

SECOND BOOK OF CHRONICLES.

NAMED IN HEBREW

THE RECORDS OF THE TIMES.

HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID.—BOOK II.

(1015 B.C.) **Solomon as King.**

- 1 Solomon, the son of David, was fixed in his Kingship, and the EVER-LIVING his God was with him, and exalted him greatly.
- 2 Solomon consequently convoked all Israel, with the Officers of the Army, and Magistracy, and all the Princes, and all the Chiefs of Ancestral Houses. Who went with Solomon and the Parliament of his People, to the Mound that was in Gibaon, where the Hall of Assembly of GOD was, which Moses the Servant of the EVER-LIVING had made in the Desert.
- 4 David, however, had brought the Ark of God from Krith-Yarim to David's structure for it;—for he had pitched a Tent for it at Jerusalem.
- 5 The Brazen Altar however, which Bazalal-ben-Auri-ben-Hur, had made, was there¹ before the Tabernacle of the EVER-LIVING, so Solomon and the Parliament went down to it.
- 6 And Solomon offered Sacrifice before the EVER-LIVING upon the Brazen Altar, which was in the Hall of Assembly, and offered as his sacrifice a thousand Burnt-offerings.

God's Promise to Solomon.

- 7 In that night GOD appeared to Solomon, and said, "Ask what I shall give you."
- 8 And Solomon replied to God, "You showed great kindness to my father David, and have made me King after

him; therefore EVER-LIVING GOD, 9 confirm Your promise to my father David, for You have made my Empire over People as numerous as the dust of the earth,—so give me wisdom and Knowledge, to conduct myself before these People. For who can Govern this Great People of Yours?"

When GOD answered Solomon, 11 "Because this has been in your heart, and you have not asked wealth, treasures, and honour, nor the life of your enemies, nor have asked great length of days, but have asked wisdom and Knowledge, by which you may Govern My People, over whom I have given you the Empire,—Wisdom and 12 Knowledge shall be given to you, and I will also give wealth, and treasures, and honour, such as have not been with the Kings who were before you, and there shall not be such after you."

Solomon then returned from the 13 Mound of Gibaon to Jerusalem, from the Hall of Assembly, and reigned over Israel.

Solomon Re-organizes the Army.

Solomon then collected Chariots 14 and Horsemen, and possessed one thousand four hundred Chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he stationed in Chariot Barracks, and with the king in Jerusalem.

The King also made silver and 15 gold in Jerusalem to be like stones; and planted Cedars like Sycamores that are on the slopes for number.

But the horses that Solomon pos- 16 sessed were brought out of Mitzeraim.

¹ NOTE.—Ch. I, v. 5. "Altar was there," that is at Gibaon, *not* Jerusalem.—F. F.

The drovers of the King collected them in droves, at fairs, and collected and brought out from Mitzeraim a Chariot for six hundred Silvers, and a horse for one hundred and fifty; and the same from all the Chiefs of the Hitites, and the Chiefs of Edom; they were brought by their means.

(1015 B.C.) **Solomon prepares to Build the Temple.**

2 Solomon also commanded to build the House of the EVER-LIVING, and a Palace for His Empire. Consequently Solomon enrolled seventy thousand men as labourers, and eighty thousand men, as woodsmen in the hills, with three thousand six hundred as foremen over them.

Solomon proposes to hire Tzurian Workmen of Hiram to help in Building the Temple.

2 Solomon also sent to Hiram King of Tzur to say:—

“As you assisted my father David, in sending Cedars to him, when building himself a House to reside in; do with me in building a Temple to the Name of my EVER-LIVING GOD, as a Sanctuary for him, and to burn to him sweet-spiced incense, with a continuous ritual; and for the Morning and Evening Sacrifice; and for the Sabbaths; and Months and for the Festivals of our EVER-LIVING GOD. For this to be for ever in Israel.

4 “And the Temple that I shall 5 build will be large; for our GOD is greater than all Gods. Yet who has ability to build Him a House? for the Heavens, and the Heavens of the Heavens are not enough for Him! So who am I who would build Him a House? except to worship before Him?

6 “Therefore now send me skilful men able to work in Gold, and Silver, and Brass, and Iron; and in purple, and crimson and blue; and skilled in the carving of engravings, to work along with the mechanics who are with me in Judea and Jerusalem, whom my father David provided.

7 “Send me also Cedar, fir, and 8 Alcum timber from Lebanon, for I know that your subjects understand how to cut Timber in Lebanon, and my subjects shall help yours. And

prepare me plenty of timber, for the Temple I am about to build will be large and wonderful.

“In return I will pay for the wood- 9 cutters who fell the timber, who are your subjects, twenty thousand Kors of ground wheat, and twenty thousand Kors of barley, with twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil.”¹

The King of Tzur's Reply.

Hiram, King of Tzur replied by 10 letter, and sent it to Solomon.

“Because the EVER-LIVING loves His people He has made you King over them.”

And Hiram continued, “I bless 11 the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel, who made the Heavens and the Earth, because He has given a wise son to King David, educated in intellect and understanding, who will build a Temple for the EVER-LIVING, and a House for His Empire.

“I have therefore sent a man of 12 genius, who was educated in construction by Hiram my father. He 13 is the son of a woman, from the Tribe of Dan, but his father was a native of Tzur. He understands to work in Gold, Silver, Brass, Iron, Stone and Timber;—in purple, in blue, in flax, and crimson; and to carve engravings, and to contrive all kinds of enginery that may be required along with your mechanics, and the mechanics of your father David. So now 14 let my Master send to his Vassal the wheat, barley, oil, and wine that he says, then we will cut the timber in 15 Lebanon for all your requirements, and bring it to you in floats by sea to Jaffa, and you can take it up from there to Jerusalem.”

Solomon Conscripts Labourers.

