

# THE Teachers' Preparation Leaflet

LESSON 3.

JANUARY 21st, 1894.

1ST QUARTER.

Cain and Abel. - Gen. 4: 3-18.

GOLDEN TEXT: "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain." - Heb. 11: 4.

## INTRODUCTORY DRILL—THE AUTHORSHIP OF THE PENTATEUCH.

The first five books of the Bible are called the *Pentateuch*, a name derived from two Greek words, *pentos* "five" and *teuchos* "a book." This latter word originally and commonly means "an implement" or "weapon, and the change is very significant. With books, especially the Bible and particularly with the fundamental truths contained in this portion of it, not with swords, is the battle of human progress to be won. The author was **Moses**, the great Hebrew lawgiver, and we have them substantially as they came from his pen. (For a recent defence of their Mosaic authorship see "The Pentateuch, its Age and Authorship," by Rev. John Kennedy, D. D. London S. S. Union. Price 1s. 6d.) In the composition of these books he received many facts by direct revelation, as e. g. the account of the creation, and was infallibly guided in the selection and use of his material so as to produce a work historically accurate. Moreover, traditions were easily handed down to his time seeing but two links were necessary to connect Adam with Isaac.

The art of writing was known long before Moses, so that he may have drawn from authentic written documents. In some sections of the books the Divine Being is termed "God" simply (Heb. "*Elohim*"), and in others "Lord" (Heb. "*Jehovah*"). Any rigid theory founded on this will refute itself, yet there is a share of truth in each of the two leading explanations which are given. (1) "The names set forth a twofold aspect of divine revelation, viz. to the world at large and to the covenant people in particular,

*Elohim* being used with regard to the former, and *Jehovah* with regard to the latter." This is generally the case, although some passages seem inconsistent with it. (2) "These names betray different documents or authors. The whole Pentateuch is a composite production of several writers pieced together and re-edited several times." The minute subdivisions which the extreme advocates of this view have made, and their failure to agree among themselves, show that, although it doubtless has some ground of truth, it may be pressed so far as to make the "Books of Moses" the most unnatural conglomeration ever palmed upon credulous piety. We may safely acknowledge that Moses did incorporate older narratives and family records whether we are now able to disentangle them from the body of the narrative or not. If he did so, he sets the seal of historical truth upon them.

### MOSES.

Revelation

Tradition

Documents

*Elohim*

*Jehovah*

Transcribers

Errors and explanatory additions have been made by transcribers.