

1/25/82

NIV Scofield

A few thoughts about the NIV and the Scofield New Scofield:

The project has been carried through one is apt to see how it could have been much better done. When it is a large project one very often sees matters which, if they could have been seen at the beginning, would have tremendously improved its usefulness. At that time nothing can be done about these matters but I think it is valuable to state them anyway.

First, about the New Scofield:

When the Committee met at the first meeting they went to Chgo<sup>o</sup> for one day. We met together on that day and the general proposition was put to us that they were going to get out a new edition of the Reference Bible. Most of us were simply curious as to how much revision was going to be done, what sort of general proposition was in mind. I think the attitude of all of us was that if the Oxford Press is going to get out a new edition we trust it will be just as sound and orthodox as the original edition and, aside from that, we are glad to give any help we can toward making it as good as possible, but are not here with an idea of bossing the job or making it what we want but rather simply as consultants to give what advice we can that might be helpful. Consequently the general attitude ~~was~~ was one of curiosity as to how much was to be desired from us, how much we were to do in connection with it, and just what was in mind. The President of the American Branch of the Oxford Press was present and also their the head of their Bible Department, Mr. Ruggles. I forget the name of the other man. He left/shortly <sup>them</sup> after to start a publishing company of his own for young people's books. I have heard nothing about him since--which proves nothing since I have not much connection with that type of publishing.

However, I mention this man because we were told later that he was amazed at us. People had said, "Why do you undertake a proposition like this? You get a group of fundamentalists together from different fundamentalist groups to collaborate on getting out a publication and you will find them at each other's throats fighting and arguing and making a big fuss, and (nc) I found less disagreement and up detrimination as one's own ideas than I ~~want~~ would ~~find~~ find in a conference of men considering a mathematics publication.." I don't think this