Solomon consequently collected all the foreigners who were in the land of Israel, according to the census which his father David conscribed, and found them to be a hundred and fifty-three thousand six hundred.

He made seventy thousand of them labourers, and eighty thousand woodcutters in the hills, with three

1 NOTE.—Ch. 2, v. 9. Equivalent to 160,000 bushels of wheat, 160,000 bushels of ground barley, 150,000 gallons of wine, and 150,000 gallons of oil. See Dr. Angus's “Bible Hand-Book.”

thousand six hundred overseers of the works of those people.

(1012 B.C.) **Date of Beginning the Temple.**

- 3 Thus Solomon began to build the House of the EVER-LIVING in Jerusalem, on the Hill of the APPEARANCE, of what appeared to his father David, which place was that of the granary of Arnon the Jebusi, which David
2 bought. He began to build it in the second month of the fourth year of his Empire.
- 3 And this was the foundation made by Solomon for the building of the House of GOD.—The length in cubit measure was sixty cubits on the floor line, and the breadth twenty.
- 4 And the Porch which was opposite the front at the entrance of the Square Court of the House, was twenty cubits square, and its height was one hundred and twenty, and the outside was plated with pure Gold.
- 5 And he also lined the Great Temple with cypress wood, and plated it with fine Gold, and depicted on it Palm-trees and Creepers.
- 6 He also adorned the house with handsome costly stones to beautify it, and the Gold was Parvim Gold.
- 7 Beside which he plated the Temple, the approaches of the thresholds, and the walls, and doors with gold, and carved Kerubim on the walls.
- 8 He also made the Temple of the Holy of Holies. Its length was that of the breadth of the Temple,—twenty cubits and it was plated with
9 six hundred talents of fine gold, with fifty shekels weight of gold for the nails. He also plated the steps with gold.
- 10 He also had two Kerubim made by sculptors in the Temple of the Holy of Holies, and covered them with gold.
- 11 The wings of the Kerubim extended for twenty cubits;—one wing for five cubits from the side of the wall of the House, and the other wing five cubits from the tip of the wing of the
12 first Kerub; and the wing of the first Kerub of five cubits long, touched the other wall of the House; and the wing of the second Kerub of five cubits, touched the wing of the first
13 Kerub. The wings of these Kerubim spread twenty cubits, and they stood

on their feet, but their faces were from the Temple.

He also made the veils of blue, and 14 purple, and crimson, and linen and depicted Kerubim upon them.

He also made two Columns before 15 the Temple of thirty-five cubits high, with crowns on the top of them of five cubits.

Then he made wreathing chains, 16 and fixed them on the top of the columns, and prepared a hundred pomegranates which were attached to the chains. He afterwards raised 17 the Columns in front of the Temple one on the right and the other on the left, and called the name of the Right-hand one Firmness (Jakin), and of the other Activity (Boz).

He also made an Altar of Brass, 4 twenty cubits long and twenty cubits broad, and ten cubits high.¹

He also made the Sea by a casting, 2 of ten cubits from lip to lip, circular in form, and five cubits high, and a line of thirty cubits encircled it, with 3 the likeness of bosses under it, circling all round. There were ten in a cubit all round the Sea. The bosses were in two rows, cast when it was cast. It stood upon twelve bullocks; 4 Three facing the North; and Three facing the West; and Three facing the South; and Three facing the East; and the Sea was upon them, and all their buttocks were inwards. It was a palm thick, and 5 its lip was worked like the lip of a cup, as a lily flower. Its capacity was three thousand Baths complete.

He also made ten lavers, and 6 placed five on the right, and five on the left, in which to wash what was prepared for the Sacrifices, by dipping them.—But the Priests washed in the Sea itself.

He made also the Golden Lamps, 7 as they were Decreed, and placed them in the Temple; five on the right, and five on the left.

He also made ten tables and 8 placed them in the Temple, five on the right, and five on the left. And made a hundred basons of gold.

He also constructed the Priests' 9 Court; and the Great Enclosure; and

¹ NOTE.—Ch. 4, v. 1. There must be some error of an old transcriber here, for the dimensions are impossible. In Exodus, Ch. 27, v. 1, it was ordered to be five cubits only. It should probably read *two cubits* high.—F. F.

- the doors to the Enclosure; and plated the doors with bronze.
- 10 Then he placed the Sea at the right corner, towards the South-east.
- 11 Hiram also made the boilers, and shovels, and basons. Thus Hiram completed the whole of the work which he had to do for King Solomon, at the House of GOD.
- 12 The two Columns; and the Vases, and the Diadems on the top of the two Columns; and the the two networks covering the two vases of the Diadems which were on the top of the Columns.
- 13 And the four hundred pomegranates, interwoven row by row separately to cover the two Vases which were on the heads of the Columns;
- 14 And the bases, and the lavers upon the bases;
- 15 The Single Sea, and the twelve bullocks under it;
- 16 With the boilers, and the shovels, and flesh-hooks; Hiram, along with his father, made all these appliances of bright brass for the House of the EVER-LIVING, for King Solomon.
- 17 And he modelled them for the King in the stiff clay district of the Jordan, in the ground between Sukoth, and Zeredah.
- 18 And Solomon made all these things in very great quantities, for he did not weigh out his brass.
- 19 Solomon also made all the furniture of the House of the EVER-LIVING, and the Golden Altar, and the Tables, upon which the Show-bread was;
- 20 with the Lamps to be burnt as Decreed before the Pulpit of pure
- 21 Gold. With the cups, and lamps, and tongs, of gold, it was perfect
- 22 Gold; and the snuffers, and basons, and spoons, and fire-pans of pure Gold; and the doors of the House, with their Eaves at the inner doors of the Holy of Holies;—and the doors of the structure of the Temple of Gold.

