

this is obviously all well and good. But viewed from the point of view of the beliefs and practices which he took as normative, Jesus was more a Jew than a Christian, so that his preaching is better contexted within the framework of early Judaism than within the Christianity which emerged as a result of the interaction between early Judaism, Jesus, and his Jewish and then Gentile followers. For far too long, Jesus has been seen almost reflexively as a partisan of Pauline Christianity, and he has been contrasted with all things Jewish in a most exaggerated and irresponsible fashion. But the power of Jesus' teaching and person was that he did not require such a prejudicial perspective for his hearers to appreciate his insights about God. Simply as Jewish monotheists, imbued with the Bible and God's promise to Israel, they understood his message, and enough of them assented to it and actively promulgated it so that Christianity had emerged by the end of the century. It would be narrow and doctrinaire to say that the whole of Christianity must be related directly to what Jesus said, or else shelved as a later accretion. But any faith which claims to be grounded in his message must surely attempt to understand his preaching in the historical context in which it was initially spoken. From that perspective, we will be in a better position to understand the development of Christian faith, and all the more so, as we will have had the chance to see whether we would assent to it from its wellsprings.

Reviews

ERRATUM

BREAKTHROUGH: Meister Eckhart's Creation Spirituality in New Translation. Introduction and Commentaries by Matthew Fox. *Image Books*. 1980. pp 578 \$7.95.

In the April 1982 number of *New Blackfriars*, page 197, column 1, line 16, "accuracy" should be "inaccuracy".

SIMON TUGWELL O P

BUBER ON GOD AND THE PERFECT MAN by Pamela Vermes. *Brown Judaic Studies* 13, *Scholars Press*, Chico, California, 1980. (Obtainable in G.B. from the *Journal of Jewish Studies*, Oriental Institute, Oxford). pp 271 £5.25 paperback.

This is primarily a work on spirituality, and it abounds in deep insights into human nature, its needs and possibilities. As the title indicates, the author finds her inspiration in the thought of Martin Buber, but she reaches behind him to reveal the