

**ISRAEL'S ACCOUNT OF
THE
BEGINNINGS: CONTAINED
IN GENESIS I-XI**

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Israel's Account of the Beginnings: Contained in Genesis I-XI by Walter M. Patton

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CONTAINED IN GENESIS I—XI

By

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PREFACE

The purpose of the present work is to meet the needs of such as desire to understand the argument of the Hebrew writers in the first eleven chapters of the Book of Genesis. To attain this end a paraphrase of the text based upon a comparison of the Hebrew original has been largely used, and free comment on the story told by the paraphrase has been employed to draw out the implications of the writer's narrative. In the notes related to the page of text some matters of essential importance are discussed. To have thrown such discussions into the text would in most instances have obscured the continuity of thought.

Historical interpretation of the thought of the Bible with special reference to the narratives as literary wholes is distinctly the aim of this book. It has been prepared for use in college classes, either as a basis for recitation and discussion, or to accompany lectures developing more fully the themes presented. Those who will study in college the Hebrew account of the Beginnings will include many who are not familiar with the literary problems connected with the Biblical text. For the sake of these, a summary statement of conclusions which have been reached in the literary study of the Hexateuch is given. Many are also unfamiliar with the relation of these early narratives to the other and later parts of the Biblical History; they are equally uninformed, perhaps, as to the world of the Hebrews in which these early scenes

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are laid. To provide for such needs, some pages have been given to questions of a general character in relation to Hebrew history. From these pages it will appear that this volume is designed to be the first instalment of a series covering the History of Israel's life and literature to the year 79 A. D. In so far as this plan may be realized, the special purpose to unfold the argument of the Biblical writers and the other Jewish writers will not be lost sight of. The purpose to serve college students particularly, while keeping in view others interested in ancient Israel, will also not be forgotten.

Naturally, originality has been no part of the essential aim. The faults of the book are probably original; its good is not, though those to whom debt is due cannot always be specified.

In conclusion, acknowledgments are due to President Donald J. Cowling of Carleton College for his courtesy in reading the manuscript and offering valuable criticism upon its contents.

W. M. P.

*Carleton College, Northfield, Minn.
February, 1915.*

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