(1005 B.C.) **Dedication of the Temple.**

- 5 When all the work of Solomon at the House of the EVER-LIVING was finished, Solomon brought in the Consecrations of his father David, both the Silver and Gold, and all the furniture he gave to the Treasury of the House of GOD. And Solomon convoked for this purpose, the Magistrates of Israel, and all the Chiefs of

the Tribes, and the Ancestral Princes of the Children of Israel, to Jerusalem, to carry up the Ark of the Covenant of the EVER-LIVING from the City of David,—which is Zion. The King 3 also invited every person in Israel to the Festival that occurs in the seventh month.—All the Magistracy 4 of Israel consequently came,—but the Levites carried the Ark. The 5 Levites also brought up the Tent of Assembly, and all the sacred furniture that was in the Tent, the Levitical Priests carrying them.

Then King Solomon, and all the 6 Representatives of Israel, who were assembled with him before the Ark, sacrificed sheep, and oxen without number, and not estimated for quantity.

The Priests then brought the Ark 7 of the Covenant of the EVER-LIVING, to its place at the Pulpit of the House, to the Holy of Holies, under the Canopy of the Kerubim;—for the 8 Kerubim spread their wings over the place for the Ark, so that Kerubim covered the Ark, and its Staves, from above. But the Staves projected, 9 and the ends of the Staves were seen from the Ark, at the front of the Pulpit,—but not seen beyond;—(and they were there permanently;)—there 10 was nothing in the Ark except the two slabs which Moses deposited at Horeb, when the EVER-LIVING made a Covenant with the People of Israel on bringing them out from the Mitzeraim.

When this was done, and all the 11 Priests came out from the Sanctuary, —for all the Priests had been brought to the Sanctuary,—they were not separated,—and the singing Levites, —and Asaph, and Heyman, and Jeduthun, and their sons, and companions, clothed in linen, with 12 Cymbals, and lutes, and harps, stood by the Altar, with a hundred and twenty Priests sounding their trumpets,—with the trumpeters and singers 13 in unison,—proclaimed with one voice, praise and thanks to the EVER-LIVING. And when the sound of the trumpets, and Cymbals, and all the instruments of song arose, with the,—

“Praise the LORD for His Goodness,
For His mercy endures for ever,”

the House was filled by a Cloud, the House of the EVER-LIVING. so that

the Priests were not able to stand to serve, on account of the Cloud, for the glory of the EVER-LIVING filled the House of GOD.

Solomon's Dedication Address.

- 6 Then Solomon exclaimed;—
 "The LORD declared He would dwell in the Gloom!
 2 Yet I have built a Residence for You! and constructed a Rest for You for Ages!"
 3 The King then turned his face and blessed all the Assembly of Israel, while all the Assembly of Israel stood up;
 4 And he said:—
 "Thank the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel Who promised with His mouth to my father David, and has accomplished it by His own hands, saying:—
 5 "From the day when I brought My people from the land of the Mitzeraim, I have not chosen a City from any of the Tribes of Israel where a House should be built to My NAME; nor have I chosen a person to be Prince over My People
 6 Israel, but now I am choosing for My NAME to be in Jerusalem; and am choosing in David a Superintendent over My People of Israel!"
 7 "Then it came into the heart of my father David to build a House to the NAME of the EVER-LIVING GOD of
 8 Israel. But the EVER-LIVING said to David my father, 'Regarding what is in your heart about building a House to My NAME, you have done
 9 well that it was in your heart. However you shall not build Me a House, but a son of yours, who comes from your loins, shall build a House to My NAME!'
 10 "The EVER-LIVING has now accomplished the promise that He promised; for I am raised after David, and sit upon the Throne of Israel, as the EVER-LIVING promised, and I have built this House to the NAME of the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel!
 11 "I have also placed the Ark there, in which is the Covenant of the EVER-LIVING, that He made with the Children of Israel."

Solomon Blesses the Assembly.

- 12 Then he stood up before the Altar of the EVER-LIVING, opposite all the Parliament of Israel, and spread out

his hands. For Solomon had made 13 a Platform of bronze, and fixed it in the centre of the enclosure,—It was five cubits long, and five cubits broad, and three cubits high,—and he stood upon it and blessed with his blessing before all the Parliament of Israel, and spread out his hands towards the Heavens, and said;—

"EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel! 14 There is none like You! GOD in the Heavens and on the Earth. You keep the Covenant, and have Mercy for Your servants who walk before You with a whole heart.—You who 15 have kept to Your servant, my father David, what You promised to him,—which You promised with Your mouth, and have accomplished by Your hands,—on this day! So now EVER- 16 LIVING GOD of Israel, keep to Your servant, my father David, what You also promised to him, when saying:— 'A man shall not be wanting to you, in My Presence, to sit on the throne of Israel;—if only your children guard their conduct to walk in My Laws, as you have walked before Me.' Therefore EVER-LIVING GOD 17 of Israel, let Your promise, that You promised to my father David be verified.

"But will GOD truly dwell with 18 Mankind upon earth? Look! The Heavens, and the Heaven of the Heavens cannot contain You! Then how can this House that I have built? Yet turn to the prayer of 19 Your servant, and to his entreaty, EVER-LIVING GOD, and listen to the cry, and the prayer which Your servant prays before You! Let Your 20 eyes be open to this House day and night; to the place where You have said You would place YOUR NAME, and hear the prayer which Your servant prays about this place; and 21 listen to the entreaty of Your servant, and of Your People of Israel, which they pray at this place; and let Yourself hear from Your dwelling-place, from the Heavens,—and when You hear, forgive!

"If a person sins against his neigh- 22 bour, and a Curse is laid upon him to swear about it, and the Curse is brought before Your Altar, in this House;— Then hear from the 23 Heavens, and act, and decide about Your servants, and return on the head of the wicked the results of his course, and to the righteous, the

results of his righteousness, when he has done right.

