

VII. Albright's belief that Jesus was the Messiah (pp. 305-8)

"Christian tradition represents Jesus of Nazareth as the Christ of faith; historical and literary criticism, assisted by the evidence of Near-Eastern religious history, finds that there is nothing against the tradition - except prejudice". (p. 309) ... "What we have [in the Gospels] is a reflection of reports of eye-witnesses who were overwhelmed by the profound experiences ... through which they had passed. ... Here the historian has no right to deny what he cannot disprove. ... In the presence of authentic mysteries his duty is to stop and not attempt to cross the threshold into a world where he has no right of citizenship." (p. 300) ... "The historian cannot control the details of Jesus's birth and resurrection and thus has no right to pass judgment on their historicity. On the other hand the historian is qualified to estimate the historical significance of the pattern. ... Decision must be left to the Church and to the individual believer, who are historically warranted in accepting the whole of the messianic framework of the Gospels or in regarding it as partly true literally and partly true spiritually." (p. 307-8)

VIII. Albright's application of his view of history (pp. 86-7; 309-11)

"If patterns and organisms have properties which none of the component units possesses, does not the Cosmos likewise have properties which raise it high above its most impressive constituent? ... Does not the human microcosm have its analogy in a macrocosmic thinker who is above these configurations of human societies? ... The sympathetic student of man's entire history can have but one reply: there is an Intelligence and a Will, expressed in both History and Nature - for History and Nature are one." (p. 87)

"The picture as a whole warrants the most sanguine faith in God and in His purpose for man. In detail it does not justify either fatuous optimism or humanistic meliorism. ... Man has not raised himself by his own bootstraps. ... Every human pattern has faded out after its brief season of success. It is only when the