

BIBLE STORIES TRUE AFTER 3000 YEARS

Happenings in Egypt Traced to Laws of Moses.

WILDERNESS MAY CHANGE

Stream of Justice Runs From Mountain on Which Religion Was Given to World.

BY WILLIAM T. ELLIS (Copyright by the New York Herald Company)

MOUNT SINAI.—Moses, after all, and not President Wilson, must be held primarily responsible for the present world upheaval. If he had not enunciated a new set of laws, divinely sanctioned and now made universally applicable for the establishment of justice and equity between man and man, we should not at the present time have all the peoples of the earth, small and great, in an irrepressible ferment of liberty.

That doughty old reformer was effecting a greater emancipation than he knew when he liberated his fellows from the bondage of Pharaoh. He started something that has been going on with increasing cloudiness and is nowadays howling over kaisers and tsars, kings and kingdoms so rapidly that we can scarcely keep count of them.

Surely Moses and his achievement are worth looking into on the spot, even though the spot be so remote and unreal to the average person that it is well described by the old lady who said, "I always knew these places were in the Bible, but I did not suppose you could go to them."

Every person who passes through the Suez canal crosses the scene of the miracle of the dividing of the waters to permit the escape of the Israelites fleeing from Pharaoh. If the traveler be one familiar with the Bible, he will be written in the topography the necessity of the passing through the waters. The Hebrews seemed caught in a pocket, in front of them and on their right were the Libyan mountains. On their left was the Red sea. Behind them was Pharaoh's host, with only a concealing cloud intervening. Once across the waters, in the Sinai wilds, they were reasonably safe from pursuit.

Their leader was an old man learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and with 40 years of experience of Bedouin life on Sinai. He had known every mile of the land with the intimacy of a shepherd and the broad vision of a strategist, soldier and statesman. Ripe and ready for this extraordinary trained man before ever he was called to become the leader of his people.

Every third Arab on Sinai appears to be named after Mohammed. Let his voice in a crowd of Arabs and cry "Allah" and a third of them will answer "Cry Mohammed" and another third will reply, "Today Mohammed is accepted as a prophet by Jew, Christian and Moslem. He is the patron saint of the Sinai region. Most of the outstanding objects on the peninsula—mountains, wells and peculiar rock formations—are associated with his name. Moses may have had a hard time with the ungrateful Israelites whom he led, but his monuments are many today. He met the fate of all great reformers who he lived, but history has vindicated him.

Wilderness May Change. Manganese deposits of vast extent and value are now being worked by the British on the Sinai peninsula, where the unexpecting Hebrews trusted, and the old Egyptian turquoise and copper mines nearby, which they knew, may possibly be supplanted by modern British enterprises. The result of the inspection of the region by engineers. It may be that science and industry will effect changes in this wilderness, less region as new treasures are discovered in the earth. But for the Israelites, the problems of the wilderness were those that exist today—water, food and difficult travel. They had to multiply the numbers of wells, even as did the German-led Turks in their attack upon the Suez canal.

Without going into details or technicalities, the Sinai peninsula, as Moses knew it and as the present-day traveler knows it, may be described as a sandy wastes; as a rocky, flinty wilderness, covered with stones and shells and the apparent wastage of all creation; and as the barren mountains and their valleys or wadis. As the plain nears the mountains the rocks become huge boulders. Hebrews traveled on flint and other stones that make the going far more difficult than the hot sand. The burning noontide heat was no new experience to the people fleeing from Egypt; but desert nights are colder far than nights along the Nile.

Contrast Is Drawn. Two contrasts stand out in the mind of a wilderness wayfarer. One is the difference between this waterless, foodless waste and the fat land of Goshen. The grumbling Israelites judge their new experiences by their life in Egypt. Plenty to eat, even with servitude, looked better than this life of liberty with hunger.

The other contrast is between Sinai and Canaan; as compared with this desolate region of sterile sands and bare mountains, the land of Promise truly seemed "flowing with milk and honey"—milk and honey being prized products of the wild bees and the domestic flocks, staple to the diet of the region. These Hebrews thought in terms of the simple menus of all other Bedouin.

Our water supply, aside from individual canteens, was carried in two steel cylinders, each about the size of a soda-water tank. These were the standard equipment of the Egyptian camel corps, and we owed them, as also our tents and ascot, to the courtesy of the Egyptian frontier administration. Our Arabs carried their store of water in skins, after the desert fashion of thousands of years ago, and when on the march one man's water was nearly all lost the incident created considerable excitement. The person who has never done desert traveling cannot know the preciousness of a swallow of warm water at midday. When we drew near a stream or spring in the Wady Hebron one or more of the Arabs would run ahead to be first to drink of the water.

