

'For they have cast me out of my country
As a sparrow from its nest'.

are quite in harmony with what is said in the Comm. on Habakkuk, namely, that the Priest of Iniquity had compelled the Master of Justice to go into exile.

We may mention the following points as relevant to identifying the author: (a) the use of UR—TOM (Plate IX, line 19) singular of Urim and Tummim, according to Dr Sukenik's interpretation. This term seems to have been peculiar to the sect and its founder, connected with the 'Sectarian Document'; (b) the use of *byhd* as a substantive, i.e. 'in society'. The substantive is found also in the Sectarian Document.

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QUESTION AND ANSWER

The encyclical 'Humani Generis' lays down that the whole of the present human race must be held to descend from a single pair of ancestors. Is it permissible to hold that other races of men, (i) now extinct, did not descend from this pair and (ii) may even (e.g. Neanderthal) have survived to be contemporary with the present human race (homo sapiens)? Do any Catholic scholars hold such a view?

The encyclical *Humani Generis* covers a wide field, but most, I think, will agree that the definite condemnation of polygenism is the most important single point in the document. Polygenism has taken more than one form; it may be enough to mention the hypothesis that the so-called *homo sapiens* and Neanderthal man had already diverged in a pre-human stage. The encyclical mentions Rom. v, 12-19 and the Council of Trent, session 5, canons 1-4, both of which texts must be accepted as of faith; and indeed I have never been able to see how polygenism could be squared with them. One must hold that all men being descended from Adam, thereby inherit original sin (except of course our Lady, and our Lord Himself in His human nature). I do not see how even an extinct race can be excepted.

Scientific difficulties, as is well known, have been raised against this doctrine. Upon this subject I would recommend Father Humphrey Johnson's excellent article in the *Downside Review* (Summer, 1950),

entitled 'The Unity of the Human Race', not the first article he has written upon such topics, and I hope not the last. I venture to quote two sentences from the second last page of the article :

'Though wishing to adopt a fittingly deferential attitude to these authorities, the present writer feels that the difficulties which they raise are far from insurmountable. The discovery in Palestine and in Moraira of human races in which a combination of modern and Neanderthaloid features is met with suggests that the two stocks may be less widely separated than has been supposed, this supposition being supported by the fact that those Neanderthal skulls in which the pithecoïd traits are most accentuated are chronologically the most recent, an indication that retrogression has been at work.'

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BOOK REVIEWS

La Sainte Bible : Tome III, Josue by A. Gelin. Judges and Ruth by R. Tamisier. I-IV Kings by A. Médebielle. Paris, Letouzey et Ané, 1949. Pp. 827.

The third volume of *La Sainte Bible*, a critical translation and commentary of the Sacred Scriptures, may be unreservedly commended as particularly useful and interesting to students of the Old Testament. The main sources of Hebrew history from the conquest of Canaan to the Babylonian exile are fully discussed and much new information, derived from recent archæological discoveries and scientific researches, is incorporated in the commentaries. Our knowledge of ancient Canaanite civilization and Palestinian geography has been considerably increased not only by excavations in Palestine itself but also by contributions from neighbouring countries like the Syrian Ras-Shamra tablets and the Egyptian proscription texts. Old problems like the date and character of the Hebrew conquest of Canaan are approaching a definite solution and new ones like biblical references to the recently discovered Hurrites have become matter for discussion. A commentary which collects and utilizes much fresh historical material often hidden away in learned periodicals is particularly opportune.

A. Gelin, professor at the Grand Séminaire in Lyons, is the author of the commentary on Josue. He considers the book a compilation of ancient documents deriving its unity from the person of Josue whose leadership and exploits are described. He agrees with Noth in abandoning the Wellhausenian theory which attached this book to the Pentateuch,