Lecture III.

The Origin of the Books of the Old Testament.

" Higher Criticism."

Just as in the lecture last Sunday we used the New Testament to illustrate the nature, necessity for, and some of the results of that science of Textual Criticism, so to night we are using the Old Testament or Portions of it to illustrate the nature of, the necessity for, and some of the results of Higher Criticism. This also is a phrase which is very much misunderstood. By many it is last and greatest evil in the world. As a matter of fact it is somply a branch of literary study. As increasing numbers of literary mornuments of antiquity were placed before us, and our interest in them, as records and survivals of the last, compelled us to study them, we developed naturally this science which is sometimes called historical criticism, and sometimes higher criticism, to distinguish from textual or lowerx criticism.

Higher criticism had alredy been applied to such ancient literary monuments as the classics of Greece, and Egypt, Babylonia etc. From the confused and confusing mass of remains, a fairly cound and sensible and possible history was constructed. But when these same principles and methods were applied to the Jewish people and the Jewish Literature of the Old Testament, there arose a great protest. Many a man suffered from the protest, and many a deed that might well be forgotten was committed in the name of tradition, and religion. These incidents may well be eliminated from this condideration.

Outline of Lecture.

Purpose, to show the great change that has taken place in the attitude of men towards the Bible during the past century.

Section one. Attitude towards the Bible

Section two. Allegorical Interpretation.

Section three. Early Exponents of new views. B C.

Section four. School of Modern Criticism.

Section five. Problems to be met.

General Result. Bible not a book, but a Literature.

BRICHLICA

Leaders in Criticism.

Aben	Ezra.				1365	•

Reformers	16th Ceh.
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Spinoza Hobbes	"Laviathan"	1651	1670.x
Father Simon	France (Cath)		1678.
Issac Newton	(Prot)		1705.
Lowth	"De Sacra Poesi"		1753.
Jean Astruc	"Conjectures"		1753.
Herder,			1782.

Modern.

Eichhorn.	Introduction to O.T.	1780-83.
DeWette Parker. T.	American.	1806- 1807. 184 3
Well Hausen	Prolegomena.	1894.
Colenso	Pentateuch.	1862
Driver. I	Introduction.	1891

The reason why Higher Criticism arose and who the protest came

from the same source.

In order to undestand tremendous furor that the first books on Higher Criticism provoked it is necessary for us to recall at least two facts, and possibly throe. The accepted attitude towards the bible, Second allegorical criticism. Third the idea of Frolution.

Fourth German Rationalism.

Attitude Towards the Bible.

faultless -- unerring -- supreme ."

It is almost impossible for the average person to imagine just how people felt toward the Bible even within so recent a period as 50 or 25 years. But in so brief a time as that so great a change has come about that practically few people hold to ideas that were common but a few years ago. Following passages suggest the attitude.

"By the inspiration of Holy Scripturex I understand, that the Scriptures were written under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who communicated to the writers facts before unknown, directed them in the selection of facts known before, and preserved them from error of every kind in the records they made."

Archdeacon Pratt, in "Science and Scripture not at

Variance" Cited in Colenso, 44. (814-1883)

"The Bible is none other than the very Voice of Him that sitteth upon the throne. Every book of it-every chapter of it-every verse-every word of it-every syllable of it-(where are we to stop?) every letter of it -- is the direct utterance of the most high. The Bible is none other than the word of Godnot some part of it more, some part of it less, but all alike, the utterance of him who sitteth upont the Throne-- Absolute--

Burgon's "Inspiration and Interpretation" Page 89, Cited in Colenso, Page 46.

Lecture III A 2

Emmons of Franklin or to take a more local declaration by Nathanial who was one of the leaders of the so-called Berkshire Divinity, we find him saying in a sermon on the Plenary Inspiration of the Scriptures."

"That the book which we emphatically call the Bible, was written by the inspiration of suggestion."

