

THE HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL OF THE HOUSE OF ABRAHAM.

BY ISAIAH-BEN-AMUZ THE PROPHET.

(Second Chronicles, Ch. 32, v. 32.)

BOOK III.

THE PERIOD OF SAMUEL.

THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL.

(B.C. 1171.) *Samuel's Parentage.*

1 **T**HERE was a certain man of Ramathaim-Zofim, in Mount Ephraim, whose name was Alkanah ben Jarkham, ben Aliahah, ben Tokho, ben Tzuf, the Afthrathite; 2 and he had two wives, the name of the first was Hanah, and the name of the second Peninah, and Peninah had 3 children, but Hanah had none. This man went up yearly from his village to worship, and to sacrifice to the LORD of HOSTS in Shiloh, where two sons of Eli Khofni¹ and Finikhas² were priests to the EVER-LIVING. 4 When it was Alkanah's day for sacrifice, he gave to Peninah his wife, and to all her sons and daughters, 5 portions, but to Hanah he only gave a single portion, although he loved Hanah, for the EVER-LIVING 6 had closed her womb. So she was vexed, anguished, and laboured with rage, because the EVER-LIVING shut up her womb.

Alkanah's Wife Hanah prays for a Son.

7 He did this year after year when he went up to the House of the EVER-LIVING; so she was vexed and would 8 not eat. Alkanah therefore said to her, "Wife Hanah, why do you

weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart bad? Am I not better to you than ten sons?"

Hanah however arose after eating 9 and drinking in Shiloh,—and Eli the Priest sat upon the chair at the door of the Temple of the EVER-LIVING,— for her soul was bitter, and she prayed 10 to the EVER-LIVING, and weeping she wept. She also vowed a vow, and 11 said, "LORD of HOSTS, if You will look on the anguish of Your handmaid, and remember me, and not forget Your handmaid, but grant to Your handmaid a male child, I will give him to the EVER-LIVING all the days of his life, and a razor shall not go over his head."

But while she continued to pray 12 before the EVER-LIVING Eli watched her mouth. Hanah however spoke 13 from her heart, only moving her lips, and no sound was heard, consequently Eli thought she was drunk. Eli there- 14 fore said to her, "Why have you made yourself drunk? Cast the wine from you!"

But Hanah answered him, "No, 15 my Lord! I am only a woman of depressed spirit. I have not drunk wine nor strong drink, but I am pouring out my soul before the EVER-LIVING. Do not consider your hand- 16 maid as a daughter of Belial because I speak so much, for I have uttered my many griefs and sorrows so far."

Then Eli replied and said, "Go in 17

¹ Hofni.—F. F.

² Phineas.—F. F.

peace! and may the GOD of Israel give you the request you ask from Him."

18 And she answered, "May your servant find favour in your sight." The woman then went away, and ate, and afterwards her face was not the same.

(B.C. 1170.) **Samuel born.**

19 In the morning they got up and worshipped before the EVER-LIVING, and then returned to their home at Ramath, where Alkanah knew Hanah his wife, and the EVER-LIVING remembered her, and at the end of the year Hanah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel¹ because I have asked him from the EVER-LIVING.

21 When the man Alkanah and all his family went up to sacrifice to the EVER-LIVING at the yearly sacrifice, and for his vows, Hanah went not up with him, "for," she said to her husband, "not until I wean the boy, and take him up to the EVER-LIVING,—then he shall always stay there."

23 So Alkanah replied to his wife, "Do as seems good to you. Stay until you wean him, and may the EVER-LIVING confirm His promise to you!" Consequently the woman remained and nursed her son until she had weaned him. Then she went up with him, when he was weaned, taking three bulls, and an epha of flour, and a skin of wine, and arrived at the House of the EVER-LIVING in Shiloh with the lad, and killed the bull, and brought the lad to Eli, and said, "My Lord, let your soul live. I, Sir, am the woman who stood here at the door to pray to the EVER-LIVING. I prayed for this lad, and the EVER-LIVING granted to me the request I asked. So now as I asked him from the EVER-LIVING I myself dedicate him to the EVER-LIVING all the days of his life, and he shall worship the EVER-LIVING here."

(B.C. 1168.)

2 Then Hanah gave thanks and said,
SONG OF HANAH.

"My heart rejoices in the LORD,—
By the LORD my horn is exalted;
My face triumphs over my foes,

1 V. 20. "Heard of GOD."—F. F.

For I rejoice in Your salvation.
None is sacred like You, LORD,— 2
For there is none beside You;
Nor fortress like our GOD.

Increase not your proud speech;— 3
Pride comes badly from your
mouth,
For the LORD is a GOD of know- 4
ledge,
Though trifles are not weighed.

The bows of strength are broken, 5
And the feeble girt with might,
The pampered beg for food,
But the hungry now have rest.
The childless has borne seven,
And the many-sonned has want!

The LORD kills and He revives; 6
Brings to the grave and raises;
The LORD makes poor and rich, 7
Bows down, and again exalts!
He lifts the depressed from dust, 8
Exalts the poor from dunghills
To sit along with Princes,
To inherit the Throne of Power;
For the Earth's supports are the
LORD'S,
And upon them He rests the world.

He guards the feet of His saints, 9
But the wicked destroys in
gloom;—
For man is not strong by wealth,
But they fail who strive with Him.

When the LORD thunders from 10
heaven,
He rules to the bounds of the earth,
And gives His chosen Leader power,
And exalts His Anointed's horn."

(B.C. 1165.)

Alkanah afterwards returned to his 11
home at Ramath, but the lad served
the EVER-LIVING with Eli the Priest.

Eli's Wicked Sons.

The sons of Eli, however, were 12
profligates; they did not recognise the
EVER-LIVING, although the Priests 13
governed the people.

Whenever a person offered a
sacrifice, a lad came from the Priest
when the flesh was boiling with a 14
three-pronged fork in his hand, and
stuck it into the cauldron, or boiler,
or kettle, or pot. All that came up
on the fork the Priest took for himself.
They did the same to every Israelite
who came to Shiloh. Also, before 15
the time that they burnt the fat, the

priest's lad came, and said to the man sacrificing, "Give the priest meat from the ribs, for he will not accept boiled meat from you;—it must be raw."

16 If the person replied to him, "Let the fat be burnt first, then take what you desire," he would answer him, "Give it at once, and if not I shall take it by force."

17 The young men were also very great sinners against the EVER-LIVING, for they corrupted the women who brought offerings to the EVER-LIVING.

(B.C. 1165.) **Consecration of Samuel.**

18 But Samuel served before the EVER-LIVING as an assistant, girded
19 with an ephod. His mother also made him an embroidered robe, and brought it up to him every year when she went with her husband to sacrifice the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli
20 blessed Alkanah and his wife, and said, "The EVER-LIVING granted you an heir from this woman in answer to her request from the EVER-LIVING." Then they returned
21 to their village, and now the EVER-LIVING favoured Hanah, and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. But the lad Samuel grew up with the EVER-LIVING.

(B.C. 1141.) **Eli feebly reproves his Sons.**

22 When Eli became very old, he heard of all the doings of his sons to all Israel, and how they corrupted the women who came to worship at the door of the Hall of
23 Assembly; so he said to them, "What are these things that you do, which I have heard of? The vile practices towards all these
24 people? Refrain, my sons, for it is not a good report that I hear of your practices against the EVER-LIVING.
25 If a man sins against a man, they intercede with GOD: but if a man sins against the EVER-LIVING, who can intercede for him?"

But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for the EVER-LIVING had decided to kill them.

Samuel becomes Good and Great.

26 But the young man Samuel advanced and became great and good, both with the EVER-LIVING and also with men,

(B.C. 1141.) **A Man of God sent to reprove Eli.**

A Man of God therefore was sent 27 to Eli, and said to him, "Thus says the EVER-LIVING, 'I revealed Myself to the House of your fathers when you were among the Mitzeraim, and 23 I chose it from all the tribes of Israel to Myself as a Priesthood to offer incense upon My altar, and to wear an ephod before Me, and I gave to the House of your fathers all the gifts of the Children of Israel. Then why 29 do you despise My sacrifices and offerings which I commanded for frailty, and respect your sons more than Me? by letting them fatten themselves with the best of all the offerings of My People Israel?' Therefore the EVER-LIVING GOD of 30 Israel says, 'I promised that your House, and the House of your Fathers should walk before Me for ever,' but now the EVER-LIVING has said to me to-night, 'Whoever honours Me, I will honour; and whoever degrades Me, shall be degraded. Now 31 the time has come when I will break your necks and the heirs of the House of your Fathers, from being noble in your House. And you may expect 32 suffering, instead of pleasantness from all that gives Israel pleasure; for there shall not be a noble in your house for all time. However I will not 33 cut off every one of your descendants for ever at My Altar, to exhaust your eyes, and make your soul languish,—yet great men shall die from your house! And this shall be the proof— 34 your two sons Khofni¹ and Finahas² shall both of them die in one day!

"Then I will appoint for Myself a 35 Faithful Priest who will do according to My own heart and soul, and I will build him a perfect House, and cause him to walk before My Messiah for all time. And then all the remnant 36 of your House shall come and bow to him for a penny of money, and for a piece of bread, and say, "I beg you to admit me to a priest's office that I may eat a mouthful of food!"'"

(B.C. 1140.) **Samuel Divinely called to warn Eli of his Sons' Sins.**

Meanwhile the young man Samuel 3 served the EVER-LIVING before Eli.

¹ Hophni.—F. F.

² Phineas, in O.V.—F. F.

But a word from the EVER-LIVING came seldom in those days. There was no frequent vision at that time.

2 And when Eli was in bed in his residence, and his eyes were becoming heavy—he was not able to see,—and the Lamp of GOD was becoming dim,—and Samuel was in bed in the Temple of the EVER-LIVING, where

4 the Ark of GOD was, then the EVER-LIVING called to Samuel, and

5 he replied, "I am here!" and ran to Eli, and said, "I am here, for you called me." But he answered, "I did not call you! Return to bed." So he went and laid down.

6 Then the EVER-LIVING called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "I am here, for you called me!" But he replied, "I did not call, my son! Return to bed."

7 Samuel, however, was beginning to recognise the EVER-LIVING, and the word of the EVER-LIVING was

8 beginning to be revealed to him, so the EVER-LIVING again called "Samuel, Samuel!" for the third time, and he arose and went to Eli and said, "I am here, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the EVER-LIVING had called to the

9 young man. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go; lie down, and if HE calls to you then, say 'Speak, JEHOVAH, for Your servant listens.'" So he lay down in his chamber.

10 Then the EVER-LIVING confirmed it and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" at which Samuel replied, "Speak, JEHOVAH, for Your servant listens."

11 Then the EVER-LIVING said to Samuel, "I will now do a thing in Israel at which both the ears of all

12 hearing it shall tingle! On that day I will heap upon Eli all that I have said concerning his House,—the strong and the weak,—for I will display Myself to him, as I Myself will punish his family for ever, on account of the outrages of his sons,

14 whom he did not restrain. And therefore I have sworn to the House of Eli, that the sin of the House of Eli shall not be expiated by sacrifice or gift for ever!"

15 But Samuel lay still until dawn, when he opened the doors of the House of the EVER-LIVING, for Samuel feared to report the vision

16 to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and

said, "Samuel, my son!" and he replied "I am here!"

Then he asked, "What was the 17 thing that was told to you? Hide it not from me. Tell me every word which was told to yourself." Samuel consequently reported to him 18 the whole communication and hid nothing from him, to which he replied, "It was the EVER-LIVING!— Let Him do what is good in His sight."

(B.C. 1141.) **Samuel recognised as a Leader and Teacher in Israel.**

Thus Samuel became great, and 19 the EVER-LIVING was with him, and none of his words fell to the ground; and all Israel recognised from Dan 20 to Bersheba that Samuel was a true teacher from the EVER-LIVING. The 21 EVER-LIVING also continued to appear in Shiloh, for THE LIFE revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the EVER-LIVING, and 4 the word of Samuel penetrated all Israel.

(B.C. 1140.) **Israel rises under him as Teacher to Fight the Philistines.**

Afterwards Israel went to meet the Philistines in war, and encamped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines encamped in Afak. Then the Philis- 2 tines disposed themselves to meet Israel, and opened out to the battle, and Israel was routed before the Philistines, and they slew in the open field about four thousand men. So when the army returned to the 3 Camp, the Judges of Israel asked, "Why has the EVER-LIVING routed us before the Philistines to-day? Let us take the Ark of the EVER-LIVING with us from Shiloh and go to oppose them, and it will save us from the clutch of our enemies."

(B.C. 1140.) **The Army Defeated, and sends for the Ark to the Camp.**

The army therefore sent to Shiloh, 4 and brought the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD of HOSTS, Who rests between Kerubem, from there. But the two sons of Eli, Khofni and Finehas, went with the Ark of the Covenant of GOD; and when the Ark of the 5 Covenant of the EVER-LIVING came to the Camp, and the Children of

Israel saw it, they shouted aloud so
6 that the earth shook; and the Philistines heard the sound of the shouting, and asked, "What is the noise of this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews?"¹ and they were informed that the Ark of the EVER-LIVING had come to the camp.

The Philistines fear its Arrival, but Fight and Capture it.

7 Then the Philistines were afraid, for they said, "GOD has come to their camp," and exclaimed, "Woe
8 to us! Who can deliver us from the hand of this splendid GOD of theirs? The GOD who defeated the Mitzerites with such a total defeat in the desert?
9 Let us harden ourselves, and be men, Philistines, for fear they should enslave you as you enslaved them. So be men and warriors!"

Israel again Defeated. —Eli's Tragical Death.

10 The Philistines consequently fought and routed the Israelites, and each man fled to his home, for the defeat was very great. There fell also thirty thousand regular troops
11 of Israel, and the Ark of GOD was captured, and the two sons of Eli—
12 Khofni and Finehas — were killed. But a man of Benjamin fled from the battle and came to Shiloh on the same day, with his clothes torn and earth on
13 his head, and when he arrived Eli was sitting on his chair beside the road to Mitzpah, for his heart was troubled about the Ark of GOD, and the man came to report to the town, and he called to all the village.
14 When Eli heard the sound of wailing he asked, "What means this noise in the crowd?" So the man hastened and came and told it to Eli.
15 Now Eli was ninety-eight years old, and his eyes were fixed, so that he
16 was not able to see. So the man said, "I have come from the battle-field. I have fled from the battle-field to-day."
Then he asked, "What was the result, my son?"

17 When the reporter answered and said, "Israel has fled before the

Philistines; and there is a great panic on the army; and your two sons are killed,—Khofni and Finehas;—and the Ark of GOD has been captured!" But when the Ark of
18 GOD was mentioned, he fell off the chair backwards towards the side of the gate, and broke his neck, for he was an old man and heavy. He had ruled in Israel forty years.

(B.C. 1140.) Tragical Death of Finehas's Wife.

The wife of Finehas was near
19 being delivered of a child when she heard the report of the capture of the Ark of GOD, and of the death of her father-in-law and husband, and she fell down and brought forth, for her grief overwhelmed her. But at the
20 moment of her death the attendants who stood by her said, "Never mind, for you have borne a son!" She answered not,—for her heart moved not. They consequently called the
21 lad "Ai-kabod," meaning that the glory has gone from Israel by the capture of the Ark of GOD, and the death of her father-in-law and her husband. Therefore they wailed;
22 "Gone is the glory of Israel.

For the Ark of GOD has been captured!"

(B.C. 1140.) The Philistines bring the Ark to the Temple of Dagon, whose Idol is cast down.

