

[The Origin and History of the Bible]

Lecture XIII: The Bible as a Whole<sup>1</sup>

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1. Steps in the Attempt to get at the Origin and Character of the Bible
  - a. First: Study of translations.
    - i. First. Wycliffe.
    - ii. Tyndale.
    - iii. King James. 1611.
    - iv. Revised version.
  - b. Second: The history of the mss. Aleph and Bezae.
2. Steps in the Formation of the Old Testament Bible
  - a. First: Traditional Stories.
    - i. J and E first written down in the eighth century [B.C.E.].
    - ii. Amos, 750 [B.C.E.].
    - iii. Isaiah.
    - iv. Deuteronomy, 650 [B.C.E.].
    - v. Prophets added in the Persian period.
    - vi. Other writings in the Greek period.
    - vii. Canon closed 100 A.D.
3. The New Testament
  - a. Began 53 A.D.
  - b. Canon closed 419 [C.E.] and by the Pope 496 [C.E.].
4. Historical Connections
  - a. First: Egyptian, 1400 to 1100 [B.C.E.] about.
  - b. Second: Assyrian, 735 to 586 [B.C.E.].
    - i. Many primitive agricultural customs absorbed after the abandonment of the nomadic life.
  - c. Third: Babylonian 597/586 to 539 [B.C.E.].
    - i. Laws.
    - ii. Customs.

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<sup>1</sup> The earlier lectures are all full text manuscripts. (Lecture 10 is missing.) This manuscript is different. It is an expanded outline, not full text. It also has a date, April 2, 1916. Unfortunately, only an outline, but still suggestive of what Davis had in mind to say at this point in his lectures.

- iii. Literary legends, e.g., the Garden of Eden story (see Genesis 2:10-15 for location in the Babylonian region).
- d. Fourth: Persian 539 to 333 [B.C.E.].
  - i. Idea of Resurrection entered Jewish life at this time and came from the Persians.
- e. Fifth: Greek 333 to 63 [B.C.E.]. Pompey in Syria.
  - i. Greek culture.
  - ii. Logos.
  - iii. Philosophy predominant.
  - iv. Not of Christianity.
- f. Sixth: Roman 63 [B.C.E.].

#### 5. Breadth of Biblical Literature

- a. First: Tradition. Historical.
- b. Second: Laws, Religious and Civil.
- c. Third: Prophets.
- d. Fourth: Poetry, ranging from the epic of Job to the love lyrics of the Songs of Solomon.
- e. Fifth: Wisdom literature.
- f. Sixth: Apocalyptic literature.
- g. Seventh: Biography.
- h. Eighth: Letters.

#### 6. Sources of Historical Information

- a. First: Source of information in:
  - i. Ethnology.
  - ii. Ethics.
  - iii. Philosophy, etc.
- b. Second: Source of information in:
  - i. Religious customs.
  - ii. Ideas of the past.
- c. Third: Some of the great characters of history are found in this book.
- d. Fourth: Source of Literary masterpieces.
- e. Fifth: Use in the past:
  - i. Educational/expressional.
  - ii. Symbol for the idea of the progressive achievement of mankind in matters of ethics, thought, government and religion.
- f. Sixth: It is one of the greatest books in the world.