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Notes.

Should מְנַחָה be Translated "Meal-offering"?

BY PROF. W. J. BEECHER, D.D.

THE translation should be "tribute-offering," or some equivalent term, and not meal-offering, or meat-offering, or food-offering, or any other term of that sort.

First, the word מְנַחָה means tribute, and does not mean meal or food or meat. There is as much reason for translating שלמים flesh-offerings instead of peace-offerings, as for translating מְנַחָה meal-offering.

Secondly, a meal-offering or food-offering is properly an offering of meal or of food. But offerings either of meal or of food were made in several forms, and not in the form of the מְנַחָה exclusively.

Thirdly, the terms meal-offering, or food-offering, do not lend themselves to the other uses of the word מְנַחָה, as a word for sacrifice. The offerings of Cain and Abel, for example, were tribute-offerings, but they were not meal-offerings. It was not as an offering of meal, but as a tribute-offering, that the מְנַחָה of Jehovah was discredited by the conduct of the sons of Eli. The fact that מְנַחָה is used as the generic name of the daily evening sacrifice is to be similarly accounted for.

Fourthly, the term tribute-offering suggests the ethical idea of this form of sacrifice, while the term meal-offering does not.

Note on the Proper Paragraph Division in 1 Chron.

XXIX. 22.

BY PROF. W. J. BEECHER, D.D.

THE English Revised Bible makes a paragraph division at the middle of the first verse of the fourth chapter of 1 Samuel. This is evidently correct, and throws great light on the whole context. An equally evident, and even more important instance of the same kind, though one not recognized in the revision, is to be found in 1 Chron. xxix. 22. The passage is as follows:—