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The Bible and the Enlightenment

A Case Study -- Dr Alexander Geddes (1737-1802)

(The Proceedings of the Bicentenary
Geddes Conference held at the University of Aberdeen,
1-4 April 2002)

edited by

William Johnstone



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PREFACE

The articles in this volume include papers read at a conference held in the University of Aberdeen from 1-4 April 2002 to mark the bicentenary of the death of Alexander Geddes (4 September 1737–26 February 1802). I should like first and foremost to acknowledge the contribution of the international, interdisciplinary and interfaith group of distinguished scholars who so readily accepted the invitation to read papers, so willingly lent their expertise, and so fully co-operated in the production of this volume. It is a pleasure too to acknowledge the financial sponsorship of the British Academy, the Most Reverend Mario Conti, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Glasgow, the Reverend Dr Reginald C. Fuller, Geddes's modern biographer, and the Right Honourable the Lord Petre, whose ancestors, the ninth and, for Geddes's last year, the tenth, Lord Petre, were for over twenty years the indispensable and generous patrons of his work. But assistance in organizing the conference spread far beyond the financial: I am indebted to Reginald Fuller for introducing me to Gerard Carruthers, who in turn introduced me to Catharina van Dijk; to John Rogerson for proposing the participation of Christoph Bultmann; and to André Lemaire for suggesting the name of Bertram Eugene Schwarzbach. I am further indebted to Philip Davies for accepting this volume into the Supplement Series of the *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*. I should also like to thank the Society for Old Testament Study for associating itself with the conference. Thanks are also due to the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen for hospitality and to the Faculty of Arts and Divinity Research Committee for underwriting the conference. I am most grateful to the University for providing me with office accommodation and facilities for running the conference during this final, 'extra' year, to Ian Pirie and his staff in the conference office and to the secretarial staff in the Divinity and Religious Studies department for their assistance. I am particularly indebted to Mrs Jacqueline Armstrong for supervising the domestic arrangements at the conference. For the task of editing this volume the assistance of the staff in Historic Collections in Aberdeen University Library has been invaluable.