

**A COMMENTARY,
GRAMMATICAL AND
EXEGETICAL, ON
THE BOOK OF JOB, WITH
A TRANSLATION, VOL. I**

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A Commentary, Grammatical and Exegetical, on the Book of Job, with a Translation, Vol. I by
A. B. Davidson

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COMMENTARY,
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THE BOOK OF JOB;
WITH A TRANSLATION.

BY THE
REV. A. B. DAVIDSON, M.A.,
HEBREW TUTOR, NEW COLLEGE, EDINBURGH.

VOL. I.



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P R E F A C E.

THE object of the following Commentary is to exhibit what, upon the whole, seems to be the meaning of the Book of Job. It has been no part of its plan to accumulate all that others have said on Job, nor the names of all others that may already have said anything. Modern commentaries are often little else than mere roll-calls of names. A rational reader will expect and a rational writer will supply, not everything which all men in their attempts have heretofore advanced, but only what may now, after all these attempts, rationally be advanced. The aim of the book has been more to be positive than combative or destructive. No particular principle has been followed in referring to authorities, except that, as much as possible, the most modern and the most noted have been cited.

Any exposition now to be valuable or even bearable must base itself immovably on Grammar. For Grammar is the foundation of Analysis, Analysis of Exegesis, Exegesis of Biblical Theology, and Biblical Theology

of Dogmatic. We in this country have been not unaccustomed to begin at the other end, creating Exegesis and Grammar by deduction from Dogmatic, instead of discovering Dogmatic by induction from Grammar. A primary aim of the following Commentary has been to be Grammatical; and, that not only the results, but also the way by which they have been reached, may be visible, continuous references have been made to the chief grammatical treatises, English and German, now current—EWALD'S *Lehrbuch*, and the Grammars of GESENIUS, NORDHEIMER, GREEN and ROORDA, and in all cases to the latest editions. Hunting up these references is a process wearisome and tedious; and only the feeling that to students they are worth more than all besides, and not elsewhere to be found, could have encouraged perseverance in it. Of course EWALD stands foremost; indeed, in Syntax, out of sight of all others.

At the same time, as many have neither leisure nor inclination to pursue grammatical discussion, the results arrived at by that means, in the various sections, have been stated in larger type at the head of each section, under the hope that if the book be useful at all, it may be useful to more classes than one. This plan of exhibiting both the result and the process of reaching it, inevitably introduces some repetition; and whatever of that seems necessary from the plan will, no doubt, be excused; whatever of it is unnecessary is also inexcusable.

It is hardly to be expected but that older grammarians and exegetes will find many things defective

or even erroneous both in the plan and execution of the book. Perhaps they will remember that they have hitherto afforded no model. With the exception of the valuable Commentary on Genesis of Mr. WRIGHT, and the works of Mr. GINSBURG, a German writing in English, strict grammatical treatment of any portion of the Hebrew Scriptures appears a thing as yet unattempted in our language. Any effort in that direction thus naturally claims for itself some leniency, as being, whether successful or not, at least laudable. And its success will not be inconsiderable if, by contributing something, it stimulate others to contribute more to the explanation of this magnificent and most consoling portion of the Word of God, so that it shall no longer remain so mysterious, but become appreciable and available by the meanest sufferer.

The *Translation* aims simply to present plainly the meaning, and is intended to be considered part of the exposition; it claims no independent value, much less to come into any collision or even comparison with the Authorised. It was intended to introduce continuously into the notes all the divergencies of rendering of the Peshito and other Oriental versions; but these were found so numerous as materially to confuse and impede the progress of the annotation, without corresponding advantage. Collected lists of them shall be presented as Appendix at the end of the book.

Sufficient acknowledgment of obligation, it is hoped, has been made at the time and place where it was incurred; it may again be said that very much is owing to SCHLOTTMANN and STICKEL in the Introduc-

tion, and to EWALD in the Notes. A list of the chief helps employed will be found at the end of the Introduction.

The Second Volume, which, unless unforeseen circumstances interfere, will speedily follow, will naturally be somewhat larger than the present.

EDINBURGH,

April, 1862.