

Editor's Page

Randall W. Younker
Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary
Andrews University

It is a pleasure to review the articles for each issue of *JATS*. They reflect the diverse theological interests of Adventist scholars. This issue, for example, has articles that discuss models of inspiration, themes of atonement in Revelation, Israel as a covenant people and the relation of that concept to dispensationalism, two articles on the Reformation (Huss and Luther), the relation of miracles and natural law, and an article that looks at an aspect of our health message (an understanding of how to minimize non-communicable diseases). Yet while diverse, they each reflect well-known Adventist interests—each in its own way plumbing familiar truths for deeper insights. It is important to continue to mine these topics for greater understanding, even if the themes are familiar.

While we continue to tread and benefit from these well-known theological paths, we must also recognize the significant changes and challenges that face both our world and our church. We would invite some of our scholars, who are so inclined, to consider additional specific applications of our valued biblical truths to the situations of the world and the church at the present time. Most everyone I have talked with the last few years seems to recognize we are entering a new phase of world history that is more polarized than anyone can remember. The polarization is unique in that it is augmented by communication technologies (internet, twitter, facebook, etc.) that have not previously existed. Communication has exploded and there are more competing voices, messages, and claims for the “real truth” than ever before. The anonymity of these new technologies seems to foster less civility as voices compete for ears. In this new environment, it is important to be able to frame our old, reliable truths

JOURNAL OF THE ADVENTIST THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

as present truth for our new reality. This is our special present and urgent calling and I encourage all of our talented theologians to consider how to respond. Blessings to all who heed the call.

We also want to remind our readers that articles from past issues of *JATS* can be found on our website: www.atsjats.org, as well as current ATS happenings. You may also wish to utilize our additional website resources. *Perspective Digest* can be found at: www.perspectivedigest.org. Videos produced by the ATSAcademy on biblical topics can be located at: www.atsacademy.org. Our most recent resource is our quarterly *Newsletter* which can be found on our main website under the ATS News button. These all contain information and resources explaining important theological issues which we hope will be of use to our readers.

Randall W. Younker is Professor of Archaeology and History of Antiquity and Director of the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in Near Eastern Archaeology from the University of Arizona. He also holds a degree in Religion and an M.A. in Biology. He has served as the editor of *JATS* since 2009. younker@andrews.edu