

THE  
WYCLIFFE  
B I B L E  
COMMENTARY

Edited by

CHARLES F. PFEIFFER  
OLD TESTAMENT

EVERETT F. HARRISON  
NEW TESTAMENT

MOODY PRESS • CHICAGO

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THE MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE  
OF CHICAGO

*Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 62-20893*

Second Printing, 1963  
Third Printing, 1966  
Fourth Printing, 1968  
Fifth Printing, 1969  
Sixth Printing, 1971

*Printed in the United States of America*

# PUBLISHER'S PREFACE

(HOW TO USE THIS BOOK)

## *The Approach*

**T**HE *Wycliffe Bible Commentary* is an entirely new commentary on the whole Bible written and edited by a number of scholars representing a wide cross section of American Protestant Christianity. Within the limits of its more than a million and one-quarter words, it attempts to treat the entire text of the Old and New Testaments on a phrase by phrase basis. In addition, summaries of the major sections of each Biblical book generally appear in the text in connection with the main headings in the outline. Thus, the reader is permitted an overview and a detailed discussion of a passage of Scripture at the same time.

In the commentaries on the various books the writers present the results of their own careful, personal Bible study. But also they have preserved some of the best work of the older commentators and have utilized the insights of contemporary scholarship. While they infuse the whole with a fresh spirit, at the same time they manifest their unflinching belief in the divine inspiration of Holy Scripture.

Although the Biblical text used in the preparation of this commentary is that of the King James Version, several of the writers made their own translations of the books on which they worked. Occasionally they use phrases from their own translations in the text of the commentaries. For the convenience of the reader, all Biblical phraseology appears in bold face type, as do all the Biblical verse numbers. In this way numbers of verses are clearly distinguished from points in the outline. In cases in which the writer prefers to employ a reading from some version other than the King James, the source of such phraseology is identified. While the commentaries on the various books emphasize the interpretation of the actual words of Scripture, each is accompanied by a brief introductory discussion of authorship, date of composition, historical background, and the like. To provide the reader with further background information, a brief review of the inter-testamental period has been included.

To improve appearance of the printed page, pronouns referring to deity (which appear in large numbers) are not capitalized, except when capitalization is necessary for clarity of meaning. Also in the interest of typographical appearance, *Lord* and *God*, when they are translations

f the Hebrew *YHWH*, are not printed in capitals as in the King James version. Often the Hebrew *YHWH* is represented by the English *Yehovah*. But in some instances the contributors preferred the spelling of *Yahweh*, which is gaining favor among Biblical scholars.

The basic aim of this volume is to determine the meaning of the text of Scripture. It is therefore, strictly speaking, neither a devotional or a technical exegetical treatment. It seeks to present the Biblical message in such a way that the serious Bible student will find extensive help within its pages.

The contributors to this commentary represent a total of more than fifteen denominational backgrounds. Among the forty-eight writers are professors in twenty-five schools of Christian higher education. With such a variety of backgrounds, it is to be expected that contributors will differ among themselves in some matters of interpretation. No editorial effort has been made to bring these differences into absolute conformity; writers have been given freedom of expression in such cases. The reader will discover, therefore, some differences in outlook on such instances as parallel passages in the Gospels and in the books of Kings and Chronicles.

#### Bibliography

Each of the books in this commentary is accompanied by a bibliography. Occasionally, when an author has treated related books (e.g., I, II Peter; I, II Thessalonians; Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther), he has chosen to place all of his bibliographies in one list. In such cases, the reader is directed to the full bibliographical listing.

The fact that a writer has included a given title does not mean that he recommends it as thoroughly conservative or thoroughly accurate. Writers have listed both works which they have referred to and those which will be of use to the reader. In the interests of standardization and economy of space, all annotations which might have classified books according to theological position and usefulness have been omitted.

Because many readers will be interested in knowing about conservative commentaries on the whole Bible or large sections of it, a few of the larger works are listed here. Old favorites are John Peter Lange's *Commentary on the Holy Scriptures* (24 vols.); C. J. Ellicott's *Commentary on the Whole Bible* (8 or 4 vols.); Matthew Henry's *Commentary on the Whole Bible* (6 vols. or 1 vol. abridgement); Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown's *A Commentary Critical, Experimental, and Practical on the Old and New Testaments* (6 vols. or 1 vol. abridgement); Matthew Henry, Thomas Scott, and others, *A Devotional Commentary on the Entire Bible*; and Alexander Maclaren's *Expositions of Holy Scripture* (25 vols.). A newer one-volume commentary that has enjoyed wide

usefulness is *The New Bible Commentary*, edited by F. Davidson, A. M. Stibbs, and E. F. Kevan. While no attempt is made here to mention works on individual books of either Testament, it would be too bad to ignore C. H. Spurgeon's great classic on the Psalms, *The Treasury of David* (6 vols.).

