

**THE PSALMS IN  
HISTORY  
AND BIOGRAPHY**

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The Psalms in History and Biography by John Ker

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IN  
HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY.

BY THE  
REV. JOHN KER, D.D.

'Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.'  
—PSALM cix, 54.

EDINBURGH:  
ANDREW ELLIOT, 17 PRINCES STREET.  
1886.

*'What a record that would be, if one could write it down,—all the spiritual experiences, the disclosures of the heart, the comforts and the conflicts which men in the course of ages have connected with the words of the Psalms! What a history, if we could discover the place this Book has occupied in the inner life of the heroes of the Kingdom of God!'*—THOLUCK.

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### PREFATORY NOTE.



THE interest of this little work is increased by the fact that it was the last effort of my brother's mind. He had given the finishing touches to it with his own hand when he was suddenly called home. Like most men of strong faith, and deep insight into the human heart, he was especially fond of the Psalms, and nothing delighted him more when he was with a few chosen friends than to repeat one of his favourites, and to expatiate on its beauties.

Another thing may give interest to the work—my brother had begun to draw out a course of lectures on the Psalms for his class, to be given during the winter. These were to be treated more from an exegetical and doctrinal standpoint, and to show what a rich mine of wealth there is in them, 'for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in



righteousness.' But the voice of the teacher and friend will be heard no more, though many will long remember its winning tones, and Faith and Love can join him in that new song he is singing before the throne of God and of the Lamb.

And may we not hope that this, his latest work, 'sown in weakness, will be raised in power' to the glory of God, in drawing hearts more to this precious part of His word for comforting, quickening, and edifying, so that, though being dead, he yet may speak.

E. K. N.

EDINBURGH, *October 1856.*

## P R E F A C E



It would not be easy to number up the commentaries on the book of Psalms. Calmet, in the early part of last century, reckoned them at about a thousand, and from his time to Mr. Spurgeon's *Treasury of the House of David*, they have largely increased. The present little book has a simpler object in view. Its editor (he cannot call himself author) was struck many years ago with the manner in which the Psalms have pervaded human life, and made themselves felt in the most critical moments of action and suffering; and he began to note down instances, from time to time, as they occurred in the course of his reading. The passage from Tholuck, given on page iv., fell in his way, and confirmed a growing idea that a selection of them might be read with interest, and perhaps profit. The

wise man has said of words fitly spoken, that they are like 'apples of gold in pictures (baskets) of silver.' The incidents may be the silver baskets, the Psalms are certainly the golden apples, and the only work has been the gathering and storing them. In regard to this the words of good Bishop Horne in his Commentary on the Psalms may be adopted: 'If any one derive half the pleasure from reading that has been received in the collecting, the work is more than paid.'

Had all the incidents in ordinary biography been made available, there would have been no end of material; but an attempt has been made to limit the instances to persons or events of a more public character, or to such as throw some light on the psalm, or the portion of it quoted. On the other hand, the incidents, if merely named, would have been bare and colourless, and it has been felt necessary, in a number of cases, to describe briefly the circumstances in which the words were used. These incidents are not confined to what is commonly known as the Christian circle—first, because it might be presumptuous to draw any such marked line, and next, because one object was to show the broad humanity of the book of Psalms. Its plenteous rain