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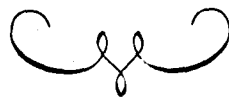
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*Christ is the only Person who really counts in the supreme relation to God. No matter what our position on earth may be, no matter what our social or racial relationships, we stand before God not by virtue of those relationships but because we are, if we be Christians, in Christ.*

—J. Gresham Machen



July, 1949

VOL. 18, NO. 7

Special mention must be made of a visit to the British Museum where through the courtesy of Mr. Donald Wiseman and Mr. T. C. Skeat, officials in the Museum, I contemplated some of the fabulous treasures of that institution. To see and admire Codex Sinaiticus, perhaps the most significant Biblical manuscript extant, was a special

delight. My stay in London came to a close on Monday, May 23, when I left for Southampton to board the Nieuw Amsterdam on its way to Holland. The fact that Mrs. Stonehouse was on board will explain why I did not go by way of Harwich.

Sincerely yours,  
N. B. STONEHOUSE

## Reverence for the Written Word

### A Book Review

THE PROPHECY OF DANIEL, a Commentary by Edward J. Young, Th.M., Ph.D. Grand Rapids. Eerdmans. 1949. \$4.50.

**G**OD is honored when His written word, as He has in mercy given it, is respected and received with gladness of heart. An important element of true piety, pleasing to God, is obedience to His revealed will clearly and plainly given in the Scripture. This piety demands that God's Word shall be received as *one* Word. The whole Scripture is the expression of God's will; the entire Bible is the revelation of His glorious Name. No part of this Scripture can be understood or explained without reference to the other parts. Scripture must be compared with Scripture. This piety also demands that great care shall be exercised in the study of the Word. Changing, or rearranging, the text of the Scripture in the interest of a theory, or on purely subjective grounds, is irreverent. It is in fact setting up reason above the revelation of God. God is also dishonored when our private insights or personal understandings are read into a passage of the Word. Piety requires that we shall patiently, prayerfully listen to what God Himself says. Since the promise of the Spirit's help is given we may be certain that we can know what God is Himself saying about Himself in His own revelation.

With such reverence for the authority of God's Word Dr. Young has written *The Prophecy of Daniel*. It is a work for just such an hour as this. It is a timely book. Though it has not been written with this important question primarily in mind, yet it does contribute to the important subject before the mind of men today. Authority is

the immediate and burning question of this hour. There can be no "freedom for the brave," there can be no freedom for anyone without a deep respect for authority. An excellent description of slavery is, let each man do what seems right in his own eyes. The authority to which we can give an unconditional obedience is either in the revelation of God or in human reason. If in

**T**HE pastor of Memorial Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Rochester finds that Dr. Young of Westminster Seminary, in his commentary on Daniel, has shown that true piety and scholarship which are the requisities for all worthwhile Bible study.

man, we are subject to man and not free; if in God we are subject to Him and free. If we affirm that reason must "underwrite" the revelation of God then, of course, ultimate authority lies in reason, not in revelation. From this point we will go on to change the Scripture or rearrange as reason demands. If we believe that reason must also submit itself to revelation,—reason is saved by such submission and only that is reasonable which is revealed—then we honor the authority of the Scripture. When God's authority is respected, His revealed will eagerly obeyed, then men will be free and none shall take their freedom from them.

Dr. Young's purpose is to defend the trustworthiness and the authority of God's Word. It is commendable that he undertakes to do this at the

point where Scripture has been most violently attacked. Daniel has been a battle ground for several years. "The book of Daniel is especially fitted to be a battle ground between faith and unbelief. It admits of no half way measures. It is either Divine or an imposture" (Quoted by Dr. Young from Pusey, page 25). Are half way measures impossible, with reference to the book of Daniel? They are as impossible as with reference to the whole Bible. Scripture is the revelation of God or it is the product of the human spirit seeking highways to God. Dr. Young believes that Scripture is the revelation of God in which God seeks man. In this book he attempts "to give a clear and positive exposition" of the revelation given to Daniel, a revelation in which God makes known his mighty deeds that men may know and worship Him only.

With this purpose in mind the author is compelled to confute two common interpretations. The first of these two interpretations makes the basically erroneous assumption that the natural mind of man must measure, evaluate, and determine the validity of God's revelation. The second commonly held interpretation reads ideas and theories into the Scripture. This interpretation held by many devout and earnest Christians errs chiefly in not being sufficiently God-centered.

The first interpretation is the "so-called 'critical' position of date and authorship of Daniel." "On February 16, 1835 Dr. Caesar von Lengerke of Koningberg could write in his commentary, 'I have no further wish than that the work (i.e. his commentary) might contribute to the correct explanation of the difficult book, and to the final establishment of the critical point of view'. The critical view does indeed seem to hold the field today, but it is a position which is in basic error. One who claims that the book of Daniel is a product of the Maccabean age thereby denies that it is a work of true predictive prophecy as it purports to be" (page 5). Dr. Young's work reveals that he has read widely and carefully in the literature of this school.

