

the character of the country in which it was written and the customs of the people among whom it arose. Therefore to learn the land and life of ancient Israel is to apprehend the whole setting of revealed truth and to appreciate the force of a multitude of metaphors and allusions which will otherwise be without meaning. The Land and the Book "answer to one another like the two parts of an indenture." To lay a sure substructure for the teacher of the Old Testament, therefore, the first step is a thorough knowledge of the geography of Palestine.

RELATION OF THE LAND TO GOD'S REDEMPTIVE PURPOSE

3. More important still is the teacher's apprehension of the relation of the land to God's redemptive purpose. The study of Palestine is not only essential to an intelligent appreciation of Biblical forms of statement and of the surface facts of Biblical history, but it is necessary also to a full understanding of the inner relation of those facts to each other as parts of one divine purpose and stages in one divine revelation, unfolded gradually through hundreds of years and culminating in a universal religion. The Land of Promise was preconfigured to its history. It was through the characteristics of the country that God effected the fulfilment of the promise to Abraham that in his seed should all the nations of the earth be blessed. By its location and structure it was adapted as no other country on earth was to God's purpose of preparing a pure religion through centuries of separation, and then of publishing that religion to the whole world.

In order to the accomplishment of these ends three things were necessary:

(1) A single nation had to be chosen as the special depository of divine truth, and this nation had to be separated