When the Philistines had captured
5 the Ark of GOD, they brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod, and then the
2 Philistines took it to the Temple of Dagon, and set it beside Dagon; but
3 when the Ashdodites arose on the morrow they saw Dagon had fallen on his face to the earth before the Ark, and the head of Dagon, and the
4 two palms of his hands cut off at the wrists, were on the threshold. Only a stump of Dagon was left to himself, consequently the priest of Dagon,
5 and all who enter the Temple of Dagon, step over the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day.

Affliction follows the Captured Ark.

Then the hand of the EVER-
6 LIVING was heavy upon the Ashdodites, and He desolated them, and afflicted them with tumours in their extremities. The people of Ashdod
7 consequently were terrified and said,

¹ V. 6. "Eberim." עֲבָרִים, if translated, means "Colonists"; a fit term to be used by the Philistines of the Israelites, who were really Colonists in Palestine.—F. F.

“The Ark of the GOD of Israel shall not remain with us, for His hand is hard upon us, and upon Dagon our god.”

8 They therefore sent and assembled all the lords of the Philistines, and asked, “What shall we do with the Ark of the GOD of Israel?”

They replied “Gath shall hold the Ark of the GOD of Israel, and have the custody of the Ark of the GOD of Israel.”

The Ark taken to Gath.

9 But after they received it, the hand of the EVER-LIVING brought very great confusion, and afflicted the inhabitants of that city from the least to the greatest, and they broke out in tumours.

The Ark taken to Akron.

10 Then they sent the Ark of GOD to Akron. But when the Ark of GOD arrived at Akron, the Akronites cried out, exclaiming, “Why do you send the Ark of the GOD of Israel to us, to
11 kill us and our people?” So they sent and assembled all the lords of the Philistines, and said, “Send away the Ark of the GOD of Israel, and return it to its place, and do not kill us and our people; for there has been
12 deadly suffering in all the city;—the hand of that GOD has been very heavy here. Even the people who are not killed are afflicted with tumours, and the shrieks of the city have ascended to the Heavens!”

The Philistines ask their Priests what to do?

6 The Ark of the EVER-LIVING was in the country of the Philistines 2 seven months. Then the Philistines summoned their priests and diviners to enquire:—“What must we do with the Ark of the EVER-LIVING? Inform us how we must send it back to its place?”

They advise to return the Ark to Israel with a Rich Present to God.

3 And they replied, “If you send back the Ark of the GOD of Israel you should not send it back empty, but you must return to Him an offering so that He may cure you, and inform

you why He did not turn His hand from you.”

Then they asked, “What is the 4 offering that we must return to Him?” and they answered, “Five tumours of gold, the same as the number of the lords of the Philistines; and five mice of gold, for the same plague was upon you and your lords. Make also representations of the 5 tumours, and of the mice that have ravaged the country, and pay honour to the GOD of Israel. Perhaps then He will lift His hand from upon you, and from your gods and from your country. For why should you 6 stupefy your hearts as the Mitzerites and Pharoh stupefied their hearts so that they would not allow them to go up from them? Yet, when He had afflicted them, they sent them away and they went. So now set to work 7 and prepare a new cart, and select two heifers, who are suckling calves, who have not had yokes upon them, and harness the heifers to the cart, but put their young back to the stable. Then take the Ark of the EVER- 8 LIVING and put it upon the cart, with the things of gold which you send to Him as an offering. Put them in a box beside it, and send it away, and let it go. But watch, if it 9 goes up the road to Beth-shemsh then HE has sent these great sufferings to us: but if not, then we shall know that His hand has not struck us. It will have been an accident.”

(B.C. 1139.) How the Ark was Returned.

Those men consequently did so, 10 and took two nursing heifers, and harnessed them to the cart, but kept their young in the stable. They also 11 placed the Ark of the EVER-LIVING upon the cart, with the chest, and the mice of gold, and the representations of their tumours, and the heifers went 12 straight in a track for the road to Beth-shemsh by the highway from the first, going along they bellowed, but did not turn to the right or the left, and the lords of the Philistines followed after them to the borders of Beth-shemsh.

Now the harvesters of Beth-shemsh 13 were reaping wheat on the plain, and they looked up and saw the Ark, and were glad of the sight. Then the 14 cart came to the farm of Joshua the

Beth-shemshite, and stood there, where there was a great stone, so they broke up the wood of the cart, and offered the heifers as a burnt offering to the EVER-LIVING.

- 15 The Levites, however, took down the Ark of the EVER-LIVING, and the chest which was with it, in which were the things of gold, and placed it upon the great stone, and the people of Beth-shemsh burnt offerings, and sacrificed sacrifices on that day to the
- 16 EVER-LIVING, whilst the five lords of the Philistines looked on, and then returned to Akron.

- 17 These were the tumours of gold which the Philistines returned as an offering to the EVER-LIVING:

For Ashdod one;

For Gazah one;

For Askalon one;

For Gath one;

For Akron one;

- 18 With mice of gold equal to the number of all the cities of the Philishtim, for the Five Lordships, for fortresses, and open villages.

And the great stone upon which the Ark of the EVER-LIVING rested can be seen on the farm of Joshua the Beth-shemshite to this day.

(B.C. 1139.) **The Ark at Beth-shemsh.**

- 19 But the EVER-LIVING punished some of the inhabitants of Beth-shemsh, because they had looked into the Ark; He punished seventy persons, and fifty bullocks.¹ So the men murmured among the people, for the EVER-LIVING struck the
- 20 people with a great stroke. The inhabitants of Beth-shemsh consequently asked, "Who is able to stand before the Holy LORD GOD? and to what purpose has He come up to us?"
- 21 They therefore sent messengers to the people of Krith-Jarim to say, "The Philistines have sent us the Ark of the EVER-LIVING. Come down and take it to yourselves."

¹ This difficult passage has puzzled translators for over 2,000 years. But if we take the אֵלֶף, ALEF, to mean "bullocks," as it does amongst its other significations, and as I do, the whole difficulty vanishes, for it arose from the love of the marvellous in commentators, or the Greek translators, who fancied that to insert impossible statements in the text added to its grandeur—a plan of amending the Scriptures not extinct yet.—F. F.

(B.C. 1138.) **The People of Krith-Jarim take the Custody of the Ark.**

The people of Krith-Jarim consequently came, and took the Ark of the EVER-LIVING and brought it to the house of Abinadab, on the hill, and he devoted his son Alazar to take care of the Ark of the EVER-LIVING. The Ark of the EVER-LIVING, however, remained in Krith-Jarim for a long period,—twenty years altogether—and the whole House of Israel mourned after the EVER-LIVING.

(B.C. 1120.) **Samuel exhorts Religious Reform and to a Revolt against the Philistines.**

Then Samuel spoke to all the House of Israel, saying, "If you turn to the EVER-LIVING with your whole heart, fling out the foreign gods from among you, and fix your heart to the EVER-LIVING, and serve Him alone, and He will redeem you from the hands of the Philishtim."

The Children of Israel consequently expelled the Balim and the Ashteroths, and served the EVER-LIVING alone.

Then Samuel said, "Collect the representatives of Israel to Mitzpah, and pray for yourselves to the EVER-LIVING." They therefore assembled at Mitzpah, and drew water, and poured it out before the EVER-LIVING, and fasted on the same day, and said, "We have sinned against the EVER-LIVING." After that Samuel judged the Israelites in Mitzpah.

The Philistines advance against Israel.

But the Philishtim heard that the Israelites had assembled in Mitzpah, so the lords of the Philishtim went up to the Children of Israel, and when the Israelites perceived it they were in terror before the Philishtim. The Children of Israel consequently said to Samuel, "Work for us with a cry to the EVER-LIVING our GOD, that He may save us from the hand of the Philishtim!"

(B.C. 1120.) **The Philistines fly in Panic in a Thunder Storm, and are routed.**

Samuel, therefore, took a fat young lamb, and offered it as a whole burnt-

offering to the EVER-LIVING. Samuel also cried to the EVER-LIVING on account of Israel, and the EVER-LIVING answered; for while Samuel was offering the burnt-offering, and while the Philishtim advanced to battle with Israel, the EVER-LIVING thundered with a loud roar on that day over the Philishtim, and defeated them, and routed them before Israel. Then the leaders of Israel advanced from Mitzpah in pursuit of the Philishtim, and defeated them at Mithakhath, and at Beth-kar. Therefore Israel took a Stone Pillar, and fixed it between Mitzpah and Hashen, and named it "Aben-azer,"¹ saying, "So far the EVER-LIVING has relieved us." Thus the Philishtim were beaten, and did not repeat their advance to the borders of Israel, for the hand of the EVER-LIVING was against the Philishtim during the period of Samuel, and he recovered to Israel the towns that the Philishtim had taken from Israel, except Akron, and Gath. He also delivered the borders of Israel from the power of the Philishtim, and made peace between Israel and the Amorites.

(B.C. 1119.) Samuel elected as President and High Priest.

Samuel consequently judged in Israel during the whole time of his life. And he travelled continually year by year in circuit through Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mitzpah, and administered justice in all those districts; then returned to Ramath, for his home was there, and there he administered justice to Israel, and there he built an altar to the EVER-LIVING.

(B.C. 1100.) Samuel makes his Sons Judges, but they are corrupt and wicked.

But when Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges in Israel. And the name of his eldest son was Joal, and the name of the second Abiah: they were judges in Bar-sheba. His sons, however, did not follow his ways, but extorted taxes, and took bribes, and perverted justice.

(B.C. 1096.) The Parliament demands a General to lead them in War, and to Organize.

Consequently all the judges of Israel assembled, and came to Ramath, and said to him:—"You are old now, and your sons do not walk in your ways, therefore appoint a leader to organize us like all the nations."

(B.C. 1096.) God commands Samuel to appoint a General.

But the proposal was displeasing in the eyes of Samuel, because they said, "Give us a leader to organize us." So Samuel prayed to the EVER-LIVING, and the EVER-LIVING replied to Samuel; "Listen to the voice of the People, as to all they ask from you, for they have not rejected you, but have rejected Me their leader. It is like all the doings they have done from the day I brought them up from Mitzeraim to this day! For they rejected Me and served other gods; so they do also to you. Listen therefore, now, to their voice. You shall also confer solemnly with them, and explain to them the Constitution for the leader who is to govern over them."

(B.C. 1096.) Samuel foretells Oppression from a Military Leader.

Samuel consequently reported all the commands of the EVER-LIVING to the people who demanded a leader from him, and said, "This will be the constitution by which he will rule over you. He will take your sons for his chariots and horsemen, and to run before his carriage. He will appoint colonels of regiments for himself and captains of companies; also as mechanics in his workshops; as reapers of his harvest; and to make weapons for his soldiers, and appliances for his chariots. He will also take your daughters for confectioners, and cooks and bakers, and he will take the best of your farms, and vineyards, and oliveyards, and give them to his ministers. And he will tithe your corn and wine, and give it to his officers and ministers. And your men servants and maids, and your best cattle, and asses, he will take

¹ Stone-of-relief.—F. F.

and use them for his messengers.
 17 He will take your sheep, and make
 18 you his servants. And then you will
 shriek at the sight of your leader
 whom you have chosen for your-
 selves, but the EVER-LIVING will
 not answer you at that day!"

**The People, however, persist in
 their Demand.**

19 The People, however, refused to
 listen to the voice of Samuel, and
 replied, "No! He will only be a
 leader over us! And we shall then
 20 be like the other nations; and our
 Leader can organize us; and can
 lead us out, and fight our battles."
 21 So Samuel listened to all the
 utterances of the People and reported
 them in the ears of the EVER-LIVING.
 22 And the EVER-LIVING replied,
 "Listen to their voice, and select a
 leader for them." Samuel, however,
 said to the judges of Israel, "Go
 each to his own village."

**(B.C. 1095.) History of Saul and
 his Father's lost Asses.**

9 Now there was a man of the tribe
 of Benjamin named Kish, ben Abial,
 ben Tzeror, ben Bikorath, ben
 Afrakh, ben Arih, a Benjaminite of
 2 great power, who had a son named
 Saul, big and handsome, and there
 was not a man in the nation of
 Israel handsomer than he was;—
 taller than any man by the shoulders
 3 and upwards. And Kish, Saul's
 father, had lost some asses, so Kish
 said to Saul his son, "Take with you
 one of the servants, and arise, go,
 4 and seek those asses." He there-
 fore went over Mount Ephraim, and
 searched in the country of Shilshah
 and did not find them. Then he
 examined the district of Shalim and
 they were not there; so he passed to
 the district of Jamen, and found them
 5 not. Thence they went to the
 country of Tzuf, when Saul said to
 his attendant, "Where will this
 journey take us to? Let us return,
 or my father will leave grieving for
 the asses, and fret about us."
 6 But he replied to him, "There is a
 Man of GOD in this town, and a man
 to be respected;—all he says happens.
 Let us go to him now. Perhaps he
 may tell us the way we should follow."
 7 Saul, however, answered to his lad,

"Well! if we should go, how could
 we make the man to instruct? for
 our stock of bread is exhausted! So
 we have no present to bring to the
 Man of GOD—What have we?"

The youth continued in answer to 8
 Saul, "Look! I have found in my
 pocket a quarter shekel of silver.
 We will give that to the Man of GOD,
 and he will inform us about our
 journey."

(Formerly in Israel a man said 9
 when going to inquire of GOD, "Let
 us go to the Seer—for the Instruc-
 tor¹ of to-day was formerly called a
 Seer.²)

Then Saul replied to the youth, 10
 "You have spoken well! Let us
 go!"

They went accordingly to the top 11
 of the town, and met girls coming
 out to draw water, and asked them,
 "Is there a Seer in this place?"

And they answered them and 12
 said,—“He is now before you on the
 hill, for he has to-day come to the
 town, for he sacrifices for the people
 on the height; so if you go into the 13
 village you will meet him before he
 goes to the height to eat. The People
 will not eat before he comes, for he
 will bless the sacrifice. After that
 they will eat the Festival. So now
 go,—for this is the day to meet him."

They therefore went up the village 14
 until they came to the centre of the
 town; and then Samuel came to
 meet them, at the ascent of the
 height, for the EVER-LIVING had 15
 opened the understanding of Samuel
 that very day, before the coming of
 Saul, saying, "At this time to-morrow 16
 I shall send to you from the district
 of Benjamin the man whom you
 must consecrate as the Leader of My
 People Israel. He will deliver My
 People from the power of the
 Philishtim, and he shall shepherd
 My People, for its cries have come to
 Me."

When Samuel saw Saul, the EVER- 17
 LIVING said to him, "That is the
 man of whom I spoke to you. He
 will organize My People."

¹ "Instructor," in Hebrew נְבִיא, NEBIA,
 is literally a "Reciter to the Lute,"—that is,
 an Instructor or Teacher, not a foreseer of
 events. The latter is an entirely modern
 meaning, only ascribed to the word Prophet
 or Prophecy in the eighteenth century. In
 the seventeenth it meant Preacher.—F. F.

² "Raah."—F. F.

Samuel and Saul converse.

18 Then Saul approached Samuel in the midst of the square, and said, "Can you inform me the way to the house of the Seer?"

19 And Samuel answered Saul and said, "I am the Seer! Go before me to the Height, and dine with me to-day, and I will send you off in the morning.—I will inform you about all that is upon your mind. And as for your lost asses which you have hunted for three days, rest your mind about them, for they have been found.—But now upon whom is the thought of all Israel? Is it not on you, and on all your father's house?"

21 Saul, however, answered and said, "Am I not a Benjamite,—of the smallest tribe in Israel? and of a clan less distinguished than any of the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? So why do you speak to me of such an honour?"

