

SUNDAY EVENING FORUM

presents

Dr. David Galston

The Impact of Science on Religion: Biblical Criticism and the Call for a New Church

Sunday, March 21, 7.30 p.m.

Burlington Baptist Church

2225 New Street, (west of Guelph Line)



A provocative speaker, writer, and an outstanding teacher, Dr. David Galston is a Fellow of the Jesus Seminar, a Co-Founder of The Snowstar Institute of Religion, and Editor of AXIAL, a progressive religious magazine. A former Principal of Iona College in Windsor, Dr. Galston is now Minister of Eternal Springs United Church in Hamilton and an Ecumenical Chaplain at the Brock Campus Ministries at Brock University, St. Catharines.

Science has changed so much of our thinking that we are really not able to think anymore in the same way people did in biblical times. In religion, science is used in the employment of biblical criticism to ascertain the historical reliability of the received texts. For example, in biblical studies the scientific method has demonstrated that much of the Old Testament is myth and historical revisionism composed by its authors for political and religious purposes. Similarly, the scientific study of the New Testament has changed everything in terms of our understanding of the birth of Christianity. For example, the authors of the canonical gospels employed various sources to compile their works and wrote in competition with the authors of other Christian documents.

If we take science seriously and admit that it has impacted religion and our worldview very deeply, what then is the future of religion (and in a sense the future of myth)? Will its future be only among a small minority? People interested in religion who do not hold a literalistic view of the Bible want something that is sensible yet mystical (or spiritual), something that expresses the basic mystery of life and the universe without sacrificing their intellects in the process. That form of religion seems tenable, but whether it will grow like Christianity did in its early years is an open question.

Sunday Evening Forum is a community forum to discuss current issues that impact our lives and faith.
The public is warmly invited. Admission is \$5.00 at the door.

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