

....*In Studies on the Book of Psalms*, by John Forbes, D.D., LL.D., Emeritus Professor of Oriental languages, Aberdeen, edited by the Rev. James Forrest, M.A. (Lonmay, Scotland), we have an ingenious and elaborate attempt to set the Messianic character of the Psalms in substantially a new light. The author's point is that the Psalms are an organic whole and that the full meaning of each is lost except as studied in its structural connection with the others. He makes of the entire mass a seven-fold division into seven Books of which the first strikes the key-note of the whole by setting forth the King whom Jehovah calls his Son and places on his holy hill Zion predicting for him universal conquest. Book II, it is held, carries on the same theme and closes in Ps. lxxii with the companion picture of the final establishment of Messiah's empire as a kingdom of "peace and righteousness." Book III, extending to Ps. lxxxix, shows the fall of the earthly monarchy and brings us to the captivity. Book IV relates to that period of captivity, and Book V to the return. Book VI is a more or less mixed continuation until Book VII brings us to the burst of praise of the ransomed Church. This is a highly complex and elaborate arrangement on which to base the Messianic theory of the Psalms. The advantage of the theory is that it attributes a Messianic character to the entire collection. The drawbacks in it are obviously the difficulty of establishing the main proposition. (Scribner & Welford.)