

and, in some cases, discusses a number of other plants of the Bible which are not illustrated. In spite of the fact that, contrary to the title, not *all* of the plants of the Bible are illustrated nor described,<sup>6</sup> this book is, because of its excellent illustrations, of great value.

It may not be entirely true that a picture is worth a thousand words, but it certainly *is* true that a faithful pictorial reproduction of an item can give a great deal more meaning to a good verbal description. For full value and adequate help, both Moldenke's scholarly descriptions and Walker's unsurpassed illustrations should be side by side on the translator's reference shelf. At the same time, we could wish that Mrs. Walker, or someone else with her botanical competence and artistic skill, would furnish the translator a more complete reference work of equal excellence.

*Henry R. Moeller*

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## A Rendering May Be Anti-Semitic

Mr. F. Lovsky, Secretary of the Committee of the French Protestant Federation for the Evangelization of Israel, has pointed out that in some instances translations of Matthew 27:25 have tended to be anti-Semitic—often, no doubt, without a translator realizing quite the implications of his rendering. In this verse the direct discourse in Greek has no verb whatsoever, and thus in most languages such must be supplied. A correct rendering would supply a verb such as 'be' or 'come upon' or a phrase 'is our responsibility' (e.g., the RSV and most other English translations read "His blood be on us and on our children"). In some instances, however, translators have employed the equivalent of 'fall again' or 'will come upon us'. As the result of such a rendering, some persons have excused the persecution of the Jewish people as being a warranted fulfillment of their own predictions. There is nothing prophetic about this statement of the Jewish crowd. It is only that they were quite willing to assume responsibility for their demands by exposing themselves and their children to the judgment of God. Accordingly, a translator must make certain that his rendering does not seem to imply more than the text justifies, or literalists may find a way to excuse unchristian attitudes.

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<sup>6</sup> It seems that the publishers could have been content with a more modest title, or one more noncommittal.