

**HEBREW IDEALS FROM THE  
STORY OF THE PATRIARCHS: A  
STUDY  
OF OLD TESTAMENT FAITH AND  
LIFE. PART FIRST (GEN. 12-25)**

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Hebrew Ideals from the Story of the Patriarchs: A Study of Old Testament Faith and Life. Part First (Gen. 12-25) by James Strachan

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**Handbooks for Bible Classes and**  
**Private Students**

EDITED BY

PRINCIPAL ALEXANDER WHYTE, D.D.

AND

REV. JOHN KELMAN, D.D.

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**HEBREW IDEALS**

PART I. (GEN. XII.-XXV.)

BY JAMES STRACHAN

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# HEBREW IDEALS

FROM THE STORY OF THE PATRIARCHS

*A Study of Old Testament Faith and Life*

Part First

(GEN. 12-25)

BY

JAMES STRACHAN

*Strahan, James*

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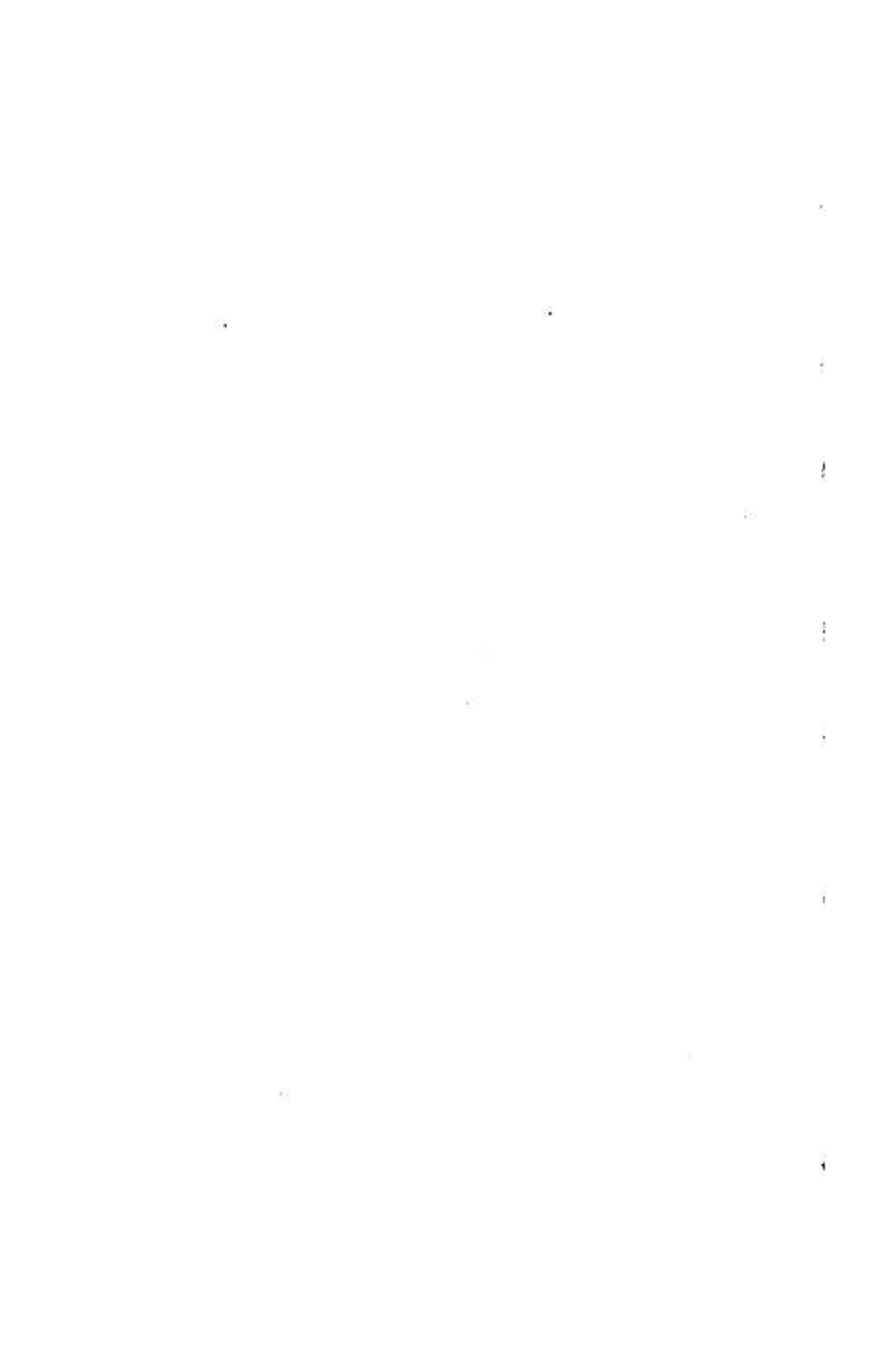
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IN MEMORIAM

A. B. D.

*O DULCE DEUS NOSTRUM!*



## PREFACE.

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THIS handbook is an attempt to give, not a critical analysis of documents, but a sympathetic interpretation of ideals, and it is written for the purpose of instructing and stimulating young minds.

There are plenty of learned critical works on Genesis. The best are those of Dillmann, Delitzsch, Gunkel, and Ball. To add another to the number would be wasteful and ridiculous excess. My commission was to write something simple. That is more difficult, and at present more needful. Criticism has had its innings, and the time is come for appreciation. Analysis must lead to a new synthesis.

It is sometimes said that "vast tracts of Scripture, and especially of the Old Testament, which were luminous and very comfortable to our fathers, are bare desert to the younger generation of preachers." If there are such tracts, I believe they can all be reclaimed. Genesis, at any rate, should not be allowed to become desert; and rightly cultivated it will always rejoice and blossom as the rose. My conviction is that when criticism has done its worst, or, as I for one prefer to say, its best, Luther's words will be as true as ever: *Nihil pulchrius Genesi, nihil utilius.*

A word should be said as to the divine name. I do not care to use the discredited form *Jehovah*, which was unknown till it was coined by an erring scholar in the sixteenth century. Some authors are beginning to write *Yahweh*, even in popular