

**TRINITY COLLEGE
PUBLICATIONS. A
GUIDE TO THE STUDY
OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE**

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Trinity College Publications. A Guide to the Study of the English Bible by Hersey Everett
Spence

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EDITORIAL NOTE

This syllabus is published under the auspices of the Committee on Publication of Trinity College and is the work of the members of the Department of Biblical Literature and Religious Education. It is intended primarily for use in the general course in the study of the Bible that is required of all students of the College in the Freshman, Sophomore, or Junior year. It is offered to the public because the Committee wished to afford to other institutions having a similar course an opportunity to use it. The Committee commends it also to any person interested in the study of the Bible and particularly to adult Bible classes in Sunday schools that desire to undertake a more systematic study than is provided for by the International Lessons.

A GUIDE TO THE STUDY
OF
THE ENGLISH BIBLE

BY

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PREFACE

This volume is intended to be a guide to the study of the English Bible, nothing more. It makes no pretension of being either critical or scholarly. It is written with the hope that it may enable students of the Bible to gain a general and yet a comprehensive knowledge of the contents of the book. It is intended largely as a text book to be used in schools and colleges in connection with the Bible itself. It is arranged to be covered in a year of study in a course of three hours a week. At the same time it is easily adjustable to other plans of teaching. The review "Studies" are merely meant to be suggestive and are by no means comprehensive.

This work is the outcome of several years of experience in teaching the subject matter of the Bible. The author and his colleague have taught the English Bible for some years with no other text except a syllabus to suggest the main topics of interest. He has now enlarged that syllabus and arranged the work in permanent form for the use of students. The references are to any good edition of the English Bible, but perhaps more satisfactory results may be obtained by using Moulton's *Modern Reader's Bible*.

The author is under obligations to his colleague, Professor James Cannon, for reading the copy critically and for many helpful suggestions which contributed materially to improve the book. Several of the "Studies" in the section on the New Testament are entirely the work of Professor Cannon, while other "Studies" in that section have been carefully revised by him with consequent improvement. Unfortunately circumstances beyond his control prevented him from

carrying out his plan of undertaking the chief responsibility for the entire work of that section. He has given help in the task of correcting the proofs.

A debt of thanks is due also to Dr. W. T. Laprade of the Department of History in Trinity College for his painstaking care in editing the book. He has spared no efforts to make it a success, and the author is grateful to him for his assistance.

As might be expected in a work of this sort, frequent reference has been made to many books from which help could be secured. The author has not hesitated to borrow suggestions, ideas, and even outlines where he found them workable. Free use has been made of the following books: Eiselen and Barclay, *The Worker and His Bible*; Seay, *An Outline for the Study of Old Testament History*; Price, *A Syllabus of Old Testament History*; Bacon, *An Introduction to the New Testament*, Erdman, *The General Epistles*, and Moulton, *Modern Reader's Bible*. Additional authorities that have been consulted are: Wild, Genung, Hodges, Penniman, and others, to all of whom the author acknowledges obligations.

H. E. SPENCE.

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GENERAL OUTLINE

The Roman numerals in parenthesis at the right indicate the "Studies" in which these topics are treated.

- I. INTRODUCTION TO BIBLE STUDY:
 1. The Bible and how we got it (I).
 2. Why and how we should study the Bible (II).
- II. THE OLD TESTAMENT:
 1. The beginning of things (III).
 2. The history of the Hebrews:
 - a. The patriarchal period (IV-V).
 - b. Egypt and the Exodus (VI-XII).
 - c. The occupation of Canaan (XIII).
 - d. The period of the Judges (XIV-XV).
 - e. The rise and growth of the monarchy:
 - (1) Samuel (XVI).
 - (2) Saul (XVII).
 - (3) David (XVIII-XIX).
 - (4) Solomon (XX).
 - f. The division of the kingdom (XXII).
 - g. The history of Israel to the fall of the kingdom:
 - (1) Elijah (XXIII).
 - (2) Elisha (XXIV).
 - (3) Hebrew codes of law (XXV).
 - (4) Notable kings (XXVI).
 - h. The history of Judah to the fall of the kingdom (XXVII-XXVIII).
 - i. The exile and return (XXIX-XXX):
 - (1) Daniel.
 - (2) Esther.
 - (3) Ezra.
 - (4) Nehemiah.

3. The literature of the Hebrews:
 - a. The Prophets (XXXII):
 - (1) Assyrian (XXXIII-XXXV).
 - (2) Chaldean and Exilic (XXXVI-XL).
 - (3) Post-Exilic (XLI).
 - b. Hebrew classics (XLIII):
 - (1) Poetry (XLIV-XLIX).
 - (2) Wisdom Literature (L-LVI).
- III. BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS (LVIII).
- IV. THE NEW TESTAMENT:
 1. New Testament history:
 - a. The Gospels (LIX-LXIX).
 - b. Acts (LXXI-LXXII; LXXVII).
 2. New Testament Literature:
 - a. The Epistles (LXXIII-LXXVI;
LXXVIII-LXXXII).
 - b. The Revelation (LXXXIII-LXXXIV).