



Reviews

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Expounding the Law*

John Nicholls

READERS OF Brother W. H. Carter's book on prophecy and chronology, *Times and Seasons*, will be interested to know that another work by the same author has been published recently. Brother Carter wrote a series of articles on Israel, and the Law that God gave them, in the *Old Paths* magazine from 1960 to 1962. Although he fell asleep in Christ many years ago, the twenty-nine articles have been published again as a book, complete with a foreword, and general and Scripture indices.

The first six chapters of the book deal with the origins of the nation, and the author traces the genealogy of the nation, with some interesting observations in chapter 1 on Peleg, in whose days the earth was divided. There are, as one would expect from this author, strong chronological overtones, and he deals with the 430 years' sojourning of the nation and the 400 years of their afflictions. Chapters 4 and 5 expound the seven ascents of Moses into Mount Sinai and the way it burned with fire and quaked exceedingly, making Israel fear and tremble. Brother Carter concludes this section with a powerful exhortation: "Moreover, as we trace the means by which a merciful God induced in Israel a sense of their sinfulness, and a repentant spirit, we, too, can learn much that will encourage us as, in our weakness, we struggle and stumble 'in the way' to the Kingdom" (p. 25).

From chapter 7, the main theme of the book is the typical significance of the tabernacle and its furnishings, the garments of the high priest and the work of the priests and Levites. The latter section of the book has reflections on the sacrifices, disease and the annual feasts. In general Brother Carter follows the principles set out so clearly by Brother Roberts in his last work, *The Law of Moses*. He deviates only slightly on rare occasions, for example, in his treatment of the symbol of the colour blue. He also draws upon Brother W. F. Barling's *Law and Grace*, and indeed quotes from it, for example on page

121 regarding the significance of the meal offering.

The Lord Jesus, as "the man" of Psalm 1, meditated upon the law of the Lord day and night. It was his delight to do so (v. 2). It is good and helpful, therefore, to have brought before us once again in this book "the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law" (Rom. 2:20), so that we too, like our Lord, may be "a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season" (Ps. 1:3).

Our brother makes some lovely comments on pages 31 and 32 regarding Bezaleel and Aholiab, who constructed the tabernacle and its furnishings. He concludes: "The choice of these two men is significant in view of this application to 'the saints', for the one was 'of a woman' of Jacob's own family, whilst the other derived from a Gentile 'bondwoman', thus prefiguring the 'multitude' of the redeemed 'out of all kindreds and tongues' who shall be found to have a name and a place in God's house in the day to come".

Following the interesting chapters on the tabernacle, in chapter 11 the author deals with the lampstand. He spends some time considering the lamp of God which went out in the time of Eli (1 Sam. 3:3). After a chapter on the table of the shewbread and the altar of incense, he deals with the most holy place and the ark of the covenant. There are also some good comments on the cherubim.

Chapter 14, on the garments of the high priest, is one of the best in the book, concentrating rightly upon the foreshadowing of the enduring Melchizedek priesthood of our Lord Jesus Christ. His concluding section in this chapter deals with the breastplate which Aaron had to bear on his heart for a memorial, and the shoulder stones

* *The Chosen Nation and their Law*, W. H. Carter. Obtainable from Brother J. W. Ramus, The Old Paths, 15A Ashdown Road, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 3PL, price £6 plus postage and packing.

likewise. He interestingly links the words of Isaiah 40:11 to this role of our great high priest, saying: "His [Christ's] care and affection for his people is beautifully suggested by the words of Isa. 40:11: 'He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young'. These words should stir our imagination and cause us to realise more fully the antitypical significance of the 'bearing' of the 'names of all his saints' both on his 'shoulders' and in his 'heart'".

Passing on, another excellent chapter, chapter 18, "The Levites", emphasises the duty of God's ministers of every generation to let the word of Christ dwell in them richly and always to speak as the oracles of God. The chapter on sacrifices before the Law is well worth reading, as are the author's pertinent comments on the burnt offerings, sin offerings and trespass offerings. A fur-

ther chapter is devoted to peace offerings, which is delightful to read.

The final chapters cover the water of separation, contagious diseases, the animal feasts of the law and the author's final thoughts, from which we quote the following: "Finally, the joys of the great salvation are typified, as we have seen, in the 'rejoicings' under the Law. The Feast of Tabernacles speaks of the glorious future fellowship of the Sons of God, and of the perfection which will characterise them all when comes 'The Great Release' from sin and death, foreshadowed in the jubilee celebrations" (p. 159).

This book is probably best read as it was originally published, one chapter at a sitting. All who do so will be able to meditate on God's wonderful law which foreshadows the good things in Christ. This book is recommended to all who desire to have a better appreciation of Israel and the holy law God gave to her.



Watchman

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Whither Turkey?

Nigel Bernard

IN REVELATION 16 we read: "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet" (vv. 12,13).

The Euphrates represents the Turkish power. Its original empire, known as the Ottoman Empire, has dried up, with only the actual country itself awaiting the final drying up. In Revelation 13 the dragon power came to represent the eastern part of the Roman Empire, centred around Constantinople. At the time of Armageddon the dragon power will be the Russian Gogian power (Ezek. 38) as it pushes through Turkey and invades the Middle East, finally drying up the Euphrates power. The beast represents Catholic Europe and the false prophet the papacy.

In the light of Bible prophecy, the country of Turkey, whose origins lie in the invasions of the

Seljuks, the Mongols under Genghis Khan and then Timur, and the Ottomans, all streaming across the Euphrates (Rev. 9:14), will not be in existence at Armageddon. It will not be part of the European beast and it will be absorbed by the Dragon power. In the nineteenth century the problem of how to deal with the European countries, primarily in the Balkans, which were gradually being freed from Ottoman rule as the Ottoman Empire dried up, became known as the Eastern Question. Today the remaining remnant of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey itself, is once more posing a question for European leaders.

Turkey and the EU

The question of the role of Turkey in modern Europe was brought sharply into focus by the European Union (EU) summit in Copenhagen last December. At the summit a deal was reached which paved the way for the formulation of a treaty leading to the entry of ten new countries into the EU. The accession treaty is due to be