

**ECLECTIC ENGLISH
CLASSICS; OLD
TESTAMENT NARRATIVES**

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Eclectic English Classics: Old Testament Narratives by Edward Chauncey Baldwin

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EDWARD CHAUNCEY BALDWIN

**ECLECTIC ENGLISH
CLASSICS; OLD
TESTAMENT NARRATIVES**

Bible, O.T. Selections, Etc.
ECLECTIC ENGLISH CLASSICS

OLD TESTAMENT NARRATIVES

SELECTED AND EDITED BY
EDWARD CHAUNCEY BALDWIN

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LITERATURE, UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS, URBANA, ILL.

Gallery of sacred pictures manifold,
A minster rich in holy effigies,
And bearing on entablature and frieze
The hieroglyphic oracles of old,
Along its transept aureoled martyrs sit;
And the low chancel side-lights half acquaint
The eye with shrines of prophet, bard and saint,
Their age-dimmed tablets traced in doubtful writ!

—WHITTIER.

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OLD TEST. NARR.

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PREFACE

WHEN the committee on college entrance requirements recommended selected narratives from the Old Testament for reading, every true friend of religious education heartily rejoiced that the ban against the study of the Old Testament in the secondary school has at last been lifted. The action of the committee seemed a step in the right direction, a move toward a fuller recognition of the influence of Hebrew thought in the development of our English cultural and ethical life in the past, and a fuller recognition also of the part that Hebrew thought must play in the future progress of our race, if we are to remain faithful to those ideals of conduct which have made us what we are.

In preparing this edition of Biblical narratives the editor has tried to keep consistently in mind the purpose for which it was designed, namely, to furnish to students of high school age through certain selected stories an introduction to Hebrew literature, which shall stimulate in them a desire to pursue the subject further. The annotation has been strictly limited to supplying at the foot of the pages such explanations as seem absolutely necessary for a measurably intelligent reading; and to furnishing at the end of the volume certain critical comments designed to increase the student's literary appreciation. Most of these comments are of the nature of literary comparisons with such English and American poetry as the pupil may reason-

ably be expected to know, or at least to have heard of. Such a method of approach I have found better adapted to arouse the student's interest than any method that serves to emphasize the differences of Hebrew literature from that which the student already knows.

The text is the American revision of 1901. This was selected rather than the authorized version of 1611, or the English revision of 1885, because, though certainly less beautiful than the former, and probably than the latter, it is, owing to its lack of archaisms, more intelligible to the modern high school pupil than either.

Finally, I wish to disclaim any credit for scholarship, or even for originality. The material embodied in the notes, and to some extent that of the Introduction, is largely borrowed from the books mentioned in the Bibliography. Some of the notes are transferred bodily from commentaries, and from such editions as the Temple Bible and the Cambridge Bible. I wish also to acknowledge my indebtedness in particular to Dr. Lyman Abbott's *Life and Literature of the Ancient Hebrews*, to Professor C. F. Kent's *Origin and Permanent Value of the Old Testament*, and to Canon Driver's *Introduction to the Literature of the Old Testament*.

E. C. B.

Urbana, Illinois.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE TESTING OF ABRAHAM—Genesis xxii. 1-19	1
AN ORIENTAL COURTSHIP—Genesis xxiv.	2
ESAU'S SALE OF HIS BIRTHRIGHT—Genesis xxv. 27-34	7
ISAAC'S BLESSING OF JACOB—Genesis xxvii. 1-40	8
JACOB'S DREAM—Genesis xxviii. 10-22	10
JACOB'S COURTSHIP—Genesis xxix. 1-20	11
JACOB'S WRESTLING WITH THE ANGEL—Genesis xxxii. 24-32	13
JOSEPH—Genesis xxxvii. 2-36; xxxix.-xlv. 7; xlv. 28- xlvii. 12	13
THE BIRTH OF MOSES AND THE OPPRESSION OF ISRAEL— Exodus ii.-iv. 23; iv. 27-v. 21	32
THE DEATH OF MOSES—Deuteronomy xxxiv.	39
THE FALL OF JERICO—Joshua vi. 1-21	40
JOSHUA AT GIBEON—Joshua x. 1-15	42
GIDEON—Judges vi. 33-vii. 25	44
JOTHAM'S FABLE OF THE TREES—Judges ix. 8-15	47
JEPHTHAH'S VOW—Judges xi. 30-40	47
THE BATTLE AT MEGIDDO AND THE SONG OF DEBORAH— Judges iv.-v.	48
SAMSON—Judges xiii.-xvi.	53
RUTH	61
THE CHOOSING AND ANOINTING OF SAUL—I Samuel ix.-x.	68
SAUL'S DISOBEDIENCE—I Samuel xv. 1-31	73
DAVID AND GOLIATH—I Samuel xvii.	75
DAVID AND JONATHAN—I Samuel xx.	79
THE WITCH OF EN-DOR—I Samuel xxviii. 3-25	83
THE DEATH OF SAUL—I Samuel xxxi.	85

	PAGE
ABSALOM'S REVOLT—2 Samuel xv.-xviii.	86
SOLOMON'S WISDOM—I Kings iii. 5-28	96
ELIJAH—I Kings xvii.	98
ELIJAH AND THE PRIESTS OF BAAL—I Kings xviii. 17-40	99
NABOTH'S VINEYARD—I Kings xxi.	101
ELIJAH'S TRANSLATION—2 Kings ii. 1-12	104
ELIJAH AND THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN—2 Kings iv. 17-37	105
NAAMAN THE LEPER—2 Kings v.	106
ELISHA AND THE SYRIANS—2 Kings vi. 8-23	109
THE DESTRUCTION OF SENNACHERIB—2 Kings xviii. 13-19	110
ESTHER	115
NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM—Daniel ii.	130
NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S GOLDEN IMAGE—Daniel iii.	134
NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S MADNESS—Daniel iv.	137
THE VISION OF BELSHAZZAR—Daniel v.	140
DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN—Daniel vi.	143

