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THE CAMBRIDGE BIBLE COMMENTARY
NEW ENGLISH BIBLE

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

OLD TESTAMENT ILLUSTRATIONS

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OLD TESTAMENT ILLUSTRATIONS

Photographs, maps and diagrams
compiled and introduced by
CLIFFORD M. JONES
University of Leeds Institute of Education



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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 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 the form of maps, diagrams and photographs, information which will supplement the commentaries, giving in some detail, and in graphic form, material which can at best be briefly alluded to in that series. It is linked by its content with two other volumes, (1) *Understanding the Old Testament*, which sets out to provide the larger historical and archaeological background, to say something about the life and thought of the people of the Old Testament, and to try to answer the question 'Why should we study the Old Testament?' (2) *The Making of the Old Testament*, which is concerned with the formation of the books of the Old Testament and Apocrypha in the context of the ancient near eastern world, and with the ways in which these books have come down to us in the life of the Jewish and Christian communities. These three volumes have been designed to provide material helpful to the understanding of the individual books and their commentaries, but can be used quite independently of them. The success of similar volumes in the New Testament series encourages the belief that these will be found equally valuable to a wide range of readers.

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

AUTHOR'S NOTE

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C.M.J.

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ABOUT THIS BOOK

The Bible is often said to be a best seller, and statistics confirm the truth of the statement; but it cannot safely be assumed that all those who buy the Bible also read it regularly or with understanding. Many who begin to study the Bible find its language so technical and its ancient eastern background so unfamiliar that they are unable to derive from it either enjoyment or profit, and they quickly give up the attempt to make sense of it and eventually cease to read it.

The Old Testament in particular suffers in this respect. More daunting in size, much more diverse in content and style, and much more remote from us in time than the New Testament, it is for many, both literally and metaphorically, a closed book. If, as Christians claim, the Bible is the Word of God, this neglect of it is particularly serious. Can anything be done to stimulate greater interest in the Old Testament and to make it more comprehensible to those who read it? This volume has been compiled in the belief that it can. Old Testament topics are illustrated by means of photographs, maps and plans, charts and diagrams, and brief explanatory comments accompany the illustrations. In this way it is hoped that light will be thrown on the background of the Old Testament and that deeper understanding of the history and religion of Israel and her neighbours will result.

It cannot be claimed that the Apocrypha and the Old Testament are completely and evenly covered in this book, for the simple reason that not all parts of the Bible are equally suitable for illustration by means of the graphic arts. The content of the book has therefore been partly determined by the illustrations that are available. This collection of illustrations is intended as a companion to the Old Testament volumes of *The Cambridge Bible Commentary*, and the serious student will fill the obvious gaps in this book by studying it side by side with the commentaries.

A large number of the photographs are of archaeological remains, and in studying them it is particularly important to remember what biblical archaeology is, and what it is not; what it claims to do, and what it does not claim to do. Chapter 2 should therefore be carefully read, so that unwarranted conclusions are not drawn from the considerable number of illustrations of archaeological subjects.

Postage stamps issued by countries in the Near East frequently depict Old Testament subjects, but for technical reasons it has not been possible to reproduce photographs of any of them here. Stamp-collectors reading this book may find this an interesting and instructive aspect of their hobby, and they will be able to

obtain lists from the usual agents. Mr M. H. Bale, 41 High Street, Ilfracombe, England, is a recognized specialist in this field.

Although this collection of illustrations has been compiled with *The Cambridge Bible Commentary* specially in mind, it can equally well be used with another standard commentary on the Old Testament, or indeed without resort to any commentary. The indexes have been prepared with special care, so that if they are consulted and the references are followed up, it will often be the case that light will be thrown on the subject being studied, and the reader will be helped to reach a better understanding of a difficult Bible passage or to gain a visual impression of a biblical incident, an Old Testament location, or a religious object.

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The Background of the Old Testament

