

Jaki

Stanley L. Jaki

NEO-ARIANISM

AS FORESEEN BY NEWMAN



Real View Books



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Until recently scholars on Arianism rightly saw Arius and Athanasius, the legendary protagonists in a gigantic confrontation, as the respective embodiments of vice and virtue.

The previous century and a half witnessed the emergence of a vast literature on Arianism which has been increasingly favorable to Arius.

It is against this development that one would best appreciate Newman's first major book, *The Arians of the Fourth Century*, or simply *The Arians*. In addition to being a very scholarly work, *The Arians* is also most original. It presents the Arian dispute as a moral contestation about the pivotal Christian doctrine, the Incarnation of the Son of God, the Savior of mankind.

The first six chapters of this book, the eighth work by the author on Newman, deal with the making and contents of *The Arians*. The last four chapters present its reception or rather shameful slighting and neglect.

The dislike shown toward *The Arians* is easily understood if one considers that Newman often refers to the Incarnation as "the Sacred Mystery." There is no similar deeply spiritual emphasis in the many new christological publications, Protestant and even Catholic, all suggestive, in various degrees, of Arianizing trends. To his credit, Newman foresaw their coming and brooked no sympathy for them whatsoever.

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Stanley L. Jaki is the winner of the Templeton Prize for 1987.