The second interpretation which the author confutes is held chiefly in Fundamentalist circles. These are sincere and zealous Christians who interpret "the prophecies in an extremely unwarranted manner by referring the fulfillment of many of them to an alleged

period of seven years which is supposed to follow the second advent of the Lord." It is with hesitancy, due to the kindness of heart which is one of the fruits of grace, that the author opposes this common view.

It seems to this writer that Dr. Young has accomplished his purpose. Students of this book will find interpretations of texts and words with which they cannot agree. The problems of Daniel are not all solved, the difficulties are not all overcome. There is still a great deal of hard work to be done but Dr. Young has shown that there are far less difficulties and less serious problems if we accept Daniel as the revelation of God. This work on Daniel feeds and strengthens faith in the Scripture as the very Word of God.

For this reason *The Prophecy of Daniel* is also a practical work. First because it is the work of a scholar. The author has read widely and has read carefully. With great care he examines every passage of Daniel in the original languages. As an illustration of the scholarly character of this work read the discussion of the word "King" found in the fifth chapter of Daniel (page 115ff). Such a careful consideration of this particular word has great practical value for every Christian. For the historical accuracy of the Bible as the very Word of God is involved.

If there were space it would be most profitable to consider in some detail the author's treatment of Daniel VII: 15-27. In the hope that it will stimulate many to study this work the conclusion of that treatment is here given. "These verses (i.e. 15-27) appear to teach that towards the close of the present age the power of the little horn will be manifested. The Anti-Christ will prevail against the elect of God, becoming ever stronger and stronger. Against him God's people will not be able to stand. Suddenly, however, his power will be cut off, and the Lord Jesus Christ will return from heaven. The saints who have belonged to the Kingdom of Man (i.e. all who are truly elect) will receive this kingdom and will possess it eternally. May all who read these lines give diligence to make their calling and election sure" (page 163). Such scholarly work is the most effective evangelism.

In commenting on Daniel 1:17, Dr. Young says in part, "Calvin suggests that the reference is merely to liberal

arts and not to magical practices of the Chaldees, since God would not approve of these latter. However, it is more likely that the literature and wisdom in which the youths were instructed did include superstitious practices. The knowledge and intelligence which God gave to them, therefore, was of a discerning kind, that they might know and possess the ability to accept what was true and to reject what was false in their instruction." Is not this a gem? Knowledge is more than the accumulation of much information on many subjects. It is more than the reading of many books in several languages. Knowledge is all this but knowledge is more. Knowledge is the ability to distinguish, especially to distinguish between the true and the false. Dr. Young it seems to this writer, gives an excellent example of that ability. In this hour of confusion all Christian people need that knowledge.

The most difficult prophecy in Daniel, indeed in the entire Scripture, is the prophecy concerning the seventy periods. Dr. Young gives a valuable history, in outline, of the various interpretations of this passage. He himself accepts the traditional Messianic interpretation which he sets forth in detail in the commentary. Dr. Young is inclined to agree with Dr. Aalders who holds that the sevens are not seven years but definite periods of time (page 196 and 206). The careful study of this part of the work will also be a real benefit to the student and the Christian.

The entire work is an able defence of that part of God's Word which has been persistently attacked by unbelief in the hope of overthrowing the authority of God's revelation. But the Word of God endureth forever. . . .

### Welmers Leaves Gold Coast

A LETTER from Dr. William E. Welmers indicates that he planned to leave Saltpond, the Gold Coast, B.W.A., about July 12. Their next mailing address is S.U.M., Lupwe, Wukari via Makurdi, N. Nigeria, B.W.A. They expect to leave Nigeria the latter part of November, and will be stopping for a while in Eritrea. They expect to return to this country in the spring of 1950.

During the course of these travels, Dr. Welmers will continue his language work, in Bariba for the Sudan Interior Mission at Dahomey, and in Jukan during his stay in Nigeria.

### Christian School Plans

THE Rev. Robert S. Marsden was the guest speaker at the annual Christian School meeting held at Immanuel Orthodox Presbyterian Church in West Collingswood. It is expected that over 100 pupils will be enrolled in the school when it opens next fall. The budget, approved at the meeting, amounted to over \$16,000.

### Day School Society Organized

AT a meeting of a dozen enthusiastic Baltimoreans, presided over by Pastor Leyman Ketcham, the Christian School Association of Maryland was formed on June 14. Three officers and six trustees were chosen. President is the Rev. James Moore of the Mt. Washington (Southern) Presbyterian Church. The treasurer is Eugene Driel of St. Andrews Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

A constitution and doctrinal statement were adopted. The formula for membership is broadly evangelical, but officers are required to subscribe to a definitely Reformed statement. A public meeting was called for July 1, with Dr. Cornelius Jaarsma of Calvin College as the announced speaker.

### Baltimore Church Plans Building

AT a meeting held June 22, the congregation of St. Andrews Orthodox Presbyterian Church of Baltimore voted to accept the architect's drawings for its proposed church building. The building will be of brick, in a distinctly modern design, with a flat roof and a combination chimney-tower. The auditorium will seat 120, and there will be additional rooms for Sunday school classes. It is hoped the building can be erected for \$15,000.