

INTRODUCTION

It is not the purpose of this book to treat all of the "hard places" in the Bible (this is why the word "some" has been added to the title). God's word is full of hard places, and He has meant it to be so. "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter" (Prov. 25:2). Without the hard places one might well read it through and lay it aside. It is partly the puzzles that bring us back again and again; that force us to not merely read it, but to study it.

I have seen a man climb laboriously some fifty feet or so to the top of a Coconut tree, and toss the nuts to the ground. After all his efforts were expended there still remained more fruit on the tree than he had harvested. The ripe nuts rewarded his efforts, and the green ones brought him back again and again. So God intends to bring us back to His word again and again. His word is meant not only to teach us, once and for all, the truth, but to feed us, cleanse us, and delight us day by day as long as we live.

Some difficulties in Scripture we have selected because they have arisen time after time during nearly sixty years of ministry. Others have been chosen because they are somewhat representative of similar problem passages. Our answers are not intended to be exhaustive, but to be helpful. God grant they may indeed be so.

This new edition of the book has been edited and somewhat enlarged since it first appeared in 1984. May the Lord bless you as you search the Scriptures daily to see if these things are so (Acts 17:11), and as you proclaim the truth of God "not ... in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance" (1 Thess. 1:5).

--- William P. Heath