

SHILOH

By Mike Burnham

(shi'-lo) (shiloh): The prophecy in <Gen 49:10>, "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, ... until Shiloh come," etc., has been the subject of very diverse interpretations. The Revised Version margin gives as alternative renderings, "'Till he come to Shiloh having the obedience of the peoples' Or, according to the Syriac, 'Till he come whose it is, ' etc." (1) From the earliest times the passage has been regarded as Messianic, but the rendering in the text, which takes "Shiloh" as a proper name, bearing a meaning such as "peaceful" (compare <Isa 9:6>, "Prince of Peace"), labors under the difficulty that Shiloh is not found elsewhere as a personal name in the Old Testament, nor is it easy to extract from it the meaning desired. Further, the word was not personally applied to the Messiah in any of the ancient VSS, which rather assume a different reading (see below). Apart from a purely fanciful passage in the Talmud (compare Driver, Gen, 413), this application does not appear earlier than the version of Seb. Munster in the 16th century (1534).

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