(B.C. 1095.) Samuel places Saul at the Head of his Table and Guests.

22 Samuel then took Saul and his attendant and brought them to the dining room, and put them at the head of the guests, of whom there were about thirty. Then Samuel said to the attendant, "Serve up the dish which I entrusted to you. The one I told you to reserve by you."

24 So the attendant took the leg and lifted up and placed it before Saul. Then he said, "This is the portion that was to be placed before you,—eat, for it has been specially reserved for you. And I told the people I had invited."

So Saul dined with Samuel that day.

25 And when they descended from the height of the village, he talked with Saul on the verandah. Then they returned to sleep, but when the darkness had gone Samuel invited Saul to go up to the top of the verandah, saying, "Rise up and I will take leave of you."

(B.C. 1095.) Samuel consecrates Saul as General in Israel.

So Saul arose, and both went out, —he and Samuel, into the street.

27 When they had descended to the outskirts of the village, Samuel said to Saul, "Order the lad to go on before us." (So he went forward.)

"But you stand awhile, and listen to the command of GOD."

Then Samuel took a flask of oil 10 and poured it on his head, and kissed him, and said, "Is it not you whom the EVER-LIVING has consecrated over His Inheritance, to lead it? When you go to-day, from accom- 2 panying me, two men will meet you at the tomb of Rachel, on the borders of Benjamin, at Tzeltzakh, and will say to you, 'The asses which you went to seek are found, and your father has now left off the matter of the asses, and troubles about you, and says, "What shall I do for my son?"' And when you have gone from there 3 a little way, and come to Alar Thabor, three men coming up to GOD at Bethel will meet you,—one carrying three kids, and another carrying three baskets of bread, and another carry- 4 ing a skin of wine, who will wish you health, and give you two cakes, which you must accept from them. After 5 that you must go to the Hill of GOD, where there is a garrison of the Philishtim, and when you come near the village, you will encounter a band of Reciters, descending from the height, and in front of them a piper, a drummer, and a flute and harper, and they will be reciting. Then the 6 Spirit of the EVER-LIVING will seize you, and you will recite with them, and dance in unison.¹ And when 7 these sights come to you, go and use what you have found for yourself,—for GOD is with you!

"Afterwards precede me to Gilgal, 8 and then I will come down to you, to offer a burnt offering, and sacrifice a sacrifice of thanksgiving. Wait for seven days until I come, and inform you what you are to do."

(B.C. 1095.) Saul becomes Frantic with Delight over his Appointment.

When he had turned his back 9 from walking with Samuel, GOD

¹ הַתְּנִבִּית, HITHANABITHA, is untranslatable into nineteenth century English. The modern ideas of Divine Worship do not find room for any ecstatic, trance-like state incited by music and dancing. But the ancient Hebrews evidently used the marvellous powers of music to bring them into a state of controlled passion.—It means a delirious dancing and singing. Literally, "It will cause you to dance and sing wildly till exhausted."—F. F.

entirely changed his heart, when all these proofs came to him on that day.

- 10 For when he came to the Hill a band of Reciters met him, and the Divine spirit seized upon him, and
- 11 he recited with them. When all who had known him formerly saw them, and how he was reciting with the Reciters, all the people who were his neighbours, exclaimed,—“What has come to the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the Reciters?”
- 12 But a man from them answered, and said, “And who is their father?” Consequently it became a proverb, “Is Saul also among the Prophets?”
- 13 When he ceased reciting, he went
- 14 to the Height; when Saul’s uncle asked him and his attendant, “Where have you been?” And he replied, “To seek the asses. When I found them not I went to Samuel.”
- 15 Then the uncle of Saul asked, “Tell me, what did Samuel say to you?”
- 16 And Saul replied to his uncle, “He informed us that the asses were found.” But he did not tell him a word about the Leadership of which Samuel had spoken.

(B.C. 1095.) **Samuel convokes the Parliament to confirm Saul’s Election.**

- 17 Samuel afterwards convoked the People to the EVER-LIVING at
- 18 Mitzpah, and said to the Children of Israel,
- “Thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel, ‘I brought Israel up from Mitzraim, and delivered them from the hand of the Mitzerites, and from the hand of all the kingdoms
- 19 that assailed them. But you now reject the GOD Who recovered you from all your sufferings and distresses, and ask for a Leader to place over you,—so now present your tribes and regiments before the EVER-LIVING.’”
- 20 Then Samuel advanced all the tribes of Israel, and the tribe of Benjamin was selected.
- 21 Then he advanced the tribe of Benjamin by clans, and the clan of Matri was selected.

¹ Reciters.

Saul Elected, but hides himself when called for.

Then Saul the son of Kish was selected;—so they sought him, but could not find him.

Consequently he enquired again of 22 the EVER-LIVING whether that man had come? And the EVER-LIVING answered, “He is here, but has hidden himself among the baggage.” So they 23 ran and took him from there, and placed him in the centre of the people, and he was taller than any-one from the shoulders and upwards.

Then Samuel said to the people, 24 “You see whom the EVER-LIVING has chosen for Himself!—that there is not his equal in all the nation!”

The People confirm the Election.

And all the people cheered and exclaimed, “Long live the Leader!”

Samuel defines in a Record the Powers of the General.

Samuel then related to the People 25 the Constitution of the Leadership which he had written in a book, and then confirmed it before the EVER-LIVING, and then he dismissed all the assembly to their homes. And 26 Saul also went to his home in Gibeah, and a force, whose hearts GOD had touched, went with him. But some sons of Belial said, “How 27 can this fellow save us?” and abused him, and brought him no presents. But he kept silent.

(B.C. 1094.) **Nakhash, King of Amon, attacks Jabesh in Gilad.**

When Nakhash the Amonite came 11 up and besieged Jabesh-Gilad, all the chiefs of Jabesh said to Nakhash the Amonite, “Make a treaty with us, and we will serve you.”

But Nakhash the Amonite replied, 2 “This is what I will do to you;—I will put out all your right eyes! and make it a reproach to all Israel.”

Then the magistrates of Jabesh 3 said to him, “Grant us seven days, that we may send Messengers to all the borders of Israel, then, if there is no deliverance for us, we will come out to you.”

Saul is appealed to, to help the Jabeshites. He does so.

The Messengers consequently went 4 to Gibeah to Saul, and reported the

matter in the hearing of the people, when all the people lifted up their voice and wept. But just then Saul came in after his oxen from the farm, and Saul asked, "What is the matter with the people, that they are weeping?" So they repeated the words of the chiefs of Jabesh. Then the spirit of GOD seized Saul upon hearing it, and he was very furious, and took the pair of oxen and cut them up, and sent to all the districts of Israel by the hands of the Messengers, to say, "Whoever will not come after Saul, and join Samuel, this shall be done to his oxen." The terror of the EVER-LIVING consequently fell upon all the people, and they came like one man.

(B.C. 1094.) **The People rise and join Saul in a Mass.**

8 Then he organized them in Bazek, and there were three hundred thousand men of the Children of Israel, and the men of Judah thirty thousand, and they said to the Messengers who had come, "Say thus to the people of Jabesh-Gilad,—'To-morrow we will be with you, to rescue you before the noon.'" The Messengers accordingly went and informed the chiefs of Jabesh, and they were glad. So the chiefs of Jabesh said, "To-morrow we will come out to you, and you can do to us what seems good in your eyes!"

Saul attacks at Night and defeats the Amonites.

11 In the morning, however, Saul divided his forces into three divisions, and advanced to the centre of the camp in the morning watch, and assailed the Amonites until noon of the day, and they were broken to pieces, and fled, and no two of them held together. Then the force asked of Samuel, "Who said Saul should not be Leader over us? Give those men to us that we may kill them."
13 Saul, however, replied, "Not a man shall be killed to-day, for to-day the EVER-LIVING has made a great deliverance for Israel."
14 And Samuel said to the force, "March! and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the Leadership there."

(B.C. 1094.) **His Army elect Saul as Leader again at Gilgal.**

All the force accordingly marched 15 to Gilgal, and they elected Saul Leader there before the EVER-LIVING in Gilgal, and sacrificed sacrifices of thanksgiving before the EVER-LIVING, and Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced very greatly.

Samuel confirms it for War, but retains the Presidency and Civil Government.

Samuel afterwards said to all 12 Israel, "You see I have listened to your voice in all you have asked me, and have appointed a Leader over you, so now your Leader can march 2 before you. But I will govern in Civil affairs. As for my sons—look! they are among you. And for myself I have walked before you from my youth until this day. Here I am! 3 Answer me before the EVER-LIVING and before His Anointed! Whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken to be as a cover and blind to my eyes from any man?—If I have I will return it to you."

And they replied, "You have 4 neither defrauded us, nor oppressed us, and you have never extorted anything whatever from the hand of anyone."

Then he said to them, "The EVER-LIVING 5 is a witness, and His Anointed is a witness with you this day that I have not taken anything whatever for my own hand?"

And they answered, "He is witness."

Samuel addresses the Army reprovingly for their Act.

So Samuel responded to the People 6 "It was the EVER-LIVING Who appointed Moses and Aaron, and Who brought your fathers from the land of Mitzeraim.

"Therefore now station yourselves, 7 and I will relate to you before the EVER-LIVING all the beneficences of the EVER-LIVING which He has done for you, and for your fathers, from 8 the time when Jacob came to the Mitzeraim, until when your ancestors cried to the EVER-LIVING, and the EVER-LIVING sent Moses and Aaron, and brought your fathers from the

Mitzeraim and fixed them in this
 9 place. Yet they forgot their EVER-
 LIVING GOD, so He sold them to the
 hand of Sisera, the General of the
 army of Khatzor, and to the hands of
 the Philishtim and to the hand of the
 king of Moab, who fought with them.
 10 "Then they cried to the EVER-
 LIVING and said, 'We have sinned,
 for we have forsaken the EVER-
 LIVING and served the Balim and
 Astheroth, but now deliver us from
 the power of our enemies, and we
 11 will serve You!' So the EVER-
 LIVING sent Jerubal and the Danite,
 and Japhthah, and Samuel, and
 delivered you from the power of
 your enemies all around, and restored
 12 you to security. You have your-
 selves seen how Nakhsh, king of
 the Amonites, came upon you when
 you said to me, 'We have no leader
 over us,' though the EVER-LIVING
 13 GOD was your Leader. So, now, see
 the Leader you have chosen, for
 whom you asked. The EVER-LIVING
 has now placed a Leader over you!
 14 If you reverence the EVER-LIVING,
 and serve Him, and listen to His
 voice, and do not rebel against the
 utterance of the EVER-LIVING, then
 you and your Leader who directs
 you will be in union with your EVER-
 15 LIVING GOD. But if you do not
 listen to the voice of the EVER-
 LIVING, but rebel against the direc-
 tion of the EVER-LIVING, then the
 hand of the EVER-LIVING will be
 against you as it was against your
 fathers.
 16 "Stand, therefore, now, and see
 the great event which the EVER-
 17 LIVING will effect in your sight. Is
 it not wheat harvest at present? I
 will call to the EVER-LIVING, and He
 will send out the thunder and rain
 that you may recognize and see how
 great a sin you committed in the
 sight of the EVER-LIVING when you
 asked for a Leader!"
 18 Then Samuel called to the EVER-
 LIVING, and the EVER-LIVING sent
 thunder with rain at once, and all
 the people saw the greatness of the
 19 EVER-LIVING and of Samuel. Con-
 sequently all the assembly said to
 Samuel, "Pray for your servants to
 your EVER-LIVING GOD that we may
 not be killed, although we have
 added to all our offences the sin of
 demanding a Leader for ourselves."
 20 But Samuel replied to the people,

"Fear not, although you have done
 this wrong! only do not turn away
 from the EVER-LIVING, but serve the
 EVER-LIVING with all your heart,
 and turn not after Phantasms which 21
 cannot benefit or protect, for they
 are Phantasms! The EVER-LIVING, 22
 however, will never forsake His People,
 because of His Great Name, for the
 EVER-LIVING undertook to make you
 His People! As for myself it would 23
 be a shame for me, a sin against the
 EVER-LIVING, if I ceased to pray for
 you, and direct you in the way of
 honour and straightforwardness! So 24
 remember the EVER-LIVING, and
 serve Him in truth with all your
 heart,—for you see it is this which
 will make you great! But if you sin, 25
 then both you and your Leader will
 decay!"

History of Saul as General.

Saul was a year in his Leadership. 13
 (B.C. 1093.)

When he had been Leader over 2
 Israel to the second year, Saul him-
 self selected three regiments from
 Israel. And two regiments were
 retained with Saul in Mikdash, and
 in the Hill of Bethel, and one regi-
 ment went with Jonathan to Gibeah
 of Benjamin. The remainder he
 sent away to their homes.¹

Jonathan attacks a Philistine Garrison, and War begins. The Battle of Beth-aben.

Jonathan then attacked a garrison 3
 of the Philishtim, who were in Gibeah,
 and the Philishtim heard of it. Saul
 consequently proclaimed by trumpet
 to all the country, saying, "Let the
 Hebrews hear." So all Israel heard 4
 the news that Saul had defeated a
 garrison of the Philishtim, and the
 people collected after Saul in Gilgal.

The Philistines advance to the War.

The Philishtim also prepared for 5
 war with Israel, thirty thousand

¹ That is, in the second year of his reign Saul chose out a STANDING ARMY of 3,000 men, sending home the rest 2,000 of these were under himself, and 1,000 under his son. Then comes the beginning of the "day of war" of v. 22, viz., by the bold attack of Jonathan, a most heroic act, described in Ch. 14.—F. F.

charioteers and six regiments of cavalry, and infantry like sand on the sea shore for number, and they advanced and encamped at Mikdash to the east of Beth-aven.

Saul's Insurgents Desert him in Terror.

- 6 Then the Man of Israel saw that there was trouble for them, because the army was cowed, and the people hid themselves in holes, and caves, and on cliffs, and in watch-towers, and in bushes; and some flying away crossed over the Jordan to the country of Gad, and Gilad. Yet Saul continued in Gilgal, and all his army trembled behind him.

(B.C. 1093.) **Samuel not arriving to help him. Saul offers the Sacrifice to put Heart in his Men. Samuel is furious at the Act.**

- 8 So he waited seven days for the arrival of Samuel. But Samuel came not, and the people deserted from him. Saul consequently said;

9 "Bring me the burnt offering! and peace offerings!" and he offered the burnt offering. But when he had finished burning the offerings,—then Samuel arrived! And Saul went out to ask him for his blessing. Samuel, however, exclaimed, "What have you done?"

10 And Saul replied, "Because I saw that the army was deserting from me, and you did not come to the Periodical Meeting,¹ and that the Philistim had collected in Mikdash, I said, 'Now the Philistim will come down upon me in Gilgal, and I have not approached the presence of the EVER-LIVING,'—so I forced myself and offered the burnt offering."

Samuel denounces Saul.

- 13 But Samuel answered Saul, "You have acted like a fool. You have not obeyed the command of your EVER-LIVING GOD, which He commanded you! But if you had, the EVER-LIVING would have fixed the Leadership over Israel to you absolutely!
- 14 But now your Leadership shall not be confirmed. The EVER-LIVING

will seek Himself a man after His own heart, and the EVER-LIVING will appoint him as Leader over His people,—because you have not regarded what the EVER-LIVING commanded you!"

Then Samuel arose, and went up 15 from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin.

Abandoned by Samuel, Saul's Men desert him.

