# THE BIBLE, A MISSIONARY BOOK

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The Bible, a Missionary Book by Robert F. Horton

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# **ROBERT F. HORTON**

# THE BIBLE, A MISSIONARY BOOK

Trieste



### THE BIBLE

# A MISSIONARY BOOK

BY KOBERT F. HORTON M.A., D.D.

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12

### CONTENTS

							PAGE
PRE	FACE •	(*)	•	58	- C		5
		CI	HAPTE	RI			
THE	METHOD	OF STU	JDY	•5	n 🛃	٠	21
		CH	IAPTE	RII			
THE	BURDEN	OF TH	E NEW	TESTA	MENT		47
		СН	APTE	R III			
ном	V THE LA	W LEAD	S UP T	O THE	GOSPE	L.	85
		CH	IAPTE	r iv			
THE	MISSION	ARY PR	OMISE	IN TH	E HIST	ORY	
	OF ISRAE	L.	<b>\$</b>		1.1	197	103

#### CHAPTER V

"HOLY MEN OF OLD SPAKE AS THEY WERE MOVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT" . . 129 3

#### CONTENTS

PAGE			r vi	APTE	CH	
	NGS	WRITI	HICAL	ILOSO	E AND P	IMAGINATIVE
155	<b>1</b> 5		т.	STAME	NEW TE	OF THE 1
			R VII	APTE	СН	
179				8	•	SUMMARY
I	2	š				SUMMARY

#### PREFACE

For the sake of any reader whose interest in missions may be greater than his interest in biblical scholarship, it may be well to define beforehand the attitude which is assumed in these pages, towards critical questions and methods of biblical interpretation. That attitude is not personal to the writer, but is that of the large majority of scholars and exegetes who have in recent years contributed most to the understanding of the Bible.

Dr Hastings' *Dictionary of the Bible* represents the conclusions up to the present moment of the vast weight of British scholarship. The mingled candour and reverence which are the peculiar note of our English theology, here find their completest expression. I may be pardoned for mentioning the names of Prof. Driver and Prof. George Adam Smith in Old Testament work, and the name of Prof. Sanday in New Testament work, as the best known and the most typical representatives of the attitude assumed in this great dictionary. As the Encyclopædia Biblica, edited by Prof. Cheyne, presents the extremest views of present day criticism, and is an invaluable authority for the theories which are mooted and discussed in the progress of theological inquiry, so Dr Hastings' Dictionary is the best authority we possess for the cautious conclusions and tested results which have been achieved in the last quarter of a century. Needless to say, the changes effected in these years place a vast difference between the recent work, and the dictionaries which were the great authorities until now. But Hastings' Dictionary supersedes its predecessors as inevitably as the ninth edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica superseded the eighth. It would be a

#### PREFACE

dangerous obscurantism to ignore that great change, and it is evident that missionary students, whose task it is to present Christianity to the cultivated races of the East, must remember that educated Hindus, and Japanese, and Chinese, when they want to know the truth about the Bible, will turn, not to the dictionaries and authorities of thirty years ago, but to the latest and most approved works of to-day.

I have therefore assumed, though I know the assumption may sometimes be rash, that the reader is acquainted with the general position occupied by the enlightened and believing scholarship of our time. If any view seems startling or arbitrary, I would urge the reader to consult the article in the *Dictionary of the Bible* on the subject referred to. For example, under *Pentateuch* or *Deuteronomy*, or the *Law*, he will find explained in detail the views which in this brief survey are only assumed; and so with *Chronicles* or *Jonah* or