

PREFACE

My teaching of the Old Testament has over the years of necessity involved me in technical questions of various kinds. However interesting these may at times have been, my main interest and pleasure have always lain in its exposition, i.e. the discovery, not simply of its linguistic meaning, but above all of its spiritual message, with its timeless revelation of God's will and character.

The writing of these studies, eleven of which first appeared in *The Hebrew Christian*, the quarterly organ of the Hebrew Christian Alliance, has been a labour of love, and it has given me great pleasure that they have been considered worth a more permanent form and a wider circle of readers.

The exposition has been based on RSV, but all the more widely used translations have been referred to. The frequent references to traditional Jewish interpretation can be explained by the interests of the original readers, but they should be of value to a wider circle, both when they are correct and also when they have little validity.

Numerous Hebrew words have been given in transliteration, so that those interested can carry out some linguistic research on their own, even if they know no Hebrew. The transliteration used is the simplified one employed by Young's Analytical Concordance, except that *h* is used in preference to the guttural *ch*, and that the two gutturals, normally unpronounced in modern Hebrew, Aleph and

Ayin are represented by ' and ' ; *q* has the sound of *k* pronounced far back in the mouth.

My hope and prayer are that these chapters may cause their readers to study the Old Testament more deeply for themselves, for it was of the Old Testament that Paul wrote, "All scripture is inspired by God and profitable".