

## EDITORIAL

In this issue we share with our readers the initial contribution made by four panelists at our annual meeting at Nashville last December. With Dr. Carl Henry as moderator the issues in contemporary theology were the basis for a provocative discussion.

Problems and suggested solutions in Old Testament chronology are offered in the article by Dr. Stigers on the rulers in Palestine. A marked advance in biblical scholarship was made in the publication of *The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings*, U. of Chicago Press, 1951, by Dr. E. R. Thiele. In his revised edition in 1965 (Eerdmans Pub. Co., Grand Rapids, Mich.), Dr. Thiele asserts the soundness of his basic thesis and conclusions as confirmed by scholars since his first edition. Although some new archaeological evidence has provided further insights he points out that "no evidence has been forthcoming that has given me cause to change my views on any item of major importance." Dr. Stigers, however, projects certain conclusions that may be possible for understanding all the references pertaining to the Isaian era in Israelite history. It is hoped that the careful reading of the revised edition by Dr. Thiele and the solutions suggested by Dr. Stigers will be provocative for further intensive study of the Old Testament problems related to chronology.

The conclusions of twentieth century scholars regarding the disputed passage in John 7:53-8:11 may be tempered by a careful evaluation of Dr. Alan Johnson's contribution in this issue. Although he does not establish conclusively the basis for its inclusion as a genuine text, he does seriously pose a re-examination for its elimination from the genuine text of the book of John.

Numerous scholars and expositors have wrestled with the problem of interpreting the Song of Solomon. Mr. Fountain's parabolic view is offered in this issue with the hope that it is provocative and constructively helpful to the biblical teacher as well as the theologian.