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HOLY SCRIPTURE is generally quoted, in this volume, according to the Confraternity version of the Bible, or, in the case of the books not yet published in that version, according to the Douay. Yet there are a number of exceptions. When the context seems to require it—as, for instance, in the article on “The Jewish Burial Service,” in order to bring out the poetic qualities of David’s dirge over Saul and Jonathan—a special rendering is essayed. When the version used by an author writing in a foreign tongue conveys a nuance that would otherwise be lost, the text that served him is rendered into English. This is particularly true of Father Bertram Hessler’s “*Ḳohelet: The Veiled God*”; the passages from the book *Ḳohelet* are translated from the German original of his article, with an eye, however, on the original Hebrew. Abbot Butler, in his “According to Matthew,” usually follows the Knox translation, but often, in order to make clearer the individual character of St. Matthew’s Gospel, offers his own rendering. The prophet Isaiah is almost always quoted according to Dr. Kissane’s translation. In quotations from Jewish authors, from the Talmud, or the Jewish prayerbook, their wording is retained.

No matter which translation of Scripture is used, chapter and verse are cited in accordance with the Confraternity version or, in lieu of it, in accordance with the Douay. In transliterations of Hebrew and Greek, no attempt has been made to render all the complexities of the original. The system followed for Hebrew is, in general, that of *The Jewish Encyclopedia*; the system followed for Greek is, with minor modifications, that used by Webster’s *New International Dictionary*, second edition. Biblical names are given in that English form most closely approximating the Hebrew. The abbreviations of books of the Bible are those used by *A Catholic Commentary on Holy Scripture*, edited by Dom Bernard Orchard and published by Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd. (London, 1953).

Raïssa Maritain’s “Abraham and the Ascent of Conscience” is a slight revision of her *Histoire d’Abraham*, published in Paris in 1947, translated by Father William L. Rossner, S.J. “The Learned Elders of Zion” by the late Father Pierre Charles, S.J., originally appeared in the January 1938

issue of *La Nouvelle revue théologique*, which is under the direction of several professors of theology of the Society of Jesus at Louvain. It has been translated and footnoted by the Editor and is introduced by Father William Granger Ryan. Father Bertram Hessler, O.F.M., first published his "Kohélet: The Veiled God" in *Theologie und Glaube* (XLIII, 5), edited by the Faculty of the Archdiocesan Philosophical and Theological Academy of Paderborn; it has been translated for this volume by the Editor. "The Trial of the Messiah" by Dom Hilaire Duesberg, O.S.B., was published in the March–May 1954 issue of *Bible et vie chrétienne* (Editions Casterman, Paris) and, in a slightly altered form, in *Les Grands procès de l'histoire (Vérité et Vie, Strasbourg, XXIII, 215)*. The present translation by Father Edward A. Synan is a composite of both versions.

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