

Theology on the Web.org.uk

Making Biblical Scholarship Accessible

This document was supplied for free educational purposes. Unless it is in the public domain, it may not be sold for profit or hosted on a webserver without the permission of the copyright holder.

If you find it of help to you and would like to support the ministry of Theology on the Web, please consider using the links below:



Buy me a coffee

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/theology>



PATREON

<https://patreon.com/theologyontheweb>

PayPal

<https://paypal.me/robbradshaw>

A table of contents for *The Expository Times* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_expository-times_01.php

pdfs are named: [Volume]_[Issue]_[1st page of article].pdf

The International Critical Commentary.

1. A CRITICAL AND EXEGETICAL COMMENTARY ON DEUTERONOMY. BY THE REV. S. R. DRIVER, D.D. (*T. & T. Clark*. Post 8vo, pp. xcv, 434. 12s.) Dr. Driver's *Deuteronomy* has been touched already. There is also an article 'from the other side,' in this issue. It need not therefore occupy attention now. But that very article, and the disproportionate space that has been given in most reviews of the work to its Introduction, make it advisable to say that, with all its significance, the critical part is neither the greatest in bulk nor the richest in consequence. No doubt it is called 'A Critical and Exegetical Commentary,' and no doubt the exegesis is built upon the foregoing criticism, and presupposes it always. But, with all that, there is no reason why the man who hates the higher criticism and all its ways, if he wishes to study Deuteronomy, should not use this Commentary with profit and even with pleasure.

2. A CRITICAL AND EXEGETICAL COMMENTARY ON THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS. BY THE REV. WILLIAM SANDAY, D.D., LL.D., AND THE REV. ARTHUR C. HEADLAM, B.D. (Post 8vo, pp. cxii, 450. 12s.) It has been everywhere admitted that Driver on Deuteronomy was the most fitting introduction to the Old Testament series. It will not be denied that Sanday on Romans is as appropriate for the New. Have we not waited all these years and prayed for a New Testament Commentary by Dr. Sanday, and hoped that it might be Romans? It is not that the Epistle to the Romans holds the key of the New Testament, as we have been taught Deuteronomy does of the Old. But there is no other book of the New Testament which at once so needs it, and is so worthy of a great Commentary.

We do not forget that the book is not by Dr. Sanday alone. Nor do we regret it. Readers of recent issues of THE EXPOSITORY TIMES are most unlikely to regret it. Rather are we prepared to say that the co-operation and mutual counsel of these two scholars has enriched the work, has given us more than we could have expected from even the elder of the two alone. What share each hand has in it, they very plainly tell us. 'The Commentary and the Introduction have been about equally divided between the two editors;

but they have each been carefully over the work of the other, and they desire to accept a joint responsibility for the whole.'

This volume is larger than Dr. Driver's *Deuteronomy*, and the difference is partly in the Introduction and partly in the Commentary. The Introduction covers the separate subjects—Rome in A.D. 58; The Jews in Rome; The Roman Church; Time and Place, Occasion and Purpose; Argument; Language and Style; Text; Literary History; Integrity; Commentaries. Then, as the Commentary proceeds, there are forty-two Detached Notes. They touch upon, sometimes they skilfully exhaust, such subjects as these: The Meaning of Faith in the New Testament and in some Jewish Writings; The Righteousness of God; The Death of Christ considered as a Sacrifice; Is the Society or the Individual the proper Subject of Justification?; St. Paul's Conception of Sin and of the Fall; The Doctrine of Mystical Union with Christ; The Divine Election; The Doctrine of the Remnant; St. Paul's Philosophy of History; The Christian Teaching on Love; Aquila and Priscilla.

Turning to the Commentary itself, we remember that the editors in their Preface say modestly that 'the nearest approach to anything at all distinctive in the present edition would be (1) the distribution of the subject-matter of the Commentary, and (2) the attempt to furnish an interpretation of the Epistle which might be described as historical.' Now, what the first of these claims implies we see at a glance. (We have already been made familiar with it in Driver. The second is more difficult and more new. Driver is historical also; but a historical Commentary of a New Testament book is different from a historical Commentary of an Old. It is comparatively easy for a man to approach Deuteronomy unbiassed by doctrinal fixtures. It is only comparatively possible for a man to stand beside the Epistle to the Romans as Phebe the servant of the Church at Cenchrea stood beside it when (let us say) she carried it on its way to Rome. Tennyson asks—

For who can so forecast the years
As find in loss a gain to match?

It is harder far to cast back the centuries and dismiss their gains. That editors should deliber-

ately set themselves to it is most significant of our attitude to-day; that men like Sanday and Headlam should set themselves, is highly hopeful and promising.

Have they succeeded? Do they really stand behind Calvin and Chrysostom? The most convenient test is such a Note as that on 'The Power and Rights of God as Creator.' But fuller acquaintance shows the best test to be the Commentary itself. In these special Notes our editors are specially on the watch. It is far more significant that the steady verse-to-verse exposition, which, mark you, knows everything that has already been said of it, and actually notes the most things, nevertheless goes fairly back to St. Paul and uncovers the roof in Rome where the epistle was first read, till we listen and wonder as the Romans did.

3. A CRITICAL AND EXEGETICAL COMMENTARY ON JUDGES. BY THE REV. GEORGE F. MOORE, D.D. (Post 8vo, pp. 1, 476. 12s.) We have given Sanday and Headlam more than their share and starved Dr. Moore.¹ Yet Dr. Moore demands more attention at our hands than Sanday and Headlam. For he is not so well known to us. He is, likely enough, now introduced for the first time to us. We knew at least the *quality* of the work that Sanday and Headlam could give us. Few of us know even that about Professor Moore.

And yet it can only be to those who have not seen their Driver yet, that Dr. Moore needs lengthened introduction. For his manner is largely similar. Great fundamental questions of Introduction do not, it is true, appear in Judges as they do in Deuteronomy, and run through the structure of the Old Testament. Yet are there introductory matters of the utmost perplexity, and demanding the soundest scholarship to unravel them. Three

¹ The printers have found us space beyond our expectations, but it is too late now.

long sections of the Introduction are a sufficient test of Dr. Moore's ability, the three which cover the sources of the various chapters and the composition of the book as a whole. And these sections sufficiently show that in all the modern literature, and in the control of a vigorous judgment, Dr. Moore is entirely at home.

Now these are the two possessions that seem to us most characteristic of all the writers of the International Commentary, so far as it has yet been given to us. They are acquainted with the literature of their subjects from its earliest to its latest and most minute contribution. They are never content with the ninety-and-nine publications upon it; they sweep the libraries diligently till the hundredth is found with joy. Yet they exercise their own judgment, as though there had been no previous editor or writer. For they have had the experience that we all have had of the utter unprofitableness of the endless refutation of others' errors with which it was etiquette to load the commentaries of the last generation. Dr. Moore knows them all, and all in all, but he sends them joyfully down to the bottom of his page in footnotes.

One feature, excellent in all these Commentaries, is most excellent, we think, in Moore. It is the scientific and exhaustive Index. In Moore's *Judges* the Index fills twenty-three close pages. Yet not a word is wasted or misplaced. It is divided into five parts—(1) Matters; (2) Hebrew Words and Forms; (3) Grammatical Observations; (4) Passages incidentally discussed; and (5) Abbreviations.

In short, it is probable that Dr. Moore's *Commentary on Judges* will come as a deep surprise to many in this country. It is not in any respect, so far as we have been able to judge, of lighter weight than the two great volumes of this series which appeared before it.

EDITOR.