

THE VALUE OF THE APOCRYPHA

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The Value of the Apocrypha by Bernard J. Snell

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BERNARD J. SNELL

**THE VALUE OF
THE APOCRYPHA**

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BY

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PREFACE

9-7-43
It has been my custom to imitate my predecessor, the late Baldwin Brown, by delivering every winter on successive Sunday evenings a series of "Lectures" on some religious subject that could not with advantage be brought under ordinary pulpit treatment.

From time to time I have received expression of the wish that I might give such guidance as lay within my power on the subject of the Apocrypha. Three years ago I promised the fulfilment of this suggestion, and I have now thrown into form the results of my reading in this direction. I have not the slightest claim to scholarship on this recondite subject, and frequently found myself "in wandering mazes lost" amid the jungle of Apocalyptic and Talmudic literature. But finally I ventured to

give four Lectures, the substance of which will be found in the pages following. I trust that I did not thereby misuse the sacred opportunity of Divine Service.

It is my hope that some among my readers may be as kindly in judgment as were many among my hearers. I find that a new interest has been kindled in some minds through my exposition of these ancient Scriptures, and, as it may be a help to any who wish to pursue this interesting study, I append a list of the principal works to which I have been indebted in the preparation of this little volume.

BERNARD J. SNELL.

BRIXTON INDEPENDENT CHURCH, S.W.
February, 1905.

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LIST OF BOOKS CONSULTED

- "Encyclopædia Biblica."
Cheyne: "Jewish Religious Life after the Exile."
Stanley: "History of the Jewish Church."
Reuss: "Commentary on Bible."
Smith: "Dictionary of Bible."
"The Temple Bible."
"The Modern Reader's Bible."
M. Conway: "Solomon and Solomonic Literature."
Rothschild: "History and Literature of Israelites."
Riggs: "History of Jewish People."
A. P. Smith: "Old Testament History."
Bleek: "Introduction to Old Testament."
Churton: "Uncanonical and Apocryphal Scriptures."
Wace: "Speaker's Commentary."
Westcott: "Bible in the Church."

TABLE OF LEADING EVENTS

B.C.

- 586. Beginning of Babylonian Captivity.
- 539. Cyrus takes Babylon.
- 333. Persian Empire shattered by Alexander the Great.
- 323-176. Reigns of the Diadochi, or Successors.
- 176. Antiochus Epiphanes, King of Syria.
- 168. Desecration of Temple.
- 167. Maccabean Revolt begins.
- 161. Judas slain.
- 156. Religious Independence granted.
- 135. Assassination of Simon.
- 107. Death of John Hyrcanus.
- 63. Pompey in Jerusalem.
- 55. Cæsar invades Britain.
- 44. Assassination of Julius Cæsar.
- 37. Herod established as King of Judea.
- 5. Birth of Jesus Christ.
- 4. Death of Herod.

A.D.

- 70. Destruction of Jerusalem.

