

HELPS for READERS of the ENGLISH BIBLE.



PLAN AND ORDER
OF THE AGES.

By WALTER SCOTT.

T H I R D E D I T I O N .

LONDON: W. H. G. Blatchley, 27 Lancefield St., W.

Price One Halfpenny.



BOOKS AND TRACTS.

Primitive Christianity, by C.E.C. (Third Edition revised).
Contents—The Effect of the Word of God...The Evangelist...
The Work of the Evangelist...The Teacher...Ministering to the
Saints...Remembering the Poor...The Service of Women...The
Public Ministry of Women...Conclusion. Price 4d, by post 5d.

**Prophetic Catechism and Outline of Coming Events with
Summary.** Third Edition, enlarged. Contains Answers to 44
Prophetic Questions. One Penny.

Life and Godliness. (A Book for Believers—Young and
Old). Consisting of 12 Selected Nos. of *The Young Christian*
neatly bound in coloured wrapper. 144 pages 8vo. For young
Christians, for recent converts, and for all who love the Lord
Jesus Christ this work is sure to be helpful and useful. There
are numerous BIBLE NOTES; ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS:
PRACTICAL ARTICLES BEARING ON CHRISTIAN LIFE, WALK, AND
SERVICE; POETRY, ETC. 4d, by post 5d; or 50 copies for 12s 6d.

The Young Christian—Vols. 1898 and 1899. 2 post free
1s 6d.

God's Grace to a Ruined World. Consisting of 12 Selected
Nos. of *Living Streams* neatly bound in coloured wrapper. There
are 144 pages of Gospel matter containing appeals, tales, sketches,
interesting stories, conversions, etc. Suitable for lending, for
Sunday reading, or as gifts for Sunday School Scholars, or for
general distribution. 4d, by post 5d; or 50 for 12s 6d.

Living Streams—a Gospel Vol.—12 numbers issued during
1898 and 1899, in neat wrapper, 9d each; 2 post free 1s 6d.



PLAN AND ORDER OF THE AGES.

THE dispensational dealings of God in the past and those recorded in the Scriptures as yet future is an important department of Biblical study.

There is an order and exactness in the sequence of events and in their groupings together under distinct and divinely revealed principles by which God directly or indirectly governed the race, which invests the history of the "ages" with intense interest.

In the Divine, therefore imperishable records of Inspiration, the great chart of time is unrolled. Here facts are duly chronicled. Here the ways, actions, words, and thoughts of men are faith-

fully recorded ; or, in other words, the history of the race is given us according to God. What a history ! The impress of eternity is upon it !

Now in this Divine account of man we have laid bare what no human pen could trace, the *inner* history—the principles and motives which governed men. The successive, varied, and probationary trials to which the creature, individually, nationally, or universally was subjected, led to a growing developement of his *moral* history which culminated in man openly declaring himself as the determined enemy of God in the rejection and murder of Christ. “But now once in the end of the ages (*i.e.*, their ‘*consummation*’) hath He been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”—(Heb. ix. 26, *revised version*).

Those past ages then have completed their course and now yield their rich and varied stores of instruction to us “upon whom the ends of the ages are come.”—(1 Cor. x. 11, *revised version*).

From *innocence* to *guilt*; or from the garden of *life* (Gen. ii. 7-8) to the garden of

death (Jn. xix. 41). The finish or consummation of the ages centre in the cross of Christ, for to it they all tended. What a wondrous meeting place ! *There* where the complete and utter ruin of man is openly declared the boundless grace of God is as publicly manifested. *There* the depravity and guilt of man is thoroughly exposed, *there*, too, the greatness and grandeur of God's salvation for all is beheld.

The ages to come will have a history as sorrowful and humbling as those of the past. As the previous ages finished their course in the rejection of Christ in *grace*, so those yet future, will close their story by the rejection of Christ in *glory* (Rev. xx. 7-15). The *cross* (Heb. ix. 26) and *the lake of fire* (Rev. xx. 15) respectively close the past and future ages. How fruitful in lessons to us !

ADAM. 1.—Innocence (Gen. ii.)—The period of innocence was a brief one ; its salient features are described within the compass of eighteen

verses (Gen. ii. 8-25). In a sinless state and in a specially prepared garden, Adam and Eve stood alone (Gen. ii. 8). The state and place being forfeited by sin there can be no return to either (Gen. iii. 24). Outside the garden and in sin the race commenced its sorrowful history (Gen. iv. 1 ; Ps. li. 5).

CAIN. 2.—**Conscience** (Gen. iii.-xii.)—From the fall to the flood—a dreary period of 1656 years of lawlessness and sin prevailed. Unbridled self-will was rampant and the moral corruption universal. God left the race without promise to cheer or law to restrain. Man, however, had been supplied with conscience—God's inward, warning monitor. During the last 120 years of this dark and darkening period God interposed with a combined testimony, through Noah, of Salvation and Judgment (Gen. vi., vii. ; Heb. xi. 7 ; 1 Peter iii. 20).

