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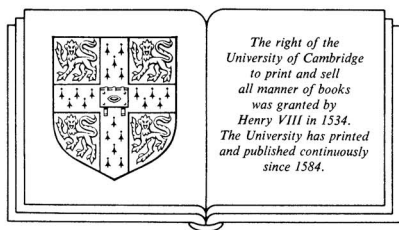
THE APOCALYPSE AND SEMITIC SYNTAX

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The Apocalypse and Semitic Syntax

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PREFACE

At a time when the student of the New Testament is confronted by its urgent social and theological issues, he may be tempted to question whether the writing of a monograph on its grammar can be justified. During the dozen years of continuous pressure from pastorate and lecture room since beginning this research, I have often faced this question. My affirmative answer to it stems from a conviction that a thorough understanding of the language of the New Testament is the key to its message. I am especially indebted for this conviction to my first teacher of Greek, Dr Philip Scoyle, and to Matthew Black who, as professor of biblical criticism in the University of St Andrews, suggested the topic and supervised the dissertation from which this book has grown. He inspired me by the suggestion that it could someday appear in print. I am grateful to Drs A.J.M. Wedderburn and Nigel Turner for reading the dissertation and offering valuable suggestions. Sympathetic scrutiny of my work by Professor R.McL. Wilson, Dr Margaret Thrall, and Professor G.N. Stanton of the Society for New Testament Studies accompanied its acceptance for publication in the Monograph Series. Their suggestions, along with those of the sub-editor appointed by the Cambridge University Press, have led to remarkable improvements which I appreciate. Thanks are due to the Seventh-day Adventist Church of the British Isles for making adjustments to my pastoral duties in order to accommodate my research. I pay tribute to my typists Wendy Brown and Elaine Ginbey, and to the administration of Newbold College for funding the preparation of the typescript. My tenderest tribute is reserved for Ellen Kristin, who during those years of intensive research remained, in the words of Apocalypse 1:9, my 'companion in tribulation . . . and patient endurance'.

April 1984

S.T.

ABBREVIATIONS

Apc.	The Apocalypse
BAG	W. Bauer, W.F. Arndt and F.W. Gingrich, <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament</i>
BDB	F. Brown, S.R. Driver, C. Briggs, <i>A Hebrew and English Lexicon</i>
BGU	Aegyptische Urkunden aus den königlichen Museen zu Berlin
Bl-D	F. Blass and A. Debrunner, <i>A Greek Grammar of The New Testament</i> (trans. by R. Funk)
Charles I (II)	R.H. Charles, <i>A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Revelation of St. John</i> , 2 vols.
GK	Gesenius-Kautzsch (Cowley), <i>Hebrew Grammar</i> , 2nd edn
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
LS-J	Liddell and Scott-Jones, <i>Greek-English Lexicon</i> , 9th edn (with a Supplement)
LXX	The Septuagint
MT	Masoretic Text
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
PSI	Publicazioni della Società Italiana: Papiri Greci e Latini, I-XI, 1912-35
Symm.	Symmachus
Theod.	Theodotion
<i>TDNT</i>	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i>
<i>ZAW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>

Among the standard text-critical abbreviations employed are the following:

<i>al</i>	others (alia)
*	reading of original hand of a manuscript
boh	Bohairic

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Abbreviations

x

copt	Coptic
ethio	Ethiopic
gig	Gigas (Old Latin manuscript)
latt	combined Latin versions
mg	textual evidence contained in manuscript margins
minusc.	minuscule
sah	Sahidic
syr	Syriac
vg	Vulgate

Please note that the convention of omitting breathing and accent marks on variant readings cited in brackets is followed in this work.