

## TORAH-THE PATHWAY OF PROMISE

### THE TERM "TORAH"

A rigid interpretation of the term TORAH restricting it to "pointing out a law to be observed" is not to be indulged. The term is expansive as its application to the five books of Moses demonstrates. Pastor Huck characterises it as "the pathway to future promise".

### WHERE DOES TORAH POINT?

When you see a signpost you look to see where it points, to what is it directing and how soon you can come where it indicates. Moses is given great revelations through such vehicles of vision as the tabernacle, the high priesthood, the festivals and the occasions of blessing. They are not just the paraphernalia of Jewish religious life-they have prophetic significance as well. The Torah itself is a very special book.

I think of Torah as "pointing to Messiah" since the Hebrew YARAH means simply "to point" and the Torah is a signpost to the Saving Redeemer of Israel. The Torah may be understood as a compendium of pointers to Christ

### A FORENAME FOR THE TORAH

I have added a designation to the **Torah** and presumed to call it "**prophetic TORAH**" giving it a forename for four reasons:-

- (1) Because it is **prophecy** and **instruction** (or law) in combination as is all scripture.
- (2) Because it is full of "**pointers**" which non-Jewish interpreters call "shadows" or "types", and
- (3) Because it is the product under the Spirit of God of the "**prophetic**" deliverances of Moses.
- (4) The forename also serves to mark the extension of the benefits of the Torah to the Christian alongside the Jew.

### MOSES-WHAT MINISTRY WAS YOURS?

The great sculptures answer-Moses is the world's lawgiver. The code of HAMMURABI and the laws of the BAGVADGITA and many more have come down to us to set alongside the Code Napoleon and our own case and statute law now bulked up considerably by European Law-but the fundamentals of law at its fountainhead are found in the ten words God gave Moses.

### MOSES THE LAWGIVER

Moses was indeed a Lawgiver and so we have many expressions like "Moses in the law" or "Moses' law" which dub that great man as a lawgiver for ever and a day and compel us to have him handle the two tablets of Sinai in every photograph as it were thus restricting his office to the law.

### MOSES ON A DIFFERENT MOUNTAIN

We do well to remember that God the Father despatched Moses with Elijah to meet with our LORD Jesus at the Mount of Transfiguration-Mount Hermon. On that occasion he had no tablets in his hands. His mood must have been sanguine as he became engrossed in intimate conversation with Christ about the matter of how He would accomplish the deliverance of Israel and the Church. Moses was all too conscious of the burden of the law but in his heavenly and spiritual condition beyond death His whole vision was the future of Redemption and the Kingdom of God. Nor was this a new consideration-Moses had always moved with God and though he was a non-participant in the conquest and Monarchy he was the foundation prophet of the O.T. theocracy and called in at the foundation of the N.T. provision. He gives testimony to the fact that for God in Christ there is **one way of salvation** and **one covenant** with **prophetic pointers** or Torah. The law is "schoolmaster" to both Jew and Gentile.

### MOSES THE PROPHET UNTO CHRIST

But Moses was **a prophet** par excellence. Please read my comments on Deuteronomy 34 10-12 and think of the pleasure with which the Risen LORD on the Emmaus Road referred to Moses and all the prophets as He spoke of the "things concerning Him". Then add the spice of the Mount of Transfiguration where Jesus spoke of his "Exodus" and presentation to the world of a blood sacrifice

which would for all time in one act of ransom replace the Passover lambs with Moses full commendation and to his joy. This meditation will bring Moses into his own as a prophetic servant of the MOST High God.

### **THE PROPHETIC TORAH**

Within the commentary you will come across many places where I instance the prophetic concentration of Moses' thinking. Moses was, after all, the very greatest of men of the Old Testament era. He spoke with the LORD and was zealous to know more of the LORD and His plans. He is credited with devising the Hebrew alphabet from its cognate languages. He was a most skilful general whom Pharaoh held indispensable to the success of his campaigns though known to be a Hebrew. He had a temple built in his honour by HATSHEPSUT. He led the Jews for 40 years in Sinai-the most part of which was at KADESH but his role as a prophet is least appreciated. God "make known his ways to Moses" and "there arose not a prophet like unto Moses" that the LORD knew face to face. **He gave us the messages God gave him word by word** and established this as the principle of spoken and written prophecy.

Bob Coffey