

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
978-1-316-62000-7 – The Bible of To-day
Alban Blakiston
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

THE
BIBLE OF TO-DAY

THE
BIBLE OF TO-DAY

by the
REV. ALBAN BLAKISTON, M.A.

Cambridge :
at the University Press
1914

Cambridge University Press
978-1-316-62000-7 – The Bible of To-day
Alban Blakiston
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781316620007

© Cambridge University Press 1914

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1914

First paperback edition 2016

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-316-62000-7 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

PREFACE

THE attempt is made, in the following pages, to introduce the student of the Bible to what is known as the historical, or critical, method of studying the Scriptures and investigating their messages. The volume does not aim at supplying introductions to the separate books. Such an aim, if it were in any way to be satisfied, would require a volume of far greater compass than this. The purpose is, rather, to present to the reader the point of view which is responsible for applying the historical method of treatment to the sacred pages, and to envisage the 'atmosphere,' intellectual and religious, which is the outcome of that treatment. To this end, it has appeared desirable to give a brief survey of the whole field of Biblical study, which should be in some measure preliminary to the special introductions. In an introductory chapter the question of Inspiration is briefly discussed. The second chapter deals with the Text of the Old Testament, and seeks to trace, in outline, the history of its different writings; endeavouring to grasp, on the one hand, what were the causes which determined their form and contents; and, on the other hand, how they came to be combined in a single volume to which a

peculiar sanctity was attached. The third chapter deals with the New Testament upon similar lines. And, in the last chapter, it is attempted to show what were the influences which contributed to the development of the Jewish and Christian religions, in so far as the books of the Old and New Testaments exhibit this sort of dependence. Incidentally a great many other subjects are touched upon.

In order to secure for the book a readable form and style, it was felt that its pages should not be over-loaded with detailed information; but a fairly comprehensive list of books appended to each chapter will, it is hoped, assist the reader who may desire a fuller acquaintance with the matters under discussion. There is also added, as an appendix, a list of writings, canonical and extra-canonical, arranged (often quite provisionally) in chronological order; in the hope that the student may thus be aided to grasp the historical setting of the various books, and their relation to the Jewish and Christian literatures as a whole.

The book lays claim to no sort of originality, but is dependent throughout upon the labours of well-known scholars. The author's sense of indebtedness is, in some measure, expressed by the lists of books which follow upon each chapter. On the other hand it has frequently been necessary to select, by the exercise of individual judgment, and present to the reader, one amongst many

PREFACE

vii

rival opinions ; and it is hoped that, in such places, a tone of dogmatism has been successfully avoided.

It remains for the author to tender his sincere thanks to Mr F. W. Sanderson, Headmaster of Oundle School, and to the Rev. S. C. Parmiter of Uppingham School, who have read the MS. in part, for much valuable criticism and advice ; also to the Publishers' Reader for the detection of several errors and blemishes. He would also express his gratitude to Mr W. E. Weber, at whose instance the work was undertaken, for an unflinching kindness in the course of its production, which has been a great source of encouragement.

A. B.

30th Jan. 1914

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

THE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE AND THE METHOD OF BIBLICAL STUDY

	PAGE
1. Change in our treatment of the Bible	1
2. Similar to change in way of regarding Nature	2
3. The change affects, not Inspiration, but the method of study	3
4. Great reverence needed in study of Scripture	4
5. Meaning of Inspiration	5
(i.) Inspiration of Revelation	5
Its gradual progress—culminating in our Lord —continued through the Apostles	6
(ii.) Inspiration of the reader	7
(iii.) Inspiration of selection, recording, and trans- mission	7
6. Possible objections to this statement	9
(i.) Inspiration wider than Scripture	9
(ii.) Scriptural Revelation nevertheless final	10
(iii.) Different levels of Inspiration	12
7. The contents of an Inspired Book will be religious	13
Other than religious truth not to be looked for	13
8. Value of a gradual Revelation	15
9. The Bible true, and worthy of belief	15
10. The historical method of interpretation	16
Which demands of us long and arduous study	17
11. There are the Biblical experts—whose province is to debate difficult problems—and to decide	17
Some Authority there must be	19
The Authority of Scholarship	19

CONTENTS

ix

	PAGE
12. Ways of Bible reading	20
(i.) Long passages continuously	20
(ii.) One book minutely	21
(iii.) One subject pursued through entire Bible	21
(iv.) Devotional reading	22
13. But all study should really be devotional	23
Bibliography	24

CHAPTER II

THE TEXT, LITERATURE AND CANON OF
THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. Three lines of study	25
(i.) Textual criticism	25
(ii.) Literary criticism	26
(iii.) Criticism of the Canon	27
2. The Hebrew Language	27
3. The Hebrew Script	29
(a) Antiquity	29
(b) Forms	30
(c) Vowel pointing	30
4. The Standard Text	31
5. Room for correction	32
6. Manuscripts	33
7. Their antiquity	34
8. The Versions.	34
(i.) The Samaritan	35
(ii.) The Aramaic Targums	35
(iii.) The Greek Versions; especially the LXX	36
(iv.) The Syriac, Coptic and Latin Versions	38
9. The function of Textual Criticism	39
10. Literary Criticism	40
11. Compilation	42
12. Analysis	42
13. The Documents	42
(a) The Jehovist document	44
(b) The Elohist document	44
(c) The Deuteronomist	45