"And there can be no doubt but the inspiration of suggestion took place, 'when the natural faculties of the sacred penman were superseded, and God spake directly to their have minds, making such discoveries to them as they could not/other wise obtained, and dictitating the very words in which such discoveries were to be communicated."

"It was this last and highest kind of inspiration, which, we suppose, God was pleased to afford those holy man whom he employed in writing the books of the Old and New Testament. He not only directed them to write, but at the same time suggested what to write.; so that, according to the literal sense as of the text, they wrote exactly what they were moved by the Holy Ghomst."

Emmons Works, Vol. 1V P 75.

"As late as 1889 one of the two most eloquent pulpit orators in the Church of England, Canon Liddon, preaching at St. Paul's Cathedral, used in his fervor the same dangerous argument; that the authority of Christ himself, and therfore of Christianity must rest on the old view of the Old Testament.; that, since the founder of Christianity, in divinely recorded utterances alluded to the transformation of Lot's wife into a pillar of salt, to Noah's ark and the flood, and to the sojourn of Jonah in the whale, the biblical account of these must be given up altogether." White. History etc. Vol 2, Page 369.

Lecture III- B 1/
Allegorical Interpretation.

"To find the spiritual meaning of the sacred text, partly beside the literal, partly by excluding it, became the watchward for the scientific Christian theology which was possible only on this basis, as it endeavored to reduce the immense and dissimilar material of the Old Testament to Unity with the Gospel;"
.....Here, Philo was the Master: For he first to a great extent poured the new wine into old bottles." Such a procedure is warranted by its final purpose; for history is a unity. But applied in a pedantic and stringently dogmatic way it is the source of deception, of untruthfulness and finally of total blindness."

Harnack , History of Dogma, Vol 1, 146.

In other woods the early Jewish Scribes, and the early Christians were forced to a device of "Getting the spiritual sense of Scripture" in order to retain their scripture and apply it to practical life.

method of interpreting Scripture by allegory, or by getting the spiritual sense of it, has been applied all though then history of the Christian Church, and still is employed is one of the most astonishing facts minking we have to deal with.

The Bible not only had its apparent meaning, but its spiritual or allegorical meaning. Only the initiatied could know that that allegorical meaning might be. Two or three illustrations of this sort of interpretation is indicate its character.

Philo was the early master of this "spiritual sense" of the scripture delusion, which has raged in ax ecclesiastical circles from that day to this, and for which there is no more justification than there is for the spiritual interpretation of the Pittsfield Eagle. In the sixth century an Egyptian monk by a process of spiritual interpretations of a series of

scriputee passages , (See White Vol 1 , 95') constructed theoryaof the structure of the Universe which the Copernican theory had to combat and overcome centuries later, and established ideas that the doctrine of Evolution in the nineteenth Century had to face. Special significance was given to numbers in the Scripture. Jesephus argued that since there were 22 letters in the Hebrew Alphabet, there It Augustine who is regarded as the fountain he ad for all othodox theology has a very strong passage on the mystical meaning of numbers. " In the mystic power of numbers to reveal the scripture Augustine found special delight. He tells us that there is deep meaning in sundry scriptural uses of the number xixx forty, and especially as the number of days required for fasting. Forty, he reminds us, is four times ten. Now four, he says, is the number especially representing time, the day and the year, each being divided into four parts: while ten being made up of three and seven, represents knowledge of the Creator and Creature, three referring to the three persons in the triune creator, and the seven referring to the three elements, heart . soul, and mind taken in connection with four elements, fire, air. earth, and water, which go to make up the creature. Therefore this number ten, representing knowledge, being multiplied by four, representing time, admonishes us to life during time according to knowledge -- that is , to fast for forty days." White Vol II, P 298.

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While these illustrations are extreme but by no means rare, has this method of interpretation/continued right up to the present and is responsible for a vast amount of evil of many kinds. "The Spiritual sense" or the Spiritual interpretation, or the allegorical interpretation of Scripture has been one way of avoiding the glaring inconsistancies, the evident errors, and the many other complications

involved in regarding the Bible as "Supernatural Revelation of God."

