

**SACRED HISTORY, COMPRISING
THE CHIEF EVENTS MENTIONED
IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, IN THE
ORDER OF CHRONOLOGY**

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Sacred History, Comprising the Chief Events Mentioned in the Holy Scriptures, in the Order of Chronology by John Stephenson

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JOHN STEPHENSON

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COMPRISING

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WITH

PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENTS,

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION,

AND

EXPLANATIONS WITH THE PRONUNCIATION,

OF MANY WORDS AT THE END OF EACH SECTION.

DESIGNED FOR

BIBLE CLASSES, FAMILIES, SABBATH AND OTHER SCHOOLS,
AND YOUNG PERSONS IN GENERAL.

From the Creation to the death of Aza, king of Judah.

BY JOHN STEPHENSON.

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P R E F A C E.

THE views of Dr. Watts as to the propriety and utility of an abridgment of the contents of the Bible are thus expressed. "The Bible itself is a very large book, and though it ought to be read, at least many parts of it, by persons of all characters, and conditions, yet the reducing of the several things contained in it, to a short and narrow view by way of abridgment is so exceeding useful, that I had almost called it necessary at least for youth, and for persons who have fewer conveniences and advantages of knowledge."

In this opinion many persons concur, which is proved by the encouragement afforded to the publication of a great variety of small works, adapted to render youth more familiar with the scriptures. And this fact is a justification of every judicious effort to spread scriptural knowledge.

The books forming the Bible are not placed in historical and chronological order; and the same remark may be made in reference to Dr. Watts' "Short view of the whole Scripture History." The divine origin, inspiration, and truth of the Bible however are not at all affected by the arrangement of its various parts. For in respect of these as Dr. Prideaux justly states, "no variation in the order of the sacred books is of any moment. For in what order soever the books are placed, they are still the word of God, and no change in this respect can make any change in that divine authority which is stamped upon them."

But it may facilitate the acquisition of a clear and connected view of the numerous and extensive subjects recorded in the Bible, to have a comprehensive analysis of them presented in regular and consecutive order.

"Chronology consists of two parts. The first treats of the proper measurement of time, and its several divisions; the second of fixing the dates of events recorded in history, and ranging them in the order in which they happened. Without chronology, that is to say, without distinguishing the times of events as clearly as the nature of the case will admit, history would be little better than a heap of confusion destitute of light, order, or beauty."

"Geography in a strict sense, signifies the knowledge of the circles of the earthly globe, and the situation of the various parts of the earth. When it is taken in a little larger sense, it includes the knowledge of the seas also; and in the largest sense of all, it extends to the various customs, habits, and governments of nations."

It is, says Dr. Watts, of considerable advantage as well as delight for mankind to know a little of the earth on which they dwell. Without this knowledge we cannot read any history with profit. Hence because of their importance, chronology and geography have been designated the two eyes of history.

Accordingly in the following pages, the most important facts are recorded in regular order, as they are generally believed to have occurred. And brief geographical notices of the places whose names occur in the history are also given.

The succeeding history is chiefly an abridged republication of Dr. Watts' "Short View, &c." to which are now added, Practical Lessons—Questions for Examination—and Explanations of many words.

The catechetical form of the original work is now generally disapproved of, because works composed on that plan cannot be read so smoothly and agreeably as if the history were written continuously. Of that form therefore the history in this edition has been divested. And the object to be accomplished, by the catechetical form is much more likely to be realized by the Interrogative System; hence this system has been adopted, by which it is hoped the facts and truths recorded will be impressed on the memory of the learner.

The lessons are partly extracted from other works and partly original. The compiler is indebted to the works of Drs. Johnson, Watts, Doddridge, Clarke, Messrs. Wesley, Orton, Watson, Horne, Wood, Martindale, Kett, Blair, and others, which he thus acknowledges once for all.

The design of the writer is to facilitate the improvement and edification of Sabbath School Teachers and pious young persons generally, who may not have access to many books. The "Improvements" it is hoped may furnish topics for conversation on which both teachers and parents may advantageously enlarge.

The History is arranged in chronological order, generally after the plan of the valuable work of the Rev. Geo. Townsend, entitled, "The Holy Bible, containing the Old and New Testaments: arranged in Historical and Chronological Order, &c."

It is suggested with great deference whether, occasionally at least, a section of this work might not be read, and the exercises gone through, with advantage, in connection with family worship, where there are many children and servants, who have few other opportunities of receiving from their parents or masters religious instruction.