	PAGE
(<i>d</i>) The Priestly Code	45
(<i>e</i>) Combination of these	46
(<i>f</i>) Prophetic writings; e.g. Isaiah	46
(<i>g</i>) Other books; e.g. Psalms	47
14. Plagiarism	48
15. The question of Authorship	49
16. History of the Canon	50
17. The Oral Stage	51
18. The process of selection, by religious instinct, and conscious appeal to religious sense	52
19. Ancient songs—collected	55
20. Customary Law	57
21. Antiquity of Hebrew Law	58
22. Significance of Sinai	59
23. Subsequent legal developments	60
24. Development, religious and moral	61
25. Law, the province of the Priests	63
26. Collection of Laws	64
27. Historical Narratives	65
History with a purpose	65
28. Chronology	66
29. Threefold distinction	67
(i.) Mythology	67
(ii.) Legend	68
A defence of the terms 'mythology' and 'legend'.	70
(iii.) History proper	71
Contemporary annals, and historical writings .	72
30. The beginning of a Canon	73
Torah, Nebhiim, and Kethubhim	74
31. Torah	75
32. Nebhiim	77
(i.) The Former Prophets	77
(ii.) The Latter Prophets	79
(<i>a</i>) Jeremiah	79
(<i>β</i>) Ezekiel	80
(<i>γ</i>) Book of the Twelve Prophets	81
Importance of the Synagogue	83

CONTENTS xi

		PAGE
33.	Kethubhim	84
	(i.) Their various dates	84
	(ii.) Circumstances of admission	87
	(iii.) Closing of the Canon	88
34.	Synod of Jamnia	89
35.	Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha	89
	Their dates and authorship	91
36.	The Old Testament, in its final form, inspired	94
	Bibliography	95

CHAPTER III

THE TEXT, CANON AND LITERATURE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

1.	Difference between criticism of the New Testament and that of the Old Testament	96
2.	The Greek of the New Testament	98
	(<i>a</i>) Universality of the Greek language	98
	(<i>b</i>) Its adoption by early Church	99
	(<i>c</i>) Distinction between Greek of New Testament and that of classical writers	99
	(<i>d</i>) Theory of a special Biblical Greek	100
	(<i>e</i>) New linguistic evidence	100
	(<i>f</i>) Which gives us the Greek vernacular—the language of the New Testament	101
3.	Textual criticism	102
4.	Difference from textual criticism of the Old Testament	102
5.	The early printed editions of the New Testament, and the 'Received Text'	103
6.	Beginnings of critical work	104
7.	The kinds of material	105
8.	Papyrus Rolls	105
9.	Manner and materials of writing	106
10.	Copyists	107
11.	The existing Papyri MSS	108
12.	Method of dating MSS	108

	PAGE
13. The Vellum MSS	109
(<i>a</i>) The Codex	109
(<i>b</i>) Collection of writings in one book	109
14. Existing Uncial Codexes	110
15. Six of highest importance	111
(<i>a</i>) Codex Vaticanus. B	111
(<i>b</i>) Codex Sinaiticus. \aleph	111
(<i>c</i>) Codex Alexandrinus. A	112
(<i>d</i>) Codex Ephraemi. C	112
(<i>e</i>) Codex Bezae. D	112
(<i>f</i>) Codex Claromontanus. D ₂	112
16. The Cursive MSS	113
17. The Lectionaries	114
18. Types of Text	114
19. The errors and corrections of the Copyists	115
20. Groups or families of MSS, and their genealogy	116
21. Mixture of readings of different MSS.	117
22. Four main types	117
(<i>a</i>) The α -text	118
(<i>b</i>) The β -text	119
(<i>c</i>) The γ -text	121
(<i>d</i>) The δ -text	121
(<i>e</i>) Mutual relations of these types of text	123
23. Text of Cursives and Lectionaries	124
24. Evidence of Versions	124
(<i>a</i>) Syriac Versions	125
(i.) Syriac language	125
(ii.) The Peshitto	126
(iii.) The Old Syriac	126
(<i>b</i>) Coptic Versions	127
(i.) Coptic language	127
(ii.) The Bohairic	127
(iii.) The Sahidic	127
(<i>c</i>) Latin Versions	128
(i.) Old Latin.	128
(ii.) The Vulgate	129
25. Evidence of Patristic Writings	131
26. History of the Canon of the New Testament	132

