

# Back Page

## Overview Of Contents

|               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| No. 9/Jan 87  | Humanity of Christ   |
| No. 10/Apr 87 | Dan 10               |
| No. 11/Jul 87 | Dan 11:2-15          |
| No. 12/Oct 87 | Haggai and Zechariah |
| No. 13/Jan 88 | # (misc.)            |
| No. 14/Apr 88 | Dan 11:16-22         |
| No. 15/Jul 88 | Dan 11:23-28         |
| No. 16/Oct 88 | Ezekiel (part 1)     |
| No. 17/Jan 89 | Sanctuary            |
| No. 18/Apr 89 | Dan 11:29-35         |
| No. 19/Jul 89 | Dan 11:36-39         |
| No. 20/Oct 89 | Ezekiel (part 2)     |
| No. 21/Jan 90 | (open)               |
| No. 22/Apr 90 | Dan 11:40-45         |
| No. 23/Jul 90 | Dan 12               |
| No. 24/Oct 90 | Esther               |

There is a pattern in my choice of theme topics from issue to issue that has progressed far enough to make commenting on it practical.

During its first two years (1985-86) *Historicism* drew heavily on my 1983 Andrews University M.A. thesis, "An Historicist Perspective on Daniel 11" (*Masters Abstracts* 22 [March 1984]: 83; MA1321021). There were reviews of literature for example on the three major schools of interpretation for Daniel, a summary of the thesis' findings on the chiastic and linear structure of Dan 11, and a number of supporting topics from Dan 8 and 9. The first two years may be considered introductory.

During years three through six (1987-90) the plan is to discuss each major section of Daniel's final vision, including Dan 10 and 12, which are an integral part of it. So far there have been papers on Dan 10 (No. 10/Apr 87) and Dan 11:2-15 (No. 11/Jul 87). In our next issue we deal with Dan 11:16-22 (No. 14/Apr 88).

The above papers are not randomly distributed. For variety the first issue of each year (January) is being devoted to an arbitrarily selected topic, the middle two issues (April, July) to Daniel and the last issue (October) to some other book of the Old Testament that is related in some way to the time of the exile.

As regards the January issues, I had originally planned to discuss the sanctuary both now (No. 13/Jan 88) and a year from now (No. 17/Jan 89). The present theme topic is a substitute. That for No. 21/Jan 90 remains open.

As regards the October issues, there was a preview of the coming pattern in No. 8/Oct 86 with an issue devoted to Ezra-Nehemiah. In No. 12/Oct 87 I discussed Haggai and Zechariah. Next we will have two issues on Ezekiel (No. 16/Oct 88, No. 20/Oct 89), and then one on Esther (No. 24/Oct 90).

Opening a topic raises the possibility that it will be discussed further. This is part of what makes research fun to do. After the theme issue on Ezra-Nehemiah there have been two other follow up papers ("The Chronology of Ezra 4," No. 10/Apr 87; "The Historical Context for Ezra's Return," present issue), and we are not through with Ezra-Nehemiah yet. The same will probably be true of Zechariah, and so on. The pattern in all of this, however, is one of a theme and variations--first the theme, then the variations.

One of Scripture's many beauties is that it brings together related truths. This is why understanding Dan 11 implies understanding the other chapters first and why so many other sources become part of the discussion. But there is more here than an example of one individual's interest in a difficult and challenging prophecy. Very few parts of Daniel, or any other biblical writer, remain unfulfilled. But at the end of Dan 11 we come to our own day and just beyond it to the second coming of Christ in glory. In eternity we will understand these events with benefit of hindsight, but hindsight can be an expensive luxury. We must understand these things by whatever means. Now is the time to be studying them.