

THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF THE BIBLE. Volume 1. Edited by P. R. Ackroyd and C. F. Evans. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1970. x + 648 pp. \$14.50.

With the publication of this first volume last, the three-volume set is not complete. This volume covering the period from the beginnings to Jerome is the effort of seventeen different scholars, all specialists in their fields. The volume is selective in its treatment of the subject, and there is some necessary overlapping with Volume 2. The contents fall into five general categories: language and script, books in the ancient world, the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the Bible in the early church. Twenty-five plates showing important documents are also included.

The quality of scholarship and production are uniformly high with the previously issued volumes. As always in a cooperative effort, the essays will have different appeal to different readers. To this reviewer the essay by Professor Black on the biblical languages seemed unusually balanced, as did the one on New Testament textual criticism by Professor Birdsall (though the latter would have been helped by a chart as accompanied the corresponding essay on the Old Testament text, p. 195).

The sections on the "making" of the Old and New Testaments (written by the editors) espouse liberal viewpoints almost exclusively (without any interaction with conservative arguments). Thus the documentary theory of the Pentateuch is assumed (p. 71) as is the non-Pauline authorship of Ephesians (p. 252). Interestingly, 1 Thessalonians is said to be Paul's earliest epistle (p. 242).

Only these liberal prejudices mar an otherwise outstanding reference work.

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