

**THE CHALDEAN ACCOUNT  
OF GENESIS; BABYLONIAN  
FABLES, AND LEGENDS OF  
THE GODS**

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The Chaldean Account of Genesis; Babylonian Fables, and Legends of the Gods by George Smith

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**GEORGE SMITH**

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THE GODS**





THE CHALDEAN ACCOUNT  
OF GENESIS.



THE  
CHALDEAN ACCOUNT OF GENESIS.

CONTAINING  
THE DESCRIPTION OF THE CREATION, THE FALL OF MAN,  
THE DELUGE, THE TOWER OF BABEL, THE  
TIMES OF THE PATRIARCHS,  
AND NIMROD ;  
BABYLONIAN FABLES, AND LEGENDS OF THE GODS ;  
FROM THE CUNEIFORM INSCRIPTIONS.

BY GEORGE SMITH,  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ORIENTAL ANTIQUITIES, BRITISH MUSEUM,  
AUTHOR OF "HISTORY OF ASSURBANIPAL,"  
"ASSYRIAN DISCOVERIES,"  
ETC. ETC.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

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1876.

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TOOKS COURT, CHANCERY LANE.

TO

SIR HENRY CRESWICKE RAWLINSON,

K.C.B., D.C.L., ETC. ETC. ETC.,

MY TEACHER AND PREDECESSOR IN MY PRESENT

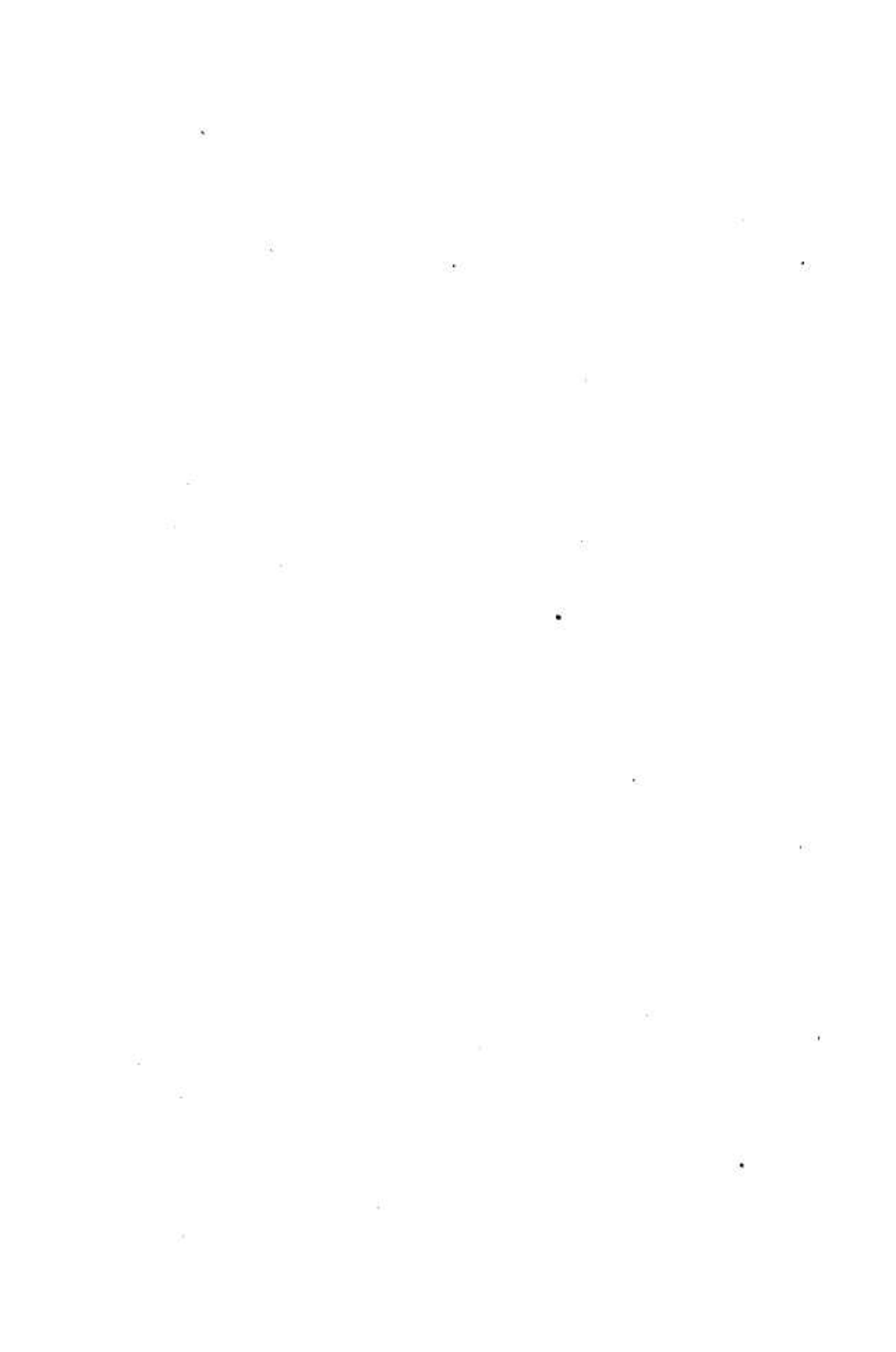
LINE OF RESEARCH,

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MANY FAVOURS,

THIS WORK IS

**Dedicated.**







## INTRODUCTION.

**S**OME explanation is necessary in introducing my present work. Little time has elapsed since I discovered the most important of these inscriptions, and in the intervening period I have had, amidst other work, to collect the various fragments of the legends, copy, compare, and translate, altering my matter from time to time, as new fragments turned up. Even now I have gone to press with one of the fragments of the last tablet of the Izdubar series omitted.

The present condition of the legends and their recent discovery alike forbid me to call this anything more than a provisional work; but there was so general a desire to see the translations that I have published them, hoping my readers will take them with the same reserve with which I have given them.

I have avoided some of the most important comparisons and conclusions with respect to Genesis, as my desire was first to obtain the recognition of the evidence without prejudice.

The chronological notes in the book are one of its weak points, but I may safely say that I have placed the various dates as low as I fairly could, considering the evidence, and I have aimed to do this rather than to establish any system of chronology.

I believe that time will show the Babylonian traditions of Genesis to be invaluable for the light they will throw on the Pentateuch, but at present there are so many blanks in the evidence that positive conclusions on several points are impossible. I may add in conclusion that my present work is intended as a popular account, and I have introduced only so much explanation as seems necessary for the proper understanding of the subject. I have added translations of some parts of the legends which I avoided in my last work, desiring here to satisfy the wish to see them as perfect as possible; there still remain however some passages which I have omitted, but these are of small extent and obscure.

*October 26, 1875.*

