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Edited by Enid B. Mellor
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THE CAMBRIDGE BIBLE COMMENTARY

NEW ENGLISH BIBLE

General Editors: P. R. ACKROYD, A. R. C. LEANEY, J. W. PACKER

THE MAKING OF
THE OLD TESTAMENT

EDITED BY

ENID B. MELLOR

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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.

The completion of the New Testament part of the series in 1967 provides a basis upon which the production of the much larger Old Testament and Apocrypha series can be undertaken. The welcome accorded to the series has been an encouragement to the editors to follow the same general pattern, and an attempt has been made to take account of criticisms which have been offered.

The series is accompanied by three volumes of a more general character, designed to provide in somewhat greater detail the background information which is needed for the study of the books of the Old Testament and which can only be sketched in very brief form in the separate commentary volumes. This one, *The Making of the Old Testament*, 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. Its companion, *Understanding the Old Testament*, sets out to

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provide the larger historical and archaeological background, to say something about the life and thought of the people of the Old Testament, and to answer the question 'Why should we study the Old Testament?'. The third volume, *Old Testament Illustrations*, contains maps, diagrams and photographs with an explanatory text. These three volumes are designed to provide material helpful to the understanding of the individual books and their commentaries, but they are also prepared so as to be of use quite independently.

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

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EDITOR'S PREFACE

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E. B. M.

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