NOAH. 3.—**Government** (Gen. ix.)—Magisterial authority and the first and fundamental principles of civil government for man as such were revealed to Noah after the flood ; these

principles ever remain in all their orce. All governments and powers are responsible to God for the due maintenance of law and authority in there respective spheres. God in govern-mental dealing with man at large in judgment and in blessing is the great characteristic of this period. This fresh beginning was founded on sacrifice. (Gen. viii. 20-21.)

ABRAM. 4.—**Promise** (Gen. xii.)—Owing to the universality of idolatry (Jos. xxiv. 2) Abram, himself an idolator, was called “out” (Gen. xii. 1) to head a new race (Rom iv.); to commence anew the public testimony for God (Rom. xi.) and to become the source and channel of blessing to the world (Gen. xii.2-3), God thus morally judging the guilty scene. “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made” (Gal. iii. 16); to the former in Gen. xii., to the latter in Gen. xxii. Believers in all ages are “Abraham’s seed” (Gal. iii. 29).

MOSES. 5.—**Law** (Exod. xix.)—The law was given by Moses as a test and trial of mankind; and its history and effects as exhibited in Israel

have been faithfully chronicled for instruction in all ages. It proved a ministry of death and condemnation to Israel (2 Cor. iii.) as it also does to every individual soul quickened, but yet undelivered (Rom. vii.), from not knowing that as Christians we are dead to *it* (verse 4). The law as a covenant existed from Moses to Christ (Gal. iii. 24)—an interesting period of about fifteen centuries.

JOSHUA. 6.—Theocracy (The Book of Judges.)—During the period of the Judges—about 450 years—(Acts xiii. 20) Israel was governed by Jehovah, but instrumentally by successive Judges—16 in all—raised up in various parts of the country. This dark period in Israel's history brings into relief some fine instances of individual faith in God and traits of noble character; the sovereign grace of God to His failed and ever-failing people is also conspicuously displayed on the dark back-ground of Israel's unbelief.

DAVID. 7.—Monarchy (The Books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles.)—A new and important era in Israel's history dates from her rejection

of the theocracy, *i.e.*, of Jehovah Israel's king and law giver, and of her publicly expressed determination to have a king like the nations (1 Sam. viii). The monarchy—from Saul till Zedekiah, first and last king—existed for about 500 years. Not Saul, however, the people's choice, but David was Jehovah's chosen king (Ps. lxxxix).

DANIEL. 8.—**Captivity** (The Books of Kings and Daniel.)—Ephraim or the ten tribes after existing as a separate kingdom for about 260 years under 19 kings, was destroyed by Assyria (2 Kings xvii). Judah as a distinct monarchy existed for about 390 years under the sway of 20 sovereigns, and was destroyed by the Chaldeans in the year 588 B.C. (2 Kings xxv). The captivity of Judah lasted 70 years (2 Chron. xxxvi. 21). Babylon, not Jerusalem; the Gentile, not the Jew, then became the centre of the world's government (Dan. ii.; Luke xxi. 24).

CHRIST CRUCIFIED. 9.—**Grace** (The Acts and The Epistles.)—Israel is the subject of prophecy and of government. The Church is the subject of revelation and of grace. From

the judicial rejection of Israel (Acts xxviii. 25-27) and Roman destruction of Jerusalem several years later (70 A.D.) till she once again occupies *the* place in history, the interesting interval between, of about 2000 years, has as its grand characteristic THE REVELATION OF GOD IN GRACE TO SINNERS and the UNIQUE PLACE AND DESTINY OF THE CHURCH AS THE BODY AND BRIDE OF CHRIST (John iii. ; Eph. iii.)

SATAN. 10.—**Judgment** (Rev. vi.-xix.)—*After* the translation of the saints to meet the Lord (1 Thess. iv. 17), which will close up this parenthetic period of grace, *then* the 70th week or seven literal years of Daniel's celebrated prophecy (Dan ix. 27) will run its course, during which—the latter half especially—Satan will play his terrible rôle. The characteristic feature will be the infliction of successive judgments upon apostate Judah and apostate Christendom, mainly noted in the prophetic part of the Revelation (chaps. vi.—xix.)

CHRIST GLORIFIED. 11.—**Glory** (Rev. xx. ; xxi. 9 ; xxii. 5)—The personal reign of Christ

for 1000 years (Rev. xx. 1-6) will be a magnificent era in the history of the world. It will be a reign of righteousness. The Lord will throw the skirts of His glory over the scene of agony—the universal groan will be hushed, the general wail of misery cease, and one loud, long, universal anthem sung by the Redeemed Creation of *Him* and *to Him* (Rev. v. ; Psalm cxlvi.-cl.)

WHO ALONE IS WORTHY.

