

Other Works by the Same Author

EZEKIEL: THE MAN AND HIS MESSAGE

MEN SPAKE FROM GOD

Studies in the Prophets of the Old Testament

THE CENTRALITY OF THE MESSIANIC IDEA
FOR THE OLD TESTAMENT

FROM TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH

The Message of the Book of Job

By

H. L. ELLISON, B.A., B.D.



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To my Friends
ISAAC and LYDIA FEINSTEIN
who have shown me,
one in death,
the other in life,
how to suffer to the glory of
God

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PREFACE

I UNDERTOOK the obligation to furnish a series of studies on the Book of Job to *The Hebrew Christian Quarterly* something more than three years ago. I had hardly started my task, when a period of suffering and distress broke over me, which profoundly affected my understanding of the book and the scale of my treatment of it. These studies have now been thoroughly revised and considerably expanded.

There are few books of the Bible more difficult to write on than Job. One may, on the one hand, give one's interpretation of the thought but entirely lose touch with the actual text in so doing. On the other hand one may so occupy oneself with the difficulties of the language that the spiritual message and the poetry become swamped under textual and linguistic comments. However much my exposition may have dressed itself in modern clothes, I have always tried to see to it that it does not stray far from the text; since poetry is as much understood by the heart as by the brain, I have not troubled overmuch about minor difficulties in the R.V.—the A.V. is generally only then mentioned, when there was need to warn against its rendering—when I thought that the general meaning was clear.

The main writings on *Job* I have leaned on will be found by referring to the list of abbreviations. My thanks are due to Messrs. Burns & Oates for their gracious permission to quote Monsignor Ronald Knox's translation of 12: 13–25 as well as of odd verses elsewhere. The text printed at the beginning of chapters or sections is that of the R.V., with the substitution of the marginal renderings, when these are generally accepted as superior.

My hope is that just as Job's anguish brought me comfort in the days of my distress, so this book will make the triumph of Job more real and a greater blessing to others who pass through distress.

H. L. ELLISON.