Saul, however, mustered what force remained with him, but it was only about six hundred men! Consequently Saul and Jonathan his son, and the force with them, retreated to Gibeah of Benjamin, but the Philistim encamped at Mikdash.

(B.C. 1093.) The Philistines plunder the Country.

Thence Philistim plunderers went 17 out from the camp in three divisions. One division turned to the direction of Afrah in the lowlands, and 18 another advanced towards Beth-Khoran, while the third advanced along the borders of the cliffs overlooking the plain of Tzeboim in the desert.

The Oppression Israel was in under the Philistines.

At that time a smith was not allowed 19 anywhere in Israel, for the Philistim said, "The Hebrews might make themselves swords or spears." Every- 20 one in Israel, therefore, went down to the Philistim to repair his coulter and ploughshare, or axe, or chisel. But they were allowed files for the 21 coulters and ploughshares, and for the three-pronged forks and billhooks, and to sharpen the prickers. Now, 22 however, it was a time of war,—yet no sword or spear was found in the hands of all the force who were with Saul, and Jonathan, except that Saul and Jonathan his son had procured them.

Thus the army of the Philistim 23 had advanced beyond the environs of Mikdash.

(B.C. 1087.) Jonathan's bold Attack on the Philistine Garrison at Naz.

But one day Jonathan, Saul's son, 14 said to the squire, his armour-bearer, "Let us go and pass over to the

¹ It may be rendered with equal accuracy "The Meeting of Parliament."—F. F.

garrison of the Philistim that is on the other side of Laz. But he did not
 2 inform his father, for Saul was posted on the back of the hills, in the caves, the hollows that are in the cliffs, and the force with him was only about
 3 six hundred men, with Akhiah, ben-Akhitub, brother of Aikabod, ben-Phineas, ben-Eli, the priest of the EVER-LIVING in Shiloh, who carried the ephod. So the force knew not that Jonathan had gone out.
 4 Now on the pass by which Jonathan sought to cross over to the garrison of the Philistim, there was a rock projecting into the pass on this side, and a rock projecting on the other side,—and the name of the first was Betzet, and the name of the other
 5 Sanah.¹ The one projection was from the rock on the north, opposite Mikmash, and the other was from the south opposite the hill.² * * * *
 6 So Jonathan said to the squire who carried his arms, "Let us go and cross over to the garrison of these blackguards. Perhaps the EVER-LIVING will help us, for there is no difference to the EVER-LIVING saving by many or few."
 7 And his arms-bearer answered him, "Do all that is in your heart. I will go with you as your heart desires."
 8 Then Jonathan replied,—“You see we wish to pass over to these men, and to capture them. If therefore
 9 they say thus to us, ‘Keep quiet until we come down to you,’ then we will stand still below, and not go up to
 10 them. But if they say ‘Come up to us,’ then we will go up, for the EVER-LIVING will give them into our hand; and that shall be the sign of it to us.”
 11 When the two approached the garrison of the Philistim, and the Philistim cried out, “See! The Hebrews are coming from the holes where they have hidden themselves!”
 12 And the men of the garrison shouted out to Jonathan and his arms-bearer and said to them, “Come up to us! and we will teach you something!”
 So Jonathan said to his squire, “Come up after me, for the EVER-

¹ Vv. 4—5 can only be understood by the aid of local geography.

² But if this is anywhere near right, then I do not see the object of such a description. It is a difficult passage. It seems to me that at the end of v. 5 there is a gap in the MSS., as the description has nothing to do with the following v. 6 as it now reads.—F. F.

LIVING has given them into the hand of Israel!”

Jonathan therefore climbed up on 13 his hands and feet, with his squire after him, and they fell back before Jonathan and his squire, as if death followed after them. This was a 14 great defeat when Jonathan and his squire slew some twenty men in an enclosure of about half an acre of ground.

There was also a trembling in the 15 camp, and in the ground, and in all the troops of the army, and the plunderers themselves also trembled; and there was an earthquake,—for it was a divine terror. The watchmen 16 with Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin also perceived the rumbling with horror, and staggered and were as in a dream.

Then Saul said to the force with 17 him, “Muster now, and ascertain who has gone from us.”

They consequently mustered and did not find Jonathan and his squire, therefore Saul said to Abiah, “Ap- 18 proach the Ark of GOD,” (for there was an Ark of GOD in those days with Israel,¹) and while Saul was speaking 19 to the Priest a roaring came from the camp of the Philistim, and it rolled, and rolled, and raged.

Then Saul said to the Priest, “Take 20 away your hand!” and Saul and all the force who were with him cheered and advanced, and when they arrived at the Camp, they saw the sword of each was against his companion, in excessive confusion; for the Hebrews 21 who served formerly with the Philistim had mutinied, and joined themselves with the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan.

The Philistines fly in Panic.

When all the men of Israel, who had 22 hidden in Mount Ephraim, heard that the Philistim had fled, and were routed, they also advanced to the battle; for the EVER-LIVING rescued 23 Israel on that day. Thus the fighting passed on to Beth-aven. But the 24 men of Israel were exhausted by that time. Saul, therefore, bound the army, saying, “Accursed be the man who eats food before dark, and who does not accompany me against my

¹ V. 18. “An Ark,” not “the Ark,” which at that time was at Ephratha in the Woods.—F. F.

enemies!" So none of the army tasted food.

25 All the country was woodland;
26 honey lay openly on the ground; and the army came into the wood, and saw the honeycomb, but no one put his hand to his mouth, for the people
27 feared the curse. Jonathan, however, had not heard the curse of his father to the army, so he extended the end of the club that was in his hand and dipped it into the honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth, and his eyes were enlightened.

28 But a man from among the forces remarked, "Your father bound the army, and said, 'Accursed be the man who eats food to-day!'—Although the army was exhausted."

29 But Jonathan answered, "My father troubles the army. Look, now, how my eyes are brightened by
30 tasting this bit of honey!—Indeed, why should not the army have eaten to-day of the spoil of its enemies which it found?—for then would not the defeat of the Philistim have been increased?"

31 However they fought the Philistim that day from Mikdash to Ailon, and the forces were greatly exhausted;
32 so the men rushed on the booty and seized sheep, and cows, and calves, and slaughtered them on the ground
33 and they ate with the blood. But it was reported to Saul, "Look, the people are offending the EVER-LIVING by eating with the blood," and he replied, "Prevent it! Roll
34 to me, at once, a big stone!" Then Saul added, "Serve out to the men, and command every man to bring his bullock to me, or his sheep, and kill them here, and eat, without offending the EVER-LIVING by eating with the blood." So everyone brought his bullock along with him that night and slaughtered it there.

35 Saul also built an altar to the EVER-LIVING; for he had promised to build an altar to the EVER-LIVING.

36 Then Saul said, "Let us follow after the Philistim by night, and assail them at dawn of the morning, and not leave a man of them." And they replied, "Do whatever seems right to you!"

37 But the Priest said, "You must enquire about that of GOD."

Saul therefore enquired of GOD, "Shall I follow after the Philistim? Will You deliver them to the hand of

Israel?" But He did not answer at that time, consequently Saul ex- 38 claimed, "Let every squadron of the army come here to be examined, and show who has offended to-day! For 39 by the life of the LORD Who has saved Israel, if it should be Jonathan my son,—he shall be put to death."

But there was no response from the whole force.

Then he commanded all Israel, 40 "You shall pass as one, and I and Jonathan my son shall be as one to pass."

And the army answered Saul, "Do what is good in your sight."

Saul therefore said, "EVER- 41 LIVING GOD of Israel! Give a decision!"

Then Jonathan and Saul failed; but the army came out.

Consequently Saul said, "Cause it 42 to fall between me and my son Jonathan," and Jonathan failed.

Therefore Saul said to Jonathan, 43 "Tell me what you have done?" So Jonathan told him, and said, "I tasted from the end of the club I had in my hand a little honey,—and I must die!"

And Saul replied, "GOD do the 44 same to me, and more than this, if Jonathan is not put to death!"

But the army exclaimed to Saul, 45 "Shall Jonathan be put to death who has won this great victory for Israel to-night? As the LORD lives! not a hair shall fall from his head to the ground! For GOD worked to-day." And thus the army rescued Jonathan:—so he did not die!

Saul consequently went up from 46 following the Philistim, and the Philistim returned to their quarters.

(B.C. 1097.) Saul wins his Leadership by the Battle of Beth-aven, and continued Successes.

Saul in this way won the Leader- 47 ship over Israel, and fought around with all his enemies. With Moab, and the Beni-Amon, and with Edom, and with the kings of Zobah, and with the Philistim, and whoever stood up against him he conquered. He also formed an army and defeated 48 Amalek and delivered Israel out of the power of its ravages.

And the sons of Saul were Jonathan, 49 and Ishur, and Malkishua: and the names of his two daughters were

Merab, the eldest, and Mikal, the 50 youngest, and the name of Saul's wife was Akhinam, the daughter of Akhimatz; and the names of the commanders of his armies Abiner 51 ben-Ner, uncle of Saul, and Kish the father of Saul, and Ner, Abi-Abner 52 ben-Abiel. And there was fierce war with the Philishtim all the time of Saul, so if Saul saw any brave man, or any capable man, he took him to himself.

(B. C. 1079.) **Samuel orders War upon the Amalekites.**

15 For Samuel had said to Saul, "The EVER-LIVING sent me to you to anoint you as a leader over His people Israel; so now listen to the sound of the words of the EVER- 2 LIVING. Thus says the LORD of Hosts; 'I remember what Amalek did to Israel when he placed himself in the path of their going up from 3 the Mitzeraim. Therefore go and assail the Amalekites, and destroy all belonging to them, and you shall not pity over it, but kill both man and woman; both child and nurse; both ox and sheep; both camel and ass!'" 4 So Saul and the forces obeyed, and mustered in Telaim two hundred thousand regulars, and ten thousand 5 of the men of Judah. And Saul advanced to the city of Amalek, and 6 fought at the brook. Then Saul said to the Kenites "Go from among the Amalekites, for fear I should account you as their allies, although you showed kindness to all the Children of Israel on their ascent from the Mitzeraim."

Saul captures Agag, King of Amalek.

The Kenites accordingly departed 7 from the Amalekites. Then Saul conquered Amalek from Khavilah to the passage of the Wall, which is along the border of the Mitzeraim. 8 He also captured Agag the king of Amalek alive, but he destroyed all the army by the edge of the sword. 9 Saul and the forces however spared Agag, and the best of the sheep and cattle, and wethers and fat lambs, and all that was good, and were not willing to destroy them, but they destroyed all the worthless and poor 10 cattle. Consequently a message came from the EVER-LIVING to Samuel, to

say, "It grieves Me that I appointed 11 Saul as Leader, for he has turned from following Me, and he does not stand by My command." But it hurt Samuel, and he cried to the EVER-LIVING all night.

Samuel meets Saul after his Victory, and a Quarrel ensues.

Samuel, however, got up in the 12 morning to meet Saul, for it had been reported to Samuel that Saul had come to Carmel, and fixed a garrison for himself; then turned aside and had gone to Gilgal. And 13 when Samuel came to Saul, Saul said to him, "Give thanks: I have stood by the command of the EVER-LIVING!"

But Samuel replied, "Then what 14 is this bleating of sheep in my ears? and the lowing of cattle which I hear?"

And Saul answered, "They come 15 from the Amalekites, since the army spared the best of the sheep and cattle for the purpose of sacrificing to your EVER-LIVING GOD. But we destroyed the rest."

Samuel, however, exclaimed to 16 Saul, "Stop!—and I will tell you what the EVER-LIVING said to me last night!"

And he replied, "Tell it."

So Samuel said,—"Were you not 17 little in your own eyes,—you head of the tribes of Israel,—when the EVER-LIVING anointed you to be Leader over Israel? And the EVER- 18 LIVING sent you on a journey and said, 'Go! and destroy those sinners the Amalekites, and fight with them to destruction.' Now, why have you 19 not listened to the voice of the EVER-LIVING? You have pounced upon the plunder, and done wrong in the sight of the EVER-LIVING!"

But Saul replied to Samuel, "I did 20 listen to the voice of the EVER-LIVING, and went on the journey the EVER-LIVING sent me; and I have brought Agag the king of Amalek; but I have destroyed the Amalekites. The army, 21 however, made prize of the best sheep and cattle, to be devoted as a sacrifice to your EVER-LIVING GOD, in Gilgal."

Samuel, however, said to Saul, "Is 22 it more pleasing to the EVER-LIVING to have offerings and sacrifices, than to listen to the voice of the LORD? Look! To listen is better than

23 sacrifice,—and to obey, than the fat of rams! For the result of your idea is rebellion! and Delusion! and stubborn Idolatry! You have repudiated the command of the EVER-LIVING;—and He repudiates you from being Leader."

24 Then Saul exclaimed to Samuel, "I have sinned! because I have passed by the command of the EVER-LIVING,—and your command! But I feared the army, and I listened to their voice. Yet now, I pray you to pardon my fault, and come along with me, and I will humble myself to the EVER-LIVING."

26 But Samuel answered Saul, "I will not go with you!—for you repudiated the command of the EVER-LIVING, so the EVER-LIVING has repudiated you from being Leader over Israel."

27 Then Samuel turned to go, but he seized him by the hood of his cloak,

28 —and it tore! and Samuel exclaimed, "The EVER-LIVING has torn the Leadership of Israel from off you to-day, and has given it to your neighbour,—a better than you!—He Who presides over Israel does not lie, and does not alter, for He is not a man that He should alter!"

30 Still he replied, "I have sinned! Yet honour me in the presence of the officers of my army, and in the presence of Israel, and come along with me, and I will bow to your EVER-LIVING GOD."

31 Samuel consequently went with Saul, and Saul bowed to the EVER-LIVING.

(B.C. 1079.) Samuel slays Agag.

32 Samuel afterwards said, "Bring Agag the king of Amalek to me!"

And Agag advanced tottering to him, and Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of Death has passed!"

33 But Samuel answered, "As your sword has made women childless, so your mother shall be childless among women!" Then Samuel hewed Agag to pieces before the EVER-LIVING in Gilgal.

Samuel and Saul separate.

34 Samuel afterwards went to Ramath, and Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul; and Samuel ceased to visit Saul to the day of his death, for Samuel was grieved at Saul, and the EVER-LIVING was sorry for the rule of Saul over Israel.

(B.C. 1063.) Samuel consecrates David as the Future Leader.

The EVER-LIVING consequently 16 said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve about Saul? although I have rejected him from the Leadership over Israel.—Fill your horn with oil, and go! I send you to Jessai of Bethlehem, for I have selected a Leader for Myself from among his sons."

But Samuel replied, "If I go and 2 Saul hears, he will murder me!"

The EVER-LIVING, however, answered, "Take an heifer from the herd with you, and say I have come to sacrifice to the EVER-LIVING, and invite Jessai to the 3 sacrifice, when I will instruct you what to do. Then anoint for Me whoever I tell you."

Samuel accordingly did what the 4 EVER-LIVING told him, and went to Bethlehem, and the Magistrate of the town came to meet him, and asked "Do you come with peace?"

And he replied, "With peace.—I 5 have come to sacrifice to the EVER-LIVING. Purify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. Let Jessai and his sons also purify themselves."

Thus he invited them to the sacrifice; and when they came he looked 6 on Aliab, and thought, "Ah! he must be consecrated before the EVER-LIVING!"

But the EVER-LIVING said, "Do 7 not bend to look at his great stature,—for I reject him, for what a man does not see. Because a man looks with his eyes, but the EVER-LIVING looks with His heart."

Then Jessai called Abinadab, and 8 passed him before the face of Samuel, when he said, "Him also the EVER-LIVING does not choose."