GOD. 12.—**God's Eternal Rest** (Rev. xxi. 1-5 ; 1 Cor. xv. 28.)—We have at last reached perfection. The eternal ages are not the fruit of eternal counsel as the millennium is, but the result rather of what God is as *light* (1 John i. 5) and as *love* (1 John iv. 16). O! the deep and unfathomable blessedness of entering into God's rest (Heb. iv.) when perfection will be stamped on every creature and on everything—the lake of fire and its eternal inhabitants alone excepted (Rev. xxi. 8). The description of the eternal state is stated in negative terms only. What will it be to be there?

“ Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God ! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out ! . . . For of Him, and to Him are all things : to whom be glory for ever. Amen.”—(Rom. xi. 33-36.)

IN the foregoing plan we have necessarily omitted the utterly unknown ages previous to the commencement of human history.

The periods demanded for geological formation—in many instances the outcome of wild and reckless conjecture—must yet be very great. The most sober geologists require periods of far greater length than those assigned in Scripture as marking the various epochs in history. Now science does not make facts ; its province is to disclose them. Science discovers what *is*. Hence as a Christian, and as a firm believer in the verbal inspiration of the Word of God, we

welcome, gladly welcome, the disclosure of facts in the realm of nature, but conjecture and supposition we utterly repudiate. We would again repeat, that science reveals what *is*, not what *may* be or *might* have been.

Now, while frankly accepting facts from whatever quarter—Christian or infidel—we unhesitatingly challenge the production of *one* which contradicts any statement of holy writ. The periods in Scripture refer to man's history, and not at all to the age or antiquity of the globe. That useful chapter—Gen. v.—or family register of the race from Adam to Noah—1656 years—the basis of human chronology—is an important factor in a question of this kind. All the periods therein enumerated, and they are the first on record, refer to the age of persons.

Not one inspired statement informs us *when* “God created the heaven and the earth;” nor how long the ruined earth lay desolate (verse 2

Gen. i.) nor by what means its ruin was effected ; it was will-less in the matter (Rom. viii. 20). Neither does the Word of God define the time from the brooding of the Spirit of God upon the waters which were wrapped round the chaotic earth as a huge winding-sheet, till God prepared it in six *literal* days as man's home till he enter either of the eternal abodes—Heaven or the Lake of Fire. Hence the periods required for the formation of the various geological strata can easily be granted, and are in fact fully provided for in the first 39 words of the Bible. How perfect is the Word of God !



Readers and Students of the Holy Bible will find real help in the Second and Enlarged Edition of "**Our Bible Note Book.**" It is an Epitome of Biblical Information. There are hundreds of Notes on a great variety of subjects. The useful Index will enable any one at a glance to find a Note or Notes on almost any Biblical Subject. Price 9d, by post 10d; limp cloth 1s, cloth boards 1s 3d.

The Holy Scriptures : Their External Form, Character, and Contents. *Contents*—Their Divine Authority...Their English Form...The Titles of the Bibles...The Nineveh Inscriptions...The Terms Old and New Testament...The Writers of the Sacred Books...Where the Books of the Bible were Written...A Sketch of each Book of the Bible, etc., etc. 4d, by post 5d.

The Bible : Its Authority and Inspiration. (Second Edition) 40 pages. Price Twopence. *Contents*—General Councils...The First or Jerusalem Council...The Nicean Council...The Bible Itself...The Bible a Forgery?...The Two Testaments...The Old Testament...The Pentateuch...The Prophets...The Books of Isaiah and Daniel...The New Testament and its Writers...Inspiration.

Holding On : or, Final Perseverance and Eternal Security. *Contents*—A Scene on the Galalean Sea...Safety and Communion...Once a Child, a Child for ever...Eternal Security Scripturally Proved...Backsliding and Apostacy; or Peter and Judas. One Penny.

This little book is enlarged and is now running its Third Edition. Many have testified of blessing thro' its pages. In order that it may be more and more WIDELY DISTRIBUTED, we shall supply 50 copies for 2s, and 100 copies for 3s 6d, carriage paid.

A Guide to the Subjects of the Books of the Old Testament, with the Leading Divisions of each Book.
One Halfpenny; or 50 Copies post free for 1s.

“ GRAINS AND GLEANINGS ” REPRINTS.

No. 1.	God's Way of Salvation,	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
„ 2.	Some Trophies, Triumphs, and Testimonies; or, the Word of God at Home and Abroad,	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
„ 3.	Thoughts on Eternal Life and the New Birth,	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
„ 4.	Pure Words and Sure Testimonies,	...		$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
„ 5.	The Sufficiency of the Written Word and the Use of it,	...	...	1d.
„ 6.	The Offence of Ritualism,	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
	Grains and Gleanings Book Almanac,	...	...	1d.
	Homely Remarks on Galatians; or, Delivered from the World. Redeemed from the Curse of the Law. The Cross applied to the Flesh,	...	...	1d, post free $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.

W. H. G. BLATCHLEY,
27 LANCEFIELD STREET, LONDON, W.