

John Rea
573 South Boyle Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90033

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Dear Regent University friends, staff, former colleagues, and alumni,

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I wish I could be with you all to help celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the School of Divinity.

To be chosen as one of the first four faculty members of the School of Biblical Studies and appointed to be full professor of Old Testament was one of the greatest blessings of my life. My wife Elaine and I enjoyed our eight years in Virginia Beach so very much - except for the high humidity and mosquitoes of summertime in Tidewater! We continue to value the dear friends we made among the university faculty and wives and so many students.

After six years of teaching at Regent I was granted a sabbatical leave, which I used to complete my manuscript for The Holy Spirit in the Bible, commenting in detail on the sections in the Old Testament which tell us about the spirit of God. Very few other books in English on the Holy Spirit have exegeted the rich passages, especially those in Isaiah and the other prophets. Unfortunately for the sales record of the book, it did not get published before I retired in 1990, so that I could have required my students to buy it my last year at Regent University.

While I was on the faculty I wrote the article on

the Book of Joel for the Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements (Zondervan, 1988). Also I was privileged to attend and present papers at a number of the annual meetings of the Society of Pentecostal Studies, and to coordinate the meeting when it was held on our campus in November, 1987.

I count it a great honor, when I retired in May, 1990, to have been appointed Professor Emeritus of the University, and to have been given a beautiful plaque, naming me as Dr. JOHN "HESED" REA. My students and others who know me well will remember that hesed is my favorite word in the Hebrew Old Testament, the term for mercy, lovingkindness, devotion, and covenant faithfulness that describes our God so well and which He expects His followers to imitate (Micah 6:8).

God bless you all in wonderful ways in the days and years ahead until our Lord Jesus returns in His glory.

Sincerely in His grace,

John Rea

Professor Emeritus of Old Testament

P.S. I retired in the nick of time, just before all Regent University professors were required to be able to use a computer. I did learn to use Web-TV to receive and send E-mails and to give me access to the Internet for information, but other than that I am totally computer-illiterate — and very content in that state.