

**THE HISTORY OF THE  
RELIGION OF ISRAEL: AN  
OLD TESTAMENT PRIMER**

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The History of the Religion of Israel: An Old Testament Primer by Crawford H. Toy

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THE RELIGION OF ISRAEL:  
An Old Testament Primer.

BY  
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THIRTEENTH EDITION.

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## P R E F A C E.

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It has been thought best to present the whole History of Israel in one course of lessons. This could not be done with great compression of the matter; but it is hoped that the teacher in this shape will not be beyond the grasp of children twelve years and upwards.

Where the condensation is so great, much is necessarily left to the knowledge and discretion of the teacher. He must select at the various subjects as he thinks best for his class, abridging here, and expanding there; dividing one lesson into two, or throwing two into one; omitting one or more lessons, if he thinks fit, and substituting for them other material. He must freely discuss the opinions expressed in the text, dissenting from and modifying them according to his best judgment.

One or two suggestions may be made as to the conduct of these lessons. It is very desirable that the teacher should bring himself into hearty sympathy with the period studied, as to give his pupils a vivid picture of its outward circumstances and its thought. The cultivation of the historical sense will be worth more than the acquisition of facts. To assist him in this task a short list of books of reference is appended to each lesson. Only such books are mentioned as are believed will be useful to Sunday-school instructors. Every Sunday-school should have a reference library. (See the List of Books on page xi; also Catalogue of Books recommended by the Ladies' Commission, Boston, 1871.)



Maps and charts should be freely used. Each class ought to have its own apparatus of these necessary helps to historical study.

Words strange to children should be carefully explained. Occasionally it may be well to spend the whole time of the lesson in fixing in the pupil's mind the signification of a single term; for example, "monotheism." When he has once really acquired this, it will save him from many misconceptions, and make all his succeeding reading easier.

The scholars must be encouraged to read the Old Testament, not as a lesson, but for its own sake; and each one should be provided with, and should bring regularly to the class, a copy of the Bible. The Apocrypha, also, should be accessible. The teacher may suggest a chapter in one of the historical books, or the prophets, or elsewhere, and try to awaken a lively interest in it. If possible, he should talk with the scholars on such passages outside of the school-room.

It is suggested that the Introductory Lesson be gone over rapidly at the beginning of the course, and then more carefully at its close. But this, as well as quarterly and other reviews, must be left to the teacher's judgment, or the decision of the school. The writer of these lessons, feeling strongly their meagreness, will be very glad to give such aid as he can to those teachers who may think it worth their while to apply to him.

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