Camels and men together drank with their heads in the water, and those lower down seemed in no wise troubled that the commotion above them muddied the water. Usually we filled our canteens to assure a clean supply.

Visit Is Impressive. As a confirmation of the historicity of the Moslem record of the wanderings of the children of Israel at Sinai, Sinai is impressive. Nobody can read the Exodus story amid this wilderness without being convinced that the man who wrote the record, the record fits the land. A modern city man misses the "local color" of the inspired pages; there is nothing in his experience to interpret this migration of a primitive and essentially nomadic people. On the other hand, a soldier in Sinai perceives not only the rationale of the Exodus story, but he also sees how that supreme ex-

perience colored much of the subsequent literature of the Old Testament. Barefooted Israelites found their feet cut by this flinty wilderness even as did our boot-soled guides. They were overtaken and overawed by the difficulty of the mountain passes, with their thick strewn boulders impeding the way and seeming ready to fall upon the traveler. Most of all, the mountains themselves—steep, sheer, stern and seamed—must have filled the souls of these people from the flat lands of the Nile with an awe amounting to terror. Those gigantic red peaks, with outjutting crags and rocks of every conceivable formation, have no parallel in all the world. They seem peopled with strange shapes and objects of granite—giants and gnomes, beasts and birds and, to our fancy, airplanes, guns, tanks, forts and symbols. For a long time we viewed a huge cross in the face of a cliff at the head of a wady, admiring the bold imagination of the hermits who doubtless carved it—only to learn, with the help of field glasses, that it was formed of natural seams. One mammoth rock stands apart as an open-jawed hippopotamus; another is like a carved camel; another almost duplicates the Sphinx. It is a weird world, striking fear to superstitious heathens.

I have seen many mountain ranges, as in the Caucasus and Kurdistan, where the little hills seemed to nestle cozily against the sides of the mother mountains like lambs with their ewes; but there is nothing of this soft and intimate about Sinai. Sublime, impressive and moving the spirit to reverent wonder are these seamed and furrowed mountain faces; they call forth thoughts of the thunder-judgments of the supernatural. "High places" of worship are placed here naturally; but lovers would never hold tryst on these pinnacles. This is a world—a piece of dread revelation. Nature set the stage fittingly for the giving of the law.

Law Is Born to World. A stone chapel, the floor of which is strewn with fragrant herbs to keep the insects from books and pictures and vestments, and a rude stone mosque crown the height of Jebel Musa. Here also is shown the very cave in the rock where, tradition says, Moses hid himself when Jehovah appeared. It matters not about the particular foot of ground; it was on one of these peaks, from our view as we look across that the word, which is still the world's most needed law, came to the Pit Man. Part of the Jebel Musa cluster to Rases Safereh, with its triple peaks, rising sheer from the one great plain within the Sinai mountains whereon the company of Israelites could have encamped. There can be no possibility of doubt about this site. Here the Law was first proclaimed. Upon the neighboring hills Aaron set up the golden calf. Every condition of the exodus narrative is met. This is the scene of the transaction which settled forever that man must worship one God; and that his God demands obedience to a moral law which makes for the highest welfare of humanity.

Here our religion began. From this mountain has run a stream of justice and morality that is continuous with the world; that to present history has been one God for all, and one set of divinely-given standards by which man's relations with his Creator, and with his fellow man, are to be determined. Changeless, unchangeable, that law stands. It is for nations and for individuals. Jealous guardian of its deity Jehovah, above, acting justice and displaying mercy. Society will never be right until it squares with Sinai; the place that was world to the Hebrews, that is the Versailles. Here, amid statelessness and passing man's devising, was held the first peace conference.

ZONING MEETING CALLED

East Side Folk Asked to Pass on Plan on Restrictions.

Future establishment of undertaking parlors, industries of various kinds, as well as retail businesses in the district bounded by East Twenty-first and Forty-eighth streets from Balsey to Fremont streets, will be determined at a property owners' meeting called by the city planning commission. The meeting will be held tonight at 8 o'clock in the Episcopal church at Broadway and East Forty-third street.

A committee appointed by the commission has formulated a report covering recommendations for the district which will be read at the meeting, and placed for a vote of approval or rejection. All property owners within the district are entitled to a voice in the meeting, according to J. P. Newell, president of the commission.

VIENNA MUCH INCENSED

Surrender of Milch Cows to Other Nations Protested.

