

HISTORICAL-SPIRITUAL SYSTEM OF MOVSES KHORENATSI'S «THE HISTORY OF ARMENIA» AND THE BIBLE

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Summary

After the proclamation of Christianity as the state religion (301 AD) in Armenia the Bible was preached in churches orally. Since the invention of the Armenian alphabet (405 AD) by Mesrop Mashtots the Bible being translated in written form appeared to be at the centre of the attention of the Armenian historians and especially Movses Khorenatsi (the 5th century AD) in historical spiritual questions.

Movses Khorenatsi in his work "The History of Armenia" widely used citations from the Bible (Old and New Testaments) as was accepted in the early Middle Ages. At the same time he mentions "old histories" which he used for his work to give a full picture of ancient history of the nations which had not been mentioned in the Bible.

The ideological basis of Movses Khorenatsi's "The History of Armenia" constitutes the concept of the freedom of the Fatherland and Faith as a fundamental precondition of its national existence. The backbone of the work begins with the description of the Haik's freedom-loving struggle and ends with "Lamentations", which was a call for national vigilance. The Father of Armenian historiography presents the ideas of the defence of the Fatherland as a self-sacrificing struggle and the country's prosperity by the strengthening of its independent statehood, as well as the integrity of faith by devotion to the ancestors' worship since ancient times.

The Bible citations testify to the interpretative and historic-comparative methods of the approach of Movses Khorenatsi to the correlation between data contained in the Bible and antique and early medieval sources. In Movses Khorenatsi's work the problem of the interrelation of historic events and spiritual phenomena is presented within the frame of a complete value system of national pre-Christian and Christian epochs.

Movses Khorenatsi exposed the pivot of the development of the history of Armenia, from ancient to early medieval times, determined by millennia-old national values.