

*Maschil of Asaph. Give ear, O my people, [to] my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth.*

*I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:*

*Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.*

*We will not hide [them] from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.*

*(Psalms 78:1-4)*

What follows is a lesson from the history of the nation of Israel. It differs remarkably from any histories of any people on earth, the main difference being the philosophy of causes, effects and flow of the history. Various historians have their own axes to grind, their social and political preachments to be made. Accordingly, they create villains and heroes, vilify the former and laud the latter. The causes of all the evils are laid at the feet of the politically incorrect, and heroes are given credit for all the excellencies of the nations.

Our own nation is no different. History is constantly being rewritten to reflect the political and social opinions of the day's educational establishment. But one thing stands out conspicuously consistent. It is always men (or women) or some particular group of morals who are to be adored and emulated for the good they have transpired.

Not so with Israel's history. Here is a people whom God has made living oracles of His law, His word, His will, indeed Himself (vs. 5). That is, the people are not merely responsible for passing down His spoken word; they are virtually to *be* an oracle, a law to us. They are living parables of the God of glory. Accordingly, when the history of the people is verbalized, there are no heroes, no statesmen, soldiers, reformers to be admired. Every last one of the Bible's people have their failings and weaknesses mercilessly exposed. This history does not sing the praises of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but of *The Lord!*

We will do well to remind ourselves of that regularly in Zion's (the church's) history. As apostate Israel admired Moses and the prophets (whom their fathers stoned), so do today's carnal bootlickers worship the saying and doings of the "great men of the faith." It is always a trap that diverts us from trusting God, God's word (the Bible) even when to do so is to swim against the current theological or ecclesiastical tide.

We may properly be thankful for our spiritual fathers who passed the faith down to us, but for faith itself, we must look to God alone, and it is Him, not His people, Who is to be praised and admired.

-C.M.