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THE OLDEST BOOK.

“The Bible is the oldest book in the world.” Of course, you will not understand me as saying that the entire Bible is more ancient than any other book. I know that some parts of it were written since the time of Hesiod and Homer, of Xenophon and Herodotus, of Demosthenes and Plato. But what I mean is, that some portions stretch far back beyond the records of classic literature, and before the dawn of well authenticated profane history. He who sits down to read the book of Job, may do it with the moral certainty that he is perusing the most ancient written poem in the world; and he who reads the book of Genesis is certain that he is perusing a history that was penned long before any Grecian writer collected and recorded the deeds of ancient times. Take away the history of the past which we have in the Bible, and there are at least some two thousand years of the existence of our race, of which we know nothing; and that, too, the forming period, and, in many respects, the most interesting part of the history of the world. Begin, in your investigation of past events, where ancient profane history begins, and you are plunged into the midst of a state of affairs of whose origin you know nothing, and where the mind wanders in perfect night, and can find no rest. Kingdoms are seen, but no one can tell when or how they were founded; cities appear, whose origin no one knows; heroes are playing their part in the great and mysterious drama, but no one knows whence they came, and what are their designs; a race of beings is seen whose origin is unknown, and the past period of whose existence on