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Notes on Bible Words.

NO. XXI.—“AFFLICTION.”

AFFLICTION in the N.T. is the rendering (A.V.) of the following words :

I. *θλίψις*, a *pressing together*, *pressure*; from *θλίβω*, to *press*¹: in Bible, metaph. oppression, distress, affliction, straits.

Matt. xxiv. 9, “then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted,” *εἰς θλίψιν*: Alford: “up to tribulation.” Vulg. *in tribulatione*.

Rom. xii. 12, “patient in tribulation” (Diodati: *nell’ afflizione*).

2 Cor. i. 4, “tribulation . . . trouble.” Vulg., first clause, *tribulatione*; the second, *pressura*: “comforteth us in all our affliction, that we may be able to comfort them that are in any affliction.” R.V. So in verse 8: “our trouble,”—“our affliction.”²

John xvi. 33, “ye shall have *tribulation*” R.V. and A.V.

Coloss. i. 24, “of the afflictions of Christ”: Vulg., *passionum Christi*.

θλίψις is the Sept. for *רָצַץ* and *רָצַץ* *distress* (from to be pressed, straitened. “In all their affliction He was afflicted.” Isai. lxiii. 9.³)

Also for *רָצַץ* *oppression* (from to *press*, to *squeeze*), Exod. iii. 9; “I have seen the oppression.”

II. *κάωσις*, “ill-treatment”: Vulg. *afflictio*: Acts vii. 34, “I have seen the affliction of My people.” Compare *κακοπάθειω*, the *suffering of evil*; Jas. v. 11, “of suffering affliction,” R.V. “of suffering”; *κακοπαθῆω*, to *endure evils* (hardship, troubles); Jas. v. 13, “Is any among you afflicted?” R.V., “suffering”; 2 Tim. ii. 3 and iv. 5.

III. *πάθημα*, *what one suffers*. In 2 Tim. iii. 11, Heb. x. 32, 1 Pet. v. 9, “afflictions”: R.V. “sufferings.”

The chief word, taking the O.T. and the New,⁴ has the thought of being *pressed*, straitened, distressed.

The other leading Hebrew word for “affliction” is *רָצַץ* (from to *lower*, to *depress*, to *humble*. Isai. xxv. 5, “shall be brought low.” Ps. cxix. 71, “that I have been afflicted”:—*εταπεινώσας με*, *humiliasti me*). Ps. xxv. 18. *Vide humilitatem meam*, *ἴδε τὴν ταπεινώσιν μου*. “Consider mine affliction.” *Ταπεινώσις*, *lowness*, is the Sept. for this Hebrew noun.

¹ For *θλίβω* see Mark iii. 9 “lest they should throng Him.” Metaph., *afflict*, *distress*. ² Thess. i. 6, “to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you,”—*θλίβουσιν ὑμᾶς θλίψιν*,—*tribulationem his qui vos tribulant*: “affliction to them that afflict you.” R.V.

³ Monotony, in such cases, is force. Lightfoot, on 2 Cor. i. Our translators are divided between “tribulation,” “trouble,” and “affliction.”

⁴ Delitzsch: “In all their distress He was distressed.”

⁵ The same want in the religious vocabulary, which gave currency to *θλίψις*, also created “tribulatio” as its Latin equivalent. Bishop Lightfoot, Phil. i. 17. The Vulgate here has *pressuram*.