

COMMENTARY ON THE OLD TESTAMENT

C. F. KEIL AND F. DELITZSCH

This new, updated edition of *Commentary on the Old Testament*, by C. F. Keil and F. Delitzsch, is based on the English edition originally published by T. & T. Clark, Edinburgh. There have been no material alterations of the contents. The publishers have, however, made improvements, making this a more accurate and useful commentary. In this edition all Greek and Hebrew has been proofread, and some century-old errors have been corrected. Abbreviations have been modernized, and Bible references are easier for the modern reader to follow, since roman numerals in biblical references have been translated to arabic. Arabic words, originally in arabic characters, have been transliterated for the benefit of English readers. Since the verses discussed in each paragraph are listed at the start of the paragraphs and in the running heads, readers can now quickly find the section discussing the text in which they are interested, as well as any cross-referenced texts.

This edition uses a more efficient and readable font designed especially for this reprint. Formerly the formatting of each volume varied, but in this edition the formatting of all ten volumes has been standardized. Commentary on Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther is now contained in volume 4 rather than volume 3, making all volumes approximately the same length. Long and unwieldy paragraphs have been broken into more manageable units. Rather than having tables of contents hidden within the volumes, each volume now has continuous pagination and a single table of contents; it is now a simple matter to locate the text or passage in question. All of these changes make this edition of Keil and Delitzsch's *Commentary on the Old Testament* easier to read and use.

The publisher is confident that long-time fans of Keil and Delitzsch's *Commentary on the Old Testament* will welcome this refurbished old friend and that those just beginning to explore the riches of Keil and Delitzsch will find a vast wealth of knowledge that is unintimidating and readily accessible.

PREFACE

The Old Testament is the basis of the New. "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake unto the fathers by the prophets, hath spoken unto us by His only-begotten Son." The Church of Christ is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets. For Christ came not to destroy the law or the prophets, but to fulfil. As He said to the Jews, "Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of Me;" so also, a short time before His ascension, He opened the understanding of His disciples, that they might understand the Scriptures, and beginning at Moses and all the prophets, expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. With firm faith in the truth of this testimony of our Lord, the fathers and teachers of the Church in all ages have studied the Old Testament Scriptures, and have expounded the revelations of God under the Old Covenant in learned and edifying works, unfolding to the Christian community the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God which they contain, and impressing them upon the heart, for doctrine, for reproof, for improvement, for instruction in righteousness. It was reserved for the Deism, Naturalism, and Rationalism which became so prevalent in the closing quarter of the eighteenth century, to be the first to undermine the belief in the inspiration of the first covenant, and more and more to choke up this well of saving truth; so that at the present day depreciation of the Holy Scriptures of the Old Testament is as widely spread as ignorance of what they really contain. At the same time, very much has been done during the last thirty years on the part of believers in divine revelation, to bring about a just appreciation and correct understanding of the Old Testament Scriptures.

May the Lord grant His blessing upon our labours, and assist with His own Spirit and power a work designed to promote the knowledge of His holy Word.

F. Keil