

THE BOOK
NOBODY KNOWS

BRUCE BARTON

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By BRUCE BARTON

THE MAN NOBODY KNOWS

The Man Nobody Knows is a book different from any other that has been written about Christ. Mr. Barton's interpretation is reverent; it will interest everybody. *The Man Nobody Knows* was written out of sincere conviction. That is evident from the first page to the last.

—*New York Times Book Review.*

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By

BRUCE BARTON

AUTHOR OF

The Man Nobody Knows, Etc.

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About a week before the death of Sir Walter Scott, he said to his son-in-law, Lockhart, "Read to me from the Book."

"And when I asked him from what book, he said, 'Need you ask? There is but one.'"

—*The Bible in Scots Literature*,
JAMES MOFFATT.

**I am indebted to my good friend,
Thomas H. Beck, President of P. F.
Collier & Son Company, for the title
of this little book, and to my father,
Reverend William E. Barton, D. D.,
for very great help in gathering and
arranging the material.**

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原书缺页

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CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I AN OUTLINE OF HISTORY	13
II PROVERBS, POEMS AND PROPHETS . .	47
III THE GREAT LIFE	97
IV THE ACTS AND THE EPISTLES . . .	133
V TEN GREAT MEN OF THE BIBLE . .	180
VI TEN FAMOUS WOMEN	233
VII HOW DID WE GET THE BIBLE? . . .	271
VIII THE INFLUENCE OF THE BOOK . .	294

I

AN OUTLINE OF HISTORY

QUESTIONS

1. *What is an easy way to remember how many books there are in the Old Testament? In the New Testament?*
Answered in this chapter.
2. *Who commanded the sun to stand still? Why?*
Joshua 10:12-13.
3. *Who was the first murderer in the Bible? Whom did he murder? Why?*
Genesis 4:8-9; I John 3:12.
4. *Who built the ark?*
Genesis 6:5-22.
5. *What is the origin and meaning of the rainbow?*
Genesis 9:8-18.
6. *Who was the beautiful woman for whom Jacob served fourteen years?*
Genesis 29:20-30.
7. *Who was the strongest man in the Bible? The wisest? The longest lived?*
Judges 14:4-6; I Kings 3:11-14; Genesis 5:27.
8. *What is the origin of the word "shibboleth"?*
Judges 12:4-6.
9. *Who was Goliath? Who killed him?*
I Samuel 17:4-11; I Samuel 17:49.
10. *What was Jephthah's vow?*
Judges 11:30-36.

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I

AN OUTLINE OF HISTORY

AN INTELLIGENT and talkative lady found herself at dinner seated beside a bishop. Having a social gift, she knew that most men are flattered to be met in conversation on their own grounds, and so she started to talk about the Bible.

"I can't pretend that I read it as much as I should," she confessed, "and really you know parts of it seem to me hopelessly out of date. Yet," she added broadmindedly, "I'll admit that there are some very beautiful passages."

"Yes?" said the Bishop. "For instance?"

"Well, for example, that line about God tempering the wind to the shorn lamb." (On the chance that there may be one or possibly two readers whose knowledge is no more exact than that of this fair lady, let us hasten to remark that "God tempers the wind to the shorn

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lamb" is in Sterne's *Sentimental Journey*, a book which resembles the Bible about as much as *Robinson Crusoe* resembles the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.)

"And now you must tell me *your* favorite verse," the lady continued brightly.

"It would be hard for me to pick a single verse," the Bishop answered. "But I can give you my favorite passage. It is the one that tells about Eliza crossing the ice."

Not long ago I met a man who wanted to know which of the Old Testament books contains the verse: "Thus saith the Lord, Every tub shall stand upon its own bottom." The answer is that both Jeremiah and Ezekiel give expression to bits of philosophy that resemble this, but not in words that bear any resemblance to it whatever.

It would be easy to multiply such stories. They illustrate a strange phenomenon. Here is a book, or more properly a collection of books, which is beyond comparison the world's best seller. New novels grip the public fancy for a few weeks or months and then disappear, but the Bible stands continuously at the top of the list. Go "somewhere east of Suez," where there "aren't no Ten Commandments," and what do you find? A fine big bookstore in Rangoon,

AN OUTLINE OF HISTORY

which city you have to visit "on the road to Mandalay," centrally located and up-to-date, with a modern printing office in the rear. American presses are turning out text-books and literature of every sort. And Bibles, cords of Bibles, literally cords of them. Go into the finest hotel in any American city and on the stand at the head of your bed—the last thing to meet your glance at night and the first thing in the morning—is a copy of this same most-circulated book. Nearly every home has at least one copy. Millions of copies are given as birthday, graduation and Christmas gifts. It is a book that everybody buys and concerning which almost everybody is ready to engage in debate at the drop of a hat. Yet how many read it? How many know what it really contains?

It is *worth* knowing. Not all of it, of course. There are long chapters of genealogy which are no more edifying than pages of the telephone directory. There are First and Second Chronicles, which recite the tedious mistakes and sins of kings who were no better than the kings of England and not half so important in their influence on our lives. But when you have passed over such passages and everything else that for popular reading is tiresome or useless, what have you left? These four great treasures:

THE BOOK NOBODY KNOWS

1. A bird's-eye view of the development of civilization, a sort of Outline of History, as Mr. Wells would say. The story begins with the origin of the earth, just as Wells does, and for the first eleven chapters it deals with the human race as a unit. Coming down to the time when races were grouped and nations arose, it traces the development of a particular people, the Hebrews—their beginnings as nomadic shepherds, their conquest and settlement of a home, and their emergence into national life; their rise to splendor under Kings David and Solomon; their overthrow and captivity, and the reestablishment of their national cult or worship, though with very limited authority in the matter of government, a century later. The recital brings us finally into definite touch with the civilizations of Greece and Rome, the latter being the dominant power throughout the whole period of the New Testament. Considered simply as an historic outline, this is a venture to challenge respect; certainly no one can claim to know history who has not read and understood it.

2. Some of the greatest literature of all ages. Here, to mention only a few, are the greatest of all poems, one of the greatest dramas, one of the finest love-stories, and a collection of proverbs which in varying phraseology have entered into