

Review on A Guide to the Understanding of the Bible:
The Development of Ideas within the Old and New Testament.

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by H.E. Fosdick

reviewed by Walther Eichrodt

208⁴

In the problem of being introduced to a basic understanding of the Bible, one will be thankful today for every ^{serious} contribution of a competent scholar, when the foundations of the Christian world view have been shaken extensively and when everything of a vital renewal of its Christian basis ~~is~~ crucial for the reconstruction of our culture. In such a way, the book by H.E. Fosdick; A Guide to Understanding the Bible, can also be included, ^{being received} with great interest for its rich contents and in thankful recognition for its easily understood presentation and progression of thought. The 6 chapters, in which ~~so~~ ^(truth) central themes of the Biblical messages as the reality of God, the reality ~~(truth)~~ ^{reality} of man, the judgement of right and wrong, the purpose of suffering, ^{and} the blessing of the divine ~~covenant~~ ^{relationship} ~~(?)~~ come under consideration, give evidence not only of a familiarity with the research of the Old and New Testaments, but ^{of} the most enormous subject with a careful choice of the most important items and of a masterly combination into his own idiom (?), which impress the reader with suggestive strength. How strongly the author himself has been grasped by his subject is everywhere evident and appears not the least in the often exciting and accompanying formulation, which he knows how to give his knowledge. Therefore, we stand here before a popularization of scientific knowledge of a great level, which one can meet only with enormous attention.

208¹⁰

Beyond this, however, this book claims our interest in a special way, because it presses upon us the discussion of a question of principle meaning, namely what roll the development of thought has played in the clarification of the Biblical documents. It is after

209⁰