- 24 " And if Your People of Israel are routed before their enemies, because they have sinned against You; when they turn, and appeal to Your Name, and pray and entreat before You in this House; then hear from the Heavens, and forgive the sins of Your People of Israel, and restore them to the Country which You gave to them and their ancestors.
- 26 " When the skies are restrained, and rain comes not, because they sin against You; when they pray from this place, and appeal to Your Name, and turn from their sins, because You punish them; then hear from the Heavens, and forgive the sins of Your servants, and of Your People of Israel, and teach them the better way in which they should walk, and give rain upon Your Country, which You entrusted to Your People to possess.
- 28 " When famine comes to the Land; when plague comes; blasting; or mildew; if locust or caterpillar should come; if its enemies besiege it in the gates of the country; or any contagion, or any disease; any infliction, any distress, such as comes to all Mankind, and to Your People of Israel, which all men know in themselves; when in their sorrow they spread their hands to this House; then hear from the Heavens, the place of Your rest, and forgive, and grant to the person whose heart You know, what is right for his conduct,—for You alone know the hearts of the sons of Adam,—so that they may reverence You, and walk in Your ways, all the days of their lives on the face of the Land which You gave to our fathers.
- 32 " And also the foreigners, who are not sprung from Your People of Israel, who came from distant countries, for the sake of Your GREAT NAME, and Your strong hand, and Your directing arm:—when they come and pray at this House,—then listen from the Heavens from the Abode of Your Rest, and do all that is asked of You by those foreigners, so that all the Peoples of the Earth may know Your Name, and reverence You, like Your People of Israel, and may learn that Your NAME has been invoked upon this House that I have built.
- 34 " When Your People go out to war with their enemies, on a path that

You send them, and pray to You towards this City that You have built for it, and the House which I have built to Your NAME; listen from the Heavens to their prayer and entreaty, and do them justice, when they sin against You,—for there is no man who does not sin,—and You are angry with them, and abandon them before their enemies, and their captors remove them to a distant land, or a near one; when they turn their hearts in the land where they have been carried, and say, 'We have sinned, and been wilful, and wicked.' And they turn to You with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of captivity where they are captive, and pray towards the country which was given to their fathers, and the City that You have chosen, and the House which I have built to Your NAME;—then listen from the Heavens, from the abode of Your rest, to their prayers and entreaties, and do justice, and forgive Your People who have sinned against You.

" Now, My GOD, let Your eyes be open, and Your ears listening to the prayers in this place.

" So now, EVER-LIVING GOD, establish Your consolation,—Yourself,—with the Ark of Your strength. Let Your Priests, EVER-LIVING GOD, be clothed in Salvation, and Your Saints rejoice in Beneficence! EVER-LIVING GOD! turn not Your face from Your Consecrated; remember the good deeds of Your Servant David!"

(1005 B.C.) The Divine Manifestation at the Consecration of the Temple.

When Solomon had finished praying, the fire rushed down from the Heavens, and consumed the Burnt-offering, and Sacrifices; and the Glory of the EVER-LIVING filled the House, so that the Priests were not able to enter the House of the EVER-LIVING, for the Glory of the LORD filled the House of the EVER-LIVING; and all the Children of Israel saw the down-rushing fire and the Glory of the EVER-LIVING on the House, and they knelt face to the earth, on the pavement, and worshipped, and gave,

" Thanks to the EVER-LIVING, for He is good;
For His Mercy endures for ever!"

The National Mediatorial Sacrifice.

- 4 The King and the Representatives of the People, afterwards made a Sacrifice before the EVER-LIVING.
- 5 But King Solomon sacrificed a Sacrifice of twenty-two thousand oxen, and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep. Thus the King and all the People dedicated the House
- 6 of GOD; while the Priests stood in their official robes, and the Levites, with the instruments of music, which King David had made for the EVER-LIVING, "To praise the LORD. For His Mercy endures for ever!" as when David praised by their Ministry. And the Priests were near them with trumpets, and the Representatives of Israel stood up.

Solomon Consecrates the Temple Court.

- 7 Solomon afterwards Consecrated the Middle Court, which is before the House of the EVER-LIVING, for there he offered Burnt-offerings, and the fats of the Thank-offerings, because the brazen Altar that Solomon had made was not able to receive the Burnt-offerings, and the Food-offerings and the fats.

The National Festival.

- 8 Solomon also made a Festival at that time for seven days,—and all Israel with him,—a very great Assembly,—from the Pass of Hamath, to the Canal of Mitzra.
- 9 But in the eighth day they made a concluding Feast,—for they had made the Dedication of the Altar for seven days; and the Festival for seven days.
- 10 So on the twenty-third day of the Seventh Month, he dismissed the People to their Homes, glad and pleased at heart, at the prosperity that the EVER-LIVING had provided for David and Solomon, and for His People of Israel.
- 11 Thus Solomon completed the House of the EVER-LIVING, and the Palace of the King, with all that came to the mind of Solomon to do to the House of the EVER-LIVING, and to his own Palace, he effected it.

Solomon sees a Divine Vision.

- 12 Then the LORD appeared to Solomon at night, and said to him,—
"I have heard your prayers, and I have chosen this place for Myself as a place of Sacrifice.

"If I close the skies so that rain 13 comes not; or if I order the locusts to devour the country; or if I send a Plague upon My People; when My 14 People, upon whom My NAME is invoked, kneel and pray, and seek My Presence, and turn from their wicked courses, then I will listen, and forgive their sins, and will restore health to their land. Mine eyes will 15 always be open, and My ears attentive to the prayers from this place,—because I have chosen, and have 16 consecrated this House for My NAME to be there for ever, and My heart there for all times.

