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TABLES OF LAW STILL PRESERVED

Original Tablets Upon Which Are Inscribed Ten Commandments Said to be in Abyssinia

Where are the tablets of stone upon which Jehovah carved the Law for the Jewish people, amid the lightning of Sinai? A recent discovery makes it appear that these ancient tablets, the most famous documents the world has ever seen, are still preserved.

They are said to be hidden in a cathedral in the ancient city of Axum, in the Abyssinian province of Tigre. The story of their removal from Jerusalem and their preservation by the Abyssinians is one of the strangest tales ever told.

The Abyssinians have long maintained that they possessed the authentic Arc of the Covenant, containing the Tables of the Law. This claim has now been strengthened by the translation into English for the first time, of the sacred Scriptures of Abyssinia, the "Fetha Negast," or "Glory of Kings," written in a language so old that only a few of the most learned Abyssinian priests can read it.

This wonderful book, of which there is but one copy, not only tells of the bringing of the Ark of the Covenant and Tables of the Law from Jerusalem to Abyssinia, but attributes the founding of the royal line of Abyssinian kings to King Solomon himself, through the "Queen of Sheba."

Here, briefly, is the ancient story of the theft of the Tables of the Law.

Magda, Queen of Sheba (later called Ethiopia and Abyssinia), had gone to Jerusalem, as the Hebrew Scriptures tell, to see the glory and hear the wisdom of Solomon. She abode in Jerusalem six months. The King and Queen were joined in wedlock and after she returned to her own land she bore a son, whom she named Bainelekhem, "Son of the Wise Man."

When Bainelekhem became a man he was told that Solomon was his father. Then he left his mother and went, with a retinue of young men, to Jerusalem.

He was like unto Solomon, so that as he entered the city the people bowed down, saying, "Lo, the King!" And Solomon, hearing of him, sent messengers and received him, saying, "Thou art like unto my father David.

in the tower of his youth." And Bainelekhem showed Solomon the ring that Solomon had given Queen Magda for a token, and Solomon knew him for his own son and named him "David," and would have made him heir to the throne of Israel.

"We were better for thee," said Solomon, "to stay in this country, where stands the House of the Lord, where sits the Table of the Law. And God dwells with us."

But David besought the king to send him back home, and Solomon consented. And Solomon chose out sons of all the counsellors and priests and judges and men of war in Israel, to return with King David and rule with him in Ethiopia as their fathers ruled with Solomon in Israel.

These young men were sorrowful at leaving Jerusalem. And Azareas and Elmeas, the sons of Zadoc, the high priest, took counsel, saying, "We are sad because of the Ark of the Covenant, our Patron." For they believed that the God of Israel dwelt in the Ark, and they feared to lose the favor of Jehovah. And all the young men were sorrowful.

Then Azareas and Elmeas stole the Tables of the Law from the Ark, in the temple, replacing them with boards of the same size. And when King David, and his followers left Jerusalem, the Tables of the Law went with them, hidden in a chariot. And King Solomon, not knowing that the Tables were gone, had given David the sacred Covering of the Ark.

When they had departed, all Israel was sad. The people mourned and wept, they knew not why. All felt that the glory of Israel had departed. And Solomon, in his distress, sent the High Priest to the temple, and let the Tables of the Law were gone.

Then Solomon called his captains of war, and the army of Israel set out in pursuit. But they could not come near the King of Ethiopia, for the Ark of the Covenant blest him and his servants, and his chariots moved forward lightly as the wind, and the archangel Michael led the way, and they passed quickly, with great rejoicing, through Egypt and back to their own land.

And the Tables of the Law were placed in a sacred place, in the city of Axum, where the descendants of King David, and of the young men of Israel who came with him, worship unto this day.

And Solomon returned home, but he gave word that no man should tell that the Ark of the Covenant and Tables of the Law had departed from Israel, lest their enemies should mock them.

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A column will be devoted to questions and answers on points that may arise in school work.

CONTESTS in ordinary school work with SPECIAL PRIZES will be arranged for later. We will make a SPECIAL OFFER to any school applying with a club order of six pupils or upwards.

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H. D. STEVENS
Town Treasurer

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OTTAWA,
OCTOBER 7th, 1915.