Then Jessai passed seven of his 9 sons before Samuel, when Samuel said to Jessai, "The EVER-LIVING 10 has not chosen any of these. But," 11 Samuel asked of Jessai, "are these all your lads?"

And he replied, "All except the youngest; and he is shepherding with the sheep."

Samuel, however, said to Jessai, "Send, and bring him; for I will not dine until he comes here."

So he sent and brought him, and 12 he was ruddy, with handsome eyes, and beautiful to look at.

Then the EVER-LIVING said, "Arise, anoint him! For this is he!"
 13 Samuel therefore took the horn of oil, and consecrated him in preference to his brothers, and the Spirit of the EVER-LIVING came upon David from that day forward.

Samuel afterwards arose and returned to Ramath.

(B.C. 1063.) **Saul afflicted with Depression of Spirit.—David summoned to revive him with Music.**

14 The Spirit of the EVER-LIVING then went away from Saul, and he was terrified by an Evil Spirit away from
 15 the LORD. The Ministers of Saul consequently said to him, "Now that the Spirit of GOD has gone; an Evil
 16 Spirit terrifies you. Let our lord then command your personal servants to seek a man skilful in playing on the harp, and when the Evil Spirit from GOD is upon you, he can play with his hand, and ease you."

17 Saul consequently replied to his ministers, "Look out then for me a man with proficiency in music, and bring him to me."

18 One of his ministers then replied, and said, "I have seen a son of Jessai of Bethlehem, a skilful musician, a fine dancer, a gentleman, and a good reciter, and a handsome man; and the EVER-LIVING is with him."

19 Saul, therefore, sent messengers to Jessai, and said, "Send your son David who goes with the flock to me."

20 So Jessai put on an ass bread, and a skin of wine, with a kid of the goats, and sent them by the hand of
 21 his son David to Saul. When David came to Saul and was presented to him, he admired him greatly, and he
 22 became one of his attendants, and Saul sent to Jessai to say, "Let David attend me, for he has found favour in my sight."

23 When, therefore, the Spirit from GOD came upon Saul, David took his harp and played with his hand, and relieved Saul, and soothed him, so that the Evil Spirit went from him.

(B.C. 1062.) **The Philistines declare War again with Goliath as Commander.**

17 But the Philishtim assembled in their camps for war. They advanced

to Sukah, which is in Judah, and were encamped between Sukah and Azkah in Afesdamim. Saul and the Israelites 2 also collected and encamped on the plain of Halah, and they prepared for battle at the challenge of the Philishtim. But the Philishtim 3 occupied the hill beyond, with the vale between them; and there came 4 out from the camp of the Philishtim a man, one of the twins, whose name was Goliath of Gath. His height was six cubits and a half. A brass helmet 5 was on his head, and he was clothed in a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass, with brass greaves on his legs, 6 and brazen javelins at his shoulders. The shaft of his spear was like a 7 weaver's beam, and the spike of his spear weighed six hundred shekels of iron.

(B.C. 1062.) **Goliath challenges to a Single Combat.**

A shield-bearer marched in front of him. Thus he stood, and called 8 from a distance to the regiments of Israel, and said to them, "Why do you come out arrayed for battle? Am not I a Philishtim, and you slaves of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come to me! If he is 9 able to fight me, and beat me, then we will be your slaves! But if I overpower him, and beat him, then you shall be slaves for us!" The Philistine also said, "I defy all the 10 regiments of Israel to-day! Give me a man that we may fight together!"

And Saul and all Israel listened to 11 these words of the Philistine, and were depressed and terribly afraid.

(B.C. 1062.) **David is Introduced.—His Parentage.**

A man of Ephthra, of Bethlehem- 12 Judah, whose name was Jessai, had eight sons, one of them David; and the man in the days of Saul was looked on as a Great Man by the people.¹ The three elder sons 13

¹ NOTE.—A friend, an accomplished Orientalist, wrote me as follows upon Ch. 17, v. 12, in reply to my enquiry as to an exactly accurate rendering of the status of Jessai's family:—

"I do not think the word 'noble' or 'Old Man' is right. I cannot find that the Hebrews ever had that which is sooner or later a curse to the Commonwealth, an elected aristocracy. The views implanted in them by Moses were

of Jessai had gone and marched with Saul to the war,—Aliab, the eldest, and the second Abinadab, and the third Shamah. David was the youngest,—so the three elder marched after Saul,—for David had returned and left attending Saul to shepherd the flock of his father at Bethlehem.

David sent to the Camp by his Father.

The Philistine had thus approached and stationed himself morning and afternoon for forty days, when Jessai said to David his son, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this oatmeal and these ten cakes, and run to the camp to your brothers. Present also these ten rolls of butter to the colonel of the regiment, and wish your brothers health, and take their returns."

Saul and all the army of Israel were then on the plain of Halah, at war with the Philistim.

David consequently arose at dawn and entrusted the flock to the keeper, and started, and went as Jessai had ordered, and came to the waggon station, when the forces were going out in battle array, and were cheering for the fight. Both Israel and the Philistim were arrayed for fight ready for the challenge, so David entrusted the baggage he had brought with him to the care of the baggage guard, and ran to the ranks, and went and wished his brothers health, and while he was in talk with them he saw the Champion of the Philistim, named Goliath of Gath, approach

those of Constitutional Government. Everyone was a farmer and a soldier. Anyone could by patient labour, as Jessai, or by sudden bravery as David, rise to greatness. '*Non veteræ patriæ, sed clara virtus,*' as Seneca makes Hercules Furiosus say. There was never, as in Poland, a sharp and defined line between the nobles and the commons. Nevertheless the 'family,' and 'family honour,' was carefully guarded. Therefore I propose 'elder' as somewhat better than 'noble;' though 'elder' does not, either, represent the meaning, which is, 'an Elder, who is Noble in himself, and by his own exertions, and by those of his family; and who is so considered by the undefined voice of his people.' (In German one might say Elder-Noble.)—H. B.

Perhaps the English word and position represented by the phrase "country gentleman," or "country squire," would be the nearest translation to that suggested by my friend H. B.—F. F.

from the side of the Philistim, and saw what he did,—and David listened. But all the Israelites were afraid of the man, and fled before him, in great terror. And a soldier of Israel was saying to the lookers-on, "Do you see this man who is coming up there!—who comes up to defy Israel? But should a man be able to defeat him, the king will enrich him with great wealth, and give him his daughter, and make his father's family tax-free in Israel."

(B. C. 1062.) David hears, and asks about Goliath's challenge.

So David asked of the men who stood around him, "Say, what will be done to the man who defeats that Philistine, and removes his insults from Israel? For who is this Philistine blackguard who defies the armies of the LIVING GOD?"

When the people replied to him to this effect, saying, "Thus it will be done to the man who defeats him."

But Aliab his elder brother listened to his talking with the men, and Aliab was furious with David and exclaimed, "For what have you come down here? And to whom have you entrusted those few sheep in the desert? I know your pride, and the bravado of your heart,—you have come for the sake of seeing the battle."

David, however, answered, — "What have I done now? Is there not a cause?" And he turned from beside him, and went a little backward, and asked to the same effect, and the people returned him word for word as at first.

Saul hears of David's enquiry, and sends for him.—David offers to Fight.

But the enquiries that David made were heard, and were reported to Saul, and he had him fetched. David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart drop because of him! Your servant will go and fight this Philistine!"

But Saul replied to David, "You are not fit to go against this Philistine, to fight with him, for you are a lad, and he has been a man of war from his youth."

David, however, answered Saul, "Your servant was a shepherd of the

flock to his father, and a lion came, and a bear and carried off some of
 35 the flock, but I went out after them, and beat them, and delivered them from their mouth. Then they leaped upon me, but I seized them by the mane, and beat, and killed them!
 36 Your servant beat both the lion and the bear,—and it will be with this filthy Philistine the same as with them! for he defies the regiments
 37 of the LIVING GOD! And," David added, "the EVER-LIVING Who delivered me from the paw of the lion, and the paw of the bear, can deliver me from the hand of this Philistine!"

Saul arms David, but he cannot walk in Armour.

38 Then Saul said to David, "Go! and the EVER-LIVING be with you." And Saul clothed David in his own armour and put a helmet of brass on his head;—clad him in a coat of
 39 mail, and girt David with a sword from his own arms.—Then he tried to walk, but he was not able. David therefore said to Saul, "I am not able to walk in these, for I have never been used to them."

David strips off the Armour, and takes his Sling.

Consequently David stripped them
 40 off him,—took his sling in his hand, and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them into a shepherd's bag that he had. So with a sling and staff in his hand
 41 he approached the Philistine. The Philistine also himself marched and advanced against David, with the man carrying a big shield in front of him.
 42 But when the Philistine bent forward and saw David, he despised him, for he was a lad and ruddy, with
 43 a beautiful face. So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog? that you come to me with sticks?" Then the Philistine cursed David by his
 44 god. The Philistine also exclaimed to David, "Come to me! and I will give your carcass to the fowls of the sky, and to the beasts of the field!"
 45 But David replied to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spears, and in armour,—but I come against you with the Name of the LORD of HOSTS,—the GOD of the regiments of Israel. Whom you have

defied! The LORD will shut you up 46 to-day for my hand, and I will beat you, and cut off your head, and give the carcass of the Champion of the Philistim to-day to the birds of the sky, and the wild beasts of the earth, and all the world shall know that there is a GOD for Israel. And all 47 the crowd shall recognize that the EVER-LIVING saves neither by sword or spears! For the LORD controls the war, and will give you into our hands!"

Goliath slain by David.

Then the Philistine braced him- 48 self up, and advanced to challenge David, but David was quick, and ran from the ranks to attack the Philistine. And thrusting his hand into 49 his bag David took out a stone and slung it, and hit the Philistine on the forehead, and the stone entered his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground. Thus David was 50 victorious over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him! But there was no sword in David's hand, so 51 David ran and stood by the Philistine, and seized his sword and drew it from its sheath, and killed him, and cut his head off with it. When the Philistim saw that their hero was dead, they fled.

Saul's Army thus encouraged advance to Battle.

Then the generals of Israel and 52 Judah arose, and cheered, and pursued the Philistim to the end of the valley, and to the gates of Akron, and the wounded of the Philistim fell on the road of the double gates, both of Gath and Akron. Then the 53 Israelites returned from the pursuit after the Philistim, and plundered their camp. (David ultimately took 54 the head of the Philistine, and brought it to the House of Peace, and placed his armour in the Hall.)

Saul watching David's challenge of Goliath, asks Abner who he was.

But Saul watching David going 55 to challenge the Philistine, said to Abner, the commander of his army, "Whose son is that lad, Abner?" And Abner answered, "By your soul's life, Leader if I know."

56 Then the Leader said, "Enquire yourself whose son the youth is?"¹

57 So when David returned from defeating the Philistine, Abner took him before Saul, the head of the Philistine being in his hand, and Saul asked him, "Whose son are you, my lad?"

David replied, "The son of your servant Jessai of Bethlehem."

(B.C. 1062.) **Jonathan's Admiration of David.**

18 And as he finished speaking with Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan 2 admired him like his own self. Saul also took to him at that time, and would not permit him to return to his 3 father's house. Then Jonathan and David made a treaty to love each 4 other as their own life. And Jonathan took off the cloak that he had on him, and put it upon David with his 5 armour, and sword, and bow, and Saul sent him, and was successful, and pleasing to Saul above all the officers of the army, and he was delightful in the eyes of all the people, and also in the eyes of the ministers of Saul.

(B.C. 1060.) **David's Triumph and Saul's Jealousy.**

6 It happened, however, that once when David was returning from defeating the Philistim, that women came out from all the towns of Israel with song and dances to meet King Saul, with tambourines, tom-toms and 7 triangles, when the women answered to the music, and sung,

"Saul has defeated his thousands,
And David his ten thousands."²

8 But Saul was very angry, and the refrain was hateful in his ears, so he

exclaimed, "They have given the ten thousands to David and the thousands to me! What is there more for him except the Leadership?" Saul consequently became irritable with David from that time forward. Then some 10 time after the Evil Spirit from GOD seized upon Saul, as he was walking through his palace, and David was playing on his harp as he did daily, and Saul had javelins in his hand; so Saul threw javelins, exclaiming, "I 11 will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped them twice. Then Saul 12 became frightened at the presence of David, for the EVER-LIVING had come to him, and gone away from Saul. Therefore Saul removed him from 13 near himself, and appointed him colonel of a regiment, and he went out and came in with the forces. David, 14 however, went on his way successfully, for the EVER-LIVING was with him.

And Saul saw that he was very 15 successful, and was afraid of him; for all Israel and Judah admired 16 David, for he went out and came back before them.

(B.C. 1060.) **Saul plots to get David killed.**

Saul consequently said to David, 17 "You know my elder daughter Merab; I will give her to you for a wife, and you shall become my most powerful son, and fight the battles of the EVER-LIVING."

But Saul intended, not that he should become powerful, but that he might be brought into the power of the Philistim.

David, however, replied to Saul, 18 "Who am I? And what is the clan of my father in Israel, that I should become son-in-law to the Chieftain?"

But when the time came for giving 19 Merab, Saul's daughter, to David, she was given in marriage to Adrial the Mikholathite.

(B.C. 1060.) **Mikal falls in Love with David.—Saul plots his Death by it.**

But Mikal, Saul's daughter, loved 20 David, and told it to Saul, and it seemed right in his opinion, so Saul 21 said, "I will promise her to him, and she shall be a trap for him, that he may be got into the hands of the Philistim." Saul therefore said to 22 David, a second time, "You shall be

¹ Ch. 17, v. 56. It is worthy of notice, that the last words of Saul's command to Abner could be translated, "This-one, he-that-is-to-everlasting" (thereby containing an omen). If, therefore, our reading of II. Chronicles, Ch. 32, v. 32, is right, that Isaiah, the prophet, wrote Samuel and Kings, this is interesting, and quite in the enigmatic style of prediction.—H. B. and F. F.

² V. 7. Or, And the women answering the music sang,

"Defeated has Saul
His thou-ousands,
And David
His ten thou-ou-sands."—H. B.

- my son-in-law now." Saul also ordered his ministers to speak to David privately, and say, "The Leader is now your friend; and all his ministers like you,—so now become son-in-law to the Chieftain!"
- 23 Therefore the ministers of Saul whispered their ideas to David. But David replied, "Is it a little matter in your sight to be son-in-law to the Leader? when I am a common and
- 24 ordinary man?" So his ministers reported to Saul himself how David had replied about the matter.
- 25 Saul accordingly answered, "Say this to David, 'The Leader does not care for a dowry, but wishes for a hundred foreskins of the Philishtim, as a revenge on the king's enemies!'" (But Saul was plotting to throw David into the hands of the Philishtim.)
- 26 His ministers therefore reported this speech to David, and the idea to be son-in-law to the Chieftain was capital in David's view; but the
- 27 opportunity did not arrive. Therefore David prepared and marched, he and his men, and killed two hundred persons of the Philishtim, and David brought their foreskins, thus satisfying the Leader, and thus justifying his being made his son-in-law. Saul then gave him Mikal his daughter as a wife.
- 28 Saul also saw, and acknowledged that the EVER-LIVING was with David, and that Mikal, his daughter, loved
- 29 him. Saul, however, still continued to be afraid of David; and Saul was an enemy to David all the time.
- 30 When the Philishtim generals advanced, David's strategy was more skilful against them than that of any of the officers of Saul, so his name became famous.