"And yourself, if you walk before 17 Me, as your father David walked, and do all that I have commanded you, and observe My Institutions, and Decrees; —Then I will cause the Throne of 18 your Empire to be established, as I undertook to your father David, when I said, 'A man shall not be wanting to you to govern Israel.'

"But if you turn from them, and 19 abandon them, and serve seducing Gods, and worship them, I will as a 20 result be pulling you up out of the ground where I planted you, and from this House, that I have consecrated to MY NAME;—I will fling you from My Presence, and make a proverb and bye-word to all the Nations! So that all who pass by it 21 will be astonished at this House which was so high, and ask, 'Why has the EVER-LIVING done this to this land, and to this Temple?' They will 22 answer, 'Because they abandoned the EVER-LIVING GOD of their fathers, who brought them out of the country of the Mitzraim, and have attached themselves to Seducing Gods, and worshipped them; therefore all this suffering has come upon them!'"

(992 B.C.) Solomon's Army conquers Hamuth in the Delta.

It occurred at the end of the twenty 8 years in which Solomon built the Temple of the EVER-LIVING, and his own Palace and the towns that Hiram 2 had sold to Solomon, where Solomon built and settled the Children of Israel, that Solomon advanced against 3 Hamuth in the Zobah¹ and captured it.

¹ NOTE.—Ch. 8, v. 3. That is the Delta of the Euphrates and Tigris on the Persian Gulf, "Zobah" in Hebrew meaning "Marshy" or "Fenlands."—F. F.

- 4 He also built Thadmor-in-the-
Desert,¹ and several Colonial Cities
5 that he built about Hamuth. He
built as well Beth-horon-the-Lower;
—all fortified Cities with walls, gates,
and bars.
- 6 And Balath, and all the Colonia
Cities that Solomon possessed, and
all the Barracks, for Chariots and
Cavalry, with all that Solomon de-
vised to build for his amusement in
Jerusalem, and in Lebanon, and in
the whole of the country he governed.

(1015 B.C.) **Solomon Conscribes the
Aborigines.**

- 7 Solomon raised a conscription,
which lasts to this day, from all the
mass of the population who were not
descended from Israel, the Hitites,
the Amorites, the Perizites, the
8 Hivites, the Jebusites, the descen-
dants of those who remained in the
country, whom the Children of Israel
had not destroyed.
- 9 Solomon, however, did not make
slaves of the Children of Israel for
his works, but they were soldiers, and
officers, and Commanders of his
charioteers, and horsemen.
- 10 King Solomon's General Officers
were two hundred and fifty, who
commanded the forces.

**Solomon removes his Wife, Pharaoh's
Daughter, from Zion.**

- 11 Solomon, however, took the
daughter of Pharaoh from the City
of David, to a house he had built for
her; for he said, "My wife shall not
reside in the Palace of David, King
of Israel, for that, where the Ark of
the EVER-LIVING was brought, is
sacred."
- 12 Solomon was accustomed to offer
Burnt-offerings to the EVER-LIVING
on an Altar to the LORD, which he
13 had built before the Porch, regularly,
day by day, with the Burnt-offerings
as commanded by Moscs; and on the
Sabbaths, and Holy-days, and at the
Assemblies three times in the year;
at the Feast of the Unfermented
Bread, and at the Feast of Weeks,
14 and the Feast of Tabernacles. And,
as his father David had Decreed, he
set up the Courses for the Services

of the Priests, and the Levites and
their Officers, to give praise and sing
in association with the Priests regu-
larly day by day; with the Door-
keepers in courses from Gate to Gate,
as David the MAN of GOD had com-
manded. He did not depart from 15
the arrangements of that King about
the Priests and Levites in anything,
or about the Treasuries.

Thus all the works of Solomon 16
were finished about the Temple of
the EVER-LIVING, from the day of its
foundation to the entire completion
of the House of the LORD.

Solomon Trades with Ophir.

Solomon also went to Azion-gabar, 17
and Ailoth, on the shore of the Sea
of the Land of Edom; and Hiram 18
united with him by supplying the
crews with his Officers, ships, and
sailors, who understood the Sea, who
proceeded with the sailors of Solomon
to Aufer, and brought from there four
hundred and fifty talents of Gold¹ and
delivered them to Solomon.

(992 B.C.) **The Queen of Sheba
hears of Solomon from the Sea
Captains.**

So the Queen of Sheba heard of 9
the fame of Solomon, and came to
Jerusalem, to test him by problems,
with a very great retinue, and Camels
loaded with spices, and a quantity of
Gold, and precious stones, which she
brought to Solomon, and spoke with
him about all she had in her mind;
and Solomon informed her about all 2
her enquiries, and she stated no
difficulty, that Solomon could not
explain to her. But when the Queen 3
of Sheba perceived the wisdom of
Solomon; and the Palaces he had
built; and the provision of his table; 4
and the discipline of his servants;
and the appointments of his Ministers,
and their Uniforms; his Cup-bearers,
and their dresses; and the stairs by
which he went up to the House of
the EVER-LIVING, there was no more
spirit in her, and she exclaimed to 5
the King:—

"It was a true report that I heard
in my country, about your achieve-
ments and wisdom! But I did not 6

¹ NOTE.—Ch. 8, v. 4. Called by the Greeks
"Palmyra," that is "Palmtown," a simple
translation of the Hebrew name.—F. F.

¹ NOTE.—Ch. 8, v. 18. About four hundred
and fifty (450) cwt. English Weights, at each
voyage.—F. F.

trust to their words, until I came, and
7 my eyes saw it! And indeed they
did not tell me half the extent of
your acquirements! You surpass
reports that I heard!

"These Princes and your Ministers
are happy who always stand before
8 you and hear your wisdom. Let your
EVER-LIVING GOD be thanked, Who
has been pleased to place you on His
Throne, to govern for your EVER-
LIVING GOD. Your GOD must have
loved Israel, and would fix it to Him-
self for ever, when He made you
King over it, to execute Justice and
Right!"

