

**STUDIES IN THE
APOCALYPSE, BEING
LECTURES DELIVERED BEFORE
THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649098194

Studies in the Apocalypse, being lectures delivered before the university of London by R. H. Charles

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

R. H. CHARLES

**STUDIES IN THE
APOCALYPSE, BEING
LECTURES DELIVERED BEFORE
THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

STUDIES IN THE APOCALYPSE

STUDIES IN THE APOCALYPSE

BEING LECTURES DELIVERED BEFORE THE
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

BY

R. H. CHARLES, D.LITT., D.D.

CANON OF WESTMINSTER
FELLOW OF MERTON COLLEGE, OXFORD
FELLOW OF THE BRITISH ACADEMY

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

1913

PREFACE

THE University of London instituted last year two short courses of "Lectures in Advanced Theology," to be given by a foreign and a home scholar respectively.

The present writer was chosen to be the first of the home scholars.

The lectures, which were four in all, and were delivered in May this year, have been slightly expanded, and, with a view to the better arrangement of the material, been divided into five chapters. Their original form as lectures has, notwithstanding some disadvantages, been retained.

The first two chapters make no claim to originality. They are simply a very short history of the interpretation of the Apocalypse from the earliest times.

An attempt is made by the omission of details to show so far as possible the real advances in interpretation that were made in

the growing centuries. Since, however, greater contributions have in this respect been made within the last forty years than in all past exegesis, larger space has of necessity been devoted to this period.

Also, for the convenience of the reader, an Appendix has been added, in which the critical analyses of the chief scholars of the Apocalypse are given.

To furnish such details in lectures would have been impossible.

The real contribution of the present work, so far as it is a contribution, is to be found in the last three chapters. In these the author has set forth some of the conclusions which he has arrived at in the course of a prolonged study of the Apocalypse and the literature to which it belongs. That these conclusions are in the main valid he is fully convinced, though in detail they may require occasionally drastic revision. Apart from these he holds that much of the Apocalypse must remain a sealed book.

R. H. CHARLES.

4 LITTLE CLOISTERS,
WESTMINSTER ABBEY

CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
I. HISTORY OF THE INTERPRETATION OF THE APOCALYPSE	1
II. HISTORY OF THE INTERPRETATION OF THE APOCALYPSE— <i>Concluded</i>	50
III. THE HEBRAIC STYLE OF THE APOCALYPSE	79
IV. REVELATION VII.—IX.	103
V. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS ALREADY ARRIVED AT IN CHAPTER VII.	142
APPENDIX TO CHAPTER II.	185
INDEX I.—NAMES OF COMMENTATORS ON THE APOCALYPSE	191
INDEX II.—SUBJECTS	194



STUDIES IN THE APOCALYPSE.



CHAPTER I.

HISTORY OF THE INTERPRETATION OF THE APOCALYPSE.

BEFORE we enter on a detailed study of the various methods of interpretation that have been applied to the Apocalypse since the earliest times to the present, I must preface our investigations with a few introductory remarks.

First of all, while recognising the close affinities with Jewish Apocalyptic in general, I must point out one important characteristic that differentiates Christian Apocalyptic literature of the first century of the Christian era from Jewish Apocalyptic.

In the second place, I shall put forward some general and for the most part obvious considerations, which will serve in some measure to provide a preliminary canon of criticism, by the use of which we shall be able to