

class, a member of the varsity debating team, editor of the weekly school paper, and a Phi Beta Kappa. He majored in history and minored in English.

In 1922, Allan emerged as valedictorian of his graduating class. In his valedictory, he issued a stirring call for a return to the old faith! When he finished, one college official declared that he would never have another MacRae on the college platform!

Having earned his Bachelor of Arts degree, Allan returned to Occidental in the fall of 1922 to take his Master of Arts degree, which he completed in the spring of 1923.

During the 1923-24 school year, Allan attended the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, where he studied the Bible under the leadership of Dr R. A. Torrey. After one year at BIOLA, Allan was advised by Dr Torrey to go to Princeton Theological Seminary.

Allan accepted this advice, and so in 1924 he was off to Princeton, New Jersey. As he studied under Robert Dick Wilson and J. Gresham Machen, he became convinced of the necessity of a scholarly defense of the inspiration of the Scriptures. And thus, even while he was working toward his seminary degree, he began work in Princeton University on another master's degree, this time in Semitic Philology. And thus it was that in 1927 he received both his Bachelor of Theology from Princeton Seminary and his Master of Arts degree from Princeton University.

Back in Los Angeles after graduation, Allan came before a presbytery made up of both liberal and conservative ministers and elders, to be licensed and ordained. Following his introduction as a prodigy, the presbytery's committee meekly asked him who wrote the four gospels (and a few other rather simple questions), and then proceeded to ordain him!

Upon his graduation from Princeton, Allan had been awarded a fellowship to study Semitics at the University of Berlin; and thus, in the late summer of 1927, he proceeded to the next arena of learning. Between his studies in Babylonian Cuneiform, Egyptian Hieroglyphics, Arabic, and Syriac, Allan managed to find opportunity to do extensive hiking and climbing in the Tyrol, the Black Forest, the Swiss Alps, and the Austrian Alps. Feeling keenly his lack of fluency in the German language, he began talking to the natives on his hiking tours, and became so proficient in the language that when he later returned to the United States he dreamed in German for months!

During his second year at the University of Berlin, Allan made a four-month trip to Palestine, where he met a famous archaeologist, Sir Flinders Petrie; and where he studied in the American Schools of Oriental Research under another famous scholar, William F. Albright. Together with Dr Albright and two other students, Allan participated in the exciting discovery of the site of the Biblical city of Ham, mentioned in Genesis 14.

In 1929, Robert Dick Wilson invited Allan MacRae to join him as his assistant in the Old Testament Department of the new school which was being organized after the reorganization and consequent liberalization of Princeton Seminary. After some hesitancy, Allan interrupted his doctoral program at Berlin and returned to the United States to assume the assistant professorship of Old Testament in Westminster Theological Seminary.