Expressions employed concerning Israel as a Chosen Nation.

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I do not pretend to exhaust the subject, or to draw definite conclusions relating to the time when the texts which I shall adduce for my purpose were composed. I shall only put together what I have observed in the Bible from time to time concerning the matter.

The rarer expressions are:—1. יד, Yada, "to know," to be found in Amos iii. 2, "You only have I known of all the families of the earth;" and Hos. xiii. 5, "I did know thee in the wilderness;" compare also Gen. xviii. 19, "For I know him." 2. שקלה, Shakkal, "a particular object" (the root is not employed in the Bible in any other form), to be found in Exod. xix. 5, "Then you shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people;" and in Deut. vii. 6, xiv. 2, and xxvi. 18, where it is connected with בר, Am, "a peculiar people." 3. חלק, Helek, "portion," to be found in Deut. xxxii. 9, "For the Lord’s portion is His people," and Zech. ii. 16 (12), "And the Lord shall inherit Judah his portion." 4. עבד, Ebed, "servant," in Lev. xxv. 42, 55; Jer. xxx. 10, and sometimes in the later part of Isaiah. 5. "The branch of my planting, the work of my hands," Isa. lx. 21. 6. "A kingdom of priests," only in Exod. xix. 6. 7. קדושׁ, Kadosh, "holy," in Exod. xix. 6 and Deut. vii. 6, and elsewhere, "a holy nation." Compare also Isa. iv. 3, applied to those who remain in the holy city.

More frequent are the following expressions:—בֶּן, Ben, "son," in Deut. xiv. 1, "Ye are children of the Lord your God;" Isa. i. 2, "I have nourished and brought up children;" Hos. ii. 1 (A.V. i. 10), "Ye are the sons of the living God;" Isa. xlvi. 3, and Ps. ii. 7, "Thou art my son."

Dr. Dale has written a book to answer the question, why it is that those who believe in Christ continue to believe in Him, despite all the attacks upon their faith. What nobler answer could be given than this which Mr. Myers has put into the lips of St. Paul?

* * * The article by Mr. George Meredith, to which I have several times referred, is to be found in the Fortnightly Review, vol. iii. New Series. I am indebted to a writer in the British Weekly for calling my attention to it, as also for one or two facts which are mentioned in the above paper.