

**THE BIBLE AS IT IS; A SIMPLE
METHOD OF MASTERING
AND UNDERSTANDING THE
BIBLE. JENESIS TO JUDGE**

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The Bible as it is; a simple method of mastering and understanding the Bible. Jenesis to Judge by Alexander Patterson

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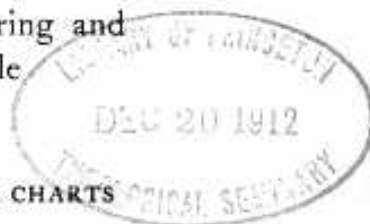
**THE BIBLE
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The Bible As It Is

A Simple Method of Mastering and
Understanding the Bible

ILLUSTRATED BY DIAGRAMS AND CHARTS



By REV. ALEXANDER PATTERSON

AUTHOR OF "THE GREATER LIFE AND WORK OF CHRIST," "THE OTHER
SIDE OF EVOLUTION," "BIBLE MANUAL"

GENESIS TO JUDGES

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PREFACE

The title of this book gives its position, its purpose and its method. It is a presentation of the Bible upon its own claims for itself and as we have it. The first essential to any one entering upon the study of the Bible either as friend or foe, is to ascertain exactly what the Bible says and means. We here take the Bible as we have it. We are assured by scholars that our English versions of the Bible are sufficiently accurate for all practical purposes. It is also safe to say that no material change of language, statement or teaching will ever take place in the Bible. The books will always come as they do now and the contents remain essentially as they are. Hence it is safe and proper to learn the Bible as it is. It is the conviction of the author that a fair inquiry as to the actual statements and teachings of the Bible will go far to clear up many if not all of the difficulties the student meets.

The great purpose of all Bible study should be Spiritual effect. Without this all else is "sounding brass and clanging cymbal." It is the kind of study Christ rebuked in the Scribes and Pharisees when he said "Ye search the Scriptures because in them ye think ye have eternal life, and these are they which

bear witness of me; and ye will not come to me that ye may have life." There is to-day much Bible study that is as truly "pharisaical" as ever practiced in Jewish circles of old, while the food for the soul is neglected. It is the latter the rank and file of the army of God need. Not one in a thousand cares for these minute points of origin, date, etc., but all do want comfort in sorrow, deliverance from sin, and in death hope and assurance. These are the blessings the Bible is intended to convey and without which Bible study is disappointing.

The heart is a truer guide than the head, and the great mass of the church remain convinced that they are still justified in taking the Bible as it is. Certain it is that on the objector rests the burden of showing otherwise.

The plan of these studies is to present the great lines of narrative doctrine and spiritual life upon which the Bible is laid out. First the whole is given at a glance, then the great parts of the structure are given each in a similar view, then the books and smaller divisions. Much of the study of the day is "scrappy" and disconnected and no general or broad idea of the whole divine plan is obtained. It is the plan here to present the mountain peaks of Bible narrative and to view the whole as centered about these in a succession of bird's-eye studies. This is the natural method. We remember history by great men, events and epochs. While it may be the duty of

some to study more closely it is not in the power of the many to do so, nor is it necessary save for special lessons or purposes.

Simplicity is one great purpose kept in mind. While the average of intellectual condition of our day is high the state of Bible knowledge has not kept pace therewith. The tests applied to the advanced classes in some of our colleges have shown a lamentable deficiency in the elementary knowledge of Scripture. If this state exists in such circles it is more common among these who are in active business life. The aim here is to so present the Bible that it will be easily understood by the average mind. The Diagrams and Charts are designed for this purpose. They have been tested in hundreds of classes and found effective. Pastors and teachers will find in these studies what is needed for popular Bible classes. The Diagrams should be reproduced on the blackboard, accompanying them by the necessary explanation. The old chronology is used simply because it is accessible to all and the differences are not important, in the historical books at least, and where accuracy is necessary it may be secured later. Dates are given also in round numbers.

These studies are designed to accompany the Sunday School Lessons, and will furnish either an advanced course or a parallel course uniting the lessons, which are more or less disconnected, into one and a logical and systematic course.

The present volume is a revision and enlargement of a former volume under another title the reception of which has encouraged the author to thus enlarge it and present it under a more suitable title. It is sent out with the hope that it will aid in the knowledge of "the Bible as it is."

We are in the day of Bible study. Ten million copies are now made and sold every year. The wisest of the world confess its value. Ruskin said the best part of his education was the chapters his mother taught him. Sir Edwin Arnold said he owed his education to the Bible more than to any other hundred books. Dr. Richard G. Moulton has said: "We have done almost everything that is possible with these Hebrew and Greek writings. We have overlaid them, clause by clause, with exhaustive commentaries; we have translated them, revised the translations, and quarreled over the revisions; have discussed authenticity and inspiration, and suggested textual history with colored type; we have mechanically divided the whole into chapters and verses, and sought texts to memorize and quote; we have epitomized into hand-books and extracted school lessons; we have recast from the feminine point of view, and even from the standpoint of the next century. There is yet one thing left to do with the Bible: simply to read it." We add to this, and to read it as it is. This is the purpose of this series of studies.

ALEXANDER PATTERSON.