

Editorial

Welcome to *Historicism*. Every publication has its point of special interest or emphasis and this one is no different. *Historicism* proposes to concentrate on Daniel research, and issues related to it, from a fairly conservative Seventh-day Adventist point of view. Technical matters in language, history, and exegesis will all be dealt with.

Technical matters alone, however, must not be allowed to become an end in themselves. On the road to Emmaus Christ showed that the central fact about the Old Testament for the church to grasp was that His life and death are described in it.

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. (Luke 24:25-27)

I submit that when Christ in this conversation explained His own presence in each part of the Old Testament He was not doing grief therapy or homeletics only, but serious exegesis.

Axiomatically, our Saviour's example as an exegete defines the norm for Christian Old Testament exegesis. But if the two disciples couldn't recognize Jesus personally until the Holy Spirit finally revealed that He was sitting in front of them, we should learn humility from the fact as we attempt to recognize the same divine Being in the Scriptures. Cleopas and his friend couldn't do that either without the Spirit's enlightenment.

The above circumstance puts Christian scholarship of the Old Testament in an unusual position. The believing exegete must go to the text and report on what he or she finds there, but must realize all the while that it is impossible to discern with unaided human wisdom the one factor that gives those Scriptures their only reason for existence.

Historicism will publish extensive excerpts from my 1983 Andrews University M.A. thesis entitled "An Historicist Perspective on Daniel 11" (xxii, 309), but papers from any quarter will be welcomed and considered on their own merits for inclusion in the journal. An annual subscription rate of \$5.00 should cover out-of-pocket expenses. There will be four to six issues per year, with one supplementary monograph planned for summer 1985.

Again, welcome.

Frank W. Hardy
Editor