

the Church seriously teach an idea of truth that was foreign to Scripture itself? I think that Loretz makes his point well enough to give rise to renewed, scholarly debate on the topic.

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THE BIBLE: DOGMA, MYTH OR MYSTERY? By Francis V. Manning.
New York: Alba House, 1968. 315 pp. \$5.50.

Today there is a growing market for books on Sacred Scripture. There is a great need for many more books to explain the many new insights that are obtained on an almost weekly basis. The public at large—by this I refer to the non-scholar who is unable for various reasons to find time or energy to make an intensive investigation into the critical Biblical journals—is hungry for the new “truths” found in the modern and more realistic approach to the study of the Bible. Father Manning’s book is a worthwhile contribution in the effort to satisfy this hunger. For those critics who say that it is dangerous for one’s faith to try to find “new” meaning—which in truth is not new meaning, but a deeper meaning—in Holy Writ, Father Manning quotes the well known Scripture scholar, Father John L. McKenzie: “It would be paradoxical, to say the least, if the more we know about the Old Testament the less it means to us”.

If we understand more clearly the relationship of God to the Hebrews of the Old Testament, we can better understand God’s relationship to us. And to understand this relationship between God and the Hebrews, we have to remove the misleading pseudo-scientific explanations of the past for certain events related in the Old Testament and substitute the faith which pervaded the lives of the authors of the Bible.

After reading well into Father Manning’s book, one wonders whether his true motives are one of Biblical or Moral perspectives in today’s society. Although, he offers much for the Biblical student, he presents many questions—some indeed sound, others somewhat revolutionary, as for example the theory that hell may not be eternal but that references to it are simply hyperbolic, just as other words of the Bible are—regarding moral issues today which have their arguments based on a re-interpretation of the Bible. The fact that Father Manning is currently studying moral theology in Rome gives us greater reason to believe that he may be more concerned with the present moral issues discussed in light of Sacred Scripture—e.g. marriage and divorce, original sin—than in Sacred Scripture itself. However, I leave it up to the reader to make that judgment.

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