

**THE HEART OF THE OLD
TESTAMENT: A MANUAL
FOR CHRISTIAN STUDENTS**

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The heart of the Old Testament: a manual for Christian students by John R. Sampey

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A Manual for Christian Students

BY

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THE HEART OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. II

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TO THE MEMORY OF
BASIL MANLY, JR.
MY HONORED PRECEPTOR AND FRIEND

PREFACE

"WHERE can I find an Old Testament manual written by a modern scholar who believes thoroughly in the supernatural in both Testaments?" You hold the answer in your hands. It is not an Old Testament History, though it follows the thread of the story from beginning to end; it is not a book on Old Testament Literature, though it opens up the poetical and prophetic books to the student; it is not a treatise on Old Testament Theology, though it calls attention to the rise and development of the great doctrines of the Hebrew Scriptures. The author has not limited himself to biography and history, nor to literary analysis and appreciation, nor to the growth of Bible doctrines; but he has freely drawn from these and other departments of Old Testament study whatever seemed of most value to young people in Christian homes and schools in the twentieth century. His aim is to call attention to what is most worth while.

It may seem impossible to make a book that will be suitable for popular Bible study, and at the same time be adapted to use in high schools, colleges, and seminaries; but the attempt is here made. It is hoped that the book is not too difficult for the average reader, nor too elementary for students in schools and colleges.

The gist of the Old Testament revelation is here put before the student in thirteen chapters. A closing chapter presents a bird's-eye view of the Bible as a whole. A chart is appended in which an effort is made to suggest reasonable dates for the books of the Bible.

The wise teacher will take several recitations for some of the chapters. He will try to persuade the pupil to read

the Bible references in full, that he may get his own first-hand impressions of the meaning of God's Word. If this Manual creates a thirst for richer knowledge of the Old Testament, and starts the reader aright as he opens the Bible, the author's aim will have been attained.

The favor with which the first edition was received leads the author to hope for continued usefulness for this new and revised edition. More than seventeen thousand copies of the first edition were sold. *The Heart of the Old Testament* has also been translated into Portuguese and into Chinese.

INTRODUCTORY

THE Old Testament is part of a progressive revelation. God spoke in ancient times to the fathers through the prophets in many pieces and in many styles; in the fullness of time He spoke to us through His Son (Heb. 1:1, 2). The revelation of grace and redemption, begun in the earliest history of mankind, and continued through the patriarchs and the prophets, was completed in Christ Jesus and the Apostles.

The Bible is a unity; for in all its parts it is a history of redemption. That redemption was achieved by Jesus Christ, the central character of the Bible, for whom the Old Testament prepared the way. To Him all the prophets bore witness. Well do Christians retain the Old Testament in their Bibles; for the earlier stages of the redemptive process are therein described. The germs of all the great Christian doctrines are found in the Hebrew Scriptures. They are still "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16, 17). These sacred writings are still able to make one wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus (2 Tim. 3:15).

What folly to ignore writings of such mighty power! But there is a folly possibly greater even than neglect of these books: some Christian scholars interpret the Old Testament in the spirit of the unbelieving Jews, studiously explaining away all the types and prophecies that point forward to our Lord Jesus Christ. Let it be our aim in these studies to focus our attention on those facts