

Ronald E. Clements (1929-2024)

It is with sadness that I report the death of Professor Ronald E. Clements (1929-2024) on 2nd April, at the age of 94.

After studying for the Baptist ministry at Spurgeon's College in London, Clements read Theology at Christ's College, Cambridge (1954-1956). He then moved to Sheffield University in 1956 to study with F.F. Bruce, and was among the first to gain a PhD in Biblical Studies at Sheffield. He subsequently taught Theology and Hebrew at Edinburgh University (1960-1967), before becoming Lecturer in Old Testament Literature and Theology at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Fitzwilliam College (1967-1983). In 1983 he was appointed Samuel Davidson Professor of Old Testament at King's College London, where he stayed until his retirement in 1992.

Clements was a scholar of distinction, with a considerable range, from Pentateuch and Prophets to Wisdom, from exegesis to theology, from history of interpretation to translation. His many books include *Abraham and David: Genesis 15 and Its Meaning for Israelite Tradition* (1967), *Prophecy and Tradition* (1975), *Old Testament Theology: A Fresh Approach* (1978), *A Century of Old Testament Study* (rev. edn, 1983), *Wisdom in Theology* (1992), and *Jerusalem and the Nations: Studies in the Book of Isaiah* (2011), as well as commentaries on Exodus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. He also translated volume one of Walther Zimmerli's magisterial Ezekiel commentary for the Hermeneia series.

Clements was President of the Society for Old Testament Study for 1985. He also served as the Society's Foreign Secretary and edited its volume *The World of Ancient Israel: Sociological, Anthropological and Political Perspectives* (1989). A Festschrift was edited in his honour by Edward Ball, *In Search of True Wisdom* (1999). In 2013 he was awarded the Burkitt Medal by the British Academy 'in recognition of special service to Biblical Studies'. He will be sadly missed by so many, both in the UK and internationally, including the numerous students and colleagues whom he inspired and supported.

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