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THE CAMBRIDGE BIBLE COMMENTARY

NEW ENGLISH BIBLE

GENERAL EDITORS

P. R. ACKROYD, A. R. C. LEANEY, J. W. PACKER

UNDERSTANDING
THE NEW TESTAMENT

Cambridge University Press

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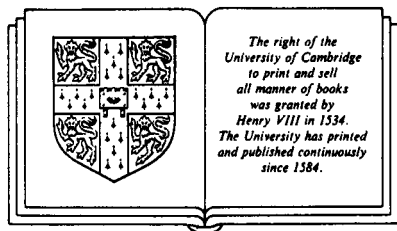
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GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

The aim of this series is to provide commentaries and other books about the Bible, based on the text of the New English Bible, and in these various volumes to make available to the general reader the results of modern scholarship. Teachers and young people preparing for such examinations as the General Certificate of Education at Ordinary or Advanced Level in Britain and similar qualifications elsewhere, have been especially kept in mind. The commentators have been asked to assume no specialized theological knowledge, and no knowledge of Greek or Hebrew. Bare references to other literature and multiple references to other parts of the Bible have been avoided. Actual quotations have been given as often as possible.

This volume is designed to provide in somewhat greater detail the background information which is needed for the study of the books of the New Testament and which can only be sketched in very brief form in the separate commentary volumes. It outlines the larger historical background, says something about the growth and transmission of the text, and tries to answer the question 'Why should we study the New Testament?' It is linked also by its content with another volume, *New Testament Illustrations*, which provides in the form of maps, diagrams and photographs information which also supplements the commentaries. Both these volumes have been planned with the commentary series in mind, but are quite independent of it, and it is hoped that they will be useful to other readers as well.

P. R. A.
A. R. C. L.
J. W. P.

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EDITOR'S PREFACE

Chapter 2 owes much of its material to the Reverend H. St J. Hart of Queens' College Cambridge, who has permitted the editor to make use of a first draft of a book he is preparing on the history and thought of the period between the Testaments. He has also given much time to answering queries and making suggestions for the improvement of the chapter, but the editor takes full responsibility for its final form.

The editor wishes also to express gratitude to the other contributors to the volume and also to the General Editors of the series for their help, as well as to her colleagues at William Temple College.

O.J.L.

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