

“The Deuteronomistic History”

by W. Robert McFadden

1. Deuteronomistic history is the story of reform in the Old Testament. Is the theme of reform present in the Old Testament only? Do you see any call for reform in the New Testament? If so, where? Does Christianity need reform today? What are the signs, if any?
2. Deuteronomistic history makes references to writings we no longer have and makes almost no reference to the major prophets. Is the message of the prophets the same as or different from the Deuteronomistic history? In what way?
3. Jeremiah called for a renewal of the peoples’ covenant with God. Why did the covenant need to be renewed? We often say there is nothing we can do to earn God’s saving grace. Does this mean that covenants are not necessary? Why or why not?
4. McFadden says, “Ezra fulfilled the vision of a nation living under the guidance of the written words revealed by God. Still later, Christians celebrated Pentecost, commemorating the gift of the Spirit that superseded the gift of the Torah.” When the gift of the Spirit superseded the gift of the Torah, did it render the Torah meaningless for us? Why or why not?