(B.C. 1059.) **Saul orders the Murder of David.—Jonathan remonstrates.**

- 19 Saul consequently ordered his son Jonathan, and all his officers to kill David; but Jonathan, Saul's son, had
- 2 a great admiration for David, so Jonathan informed David, telling him: "My father, Saul, is trying to get you killed, so look out now in the morning, and keep yourself in the
- 3 house, and do not come out. But I will go and station myself beside my father at the parade, where you should be, and I will talk about you to my father, and I will watch the result, and report it to you."

Jonathan, accordingly, spoke well 4 about David to his father Saul, and said to him, "Do not let the king hurt David, his officer, for he has not injured you, but has done you very great services. For he put his life in 5 his hand and assailed the Philishtim, the EVER-LIVING effecting a great victory for all Israel, and you saw it, and were glad,—so why now sin against innocent blood by killing David without a cause?"

Saul listened to the voice of 6 Jonathan, and Saul swore, "By the life of the LORD he shall not be killed!"

Jonathan afterwards went to David, 7 and reported to him the whole conversation. Jonathan also brought David to Saul, and he associated with him as formerly.

(B.C. 1059.) **David routs the Philishtines, but Saul in jealous Fury tries to Murder him by his own Hand.**

When there was war again, David 8 went out and fought with the Philishtim, and defeated them with a crushing defeat, so that they fled before him. Then the Evil Spirit 9 from the EVER-LIVING came upon Saul, and he sat in his room with his javelin in his hand, while David was playing, and Saul tried to pin David 10 with his javelin to the wall; but he rushed from Saul's presence and the javelin fastened itself in the wall. So David fled and hid himself that night.

David flies by a Window when Saul's Guards surround his House.

Saul, however, sent troops to 11 David's house to keep watch and kill him in the morning, but Mikal his wife informed David saying: "If you do not save your life to-night, you will be killed to-morrow." So Mikal let 12 David down out of a window, and he successfully escaped and hid himself. Then Mikal took the teraphim and 13 put them on the bed with a goat's beard laid for its beard, and covered it with clothing, so when Saul sent 14 his guards to seize David, she said, "He is ill!" Saul, however, sent 15 messengers to see David himself, saying, "Bring him on his bed to me that I may kill him!"

16 But when the messengers came they found the teraphim in the bed,
17 with a goat's beard on its face! Then Saul demanded of Mikal, "Why have you deluded me thus, and let my enemy escape from me, and hide himself?"

And Mikal answered Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me escape or I will kill you.'"

(B.C. 1058.) **David seeks safety at the Palace of Samuel, the High Priest, at Ramath, where Saul sends to seize him.**

18 Thus David escaped and hid himself and went to Samuel at Ramah, and informed him of all Saul had done to him. There he stayed with Samuel and they resided in the Residency. But it was reported to Saul that David was at the Residency¹
19 at Ramah. Saul consequently sent messengers to arrest David; but when they saw the company of Reciters reciting, and Samuel standing up directing them, the divine spirit came upon Saul's messengers
20 and they themselves recited. And they reported it to Saul, who sent other messengers, but they also recited. Saul however again sent messengers a third time, and they also recited.
21 Then he went himself to Ramah, and when he came to the great cistern that is at Sikah, he asked, enquiring, "Where are Samuel and David?" and was told, "They are at his House
22 near Ramah." But when he went to the House near Ramah, then the divine spirit came upon him also, and he went dancing and reciting until he
23 came to the Residency at Ramah. He also tore off his clothes, and himself recited before Samuel, and fell down naked there all that day, and all that night. From this comes the saying,—
24 "Is Saul also among the Reciters?"
20 Then David removed from the Residency at Ramah, and appeared before Jonathan, asking him, "What have I done? What is my fault? and how have I offended your father, that he seeks my life?"

2 And he replied to him, "Be calm!

you shall not be killed. Look; my father does nothing great, or little, that he does not communicate to my ears,—then why should my father hide this affair? It cannot be so."

But David swore even, and said, 3
"He knows,—your father knows,—that I have found favour in your eyes, so he says 'Let not Jonathan know this, for fear he should be grieved.' But, however, by the life of the EVER-LIVING, and by the life of your soul, what defence is there between me and death?"

Then Jonathan asked David, "What 4
do you demand about your life, and I will provide it for you?"

And David replied to Jonathan, 5
"You know to-morrow is New Moon, and I should sit with the king to dine, but I will withdraw and keep myself in the country until the third evening. If your father enquires for 6
me, you must say, 'David asked me permission to run to Bethlehem, his village, for it is the set time for all his clan to sacrifice there.' If he 7
then says, 'Good,' there is safety for your servant, but if it angers him, you will know that evil has been determined by him. Now act kindly 8
to your friend, for you made a bond of the EVER-LIVING between your friend and yourself. But, if I have offended, kill me yourself, for why should you betray me to your father?"

Then Jonathan answered, "Go 9
away. Calm yourself, and if I find that injury is intended to be brought upon you from my father I will come to you."

But David replied to Jonathan, 10
"Whatever he said to me, or may assert to you, your father is determined."

When Jonathan replied to David, 11
"Come, and we will go into the fields." So they both went to the fields, where Jonathan said to David, 12
"By the EVER-LIVING, the GOD of Israel, I will search out my father by this time, at three days after to-morrow, and find if he is good towards David; and if he is not, I will send to you and whisper it to you. The 13
LORD do so to Jonathan, and more than that, if what is pleasant to my father is bad for you. I will inform you of it,—and send you away, and you shall depart in safety. May the EVER-LIVING be with you, as He has been with my father. Therefore you 14

¹ Ch. 19, v. 19. Then he and Samuel went and lived at Nevith. "Nevith" was the "Bishop's Palace," as we could call it, situated in the town of Ramah. The subsequent narrative makes this probable, almost certain.—H. B. and F. F.

must not whilst I live ever fail to show me the mercy of the EVER-LIVING, and not kill me. Let not your mercy cease from my family for ever,—not even when the EVER-LIVING cuts off every single enemy of David from the face of the earth. For Jonathan makes a treaty with the house of David, and the EVER-LIVING will enquire for it from the hand of David's enemies."

17 Then Jonathan proceeded to swear David by his friendship for him; for he loved him as the friend of his life.

18 Jonathan also said to him, "Tomorrow is New Moon, so guard yourself, for your house will be watched;

19 but upon the third day come down cautiously, and go to the place where you hid yourself on the day of sacrifice, and seat yourself at the

20 side of the rock of Azel, and I will shoot three arrows at random with a pretence of exercising myself at the

21 butts. Then I will send my lad to go seek the arrows. But if I say to the youth, 'Look! the arrows are

22 near you!' then get yourself up, and come, for you will be safe; and there is nothing, as the LORD lives. But

23 if I say to the boy, 'Look out, for the arrows are beyond you and further on!' you must fly, for the EVER-

LIVING sends you away. The bond we have bound ourselves by, you and I, remember, for the EVER-LIVING is the intermediary between myself and you, for ever!"

Saul tries to Murder his son Jonathan for defending David.

24 David consequently hid himself in the fields.

When the New-Moon came the king sat down to table to dine. And the king sat on his usual seat by the wall, when Jonathan came up. But Abner had seated himself at the side of Saul, who missed the presence of

25 David. Saul, however, said nothing himself about it that day, for he reflected something has happened to him, perhaps he is not clean—he has not been ready.¹

26 When the second day after the New-Moon came, and he still missed the presence of David, Saul asked Jonathan, his son, "Why has not the son of Jessai come to-day, as formerly, to dine?"

27 When the second day after the New-Moon came, and he still missed the presence of David, Saul asked Jonathan, his son, "Why has not the son of Jessai come to-day, as formerly, to dine?"

¹ Or prepared.

And Jonathan replied to Saul, 28 "David asked me if he might go to Bethlehem, and said, 'Permit me, I 29 pray, for our clan sacrifices in that village, and my brother has sent for me, and so, if I have found favour in your sight, allow me, I pray, for I wish to see my brothers.' That is why he has not come to the king's table."

But Saul was furious with Jonathan, 30 and exclaimed to him, "You young son of Rebellion. Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jessai to your own dishonour, and to the dishonour of your mother's shame? For 31 as long as the son of Jessai exists above ground, your Leadership will not be secured? And now you have sent, and taken him from me! Nevertheless he is a Son of Death!"

Jonathan; however, answered Saul 32 his father, and said to him, "Why should he die?—What has he done?"

Then Saul threw his javelin at him 33 to stab him, so Jonathan knew that his father had decided upon the death of David, so Jonathan arose 34 from the table with fury, and ate no food the second day of the New-Moon, for he was grieved about David, because his father had thus determined.

Jonathan reports his Danger to David.

But when dawn came Jonathan 35 went out to the field to meet David, and a little lad with him, and he said 36 to his lad, "Run, find the arrows I shoot." The boy ran, so he shot an

arrow to pass over him. When the 37 lad came to the place to which the arrow had been shot by Jonathan, Jonathan called after the lad and said, "Holloo! is not my arrow

there beyond you?" Jonathan also 38 called after the lad, "Make haste! Be quick! Don't dawdle!" So the

lad picked up the arrows of Jonathan, and came to his master. The lad, 39 however, knew nothing about the affair. Jonathan and David, how-

ever, understood the thing. Then 40 Jonathan gave his weapons to his boy, and said to him, "Go! return to the town." The lad went, and David 41

got up from his hiding-place, and bending his face to the earth, bowed three times, and both kissed as friends, and both wept as friends,

until David was overcome. Then 42

Jonathan said to David, "Go in the peace that we both have sworn to by the name of the EVER-LIVING, saying, 'The EVER-LIVING shall be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants for ever.'" Then he arose and departed. And Jonathan returned to the town.

David flies to Ahimelek, the Priest, for Protection, but is refused.

- 2 David then went to Akhimelek the Priest at Nob, but Akhimelek hesitated to receive David, and asked him, "Why are you alone? and no one with you?"
- 3 So David answered Akhimelek the Priest, "The king ordered me on a business, and said to me: 'Let no one know what the business is on which I send you, nor what I have ordered you.' So I appointed another place for my men. And now what have you got here? Give me those five cakes, — or I shall take them myself."
- 5 But the Priest replied to David and said, "It is not common bread that is under my care, but consecrated bread. If the young men have kept themselves, however, from women?"
- 6 And David answered the Priest, and said, "Women have not approached us for three days since I set out. The accoutrements of the men are clean; and the way open, and indeed my accoutrements were cleaned that day."
- 7 Then the Priest gave him the consecrated bread, for he had no other bread there, except the Bread of the Presentation taken away from the piles before the EVER-LIVING to be replaced by hot bread on the day that he took it.

Doeg the Edomite sees David at Nob, and reports it to Saul.

- 8 There was, however, at the same time an officer of Saul's resting before the EVER-LIVING, named Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul's shepherds.
- 9 And David asked Akhimelek, "Is there not here in your custody a spear or sword? For I could not bring my sword or my arms with me, for the order of the king was very urgent!"

The Priest replied, "The sword of 10 Goliath the Philistine, whom you defeated on the plain of Halah, is here, wrapped in a cloth behind his armour. If you will take that, — take it, — for there is not another except it here."

And David replied, "There is none like it! Give it to me!"

(B.C. 1058.) **David flies to Gath, and feigns Madness.**

Then David arose and fled at once 11 from the neighbourhood of Saul, and went to Akish, king of Gath. But 12 the officers of Akish said to him, "Is not this David the Leader of the country? Was it not about him they sang in the dances, saying, 'Saul has defeated his thousands, but David his ten thousands?'" And 13 David put these words into his heart, and was very terrified in the presence of Akish, king of Gath. So he altered 14 his way of talking in their sight, and acted the fool towards them, and scribbled on the panels of the doors, and dribbled his spittle on his beard.

Akish consequently said to his 15 officers, "You see the man is mad! Why have you brought him to me? Have I need of fools that you have brought this one to me to play the fool for me? — Let him get out of my house!"

(B.C. 1058.) **Driven from Gath by Akish, goes to the Caves of Adulam as a Robber Chief.**

Then David went from that place, 22 and took refuge in the Caves of Adulam, and his relatives heard of it, and they and all his father's family went down to him there. And 2 every man in distress, and every man in debt, and every man of discontented mind collected to him, and he became a captain over them, until there were about four hundred men with him in the caves.

But David went from there to 3 Mitzpah of Moab, and said to the king of Moab, "I beg you to allow my father and mother to be with you, until I learn what GOD will do with me." So the king of Moab 4 granted it, and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold.

(B.C. 1057.) **Gad advises to go to the Desert of Judah.**

- 5 Then Gad, the reciter, said to David, "Do not remain in this stronghold, but go to the land of Judah," so David went, and came to the wood of Khareth. Saul, however, heard this; for David and the men who were with him were known, and Saul was resting on a hill under a tamarisk tree, in Ramah, with his spear in his hand, and all his officers were standing about him; so Saul said to the officers who were around him,
- 7 "Listen now, all you sons of Thieves¹—I gave to the son of Jessai farms and vineyards, as I did to all of you.—I made you my colonels of regiments, and my captains of companies. So why have you,—all of you,—conspired against me, and not opened my ears to the agreement of my son with the son of Jessai? and you have not shown it to me, or informed me that my son had set my slave above myself, secretly, as he is to-day?"
- 9 Then Doeg the Edomite replied,—he stood amongst the ministers of Saul,—and said, "I saw the son of Jessai go to Nobah, to Akhimelek the son of Akhitub, who enquired for him of the EVER-LIVING, and gave him provisions, and handed him also the sword of Goliath the Philistine!"
- 11 The king consequently sent and summoned Akhimelek-ben-Akhitub, the Priest, and the whole of the priests of his father's family who were in Nobah, and they all came to the king, when Saul said, "Listen, now, ben-Akhitub." And he replied, "I am here, my Prince."
- 13 Then Saul asked him, "Why did you—you and the son of Jessai—hide from me that you supplied him with bread, and a sword, and enquired for him of GOD, to rise against me in secret, as he now does?"
- 14 But Akhimelek answered the king and said, "Who of all your officers should be more honourably trusted than David, a royal son-in-law?—and the chief of your subjects, and the most honoured of your family? Upon the day when I danced to enquire of

¹ V. 7. "You sons of Jamin." יָמִין, Yamin. "Sons of the Right Hand," that is, "bold fellows living by force."—F. F.

GOD for him I did dance;—let not the king bring trouble upon his servant, with all my father's family, for your servant knew nothing of all this affair, little or great."

Doeg's Murderous Villainy.

The Leader, however, replied, 16 "You shall die, Akhimelek; you and all your father's family!" And the 17 Leader commanded the guards around him to turn upon them, and slay the priests of the EVER-LIVING for helping David, and because knowing of his flight they had not informed him. But the officers of the king would not go;—would not extend their hands to strike the Priests of the EVER-LIVING.

Then the Leader said to Doeg, 18 "Get up, and fall upon the Priests!" So Doeg the Edomite turned and fell upon the Priests himself, and killed on that day eighty-five men; men 19 who bore the ephods only. He also assailed Nob, the towns of the Priests, with the edge of the sword, both men and women, child and infant; and ox, and ass and sheep he massacred. But 20 one son of Akhimelek-ben-Akhitub escaped, whose name was Abiathar, and fled to David, and Abiathar 21 informed David how Saul had murdered the Priests of the EVER-LIVING.

And David said to Abiathar, "I 22 knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would inform Saul. I am responsible for all the lives of your father's family! Stay with me. Fear not. For he 23 who seeks my life, seeks yours as well, so you have a place of safety with me."

