

ENGLISH SUMMARIES

A brief description of the articles in this issue:

E. and Y. Bin-Nun deal with the chapters of creation in Genesis, discussing the well-known question of the relation between Chapters 1 and 2-3. Following Ramban they see them as reflecting a chronology, in which Chapter 1 deals with Divine creation and Chapter 2 with human action. They discuss several basic questions that arise in Chapter 2: the domestication of animals, the role of the woman, desire and sexuality, laziness and work, creation and destruction.

H. Cohen continues his examination of Avraham and Lot (*Megadim* 52). The writer presents a literary analysis and points out the ambivalent attitude towards Lot. On the one hand Avraham initiated their parting of ways, but refused to cut himself off entirely from Lot, and even negotiated with Hashem about Sedom. He claims that Lot chose to make the separation. This ambivalence may be found in Deuteronomy as well, where the people are ordered not to conquer the lands of his descendants, but to refrain from intermarriage with them.

Y. Rock deals with the primary problem in the Ten Commandments (or Sayings) – identifying what the ten are and what was written on the tablets. He analyzes the differences between the texts in Exodus and in Deuteronomy, and the traditional ways of counting the ten items included in the ‘Ten Sayings’, pointing out the problems that arise from each of them. He concludes that they ‘Ten Sayings’ are to be found in a broader unit extending from Exodus 20 to 34.

B. Kehat discusses the two orders of laws of sacrifices at the beginning of Leviticus: Chapters 1-5 and Chapters 5-6, which appear to duplicate each other, but also contradict each other on some points. In the footsteps of earlier commentators, he sees the first list as a continuation of the Book of Exodus and the latter as a supplement for the days of ordination. He sees the two lists as reflections of different understandings of the sacrifices derived from different purposes served by the Tabernacle.

G. Eldad presents a comparative study of the passage regarding the Second Passover (Numbers 9) and the passage of the daughters of Zelophehad (Numbers 36). In both cases the People make a demand of

Moses, who in turn asks Hashem, who appears to respond favorably to the demand. The writer points out the similarity and differences between the two passages, focusing on the distinction between the two demands and the precise message of each passage. He also demonstrates that Chapter 36 complements the passage of the daughters of Zelophehad.

B. Gesundheit discusses Psalms 145-150, which are known as *Pesukei de-Zimra* ('Verses of Song', recited as part of the Morning Prayer). He sees them as a literary unit with developing literary characteristics and meaning. In his opinion the depth of their meaning is informed by the internal contexts of the psalms.

U. Simon describes the Biblical exegesis of a brother and sister, who shared the same educational and cultural background: Nechama and Yeshayahu Leibowitz. Nevertheless they differed in the exegetical projects, both in terms of the educational purpose each one undertook, which found expression in their teaching, their contact with their students, and their continuous connection to the weekly Torah portion. The writer analyzes similar and different characteristics in their approaches.

In the Comments and Responses section we publish a response by E. Sifrony to the article by E. Vered in *Megadim* 52 and a retort by the latter.

Changes of persona in the editorial board of *Megadim*: Harav Yaaqov Medan, who has served as editor for many years, is stepping down from his position. The editorial board wishes to express its deep gratitude to Rav Medan. His vast knowledge and wise counsel have served us well. Harav Medan will remain a member of the editorial board.

From the next issue Harav Yuval Cherlow will replace Rav Medan. We wish him success as editor.

The editors

For the information of our readers:

In the website of *Megadim* (which operates within the website of the Herzog College: www.herzog.ac.il) many articles may be found in full, as well as indexes of author's names, and of references to the books of the Bible. These indexes are continually updated and may be downloaded as 'Word' files.