

**A HISTORY OF THE  
RELIGION OF JUDAISM  
500 TO 200 B.C**

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A history of the religion of Judaism 500 to 200 B.C by Archibald Duff

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# A HISTORY OF THE RELIGION OF JUDAISM

500 TO 200 B.C.

BY

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DEDICATED TO  
MY WIFE  
MY DEVOTED HELPER  
*Sine qua non*

## PREFACE

I UNDERTAKE this task, too large I fear for my power, for several reasons. First, after fifty years of strenuous toil in Montreal and in Bradford, in teaching to many what the Old Testament is, I feel that it would be wrong to throw away unused the mass of lectures I prepared for my classes by a great deal of busy search ; so I publish some of my results now.

Secondly, I am eager to see the Old Testament used. To say that actually it is almost unused is no exaggeration. I know this disuse is caused by mistaken theories and methods. Only the historical and critical method can bring men to use it ; for it is a work of men, and only the Divinely human estimate of it and use of it will induce men to know it and to love it. Many ministers are afraid to use it : afraid of its difficulties, afraid of "fundamentalism." Let us play the man. Some unwise minister wished publicly a few days ago that this great Literature might be destroyed, buried in the ocean ! That wish cannot be fulfilled, else Jesus would be destroyed ; for that Literature is part of Him. When the wonderful beauty and genuine humanity of its writers are seen, then its romance will win everybody. Since Jesus was the Child of the Jewish People, therefore we cannot know Him really until we know the Old Testament.

Thirdly, I am deeply convinced that so-called Christianity has done untold injury to the Jews. Our dense ignorance of their pre-Christian story



## A History of The Religion of Judaism

is to be blamed. When we come to see their deep spirituality in the ages when they were producing Jesus—let us say, when GOD was producing Him by their lives—when we see the PSALMS, ISAIAH, the whole, as it poured from Jewish hearts, then we shall prize this Literature.

Finally, I am sure that only such knowledge of Jesus will save our Churches from their present sad helplessness.

I owe unmeasured thankfulness to many. Professor Duhm of Basel University has been for long years my inspiration and my leader. Of my other noble teachers I must mention with glad gratitude Eduard Riehm, Paul de Lagarde, Julius Wellhausen, T. K. Cheyne, W. Robertson Smith, B. W. Bacon. These have been verily prophets of GOD for me. My students of the past half-century have all cheered me on. Of these especially, the Rev. G. Stanley Russell, M.A., of Clapham, has revised and rewritten many a page for me; while the sainted Dr. J. H. Jowett was Russell's counsellor in such rewritings, as well as he was my strength by many a gracious word to me.

A. D.

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