VIENNA, July 22.—(By the Associated Press.)—Vienna is much incensed over the stipulation in the articles of the peace treaty handed to the Austrian delegates Sunday that thousands of Milch cows be surrendered to Italy, Serbia and Roumania. It is declared the American food mission knows that hundreds of children are sick from the scarcity of milk and that many deaths have occurred among them from the same cause.

Aircraft Company Files Articles.

SALEM, Or., July 22.—(Special.)—The aircraft company has filed articles of incorporation here. The incorporators are F. P. Farrell, Seelye Hall and Floyd Hart, and the offices of the concern will be located at Portland. The capital stock is \$5000. It is the plan of the company to manufacture, lease and operate airplanes on a commercial basis.

Lebanon Chautauqua Closes.

LEBANON, Or., July 22.—(Special.)—The Lebanon Chautauqua session held here for the last six days closed last night with an historical pageant put on by the school children of Lebanon. The session was better attended than any of the other five meetings held here. A session is assured for next year, as 107 persons have guaranteed the sale of at least 49 season tickets at not less than \$2.50 each.

SENATE COMMITTEE REFUSES PRESIDENT

Treaty Provisions Not to Be Met Till Ratification.

McNARY SUPPORTS LEAGUE

Oregon Junior Solon, in Strong Address, Voices Sentiment for League Ratification.

WASHINGTON, July 22.—An emphatic negative was given by the senate foreign relations committee today to President Wilson's request that it approve provisional appointment of an American representative on the international reparations commission without awaiting ratification of the peace treaty.

While the president was renewing his talks with republican senators at the White House, and the senate was beginning another day of speechmaking on the treaty, the committee adopted a resolution declaring "no power exists" to execute provisions of the treaty in advance of its ratification. This was interpreted not only as refusing assent to the plan, but declaring the president would exceed his authority should he act independently.

What the president might do in view of the committee action had not been revealed tonight, but most of his advisers predicted there would be no appointment for the present.

McNary Supports League.

In a speech supporting the league, Senator McNary, republican, Oregon, said he would oppose amendments which would send the covenant back for renegotiation, though he could see no objection to explanatory reservations designed to clarify its provisions. He asserted that article 10 must be retained as "the pillar of the league."

The republicans who saw President Wilson during the day were Senators Edge, New Jersey; Calder, New York, and Cummins, Iowa.

Senator Johnson declared that the United States, by refusing to join the league of nations, not only would endanger its own safety, but would break with its associates in the war.

Senator Norris, one of the senators invited to the White House yesterday, declined the invitation. A new suggestion for senate reservations in ratifying the league of nations covenant developed at the conference. Senator Calder, republican, New York, asked President Wilson what his attitude would be on a proposal that the covenant be ratified with a reservation that article 10, guaranteeing nations against "external aggression," remain in effect only until 1921.

President Wilson urged that the treaty be ratified without reservations and said that such a reservation as suggested would necessarily be interpreted abroad as showing that the United States was willing to assist the other nations for only two years.

In discussing the Shanghai settlement with Senator Calder, President Wilson explained that while it was possible for him to give senators details he did not think it was advisable to make them public at this time.

Clackamas Commissioner Named.

OREGON CITY, Or., July 22.—(Special.)—At a meeting of the Clackamas county court today H. C. Compton, who has been working for the state highway commission, was chosen county road commissioner to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of J. W. Root. Mr. Compton has had much experience as an engineer, and for several years was employed by Multnomah county.

Sightseeing Plane Reaches Medford.

MEDFORD, Or., July 22.—(Special.)—Medford's aeroplane with Roy Hart as pilot and Seely Hall as mechanic arrived in Medford today, after a two days' flight from Sacramento. A great crowd was gathered at Gore field when the plane alighted, and everyone eagerly inspected what is believed to be the first commercial flying plane in Medford. Sight seeing and advertising flights will begin tomorrow.

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See Also Back Page This Paper

—Meier & Frank's: The Store for Men, Main Floor. (Mail Orders Filled.)

Advertisement for Blitz beer. Text: 'The drink that fits' WHERE THE DIFFERENCE BEGINS. The ordinary ways of brewing are done away with in making Blitz. The exclusive Blitz process gives you ALL that's in the malt, hops and barley. It's the difference that you're buying. 100% BREW 100% GOOD. QUENCHES THIRST SATISFIES YOU COOLS YOU. Everywhere in the Northwest you find on sale. In Bottles On Draught. THE PORTLAND BREWING CO.