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| Nota di contenuto       | Cover; Half Title; Title Page; Copyright Page; Original Title Page; Original Copyright Page; PREFACE; Table of Contents; PART I THE GENIUS AND DISCIPLINE OF THE HEBREW PEOPLE; I. THE MARKS OF A SUPREME BOOK; II. AN EPIC OF REDEMPTION; the author; peril of misinterpretation; its truth shaped by the imagination; Epic or drama?; Belongs to the literature of power; III. HOW DID A LITERATURE SO GREAT COME FROM A PEOPLE SO SMALL?; Effects of inbreeding and selection; IV. MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL CHARACTERISTICS WHICH DIFFERENTIATED THE HEBREWS FROM OTHER PEOPLES OF THEIR TIME; Compared with Egypt<br>Israel the first nation to outgrow the primitive mindTherefore they wrote the world's first history, believed in an ethical God, had the forward look; V. THE LITERARY QUALITIES OF THE HEBREW MIND; The Hebrew mind intuitive; described emotions by picturing them; Truth emotionally conceived and rhythmically expressed; VI. HOW THE HEBREW WRITINGS BECAME AN ENGLISH CLASSIC; VII. THE DICTION OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE; Contrasted with English poetry; with modern translations; PART II LITERARY VALUES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS; VIII. THE EARLIEST HISTORIES EVER WRITTEN<br>Genesis-Kings contains the world's first history Why the Hebrews wrote the first history; Greek and Hebrew histories compared.; The value of this history; IX. THE HISTORICAL BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT; Genesis: the myths and legends of a great people; Exodus: a wonder- |

working providence; Leviticus: the book of the law; Numbers: history written as homily; Deuteronomy: law that is literature; Joshua: history shaped by tradition; Judges: the Dark Ages; I-II Samuel: biographical history; I-11 Kings: religion interfering with truth; Chronicles-Nehemiah: history with priestly bias

X. BIBLICAL POETRY Ancient psalmody, Egyptian and Babylonian; Sources of their power; Nature and meaning of Lamentations and the Song of Songs; XI. BIBLICAL POETRY (continued); The Book of Job; Appraisal of values; XII. THE PROPHETS; Conditions calling them forth; The burden and literary ability of each prophet from Amos to Malachi; The permanent contribution of the prophets to religion; Their unique power and their limitations; XIII. THE HUMANISTS OF ISRAEL; The Book of Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; XIV. PROSE FICTION; Ruth; Esther; Jonah;

PART III THE LITERARY QUALITIES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

XV. THE GOSPELSXVI. THE SAYINGS OF JESUS AS LITERATURE; XVII. PAUL AS A WRITER; XVIII. NEW TESTAMENT HISTORY AND LETTERS; Character of each of the general epistles; XIX. APOCALYPTICAL WRITINGS; The Book of Revelation; INDEX

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Sommario/riassunto

<P>The religious associations surrounding the Bible make it difficult for the general reader to appreciate, in its full purity, the value which the Scriptures bear as literature, and as an epic in no way inferior, in cultural worth, to the greatest works of Greece and Rome. Dealing as it does with elementary passions and principles, the English Bible is, in the author's view, the greatest book of all the ages. This book, first published in 1931, will be of interest to students of literature and religious studies. </P>

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