(B.C. 1057.) **David assails the Philistines, and defeats them.**

They reported once to David, say- 23 ing, "The Philistim are besieging Keilah, and destroying the corn-fields," so David enquired of the 2 EVER-LIVING, asking, "Shall I assail and defeat those Philistim?"

And the EVER-LIVING answered David, "Go! and defeat the Philistim and relieve Keilah."

But David's men said to him, 3 "Look you! We are in terror here in Judah,—so why should we go to Keilah to fight the regulars of the Philistim?"

- 4 Therefore David repeated the enquiry to the EVER-LIVING, when the EVER-LIVING answered, "Arise! march to Keilah, for I will give the
5 Philishtim into your power." David and his men then marched to Keilah, and fought with the Philishtim, and captured their baggage train, and defeated them with great slaughter. Thus David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.
- (B.C. 1057.) **David tries to settle in Keilah, but fearing an Attack by Saul his Band disperse to hide in the Desert.**
- 6 And when Abiathar-ben-Akhitub followed David to Keilah, he took
7 the ephod with him. It was, however, reported to Saul that David had come to Keilah, so Saul remarked "GOD has betrayed him into my power, for he is prevented by doors and bars from leaving the
8 town." Saul therefore ordered all his forces for war to descend to Keilah to assail David and his men.
9 But David had intelligence that Saul was planning evil against him, so he said to Abiathar the Priest, "Bring the ephod here."
10 Then David prayed:
"EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel listen, listen to your servant, for Saul seeks to advance upon Keilah, to destroy the town because of me.
11 Will the Headmen of Keilah deliver me into his power? Will Saul descend as Your servant has heard? LIVING GOD of Israel, inform Your servant, I pray."
The EVER-LIVING answered, "He will descend."
12 Then David asked, "Will the Headmen of Keilah deliver me and my men into the power of Saul?"
And the EVER-LIVING replied, "They will deliver!"
13 Consequently David and his men—about six hundred persons—arose and went out from Keilah, and dispersed as they could; and it was reported to Saul that David had escaped from Keilah, so he stopped
14 his advance. Then David stayed in the dens of the desert, and occupied a hill in the desert of Zif, and Saul hunted him all his days, but GOD
15 gave him not into his power. David

also knew when Saul came out to seek him; but David kept in concealment in the désert of Zif.

(B.C. 1056.) **Jonathan visits David in the Desert, and makes a Treaty with him.**

Jonathan, however, the son of Saul, 16 arose and went to David secretly, and cheered him up in GOD, and 17 said to him, "Fear not! for the hand of my father Saul will not catch you, and you will be the Leader of Israel, and I will be your Lieutenant;—my father Saul also knows this."

Then both of them made a treaty 18 before the EVER-LIVING. But David continued in hiding, and Jonathan returned to his home.

(B.C. 1055.) **The Ziftes betray David to Saul.**

The Ziftes, however, went up to 19 Saul to Gibeah, to say, "Do you not know that David is hiding with us in a fort concealed among the hills of Khakilah on the south of the desert? So now with all the energy of your 20 soul, Commander, come down, and we will deliver him to the Commander's hand."

When Saul answered "May you 21 be blessed by the EVER-LIVING for your kindness to me! Go, I pray, 22 ascertain further, and learn, and watch the places that he haunts,—who sees him there,—for they tell me he is very crafty. Examine and 23 learn also about all the hiding-places where he haunts, and report them to me accurately. Then I will come to you, and if he is skulking about in the country I will chase him with all the regiments of Judah."

They accordingly arose and went 24 from the audience with Saul to Zif. But David and his men were then in the desert of Maon, in the waste to the south of the desert, where Saul 25 and his men marched in pursuit. But David received intelligence of it and came down from the hill-fort and rested in the desert of Maon. Saul, however, heard of this and pursued after David to the desert of Maon. But Saul marched on one 26 side of the hill, and David and his men on the other side of the hill,

with David hurrying in his march from the approach of Saul. For Saul and his men wished to surround David and his men and
 27 capture them. Then a messenger rushed to Saul saying, "Make haste and march, for the Philishtim have
 28 burst into the country." Saul therefore ceased the pursuit after David and went to encounter the Philishtim, in consequence of which that place is called the peak of Turn-
 24 again. From there David went and settled in the fort of Aingheli.¹

(B.C. 1056.) **David could have slain Saul, but spares him.**

2 Again when Saul returned from after the Philishtim, he was informed that David was in the desert of
 3 Aingheli. So Saul took three thousand men, the choice of all Israel, and marched to seek David and his men in the high peaks of Jalim.
 4 When he came to the sheepfolds by the road; where there is a cave, Saul and his men were in the backward
 5 reaches of the caves. Then David's men said to him, "Now is the time that the EVER-LIVING said to you, 'I will put your enemy into your power, and you can do to him whatever is good in your eyes!'" So David arose and took away the embroidered quilt with which Saul was
 6 covered. But afterwards David's heart reproved him for taking away the quilt which was on Saul, and he said to his men, "Trouble will come
 7 to me from the EVER-LIVING if I do such a thing to my Prince,—to the LORD'S anointed, as to lay my hand upon him. For he has been consecrated to the EVER-LIVING." David consequently restrained his men from action, and would not allow them to attack Saul.

So Saul left the cave and proceeded on his way.

9 Then David got up and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, and said, "My Lord, Commander!" When Saul looked behind him, David bent his face earthward and bowed
 10 to him. David then said to Saul:—

"Why do you listen to the tales of the man who says, 'David seeks to do you injury'? Look! This very
 11 day your eyes can see that the EVER-LIVING gave you into my power in the cave, and they wished to murder you. But I pitied you, and said: 'I will not lift my hand against my Prince, for he has been consecrated to the EVER-LIVING.' And now,
 12 father, see, look, here is the embroidered quilt that covered you in my hand! I took the quilt away from you, but did not murder you! Know and be convinced therefore that there is no wrong in my hand, or rebellion, or sin against you; yet you hunt for my life to take it. Let the
 13 EVER-LIVING decide between me and you, when the EVER-LIVING will acquit me, rather than you; for my hand has not been against you. As
 14 the verse of the Kadmonite says,—
 'From the wicked, wickedness springs,

But my hand shall not be against you.'

After what does the Commander of
 15 Israel come out? After what do you chase? After a dead dog! After a single flea! But let the EVER-LIVING
 16 be judge and decide between me and you, and examine my cause, and acquit me from you."

And when David had finished
 17 uttering this address to Saul, Saul asked, "Is that your voice, my son David?" Then Saul lifted up his voice and wept, and said to David
 18 "You are more righteous than I; for you have repaid me with benefit, but I have repaid you with violence! And, further, you have shown it
 19 to-day by having acted kindly to me, for when the EVER-LIVING had delivered me to your power, you did not kill me! For when did a
 20 man find his enemy and helped him kindly on his way? The EVER-LIVING, however, will repay you generously in return for what you have done to me. And indeed I
 21 know that you will lead, and that the Leadership of Israel will be fixed in your hand; therefore swear
 22 to me by the EVER-LIVING not to destroy my descendants after me, nor to blot out my name from my father's house."

So David swore to Saul. And
 23 Saul went to his home, and David and his men went up to the fort.

¹ In the Hebrew divisions, v. 29 of Ch. 28 in the A. V. or Vulgate notations, is v. 1 of Ch. 29, which I follow, as all through my work.—F. F.

(B.C. 1055.) Death of Samuel.

25 At this time Samuel died, and the Parliament of Israel collected, and mourned for him, and buried him at his home in Ramah.

Thereupon David arose and went down to the desert of Paran.

(B.C. 1055.) David and his Men remove to Karmel, and meet Nabal.

2 There was a man in Maon whose property lay in Karmel; and the man was very great, for he possessed three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. He was at this time shearing

3 his sheep in Karmel. This man's name was Nabal, and his wife was called Abigail; she was a very clever woman, and beautiful in appearance, but her husband was brutish and excessively bad;—like

4 one of his dogs. David heard in the desert that Nabal was shearing his

5 sheep, so David sent some of his lads, and David said to the lads, "March to Karmel and go to Nabal,

6 and wish him well in my name. You must also say this, 'Good health to you! How are you? and how are your family? and how is all that

7 you have? I have heard that you are shearing. Although your shepherds are near us, I have not hurt them, nor has anything been missing from them all the time they have

8 been in Karmel. Ask your lads, and they will tell you so. So let these youths find favour in your sight, for they come at a good time. Therefore give what comes to your hand to your servants, and to your son David.'"

Nabal's Stupidity, and his Wife's Skill and Beauty.

9 David's lads accordingly went, and reported to Nabal all this speech in the name of David; and sat down.

10 But Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is David? And what is the son of Jessai? Now-a-days plenty of slaves run away from their masters!

11 And why should I take my bread, and my drink, and my roast meat, that I have roasted for my shearers, and give to fellows who come from I don't know where?"

David's Fury at Nabal's Boorishness.

David's lads consequently went 12 their way, and returned to, and came and reported to him all these things. Consequently David said to his men, 13 "Gird on your swords!" And they all girt their swords. David also girt on his sword, and there went up after David about four hundred men, while two hundred guarded the baggage.

One of the lads from among Nabal's 14 servants, however, informed Abigail his wife, saying, "David has sent messengers from the desert to congratulate our master, and he has abused them. Now these men have 15 been very good to us, and have not hurt us, nor stolen anything all the time we wandered about near them in the open field. They were a 16 guard to us by night and by day, all the time we were near them, shepherding the sheep. And now I 17 know, and see what troubles me,—for there will be plenty of evil for our master and for all his household, because he is such a brute,—one cannot speak to him."

At this Abigail hastened, and took 18 two hundred loaves, and two skins of wine, and five cooked sheep, and five quarters of corn and a hundred packets of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and loaded them upon asses, and said to the lad, 19 "Go on before me, I will follow after you." But she did not inform her husband Nabal. Now she rode on 20 her ass, and went down to the foot of the hills and saw David and his men advancing on her. So she approached them. And David said, "I never 21 broke the bargain;—I protected all that belonged to this fellow in the desert, and nothing was missing belonging to him, but he has returned me bad for good. May GOD 22 do this to the enemies of David, and add to this,¹ if I leave anything belonging to him at morning light, even an urchin behind the wall!"

Then Abigail was afraid of David; 23 therefore she hastened and dismounted from her ass, and fell down on her face, because of the anger of David, and bowed to him to the earth. Then she knelt at 24

¹ V. 22. "And add to this." The Hebrew evidently used some gesture when uttering this oath.—F. F.

his feet and said, "Let the fault be to me, my Lord! and let your handmaid speak in your hearing,—and listen to the words of your hand-
 25 maid. Let not my Lord lay to his heart about that blackguard, Nabal, for he is like his name,—a fool,—and folly is with him. But I, your hand-
 26 maid, saw not the lads of my Lord, whom you sent. So now, my Lord, by the life of the EVER-LIVING, by the life of your soul—oh! that the EVER-LIVING would restrain you from going to bloodshed, and save you from your own hand. But may your enemies be like Nabal, and whoever seeks to injure my Lord!—
 27 And this present here, which your servant has brought to my Lord,—give it to the lads who march after
 28 the footsteps of my Lord. Overlook therefore the fault of your hand-
 29 maid, for the EVER-LIVING will make for my Lord a safe home, for you fight the battles of the EVER-LIVING, my Prince, and harm will not meet
 30 you all your time. When a man rises to pursue you to seek your life, then the life of my Lord will be treasured in the treasury of your EVER-LIVING GOD, while the life of your enemies will be slung from the
 31 hand of the slinger. It will be so,—for the EVER-LIVING will effect for my Prince all the good He has promised to you, and will appoint
 32 you to be a Leader to Israel. So let not this be an agitation and disturbance to the heart of my Prince, to cause him to shed needless blood. Let my Prince save himself from himself, and the EVER-LIVING will reward my Prince,—when you will remember your handmaid."
 33 Then David replied to Abigail, "Thank the LORD of Israel Who has sent you to-day to meet me! And
 34 bless your skill! And bless you who have prevented me to-day from bloodshed, and saving my hand from myself! For certainly by the life of the EVER-LIVING, the GOD of Israel,—Who restrained me from injuring you, —if you had not been quick and come to meet me, there would not have been left to Nabal an urchin behind his wall this morning."
 35 David then accepted what she had brought to him, and said to her, "Go in peace to your home. You see I have listened to your voice, and gladdened your face."

(B.C. 1055.) **Nabal's Death after a Drunken Bout.**

Abigail therefore went to Nabal; but 36 he was drinking in his house as at a royal feast, and the heart of Nabal was pleased with himself, and he was very drunk, so she told him nothing, great or small, until morning light. But in the morning when the wine 37 had gone out of Nabal, his wife informed him of these events, when his heart died in his breast, and he became like a stone; and ten days after, the 38 EVER-LIVING struck Nabal, and he died.

David marries Nabal's Widow Abigail.

When David heard that Nabal was 39 dead, he exclaimed,—“Thank the EVER-LIVING Who has avenged my insult on the head of Nabal, and restrained his servant from wrong, for the EVER-LIVING has returned the insults of Nabal upon his own head.” David also sent, and spoke to Abigail to take her as a wife, so David's 40 officers went to Abigail at Karmel, and said to her, “David has sent us to you to take you to himself as a wife.”

Then she arose and bowed her face 41 earthward and said,—“I am your servant to attend to wash the feet of the servants of my Lord.” Then 42 Abigail prepared in haste and mounted her ass, and five of her maids went with her on foot, and marched after the messengers of David. Thus she became his wife. David also took Akhinoam of Jezraal, 43 and they were both his wives.

Saul, however, gave Mikal his 44 daughter, the wife of David, to Faltiben-Laish, who was from Galim.

(B.C. 1054.) **Saul again chases David.**

The Zifites then went to Saul at 26 Gibeah and said, “Do you know that David is in hiding in the hills of Khikalah opposite Jeshimon?” Saul 2 consequently arose and went down to the desert of Zif with three thousand men, the choicest of Israel, to hunt after David in the desert of Zif, and 3 Saul encamped in the hills of Khikalah opposite Jeshimon, by the road side. But David occupied the desert, and saw when Saul came after him towards

4 the desert. David also sent spies and learnt that Saul came resolutely.
 5 David therefore arose, and came to the place where Saul was encamped, and David saw the place where Saul and Abner-ben-Ner, the commander of Saul's army, slept. But Saul slept within a barricade of waggons, with
 6 his forces around them. So David addressed Akhimelek the Hitite, and Abishai-ben-Zeruiah, brother of Joab, and said, "Who will go down with me to Saul in the camp?" And Abishai replied, "I will go down with
 7 you!" Therefore David and Abishai went to the army at night and saw Saul laid asleep within the barricade of waggons, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head, and Abner and the forces sleeping around them.

Abishai advises to murder Saul in his Sleep.—David refuses.

8 Then Abishai said, "GOD has to-day delivered your enemy into your hand, so now I will pin him at a stroke with a spear to the earth and not waken him."
 9 But David answered his officer:—
 "You shall not destroy him. For who can raise his hand against the consecrated to the EVER-LIVING, and be blameless?" Then David added,
 10 "By the life of the EVER-LIVING!—If the LORD struck him;—or his day came and he died; or he went down
 11 to battle, and was killed! But it would bring trouble on me from the EVER-LIVING, if I raised my hand against the LORD'S consecrated!—However, take the spear that is by his head, and the jug of water, and let us be gone."
 12 So David took the spear and the jug of water from beside the head of Saul, and went away with them; and none saw, and none knew, and none awoke, for they all slept. A deep sleep had fallen on them from the EVER-LIVING.
 13 David then passed over the ford, and stood on the top of a hill at a distance with a great space between them, from where David called to the forces, and to Abner-ben-Ner, asking, "Are you there, Abner?"
 14 When Abner rejoined and said, "Who are you, calling to the Commander?"
 15 So David replied to Abner, "Are you not a man? And who is like you

in Israel? So why have you not guarded your master, the Commander? For a person has been to destroy the Commander—your Lord! By the life of the EVER-LIVING, it is
 16 not a good thing that you have done, for you are liable to death for not guarding your master, who is consecrated to the EVER-LIVING! So now, look for your Commander's spear and water jug, which were by his head!"

