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THE GARDEN OF EDEN

GEN. CH. 2. V. 8 & C.

EDEN, OF ADAM THE FIRST HOME,
A SCENE OF EXQUISITE DELIGHT,
GAVE HIM, TILL DOOMED BY SIN TO ROAM,
ALL THAT COULD GRATIFY THE SIGHT.

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THE DELUGE.

"The waters prevailed and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters, and the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth and all the high hills that were under the whole heaven were covered."
—GENESIS chap. vii., verse 18—19.

BEFORE CHRIST, 2349 YEARS.

THE rebellious spirit of Adam which caused his ignominious expulsion from Paradise, brought "sin into the world," and left it a wretched legacy to his posterity. In time the growing depravity of mankind, became more than Divine patience could longer endure. One righteous man warned of the heavy judgment which impended over a sinful race, was instructed to build an ark, in which he and his family were permitted to rest, while the windows of Heaven were opened and rain deluged the lands. Terrible indeed was the scene then witnessed: tremendous the effects of God's wrath. During forty days torrents of rain continued to descend from the clouds, overwhelming and destroying everything that till then had been supposed to be safe; but as no sin can escape the eye of the Omniscient, so no defence can save the transgressor from his mighty arm. The mind recoils

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THE DELUGE.

shuddering at the thought, yet men who would tremble to receive the sentence of a human judge, carelessly trample on the laws of God.

When the sinners who had brought this calamity—this heavy judgment on the world, were no more, the waters abated. In the seventh month, on the seventeenth day, the ark rested on Ararat.

The mountain thus indicated is named from a compound, Ar-arat, in the Hebrew tongue meaning "mountain of descent." Its exact situation is not known. There are indeed persons who boldly undertake to point it out, but writers who have due regard for sacred truth, are forced to admit that of the various accounts given, it is doubtful which ought to be preferred.

The history of the Deluge will lead the serious reader to reflect how dreadfully comprehensive Divine wrath can be; but while we shudder at the thought, it will be remarked, that God is as potent to save as to punish, and often since the days of Noah it has been found, that while dreadful judgments were spreading far and wide universal ruin and despair, the good man in his family has been saved from peril, and remained, not only uninjured, but serene till the storm had passed away.



THE DELUGE.

GEN. CH. 7. V. 19, 20.

THE WINDOWS OPEN'D OF THE SKY
OVERWHELM'D THE GLOBE IN ONE VAST SEA,
AND SINNERS FEEL, CONDEMN'D TO DIE,
HOW TERRIBLE OUR GOD CAN BE.

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MOSES RECEIVING THE TABLES.

"He gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon Mount Sinai, two tables of stone written by the hand of God."—EXODUS, chap. xxxi., verse 18.

BEFORE CHRIST, 1451 YEARS.

THE scene which the artist here brings before us, is one of the most extraordinary witnessed in the whole history of man. Moses was permitted to confer with the Almighty, who had seen the vain sacrifices made before images, and heard the mad cry, "These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." The Omnipotent then called on Moses to refrain from further intercession on their behalf, that in his wrath he might consume the sinners and make a great nation of his faithful servant.

Bold as disinterested, Moses besought the Lord his God, and said, "Lord why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, whom thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with a great power and with a mighty hand!" He called on the Creator to abate his wrath, to remember his servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and his former gracious promise.

This noble daring found favour in the sight

MOSES RECEIVING THE TABLES.

of the Deity, he refrained from visiting the sins of the wretched offenders with his awful vengeance, and he gave to Moses the tables of the law. They were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God graven upon the tables.

Joshua, the friend of Moses, joined him on his way to the camp. Songs of rejoicing were raised by the Jews, while they danced round the molten calf. At a distance from the scene of degradation Joshua remarked to Moses, "there was a noise of war in the camp;" Moses answered, "it is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome, but the noise of them that sing do I hear." He saw the Israelites bending before a vain image, and pretending to ascribe to that contemptible object the countless blessings they had known.

Moses paused not to censure; the tables, of which he was the bearer, precious as they were, he dashed down, in his wrath; the idol he threw into the fire, and caused it to be reduced to powder and the powder he forced the Israelites to drink with their water.

Wanderers from reason and from God can expect no comfort here, or in the world to come.



MOSES RECEIVING THE TABLES

EXOD. CH. XXXII.

AN ANGEFUL DAY ALL ISRAEL SAW,
WHILE JOURNEYING TO THE PROMISED LAND,
WHEN GIVEN FROM SINAI'S MOUNT THE LAW,
PREPARED BY THE ALMIGHTY HAND.

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