

# Go SEARCH MT. SINAI for ORIGINAL GOSPEL

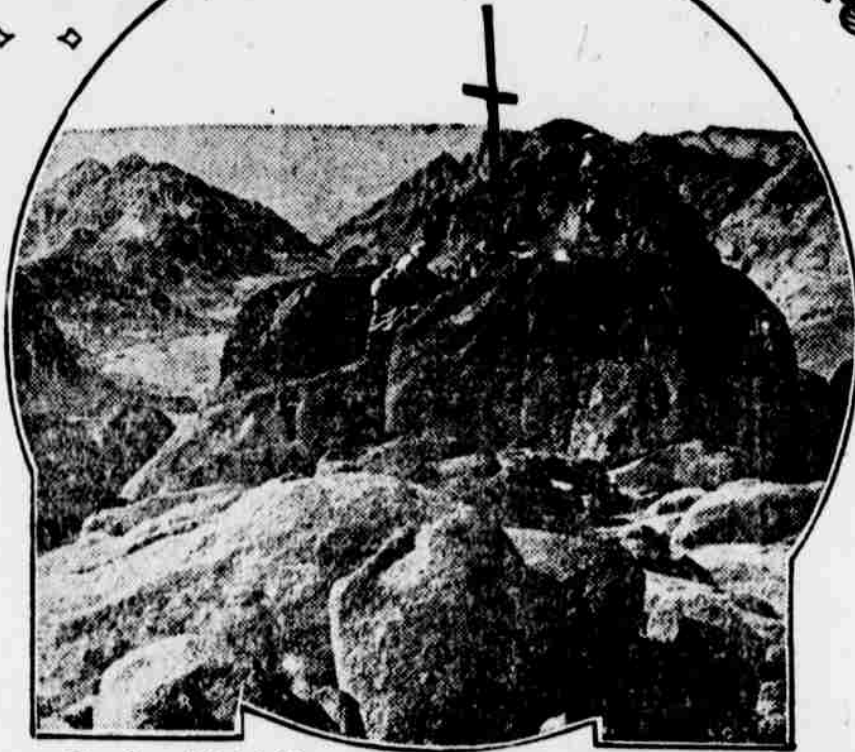
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Monastery of St. Catherine



View in the Valley



Spot on Which Moses Read Ten Commandments

**N**EXT to the Holy Land the most interesting region in the world to Biblical scholars is the Sinaitic peninsula. In one respect it is even more interesting than the Holy Land, for the wealth of relics and manuscripts which it contains has hardly been touched by modern investigators.

An important movement has now been started by the universities, scholars and religious leaders of England to conduct a thorough search of the Monastery of St. Catherine, on Mount Sinai, where it is believed that the oldest existing Bible manuscripts are to be found.

Discoveries already made indicate with practical certainty that these manuscripts must be there, but for peculiar reasons very little progress has been made in searching for them. During the years 1844, 1853 and 1859 the German scholar Tischendorf spent much time exploring the monastery library.

The monks were then very simple and hospitable and quite unfamiliar with the ways of the outside world. They allowed Tischendorf to do as he pleased in the library. He used this liberty with stupendously profitable results to himself. He discovered the oldest known Greek manuscript of the Bible, now known as the "Codex Sinaiticus." By some scholars it is dated as early as the fourth century, and in that case it is the oldest practically complete manuscript of the Bible. It consists of most of the Old Testament, all the New Testament and "the Epistle of Barnabas."

This wonderful collection of manuscripts Tischendorf carried away without saying a word to the monks. There are doubtless collectors today who would give \$1,000,000 for these manuscripts. When the monks slowly realized that they had been robbed of one of the most precious possessions in the religious world, they became very angry, and their anger lasted a long time.

For years travelers who visited the out-of-the-world monastery reported that the monks were surly and inhospitable, and would not afford a reasonable opportunity for an examination of their treasures. Many of these visitors reported that the monks were ill-using their manuscripts in a deplorable manner, using them as stands for cooking utensils and flower pots.

Finally, in 1894, two brilliant Englishwomen—Mrs. Smith Lewis and Mrs. Gibson—succeeded in winning the confidence of the monks and secured permission to make an examination of the library. Their search was richly rewarded, for they discovered a fourth century palimpsest manuscript of St. Paul's Gospel in Syriac. This is probably the oldest known Bible manuscript, for the Tischendorf Codex, even allowing it the oldest date mentioned, would barely equal it.

Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Gibson found that in order to put the library in thorough order and reveal even superficially all that it contained would require the labors of a considerable staff of trained workers. Although the monks gave facilities to the two women, they were not willing to admit any considerable body of investigators to the monastery, in view of their bitter experience of earlier years.

The present movement aims to overcome the objections of the monks in a friendly manner. The Sinaitic Peninsula is now in Egyptian territory. When the necessary funds have been collected the assistance of the Egyptian authorities will be sought in carrying on negotiations with the monks.

Among the most precious manuscripts believed to be in the monastery is the original of the Gospel of St. Luke in the handwriting of the apostle himself. This would be incomparably the most important Bible manuscript ever discovered. The Syriac copy of St. Luke's gospel found by the two English women and at present constituting the oldest known Bible manuscript contains evidence that it was translated from a Greek original in the library.

Scholars hold that the original Gospel of St. Luke was in Greek. The apostle was a physician of Greek descent, and his gospel gives evidence of scholarly attainments. Early chronicles state that the manuscripts of St. Luke's gospel was one of the treasures given to the monastery by the Emperor Justinian in 527 A. D. The building contains numerous representations of the apostle writing his gospel, and these appear to have a close association with the foundation of the establishment.

The library is known to contain about 500 ancient volumes filled with manuscripts in Greek, Arabic, Syriac and other languages. As one of these great volumes may contain hundreds of manuscripts, the wealth of the library can only be guessed at. Among its curiosities is a very ancient complete manuscript of the Psalms, written on its leaves in microscopic writing.

This monastery is the oldest continuously inhabited building in the world. It was founded by Justinian in about 527 A. D., and has been occupied ever since. It is surrounded by walls 30 feet high, and defended by cannon, for it was cut off from the civilized world for centuries. Until recently everybody who entered was hoisted by a rope over these walls.

The earth on which the vegetables of the monastery are grown was brought from the Holy Land, for there is no soil in the vicinity. In the first few centuries of the Christian church the Sinaitic Peninsula was the refuge of many Christians fleeing from the Roman persecution. Then the church triumphed and for centuries after the founding of the monastery it was honored by gifts from emperors and kings.

Then came the Mohammedan outbreak. During the centuries when the followers of the Prophet overran the eastern world this little spot held out for Christianity.

The convent stands at the foot of the mountain called Jabal Musa, which, according to many authorities, is the actual mountain where the Ten Commandments were committed to Moses by the Lord. The site of the monastery, according to this theory, is the spot where Moses delivered the Commandments to the children of Israel. This is a disputed question, but there is little doubt that it is an important site, for the natives in all ages have revered it.

Here passed the children of Israel during their 40 years' wandering on their way from Egypt to the Holy Land. Here occurred the many miracles and wonderful events of the Exodus—the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, the feeding of the people with manna, the miraculous production of water by Moses, the battle with the Amalekites, the appearance of the Lord on the mount, the building of the Ark, the worshipping of the golden calf, the budding of Aaron's rod,

the raising of the brazen serpent by Moses and finally the death of Moses.

The Sinaitic Peninsula covers about 10,000 square miles, and there was plenty of room for the 40 years' wandering. The traveler who sees the land today can easily understand why miracles were necessary to keep the children of Israel alive. It is an exceedingly barren wilderness, largely composed of rocks. It only maintains a handful of natives, and it is believed that the number has hardly changed since prehistoric times. Though barren, the land is very picturesque, and the red mountains rising abruptly into the clear sky are wonderful.

Nearly all the sites mentioned in Exodus and the other books of the Old Testament are identified by the monks and by local traditions. There is a peak called Jabal Ras-es-Safsaf, which is said to be the exact spot from which Moses witnessed the worshipping of the golden calf by the children of Israel. It is a small peak, giving an excellent view of a large plain, which might very well have been the place where the Israelites indulged in their idolatrous festivities, as described in Exodus:

"And it came to pass as soon as he came nigh unto the camp that he saw the calf and the dancing; and Moses's anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands and brake them beneath the mountain.

"And he took the calf which they had made and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder and strewed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it."

The peak where Moses is reputed to have witnessed this scene is part of the same group where the leader of the chosen people received the Ten Commandments from heaven. The local traditions assigning sites for all these ancient occurrences seem very reasonable.

## DOUBLE VISION.

Police Magistrate—Hovn't Oi seen yes here twilet before?  
Prisoner—Only onct, yer ahner, an' that was last Patrick's day.  
Police Magistrate—St. Patrick's day, was ut? Wull, that explains ut. Oi must av seen two of yes.—Puck.