CONTENTS

xiii

	PAGE
27. The kinds of evidence	133
28. Christian use of the LXX	134
29. Need of Christian Scriptures not born at once	135
30. The beginnings of Christian literature	136
31. Causes which led to preservation of such writings	136
(<i>a</i>) Public reading	137
(<i>b</i>) Collections of writings	138
32. Case of the Gospels	139
33. The processes of selection, and existence of other writings	140
(<i>a</i>) But little selection in earliest times	142
(<i>b</i>) The motives towards book-making	142
(<i>c</i>) Idea of Canon emerging, and limitation of writings	143
34. Dubiety entertained about certain books	144
35. Unequal history of Canon in different localities	145
36. Gradual unanimity of opinion, and stages by which it was reached	147
37. Problems of Literary criticism	150
38. The Pauline Epistles	151
(<i>a</i>) Their genuineness	151
(<i>b</i>) Dictation and Short-hand	152
(<i>c</i>) Differences in style	153
(<i>d</i>) Four groups	153
(i.) 1 Thessalonians—2 Thessalonians	153
(ii.) 1 Corinthians—2 Corinthians—Galatians—Romans	154
(iii.) Difficulties	157
Philemon — Colossians — Ephesians — Philippians	158
(iv.) Difficulties	159
1 Timothy—Titus—2 Timothy	160
39. The Synoptic Gospels	160
40. The Synoptic Problem	161
(<i>a</i>) Likenesses	161
(<i>β</i>) Use of Mark	161
(<i>γ</i>) Differences	162
(<i>δ</i>) Independence of Matthew and Luke	163

	PAGE
(ε) The source known as Q	163
(ζ) Other sources	164
41. Dates and Authorship	164
(α) Luke	165
(β) Mark	165
(γ) Matthew	166
42. Historical Problems	166
43. Johannine Literature	167
(α) The 4th Gospel	167
(i.) Difficulties	167
(ii.) Possible solution	168
(iii.) Date and Authorship	170
(β) 1, 2 and 3 John	171
(γ) Revelation	171
44. Remaining books	173
(α) Acts	173
(β) Hebrews	173
(γ) James	174
(δ) 1 Peter	175
(ε) Jude and 2 Peter	176
45. The question of Inspiration	176
Bibliography	177

CHAPTER IV

THE RELIGIOUS AFFINITIES OF JUDAISM
AND CHRISTIANITY

1. The importance of environment, in general,—and, in particular, for Biblical study 179
2. Sources of information 180
 - (a) Historical Geography 180
 - (b) Archaeology 181
 - (c) The Comparative Sciences 181
3. Babylonia and Assyria 182
 - (i.) Historical sketch 182
 - (ii.) Close contact of Hebrews with Babylon 184

CONTENTS

XV

	PAGE
4. Babylonian contributions	185
(i.) Historical records	185
(ii.) Chronology, and the Eponym lists	186
(iii.) Mythology	187
(iv.) Religious literature	188
(v.) Literary composition	190
5. Egypt	191
Historical sketch	191
(a) The Hyksos	191
(b) Egypt in Syria	192
(c) The Hittites	193
(d) The Khabiri	193
(e) The Philistines	194
(f) Israel and the Exodus	194
(g) Egypt and the Hebrew monarchy	195
(h) Egypt and the Hebrew dispersion	196
6. Egyptian contributions	196
(i.) Literature	196
(ii.) Theology	197
7. The Hebrews in Canaan	198
8. Hebrew invasion of Canaan	200
9. Hebrew conception of God	201
10. Revelation of God through Yahweh	202
11. Yahweh and the God of Christians	202
12. God revealed Himself to others, but especially to Hebrews	203
13. Passing of Israel, and rise of Samaritans	203
14. Extra-Biblical historical authorities	204
15. The Exilic period, and the beginning of Dispersions	205
(i.) The Judæan Remnant	205
(ii.) The Egyptian Dispersion	206
(iii.) The Babylonian Dispersion	207
16. The causes of religious development	208
17. The Persian period, and its stimulus to religious activity	209
18. The reforms of Nehemiah	210
19. The work of Ezra	211
20. Persian contributions	212

	PAGE
21. The Greek period, and the beginnings of Hellenism	213
(i.) Ptolemaic rule	214
(ii.) Seleucid rule	215
(iii.) The persecutions of Antiochus Epiphanes, and the rise of religious parties	215
(iv.) The Maccabean revolt	217
22. The early Maccabees, and the progress of Hellenism	217
23. Hasmonaean rule	219
24. Palestinian conservatism, and the liberalism of the Dispersion	220
25. The Essenes	221
26. The Temple at Leontopolis	221
27. The Roman period	222
28. Herodian rule	223
29. Hellenising policy	223
30. The last phase of Jewish national life	224
31. The later Jewish Church	225
32. The literary products of this period	226
(i.) Apocalyptic works	226
(ii.) Rabbinical literature	227
33. Indebtedness of Christianity to the Old Testament, and to Judaic thought	228
(i.) Measure of the originality of Jesus.	229
(ii.) Hebraic character of the early Church	230
(iii.) Expansion of Church leads to transvaluation— Hebrew thought in Hellenic dress.	230
(a) Hebraism of St Paul	231
(b) Hellenism of St John	232
(c) Little trace of direct influence from other sources	232
34. Continuity of Christianity with Judaism	233
Bibliography	234
CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE	237