

**AN INTERPRETATION OF
THE ENGLISH BIBLE. THE
HEBREW MONARCHY**

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An Interpretation of the English Bible. The Hebrew Monarchy by B. H. Carroll & J. B. Cranfill

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B. H. CARROLL & J. B. CRANFILL

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THE HEBREW MONARCHY

An Interpretation of the English Bible

The Hebrew Monarchy

✓ BY

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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

THE Hebrew Monarchy" is the eleventh volume of "Carroll's Interpretation of the English Bible." They have been published in the following order: "Revelation," "Genesis," "Exodus-Leviticus," "Numbers to Ruth," "The Pastoral Epistles," "Daniel and the Inter-Biblical Period," "The Four Gospels," Volume I, "The Four Gospels," Volume II, "The Acts," and "James, Thessalonians, Corinthians."

The present volume concerns itself with the transition period marking the change of the government of the Hebrew nation from that of the judges to that of the kings. Only three kings are considered—Saul, David and Solomon. The book is of intense interest from its opening sentence to its closing word. There is nothing known to me in the catalogue of commentaries covering this period that is more luminous or that holds a greater interest for the Bible student than the present volume. Not only does Dr. Carroll deal with the history, which in itself grips the reader with an enduring charm, but as he progresses in the interpretation of the history he brings to us lessons new and old out of the Divine Word that cannot fail to edify, enlighten, and strengthen every one who shall be so fortunate as to peruse these pages.

In going over this manuscript and preparing it for publication I feel that I have been treading upon sacred ground. It was revised by Dr. Carroll in his last illness while he lay in bed, and the marks of his fast increasing infirmity of body abound throughout the volume. His mind was keen and incisive to the end, and never shone brighter than in his

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

labors on this discussion of the last of the judges, the first of the prophets, and the first of the kings of the Hebrew people.

In his interpretation of the Bible Dr. Carroll is at once plain, simple and profound. His words are those that are loved and used in the every-day speech of the multitude. He has never sought to be technical or didactical. On the contrary, by every means at his command (and he was a master of English diction and composition), he has sought to clarify the text of the English Bible and so interpret it as to bring it within the radius of the comprehension of the unlettered, while at the same time investing it with deep interest for the scholar. In all the range of literature of its class there is none that shows a more intimate understanding of the popular mind and at the same time of God's Word and its adaptation to the hearts of the common people than "Carroll's Interpretation of the English Bible."

In his last illness Dr. Carroll was greatly concerned for the proper presentation and exploitation of this and the other volumes that compose this series. He realized that his earthly labors had come to a close, and that the revision of his future works must be performed by other hands. So it has fallen out that Rev. J. W. Crowder and the writer of this introduction have in hand the final shaping of this and the other volumes that are to follow.

More and more as I have addressed myself anew to this task have I been impressed with the strength and wisdom of these words of Dr. Cunningham Geikie which appear in the preface to the second volume of his "Hours with the Bible:" "Life is so short and its responsibilities so great, that honest diligence is alike a necessity and a duty." With this motto thus borne in upon my heart I shall with re-doubled energy, earnestness and zeal labor to perform the task that I undertook while the great Dr. B. H. Carroll was in the flush of perfect health, and which, because he has now gone home