The work is published in parts with a view to economy in school's, and should this part meet with encouragement another will follow.

SACRED HISTORY.



CHAPTER I.

OF THE CREATION.

1. At the commencement of time about four thousand years before Christ, God created the substance of which the heavens and the earth were formed. Gen. i. 1.

2. All things were created by God's powerful word; for he commanded and it was done. Gen. i. 3, 6, 9. Heb. xi.

3. John i. 3.

3. God who could have made all things at once by his command, chose to work by degrees, and spent six days in making the world, and the creatures that are in it. Gen. i. 31. Exod. xx. 11.

4. The first day light was created. Gen. i. 3—5.
5. On the second day the atmosphere and the clouds were made. Gen. i. 6—8.
6. On the third day the waters and the land were separated, and grass, herbs, and trees were formed. Gen. i. 9—13.
7. On the fourth day the sun, moon, and stars were made. Gen. i. 14—19.
8. On the fifth day, God made fishes, birds, insects, and reptiles. Gen. i. 20—23.
9. On the sixth day, cattle, creeping things, beasts, and lastly MAN, were formed out of the earth. And every thing was very good and every creature was happy. Gen. i. 24—31.
10. On the seventh day, God rested from his work of creation, and set apart the seventh day for a holy Sabbath, to be occupied in his service only, and for his glory. Gen. ii. 2, 3.

IMPROVEMENT.

11. "Moses alone, of all ancient writers, gives a consistent and rational account of the creation; an account which has been confirmed, by the investigations of the most accurate philosophers. He has revealed the mystery, because he was taught it by the inspiration of the Almighty."

15. That God is a being of boundless power, wisdom, and goodness, is proved and illustrated by the works of creation; and we ought therefore to love him, confide in him, and obey him.

13. The Sabbath was instituted at the creation, by Almighty God, and all men are bound to observe it, and keep it holy.

QUESTIONS.

1. How did this world come into being?—When was this world made?—3. What time did God take to make all things?—4. What was made on the first day?—5. On the second?—6. On the third?—7. On the fourth?—8. On the fifth?—9. On the sixth?—10. Who rested on the seventh day?—11. Who has given a consistent account of the creation?—How has that account been confirmed?—How was Moses qualified to write that account?—12. What is God?—What is due from you to God?—13. What was instituted at the creation?—By whom was it instituted?—What then ought you to do on the Sabbath?

EXPLANATIONS AND PRONUNCIATION.

ATMOSPHERE, at'-mo-sfere : the air that encompasses the earth on all sides.

CLOUDS, kloud : the dark collections of vapour in the air.

SABBATH, sab'-bath : the seventh day, appointed by God for religious duties, and a total cessation from worldly works and pleasures.

LIGHT, lite: Sir Isaac Newton supposed that light consists of inconceivably small particles, which are projected in all directions with an amazing velocity, from the luminous or radiant body; as the sun. Light takes, seven or eight minutes in passing from the sun to the earth. It must travel, therefore, at the rate of 150,000 miles in a second of time.

SUN. The sun is a spherical body. Its diameter is 877,547 English miles; and it revolves round its axis in 25 days and 10 hours. Though the sun be upwards of one million times bigger than the earth, it appears but small an account of its distance, which is so very great, that a cannon ball would be twenty five years coming from thence to the earth, if it flew as swift as it does, when it is first discharged from the mouth of a cannon.

EARTH, erth: the diameter of the earth is upwards of 7900 miles. Its distance from the sun is more than ninety five millions of miles. And it revolves, round its axis in 23 hours 56 minutes and four seconds, and round the sun in 365 days 6 hours. The former is its diurnal or daily motion, the latter its annual or yearly motion.

MOON. The moon is a large globe like our earth, both in matter and form; about 2000 miles in diameter, her distance from the earth is about a quarter of a million of miles, and her periodical revolution round the earth is performed in about twenty-seven days. She is not a luminary like the sun, but a dark opaque body, and receives all the light she shines with from the sun, and by reflection conveys it to us in the sun's absence.

Spherical, sfer'-ri-cal: round, orbicular, globular.

Axis, ak'-sis: the line, real or imaginary, that passes through any thing, on which it may revolve.

Insects, ln'-sekts: insects are so called from a separation in the middle of their bodies, whereby they are cut into two parts, which are joined together by a small ligature, as we see in wasps and common flies.

Reptiles, rep'-tils: animals that creep on many feet.