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SCRIPTURE

THE QUARTERLY OF THE CATHOLIC BIBLICAL ASSOCIATION

VOL. IV. No. 8

OCTOBER 1950

EDITORIAL

During May it was my privilege to be able to make a Jubilee visit to Rome and it seemed opportune to profit by the occasion to obtain a special Blessing from the Holy Father for our Association. A volume of *SCRIPTURE* was bound in white silk to be presented to the Holy Father. Owing to the extremely full programme of His Holiness during that month it was not possible at such short notice to obtain a private audience, and the volume was given to someone else who undertook to present it to the Pope as soon as possible. This was done, and in due course the following gracious letter from the Vatican was received :—

*Segreteria di Stato
di Sua Santità*

DAL VATICANO,
11th July 1950

Dear Father Fuller,

At the August bidding of the Sovereign Pontiff, I am to acknowledge receipt of the volume entitled *SCRIPTURE*, the Quarterly of the Catholic Biblical Association, which you so graciously presented to Him a short time ago.

The Holy Father is very appreciative of the spirit of devoted homage and attachment which animated you in making this book available to Him, and He has bade me convey to you His expression of heartfelt gratitude. It was a source of pleasure and satisfaction for His Holiness to note the great zeal with which the members of the Catholic Biblical Association are labouring to instill a greater love and appreciation for the word of God in the hearts of all men.

With an earnest prayer that our Divine Lord may prosper all the efforts and activities of your Association, the Holy Father affectionately bestows upon you and upon all who are associated with you in this work, His special Apostolic Benediction.

With sentiments of esteem and cordial regard, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Signed) J. B. MONTINI,
Subst.

Lectures. Following on the course of Biblical lectures by Dr Leahy which ended last spring, we have a further series by the same lecturer, starting 6th October. The lectures are every Friday from 6.30 to 8.15 at the Newman Association, 31 Portman Square, London, W.1. This time Dr Leahy has chosen the Old Testament as his subject. The course covers a wide field and is intended to be a comprehensive introduction to the Old Testament aiming at giving some acquaintance with a selected number of its Books. It is hoped that the course will encourage people to read the Old Testament with greater attention and interest. The fee for the whole course of twenty-four lectures is £1 10s. 0d. Members of the Newman and Catholic Biblical Associations are charged £1 for the course. Full time students, 10s. All applications should be made to the Registrar, Newman Association, 31 Portman Square, W.1. Telephone: Welbeck 9958.

Lending Library. After a year of homelessness, this library has now been housed at the Newman Association and it is hoped that it will be in working order in a very short time. Terms of borrowing will be as before until further notice. Application for books should be made to the C.B.A. Librarian, Newman Association, 31 Portman Square, London, W.1.

THE ESCHATOLOGY OF THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS¹

INTRODUCTORY

IF the subject which we have chosen is dry it may be some consolation for you to know that it is fashionable; we might even say that it is all the rage. But this would be small comfort for a serious assembly were it not that the topic is also of some moment. I should say of the greatest moment. It is inseparable from the fundamental question of the Kingdom of God. As you know, the establishment of the kingdom of God was the whole purpose of Christ's coming. Not the partial purpose but the whole purpose. Now this notion of the Kingdom is complex, and the complexity is not the result of our speculation, it is forced upon us by the plain meaning of a series of texts—of texts whose authenticity cannot reasonably be called in doubt. It follows that there are many avenues leading to this many-sided thing, affording us a prospect of some wing of it. Of these, eschatology is one and not the least.

Now that we have used the ugly word 'eschatology' we must say what we mean by it in order to avoid all confusion and, which comes

¹ A paper read at the Conference of Ecclesiastical Studies, held at Campion Hall, Oxford, during Easter Week, 1950.