonian Chronicle* (a tablet outlining the history of Babylonia from 747 to 648 B.C.). Further texts of this class were published in 1923 and 1924. The present volume includes five tablets. Four of these have not been published before; the other, edited by C. J. Gadd in 1923 under the title *The Fall of Nineveh*, is reproduced here because it has been out of print for some time. The four new tablets cover the earlier part of Nabopolassar's reign (626-623 B.C.), his closing years and the first ten years of his son and successor Nebuchadrezzar II (608-595 B.C.) and the third year of Neriglissar (556 B.C.). (The tablet covering the reign of Nabonidus [555-539 B.C.], commonly called the Nabonidus Chronicle, was published in 1924 in Sidney Smith's *Babylonian Historical Texts*; it contains valuable information about the closing period of the Chaldaean dynasty and the Persian conquest.)

The newly published texts throw welcome light on some of the episodes of the last years of the kingdom of Judah. It appears, for example, that after the defeat of the Egyptians at Carchemish in 605 B.C., Nebuchadrezzar pursued the remnants of their army, destroyed them in the district of Hamath, and conquered the whole area of the Hatti country (i.e. the Syro-Palestinian territory as far as the Egyptian frontier). He was recalled to Babylon by the news of his father's death, which took place on 8th Ab (August 15), and ascended the throne on 1st Elul (September 7). Then he returned to the Hatti country and campaigned there until February, but was

back in Babylon in time for the New Year festival, beginning on 1st Nisan (April 2), 604 B.C., when he solemnly "took the hand of Bel" and entered upon the first year of his reign according to the official reckoning.

This confirms and clarifies the statement of Berossus, preserved by Josephus, that after the battle of Carchemish, when Nebuchadrezzar heard of his father's death, he "settled the affairs of Egypt and the other countries and also gave orders to some of his friends to conduct to Babylon the captives taken among the Jews, Phoenicians, Syrians and peoples of Egypt with the bulk of his force and the rest of his booty, while he himself, with a small escort, pushed across the desert to Babylon". The presence of so many captives is explained by Nebuchadrezzar's overrunning of Syria and Palestine before his return to Babylon. Another ancient record which finds clarification is the first verse of the Book of Daniel—although, as Mr. Wiseman points out, "the exegesis of this verse is difficult and uncertain" (p. 26).<sup>1</sup> There we read of a siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadrezzar in the third year of Jehoiakim's reign—but Jehoiakim's third year by Babylonian reckoning would be his fourth year by the Judaeen reckoning, followed in Jer. 46: 2, where the battle of Carchemish is dated "in the fourth year of Jehoiakim". This siege of Jerusalem might be dated immediately before Nebuchadrezzar's hasty return to Babylon in September, 605 B.C., or during his campaign in Syria in the winter months of 605-604 B.C.

In each of the eight succeeding years with the exception of his fifth year (600-599 B.C.), Nebuchadrezzar campaigned in the land of Hatti. In the course of his first year's campaign, which lasted from June to December, 604 B.C., he besieged and captured Ashkelon. It is almost certainly the approach of his army to Ashkelon that provides the setting for the frantic appeal for help made to Pharaoh Necho by his vassal Adon, preserved in an Aramaic fragment found at Saqqara in 1942. The Babylonian king's campaigns in the land of Hatti in the early years of his reign also provide a general background to the narrative of 2 Kings 24: 1-7 and 2 Chron. 36: 5-8 (cf. Jer. 22: 13-19; Ezek. 19: 3-9). But a more specific contact with the Biblical narrative is provided by the statement that "in the seventh year, the month of Kisleb [i.e.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. my essay on "The Chronology of Daniel 1: 1", reproduced as Appendix II in F. A. Tatford, *The Climax of the Ages* (1953), pp. 239 ff. Some parts of that essay now require correction in the light of these newly-published texts.—F.F.B.

