KEITH FOX

Editorial

This issue of S&CB contains three main articles. The first of these, by John Jefferson Davis, examines three biblical theophanies (the burning bush at the call of Moses; the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove at Jesus' baptism; and appearance like tongues of fire on the day of Pentecost) and compares these with the appearance of a hologram. The author isn't proposing that these were actual holograms, but suggests that they have an analogous appearance, and that these manifestations of God's presence might be understood as holographic-like objects created by the Holy Spirit. He briefly outlines the principles of holographic imaging and discusses some theological implications of this analogy. Davis suggests that the hologram analogy might help to explain how an infinitely holy God can present himself to sinful created beings without destroying them. The holographic analogy may also help illustrate how God can be present in a specific place without being limited to that place.

The second article, by Gordon Menzies, addresses the issue of gender, and combines science and Christian belief to defend a vision of gender. He shows that gender differences are real, but are shaped by biology, psychology, and society. The paper introduces the concepts of inner harmony (the alignment of body, desire, and gender within the self) and outer harmony (the interplay of similarity and difference that enriches human community). Outer harmony is reflected in Scripture, where most commands address our common humanity and affirm our equality and distinction. Science and theology therefore offer a similar-but-different account of gender, providing an integrated framework for understanding and celebrating gender as a divine gift.

Most modern scholars agree that the Pentateuch was compiled from multiple source documents, yet there is no consensus on the date when they were composed. In the third paper Philip Senter explores this question using archaeological science, under the principle that a passage cannot be older than the things that it describes (towns, technologies, etc.). This analysis casts doubt on previous hypotheses that the (Elohist (E), Yahwist (J) Priestly (P), Deuteronomist (D) source documents were completed earlier and are consistent with a post-exilic composition. This study shows that archaeological science can be a useful tool for constraining the dating of biblical passages. It is likely that some S&CB readers will find this uncomfortable reading, as it challenges some literal readings of some parts of the Old Testament, and I look forward to some lively correspondence about this.

As usual, this issue contains reviews of fifteen recently published science-religion books. We hope that these reviews will be helpful in guiding your personal reading. If you notice a new book that is worth reading then please

contact Todd Kantchev, the book Reviews Editor, who will be pleased to consider a review.

Editorship

I have now been the editor of S&CB for 13 years and, as I wrote in the previous issue, it is time to hand this on to someone else. Christians in Science advertised this position and I am pleased to tell you that Dr Andrew Jackson (apj40@cantab.ac.uk) has accepted the offer to become the next journal Editor and will take responsibility for the next issue. Andrew has PhDs in Biotechnology and Theology.

Can I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has submitted articles and reviews over these years, as well as the many (anonymous) referees who have ensured the quality of the things that we have published. They may not have always agreed with my decisions, but it has been a pleasure to have worked with you all. I am sure that you will welcome and support Andrew, and I hope that the journal will continue to thrive. I also give immense thanks to Dr Diana Briggs who, working behind the scenes, has faithfully copy-edited the accepted material and ensured that everything conforms to the journal's style.

Keith Fox is Editor of Science & Christian Belief, Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry in Southampton University and former Director of the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. He is now curate at Highfield Church, Southampton.