

The 9th-century Gaster Bible



Psalm 64 - First Gaster Bible, perhaps Egypt, ninth (or 10th) century.

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“This very rare early Hebrew Bible shows the influence of Islamic art in its decorative elements. It is named after a previous owner, Dr Moses Gaster (1856-1939), a scholar and spiritual leader of Sephardic Jews in London.”¹

What is the Hebrew Bible?

“The Hebrew Bible, known to the Jews as Tanakh, comprises three sections: Torah (the Law), Nevi'im (the Prophets) and Ketuvim (Writings). The term 'Tanakh' is an acronym made up from the initial consonants of each word.

“The Torah, also known as the Five Books of Moses, is the most sacred part of the Hebrew Bible. According to Jewish tradition, it was given to Moses by divine dictation, over 3,000 years ago, on Mount Sinai. Among many other things, it contains 613 instructions from God, including the Ten Commandments. The Torah is the cornerstone of Jewish religious life. It is also an object of great affection. The Torah Scroll, handwritten on parchment without any decoration, is the most treasured possession of any Jewish community.”²

Our Debt to Israel and the Jewish People

Believers in the Christian faith owe such a debt to the Jewish people who, through the centuries have loved and preserved the Holy Scriptures for the benefit of all mankind. Words cannot express my own love, as a follower of the Messiah, for our Jewish brethren. Yeshua was indeed Jewish, and the promises of G-d toward the Jewish people have never been revoked. We are to love, pray for, help, encourage and BLESS the Jew and their homeland. In this way, we give honour and adoration to the G-d of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, now and forevermore!

– John Ruffle, December 30th, 2011.³

“I say then, G-d has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be!

For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

G-d has not rejected His people whom He foreknew!”

– Paul (Jewish 1st c. Teacher); Letter to the Romans, Chapter 11, verse 1-2

¹ SOURCE: <http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/sacredtexts/gasterbib.html>

² Abid.

³ SEE: The D. H. Ruffle Memorial Library on-line: <http://rufflemission.org/>