

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION. VOL. I

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Principles of Biblical interpretation. Vol. I by J. A. Ernesti & Charles H. Terrot

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J. A. ERNESTI & CHARLES H. TERROT

**PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL
INTERPRETATION. VOL. I**

PRINCIPLES
OF
BIBLICAL
INTERPRETATION,
TRANSLATED FROM THE
INSTITUTIO INTERPRETIS

OF
J. A. ERNESTI,

BY
CHARLES H. TERROT, A. M.
LATE FELLOW OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

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MDCCCXXXII.

TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE AND RIGHT REVEREND

CHARLES-JAMES,

LORD BISHOP OF LONDON,

THE FOLLOWING PAGES

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BY THE

TRANSLATOR.

TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

EVERY man who attaches a meaning to a text of Scripture, so far acts as an interpreter of Scripture. And in an age when almost all can read, and when, it may be hoped, many more than at any former period, are seriously occupied with the study of the Word of God, it cannot be considered as a useless undertaking, to endeavour to fix some Principles of Biblical Interpretation. And when the character of the times is such, that every sober Christian must daily come in contact with schemes of doctrine which to him are perfectly new, and hear them supported by texts of Scripture which he has been accustomed to understand in a very different sense; under such circumstances, he must be desirous of obtaining some

rules, whereby he may account, not merely to an opponent, but still more to his own conscience, for believing that these texts mean one thing rather than another.

Among ourselves, sound general learning and native talent have enabled many men to become good expositors of Scripture : but Biblical Interpretation has not, among us, been formed into a science ; nor have any very memorable attempts been made to reduce its principles into a system. In Germany, on the contrary, *Hermeneutics*, as distinguished from *Exegesis* ; that is to say, the Principles of Interpretation, as distinguished from Actual Interpretation, have long occupied the attention of scholars. Among these, Morus, Keil, Beck, Seiler, and Jahn, are eminent ; but, by the concurrent testimony, both of Protestant and Romish critics, the *Institutio* of Ernesti still retains the same rank in Hermeneutics that the Elements of Euclid do in Geometry.

John Augustus Ernesti, born in 1707, was educated at the Universities of Leipzic and Wittenberg ; and became, successively, Master of the School of St. Thomas at Leipzic, Pro-

fessor of ancient Literature, of Eloquence, and of Philosophy, in the University there; and died in 1781. His name, as an accomplished Editor of the Latin and Greek Classics, is well known to many who are not acquainted with him as a theologian. His theological works, however, are numerous and valuable, consisting of Sermons in German, 1728. *Neue Theologische Bibliothek*, 1760—68. *Opuscula Theologica*, 1773. And *Institutio Interpretis Nov. Test.* 1761.

Of the last named work, a translation is now offered to the British Student. The edition used is the 5th edited by Dr. Ammon of Gotha, 1809. All the notes of that editor are translated; in some cases, the Translator has given his reasons for dissenting from the conclusions of Ammon, and, in others, has appended additional notes of his own. It is possible, that the whole may be thought an unnecessary labour, after the publication of "*Elements of Biblical Criticism*," &c. &c. by M. Stuart of Andover, U. S. and its republication by Dr. Henderson of the Mission College, Hoxton. But the following translation is intended to form