

*Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament, Vol. V*

G. Johannes Botterweck and Helmer Ringgren, Editors. Translated by David E. Green, Eerdmans pub. Co. Michigan, 1986, \$ 27.50.

A major, multi-volume reference work in which the key Hebrew and Aramaic words of the Old Testament are discussed in depth, *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament* promises to be as fundamental for Old Testament studies as its companion set, the *Kittel-Friedrich Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* is for the study of the New Testament. Leading scholars of various religious traditions, and from many parts of the world have been carefully selected for each article by Editors Botterweck and Ringgren and their consultants, George W. Anderson, Henri Cazelles, David Noel Freedman, Shemarjahu Talmon, and Gerhard Wallis.

The intention of the writers is to concentrate on meaning, starting from the narrower, everyday senses and building to an understanding of theologically significant concepts. To avoid artificially restricting the focus of the articles the way many theological dictionaries do, TDOT considers

under each keyword the larger groups of words that are related linguistically or semantically. The lexical work includes detailed surveys of a word's occurrences, not only in biblical material but elsewhere in the ancient Near East as well. Sumerian, Akkadian, Egyptian, Ethiopic, Ugartic, and Northwest Semitic sources are surveyed, among others, as well as the Qumran texts and the Septuagint; and in cultures where no cognate word exists, often cognate ideas are considered. The emphasis, though, is on Hebrew terminology and on biblical usage. Besides philology, form-critical and tradition-historical methods are employed, with the aim of understanding the religious statements in the Old Testament. Extensive bibliographical information adds to the value of this reference work. This volume is the fifth of twelve projected volumes in the set.