## UNPROFESSIONAL.

Powers—I'm sorry you lost your lawsuit.  
Bowers—Well, I ought to have known that my attorney was no good.  
Powers—Why?  
Bowers—The very first time the case was called he told the judge he was ready to go on.—Puck.

## ALL AT WORK.

"All of a sudden you don't seem to hear anything more about futurists. I wonder what has happened?"  
"Wait till the whitewashing season is over. Take it from me, they'll bob up into prominence again."

## A LADIES' MAN.

"A bomb."  
"Put it in water," said the chief of police.  
"A suffragette bomb."  
"Put it in Florida water. Ah, the dear girls."

## INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Director of Evening Department, The Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)

### LESSON FOR NOVEMBER 30

#### CROSSING THE JORDAN.

LESSON TEXT—Joshua 3:7-17.  
GOLDEN TEXT—"Fear thou not for I am with thee."—Isa. 41:10.

The spies sent out by Joshua (ch. 2) were animated by quite a different motive than that which governed those who first visited Canaan, and they brought back a much different report (Num. ch. 13). The story of their experience in Jericho with Rahab, their escape from her house, and the incident of the "scarlet thread," will prove an interesting introduction for today's lesson. There are two suggestions in the preparation for the crossing of the Jordan mentioned in the first seven verses of this chapter: (1) It was to be an orderly advance (v. 4); no disorderly crowding about those who led. This was also to be a sure path, though they had not passed that way before, for God was leading. (2) It was to be a prayerful advance (v. 5). Literally, they were to "undertake great things for God and to expect great things from God."

#### Jesus Must Lead.

I. The Leader, vv. 7, 8. The circumstances surrounding this episode are far different from those at the crossing of the Red sea. Moses' encounter with Pharaoh had stamped him as the one who should save the nation. True, in the battles and in his association with Moses Joshua had occupied a position of leadership, but now he is to deliver Israel from the death of the wilderness into the life and possessions of Canaan, hence the words, "I will magnify thee in the sight of all Israel." It is noticeable, however, that Joshua did not lead this forward march, but rather the priests. The ark which they bore is a type of Christ and he must always lead. Jehovah magnified Joshua because Joshua had magnified Jehovah, see I. Sam. 2:30, John 17:4, 5.

II. Those Led, vv. 9-13. Joshua at once communicates Jehovah's order for a forward march to the people (I. Thess. 2:13). But God graciously accompanies his word by a visible manifestation of his presence (v. 10, 11) cf. I. John 1:1, Col. 2:9. It was the word and presence of the "living God" (v. 10) that was to work this miracle, and to accomplish the victorious possession of the land in accordance with his own sure promise.

This lesson is a great lesson of types. God, through the leading of his priests bearing the ark (a type of Christ), leads man from the failures of his wilderness experience, through death (the Jordan), into newness of life (Canaan), Rom. 6:4, 9. Previously the mention of the names of these enemies (v. 10) had so frightened Israel that they turned aside in a panic, but Israel had been learning in the bitter school of discipline and failure. "The Lord of all the earth" (v. 11) is to lead, why then fear? There was, however, to be a test, viz., the path was not to open until their feet were in the waters. There was no such test at the Red sea, for they did not then have sufficient faith, I. Cor. 10:13, I. Peter 1:7.

#### Israel's One Way.

III. The Dry Ground, vv. 14-17. Up until the moment they stepped into the water, priest and people alike relied upon the bare word of Jehovah, I. Sam. 15:22. We, too, will surely find a way of escape if we yield him implicit obedience, Isa. 43:2; I. Cor. 10:13. As if to heighten this miracle we need to remember it was the season of flood tide (v. 15). The river Jordan is a great type of the judgment passed upon sin. Verse sixteen tells us that the waters were backed up beyond "the city of Adam." Our Joshua delivers not only us from all sin but his deliverance is also sufficient for the whole human race, Heb. 9:28, I. John 1:7. Our deliverance is complete, let us praise him. The Jordan would not, however, have opened had those bearing the ark passed upon the bank. The people could not have been delivered except as the ark remained in the river bed. Jesus went into the waters for us, 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13. He has condemned sin for us, Rom. 8:3. He alone has opened a pathway for our deliverance. There was no other way whereby Israel could be delivered and further they were delivered "right against Jericho" (v. 16) viz., before their next big task, and "all the nation were passed clean over Jordan" (v. 17), John 17:12.

