

Xavier Leon-Dufour (Ed.)

Dictionary of Biblical Theology,  
Theological Publications in India (TPI), St.  
Peter's Seminary, Bangalore – 560055, 712pp.  
Rs. 45.00.

The Theological Publications in India (TPI) deserves unreserved gratitude for having made available to the Indian readers a very valuable volume so inexpensively priced: *Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. The volume is ideal for anyone who is interested in biblical theology. Throughout the work there is a scientific serenity, and in catering to the interests of the scholar the authors have not lost sight of the needs of the ordinary reader. It is, in other words, scientific and pastoral at the same time. It could be recommended for a *vademecum* not only to teachers and students of theology and the Bible, but also to preachers

The book was originally published in 1962 by *Les Editions du Cerf, Paris*, under the title *Vocabulaire de théologie biblique*. Seventy French-speaking biblical scholars collaborated to bring out the French edition. Rev. Xavier Leon-Dufour S.J., besides contributing articles, took up also the direction of editing this superb volume. An English translation of this work, published in 1967 by Desclee and Co. Inc., New York, was prepared by Rev. P. Joseph Cahill S.J. under whose direction several others collaborated. Meanwhile, a completely revised and expanded edition in French was being prepared, and it was published in 1968 by the original publishers themselves. An English translation of the second edition came out in 1973 through the Geoffrey Chapman Publishers. The original teams of scholars and translators are responsible also for the revised edition and translation, respectively. The TPI has now published the English translation of the second edition, the volume under review.

The dictionary deals with key biblical terms from a theological point of view. Two important essays – one on the nature of biblical theology and the other on the literary history of the Bible – provide an introduction to this work which contains three hundred and twenty three learned articles. Cross references are given at the end of each article in order to help the reader looking for extended information to find without difficulty the extra-information on the theme that interests him. In the analytic table given at the end of the book, those words to which no article has been devoted but which can be associated with one or other article have also been given. This makes the book more easy to use. But it should be stated that the reader will not find every word with a theological connotation or association, nor even all the synonyms of the words dealt with in the articles in the alphabetical sequence. On the other hand, the reader will find there certain traditional terms connected with biblical language such as *decalogue*, *deposit* etc., some words related to the words dealt with in the articles, such as *devil*, *road* etc. and some current expressions that one would expect to find treated, such as *eschatology*, *parousia* and so on. One may refer to the analytic table to find out whether the term that interests him is mentioned there or not. It should be also observed that for reasons of economy, some words have been grouped together under one entry, such as *Repentance/Conversion*, *Sickness/Healing*, *Trial/Temptation*. Quite often, precise directions enable the reader to find the exact place in the article to which he is referred.

In addition to the analytic table, there is also given a concise index at the end of the volume. It presents a synthesis of biblical theology. Relevant terms treated in the book are brought under three main headings: A. God, Father and Creator, His Plan. B. The Lord Jesus, Saviour. C. The Holy Spirit and the Life of the Church. As is obvious, this index is also a guidance to the reader who would like to study the Bible from various specific aspects.

Thomas Kalayil