**The Queen of Sheba's Presents to
Solomon.**

9 Then she gave the King a hundred
and twenty talents of Gold, and a
quantity of spices, and precious
stones.— There were never such
spices as those which the Queen of
Sheba gave to King Solomon!

10 The servants of Hiram also, and
the servants of Solomon, who brought
Gold from Aufer, brought Algum
wood, and precious stones.

11 From the Algum¹ wood the King
made brackets in the Temple of the
EVER-LIVING, and the King's Palace,
and Harps, and Lutes for the singers,
for nothing of that kind had been
seen before in the land of Judah.

**Solomon gives Presents to the
Queen of Sheba.**

12 But King Solomon gave to the
Queen of Sheba all she desired,
whatever she asked, except what she
had brought to the King. Then she
departed, and she and her attendants
returned to her own country.

Solomon's Wealth.

13 The weight of Gold that came to
Solomon each year was six hundred
14 and sixty-six talents of Gold; beside
what the Merchants, and Commercial
duties brought in, and the Gold and
Silver that the Kings of Arabia, and
the Governors of Provinces contri-
15 buted to Solomon. King Solomon,
consequently, made three hundred

targets of wrought Gold. Six hundred
of wrought Gold went to one target.
And three hundred shields of wrought
16 Gold. Three hundred of Gold went
to one shield, and he put them in the
Palace of Lebanon.

The King also made a great Throne 17
of Ivory, and plated it with pure
Gold; and six steps to the Throne, 18
with a foot-stool of Gold fastened to
the throne, and arms on each side at
the seat, with two lions standing at
the side of the arms. Twelve lions 19
also stood, there on the six steps, one
on each side. None such were ever
made in any Kingdoms.

And all King Solomon's drinking 20
cups were of Gold, and all the furni-
ture of the Forest-Palace of Lebanon
were of fine Gold. Silver and brass
were thought nothing of in the days of
Solomon!—for the ships of the King 21
went to Tharshish, at the same time
as the servants of Hiram, for a three
years' voyage. These ships brought
from Tharshish cargoes of Gold, and
Silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.

Thus Solomon was greater than all 22
the kings of the earth, in wealth, and
science. And all the kings of the 23
land sought the presence of Solomon
to hear the sciences, that GOD had
placed in his mind, and each brought 24
as his tribute, articles of silver, and
articles of gold, or fabrics, or armour,
or spices, with horses and mules,
every year, yearly. For Solomon had 25
four thousand stables for horses
and Chariots, and twelve thousand
Cavalry, whom he lodged in the
Chariot Barracks, or with the King
in Jerusalem. And he was Emperor 26
over all the kings from the River,¹ to
the country of the Philishtim, and as
far as the border of the Mitzeraim.
This king made silver in Jerusalem 27
like stones, and he planted Cedars
like sycamores on the plain for num-
ber; and they brought horses to 28
Solomon from Mitzeraim and from
all other countries.

(975 B.C.) Solomon Dies.

The rest of the acts of Solomon, 29
the first and the last, are they not
written in the history of Nathan the
Reciter? and in the Recitals of
Akhiah the Shilonite? and in the

¹ NOTE.—Ch. 9, v. 11. "Algum-wood,"
preferably "Almug" = Sandal-wood. See
Prof. Lees' Hebrew Lexicon on the word.

In Arabic this perfumed wood is named *al-k*,
"Kalmag."—F. F.

¹ NOTE —Ch. 9, v. 26. The Euphrates.—
F. F.

Visions of Jadi the Seer, against Jerabam, -ben-Nebat?

- 30 Solomon, however, reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel for forty years.
31 Then Solomon slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David his father, and Rehoboam his son succeeded him.

(975 B.C.) **Rehoboam's Folly.**

- 10 Then Rehoboam went to Shekem; —for the Parliament of Israel had come to Shekem to make him King;
2 and it occurred that Jerabam, -ben-
3 Nebat heard of it. He was in Mitzeraim, where he had fled from King Solomon, and Jerabam resided amongst the Mitzeraim. But they sent and invited him, —and Jerabam came to the Parliament of Israel, and they addressed Rehoboam and said;
4 "Your father was hard upon us, —so will you lighten the slavery of your father's oppression? and lift up the load which he placed on us? —Then we will serve you!"
5 When he replied to them; "Wait for three days, —and return to me." So the Parliament went away.
6 Then King Rehoboam consulted the Old Men, who had stood before his father Solomon, while he was alive, and asked, "What do you advise me to return as an answer to these people?"
7 And they said to him; "If you make yourself pleasant to these people, and please them, and speak good words to them, they will then be your subjects for all time."
8 But he rejected the advice of the Old Men, which they had advised him, and asked advice of the lads who had grown up with him, and stood in his presence, and said to them:—
9 "What do you advise that I should return as answer to these people? who ask me, saying, 'Ease off what your father put on us!'"
10 So the lads who had grown up with him, said; "Reply thus to the people who addressed you saying, 'Your father loaded upon us, —but you lighten off from us!' Say this to them, —'My little finger is thicker
11 than my father's loins! —So as my father loaded you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; —My father scourged you with whips, —but I with scorpions!'"
12 Jerabam and all the Parliament with him returned to Rehoboam on the

third day, as the King had said to them, "Come to me on the third day," when the King answered them 13 harshly; for King Rehoboam forsook the advice of the Old Men, and answered them in accordance upon the 14 advice of the lads, and said; —

"My father was heavy upon you, but I will add myself to him! My father chastised you with whips, —but I with scorpions!" Thus the King 15 did not listen to the people.

