

**GENESIS XXXVII -  
L: A DEVOTIONAL  
COMMENTARY**

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Genesis XXXVII - L: a devotional commentary by W. H. Griffith Thomas

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**W. H. GRIFFITH THOMAS**

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L: A DEVOTIONAL  
COMMENTARY**



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# GENESIS

XXXVII.—L

A DEVOTIONAL COMMENTARY

By the

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'The Apostle Peter: Outline Studies in his Life, Character,  
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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

**I**N accordance with the purpose of the series of Devotional Commentaries, of which this volume forms a part, the narratives of the patriarchs are taken as they stand, and an endeavour is made to deduce from them their spiritual meaning and messages. Questions of criticism are therefore not discussed unless where they are thought to be necessary to the elucidation of the passage.

It is well known that three very different views are held as to these narratives. (1) The extreme critical view, of which Wellhausen is the representative. This regards everything in Genesis before Abraham as mythical, and the narratives of the patriarchs legendary though with elements of truth. On this view the stories indicate the knowledge of Israel at a time much later than the patriarchs, and therefore represent tribal occurrences of subsequent periods. (2) The moderate critical view, of which Dr Driver is the representative. This regards these narratives as substantially true, but with the characters and experiences idealized. The outline is held to be accurate, but the details are said to be coloured by the associations of later ages. The oral tradition is regarded as the basis, though it is now quite unknown how far the original nucleus has been modified in the course of time. (3) The

## Introductory Note

conservative view, of which Dr Green and Dr Orr are the representatives. This holds that the narratives are not tribal but personal, not legendary but historical, and that their historical character is being confirmed by the discoveries of archaeology both in regard to Babylonia and Egypt. The present Commentary proceeds on the last-named assumption. For those who desire to study the critical questions involved, reference may be made to Dr Driver's *Genesis*, and *Introduction to the Literature of the Old Testament*; Green's *Unity of the Book of Genesis*; Orr's *Problem of the Old Testament*; and an article in the *Quarterly Review* for January 1907, by Professor George Adam Smith.