

WHAT IS THE TORAH?

The Torah is the eternal, living monument of God's rendezvous with Israel, the nation's *raison d'être*, the soul that enables the nation to survive every trial, to rise to undreamed of spiritual heights and realize the goal and hope of its Creator.

Whenever the Torah is read, Jews relive the Revelation at Sinai, when our ancestors gathered around a lowly mountain and heard God speak to them. As they did then, we seek to come closer to our Maker by hearing His teachings and rededicating ourselves to their fulfillment.

from the Preface to the *Stone Edition of the Chumash*, © 1998, 2000 by Mesorah Publications, Ltd., p. xiii.