If God dictated the writings they cannot be in error. If there is an apparent error, it must appear to be so simply because we do not understand the meaning of the passage. Therefore there must be some other meaning than that which is apparent on the face of it. It must have a spiritual meaning. Take for example the Songs of Solomon.

Taking the ordinary meaning of the language, this book, the
Songs of Solomon is a collection of oriental Love poems. They can by
no means be regarded as religious or ethical. They are simply passionate oriental Love songs, Mery early this difficulty was seen, and by
means of the Spiritual interpretation, or allegorical interpretation
these poems were held to be sympolic of the Love of Christ for the
Church. The first modern man to suggest the real character of the
poem paid for it by starvation and death. Luis de Leon was spent five
years in a dungeon of the Inquisition for making the same suggestion.
Yet in that the revised version of the Bible, made by the greatest
scholars and Churchmen of Ungland and America, this the unsound character of the Spiritual interpretation is accepted, and the Song of
Solomon is printed for what it is, "a collection of Love lyrics, or
probably an Lyric drama.

Lecture III C -- 1.

Up to a hundred years ago it was generally assumed that Mosew was the author of the Pentateuch. The pentateuch kning is the name given to the first five books of the Old Testament, the old Jewish Law, or Tomrah. Moreover the book was regarded as dictated by God. Moses was not only regarded as the author, but it was held that he was but a penman for God. Pfeiffer a German Lutheran District Supt, or Bishop, said about the beginning of the 17th century that the text of Genesis must be strictly received; that 'it contains all knowledge human and divine'; that 'twenty eight articles of the Aigsburg confession are to be found in it ": that ' it is an arsenal of arguments against

Usher in his "A nnels " works out the history of the world with such accurateness that he **Speak** fixes the date of the beginning of creation on "The evening before October 23 in the year 710 of the Julian period." i.e. 4004 B.C.

He dates the flood 1656? and Abraham's birth at 2008. This work of Usher's is segarded as perhaps the most important work on History between the reformation and 1750.

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White Vol II 312.

Inquestioned until the opening of the last Century, there were a few along the line through the who took a common sense view of the matter and giving to these books a "common-sense" meaning pointed out the very glaring inconsistances. Among the earliest of these was a Jewish Rabbi of the 14th century, Aben Ezra. Ezra knew just how popular such ideas were in his time, so he very shrewdly attributed them the announced that these were not his own ideas, but the ideas of a Rabbi who had lived a century early and left this unpublished work. At the close of this statement he put these words, "Let him who understands hold his tongue.

Lecture III 62.

The reformers held to many of the critical views.

"At the same time we can see from Luther's critical attitude how the doctrine of the reformers admitted considerable freedom, in particular with reference to the extent of the canon, but also to several questions of higher criticism. This it is to Luther a matter of indifference whether or not Moses wrote the Pentateuch; the book of Chrinisles he definitely pronounces less credible than those of Kings, and he considers the books of Isaiah, Jememiah, and and Hosea probably owe their present form to later hands."

Enc. Brit: 11th Edition. Vol 13 P861.

xilizer To this same period belong of the reformers belong Carlsstardt, Protestant, and Andreqs Maes Catholic both of whom paid a very heavy penalty for their heresies. Lecture III C---3.

Thomas Hobbes.

Thomas Hobbes who by "sheer force of his fierce, concentrated intellect"became a master builder in Philosophy ", influencing profoundly Spinoza, Leibnetz, Diderot and Rousseau, . "He hates error and therefore to confute it he shouldered his way into the very sanctuary fo truth ."

In his "Leviathan" published in 1651 he set forth some very new ideas for his time, giving evidence of an essentially seigns tixis modern point of view. Among other things he had much to say on matters religious. For this reason he has earned for himself a right to be classed as the pioneer in the great science of "Higher Criticism."

in the 33 Chapter of the Leviathan he asks a number of very pointed questions, and suggests some very far reaching truths. The first statement to attract attention is this.