More specialized commentaries on one or the other of the Testaments — commentaries which are not too heavily loaded with Hebrew and Greek for the serious student of the English Bible to find them of some use — include the following: C. F. Keil and F. Delitzsch, *Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament* (25 vols.); Marvin H. Vincent, *Word Studies in the New Testament* (4 vols.); A. T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (6 vols.); and Henry Alford, *The Greek Testament* (4 vols.) or the one-volume *New Testament for English Readers*.

The student who is interested in questions of Biblical introduction, such as authorship, date, occasion for writing, and the like, will find the following four books helpful: Merrill F. Unger's *Introductory Guide to the Old Testament*; Henry C. Thiessen's *New Testament Introduction*; and D. Edmond Hiebert's *Introduction to the Pauline Epistles and Introduction to the Non-Pauline Epistles*. An especially useful conservative Bible atlas is *Baker's Bible Atlas*, prepared by Charles F. Pfeiffer; *Unger's Bible Dictionary* and the *New Bible Dictionary* provide information on special problems related to interpretation of Scripture.

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### Abbreviations

#### 1. Books of the Bible.

1. OT Gen Ex Lev Num Deut Josh Jud Ruth I Sam II Sam I Kgs II Kgs I Chr II Chr Ezr Neh Est Job Ps Prov Eccl Song Isa Jer Lam Ezk Dan Hos Joel Amos Ob Jon Mic Nah Hab Zeph Hag Zech Mal  
 2. NT Mt Mk Lk Jn Acts Rom I Cor II Cor Gal Eph Phil Col I Thess II Thess I Tim II Tim Tit Phm Heb Jas I Pet II Pet I Jn II Jn III Jn Jude Rev

#### 2. Apocrypha.

- I Esd (I Esdras); II Esd (II Esdras); Tob (Tobit); Wisd (Wisdom of Solomon); Sir (The Wisdom of Jesus the son of Sirach, or Ecclesiasticus); Bel (Bel and the Dragon); I Macc (I Maccabees); II Macc (II Maccabees)

#### 3. Periodicals, reference works, dictionaries, and versions.

- A-S Abbott-Smith, *Manual Greek Lexicon of the NT*  
 Alf Alford's *Greek Testament*  
 ANET *Ancient Near Eastern Texts*, ed. by Pritchard  
 Arndt Arndt-Gingrich, *Greek-English Lexicon*  
 ASV American Standard Version  
 AV Authorized Version  
 BA *Biblical Archaeologist*  
 BASOR *Bulletin, American Schools of Oriental Research*  
 BDB Brown, Driver, Briggs, *Hebrew-English Lexicon of the OT*  
 Beng Bengel's *Gnomon*  
 BS *Bibliotheca Sacra*  
 BTh *Biblical Theology*  
 BV Berkeley Version  
 CBSC Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges  
 Crem *Cremmer's Biblico-Theological Lexicon of NT Greek*  
 DeissBS Deissmann, *Bible Studies*  
 Deiss LAE Deissmann, *Light from the Ancient East*  
 EQ *Evangelical Quarterly*

