

FIRST LESSONS ON THE BIBLE

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First Lessons on the Bible by Edward H. Hall

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EDWARD H. HALL

**FIRST LESSONS
ON THE BIBLE**

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ON
THE BIBLE.

Written for his Sunday School in Worcester,

BY

Henry
EDWARD H. HALL.

BOSTON:
UNITARIAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL SOCIETY,
7 TRINITY PLACE.
1883.

PREFACE.

THESE Lessons are intended to be used at whatever age it is thought best for children to begin the study of the Bible. They have been tried in my own Sunday School by scholars from ten to seventeen years old.

The plan must be left to explain, and, if possible, justify itself. I will only say that the general idea was to take up simply the salient points of the Old and New Testaments, without confusing the scholar's mind with such details as have no necessary bearing on the progress of events. The subject has been treated biographically; partly, because the young mind is more interested in persons than in abstract ideas, partly, because the whole Bible really grew out of individual thought and life.

So far as the form is concerned, it will be understood that the Notes are intended to supply the scholars with the material needed for shaping their answers, though on no account to be committed to memory by them; while the References are for the use of teachers, that they may follow out the topics with such minuteness as seems to them best, or as the age of the scholars admits. The few references

to general literature and art will suggest, it is hoped, a still wider use of these helps by intelligent teachers. The Schnorr illustrations referred to are a series of Bible wood-cuts published some years ago in Leipsic, of which the Old Testament subjects are treated with considerable spirit and accuracy of detail, those of the New Testament being very inferior. The Illustrated Renan refers to an abbreviated edition of Renan's *Vie de Jésus*, published in Paris in 1870, with wood-cuts by Godefroy Durand. It is inexpensive, and the treatment of the subjects is so much superior to anything else within my knowledge that it seems to me the only successful attempt to represent pictorially the life of Jesus. I should consider the study of the New Testament as here proposed quite incomplete without these illustrations. It is possible that they may soon be published in separate form in portfolio.¹

It will be understood that the "Bible for Young People" and the "Bible for Learners" are the English and American editions of the same book. I have made my references to the "Bible for Young People," because the American reprint had not appeared when these lessons were written.

E. H. H.

WORCESTER, February, 1882.

¹ Such a portfolio has since been prepared, and can be found at the rooms of the Unitarian Sunday-School Society. References to the illustrations have been inserted, in footnotes, under the several Lessons, with the title "Portfolio."

NOTE.

No important changes have been made in the present edition, except to add to the references to the "Bible for Young People" corresponding references to the "Bible for Learners," designated by the abbreviation B. L.

E. H. H.

CAMBRIDGE, October, 1882.

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FIRST LESSONS ON THE BIBLE.

LESSON I.

PALESTINE.

1. In what part of the world is Palestine ?
2. How large is it compared with Massachusetts ?
3. Are there mountains in it, and if so, how high are they ?
4. What lakes are there ?
5. Why is one called the Dead Sea ?
6. What is the largest river ?
7. Is Palestine further north or further south than this place ?
8. What kind of climate has it, and what seasons ?
9. What grows there ?
10. Name two or three of its cities or villages.

Texts: Deut. viii. 7, 8; Num. xiii. 23; Jer. xli. 18; Matt. vi. 28, 29, 30.¹

NOTES.

Palestine is about 140 miles long by 40 wide ; Massachusetts (without Cape Cod) about 160 by 50. So they are of very nearly the same size, only one runs lengthwise north and south, the other east and west.

It is much more mountainous than Massachusetts, as the map shows. Some of the towns are situated higher than the top of

¹ Each child is to commit one or two of the texts to memory, if the teacher chooses.