



LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND INSPIRATION
OF THE
HOLY BIBLE.
PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR THE PEOPLE'S STANDARD EDITION
BY JAMES P. BOYD, L.B., A.M.
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PREFATORY

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IN the preparation of this work upon the Bible, as much reliance as seemed good has been placed on original investigation. Yet due recourse has been had to the researches of able authors, without whose assistance our labors must have been tedious, and at times unproductive of results. It gives us pleasure to say that we have been often aided by such authorities as Stowe, Smith, Horne, Tregelles, Pond, and others.

The scope of concise Bible histories and Biblical reviews cannot vary much, though their arrangement may. We respectfully submit that the arrangement here adopted is more nearly natural than any other, observing, as it does, the great contradicting features of the Testaments, yet preserving as much as possible the order of the books, with which order every reader of the Scriptures is familiar.

For historical students perhaps the Chronological Arrangement would prove most satisfactory, doubtful as some of the dates of authorship are, especially of the older books of the Old Testament. But for all the purposes of the general reader, and for those ready references and comparisons made by ministers and others, it is certainly preferable to keep extra Biblical information in channels as nearly as possible parallel with those of the Bible.

The plan we shall follow may be outlined thus:

PART I.

Warm deep by thoughts familiar,
And others, it is certainly preferable

The plan we shall follow may be outlined thus:

PART I.—THE OLD TESTAMENT.

- Chapter I.—Introductory.
 " II.—The Pentateuch.
 " III.—Historical Books.
 " IV.—Poetical Books.
 " V.—Prophetic Books.
 " VI.—The Apocryphal Writings.
 " VII.—The Inter-Biblical Period.

PART II.—THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Chapter I.—Introductory.
 " II.—Historical Books.
 " III.—Epistolary Books.
 " IV.—Prophetic Writings.

PART III.—AFTER HISTORY OF THE BIBLE.

- Chapter I.—The Completed Canon.
 " II.—The Bible in English.

PART I.
THE OLD TESTAMENT.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

THE term "Bible" is derived from the Greek; and "The Bible" is usually said to be the equivalent of the Greek term *o biblos*, pronounced thus, "*ho biblos*," and translated, "The Book." For all ordinary purposes this incorporation—it is scarcely a translation—of the Greek term would suffice. But to be more accurate, the term "Bible" is derived from a later Greek word, one denoting a higher culture and greater perfection in literature, art, and science. In that language the generic or root word is "*bublos*," meaning the bark of the Egyptian papyrus and the rough materials made from it, such as mats, ropes, etc. When, afterwards, the Egyptian artisans manufactured from the inner lining of this bark a species of paper, or brought it into the market to be converted into paper elsewhere, the Greeks called both the raw and manufactured article "*biblos*," to distinguish it from the rough bark of the tree and the coarser articles made of it. Even after the inner and prepared bark was written on, and so long as it retained the form of a scroll, it was called "*biblos*." But when these cumbersome scrolls came to be divided and to take the more convenient shape of tablets, they were designated by the term "*biblion*," a diminutive of the word "*biblos*;" that is, the large or single scroll, "*biblos*," became a collection of little scrolls, "*biblion*," plural, "*biblia*." "*Biblion*" then was the distinctive Greek word for book, and the plural of it, "*Biblia*," "The Books," was used to designate the Bible for many centuries after the acceptance of the completed Canon. It was not therefore until the importance of the sacred volume had so increased in the minds of comparatively modern scholars as to warrant the use of a great distinguishing singular, that the Greek idea of plurality departed, and the "*Biblia*," or Books, considered as a grand and inspiring whole, came to be designated "*Biblia*," or Books.

as "The Book," or "The Bible." In comparison with all other books it is justly distinguished, for there is nothing in history so marvellous as its preservation, nothing in language so chaste and simple as its text, and nothing within reach of mortal thought that so refines and spiritualizes.