- ERV English Revised Version (1881)  
 Exp *The Expositor*  
 ExpB *The Expositor's Bible*  
 ExpGT *The Expositor's Greek Testament*  
 ExpT *The Expository Times*  
 HDAC *Hastings' Dictionary of the Apostolic Church*  
 HDB *Hastings' Dictionary of the Bible*  
 HDCG *Hastings' Dictionary of Christ and the Gospels*  
 HERE *Hastings' Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*  
 HR Hatch and Redpath, *Concordance to the LXX*  
 HZNT *Handbuch zum Neuen Testament* (Lietzmann)  
 IB *Interpreter's Bible*  
 ICC *International Critical Commentary*  
 Interp *Interpretation*  
 ISBE *International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*  
 JewEnc *Jewish Encyclopaedia*  
 JBL *Journal of Biblical Literature*  
 JBR *Journal of Bible and Religion*  
 JFB Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown, *A Commentary Critical, Experimental and Practical on the Old and New Testaments*  
 JNES *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*  
 Jos Josephus' *Antiquities of the Jews, et al.*  
 JPS Jewish Publication Society Version of the Old Testament  
 JQR *Jewish Quarterly Review*  
 JTS *Journal of Theological Studies*  
 KB Koehler and Baumgartner, *Lexicon in Veteris*  
 KD Keil and Delitzsch, *Commentary on the OT*  
 LSJ Liddell, Scott, Jones, *Greek-English Lexicon*  
 LXX Septuagint  
 MM Moulton and Milligan, *The Vocabulary of the Gr. Test.*  
 MNT *Moffatt's New Testament Commentary*  
 MSt McClintock and Strong, *Cyclopaedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature*  
 MT Masoretic Text  
 Nestle Nestle (ed.) *Novum Testamentum Graece*  
 NovTest *Novum Testamentum*  
 NTS *New Testament Studies*  
 Pesh Peshitta (Syriac)  
 PTR Princeton Theological Review  
 RB *Revue Biblique*  
 RSV Revised Standard Version  
 RTWB *Richardson's Theological Word Book*

THE WYCLIFFE BIBLE COMMENTARY

- SBK *Kommentar zum Neuen Testament aus Talmud und Midrasch (Strack and Billerbeck)*
- SHERK *The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*
- ThT *Theology Today*
- Trench *Trench's Synonyms of the New Testament*
- TWNT *Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament (Kittel)*
- VT *Vetus Testamentum*
- Vulg *Vulgate Version*
- Wett *Wettstein's Novum Testamentum Graecum*
- WC *Westminster Commentaries*
- WH *Westcott and Hort, Text of the Greek NT*
- WTJ *Westminster Theological Journal*
- ZAW *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft*
- ZNW *Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft*

d. Others.

- A. D. *anno domini (in the year of our Lord)*
- art. *article*
- B. C. *Before Christ*
- c. *circa (about)*
- cen. *century*
- cf. *confer (compare)*
- ch. *chapter*
- Com. *Commentary*
- e. g. *exempli gratia (for example)*
- et al. *and others*
- f., ff. *following*
- Gr. *Greek*
- Heb. *Hebrew*
- i. e. *id est (that is)*
- marg. *margin, marginal reading*
- MS., MSS. *manuscript, manuscripts*
- p., pp. *page, pages*
- pl. *plural*
- sing. *singular*

Transliteration

Hebrew and Greek words have been transliterated according to the following form:

Greek	Consonants <sup>1</sup>	Hebrew	Vocalization <sup>2</sup>
α - a	א - ' א - m	בָּ - bā	בּ - bo <sup>3</sup>
α̂ - â	ב - b נ - n	בֹּ - bô	בּ - bu <sup>3</sup>
ε - e	ג - g ד - s	בּוּ - bû	בּ - be
η - ē	ד - d ך - ' ם - p	בֵּי - bē	בּ - bi <sup>3</sup>
η̂ - ê	ה - h ף - p	בֵּי - bē	בּ - bā
ο - o	ו - w ץ - s	בִּי - bî	בּ - bô
ω - ô	ז - z ק - q	בִּי - bî	בּ - bē
ω̂ - ô̂	ח - h ר - r	בִּי - bî	בּ - bô
ζ - z	ט - t ש - sh	בִּי - bî	בּ - bāh
θ - th	י - y שׁ - s	בִּי - bî	בּ - bā'
ξ - x	ך - k ת - t	בִּי - bî	בּ - bēh
υ - y	ל - l	בִּי - bî	בּ - beh
φ - ph			
χ - ch			
ψ - ps			
' - h			

<sup>1</sup>Dagesh lene is not indicated. Dagesh forte is represented by doubling the letter.

<sup>2</sup>This is an orthographic equation and not a scientific representation.

<sup>3</sup>In closed syllables.

Acknowledgments

The Publishers are greatly indebted to the editors of this volume, Dr. Charles F. Pfeiffer and Dr. Everett F. Harrison, and to the contributors, who have given their services so heartily. Especially appreciated is their outstanding co-operation in fulfilling the exacting requirements of a one-volume commentary of this kind. The Publishers also wish to acknowledge the splendid assistance of Dr. John Rea and Mr. Walter Dunnett, of the Moody Bible Institute Faculty, for their editorial help; of Mr. Herbert Klingbeil, director of Moody Correspondence School, for co-ordinating various aspects of the work; and of Dr. Howard F. Vos, textbook editor of Moody Press, for his detailed supervision of the work from its inception to its publication.

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