

**CLEWS TO HOLY WRIT; OR, THE
CHRONOLOGICAL SCRIPTURE
CYCLE; A SCHEME FOR STUDYING
THE WHOLE BIBLE IN ITS HISTORICAL
ORDER DURING THREE YEARS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649550777

Clews to Holy Writ; Or, The Chronological Scripture Cycle; A Scheme for Studying the Whole Bible in Its Historical Order During Three Years by Mary Louisa Georgina Petrie

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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A SCHEME FOR STUDYING THE WHOLE BIBLE IN ITS
HISTORICAL ORDER DURING THREE YEARS

BY

MARY LOUISA GEORGINA PETRIE, B.A.

(*MRS. ASHLEY CARUS-WILSON*)

NINTH THOUSAND

London

HODDER AND STOUGHTON

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TO ADELINE,
DUCHESS OF BEDFORD,
ONE OF THE FIRST
OUTSIDE OUR COLLEGE BY POST TO ADOPT
THE C.S.C. SCHEME,
AND THE FIRST TO SUGGEST
ITS ISSUE IN THIS FORM FOR A WIDER PUBLIC,
I Dedicate
MY LITTLE BOOK.

1966726

PREFACE TO THE SIXTH THOUSAND

THE reception which my little volume has had from the reviewers and the public has been most gratifying to the author of a first book. The few adverse criticisms were based on the idea that I was daring enough to attempt the difficult, if not impossible, task of setting forth an authoritative scheme of Biblical chronology. Preparation of this book has, on the contrary, led me to doubt if an undisputed date can be assigned to any single event in Scripture history. Modern research has not yet replaced the generally condemned old chronology by a generally accepted new one. Hence it seemed best, in a popular book, to use the "received chronology" as a convenient working basis, indicating that it is only approximately true anywhere, and in many places very doubtful.

My marriage, on August 31st, 1893, to Professor Ashley Carus-Wilson, of McGill University, Montreal, has changed both my name and my address, and puts it out of my power to admit any new students into the College by Post, at any rate until the summer of 1894. All

letters referring to it should be addressed to "The Secretary of the College by Post," at Hanover Lodge, Kensington Park. Letters intended for me should go to Canada. We are arranging to lend the MS. answers to the questions to the many leaders of Scripture classes, etc., who are using this book, on payment of a subscription of at least 2s. 6d. to the Prize Fund of the College by Post.

MARY L. G. CARUS-WILSON.

September, 1893.

PREFACE.

“WILL you as a young student help another young student?” The request was made by the founder of the “Christian Women’s Education Union” to me in my early college days, when I had only matriculated and all the hardest part of my work for the University of London lay before me. So I began an informal correspondence with two or three other girls whose schoolroom days were over, and who were isolated from educational advantages. A few months later, casual mention in the *Girl’s Own Paper* of this brought such scores of applications for the proffered aid that the organisation now known as the COLLEGE BY POST came suddenly into being.

Born thus in the summer of 1881, it has grown steadily since. University College, London; Westfield College, Hampstead; Girton and Newnham Colleges, Cambridge; Somerville and Lady Margaret Halls, Oxford; the Ladies’ College, Cheltenham, and kindred institutions for higher education of women have contributed able teachers glad to share with others what they have themselves received to a staff on which 200 have now been enrolled.

From all parts of the United Kingdom, from the Continent and the Colonies, students representing many different conditions of life and degrees of education, to the number of 3000, have entered our classes. We do not prepare for any public examinations, but many who have small opportunity of availing themselves of professional

tuition are eager to continue self-culture of various kinds under definite guidance through correspondence. We would fain lead them to prefer wise books to foolish ones; to enrich their lives by caring for history, literature, and science, when continuing to learn ceases to be a duty imposed from without and one is free to arrest or foster further intellectual growth. And since the most important history, the noblest literature, and the highest knowledge should always come first, every one of our students undertakes to give half an hour a day to Bible study on some regular system. Some do this merely because it is the condition of receiving gratuitous instruction in other subjects. But these soon find that to know the Bible aright is to love it above all other books. And an ever-increasing number who do not need our teaching in other subjects join Scripture classes only, and continue Scripture study year after year when marriage or pressure of other fresh claims on time has made secular study with us impossible. During more than six years we availed ourselves of four plans of Bible reading, each of which joins us to organisations of larger extent than our own, and each of which has its peculiar advantages: (*a*) The Lectionary of the Church of England, by which the Old Testament is read once and the New Testament twice in the year. Four chapters a day are, however, too large a portion for thorough study, save in the case of those who have abundant leisure. (*b*) (*c*) The two Bible Unions shaped some sixteen years ago by two clergymen of the Church of England, and now numbering many thousand adherents all over the world—viz., the Bible and Prayer Union, which reads the Bible straight through in three years and three months at the rate of one chapter a day; and the Christian Progress Union, which reads the Old Testament and New Testament straight through together, in rather more than two years and a half. Both are clear and simple plans, but tend to ignore the historical connection of the books of the