

A Word from the Editor

Almost one third of the present edition is dedicated to the issues related to Egypt. That results mostly from interests and research done by doctoral students of the Opole University. Damian Jurczak reaching for the first book of the Bible, in the first place refers to extra-biblical sources and archaeological discoveries presenting the background of the epoch in which Abraham probably appeared. Next, he gradually reveals the picture of Egypt in Isaac and Jacob's time.

Blandyna Pieprzyca presenting "The land of pharaohs in the work of the Deuteronomist (Josh–2 Kng)", concentrates on the events connected with the exodus of Israel from Egyptian bondage. In order to complete this description, she approaches the biblical books topically, not chronologically.

Father Michał E. Adamski continues that perspective of looking at Egypt but through the prism of the Book of Isaiah. The author finds and analyses the texts related to Egypt, noticing that they depict Israel's relationship with Egypt both on the political and redemptive-historical levels.

The article of Jerzy Bosowski is a kind of the culmination of that subject matter and it concerns the Jewish diaspora in Egypt in biblical times. Without the phenomenon of the emigration of Jews to Egypt there would not have been the Septuagint – the Greek translation of the Old Testament. Still, the author not only concentrates on that significant literary work but also shows the main Jewish colonies in Elephantine, Alexandria, and Leontopolis. He presents Jewish life, works, and struggle with an attempt to exterminate this nation in the days of Ptolemy IV Philopator. The author ends the story of the diaspora with the year 30 B.C., when the complete annihilation of the Egyptian Judaism took place.

Dr. Anna Kwaśniewska-Rambiert draws us from that Egyptian mood, dealing in her article with the biblical law against usury. Among numerous moral and legal regulations in the Middle East this law is exceptional. The author did detailed exegesis and in-depth analysis of the terms *nešek* and *tarbîl*. Her research led to an attempt

to explain if and how differences between codifications can be combined and why all the three regulations were treated by Jews as obligatory.

The next article referring to the texts of the Old Testament is a study of Rev. Dr. Andrzej Demitrów. He analyses the first prophecy from the Book of Zephaniah. This is about the call for a change of behaviour which inevitably led to extermination. The author reveals how conversion is realised in fulfilment of justice and humble life.

The article of Prof. Jasiński is a kind of platform between that Old Testament analysis and New Testament topics and it deals with the common heritage of Judaism and Christianity, namely the God of Patriarchs. The subtitle suggests that the article is just the first part of a larger whole to be published in the future. The article, in which Father Professor begins with the discussion of the heritage, is dedicated to the figures of Abraham and Isaac.

A call for vigilance included in the eschatological speech and recorded in the Gospel of Mark is another analysis of Rev. Dr. Demitrów. Particularly intensely present “be vigilant” creates the climate for tasks given to disciples who do not know the end of time. The author brings out a warning against falling asleep, showing that disciples experienced the truth of Lord’s words at the night of His capture (Mark 14:14-72). An award for this attitude of faithful vigilance is setting a new wider horizon, that is Eucharistic intimacy.

Among others issues, Dr Anna Nowińska writes about that closeness in her article “The expression *met’emou* as a sign of God and man’s intimacy in the Apocalypse of John”. She points to the space of interpersonal communication between two persons: Jesus and man.

Research within the last biblical book is also conducted by two other authors – Mirosław Rucki and Karol Szymański – who commonly published the text titled in a symptomatic way which is “Mono-trinitarian greeting in the Apocalypse”.

Paolo Cocco writing about St. Paul’s teaching regarding the gifts of the Holy Spirit, concentrates in his analyses on the section referring to spiritual reality (1 Cor 12–14). He undertakes a task of describing the well-known topic of different ways gifts of the Holy Spirit function within the Church, to this end analyzing the works of biblicists like Käsemann, Fung, Fee, Dunn, or Barbaglio.

A significant contribution to understanding the theology of the Apostle of the Nations was made by Rev. Jacek Tonkiewicz who addressed the topic of “The picture of man vs. the ideal of a Christian in great letters of St. Paul”. The analysis of St. Paul’s texts was conducted on the background of the philosophical picture of man, thus discovering inimitability and originality of the Christian vision of manhood.

The edition ends with an uncommon profile that presents an outstanding person, namely Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini (1927–2012). This extremely difficult task was taken by Rev. Prof. Jan Kochel who gave his work a title „A Prophet and Servant of the Word”.