But it came round from GOD, so that he might confirm the Message of the LORD, which was delivered by means of Akhihu, the Shilonite to Jerabam, -ben-Nebat.

When the Parliament of Israel saw 16 that the King would not listen to them, then the people replied to the King and exclaimed; "What advantage have we in David? —There is no benefit in the son of Jessai! Every one to your Tents, Israel! Now look to your own House David!"

Rehoboam provokes a Revolt by his Folly.

And the Army of Israel went to their 17 Tents. (But Rehoboam reigned over the Children of Israel who resided in the Cities of Judah.) King Rehoboam, 18 however, sent to them Hadoram who was Superintendent of the Conscription; but the Children of Israel overwhelmed him with stones, and killed him, so King Rehoboam got in a hurry into his carriage and fled to Jerusalem. —Thus Israel rebelled from 19 the House of David to this day.

Rehoboam tries to Subdue the Revolt.

When Rehoboam arrived at Jeru- 11 salem, he summoned from the Houses of Judah and Benjamin a hundred and eighty thousand soldiers, trained for War, to fight with Israel, and to recover the Kingship to Rehoboam, but a Message from the LORD came 2 to Shemaihu, a MAN of GOD, to say; "Speak to Rehoboam, -ben-Solomon, 3 King of Judah, and to all Israel in Judah, and Benjamin, and say; 'Thus says the EVER-LIVING, — 4 You shall not advance against, nor fight with your brothers! —Return every man to your houses, for this event has come from Me.'" So they listened to the commands of the

EVER-LIVING, and refused to march
5 against Jerabam. Consequently Re-
hoboam returned to Jerusalem; but
he built Fortified Cities in Judah.

(974 B.C.)

6 He also built Bethlehem, and Aitam,
and Thiqua ;
7 And Beth-tzur, and Shoko, and
Adlam ;
8 And Gath, and Marshah, and Zif ;
9 And Adorim, and Lakish ; and
Azkah ;
10 Tzarah, and Ailon ; and Hebron,
which are fortified Cities in Judah and
11 Benjamin, of which he strengthened
the defences, and appointed Com-
manders over them, with stores of
12 food, and oil and wine, and shields
and arms, and made them very strong.
So Judah and Benjamin remained
his.

The Priests in Israel Collect to Rehoboam.

13 The Priests and Levites, who were
in Israel collected to him from all
14 quarters ; for the Levites abandoned
their pasture-lands, and possessions,
and emigrated to Judah, and Jeru-
salem, because Jerabam expelled
them, and their sons from the Priest-
15 hood of the EVER-LIVING, and ap-
pointed Priests for himself at the
Mounds, for the Satyrs, and Calves
16 that he made. Those also who gave
their hearts to seek the EVER-LIVING
GOD of Israel followed them, and came
to Jerusalem to sacrifice to the GOD
17 of their fathers. Thus they strength-
ened the Kingdom of Judah, and
invigorated Rehoboam, the son of
Solomon, for three years,—and he
followed the path of David and
Solomon for three years.
18 Rehoboam took as his wife, Mak-
halath, - ben - Jerimoth, - ben - David ;
and Abikhil, the daughter Aliab,
19 ben-Jessai, and she bore sons to him,
Jaus, and Sheberiah, and Zahm.
20 And after her he married Makah,
the daughter of Auriel of Gibaah,¹
and she bore him Abiah, Athi, and
21 Ziza, and Shelomith. And Rehoboam
loved Makah, the daughter of Auriel¹

more than all his wives, and secondary
wives, although he married eighteen
wives, and sixty secondary-wives, and
begot twenty-eight sons, and sixty
daughters.

So Rehoboam appointed Abiah the 22
son of Makah as the Chief, to rule
amongst his brothers, and to make him
King. Consequently he acted pru- 23
dently, and distributed all his sons over
the country of Judah and Benjamin, in
various fortified Cities, and gave them
liberal allowances, and selected a
number of wives for them.

(972 B.C.) Shishak of Egypt invades Judah.

But when Rehoboam was fixed in 12
the Kingship, and had strengthened
himself, he abandoned the Laws of
the EVER-LIVING, and all Israel
followed him. Then in the fifth year 2
of Rehoboam's reign, Shishak, the
King of the Mitzeraim, came up against
Jerusalem, because they had risen
against the EVER-LIVING, with twelve 3
hundred Chariots, and sixty thousand
Cavalry, and an innumerable army
with him, from the Mitzeraim, Lubim,
Sukiim, and Kushim, and they cap- 4
tured the Fortified Cities in Judah,
and arrived at Jerusalem. Then 5
Shemiah the Reciter came to Reha-
boam and the Princes of Judah, who
had collected at Jerusalem in flight
from Shishak, and said to them ;—

“ Thus says the EVER-LIVING,
‘ You abandoned Me, so I have aban-
doned you to the hand of Shishak.’ ”

The Princes of Israel, and the King 6
then humbled themselves, and re-
plied, “ The EVER-LIVING is right.”

So when the LORD saw that they 7
were penitent, a Message from the
EVER-LIVING came to Shemiah, to
say, “ They have repented ; I will not
desolate them ; but will give them in
a little while an escape ; and My anger
shall not be passed on Jerusalem by
the hand of Shishak ; but they shall 8
be his subjects and learn the differ-
ence of subjection to Me, and sub-
jection to the Kings of the countries.”

But Shishak the King of the Mit- 9
zeraim advanced against Jerusalem,
and took the treasures of the House

¹ NOTE.—Ch. II, v. 20. By the error of some
old transcriber the current Hebrew text has
“ Makah,” the daughter of Absalom, which
is impossible, owing to the length of time
that elapsed between the period of Absalom

—upwards of half a century—and the date
of Rehoboam's marriage. The name and
parentage are given correctly in Ch. 13, v. 2,
as I give them above in my version.—F. F.

of the EVER-LIVING, and all the treasures of the King's Palace, and seized the Golden Shields that Solomon had made.