"Who were the original writers of the several books of
Holy Scripture has not been made evident by any sufficient
testimony of other history, which is the only proof of
a matter of fact."

"First for the Pentateuch We read (Deut XXXIV 16) concerning the sepilichre of Moses ' that no man knoweth of his sepulchre to this day.", that is to the day wherein these woods were written. "

Many other of the little slips that are incompatable with the idea of Mosaic authorship Hobbes called attention to . nGen. XII 6 contains the sentence, "The Canaanite was then in the land", aremark impossible to Moses. Also Hobbes called attention to Numbers 21,14 which speaks of the "Books of the Wars of Yahweh."

He concludes that Mowes was not the Author of the Pentateuch. For his geresies he was put under the ban, and treated generally as an outcast.

Lecture III C 4.

Spinoza.

Spinoza, one of the most lovable, and brave, and honest menx in all Christiam, who has been called the God -intoxicated man. He followed along a great deal further than Hobbes did. In regard to the Pentateuch he concluded that it was written long after Moses but that Moses may have written some books which were used by those who compiled the Pentateuch as we now know it. "

White calles attention to two general Statements made by Spinoza that proved very important. One of these gave the formula which was destined in our own time to save to the Anglican Church a large number of her noblest sons: this was, that 'sacred Scripture contains the Word of God, and in so far as it contains it is incorruptbale."

Questionable ethics.

Lecture III, C -5

I have spoken of these men inpm particular for the purpose of callig to your attention the fact that this Higher Criticism which broke upon the 19th cantury and swept everything before it, had had a long history. Following the men I have mentioned came Father Simon, a Good Catholic Priest, who wrote a critical History of the O.T. To which Bossuet pronounced a 'mass of Impieties and a Bulward of irreligion." Simon was driven from his position.

Sir Isaac Newton took a similar poisition concerning the authorship concluding that the Pentateuch was must have been made up from several books, and that Genesis was not written until the reign of Saul.

Lowth in 1753 in "Concerning the Sacred Hiskory of the Hebrews" put forth the first study of Habrewskitzerstare of the Bible as Hebrew Literature. The significance of his work was not seen and the heresy was covered under a vast amount of pious language.

In the same year Astruc published his "Conjectures on the Original Memoirs which Moses used in Composing the Book of Genesis." In this book was brought out for the first time clearly the fact that there were two main narratives that enter into the composition of Genesis etc. and that they arem distinguished by the word which is used for God. One calls God "Yahweh, and the other calles him "Elohim." Astruc was bitterly d3enounced both by his own Catholics and by Protestants as a heretic.

Herder, the German Poet suffered also for calling attention to the real nature of "The song of Solomon." Had it mot been for Goethe's support it would have gone hard with him.

All these early men who touched upon various aspects of this great problem that was to be the great theological problem of the 19th Century, approached it from some sort of a biassed point of view. Eichhorn begins the scientific study.

Eichhorn who published his introduction to O.T. in 1780-83 is commonly called the father of Historical Criticism. In this is developed the that the Pentateuch is made up of fragments of old writings. That it represents the traditions, habits and customs of an Oriental people.

Eichhorn was a deeply religious man, and his work was done for the purpose of bringing back to the Churches the educated people who had left it. He paid for his kindness by most bitter hostility

DeWette in 1806-7 published an introduction to the O.T. which Theodore Parker translated into English for American Students. Eraf, Kuenen, and Wellhausen in Germany, Renan in France. Colenso and Driver and Cheyne, Robertson Smith and others in England completed the main outlines of this great task. Many other names belong on the honorable role of scholars who have contributed to what may be regarded as the most astonishing, far-reaching, and complete regligious in the history of the Christian Church.

