

EDITORIAL

The Centre for Biblical Studies of "Babeş-Bolyai" University organizes a two-yearly International Symposium on a topic set by the members of the Centre.

The aim of such a Symposium is, primarily, the getting of studies for the Centre's Journal "Sacra Scripta", and, secondly, a confrontation of the Romanian biblical scholars' research results with those of the Western researchers on the issue proposed for debate. More specifically, the confrontation is presented as an illustration of the exegetical characteristics from the perspective of the Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant theologies. In other words, the emphasis is on the specific shades of the sacred text message perceived from the perspective of a traditional hermeneutics of the Church, to which the referent belongs.

The last International Symposium of the Centre for Biblical Studies took place on 5-6 November 2015 and had as theme: *Religion and Politics. Jews, Christians and the Empire (s)*.

The Symposium was attended by biblical scholars from Romania and abroad, such as: Tobias NICKLAS (University of Regensburg, Faculty of Catholic Theology), Hans KLEIN ("Lucian Blaga" University Sibiu, Faculty of Lutheran Theology), Joseph VERHEYDEN (Catholic University of Leuven, Faculty of Theology), Zoltan OLAH (Roman Catholic Theological Institute, Alba Iulia), Johannes KLEIN (PD-Outside Lecturer in Old Testament, Bern University), Korinna ZAMFIR ("Babeş-Bolyai" University, Faculty of Roman Catholic Theology), Lehel LÉSZAI ("Babeş-Bolyai" University Cluj, Faculty of Reformed Theology), Stelian Tofană ("Babeş-Bolyai" University, Faculty of Orthodox Theology), Ioan CHIRILĂ ("Babeş-Bolyai" University, Faculty of Orthodox Theology), Martin MEISER (Saarland University, Faculty of Evangelical Theology), Julia SNYDER (Regensburg University, Faculty of Catholic Theology), Michael SOMMER (Martin-Luther-University Wittenberg-Halle), as well as students, MA students, PhD students belonging to the four Faculties of Theology of the "Babeş-Bolyai" University.

Since all the studies published in this issue fall into the above topic of the Symposium, I considered appropriate that this issue 2/2015 to be also a special one, having even the title on its cover.

The way in which the message of the treated texts was reflected in the life and spirituality of the Early Christians, as well as in the patristic and modern Exegesis, overtones of the interconfessional approach of the authors of the analysed texts, can all be observed after reading this special issue of the journal *Sacra Scripta*.

For example, "The Relations between Church and State was a problem that accompanied the Church since its early days" (Hans Klein); "Luke's view with regard to the relationship between Christian groups and Roman Empire is always

subjected to a criticism?" (Martin Meiser); "Paul's exhortations to Roman Christians urging them to be obedient to secular authority, seem indeed to be extremely courageous?" (Stelian Tofană); "What kind of meaning could have the text of Jes 60-62 for the nowadays political Leaders?" (Johannes Klein); "Some political perspectives in several extra-biblical stories about the apostles" (Julia Snyder) etc. These are only a few examples that can stimulate interest in reading this special issue.

The rest of the studies which have been presented as papers at the above mentioned Symposium are going to be published in the next issue of the Journal 1/2016, that will also be a special one.

From this point of view, the International Symposium of the Centre for Biblical Studies (5-6 November 2015), offering an academic illustration of international biblical research, gave to all the participants - referents, students, MA students, PhD students etc.- something to learn.

Success in reading the texts!

Stelian TOFANĂ
- Editor in Chief -