

E.A.H. Blackwood's Hebrew Exegesis II Paper

[IMT note: received as email to delegates mailing list 06/20/2022]

Dear Delegates & Mr. Blackwood,

This is a 36-page exegesis paper of Psalm 88 — a uniquely dark Psalm. I would have graded it as a 'B' (or even as an 'A' — if three improvements were present): 1) I found a small number of grammatical/syntactical errors in the first part, which easily should have been caught and corrected. But they were significant mistakes that made me suspect that that which followed might not be good. Happily I found the larger, second part of the paper free of those flaws. 2) With the exception of John Calvin, the paper showed no familiarity with our large Puritan tradition of biblical Old Testament men (even like Matthew Henry, who really was a major Puritan expositor). This was a flaw, inasmuch that tradition challenges our modern 'scientific' approach in a major way! We ought to be familiar with and espouse our own interpretive tradition. But Mr. Blackwood tended to follow that tradition (comparing Scripture with Scripture) even if he didn't identify it historically. 3) The paper was a little light on Hebrew exegesis per sé. It had many Hebrew words in its descriptive-looking fonts, but very little technical Hebrew discussion or debate — such as the significance of or debate over verb forms — for the meaning of the text.

This having been said, this paper was not at all skimpy or superficial. I was really impressed with both the breadth and thoroughness of Mr. Blackwood's effort. I appreciated his treatment of a difficult Psalm, that many modern interpreters would skip over on account of its heaviness and gloominess. I was glad to see the Homiletical consideration at the end. With just a little tweaking, it easily could have been an 'A' paper — and I wouldn't be surprised if that is the grade Mr.

Blackwood received at RPTS.

Thank you for this task!

Dick Knodel
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