December, 598 B.C.], the king of Akkad [i.e. Nebuchadrezzar] mustered his troops, marched to the Hatti-land, and encamped against the city of Judah and on the second day of the month of Adar [March 16, 597 B.C.] he seized the city and captured the king. He appointed there a king of his own choice, received its heavy tribute and sent (them) to Babylon." This is the Babylonian account of the siege of Jerusalem recorded in 2 Kings 24: 10 ff., which led to the surrender and exile of Jehoiachin and the placing of his uncle Zedekiah on the throne after he had sworn a solemn oath of allegiance to Nebuchadrezzar.

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A COMMUNICATION dated May 29 tells of the constituent convention of the new co-operative literature agency LEAL ("Literatura Evangélica para América Latina") held at Placetas, Cuba, from May 24 to 27. Closely associated with LEAL is the evangelical monthly *Vida*, the editor-in-chief of which is to be Alejandro Clifford, a well-known Christian journalist of Argentina, who for some years has been Director of the quarterly *Pensamiento Cristiano*. Among other projects of LEAL are a news syndicate for evangelical magazines, distribution plans, and a series of training courses in techniques related to Christian literature, including journalism, colportage work, bookstore management and advertising. The board of directors of LEAL, twelve in number, includes representatives from most of the Latin American countries (two from Colombia) and one from the United States. We shall follow with much interest and good will the development of this new enterprise.

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IN view of the approach of St. Luke's-tide (October 18), Sir Cecil Wakeley, Bart., F.R.C.S., Chairman of the Council of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, has asked us to publish the following request for prayer. We are only too glad to have the opportunity of doing so, and commend it earnestly to all our readers.

"The prayers of all Christian people are asked on behalf of the work of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

"For more than fifty years the Fund, which was founded by the Royal College of Physicians of London and the Royal College of Surgeons of England, has played a leading part in cancer research in this country and at its laboratories employs a staff of highly qualified scientific workers whose whole energies are devoted to

research into the cause and cure of cancer. A great expansion of research activities has been planned which will enable the Fund at least to double the number of its staff and to make an even more powerful contribution to the intense efforts in cancer research which in recent years have developed in laboratories throughout the world.

“The President and Council of the Fund confidently ask that the unceasing endeavours of its workers may be supported by the prayers of all Christian people at St. Luke’s-tide.

“The Office of the Fund is at the Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln’s Inn Fields, London, W.C.2, and further information regarding the work will gladly be sent to any enquirer.”

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**T**HE work of London Bible College is now entering its eleventh year, and more than three hundred men and women have already graduated to the home ministry, to the overseas mission field and as Scripture teachers to day schools.

Each year the successes gained by London Bible College students in the University of London examinations in Theology have given impressive evidence of the quality of the work performed.

The College is supported and led by evangelicals of all denominations. The President is Mr. Montague Goodman; the Vice-Presidents, the Bishop of Barking and the Rev. J. Russell Howden; the Vice-Chairman of the Council, the Rev. Dr. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones; the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. P. S. Henman, and the Principal, the Rev. Ernest F. Kevan. THE EVANGELICAL QUARTERLY has always had a warm regard for London Bible College, and counts the Principal and a number of the tutors as good friends and contributors.

The College has for some time needed larger premises. The houses in Marylebone Road served the purpose of the work very well for the first five or six years, but now these buildings have had to be abandoned as quite insufficient for the growing work of the College.

After more than three years’ negotiations with the public authorities, the plans for reconstruction have now received official approval, and the erection of the new building has been sanctioned.

The demolition of the old building is complete and the site is cleared. The one thing needful now is the money to proceed with the erection of the new building; but until this is received the

builders depart, the site remains empty, and the College is left homeless. Towards the total cost of the building, which will be in the region of £230,000, the sum of approximately £80,000 has been received. The Treasury's "credit squeeze" has prevented the raising of a Building Society loan, which had been planned. So £150,000 is urgently needed if this work is to go on. All gifts are welcome. Cheques should be made out to "The London Bible College" and sent to 19 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1. They will be most gratefully acknowledged.