Under the corroding hand of time, opulent and powerful dynasties have passed away. Their peoples and their records, their arts and their sciences, are scarcely known to us, except as gathered in fragments from some sculptured monument or engraved ruin. But amid all the throes of empires and the extinction of countless peoples the sacred word has been preserved. Its authorship is a succession of inspirations, it antedates all other books or records, it is newer and far more sublime than the richest offspring of unaided human thought, or the grandest results of imaginative

The tyranny of times has obscured its effulgence, as clouds the sun, but the periods have passed, and new glory has followed wherever its brightness and warmth have been felt. However cruel and ignorant communities may have been, its introduction has eventuated in civilization and refinement. As a code it contains the essence of all laws and all constitutions. As history, it is a model of exactness and impartiality. As revelation, it lifts the soul above contaminating things, and proclaims for it a welcome in the realms of rest.

That part of the Bible denominated the Old Testament, is composed of thirty-nine books, the first five of which constitute the *Torah*, or Law of the Jews, being Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Twelve are in their nature historical, namely, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. Five are in figure and arrangement poetical, viz., Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. The rest, seventeen in number, are prophecies. We shall speak of each in its place, also of such other works, no longer considered as inspired, but as the writings of sacred authors, as well as of those writings immediately preceding the Christian era.

CERTIFICATE.

This Certifies
That the Rite of

HOLY MATRIMONY

was celebrated between

Geo D Langston of Goldsboro N.C.
and Sallie A Gibbs of Aurora N.C.
on Jan 9th 1868 at Aurora N.C.
by Rev John W. Litchfield

Witness

J. R. Best
John Pate

BIRTHS.

Louvisa Avaleta Langston
was born Nov 11th 1868 died 1871

Ella Ophelia Langston
was born Nov 10th 1870

Hallie Sophronia Langston
was born Nov 14th 1872

William Henry Bayant Langston
was born Feb 10th 1875
died March 1944

Jennie Emma Langston
was born April 24 1877

Rosa Arthur Langston
was born Oct 10th 1879

Jonathan Dallas Langston
was born March 22 1881



MARRIAGES.

Geo. D Langston and
Hallie A Langston was
married January 9-1868

Ella Ophelia Langston and
Edward Rayland Thomas were
married Dec. the 25th 1901

Rosa Arthur Langston and
H. J. Cimore were married
Oct. the 24th 1903

William H B Langston and
Leena Howard were married
Dec 21st 1903.

Jonathon Dallas Langston and
Mollie Williamson were married
the 24th of Dec. 1903
230

Aennie Turner Langston and Fredrick
S Thomas were married
Dec. 29-1908

DEATHS.

Louisa Avaletta Langston
Died Sept 10th 1870

John
Jonathan W Gibbs died
July 11th 1891.

Fennette Gibbs died June
the 14th 1893.

Jonathan and Fennette Gibbs
were married 1844

Sallie A Gibbs was born Feb. 20th
1849. Died May 11, 1928

George Dallas M Langston was
born May the 16th 1849 Grand son
of Mariah Langston Bapt. of in Revoluti
Sallie Sophronie died July
1912

Geo Dallas Langston died Apr 24th 1923

Childrens births

July 27, 1904, Hubert Lynwood Elmore { son of Rosa Bayeta
 Mabel Ruth Langston Oct 4, 1904 { Henry Elmore
 Johnathan Dallas Langston, Jr. November 1904 { daughter of W. H. Langston
 Edward Bagland Thomas Jr. { and Rena Corwood
 Frederick Shepherd Thomas Thomas Apr. 24, 1905 { son of
 Philip Langston Thomas born May 24, 1906 { E. W. Phelps
 Bonner Gibbs Thomas " May 24, 1912 { daughter of
 William H. B. Jr. born { W. H. B. Langston
 George Dallas Langston { and Rena Corwood

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Janet Frederick Thomas, December 14, 1919 at 9 o'clock
 daughter of Frederick Shepherd Thomas
 and Jennie Turner Langston

Janet Frederick Thomas and Thomas Neal Jocy Davis
 married May 16th, 1942

Thomas Neal Jocy Davis, Jr. born June 7th, 1945

Frederick Michael Davis born May 19, 1949