

# **THE MAKING OF THE BIBLE**

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The Making of the Bible by Samuel M. Vernon

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**SAMUEL M. VERNON**

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BY  
SAMUEL M. VERNON



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## CHAPTER I

### THE WORLD WITHOUT A BIBLE

THE Bible was not given to man at the beginning of his career. Only after the lapse of many centuries did it appear, as product and instrument of the growing life of the race. When it did come, it was not one sudden burst of light, but it crept in softly, little by little, as the mind of man slowly readjusted itself to its changing conditions and new method of receiving divine revelations. It was one of the later methods chosen by God for manifesting himself to men. That religion of the highest order and ethical conduct of the finest quality were possible without the Bible was proven by the unanswerable argument that they existed and flourished through long periods and among different nations before there was a Bible. That a Bible was not given is sufficient evidence that it was not necessary to the well-being and religious development of the race in the beginning; God had other and adequate methods.

## THE MAKING OF THE BIBLE

If it had been best for man, God could have given him a written revelation at the first, a perfect guidebook for his conduct which he could not misunderstand. That he did not do it is proof that he considered another form of revelation more effective and better for man's religious development. The appeal must be more direct, and the personal contact closer and more manifest than would have been possible in a written revelation. Man's nature was untrained and undeveloped, and a powerful direct appeal was necessary to awaken a desire for the knowledge of God and for communion with him.

If it is objected that writing was not in use at first, and, therefore, a written revelation was impossible, it may be answered that this is pure assumption. We do not know but that with the gift or development of language there was included a knowledge or development of the art of reading and writing. If that gift was not included in man's outfit for life, it could have been, and certainly would have been, if it had been necessary to his proper instruction in religious knowledge and duties.

## THE WORLD WITHOUT A BIBLE

Such a gift would have been no more miraculous than were the special direct revelations that were necessary from time to time because of the absence of a written code. It is the unchallenged fact of history that the Creator and Governor of all things, who had power to do whatsoever he saw to be needful to the well-being of man "for whom all creation stood," stopped short in his work without giving him a book of revelation. This must have been because he saw it would be better to use those methods of revelation which history has so fully justified and which our reason can see were better for the race in the early stages of its development than a written book could have been. How long that period was before the beginning of a written revelation is unknown. It was certainly much longer than the traditional view, founded on the unscholarly chronology for which Archbishop Usher is largely responsible, makes it. Recent discoveries in archæology, in the uncovering of the cities and monuments of antiquity, make it certain that that period must have been from four to eight thousand years, possibly