

# The Bible : James Moffatt Translation

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### Book by

James Moffatt (1870-1944) Born and educated in Glasgow, Scotland. Moffatt spent the early years of his career as a pastor in the Free Church of Scotland. In 1911 he became Professor of Greek and New Testament Exegesis at Mansfield College, Oxford, and subsequently served at the United Free Church College, Glasgow, and at Union Theological Seminary, New York, as Washburn Professor of Church History. Moffatt took a leading role in the preparation of the Revised Standard Version (1946) as well as writing numerous books on biblical textual criticism. Moffatt is best remembered, however, for single-handedly translating the Bible. His New Testament was printed in 1913, followed by the Old Testament in 1924. Both translations were revised and reprinted together in 1935 and popularly known as Moffatt's Bible.

### Other Books

From Noah to Israel, The primeval blessing, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth,' first announced to humankind in Genesis 1.28 is renewed to Noah and his sons after the flood in Genesis 9.1. There is widespread scholarly consensus that the ensuing dispersion in Genesis 10.1-32 and 11.1-9 is the means by which the creation blessing is fulfilled. Kaminski argues that the primeval blessing is not fulfilled in the Table of Nations and that Yahweh's scattering Noah's descendants in the Babel story does not contribute positively to the creation theme. Rather, the creation blessing is being taken up in the primary line of Shem (Genesis 11.10-26), which leads directly to Abraham. She further suggests that divine grace is not absent after the Babel judgment, as is commonly assumed, but is at work in the Shemite genealogy. She argues that the primeval blessing, which is unfulfilled in the primeval history, is taken up by Abraham and his descendants by means of a divine promise. While the blessing is in the process of being realised in the patriarchal narratives, it is not fulfilled. The multiplication theme is resumed, however, in Exodus 1.7, which describes Israel's proliferation in Egypt. This is the first indication that the creation blessing is fulfilled. Realisation of the primeval blessing progresses after the flood, therefore, from Noah to Israel. Yet God's blessing on Israel is not for their sake alone - it is the means through which the divine intention for creation will be restored to the world. JSOTS413

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ . Allis, "Dr. Moffatt's "New Translation" of the Old Testament', pp. 267-317 (314); cf. P.D. Wegner, *The Journey from Texts to Translations: The Origin and Development of the Bible* (Michigan: Baker Books, 1999), pp. 346-48. 60."