

EDITORIAL

Nineteen years ago a group of concerned scholars called a meeting to convene in Cincinnati, Ohio, for the purpose of promoting biblical scholarship. This precipitated the organization of the Evangelical Theological Society.

Although there were organizations that encouraged research, writing, and publication of biblical studies the scholars assembled at this organizational meeting keenly realized that often the efforts in biblical studies were based on the currently prevailing theories concerning the Bible. This assembly was primarily concerned with the purpose of uniting the efforts of those biblical scholars who based their studies and research on the fact that the unreconstructed text of the Bible is trustworthy and reliable. Consequently the common basis for biblical scholarship was briefly and simply stated in the doctrinal statement that was adopted as the only requirement for membership.

When the Evangelical Theological Society was organized the twentieth century inventory of scholarly books and research papers that offered a constructive view of the Scriptures left much to be desired. Recently published textbooks in biblical studies that reflected a knowledge and integration of current scholarship were very limited. Publishers often resorted to reprints of texts published during the preceding century. For lack of new manuscripts this effort on the part of the publishers was commendable and often met the need temporarily.

The last two decades have provided a remarkable increase in our bibliographies. New centers of learning for biblical studies have attracted students as well as faculties toward the end of stimulating more intensive and extensive scholarship. Frequently this interchange has brought fruition in more manuscripts which eventually were made available in print for wider usage.

The twentieth meeting of our society convening at Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia offers a sharing of the advance of biblical scholarship especially as it relates to Old Testament studies. Extensive planning and preparation should bring to our society the latest findings in research that have a bearing on the study of the Scriptures. It is anticipated that some of the manuscripts read at this meeting will be published in book form while others will be made available through our bulletin. With several scholars from abroad sharing in these papers and discussions there is likely to be a broader perspective in research and interpretation.

Our Evangelical Theological Society Bulletin is in its eleventh year. As a whole it reflects the efforts of our members as they have participated in the regional and national meetings. Your editorial committee has attempted to publish from the papers made available to them the manuscripts that were considered the most essential to the advancement of biblical scholarship. It is hoped that in the years ahead the quality of scholarship will be improved. Monographs likewise have been published making available in more permanent and accessible form special research projects.

To a greater degree than has been realized so far it is anticipated that the twentieth meeting will make a scholarly contribution in the area of Old Testament studies and that this will be reflected in subsequent meetings as well as in our publications. In this way our society can continue to realize the purpose of its existence "to foster conservative biblical scholarship by providing a medium of the oral exchange and written expression of thought and research in the general field of the theological disciplines as centered in the Scriptures."

S.J.S.