In 1890 Dr. Cheyne, one of the great contributors in this work, and one of the most radical was aksed to deliver the Bampton Lectures in 1990. Said Lectures were established to "confirm and establish the Christian faith; and to confute all heretics and schisimatics; upon the divine authority of the Holy Scriptures; upon the writings of the primitive fathers; and the divinity of the Savioury and of the holy spirit; and the Creeds."

At that time he said, -

"In 1880 it was still a heresy to accept with all its consequences the plurality of authorship of the Book of Isaiah; in 1890 to a growing school of Church Students this has become an indubitable fact."

In other words at the close of the 19th Cantury this great change had taken place. Among the great scholars att in all the protestant cults, the old idea of plenary inspiration of the Bible had

Lecture III, C--7

entirely disappeared. A school of Historical Criticism had grown up in France, Germany, England, and America, which reconstructed the entire Hebrew Literature, Maintained not only that Moses did not write the **RANTERIMENT** ** Pentateuch, but that Moses is largely a Legendary Character, and that the Bible as a whole instead of Being a Single supernatural book, inspired by God, is simply the literary remains of the Jewish People, in which is preserved the records of their history, religions and ideas.

As Dr White says the fact that many great men who have accepted this change still have remained in their chunches is due to the formula ennunciated by Spinoza, 2 Sacred Scripture contains the Word of God and in so far as it contains it is incorruptable."

I am simply stating here the facts as they are. This is the Change that has taken place. It is profound and not to be dealth with lightly. It brushes aside the accepted teachings, and the accepted point of view of the Christian Church from the days of the Apostles down to the middle of the L9th Century.

I shall from now on speak entirely from this point of xiv view.

Lecture III D 1.

Several times I have intimated spoken of inconsistances which caused great difficulty in explanation to those who wished to maintain the old idea of the Literal infallibility of the Bible.

Especially in the Pentateuch did these appear. Twaxinus

I have said that there were two methods of getting around those difficulties.

- A. When the common-sense statement meaning of the passage agree with theological dogmas, the common sense meaning of the passage was accepted.
- B. But when the Common sense Meaning did not agree with theological dogmas, it was the custom to give them a *** theological or *** theological meaning.

But the critical movement said that first and foremost it is necessary to find out if possible the significance of these inconsistant passages in their common sense meaning. I want at this point to refer to ***EXEXATATION** two or three of these difficulties that caused so much trouble, and that were the means of guiding men away from the old conception of the Bible to the Modern conception.

Deuteronomy Chapter 34.

This Chapter describes the death of Moses. So far as the language goes it is simple narrative. This always caused a lot of difficulty. Just How a man could describe his won death, and pass judgement upon himself, and then write a sentence like this,

"And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face."

Two ways of getting out of the difficulty were resorted to. One was to assert that God told Moses what to write, and under the direction of God, Moses described his own death, and judged as of many years later his supreme place among Hebrew leaders.

Others said that Moses did not write the Last Chapter of

Lecture III D.--2

Deuteronomy, but did write all the rest.

But this admitted the Germ of doubt into the conception of the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch, a leaven which has leavened the whole lump of the Bible.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Double accounts of the same exent, sometimes differeing very much are seen.

Double account of creating Birds and Beasts. Gn. I 21-25.

GN I 27 Man and Andream created makes Adams, Male and female General Cod.

Gn. II 7. Man created out of dust, and Woman created from man's Rib.

Or Jacob is advised to flee to Laban . Two accounts GRXXXXX Gn. XXVII 42-45. XXXVIII 1-8.

These are simply one or two illustrations that are to be found for almost every incident. A Double story .

Two distinct stories of creation.

The first one extends to Gn II 4a. The second begind II 4b. Not only are the two stories entirely different in almost every not even consistant duplicates. They are inconsistant, as the

chart indicates. Gen. I 1 -- II 4a.

Gen. II 4b folk No day plan.

First day. 1-5 Light. Day and night.

Fst. Dry land.

Second day 6-8 Firmament.

2nd. Moisture.

