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all delivered unto the saints.*

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**The Five Books Of Moses**

By Oswald T. Allis

Published By Pres. & Refd. Publishing Company,  
Philadelphia, Pa. 1943. 319 Pages.  
Price \$3.00.

In these pages Dr. Allis has given us a careful and scholarly examination of the Wellhausen-Driver-Pfeiffer criticism which makes of the Pentateuch a series of documents written largely by unknown authors some laboring as much as a millenium after the Exodus. The basic principles of the higher critical position are that variety in diction, style and subject-matter implies diversity in source and authorship and that the redemptive supernaturalism of the Bible must be rewritten in terms of naturalistic evolution. Against these principles Allis holds the unity and the harmony of the Bible as the Word of God, and the first five books of the Bible as the work of Moses, the man of God.

This volume discusses in detail the arguments of the documentary hypothesis as found in the variations in the Divine names, in diction, style, subject-matter, alleged doublets, and documents. The true sense of Exodus vi.3 is not the giving of a hitherto unknown Tetragram, but the knowledge and appreciation of the nature and character of Jehovah. By cumulative arguments it is shown that the principles of the critics cannot be carried through either in the Pentateuch or in any other literature.

This is followed by a searching examination of the development hypothesis upon which Graf and Wellhausen reconstruct the literature of the Old Testament making the prophets antedate the priestly code. But while the critics have been engaged in striking off a millenium from the history of Israel, the archaeologists have been deepening and broadening the historical perspective and giving back more than the critics have taken away. Archaeology has shown the antiquity of alphabetic writing, of the Hebrew language, of the use of iron, and of ancient codes of laws. "The Ras Shamra tablets make it now abundantly evident that the presence of Aramaisms may be an indication of early date." (cf. Deut. xxvi.5). "Why should not Moses have given Israel a code of laws such as Hammurapi had given Babylon centuries before?" In spite of this growing recognition of the credibility of the Biblical account, many students continue their allegiance to the critical views because their thinking is so largely dominated by naturalistic evolution.

As Rome had her rapid decline and fall, as the papacy fell into the pornography of the tenth and the degeneracy of the early sixteenth century. So in the days of the Judges Israel lapsed from the standards which had been imposed from Above and accepted at Mt. Sinai. However, the Wellhausen Hypothesis, rejecting any Divine "intrusion," insisting on continuity or uniformitarianism, will not regard the Pentateuch as trustworthy history because of its redemptive supernaturalism. The consequence of the acceptance of the higher critical theory is the adoption of a low view of the authority and credibility of the Bible as a whole and of Jesus Christ, who is its theme and its primary witness. "Jesus said of Moses, 'He wrote of me'; and He

went on to say, 'If ye believe not his writings, how can you believe my words?' This means that if we believe Moses, we will believe Christ, and, if we do not believe Moses, we will not believe Christ. Why is this? It is simply because the redemptive supernaturalism of the Books of Moses is essentially the same as the redemptive supernaturalism of the New Testament, is preparatory to it, and has its fulfillment in the Messiah of whom Moses spoke." Jesus did not dispute the Old Testament canon, but fully accepted it as the Word of God. If these things were not so, our Lord and Master would have told us, He is a high enough critic for us!

However, we are happy to have this careful study by a Ph.D. of Berlin, professor for many years in Princeton and then Westminster, editor of the Princeton Theological Review during its last twelve years and thereafter a contributing editor of the Evangelical Quarterly. We gladly receive his testimony that the Christian who accepts the Biblical record of God's wonders of old is today in "a far better position to give a reason for believing that Moses wrote the Pentateuch, than was the case a century or even a generation ago."

—Wm. C. Robinson.

**God-Centered Religion**

By Paul T. Fuhrmann

Published By Zondervan. Introduction By  
Prof. Edwin Lewis. 237 Pages. Price \$1.50.

In this volume an American scholar of French-Swiss extraction presents a study of Calvin's work and of the interesting group of current French and Swiss writers who accept Calvin is the best representative of theocentrism. Dr. Fuhrmann does not follow Calvin in every case, nor does the reviewer follow this author in each of his formulations; but the volume deserves a wide reading because of its vigorous presentation of a significant movement in French speaking Protestantism away from humanism to God-centered religion, and for the many fine arrows it offers for the thoughtful minister's quiver. Here the reader is introduced to Dean Doumergue, Prof. A. Lecerc of Paris, Pastor Pierre Maury (the French Barth), and Pastor Jean de Saussure of Geneva's Cathedral Church, St. Pierre, as well as Premier Kuypers of Holland—all of whom have come out from "liberalism." Here one finds a new recognition that the Church is the great work of God, that the first duty of the Christian is "expressing oneself adequately about the Gospel," and that "there is no possible unity but in Truth."

