

Bible Comment: Literature, Yes; But First of All A Book of God

Many books about the Bible, particularly in recent years, have dealt with the Bible as literature, or as a book of human interest.

This approach is valid as far as it goes. It did not need translation of the Hebrew and Greek texts to reveal its greatness as literature. But the printing of the Bible in English—arising out of an age which produced Shakespeare—gave it a pre-eminent place in the literature of the English-speaking world.

In human interest, too, the Bible is a captivating and profoundly revealing book about man. The archeologist and the anthropologist can find in many of its pages much that is significant.

But the Bible is primarily the book about God. The unbeliever who looks to it for literature may pay it the compliment of his interest. But he misses its true worth, and though he may not realize it, he actually uses it despitely, through failing to recognize what it is.

The Bible is great as literature because of the greatness of the ideas, quests and the truth with which it deals.

It is not merely a cliché to suggest that one can find true spiritual uplifting from reading the pages of the Bible.

For sheer spiritual courage there are few prayers that can surpass that which appears in Psalm 139:23, 24:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me into the way everlasting."

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