

**DISCOURSES ON
THE BOOK
OF GENESIS**

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Discourses on the book of Genesis by H. A. Henry

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H. A. HENRY

**DISCOURSES ON
THE BOOK
OF GENESIS**

WORKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

CLASS BOOK FOR JEWISH YOUTH OF BOTH SEXES.

DISCOURSES ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RELIGIOUS BELIEF OF ISRAEL, AS PRODUCTIVE OF HUMAN HAPPINESS AND MORAL IMPROVEMENT.

THE FORM OF THANKSGIVING FOR JEWISH LADIES ON REPAIRING TO THE SYNAGOGUE AFTER THEIR ACCOUCHMENT.

ANTIQUITY OF FREEMASONRY IN GENERAL.

A SYNOPSIS OF JEWISH HISTORY.

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BOOK OF GENESIS.

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BY REV. H. A. HENRY,

RABBI PREACHER OF CONGREGATION SHERITH ISRAEL, SAN FRANCISCO.

"These studies improve youth, and are the embellishment and joy of age; they add grace and dignity to prosperity, and afford the surest refuge and consolation in adversity; they delight us at home, and are no hindrance to enjoyment abroad; they go to bed with us, travel with us, and are our companions in the country."—Cicero.

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DEDICATION.

TO THE

CONGREGATION SHERITH ISRAEL,

STOCKTON STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA:

This Volume of Discourses on the Book of Genesis is inscribed
and dedicated, with the warmest feelings of duty,
affection, and esteem, by their obliged
and faithful Minister,

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

IN sending forth this little volume, the author would offer a few remarks as to its design and contents. The necessity of a book like the present for the young is sufficiently obvious, if we consider the great indifference now shown to scriptural study, and the objections urged (not without reason) to the indiscriminate use of the Bible, by young persons, as being in many places unsuited to their capacity.

The author hopes that this work will not be liable to such objections, but will, by smoothing the way, rather allure the young to a more intimate acquaintance with the Sacred Volume.

It consists of Twelve Discourses on the Book of Genesis (from the Creation to the death of Joseph), with an Appendix, treating of the prophetic blessings of Jacob to his Children, in which is explained one of the fundamental principles of Jewish faith.

The arrangement of the work into Twelve Discourses is based upon the plan of the Hebrew Bible, in which the Book of Genesis is divided into Twelve Weekly Sections.

To obviate the inconvenience of searching for quotations, they are generally given in full.

A few words as to the Appendix. In the historical portion of the Book, the Authorized English Version has been adopted, its diction being clear and simple, but this could not be done when

dealing with the poetical and metaphorical expressions of the Prophetic Style, as that Version does not convey the ideas of the Original.

For the right comprehension of the Prophetical Blessings of Jacob, a new rendering was therefore indispensable. Should the author thereby succeed in rectifying any popular errors springing from that Version, he shall consider that he has not labored in vain; but if otherwise, he shall feel happy to be convinced that none exist.

The author intends to continue the Discourses to the end of the Pentateuch; but his doing so will of course depend on the encouragement this, the first volume, will receive.

SAN FRANCISCO, January, 1824—1864.

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