# FOOTSTEPS OF ISRAEL: FROM EDEN TO THE CITY OF GOD

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Footsteps of Israel: From Eden to the City of God by Samuel Greenwood

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# SAMUEL GREENWOOD

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By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

- HERREWS 11:8-10.

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# FOOTSTEPS OF ISRAEL

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By SAMUEL GREENWOOD

BOSTON
A. A. BEAUCHAMP

THIS BOOK
is joyously inscribed to its
unprejudiced readers

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## INTRODUCTION

THE excuse for adding another volume to the world's already overburdened bookshelf must be looked for within the volume itself, for the justification or value of a book can only be rightly determined by its influence upon the thoughts of its readers. While a book may be welcomed by one individual for its helpfulness or good cheer, it may be rejected as useless by another; so that the only fixed rule upon which all agree in the judgment of books is the viewpoint of the reader. Thus, because of the wide disparity in literary tastes, and the almost hopeless divergence of religious opinions and convictions, few books, if any, find a universal response, and the reader must elect to browse where he likes the pasture. But points of view are open to revision, and one may discover that a change of pasture turns out to be both nourishing and delightful; thus our one fixed rule vanishes, and a book is left to make its way according to what it has to give,

All books that merit consideration may, in a general way, be divided into two classes: those which entertain and those which enlighten and bless; in other words, the books which are designed to beguile the thoughts of their readers from the weight of worldly care, and thus make existence outside the walls of the Heavenly City temporarily more endurable; and the books which stimulate the reader to seek an entrance through its gates, or which aid those who are already making that endeavor. The author modestly hopes that, by some at least, this volume will be placed among the latter class.

The following pages are the outgrowth of Bible study, undertaken during late years for the special purpose of tracing the rise, development, and course of that great spiritual movement spoken of in the Scriptures under the name of Israel, and at the same time of arriving at a

better understanding of the relation which undoubtedly exists between prophecy and history, particularly with reference to the present period and events. While it is true that no denomination is a unit on the question of Israel's identity in the present day, or of the facts and conditions of her restoration, or even in an interest in these things. Jesus invested the prophetic Scriptures with an importance and a value which should not now be covered with the veil of indifference, nor should the Christians of this period be called "slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken.'

While the author's attitude towards some of the dogmas which have come down from the time of the early Church Fathers may be challenged by some of his readers, his attitude is not, he believes, inconsistent with the fundamental truth about Deity which we find at the highest points of Scriptural revelation. The present demand, as it was in the days of the apostles, is not to cling blindly to the humanly formulated beliefs into which we may have been educated, but to "prove all things," and to "hold fast that which is good." These are days when theories and teachings which do not glorify God in His infinite nature, and which are not capable of producing the highest form of practical Christianity, will have to be "overturned" that the way of the Lord may be prepared and His name sanctified before all people.

It is naturally self-evident that the errors of human thought and life can be corrected only by a perception of and obedience to Truth; it cannot be accomplished by the worship of any personality however exalted. The covenants of Israel, from the first, have been based upon obedience, not upon an irresponsible belief in Deity, nor a dependent faith in another's goodness. It must sometime be learned that an adherence to religious doctrines. opinions, or creeds, however sincerely accepted and maintained, is absolutely powerless to bring a realization of the new birth into human experience, and without this realization there is no way by which human beings can

enter the kingdom of heaven.