But Saul recognized the voice of
 17 David, and asked, "Is that your voice, son David?"

And David replied, "It is my voice,
 18 my Lord, Commander." And then he continued, "Why does my Lord hunt so after his servant? For what have I done? And what wrong is there in my hand? Let my Lord the
 19 King listen therefore to what your servant says. If the EVER-LIVING has excited you, let me be a sweet perfumed offering;—but if any of mankind,—curse them before the EVER-LIVING for driving me out from the inheritance of the EVER-LIVING to herd with vagabonds, saying, 'Go! serve other Gods!' But now let not
 20 my blood fall to the earth away from the presence of the EVER-LIVING. For what has the Commander of Israel come out to hunt? A single flea? as they hunt a partridge on the mountains?"

Then Saul answered, "I have done
 21 wrong! Come back, my son David; for I will never injure you! since my life has been respected in your sight to-day. I have acted like a fool, and ten thousand times mad."

David replied and said, "Here is
 22 the Commander's spear;—let one of the lads come over and take it, for
 23 the EVER-LIVING rewards a man for his honesty and fidelity. Now as the EVER-LIVING gave you to-day to my power, and I refrained from lifting my hand against the consecrated to the EVER-LIVING, therefore as
 24 your life was respected to-day in my eyes,—thus let my life be respected in the eyes of the EVER-LIVING, for He will deliver me from every trouble."

Then Saul said to David, "Son
 25 David! you are noble! What you wish, you will accomplish by the self-command you have exercised!"

David then went his way, and Saul returned to his residence.

(B.C. 1054.) **David again goes to Philistia, and becomes a Favourite with King Akish.**

27 David, however, said in his heart, "I shall fall some day into the hand of Saul. Would it not be well for me to take refuge in the country of the Philistim? when Saul will give up hunting after me again in any of the districts of Israel, and I shall protect myself from his hand."

2 David consequently passed over, he and the six hundred men with him, to Akish-ben-Mauk, king of Gath, where David and his men settled in Gath with Akish, each with his family, and David with his two wives, Akhinoam the Jezraalites, and Abigail, the widow of Nabal, the Karmelites. And it was reported to Saul that David had fled to Gath, so Saul did not again hunt for him.

5 David afterwards said to Akish, "If, now, I have found favour in your sight, give me a residence in one of your country villages, and I will stay there,—for why should your servant live in the Royal City with you?"

(B.C. 1053.) **David made Governor of Ziklag by Akish.**

6 Akish consequently assigned to him at once Ziklag; (therefore Ziklag belongs to the kings of Judah to this day;) and the length of time that David stayed in the country of the Philistim was a year and four months. But David and his men went and plundered the Ghishurites, and the Gherzites, and the Amalekites, who were in the country which lies towards the Wall of the land of Mitzer. So David conquered the country, leaving neither men nor women alive, but taking the sheep, and cattle, and asses and camels, and clothing. Then returned and came to Akish.

10 And Akish asked, "Where have you been plundering this time?"

David answered, "Towards the south of Judah, and towards the south of the Irakhmalites, and to the south of the Kenites." For David did not let a man or a woman go with him to Gath, remarking "for fear they should tell of us, and say, David has done this!" He, how-

ever, plundered in this way all the time he stayed in the country of the Philistim. And Akish believed 12 David, reflecting, "He will make himself stink with his nation the Israelites, and then he will be my subject for ever."

It was at this time the Philistim 28 assembled their forces for war with Israel, and Akish said, "I know that you will go with me to the campaign with your men?"

And David answered, "You know 2 well enough what your servant will do!"

And Akish replied to David, "Certainly! Therefore I will appoint you as Captain of my guard all the time!"

(B.C. 1053.) **Saul expels the Soothsayers.**

When Samuel died, and all Israel 3 had mourned for him, they buried him near Ramah, in his own village, and Saul drove away the Spirit-raisers, and the Soothsayers from the country.

(B.C. 1053.) **The Philistines prepare to assail Israel, and Saul is terrified at their fine Army, and seeks a Spirit-rapper to raise a Spirit to advise him.—Goes to the Witch of Endor.**

But the Philistim collected, and 4 advanced, and encamped at Shunam. —Saul also assembled the forces of Israel, and encamped at Gilboa.

When Saul saw the camp of the 5 Philistim, he feared and his heart trembled extremely. Saul consequently enquired of the EVER-LIVING, but the EVER-LIVING did not answer him, neither by dreams, nor by visions, nor by prophets.¹ Consequently Saul said to his officers, 7 "Seek me a woman who possesses a divining spirit, and I will go and enquire of her."

And his officers replied to him, "There is a woman at En-dor² who possesses a spirit."

¹ Reciters or Instructors.—F. F.

² V. 7. This word in Hebrew has a double meaning. In one, it means "The House Well," in another "No result," that is "No good."—H. B. and F. F.

- 8 Then Saul stripped, and clothed himself in different clothes, and went, he and two officers with him, and came to the woman at night, and said to her, "Will you call to a spirit for me now, and bring to me whoever I tell you?"
- 9 But the woman replied to him: "What! when you know what Saul has done?—who has driven the Spirit-raisers and the Scientists from the country! So why do you seek for my life, to get me killed?"
- 10 Then Saul swore to her by the EVER-LIVING, saying, "By the EVER-LIVING LIFE nothing hurtful shall happen to you for the affair."
- 11 So the woman asked him, "Whom shall I bring up to you?"
And he replied, "Bring up Samuel to me!"
- 12 And when the woman saw Samuel, she shrieked with a loud voice, and said to Saul, "Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!"
- 13 But the King answered her, "Fear not for me!—Who?—What have you seen?"

The Spirit of Samuel appears.

- And the woman said to Saul, "I saw Divine Messengers ascending out of the earth!"
- 14 He then asked her, "What is he like?"
She replied, "An old man is now coming up! And he is covered with a cloak!"
- And Saul recognized that it was Samuel! and fell face forward to the ground, and was terrified.
- 15 Then Samuel said to Saul, "For what have you disturbed me to bring me up?"
And Saul replied, "I am in great distress! for the Philishtim are at war with me, and GOD has turned from me, and answers me no more, neither by means of Instructors, nor by dreams:—so I called to you to tell me what to do!"
- 16 Samuel then asked: "And for what do you enquire of me, when GOD has turned away, and is far from you? The EVER-LIVING will do to you, as He said through me! For the EVER-LIVING has taken the Commandership from your hand, and will give it to your neighbour,—to
- 18 David. Because you did not listen

to the voice of the EVER-LIVING, and did not execute His deep wrath upon the Amalekites, therefore the EVER-LIVING has brought this trouble to you to-day! The EVER-LIVING also will give Israel, with you, into the hands of the Philishtim. And tomorrow you shall be with me! The EVER-LIVING will also give the camp of Israel into the hand of the Philishtim."

Saul then immediately fell down to the earth, for he could not stand, and was greatly terrified at the words of Samuel; beside there was no strength in him, for he had not eaten food all that day, and all that night. But the woman came to Saul in great terror and agitation and said to him,

The Witch pities Saul in his Despair.

"You see your servant has listened to your voice, and I have placed my life in my hand, and have listened to the request you made me,—therefore listen now yourself to the voice of your servant, and I will put before you a mouthful of food, so eat it, and it will strengthen you that you can go on your way."

But he refused, and said, "I will not eat."

His attendants, however, urged him, and the woman also. He therefore listened to their voices, and arose from the ground, and rested upon a couch, and the woman, having a fat calf in the stable, hastened and killed it, and took flour and kneaded and baked biscuits, and approached Saul and his attendants, and they ate, and arose and went away in the night.

(B.C. 1054.) David volunteers to fight for the Philistines, but the Generals refuse him.

The Philishtim had now assembled all their forces at Afak, and Israel had encamped at the Well which is in Jezrael. And the forces of the Philishtim advanced by battalions and regiments, but David and his men were with Akish in the rear. The Generals of the Philishtim, however, asked, "Who are these Hebrews?"

And Akish answered the Generals

of the Philishtim, "Is not this David, the officer of Saul, King of Israel, who has been with me for this year or two, and I have not found in him any fault from the day he deserted until now."

4 The Generals of the Philishtim, however, collected about him, and the Generals of the Philishtim said to him, "Send the man away, and let him go to his residence, where let him be retained, for he shall not advance with us to the campaign, lest he betray us in the campaign. For how could he reconcile himself to his Prince? Would it not be by
5 the heads of our men? Is not this David about whom they chorused with dances saying,—

'Saul has slain his thousands
And David his ten thousands?'"

6 Akish consequently summoned David, and said to him, "By the EVER-LIVING LIFE, in my opinion you have been right and good in your intercourse with me in the camp! Nor have I found anything wrong about you from the day you came up to me until this time; but the opinion of the nobles is not good about you.
7 Therefore return, and go away quietly, and create no offence in the sight of the Philishtim lords."

8 David, however, asked Akish, "Why? What have I done? What have you found in your servant, from the day I came to you until this day, that I may not go and fight the enemies of my Lord the King?"

9 But Akish answered and said to David, "I acknowledge you are as good in my opinion as a messenger of GOD. The generals of the Philishtim, however, say 'He shall not advance with us to the campaign.'
10 So now rest till the morning with the servants of your Prince who came with you, but arise at dawn of light with them and depart."

11 Consequently David and his men rested until they marched at dawn to return to the country of the Philishtim. Then the Philishtim advanced to Jezrael.

(B.C. 1054.) *David returns to Ziklag, and finds it had been captured by the Amalekites.—He pursues them.*

30 But when David and his men arrived at Ziklag on the third day,

they found that the Amalekites had devastated the south, up to Ziklag, and attacked Ziklag, and burnt it with fire, and captured the women 2 who were in it, from the least to the greatest. They did not kill a single person, but carried them off and departed. So when David and his 3 men came to the town they saw it burnt by fire, and their wives, children and daughters carried off. Then 4 David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until there was no more strength in them to weep. The two wives of 5 David also were captured, Akhinoam the Jezraalites, and Abigail the widow of Nabal, the Karmelite, and 6 it troubled David greatly, for the people threatened to stone him, for the soul of all the forces was bitter because of their sons and daughters, but David relied upon his EVER-LIVING GOD.

David consequently said to Abiathar 7 the Priest, son of Akhimalek, "Bring me the ephod." And Abiathar brought the ephod to David, and 8 David enquired of the EVER-LIVING asking, "Shall I pursue this troop? And can I overtake them?" When He replied to him, "Follow; for you shall overtake, and deliver." There- 9 fore David and the six hundred men with him marched, and came to the canal at the Wall, where part halted. But David and four hundred men 10 continued the pursuit, whilst two hundred men, who were exhausted, halted at the passage of the canal of the Wall. And they found a man, an 11 Egyptian, in the field, and took him to David. They gave him food, and he ate, and they quenched him with water. They also gave him a slice 12 of fig cake, and two bunches of raisins, and he ate, and his energy returned to him, for he had not eaten food nor drank water for three days and three nights.

David then asked him, "Who are 13 you? or from where?"

And he answered, "I am a young Egyptian, the slave of an Amalekite, and my master abandoned me three days ago, because I broke down. We 14 had devastated the pastures of the Khithites as high up as Judah, and the pastures of Kaleb, and we burnt Ziklag with fire."

David next asked him, "Will you 15 guide me to this gang?"

And he replied, "Swear to me by GOD that you will not kill me, and not give me up to the hand of my master, and I will lead you to that gang."

16 So he led them. And they were scattered all over the ground eating and drinking, and feasting upon the great booty they had taken from the country of the Philishtim, and from
17 the land of Judah. David therefore assailed them with spirit from the evening to the next day, and none of them escaped except four hundred young men who mounted on camels
18 and fled. Then David rescued all the Amalekites had taken, and David
19 also rescued his two wives, and they lost no one, small or great, of their sons or daughters. And the plunder, and all that they had taken with
20 them David got back. But David took all the sheep and cattle they drove out from that camp to himself, and said "This is David's booty."
21 But when David approached the two hundred men, who had been exhausted by the march after David, and who stayed by the canal of the Wall, they came out to meet David and the force with him, and David came to them and wished them health.

(B.C. 1054.) **David fixes the Law of War Prizes.**

22 But all the vile and blackguardly fellows among those who marched with David objected and said: "Because they did not go with us, none of the booty that we have captured shall be given to them, except to each one his wife and children. Let them take them and be off!"
23 David, however, said, "You shall not do so, brothers, since the EVER-LIVING has given it to us, and has guarded us, and delivered the gang
24 who fell upon us into our power. And who will listen to this talk of yours? As for the share of the man who goes into battle, and the share of him who stays with the baggage, both shall be equal."
25 So from that day forwards it was fixed as an institution and decree for Israel until this time.
26 When David arrived at Ziklag he sent part of the booty to the princes of Judah his neighbours, saying, "Here is a present to you from the

plunder of the enemies of the EVER-LIVING." To those also in Bethel 27 and those in Ramah-Negeb, and those in Jathir, and those in Ashema, and 28 those in Rakal, and those in the 29 villages of the Irakhmali, and to those in the villages of the Kenites, and 30 those in Kharmah, and those in Korashon, and to those in Athak, and to 31 those in Khebron, and to all the places where David had been with his men.

(B.C. 1054.) **The Battle of Gilboa.**
—**Defeat and Death of Saul and his Sons.**

But the Philishtim fought with 31 Israel, and the men of Israel fled before the Philishtim, and fell routed on the mountains of Gilboa. Thus 2 the Philishtim defeated Saul and his sons; and the Philishtim killed Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Melkishua, the sons of Saul. Then the battle 3 rested upon Saul, but the archers advanced upon him with their bows, and he was grievously wounded by the archers. Saul consequently said 4 to his squire, "Draw your sword and stab me with it, for fear these foul fellows should come and stab me, and outrage over me!"

But his squire refused, for he was in great terror, so Saul took the sword and fell upon it.

And when his squire saw that Saul 5 was dead, then he also fell upon his sword, and died with him.

Thus Saul died with his three sons, 6 and his squire, and all his guards in one day.

But when the Israelites who were 7 beyond the valley, and beyond the Jordan, saw that the army of Israel was routed, and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned the villages and fled, and the Philishtim came and occupied them.

When it was morning the Philishtim 8 came to strip the slain, and found Saul and his three sons fallen on the mountains of Gilboa, so they cut off 9 his head, and stripped off his armour, and sent around the country of the Philishtim to proclaim the good news in the temples of their idols, and to the people. Then they placed his 10 arms in the Temples of Ashtaroth, and hung up his body upon the walls of Bethshan. But the inhabitants of 11 Jabesh Gilad heard about it, and

what the Philistim had done to Saul.
12 Consequently all the brave men arose,
and marched all night, and took the
body of Saul, and the bodies of his
sons from the walls of Bethshan, and

brought them to Jabesh, and burnt
them there. They afterward took 13
the bones and buried them under the
tamarind tree in Jabesh, and mourned
seven days.

END OF FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL.—BOOK III. OF THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL.