

Editorial

In the present issue of *Historicism* there are three papers. The first ("*w^enişdaq* in Dan 8:14, Part 2: The Context of Judgment") explores the legal associations of the word *w^enişdaq*, with material drawn primarily from Rev 4-5 and the first part of chap. 19. The second paper ("The Old Testament Basis for New Testament Rock Symbolism") shows that rock symbolism is used extensively in the Old Testament to describe attributes of God and that when later New Testament writers used it they applied this same symbolism to Christ. Such usage provides early evidence of the church's views on Christ's divinity. The third paper ("Structural Characteristics of the Letters to the Seven Churches in Rev 2-3") offers an exegetical basis for claiming that the persons addressed by the letters to the churches are to be grouped in seven eras as well as seven towns. What all three papers have in common is that they draw their materials largely from New Testament sources.

The present issue is designed to offer a change of pace in regard to the selection of topics. The first issue of 1986 will have a similarly broad focus. In addition to concluding the three-part series on *w^enişdaq* in Dan 8:14, in No. 5/Jan 86 I review the scriptural evidences for Christ's preexistence. When our Lord prays, "And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began" (John 17:5), He states a position that can be well documented from other passages. "I tell you the truth,' Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am!'" (John 8:48). The people who heard this second claim understood it, because in the next verse they tried to stone Jesus to death for blasphemy. But such claims are blasphemous, of course, only when they are untrue. When we not only realize that Christ claimed co-antiquity with the Father but accept the implications which follow from that position, we gain insight into Dan 10-12. In No. 6/Apr 86 and No. 7/Jul 86 we begin considering Dan 11 and its immediate context in detail.

For issue No. 8/Oct 86 I would like to extend a special invitation to students – graduate and undergraduate – to submit papers on any facet of research dealing with Ezra-Nehemiah. Typescripts should be twenty or fewer double-space pages and use as a style sheet Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*, 4th ed. (University of Chicago Press, 1973). Items published will be those (1) from which I personally learn the most and (2) from which *Historicism's* readers can reasonably expect to profit the most. If you decide to submit something please feel free, but under no obligation, to drop me a letter and discuss the particular approach you would like to take. The deadline for receipt of finished typescripts is July 1, 1986. I look forward to hearing from you.

Frank W. Hardy
Editor