Dry land , seas, Kezekakinex Third 9-13 Vegetation.

3rd. Man

Fourth. 14-19 Heavenly bodies.

4th Trees etx.

Fifth 20-23 Life in water.

5th Beasts of field.

Sixth. KandxAnimaks

24-31 Land animals

Fouls of the Air. 6th.

Man in God's image.

7th. Woman.

Seventh II 1-3 Rest.

You have but to read these two stories to discover that they belong to a different era. One is plainly an old folk myth. The other is an attempt to a late writer to give cosmical explanation to festival days and religious customs, and make it appear that the religious customs of the jews at the time he was writing were established in the beginning.

Now these modern Higher Critics so-called say. That is very easily explained: The story of creation which begins with were Gn. II 4b is a primitive Myth, and it belongs to a document which they call J because it uses "Yahweh" or Johovah for God. It is very old. There are many passages all through the Pentateuch that are just like. It is one of the old myth incorporated into the literature of Israel.

The Gen. I i - II 4b was written by a priest of the Post Exilic times of the school of Ezra and Nehemiah.

Lecture III D 4.

interested in maintaining the othodoxy of the Priestly practises and attempted to give a quasi-scientific explanation of the creation that would account for his festivals, and especially the sabbath as a day of rest.

Story of the Flood. Gen. & VI 9-- I 17.

J.

P

Chapter V 1-8

Chapter VI 9-32

" VII 1-5

VII 6

7-10

11

12

13-16a

16b-17

18-21

22-23

VII24a --VIII 2a

XXX

VIII 2b-3a

VIII 3b--5

6-12

13a

13b

14--19

20--22

IX 1-17

Lecture III D F

Fauts to be noted.

According to P.

One Pair of every kind of Animal VI 18-20.

According to J.

Seven Pairs of Clean and two of unclean VII 2-3.

But VII 8-9 seems to be an attempt by reviser to combine the two. Result fits neither single statement.

Second Illustration.

It was 150 days before the waters keepen Duration of flood was to subside. VIII 3. 40days. VII 12 & VVII 6 and

It was eight months and 15 days before the waters tops of the mountains were visible VIII 5 and

a whole year and 10 days before the earth was perfectly dry. VIII 14. Seven days before the second dove was sent out and brought back an Olive leaf.

fourteen or more days when the earth was dry.

But the very illuminating indident of Bishop Colenso of South

Africa brings us to a much more searching aspect of the situation.

The real and final objection to the old point of view is not scientific, intellectual, but moral.

Colenso was Bishop of South Aprican Diocese of Natal of the Anglican Church. He was a veru able / and very enthusiastic and devoted missionary. He was engaged in the task of Translating the Bible into The Zulu language. By one of his most zealous and beleiving Zulu workers he was asked concrning the storu of the flood, "Is that True?" That question is but symbolic of akk the reaction of Christian Missionary activities of the last hundred years.

Colenso, like the great man that he was, began in all seriousness to answer that question. Hes answer or the record of his groapings were published in "The Pentateuch and the Book of Joshua Critically examined." Published in 1863.

The publication in 1860 the famous "Essays and Reviews" by several prominent preachers in the Church of England had stirred a furious row which was but subsiding a little when this new book of Colenso's appeared. "Essays and Reviews " became the subject of debate inParliament, and for a time threatened to break the Church of England. But here the Church knuckled to popular intelligence, and on grounds of expediency nothing was done.

But Colenso'b book came right in top of the Essays and Reviews. It is a humiliating story, in which the attempt was made to excommuniacte Colenso. The matter was brought before the Courts Among the leaders who prepared the legal plea that was to drive Colenso from his position was the William E. Gladstone, later Prime Minister.

Colenso won the day, in the courts. And that was the last effective stand of the old point of view. With some snarling and

Lecture III D

MAXIMAN they have protested as each decade has seem the tide of the point of view represented by the Higher critics rise higher and higher. Now it is max a very rare thing to find any one protest against it.