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CAMBRIDGE GREEK TESTAMENT COMMENTARY

*GENERAL EDITOR*

C. F. D. MOULE

*Emeritus Lady Margaret's Professor of Divinity in the  
University of Cambridge*

THE GOSPEL  
ACCORDING TO  
SAINT MARK

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# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MARK

AN INTRODUCTION AND  
COMMENTARY BY

C. E. B. CRANFIELD

*Emeritus Professor of Theology, University of Durham*



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## PREFACE

BY THE GENERAL EDITOR

The last fifty years have seen a considerable shift in emphasis within New Testament scholarship. When the primary task was to establish the text and to discuss the authenticity of the documents, linguistic and historical considerations were foremost. But gradually, as these foundation-tasks were done, it became possible to devote increasing attention to the elucidation of the theological and religious contents of the New Testament, and to see it in the setting of the life and worship of Christian communities.

To be sure, no scholarship worthy of the name had at any time neglected this aspect of New Testament studies; still less can this aspect be examined without the linguistic and historical: that would be to build on sand. Nor can the primary tasks ever be taken as completed once and for all. Foundations need continual re-examination and reinforcement.

Nevertheless, it is for the sake of the superstructure that foundations exist: and it is the superstructure which now rightly claims its due attention. Accordingly, the time seems ripe for a revision of the New Testament volumes of a long-established series of Cambridge biblical commentaries.

Not that the intention is—as yet, at any rate—to replace all the old volumes; still less to belittle those which are selected for replacement. It would be folly to despise a series begun under the editorship of J. J. S. Perowne with a galaxy of eminent collaborators, and maintained at a high standard ever since.

But it is believed that the new series, in a more attractive format and written with contemporary trends in view and with the advantage of such new material as has come to light, will meet a need.

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#### PREFACE

The series began, in 1877, with *The Cambridge Bible for Schools* (on the English text) and, shortly afterwards, with *The Cambridge Greek Testament for Schools and Colleges*. At the present time, however, it seems better not to use titles suggesting any definition of the readers. There are many beyond school age who will welcome a commentary without Greek; and there are some outside the Universities who will use one on the Greek text. The new series—confining itself for the time being to the Greek Testament—will therefore be called simply the *Cambridge Greek Testament Commentary*.

The first General Editor of this new series was Professor A. M. Ramsey; and it was under him that the first contributors, including the present General Editor, were enrolled. Professor Ramsey's elevation to the See of Durham, however, led to his resignation; and at about the same time one of the pledged collaborators, the Rev. R. G. Heard, Dean of Peterhouse, was removed by death.

It falls to the new General Editor to take up the midwifery, and this he is proud to attempt—although, like his predecessors, he does not accept responsibility for all the views expressed by the children, but only for their general character and conduct.

*et sit splendor Domini Dei nostri super nos!  
et opus manuum nostrarum dirige.*

*Amen.*

C.F.D.M

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References to books and articles cited more than once are by abbreviated titles; commentaries on Mark are cited by the author's name alone. The details are given below. Details of books and articles cited only once are given at the citation.

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## OTHER ABBREVIATIONS

LXX: The 'Septuagint' version of the Old Testament.

M.T.: The Masoretic text of the Hebrew Old Testament.

R.V.: The English Revised Version.

R.S.V.: The American Revised Standard Version.

*v.l.*: *varia lectio*. (*v.ll.*: *variae lectiones*.)

Hebrew words are transliterated in accordance with the table in H. H. Rowley (ed.), *The Old Testament and Modern Study* (Oxford, 1951), p. xiii.

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## NOTE ON THE SECOND, THIRD AND LATER IMPRESSIONS

While only a few minor corrections have been made in the body of the commentary, a number of supplementary notes have been added. Those added at the second impression will be found on pp. 477 ff.; attention is drawn to individual notes by an asterisk in the margin of the text. In the third and later impressions a dagger is used to draw attention to the additional supplementary notes on pp. 490 ff.

C.E.B.C.