Representatives of each tribe (ch. 4) carried from the river twelve stones for the building of an altar so that the history of that deliverance might be perpetuated.

IV. The Lesson. In this lesson we are brought, in company with Israel, into the land at last. Abraham saw and believed. Jacob and his sons left it when threatened with moral contamination and physical death. Much has happened since that time, but God's purposes have gone on unchanged. Nor has Jehovah ever been defeated. Israel is delivered because, in the language of Ps. 114:3, "Judah became his sanctuary, Israel his dominion." Note how Ps. 114:3 united forty years of history, "The sea saw it and fled; Jordan was driven back." This is the history of Israel.

## CANADA WINS AGAIN

This Time at the International Soil Products in Oklahoma.

Last year and the year before, and the year before that, the farm products of Western Canada carried off first premiums, championships and honours, together with medals and diplomas, feats that were likely to give a swelled head to any other people than those who had so much more behind. At Columbus, Ohio, and then again at Columbia, North Carolina, a farmer of Saskatchewan carried off the highest prize for oats, and in another year, will become the possessor of the \$1,500 Colorado Trophy; another farmer made two successful exhibits of wheat at the biggest shows in the United States; another farmer of Manitoba won championships and sweepstake at the live stock show in Chicago, and this year expects to duplicate his successes of last year. These winnings are the more creditable as none of the cattle were ever fed any corn, but raised and fattened on nature grasses and small grains.

At the Dry Farming Congress held at Lethbridge in 1912, Alberta and Saskatchewan, farmers carried off the principal prizes competing with the world. The most recent winnings of Canada have been made at Tulsa, Oklahoma, where seven of the eighteen sweepstakes rewards at the International Soil Products Exposition were taken by Canada in competition with eleven states.

The chief prize, a thrashing machine, valued at \$1,200 for the best bushel of hard wheat, went to Peter Gerlack of Allan, Saskatchewan. Montana took four of the sweepstakes, Oklahoma four, and Nebraska two.

Russia sent one delegate, Spain had two, Belgium three, China four, Canada fifty, Mexico five, Norway one, Brazil three.

In the district in which the wheat was grown that won this prize, there were thousands of acres this year that would have done as well. Mr. Gerlack is to be congratulated as well as the Province of Saskatchewan, and Western Canada as a whole, for the great success that has been achieved in both grain and cattle.—Advertisement.

#### Greatly Desired Lady.

It would appear from bits of the social gossip of her day that Miss Burdett-Coutts' nearest approach to an occupation was refusing offers of marriage. It is stated that the name of the "Prince of Adventures" was connected with hers; that she refused the duke of Wellington and a score of lesser gentlemen.

For years the great heiress was the most glittering matrimonial prize in England, and when at last she consented to change her condition by marrying an American, a London club wit struck a responsive chord by observing, "I don't blame Ashmead Bartlett for proposing to the baroness. I've done it myself. I regard it as a duty every Englishman owes to his family."—"Intimate Memoirs of Napoleon III."

#### Didn't Impress Farmer.

An altercation arose between a farmer and a so-called expert in agriculture.

"Sir," said the expert, "do you realize that I have been at two universities, one in this country and one in Germany?"

"What of that?" demanded the farmer, with a faint smile. "I had a calf nursed by two cows, and the more he was nursed the greater calf he grew."

#### Insulted.

"Why didn't you go to work for him?"  
"He insulted me."  
"How?"  
"I asked him for a situation and he offered me a job."

#### His Retort.

"You proposed to me a dozen time before I finally accepted you."  
"Yep. I always do have a tough time getting you to agree to anything I want."—Detroit Free Press.

#### FULLY NOURISHED Grape-Nuts a Perfectly Balanced Food.

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"For two years I have used Grape-Nuts with milk and a little cream, for breakfast. I am comfortably hungry for my dinner at noon.

"I use little meat, plenty of vegetables and fruit, in season, for the noon meal, and if tired at tea time, take Grape-Nuts alone and feel perfectly nourished.

"Nerve and brain power and memory are much improved since using Grape-Nuts. I am over sixty and weigh 155 lbs. My son and husband seeing how I had improved are now using Grape-Nuts.

"My son, who is a traveling man, eats nothing for breakfast but Grape-Nuts and a glass of milk. An aunt, over 70, seems fully nourished on Grape-Nuts and cream."—"There's a Reason."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read "The Road to Wellville," in pkg.

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.