Notes on Bible Words.

NO. XXI.—"AFFLICTION."

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

I. θλήσω, a pressing together, pressure; from θλήσω, to press\(^1\): in Bible, metaph. oppression, distress, affliction, straits.

Matt. xxiv. 9, "then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted," s|θλήσω: 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.

θλήσω is the Sept. for ἤλεος and ἔλεος distress (from to be pressed, straitened. "In all their affliction He was afflicted." Isai. lxiii. 9.)\(^3\)

Also for ἔλεος oppression (from to press, to squeeze), Exod. iii. 9; "I have seen the oppression."

II. ἀδιστορεω, "ill-treatment": Vulg. affectio: Acts vii. 34, "I have seen the affliction of My people." Compare καςνωδίασω, the suffering of evil; Jas. v. 11, "of suffering affliction," R.V. "of suffering"; καςνωδίασω, 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 יסיל (from to lower, to depress, to humble. Isai. xxv. 5, "shall be brought low." Ps. cxix. 71, "that I have been afflicted":—ὕπαστωσέως με, humiliasti me). Ps. xxv. 18. Vide humiliatem meam, τὸν τὸν τὰπιστωσίν μου. "Consider mine affliction." Ταπιστωσίως, lowness, is the Sept. for this Hebrew noun.

\(^1\) For θλήσω see Mark iii. 9 "lest they should throng Him." Metaph., affect, distress. 2 Thess. i. 6, "to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you,"—θλήσωσιν ὑμᾶς θλήσω, tribulationem his qui vos tribuant: "affliction to them that afflict you." R.V.

\(^2\) Monotony, in such cases, is force. Lightfoot, on 2 Cor. i. Our translators are divided between "tribulation," "trouble," and "affliction."

\(^3\) Delitzsch: "In all their distress He was distressed."

\(^4\) The same want in the religious vocabulary, which gave currency to θλήσω, also created "tribulation" as its Latin equivalent. Bishop Lightfoot, Phil. i. 17. The Vulgate here has pressuram.

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