近代以来，希伯来—基督教文化对世界文明肌体的建构意义日益为学术界所公认。在西方，它与希腊文化被并称为“两希”，共同充当了哺育后世文化成长的“两只乳房”。延及全世界，它则与希腊文化、中国文化和印度文化鼎足而三，连袂支撑起世界文明的巍巍殿堂。而追根溯源，希伯来—基督教文化的庞大体系乃建立于一部经典，那就是圣经。这一史实表明，欲了解世界文化，就必须深入钻研圣经。

圣经兼为神学—伦理学典籍、史学典籍和文学典籍，这三重性质导致神学—伦理学、史学、文学三种类型的圣经研究。事实上，这三类研究在圣经学术史上一直是并行不悖的，只是在不同时期各自所占的分量有所不同。一般说来，对圣经的神学—伦理学诠释绵延始终，19世纪之前一直稳居主导地位；史学批评于18世纪下半叶以后异军突起，取得一系列令人称道的成就；文学研究固然源远流长，却一直是涓涓细流——人们很早就注意到“圣经中的文学”，主要是一批故事和诗歌；从18世纪下半叶起，开始用历史考据法揭示圣经文本形成的历史及其正典化过程；20世纪中期以后则借助于多元化的路径对圣经进行多维度的现代观照，

①朱维之：《圣经文学的地位和特质》，载《外国文学研究》1982年第4期，第45页。
圣经文学研究·第一期

并探讨“世界文学中的圣经元素”，此间一批领风气之先的圣经文学论著相继问世。

中国现代学者早在20世纪上半叶就对圣经文学做过精辟论述，但由于50至70年代内地遭遇长达30年的学术断层，80年代以后的圣经文学研究事实上是从头起步的。从那时起到如今，20多年来，内地学者在此领域已经取得显著成就，收获出相当丰硕的果实。然而，与国际圣经文学研究的现状相比，我们的成果还处于较低的学术层次，有必要采取各种方式寻求突破。

创办汉语学术期刊《圣经文学研究》的目的，就在于谋求借助于办刊的方式，使我们的研究与国际学术界逐渐接轨。该刊将在较高层面上开辟一块专门的园地，持续发表海内外学者的高质量论文，以期引导并推动中国内地的圣经文学研究不断向纵深发展，并促进港台、东南亚乃至国际华裔圣经学者不断进入更佳的学术境界。
Preface to the Inaugural Issue

The contribution of Judeo–Christian culture to the structure of world civilization has been recognized more and more by the academia since modern times. In western countries, Hebrew and Greek civilizations are the "two breasts" that have together nurtured the development of culture in the future generations. Extending to the whole world, the Hebrew–Christian culture, together with Hellenism, Chinese and Indian cultures, have become the four pillars which uphold the grandiose palace of world civilization. Tracing back to the origin, the grand organization of Hebrew–Christian culture is based on one canon, the Bible. This historical fact reveals that, in order to understand world civilization, one has to study the Bible intensively.

The Bible is a canon of theology—ethics, history and literature. These three-fold qualities of the Bible lead to three approaches to biblical studies: theological—ethical, historical and literary. In fact, these three categories of studies have been getting along without contradictions; except that they have occupied varying degrees of

---

significance at different times. Generally speaking, Biblical hermeneutics on theology and ethics has been going on and has been in the leading position before the Nineteenth Century. Historical criticism has surged since the Eighteenth Century and has acclaimed certain achievement. Literary studies have had a long standing status. That people have paid attention to “Literature in the Bible” quite early was due to a series of stories and poetry in the text itself. Since the second half of the Eighteenth Century, historical investigation methodology has been used to show the history and the canonized process of the biblical texts. After the mid Twentieth Century, pluralistic approaches have been adopted to study the multi-dimensions of the Bible with modern perspectives. Studies have been made on the “biblical elements in world literature”. Among them, a group of papers and works on biblical literature have subsequently been published which were in the forefront of the leading trend.

As early as in early part of the Twentieth Century, Chinese modern scholars have made critical discussions on biblical literature. However, due to the long discontinuation of academic studies in the Mainland from 1950’s to 1970’s, biblical literature studies in fact have just started from scratch in the 1980’s. Since then till now, scholars in the Mainland have made tremendous achievement in this field in the past twenty years. Nevertheless, compared with the present situations of international biblical literature studies, our academic standard is still of a lower level. There is the need to seek breakthroughs by various means.

The purpose of publishing the first Chinese academic journal *Biblical Literature Studies* is to pursue research which can interface
with that of international scholars' by means of the journal. This journal will provide a platform of a higher level where quality papers from the Mainland as well as overseas scholars can be published, which will guide and promote the research on biblical literature studies of China Mainland toward greater development, in order that biblical scholars of Hong Kong, Taiwan, South East Asia and even international scholars of Chinese descent can continue to advance to a higher level.