

Category 15 – Introduction to the Bible

1. 书名：《漫话圣经》（The story of the Bible）
2. 作者：[美] 房龙（Hendrik Van Loon）
3. 译者：施旅、于一
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6. 作者简介：房龙（1882—1944），荷裔美国作家和历史学家，他善于撰写通俗历史著作，为各国读者所喜爱。本书出版于 1923 年，是为美国青少年读者写的，目的在帮助他们对《圣经》有一个大纲式的了解；因此他是根据自己的想法并用他自己的语言来写《圣经》的有关内容，把他认为和《圣经》有关的背景知识提供给读者。

7. 内容提要：本书出版者写道：《圣经》是世界上用多种文字出版发行的最广泛的书籍之一，流传千百年，影响亿万人。

房龙为美国青少年读者写这本书，目的是帮助他们了解《圣经》大纲。他是根据自己的想法，把他认为和《圣经》有关的历史背景和知识都提供给读者。这样不拘泥《圣经》严格教义的描绘，再加上房龙语言的魔力，使一部漫长的犹太民族历史，显得格外生动、活泼、亲切，易于理解。

从这本通俗历史读物中，还可使读者探索人类早期文明的一个分支：犹太教产生、发展时代人们的生活方式、思维方式……，这都是本书不同于一般圣经故事读本之处。

本书译者在“说明”中指出两点：一、如果要举出世界上用多种文字出版发行最广泛的若干本书，《圣经》当算得上是其中的一本。多少世纪以来，不仅在基督教徒中，《圣经》是必读书，即使在非基督教徒中，它的影响也是十分广泛的。跻身于世界文化之林的社会主义中国知识界，对于这样一部流传千百年、影响亿万人的世界性著作，应该有所了解。本书的翻译出版，其目的就在此。二、《圣经》是一部什么性质的著作？它包含些什么内容？作者是谁？什么时候形成的？其历史背景和社会背景如何？《圣经》和犹太民族的关系，犹太教和基督教的关系，希腊罗马文明和基督教的关系，传说中的耶稣其人其事……等等，这一切都在本书中有所阐述，简明扼要，通俗易懂，加上作者亲自画了不少插图，使内容更加生动。

本书共有 29 章：第 1 章为一部文学遗产；第 2 章为创世记；第 3 章为先驱者；第 4 章为再向西行；第 5 章为定居埃及；第 6 章为逃脱奴役；第 7 章为漂泊于旷野；第 8 章为寻找新的牧场；第 9 章为征服迦南；第 10 章为路得的故事；第 11 章为一个犹太王国；第 12 章为内战；第 13 章为先知的警告；第 14 章为覆灭和流放；第 15 章为重返家园；第 16 章为各种各样的书卷；第 17 章为希腊人的到来；第 18 章为犹太：希腊的一个省；第 19 章为革命和独立；第 20 章为耶稣诞生；第 21 章为施洗者约翰；第 22 章为耶稣的童年；第 23

章为门徒；第 24 章为新导师；第 25 章为宿敌；第 26 章为耶稣之死；第 27 章为思想的力量；第 28 章为思想的胜利；第 29 章为国教。

1. Title: The Story of the Bible 漫話聖經

2. Author: [USA] Hendrik Van Loon

3. Translator: Shi Lu, Yu Yi

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6. About the Author: Hendrik Van Loon (1882-1944), a Dutch-American writer and historian, good at writing popular history books, and admired by readers from many countries. This book is published in 1923, written for the young readers in America, in order to help them acquire an overall understanding of the Bible. Therefore, he writes about the Bible using his own words and conceptions, providing related background knowledge to the readers.

7. Summary: The Publisher writes that the Bible is one of the most prevalent books, and that it is published in many languages, existing for over thousand years, influencing over billions of people.

Van Loon writes this book for the young American readers, in order to help them understand the framework of the Bible. In his own way, he provides to the readers the historical backgrounds and knowledge which he regards as related to the Bible. In this way, he renders the long history of the Jewish nation vivid, lively, lovable and intelligible, without much a strict regard to the depiction of biblical doctrines, and with his brilliant use of language. From this popular work on history, the readers can explore a branch of the early civilisations of humankind: the genesis of Judaism, periods of its development, the ways of living and thinking of the people... all these make this book different from other ordinary works about the Bible.

The Translator mentions out two points in the Translator's Note. Firstly, if one is to list out the books which are most prevalent and published in many languages, the Bible would definitely be included as one of them. For centuries, the Bible is a necessary reading for the Christians, and it is still very influential even among non-Christians. The intellectuals in the Socialist China, who are situated in the pleroma of world civilisations, should have an understanding of this work which has influenced billions of people worldwide and existed for over thousand years. This is the objective of the translation and publishing of this book. Secondly, What is the nature of the Bible? What are its contents? Who are the authors? What is it formed? What are its historical and social backgrounds? The relationship between the Bible and the Jewish nation, the relationship between Judaism and Christianity, the relationship between the Greco-Roman civilisation and Christianity, the person of and stories about Jesus according to the tradition... etc., all these are narrated in this book in a clear and precise way, easy to understand, with illustrations drawn by the Author himself, rendering it more vivid.

This book comprises 29 chapters. Chap 1 is about a Legacy in Literature. Chap 2 is about Genesis. Chap 3 is about the Forerunners. Chap 4 is about Marching towards the West. Chap 5 is about Settling in Egypt. Chap 6 is about Escaping from Slavery. Chap 7 is about Wandering in the Wilderness. Chap 8 is about Finding a New Pasture. Chap 9 is about the

Conquest of Canaan. Chap 10 is about the Story of Ruth. Chap 11 is about a Jewish Kingdom. Chap 12 is about Civil Wars. Chap 13 is about Warnings from the Prophets. Chap 14 is about Destruction and Scattering. Chap 15 is about Returning Home. Chap 16 is about Miscellaneous Books of the Old Testament. Chap 17 is about the Arrival of the Greeks. Chap 18 is about Judas as a Greek Province. Chap 19 is about Revolutions and Independence. Chap 20 is about the Birth of Jesus. Chap 21 is about John the Baptist. Chap 22 is about the Youth of Jesus. Chap 23 is about the Disciples. Chap 24 is about the New Teacher. Chap 25 is about a Dangerous Enemy. Chap 26 is about the Death of Jesus. Chap 27 is about the Power of Thoughts. Chap 28 is about the Triumph of Thoughts. Chap 29 is about the State Religion.