

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649159185

Introduction to the study of the Old Testament by Johann Gottfried Eichhorn

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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JOHANN GOTTFRIED EICHHORN

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PRINTED BY
SPOTTISWOODE AND CO., NEW-STREET SQUARE
LONDON

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TO THE STUDY OF THE
OLD TESTAMENT

BY
JOHANN GOTTFRIED EICHORN

A FRAGMENT TRANSLATED
BY
GEORGE TILLY GOLLOP, ESQ.

PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION
1888

EDITOR'S PREFACE.

MY FATHER acquired a knowledge of the German language during his travels in the country in 1815-16. He translated some of the minor poems of Schiller in 1823. Later, his attention was directed to German Theology, and finding there was no English version of Eichorn's 'Introduction to the Study of the Old Testament,' he set to work to make one. For this purpose he studied Hebrew and Arabic; with Greek he was well acquainted.

But he gave up the task when he had translated a portion of the work, and he took no steps for printing even this. Now, in his ninety-eighth year, he has asked me to have the fragment printed. The translation was made from an early edition of Eichorn's works.

From my ignorance of the languages of antiquity, it is not within my competence to do more than to correct the proofs of the translation. I regret that circumstances prevent my calling in further help than has been kindly afforded by the printer.

The progress of Biblical criticism in the last hundred years is so great that Eichorn's 'Introduction to the Study of the Old Testament' may be of inferior interest to the

works of later writers, but Eichorn was a pioneer in the field of Biblical Criticism. His writings are distinguished by moderation, ingenuity, sound learning, and common sense. They may therefore still be read with interest and advantage, and their value is not altogether lost, in spite of the long period of time which has elapsed since they were first published.

CHRISTINE G. J. REEVE.

62 RUTLAND GATE: *December 1888.*

PREFACE

TO

THE THIRD EDITION.

HOWEVER willingly I might have undertaken the labour of giving an entirely new form to this new edition of the 'Introduction to the Old Testament,' my contemporaries have hitherto afforded me small occasion to exchange the results of my former researches against other convictions. I am obliged, therefore, to confine myself merely to remedy the defects of the former editions to the best of my judgment and power, and bring the present one up to the level of the existing state of Biblical Literature. The proposed alterations, then, affect less the entire work than its details, and I hope to have omitted nothing essential from new works which may have appeared, either to its increase or improvement. May the public be only as well pleased with the present as with past editions!

To its indulgence and the unseen blessings which, as an author, I have hitherto reaped, am I alone indebted for the courage with which undismayed I still proceed on

my path of authorship, though vexed not seldom by the unpleasant chances along the same which grudge and greed have brought upon me. Even as regards this book they have not been wanting. For although its rightful publishers and author have done everything to place it as cheap as possible in the hands of the public, and to that end its five and a half quires (of the former editions) or 126 sheets, in spite of the dearness of printing, cost the buyer, as the shop price, even without the least abatement, only 4 rixdollars and 8 good groschen, yet still towards this cheap book the ravenous hand of piracy was stretched, and immediately after the appearance of the former editions the value of their property was repeatedly reduced to the publishers and author. Notwithstanding this injury the publishers will only raise the price in proportion to the increased cost of printing and paper since 1788. Should it, however, now please the pirates, according to their usual practice, to seize the property of this new altered and improved edition, the necessary measures are already taken to reduce their false wares to waste paper.

Immediately after the completion of this new edition of the 'Introduction to the Old Testament' the short and popular form of the poetical scriptures of the Jews, of which I published the Book of Job two years ago as a specimen, will be sent to press, and this book also I shall make it a duty to give to the public as cheap as possible.