

**THE APOCALYPSE OF ST. JOHN: A
BRIEF CONTRIBUTION TO THE
CONTROVERSY AS TO THE DATE AND
AUTHORSHIP THEREOF WITH A SHORT
HISTORY OF ITS INTERPRETATION**

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The Apocalypse of St. John: A Brief Contribution to the Controversy as to the date and authorship thereof with a short history of its interpretation by George Thomas Jowett

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GEORGE THOMAS JOWETT

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BY THE

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PREFATORY NOTE

THE following Thesis is constructed on the basis of a synopsis of research into the literature of the subjoined periods and on the writings of the various authors stated in the Bibliography subjoined.

1. THE EARLY CHURCH

Papias, Irenaeus, Justin Martyr, Hippolytus, Tertullian, Origen, Tychonius, Andreas, and Arethas.

2. THE MIDDLE AGES

Joachim, most celebrated of Mediaeval Commentators on the Apocalypse. While others satisfied themselves with a spiritualizing exegesis, following their predecessors closely, he has left a work which is a landmark in the history of Apocalyptic interpretation.

In the fourteenth century, Nicolas of Lyra.

Rec. M.V.P. 1-4-40

3. THE REFORMATION PERIOD

Luther, Erasmus, Zwingli, Calvin, Rebeira,
Alcazar.

The Three Schools of Interpretation.

- (a) The Continuous Historical.
- (b) The Futurist.
- (c) The Preterist.

4. MODERN TIMES

Critical and Analytical Methods.

Weizacker, Volter, Vischer, Harnack,
Briggs, Gunkel, Boussett.

Contemporary Historical Theory.

Summary of Dr. Swete's Views.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

THE following works have been consulted in the compilation :—

1. Eusebius : *Ecclesiastical History*.
2. Westcott : *Canon of the New Testament*.
3. Dr. Marcus Dod : *Introduction to the New Testament*.
4. Conybeare : *Armenian Version of the Revelation*.
5. Alford : *Greek Testament*.
6. Wordsworth : *Greek Testament*.
7. F. D. Maurice : *Lectures on the Apocalypse*.
8. Milligan : *Revelation of St. John*.
9. Dr. Swete : *The Apocalypse of St. John*.
10. Dr. Hort : *Apocalypse of St. John*, i-iii.
11. Sir W. Ramsay : *Letters to the Seven Churches*.
12. Charteris : *Canonicity*.
13. Smith : *Dictionary of the Bible*.
14. Hastings : *Dictionary of the Bible*.

THE APOCALYPSE OF ST. JOHN

THE Apocalypse of St. John, long neglected by serious students who had written valuable commentaries on the other writings of the New Testament, has in recent years received a large share of attention.

The revival of interest has for the most part been caused by the discovery of a considerable number of Apocalypses, both Jewish and Christian, and by the illustration the Apocalypse of St. John has received from modern archaeological research in Asia Minor, as set forth in that most interesting and valuable book of Professor W. M. Ramsay, *The Letters to the Seven Churches*.

Probably no book has suffered so much from fantastic interpretations as the Apocalypse of St. John, no piece of literature has benefited so much by research.

THE DATE

The time and authorship of the work have been matters of warm controversy; the two subjects are closely allied, and the evidence can only be elicited by critical processes.

Genuine criticism in a true historical spirit on this subject belongs to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and especially to the latter half of the nineteenth. It will, then, be necessary for us to consider how it bears upon traditional views and ancient witness.

The earliest Christian tradition is practically unanimous in assigning the date of the Apocalypse to the reign of Domitian. It is recorded, in a very early composite statement, around which general modern criticism has turned, 'John the son of Zebedee, the author of the Gospel and Epistles bearing his name, wrote also the Apocalypse in the reign of Domitian.'

We shall, in the first place, consider the latter part of the statement, 'in the reign of Domitian,' and see what external and internal evidence there is to support the assertion.

(1) IRENAEUS (died about A. D. 192), a native of Asia Minor, a hearer of Polycarp of Smyrna, a personal disciple of St. John, and one who used the treatise of Papias of Hierapolis (another personal disciple of St. John), says, in one of his books against