

previous ten years, and indicated which of them were still valid and which had been proven wrong. He is one of the few scholars I know who is not afraid to change his mind whenever evidence seems to warrant. I well remember one occasion in which he wrote a rather sensational article about what he considered to be "a revolution in Near Eastern chronology." In the next issue of the quarterly he stated under an equally large headline that other scholars had shown him that he was wrong and he was retracting the opinions expressed in the previous article. Another quarter passed and a new article declared that on further investigation he was now convinced that his first suggestion was correct. Today the majority of scholars have accepted the view that he then propounded, although some still insist that those views are wrong.

Dr. Albright was raised in a very conservative family, being the son of a Methodist missionary in South America. He studied under a man who was perhaps the most radical Biblical scholar in any American university at the time. When he took his doctor's degree, he felt that this man's views had been generally proven right, and gave his support to most of them. In subsequent years he made many discoveries that led him to abandon various parts of these views, but he still holds to a considerable portion of them. His interest is in the new discoveries, and it is his feeling that these new discoveries have largely substantiated the historical statements of the Bible. He always rejoices in such discoveries and stresses them in every way possible. For this reason some of the radical scholars seem to detest him. His tendency is to present the positive and helpful things that he knows, and to say little about his doubts and questions. Yet the latter are there and are abundantly present in less emphasized statements in his various writings.

I consider him a great scholar and a very fine gentleman, and I rejoice in the occasional contacts with him that I am privileged to have. Very few people would agree with everything that he holds, but many have been greatly influenced by his views. We who believe the entire Bible to be free from error find that much of his work is tremendously helpful to us, but are obliged to differ with him on the many points at which he still holds the views that he was taught at the university.

Any statement that Albright has given you that you can use, being careful to give a fair presentation of the entire context, may be beneficial and helpful. It would be a great mistake, however, to try to use him in a thorough-going way as a witness for the beliefs that we consider true.

I trust that these remarks will be of benefit. It would interest me greatly to see the entire letter some time.

Grace and Johnny and I are leaving Monday for Europe. We will return after the Amsterdam meeting.

It was a real pleasure to see you and Nancy in Collingswood last fall. I hope that you are well and that the Lord is blessing in every way. We are always glad when we have opportunity to hear any news about you.

Cordially yours in Christ,

Allan A. MacRae