

# **THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE DATED**

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The Books of the bible dated by E. H. Bradby

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**E. H. BRADBY**

**THE BOOKS OF  
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THE  
BOOKS OF THE BIBLE DATED

*A HANDBOOK OF A NEW ORDER OF  
THE SEVERAL BOOKS, ACCORD-  
ING TO THE RESULTS OF  
BIBLICAL CRITICISM*

WITH  
*BRIEF NOTICES, WHERE REQUIRED, ON THE  
AUTHORSHIP AND CHARACTER OF  
EACH BOOK*

BY  
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*Hon. Canon of St. Albans*

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PATERNOSTER SQUARE

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## PREFACE.

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THERE must be thousands of readers who have neither the time nor the training required for mastering long works on Biblical criticism, yet would be glad to possess, set down in a compendious form, some of the main conclusions at which that criticism has arrived. In particular, three principal questions confront the student at the opening of any book:—what is its date? who wrote it? and what is its general drift and character? It is the object of the following pages to show very briefly, as far as the writer's

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knowledge and judgment reach, how some or all of these questions have been answered by Biblical criticism, as regards the several books of the Bible. Little but the bare conclusions is given, the scope of the book precluding any summary of the evidence on which they rest; but no conclusion is set down that is not in the opinion of the compiler either well established, or so probable as to deserve respectful attention. Where results are uncertain such uncertainty is noted. Of course many of the conclusions here recorded have been, and still are, hotly contested, and some of them, here and there, may be mistaken, but they rest, as a whole, on too solid a base of evidence to be overthrown. If their general effect be at first to startle the uncritical reader, and upset some of his preconceived opinions, yet their

final effect, as the writer believes, will prove to be of a different kind. They will lead him to a truer, and therefore better, appreciation of the Bible. They will help him to study it with reverential intelligence. They will convince him that Revelation, however we may define it, is progressive, and relative to the age which receives it; that the truth conveyed must be carefully distinguished from the "earthen vessels" which contain it, and the alloy with which it is mixed; and that it is conveyed "in divers portions and in divers manners."

Men say that the Bible is losing, or has lost, its hold on the affection of the people. If it be so, it is because the people have an uneasy suspicion that their teachers either do not know (as is often the case), or will not tell them, the whole truth about it. The



first thing to be done, if we would restore it to the place which is its due, is to tell that truth without fear or favour. It is the object of this little book to take the first necessary step in that direction.

It would be a great help if our admirable Revised Version of the Bible could be printed in the chronological order of the several Books, and with such differences of type as might serve to mark difference of origin, wherever that difference cannot reasonably be questioned.

In fixing the place in the general stream of events of the issue of the several Books it was necessary to follow some one system of chronology. The system adopted for the Old Testament is that of Conder, given in his "Handbook to the Bible;" for the New Testament, that of Renan. Other

systems vary a few years, as regards the dates of particular events, but for the purposes of this book the variation is practically unimportant, our object being to mark the relative order in time of the several Books, not the precise date of their issue, which cannot now be ascertained.

[In the following list the several Books of the Bible are set down under their common titles in the order in which it seems probable that they were originally composed.]