

**A MANUAL OF THE CHALDEE
LANGUAGE; CONTAINING A
CHALDEE GRAMMAR, A
CHRESTOMATHY, A
VOCABULARY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649460151

A Manual of the Chaldee Language; Containing a Chaldee Grammar, a Chrestomathy, a Vocabulary by Elias Riggs

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ELIAS RIGGS

**A MANUAL OF THE CHALDEE
LANGUAGE; CONTAINING A
CHALDEE GRAMMAR, A
CHRESTOMATHY,
A VOCABULARY**

A
MANUAL
OF THE
CHALDEE LANGUAGE;

CONTAINING A
CHALDEE GRAMMAR,
CHIEFLY FROM THE GERMAN OF PROFESSOR G. B. WILKE;

A
CHRESTOMATHY,
CONSISTING OF SELECTIONS FROM THE TARGUMS, AND INCLUDING NOTES ON THE
BIBLICAL CHALDEE; AND

A
VOCABULARY,
ADAPTED TO THE CHRESTOMATHY.

WITH
AN APPENDIX
ON THE RABBINIC AND SAMARITAN DIALECTS.

BY ELIAS RIGGS, D. D.

FOURTH EDITION, REVISED.

NEW YORK:
ANSON D. F. RANDOLPH & CO.,
900 BROADWAY, COR. 20th STREET.

3223.44.5
✓

YARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
JEWETT GIFT
SEPT. 6, 1943

Revised, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1858, by
ELLAS RIGGS,
In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of
New York.

CONTENTS.

PREFACE	5
INTRODUCTION. CHALDEAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE	9

GRAMMAR.

	PAGE		PAGE
PART I.—ORTHOGRAPHY AND ORTHOEPY.			
Consonants	17	Verbs defective, and mixed forms	43
Vowels	17	— Irregular, with suffix pronouns	49
Dagheesh	19	NOUNS ; derivation	50
Mappiq	20	— gender and number	51
Accents	20	— state; emphatic	52
Tone-syllable	20	— Declension	54
Of reading unpointed text	21	Dec. I	54
PART II.—ETYMOLOGY.			
Derivation and inflection of words generally	22	Dec. II. III.	55
Mutations of consonants	22	Dec. IV. V.	56
Vowel changes	25	Dec. VI. VII.	57
PRONOUNS ; personal and possessive	27	Dec. VIII. IX.	58
Suffix pronouns	28	Irregular nouns	59
Demonstrative pronouns	29	ADJECTIVES	59
Relative and interrogative	29	Numerals	59
VERBS ; derivation and inflection	30	PARTICLES ; adverbs	60
Conjugations	30	Prepositions	61
Moods and tenses	32	Conjunctions	61
Inflection of the Regular Verb	33	Interjections	62
Notes on the Par. of the Regular Verb	34	PART III.—SYNTAX.	
Personal inflection of the participles	35	PRONOUNS ; personal	63
Unfrequent Conjugations	37	— relative	64
Quadriliteral Verbs	37	— interrogative	64
Verbs with Gutturals	37	— reflexive, how designated	64
Regular Verbs with Suffix-pronouns	39	— Indefinite	64
IRREGULAR VERBS	40	— demonstrative	64
Verbs Pe Nun	41	VERBS ; use of the tenses	64
— Ayin doubled	41	Peculiar mode of designating certain tenses	65
— Pe Yodh	43	Use of the Imperative	65
— Pe Aleph	44	— Infinitive	65
— Ayin Vav and Ayin Yodh	44	— Participles	65
— Lamedh Aleph	45	Optative mood	67
— doubly anomalous	47	Agreement of the verb with its subject	67
		Impersonal verbs; how designated	67
		Regimen of verbs	68
		Verbs used for adverbs	68

	PAGE		PAGE
Constructio praeognans	66	Adjectives; comparison of	71
Ellipsis	68	NUMERALS	71
NOUNS; designation of cases	69	PARTICLES; adverbs	72
Use of the cases	70	Negatives	72
— plural	70	Interrogative particles	72
Repetition of nouns	70	PARADIGMS of verbs, nouns, &c.	72
ADJECTIVES	70		

CHRESTOMATHY.

PART I.—SELECT SENTENCES FROM THE TARGUM OF ONKELOS	93	VII. The praises of Jehovah, Ps. 6	112
PART II.—EXTRACTS FROM THE TARGUMS.		VIII. Parable of the vineyard, Isa. 5:1—7. Jonathan	112
I. History of the fall, Gen. 3. Onkelos	97	IX. Extract from Isaiah's prediction of the Messiah, Isa. 52:12—53:2. Jona- than	114
II. The same, Gen. 3. Pseudo-Jonathan	100	X. Aphorisms of Solomon, Prov. 10:1— 12. Targumist unknown	115
III. The same, Gen. 3. Jerusalem Targum	103	PART III.—NOTES ON THE BIBLICAL CHALDEAN.	
IV. Story of a dispute between Cain and Abel, Gen. 4:8. Jerusalem Targum	103	I. Jeremiah 10:11	117
V. Marriage of Samson, Judg. 14. Jona- than	109	II. Daniel 2:4—7:28	118
VI. Prediction of Messiah's kingdom, Ps. 2. Author of the Targum uncer- tain	111	III. Ezra 4:8—6:18	123
VOCABULARY		IV. Ezra 7:12—23	123
APPENDIX A. Rabbinical Dialect			
* B. Samaritan Dialect			151

P R E F A C E .

