

# **A PRINCE OF EDOM**

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A Prince of Edom by James Ballingal

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**JAMES BALLINGAL**

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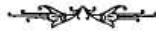


THE GORGE.

# A Prince of Edom

BY

JAMES BALLINGAL, B.D.



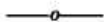
ALEXANDER GARDNER

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1898

## P R E F A C E .



THE period which this tale is designed to illustrate, though by sidelights rather than directly, is that of the Israelite kings David and Solomon.

While not professing to give an absolutely exact picture of the times either in matters archæological or historical—for a tale of this sort demands a certain freedom—the author trusts that his delineation gives broadly a true impression and one in accordance with the results of modern research.

As to the story itself, he will be rewarded if it serves in however small a degree to quicken the interest, especially of young people, in Old Testament history.





## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CHAPTER I.—EVIL TIDINGS, ... ..	9
"  II.—THE ENEMY AT THE GATE, ...	28
"  III.—THE GORGE RUNS BLOOD, ...	43
"  IV.—THE ROCKS A REFUGE, ...	58
"  V.—THE PEACK OF THE RIVER, ...	75
"  VI.—THE FACE OF PHAROAH, ...	87
"  VII.—A MILITARY CAREER, ... ..	106
"  VIII.—THE GODDESS BAST, ... ..	127
"  IX.—MINK OWN COUNTRY, ... ..	153
"  X.—FAREWELL TO EGYPT, ... ..	175
"  XI.—LAURELS AND CYPRESS, ... ..	190
"  XII.—THE QUEEN OF SHEBA, ... ..	210
"  XIII.—THROUGH DUSK TO DAWN, ...	230



# A PRINCE OF EDOM.



## CHAPTER I.

### EVIL TIDINGS.

It was after midnight, but the late dawn of early Spring had not yet touched the East. The stars shone in full radiance, and under them glimmered faintly the white house roofs of Petra, remotest and most secure of all the fastnesses of Edom.

In the dark hours, the city usually lay steeped in a profound silence, broken only by the querulous cry of jackals or the yelp of prowling dogs; but now there were many signs of wakefulness. Here and there in the dark streets torches flared up and vanished, the tramp of hurrying footsteps was heard and the clang of armour. For it was a time of war. The country had been invaded. At any moment