The following quotations give an index to the writer's force and positions: "The Bible does what Reason, Conscience, Feeling, Nature and History could not do. The written Word gives us a knowledge of God." [Modern theology flatters us by telling us that we are the consummation of evolution; but God rather than amoeba is the true point of reference and His first rule is, be humble.] "The Scriptures are an exhibition of the one, true God and His Perfection, and hence, by the same stroke, a revelation of man's poverty and nothingness." "If you wish that men be able to love Jesus Christ tell them first that He died for them!" "The function of theology is to exhibit the Mystery of God's Revelation, not to de-

form it in order to render it acceptable to all human intelligence, and pleasing to man." "Faith rests outside of us—on God, on His concrete and objective Message." "One thing only can hold the Pharisee (in us) in check. It is the *sola fide* of Luther, the *soli Deo gloria* of Calvin . . . The Christian is worth anything only in so far as he keeps the gaze of his soul fixed on the crucified Christ." "It is the Spirit of God which creates the new man in us, not the new man which creates the Spirit of God in us." "Calvin opposed the transformation of the French Reformed Church into a political party. He proved to be right." "The Church shall realize her true destiny only in the measure in which she builds herself on the Scriptures and preaches God's Message." "The power and authority of the ministers however is wholly contained and limited in the ministry of the Word." "Only Christ should preside at Synods." "The nineteenth and twentieth centuries invented an entirely new theology and religion . . . Protestantism, Christianity cannot be invented." "Faith is independent of Philosophy." "The Reform which our contemporary American Protestantism needs is not a further leveling down of the Gospel to 'this age,' but an education and adjustment of this Century to the Gospel."

As Calvin led these men back to the Scriptures to be dominated not by Calvin but by God's voice in His Word, so may this modern testimony carry us back to Holy Writ to be dominated, ever more fully, by God speaking in His Word.

—Wm. C. Robinson.

## Archaeology And The Religion Of Israel

By William F. Albright

Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, Md. 1942. xii. 238 pages. The Ayer Lectures of the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School for 1941.

As is often the case with the experts the treatment is limited and deals with details. Nevertheless it is interesting and important. Dr. Albright in the Notes states that some of his reviewers falsely accuse him of rejecting the principle of evolution. In the five chapters he interprets ancient man in terms of modern psychology; declares that the Old Testament may be better understood today than a generation ago, especially "a rational conservative attitude has less to apprehend from the new material than either extreme position"; shows from discoveries the degradation to which ancient people in Palestine sank in sex worship and sanguinarity; declares consistency for the Mosaic tradition; and reveals that David and Solomon set up a centripetal government in opposition to the movement for centrifugal government by tribes. In a postscript he declares that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of the Old Testament tradition and that apparent divergencies seldom result in serious modifications of the historical picture.

—Harold J. Dudley.

## The Child And The Book

By Agnes Junkin Peery And

Emily J. Werner

Published by Inland Workshop Press Co-op Inc. 470 West Twenty-Fourth St., New York, N. Y.

Price: \$5.00 Set or \$1.50 Volume.

These four books and supplement are teachers'

manuals for teaching the Bible and character training in connection with the public school—in week day religious education classes. The authors have had actual experience in this work, and have had fine training in mission lands, in college, and in Bible schools. They have done a good job.

How fortunate are the children in our public schools today who have consecrated teachers using such guide books as these to impress youthful minds with the great facts of God and His creation, with the Heroes of the Faith in Old Testament and in New, with the Christian Church and true worship, with the best traits of Christian character in living life right now in school and home and community. How often have we heard parents of children so blessed say: "Would to God we had had such instruction in our school days!"

Book I, "What is God Like?" is a study of stories in Genesis and the first part of Exodus, climaxed by a study of the story of the coming of Christ to declare the character of God as revealed in His dealings with man. Creation, the Patriarchs, Israel's Deliverance, Christ's coming, constitute Unit I. A study of the Ten Commandments and how our Lord interpreted them make up Unit II. The Christian Church as begun in the Tabernacle, continued in the temple and synagogue and finally in Protestantism, with emphasis on worship, completes Unit III. The material used, songs suggested, stories told, and projects formed make a goldmine for the resourceful teacher to give nuggets of truth and good habits to every pupil.

In like manner Book II on the Bible and its history, thrillingly told, Book III, "What Christ Means to the Present Day World," and Book IV on the "Christian Citizen," and the Supplement, supplying a splendid source book and bibliography, form the best set of texts I know for 10, 11, 12, 13-year olds, in religious education. I commend this series heartily.

J. P. McCallie, Chairman of Bible Study, Committee for Public Schools, Chattanooga, Tenn.

## "Rusty"

By Frank Vandenberg

Published By Eerdmans Publishing Company  
Grand Rapids, Mich. Price 50 Cents.

This is the story of a young boy who lost his own father when he was only one year old and whose step father was a whiskey-fiend. Life was hard on him in his early years. But Rusty was a lad with a determined spirit. There were also noble and kind people to aid him. Among such was a dear, Christian old janitor who evidently represents the man who the author tells inspired this story. Rusty's adventures, after much hardship, lead to success and happiness.

This fine little book (88 pages) is well written. It can be read by young and old alike and will be an inspiration to both. It is a beautiful commentary on the blessedness of Christian Education and gives a well deserved boost to the Christian High Schools as maintained by many Christian parents at a great sacrifice. This is a book that should be special spiritual refreshment to every young person between the ages of ten and sixteen. May it find a place in most church libraries. —Mrs. A. Poel.