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## EDITORS' NOTE

## Art Editor with a Biblical Mission

One evening a year ago Dorothy Seiberling, our Art Editor, went home to think over a formidable assignment: we wanted her to plan and produce a special double issue about the Bible. As she thought it over, she would weigh first the credit side—her own wide knowledge of religious art and her personal interest in the subject. Then she would consider the debits—her layman's knowledge of the field and the pitfalls inherent in Bible scholarship. Finally her husband, Leo Steinberg, who is Professor of Art History at Hunter College in New York and well versed in the Bible himself, could stand it no longer. "Well, Dorothy," he said, "at least you're approaching the problem in a truly biblical manner. Remember how hard Moses and Jonah tried to get out of their jobs?" She took on the job.

Dorothy has been in charge of the art department for 10 years; it owes its success to her thoroughness as much as it does to her enthusiasm, broad cultivated taste and ruggedly individualistic opinions. She comes from Akron, Ohio, and a family of art lovers and tire makers. She majored in English and studied art at Vassar College. Since she assumed the art editorship, she has made eight art pilgrimages to Europe. This summer she made a particularly extensive trip. First she visited Russia where, in Leningrad, she arranged and researched a three-part series on the magnificent museum, The Hermitage—which we will publish in 1965. She also went to the Holy Land to see the sites of biblical events.

Once she had decided to take on this issue, Dotty, with characteristic thoroughness, locked herself up with books and Bibles from March until May and produced a complete prospectus for it. The illustrations you will see on these pages span the great art of 45 centuries—from a 2500 B.C. Sumerian statue to a delightful present-day painting of Jonah diving into his whale—and they come from museums and collections in Europe, the Middle East, Russia and the U.S.

As Art Editor, Dotty always thought of the Bible in terms of art. Now her year's research has made a difference, and she thinks of art in terms of the Bible. "Somehow I feel much more of an identity with the people who were working on religious sculpture and paintings," she says. "I have a wider understanding of how they responded to a subject that is now very close to me."

In spite of all her study, Dotty could not have done this without the advice and help of leading scholars. Some are listed here: Professors William F. Albright, *Johns Hopkins University*; Frank M. Cross Jr. and G. Ernest Wright, *Harvard University*; David Noel Freedman, *San Francisco Theological Seminary*; Frederick C. Grant, *Union Theological Seminary*; Ephraim A. Speiser and James B. Pritchard, *University of Pennsylvania*; and Nahum M. Sarna, Seymour Siegel and Rabbi Shalom M. Paul, *Jewish Theological Seminary of America*.

To these gentlemen, and to the others who helped, we extend Dotty's and our thanks.



DOTTY SEIBERLING

*George P. Hunt*  
 GEORGE P. HUNT  
 Managing Editor

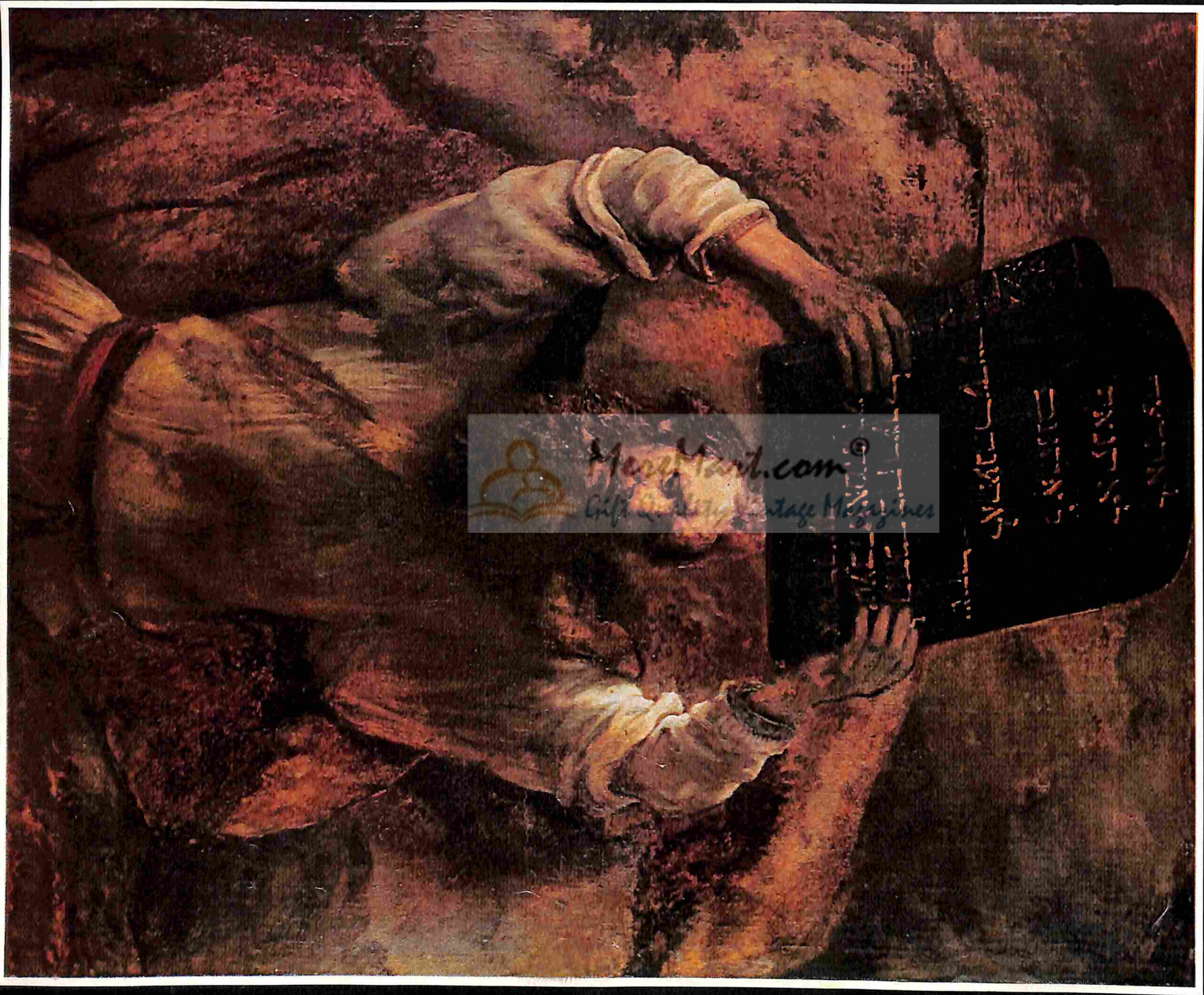
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## THE BIBLE



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