

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING  
TO ST. JOHN: AN INQUIRY  
INTO ITS GENESIS AND  
HISTORICAL VALUE**

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The Gospel According to St. John: An Inquiry into Its Genesis and Historical Value by Dr. Hans Hinrich Wendt & Edward Lummis

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EDINBURGH: T. & T. CLARK, 38 GEORGE STREET.

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GOSPEL ACCORDING  
TO ST. JOHN

*An Inquiry into  
Its Genesis and Historical Value*

BY

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## PREFACE TO THE GERMAN EDITION



IN the year 1886, in my *Lehre Jesu*,<sup>1</sup> i. pp. 215-342, I attempted to establish the hypothesis that in the Fourth Gospel, and specifically in the discursive passages, a source consisting of older written notes or memoirs had been employed. Since that time a long series of important disquisitions have appeared with regard to that Gospel, all of which I have been at pains to study. In almost all of them my hypothesis is curtly rejected. I have not, however, been shaken in my conviction of the correctness of my main idea, either by these works or by the treatise of Dr. E. Haupt (*Studien und Kritiken*, 1893, pp. 217-250), which deals with my hypothesis in detail: a paper for which I take this opportunity of recording my especial thanks to my esteemed colleague of Halle. I have not found any effectual confutation of the reasons which I put forward, or any better explanation of the remarkable phenomena in the Fourth Gospel which appear to me to be due to the employment of a written source. But I have found in these works much that directly confirms and supports, sometimes, indeed, even necessitates, my hypothesis. A strong desire has grown upon me, in consequence, to explain and justify my hypothesis once more, in a new and better form, and with greater detail than was admissible in

<sup>1</sup> Authorised English Translation — *The Teaching of Jesus* (Edinburgh, T. & T. Clark).

the scheme of that larger work, and to compare it with the recent labours of other writers. It is my hope and aim to show, in the following pages, that my hypothesis affords a really satisfactory solution of the important and difficult Johannine problem.

H. H. WENDT.

JENA, *4th March* 1900.

## PREFACE TO THE ENGLISH EDITION

THE hypothesis proposed in this book, with reference to the structure and origin of the Gospel according to John, first forced itself upon my mind when, at the beginning of my academic work, I sought to form an independent judgment, apart from the influence of theological tradition, concerning the Fourth Gospel. The composition of this Gospel presents many peculiarities and difficulties, for which, as it seemed to me, no satisfactory explanation could be found, except on the assumption that two layers of tradition lie side by side,—an older material, and the additions of a more recent redactor. I found this hypothesis of great help in the understanding of the Gospel, both in detail and as a whole; and reached the conviction that only by its aid could a true estimate of the value of the Gospel be attained.

I first gave literary expression to my hypothesis in the first part of the German edition of my *Lehre Jesu* (Göttingen, 1886), pp. 215-342. Therein I sought to justify the manner and method in which I made use of the Fourth Gospel in my presentment of the substance of Jesus' teaching. In the English edition, *The Teaching of Jesus*, the first part of the German edition, which investigates the original records used as sources in the Gospels, was not included.

Since then several important treatises on the Fourth