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PALESTINE MISSION.

JOURNAL OF MR. KING.

We select from the Missionary Herald the following extracts from the Journal of Mr. King.

On the 16th, Messrs. King and Bird left Nazareth, and in about five hours arrived at Geneen. which is situated a little N. and W. of mountains, supposed to be the mountains of Gilboa. The next day, they proceeded to Sychar, and as Mr. Fisk had done, they paid a visit to the Samaritan priest, who, after some previous conversation, asked Mr. King, if there were no Samaritans in his country.

I replied, I do not know. Some suppose that the natives of our country who believe in one Great Spirit, are the ten tribes. They live a little like the Bedouins, roam the forests, catch fish, kill birds and wild beasts for their food, have naturally a good understanding, but have no books, and do not know how to read or write.

Priest. That is a lie; they do know how to read and write, and have books.

/. They had not formerly. At present we are endeavouring to teach them, and many of them now read, and some of them believe in Jesus Christ.

P. That is a lie; they had books.

/. How do you know about any country having never been there? " And how do you know about the savages?

P. From books. After the of the tribes went into the east, into the east, into India, beyond a river, (of which we know not the name) and wandered about and went to Moscobia (Russia,) and these people of whom you speak, are Samaritans. Does not your land join Moscobia?

/. I cannot say that these people are not Samaritans, but it is very doubtful. Do you know Hebrew?

P. Yes.

/. Have you the Jewish books? Do you believe in them?

P. We have the five books of Moses. This is our Holy Book. Moses commanded that nothing should be added. The Jews have changed the letters of the Alphabet, and have added.

/. Have you the book of Joshua the son of Nun?

P. Yes. We consider it a good book, but not inspired; not given by God, like the books of Moses.

/. Do you believe in the Prophet Samuel?

P. He was a great enemy to the Samaritans.

/. Do you know any thing about Jeroboam, or Ahab, who were kings here?

P. No.

I. Have you any sacrifices?

P. Yes once a year, in commemoration of the Passover, we offer six or seven lambs of a year old, upon an altar of stone.

/. Have you no daily sacrifice?

P. No—there is now no place to offer them. Gerizim is the place where we should worship.

I. Had you formerly a temple there?

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P. Yes, but it is all destroyed.

/. Have you an altar?

P. Yes, of stones, on Mount Gerizim, where we offer the Passover.

/. Have you seen the Gospel?

P. Yes, and read it much.

/. What do you think of Jesus Christ?

P. He was the first of infidels, because he said he was the Son of God.

/. Were not his works good?

P. I say nothing against his works, neither do I curse him; I only say he was an infidel, because he called himself the Son of God.

/. Have you read his conversation with the woman of Samaria?

P. Yes—it is all a lie. He came to the well, and all he said was, "What is the name of this well?" And she replied, "Jacob's."

/. Do you believe in a Messiah to come?

P. Yes.

/. What will be his character? Who will he be—a man, or God?

P. The spirit of Moses will descend from heaven, and take another body, and reign over all nations.

/. You believe, I presume, that you, and I, and all men, are sinners.

P. Yes, truly.

/. What must a man do in order to inherit the kingdom of heaven?

P. He must keep the law.

/. But we have none of us kept the law, and Joshua said, "Ye cannot serve the Lord, for he is a Holy God." Your fathers were very rebellious, and Moses called them, stiff necked; and the law says, "cursed is every one, that continueth not all things written in the book of the law to do them." We are all under the curse, how can we be saved?

P. By repentance; that is enough.

/. Moses sprinkled the book of the Law with blood; and if a man sinned, he was to offer sacrifices; and without the shedding of blood, there was no remission. Were you a king, and I a subject, and had you issued a decree, that, "whoever should kill, or steal, should be put to death;" and I should commit either of these crimes, would repentance atone for it?

P. No.

/. continued ; God, who cannot lie, has said— "Cursed is every one, who continueth not in *all* things, written in the book of the Law, to do them." We are all under the curse of

God's Holy Law, which you and I believe, and there is no pardon, no remission, but by the blood of Jesus Christ, to whom all the bloody sacrifices, under the Mosaic dispensation, had reference.

P. I am not a sinner like you.

/. Have you never sinned?

P. Very little—very little—almost none.

/. If you say this, you do not know your own heart. God told his covenant people, that they were ever inclined to go astray. Moses sinned, and was not permitted to enter the promised land. Are you better than Moses?

P. Yes.

/. Better than Moses?

P. Yes better.

/. Is Moses in heaven?

P. Yes.

/. How was he saved?

P. His sin was as nothing—small, small.

/. But the Lord was angry with him, and did not permit him to enter Canaan.

P. God commanded, that you should not add to, nor take from the Law, or change a single letter. But you say, "the sacrifices are done away." Why is this?

/. The sacrifices all referred to the death of Christ, the Great Sacrifice, which was made to atone for the sins of the world; and they ceased, as a matter of course, when he had suffered. All the rituals in the Law, as it respects sacrifices, were then fulfilled.

Before leaving, I asked him if he would permit me to see his Manuscript of the Torah. He replied, "Yes," and asked how much I would give? I told him that I could not say; that he must set his own price.

On refusing to do this, I offered him two piasters. He then said the key to the Synagogue, where the book was, was not with him. "I know where the key is, Sir," said I, "it is in my *purse*." At this he smiled, and said, "Yes." So I told him, that I would, perhaps, call to see it on the morrow.

The next day Mr. King called and shewed the priest a Spanish dollar, the key of the Synagogue was soon produced, and the door opened. The same—previous ceremony was observed, as in the case of Mr. Fisk. He allowed Mr. K. to touch the MS. which he did not permit Mr. Fisk to do.

The roll was immediately brought out and opened. The priest said it was written by the grandson of Aaron. I took hold of it with my hand and touched it several times, and, to my surprise, he did not forbid me, or make any objection. After examining it a while, I asked him to read to me out of the ten commandments, given to Moses on Mount Sinai, which he did, interpreting them to me, as he read, in Arabic. They were all like those in our Bible, except that he called the two first *one*, and for the tenth, he said it was written, "Thou shalt make unto thee an altar of stones on Mount Gerizim."

These commands, as they stood in the MS. were not divided into ten, but were comprised in three or four sections.

Before closing the book, the priest remarked to me, "you will now receive blessing, on account of having seen this book."

The Synagogue is small, but neat. On a shelf, near the altar, I saw many books, written in Samaritan. I took one down, and asked him if he would sell it. He replied that he would for *two hundred dollars*. This I was not disposed to give.

Comments on this section from the Editor of theSamaritanUpdate.com

This reference is not located in *A Bibliography of the Samaritans, Third Edition, Revised, Expanded, and Annotated*, by Alan David Crown and Reinhard Pummer, ATLA Bibliography, No. 51, **The Scarecrow Press, Inc.** Lanham, Maryland, Toronto, Oxford. 2005

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