

# MINISTERS FOR THE 1980s

Edited by JOCK STEIN

What kind of training do Church of Scotland ministers receive? Who calls the tune – Church or University?

These questions, simmering for years, erupted at the 1979 General Assembly. As the lava settles, a group of ministers and laymen examine the faults in the ecclesiastical strata, and suggest some remedies.

*Contributors:* John R. Gray, Robert A. Jones, Herbert A. Kerrigan, Lesslie Newbiggin, James Philip, George T. H. Reid, Colin Sinclair, Jock Stein, David W. Torrance, David F. Wright, George Yule.

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## THE BIBLE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ROBERT DAVIDSON

What can we teach, what should we teach about the Bible in religious education courses in schools? Questions concerning methods and the appropriate presentation of biblical material for different age groups have been widely discussed by religious education specialists in recent years. But behind such questions there often lie hidden assumptions about what the Bible is and how it may function today. This book, the text of lectures first delivered to the St. Andrews Religious Education Conference, seeks to examine and raise questions about such assumptions and to suggest guidelines for ways in which the Bible may be responsibly handled in religious education.

*The author is professor of Old Testament Language and Literature in the University of Glasgow.*

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# **Studies in the Patriarchal Narratives**

**WILLIAM MCKANE**

*Studies in the Patriarchal Narratives* reflects a general conviction that a historical perspective is needed for Old Testament criticism as well as a particular interest in the history of the criticism of the patriarchal narratives. The author has reacted against the imbalance which results from an undue concentration on what is supposed to be the 'new evidence' which is available for the interpretation of the patriarchal narratives. There is a view that archaeological discoveries have revolutionized the study of the narratives and that, as a consequence, there is nothing to learn from their earlier criticism. The orientation of the study of the narratives towards archaeology has resulted in an almost exclusive preoccupation with questions about their historicity. In an earlier phase of this movement the answers which were given to questions about historicity of the narratives had a positive character, but in a more recent phase there has been a marked negative reaction.

There is a tendency for a modern fashion of scholarship to possess a narrowness and obsessiveness which requires correction. Undue concentration on one line of approach constitutes an impoverishment of the study of the patriarchal narratives, and a vision is needed of a many-sided and ample subject to which there are several avenues of approach and in which there are many areas of interest. The purpose of this book is to deal with aspects of the study of the patriarchal narratives which have fallen into the background at a time when interest has been focused on questions of historicity. When it has been asked in what sense, if any, the stories can be used as historical sources, the province of their literary appreciation has hardly been entered. To enter this province, attention must be focused on the narratives themselves, for the most interesting and crucial literary questions cannot be properly raised so long as the study of the patriarchal narratives is dominated by references to external archaeological attestation.

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Stanley L. Jaki, a Hungarian-born Benedictine priest, is Distinguished Professor at Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J., who has been internationally acclaimed for his books on the history of physics and cosmology. In 1975 and 1976 he was Gifford Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh and has lectured widely in the United States and Europe. He was the recipient of the Lecomte du Nouy Prize for 1970.

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