

**JERUSALEM UNDER THE HIGH-
PRIESTS: FIVE LECTURES ON THE
PERIOD BETWEEN NEHEMIAH
AND THE NEW TESTAMENT**

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Jerusalem Under the High-Priests: Five Lectures on the Period Between Nehemiah and the New Testament by Edwyn Bevan

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EDWYN BEVAN

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FIVE LECTURES ON THE PERIOD
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THE NEW TESTAMENT

BY

EDWYN BEVAN

AUTHOR OF "THE HOUSE OF ALEXANDER"

LONDON

EDWARD ARNOLD

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1904

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BEVAN

To the
Very Reverend T. W. Jex-Blake, D.D.
Dean of Wells

DEAR MR. DEAN

The delivery of the following Lectures will be always associated in my recollection with the hospitality of your house. The Society on whose behalf they were given owes much in the past to your support and co-operation. Under such circumstances I feel that there is no name which I could inscribe upon a page of dedication more appropriately than yours.

EDWYN BEVAN.

PREFACE

THE Lectures in this book were composed for popular audiences in connection with the Bath and Wells Diocesan Society for Higher Religious Education, and it is not their object to produce what the professed historical student would regard as new results, but to give in a few strokes the general outline and colour of a period which must surely have an interest for everybody who finds any interest in the Bible. Any one who should come to a book of this sort for the elucidation of obscure problems or matters of controversy would certainly be disappointed; it is on such points indeed that a work intended for students would chiefly fix its scrutiny; it has been my principle to neglect them, and try rather to show in a connected sketch what is plain and assured. Many omissions which in a set history of the period would be unpardonable will strike any specialist into whose hands the book may fall. And if he is inclined to ask, why at least I did not give fuller treatment to this or that, I can only answer that in the first instance the lectures were cast with reference to limits of time, and that afterwards I felt that to attempt to remedy their incompleteness would be to embark on a work of

which I did not see the issue. It seemed better that they should go out as they are, popular lectures, sketches, frankly limited in their scope, than make any pretence to be a complete historical manual. It seemed to me that even, as such, they might be welcome to some of those people who, without being experts, are still interested in a period so crucial for the history of our religion, especially when I reflected that, were I asked to mention any book which gave some brief account of it, in accordance with the present state of expert opinion, I should be somewhat at a loss to name one. Those who wish to make a serious study of the period will, of course, go to the books which give them a command of the learned literature on the subject; it is hardly necessary, even in England, to name the great cardinal work of Dr. Emil Schürer. The study of the more distinctively religious currents of the period has been greatly furthered and facilitated by the work of Professor R. C. Charles, the recognised authority upon Jewish apocalyptic writings. I could wish that his translation of the book of *Enoch* were published in a popular form, which would make it more known, as it ought to be, by all those who desire light upon the New Testament. It is from this translation, I need hardly say, that my quotations from *Enoch* are taken. The quotations from the *Psalter of Solomon* follow the version by the Bishop of Winchester and Mr. M. R. James (Ryle and James).

I have tried, in making this sketch, to see things

for myself, to reproduce such an image as is made upon a fresh mind by our documents. At the same time, I have been continually conscious of my debt to the writers whose works have taught me. That I do not acknowledge my obligations more particularly in the course of the lectures is due simply to their popular character. To the readers I have mostly in view such names as Niese and Bousset, for instance, would say nothing. Should any one to whom they are familiar light upon these lectures, he will be able to discern to what extent I am indebted—I am not sure that I know with complete exactitude myself.

E. B.

BANWELL, SOMERSET.