THE first edition of this work was published in 1832. The preface to that edition, kindly furnished by my respected instructor, the Rev. Moses Stuart, then Professor of Biblical Literature in the Theological Seminary at Andover, so well sets forth the advantages of studying the Chaldee dialect, that I retain the principal portion of it here. Prof. Stuart says :

“ The study of the Chaldee language is worthy of commendation, on various grounds.

“ (1) A knowledge of it is highly important, in aiding the student more fully to understand the Hebrew. The basis of Hebrew, Chaldee, Syriac, Arabic, and Samaritan, is well known, by every good oriental scholar, to be one and the same. Hence it may be truly said, that he who has a solid and fundamental knowledge of the genius of one of these languages, possesses a real knowledge of them all. The meaning is, that the genius, structure, idiom, peculiarities of syntax, and a multitude of the words, are substantially the same in all; so that he who has acquired a radical acquaintance with any one of them, is prepared to make very rapid and easy progress in them all. The student who understands the Hebrew, has only to read through the pages of the Grammar in the following sheets, in order to be fully satisfied of the correctness of this statement. And if correct, then is it obvious, that in every step of his progress in the study of the Chaldee, he is gaining additional light and satisfaction and confirmation, in regard to the meaning, forms, and structure of the Hebrew. Who will say that the study of Greek, Latin, French (specially the Norman), and Saxon, does not cast light upon the English language? Indeed, how can it ever be radically understood, without some knowledge of these languages? But the Chaldee is much nearer to the Hebrew, than any of these languages to the English.

“ (2) The most important ancient helps extant, for illustrating the

meaning of Hebrew words, are in the Chaldee language. The two Targums of Onkelos and Jonathan (which extend over the most considerable portion of the Old Testament) are more to be depended on in difficult cases, than any other aid to which we can resort, in all the store-houses of antiquity. In all probability they are older than the Christian era (excepting a few later adscititious passages that have been mingled with them); and inasmuch as they are substantially of the same idiom with the Hebrew, so they often give us the exact shape, as well as meaning of the Hebrew, better than any or all other ancient versions. Let the attentive student note the use which Rosenmueller has, with so manifest advantage to his commentaries, often made of the Targums. We may reasonably have a confidence in such ancient Chaldee translators, that they, at least for the most part, rightly understood their original.

“(3) Several chapters in Ezra and Daniel, as exhibited in our Hebrew Bibles, are in the Chaldee language. The student, then, who designs to acquire the power of consulting *all* the original Scriptures, must make himself acquainted with the Chaldee language.

“(4) Whoever designs to pursue Talmudic and Rabbinic literature, or to be able to judge of quotations from the Talmud or the Rabbins, must have some acquaintance with the Chaldee. The Gemara of the Talmud is *Chaldaic* in its idiom; and so are nearly all of the older Rabbinical writings. All the works of this class are, indeed, of a corrupt dialect and mixed nature; but they all *Chaldaize*.

“(5) The Chaldee is a very easy conquest to the well-grounded Hebrew student. A few weeks devoted to it will enable him to read it with as much facility as he does the Hebrew. Buxtorf's *Lexicon Chald. Talmud. Rabbinicum*, is a complete store-house of these dialects, and is a book which may be procured for a trifle. It is an “*opus triginta annorum* ;” and truly a paragon in this species of lexicography. Every biblical student should possess it. A Polyglott Bible will present the student with all the Targums; and Buxtorf's *Biblia Rabbinica* will not only give these, but all the distinguished Rabbinic commentaries, such as those of Kimchi, Jarchi, Aben Ezra, etc.”

After some remarks respecting the publication of such a work as the Chaldee Manual in this country, he adds:

“As to the work itself, the plan and the execution are throughout such as I can commend. The grammar is brief; but quite copious enough for the student who is well versed in Hebrew. In the text, notes, and lexicon of the Chrestomathy, will be found all that is needful

in an *introduction* to the Chaldee language. With Buxtorf's Lexicon and the Targums, one can easily make his own way, after reading this Chrestomathy."

A second edition of Prof. Winer's Chaldee Grammar appeared at Leipzig in 1842, revised and considerably enlarged. This was translated into English by the Rev. Hor. B. Hackett, D.D., Professor of Bibl. Lit. in Newton Theol. Institution, and published at Andover in 1845.

Revisiting my native land, after an absence of twenty-four years in the foreign missionary service in Greece and Turkey, it seemed to me due to the cause of Biblical literature that I should revise and re-edit the Chaldee Manual. This, with the full concurrence and approbation of Prof. Hackett, I have undertaken, availing myself of whatever seemed to be improvements in Prof. Winer's second edition, and incorporating numerous manuscript notes of my own. To the brief view of the Rabbinic dialect in the Appendix has been added a similar view of the Samaritan. The former is a Chaldaizing Hebrew, the latter a Hebraizing Chaldee.

I trust it will be found that the work has been decidedly enhanced in value, although somewhat diminished in size, by the omission from the Chrestomathy of the text of the Biblical Chaldee. The notes are preserved, and in the first edition the text also was printed for convenience of reference; but as every student has it already in his Hebrew Bible, it was thought that his interest would be best consulted by omitting it here, and thus diminishing the size of the book, and consequently its price.

This edition will be issued simultaneously in this country and in Great Britain. It is offered to the lovers of biblical and oriental study in both countries, with a prayer to the Author of the Scriptures, that He would condescend to employ it as a means of furthering in these highly favored lands the critical study of the Sacred Volume.

ELIAS RIGGS.

New York, January, 1858.