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## The Old Testament: deciphering the common heritage of mankind

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the pages of the Old Testament? And  
in the final analysis, how much of it is  
history and how much is symbolism?**

Speaking to a contemporary understanding, Miltiadis Konstantinou throws light on a whole series of confusions, gaps in knowledge and mis-readings by which believers and unbelievers alike are in fact burdened.

We need to give practical emphasis to the importance of biblical research in general. Scripture has often been understood moralistically, in an unhistorical way and without reference to the fact of the Church. And there has been a theological tendency in the Orthodox world to undervalue Scripture, almost bypassing it in our rush of enthusiasm for other texts of church literature (patristic, ascetic, liturgical). Such forms of tunnel vision can be problematic, but one thing is demanded of us: to be ready and willing to think and re-think, so that our words truly serve the hope that is entrusted to us (1 Pet 3:15).



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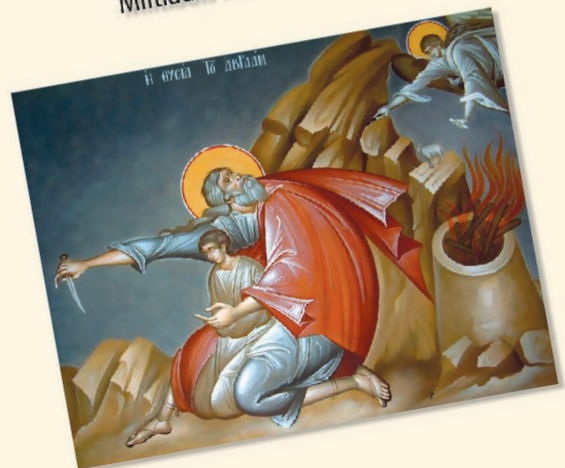
**Miltiadis Konstantinou** is the distinguished professor of Old Testament in the School of Theology of the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki.

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ALEXANDER PRESS  
MONTRÉAL, 2010

CDN\$1500

64 pages, 5.5 x 8.5 in  
ISBN: 1-896800-37-8