

THE RELIGION OF THE POST-EXILIC PROPHETS.

By Prof. W. H. BENNETT,
D.D., Litt.D.

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T. & T. CLARK, Edinburgh and London.

THE
MOABITE STONE

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EDINBURGH: T. & T. CLARK, 38 GEORGE STREET

1911

Printed by

MORRISON & GIBB LIMITED,

FOR

T. & T. CLARK, EDINBURGH.

LONDON : SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, HAMILTON, KENT, AND CO. LIMITED.

NEW YORK : CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS.

PREFACE.



THIS little volume is intended to meet the needs both of students who wish to study the Hebrew, or rather Moabite, text of the Stone, and also of such of the general public as may desire to know the history, contents, and significance of this famous inscription. It is based on the Author's article MOAB in Dr. Hastings' *Dictionary of the Bible*; the article has been revised, expanded, and supplemented. This work includes a transcription of the inscription in the ordinary Square Hebrew, translations, notes, and other explanatory matter. As appendices there have been added transcriptions and translations of the Siloam Inscription and the Gezer Calendar.

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THE MOABITE STONE



I.

THE INSCRIPTION.

The following is a free translation, in some places a free paraphrase, but the English reader will obtain from it a good idea of the general sense of the Inscription. Italics indicate that there is considerable uncertainty as to the substantial sense of portions of the inscription.

The reader will be able to check, and it may be correct, the latitude which the author has allowed himself in this translation, by referring to the literal translation in sec. viii. and the accompanying notes. The latter translation

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also indicates the lines and punctuation of the original.

I am Mesha of Dibon, king of Moab, son of Chemosh - *melekh*. My father reigned thirty years over Moab and I succeeded him, and I erected this sanctuary of Chemosh in Khorkhah in commemoration of my victory over hostile kings, because Chemosh gave me victory and vengeance over all my enemies.

When Chemosh was angry with his land, Omri, king of Israel, held Moab in subjection for many years ; and his son succeeded him, and he also purposed to subdue Moab. This was in my days. But I avenged myself upon him and upon his house, and Israel finally lost all power over Moab.

Omri annexed the land of Medeba, and for forty years, his reign and half his son's reign, it was occupied by Israel, but Chemosh restored it to Moab in my days.

THE INSCRIPTION

I extended and fortified Baal-meon, where I made the reservoir, and Kirjathaim.

From of old the Gadites occupied the land of Ataroth; and the king of Israel fortified Ataroth, but I besieged and took it, and massacred all the population to gratify Chemosh and Moab. I removed thence the altar-hearth of Dawdoh and transferred it to the temple of Chemosh at Kerioth; and I settled in Ataroth the men of Sharon and the men of Makharath.

Chemosh said to me, "Go and take Nebo from Israel"; and I went by night, and assaulted it from daybreak till noon, and I took it, and massacred all the inhabitants, 7000 men and *boys*, and women and *girls* and slave-girls, because I had vowed to destroy it utterly in honour of Ashtor-Chemosh. And I took thence the *altar-hearths* of Yahweh and transferred them to the temple of Chemosh.

Then the king of Israel fortified Jahaz,

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and made it his headquarters while he fought against me ; but Chemosh drove him out before me. I took *the fighting men* of the 200 *clans* of Moab, and led them against Jahaz and took it, to annex it to the territory of Dibon.

I extended and fortified Khorkhah, providing it with walls and gates and towers, and a palace, and, in the midst of the city, reservoirs. There were no cisterns in Khorkhah, and I bade every householder provide a cistern in his own house. I used the Israelite prisoners as navvies for my public works at Khorkhah.

I made the road by the Arnon, and I extended and fortified Aroer, and Bathbamoath that had been destroyed, and Bezer that was in ruins. *In the royal district of Dibon there were fifty clans, and a hundred in the newly conquered towns and their territory.* I extended and fortified Medeba and Beth-diblathaim. *And as for Beth-baal-meon there I placed shepherds*

THE INSCRIPTION

.....sheep of the land.....and Horonaim, wherein dwelt.....and.....
Chemosh said to me, "Go down, attack Horonaim," and I went down.....
Chemosh in my days, and *Eleadeh* whence
.....and I.....