10 King Rehoboam consequently made Shields of brass instead of them, and entrusted them to the care of the
11 General of the Infantry who kept guard before the Royal Palace, and when the King went to the House of the EVER-LIVING the Infantry came and carried them, then returned them to the Infantry store.

12 But when they were humiliated the anger of the LORD turned from them, and they were not completely desolated; and comforting messages also
13 came to Judah, so King Rehoboam settled himself in Jerusalem, and reigned.

Rehoboam was forty-one years old at his Coronation, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the City that the EVER-LIVING had chosen from all the Tribes of Israel to fix His NAME there. His mother's
14 name was Namah the Amonith. But he did wrong, for he did not fix his
15 heart to seek the EVER-LIVING. However, the doings of Rehoboam, the first and the last, are they not recorded in the Histories of Shemiah the Reciter, and also the Prophet, with his Genealogy, and the Wars of Rehoboam, and Jerabam all the time?

16 At last Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David, and Abiah his son reigned in his stead.

(958 B.C.) *Abiah begins to Reign.*

13 In the eighteenth year of King Jerabam, Abiah began to reign over
2 Judah. He was King for three years in Jerusalem, and the name of his mother was Makah, the daughter of Aerial of Gibaah. When war began
3 between Abiah and Jerabam, Abiah arranged the battle with a force of disciplined soldiers of four hundred thousand men, and Jerabam arrayed against him for battle with a force of eight hundred thousand men,
4 trained troops. And Abiah occupied the top of the Zimarim hills, which are in Mount Ephraim, and proclaimed:—

"Listen Jerabam, and the army of Israel;—

5 "Is it not known to you that the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel gave the

Kingship over Israel to David for ever?—To him, and to his sons, by a Covenant of Salt? But Jerabam,-
6 ben-Nebath, an Officer of Solomon,- ben-David rebelled against his Master, and idle fellows, men of Belial, col-
7 lected to him, and encouraged him against Rehoboam, - ben - Solomon, when Rehoboam was young and light-
8 hearted, and could not resist them. So now you think to resist the King-
9 ship of the LORD, in the hand of the sons of David, because you are a great mob, and the Golden Calves that Jerabam made for your Gods are with you!

"Have you not expelled the Priests
9 of the EVER-LIVING, the Beni Aaron, and the Levites, and made yourselves Priests like the peoples of the countries, so that every one who goes to fill his hands with a bullock and seven rams, can become a Priest to the Not-gods?

"But for us,—the EVER-LIVING is
10 our GOD, and we will not forsake him! And our Priests, who serve the EVER-LIVING, are descendants of Aaron, and the Levites are assistants, who consume to the EVER-LIVING,
11 morning by morning, Burnt-offerings; and evening by evening; and present perfumes, and arrange bread on the pure table, with the Golden Lamps, and their Reflectors, to burn from dusk to dusk. For we regard the Trusts of the EVER-LIVING, our GOD,
—but you have abandoned them. So look out for GOD is at our head,
12 and His Priests with trumpets to sound an alarm against you.—Sons of Israel, fight not against the EVER-LIVING, the GOD of your fathers, for you will not prosper!"

But Jerabam directed an ambush
13 to go to their rear.—Thus he was at the front of Judah, and the ambuscade at their rear, and when Judah turned,
14 they saw there was a battle for them before and behind; so they cried to the EVER-LIVING, and the Priests sounded with the trumpets; and the
15 men of Judah cheered; and when the men of Judah cheered, GOD defeated Jerabam, and the Israelite forces before Abiah and Judah.

Thus the Children of Israel were
16 routed before Judah, and GOD gave them into their hand; and Abiah and
17 his army defeated them, with a crushing defeat, and five hundred thousand brave men of Israel fell wounded.

18 The Children of Israel were consequently weakened from that time, and the Children of Judah encouraged, because they relied on the EVER-LIVING GOD of their fathers.

(957 B.C.) **Abiah Defeats Jerabam.**

19 Abiah then followed after Jerabam, and captured from him the Cities of Beth-el, and its villages; and Jehanah, and its villages; and Afren, and its villages, and Jerabam never recovered his strength in the times of Abiah; for the EVER-LIVING struck and defeated him, but Abiah was strengthened, and married fourteen wives, and begot twenty-two sons, and sixteen daughters.

22 The remainder of the deeds of Abiah, and his proceedings, and his affairs, are recorded in the Commentaries of the Reciter Ado.

23 Then Abiah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David, and Asa his son reigned instead of him. In his time the Country was at peace for ten years.

(955 B.C.) **Asa's Reign.**

14 Asa also did what was good and right in the eyes of the EVER-LIVING, and removed the foreign altars, and the Mounds, and broke the Columns, and felled the Groves, and commanded Judah to seek the EVER-LIVING GOD of their fathers, and to practise his Laws and Instructions. He also removed the Mounds from the towns of Judah and the Images of the Sun. So his reign was in peace before him.

Asa Fortifies Judah.

5 He also built fortresses in Judah, for the country was at rest, and he had no war in those years;—for the EVER-LIVING was kind to him, therefore he said to Judah; "Let us be building these Cities, and surround them with walls and forts, doors and bars, whilst the country is quiet, now we have sought our EVER-LIVING GOD, and He has given us rest around." So they built, and prospered.

Asa's large Army.

7 Yet Asa had an army who bore shield and spear, of three hundred thousand men of Judah. And two hundred and eighty thousand from Benjamin, who carried shields, or drew the bow. All these were disciplined soldiers.

Zerakh, King of Kush, assails Asa.

Afterwards Zerakh, the Kushite,¹ advanced against them with an Army of a million, and three hundred Chariots, and arrived at Mareshah, and Asa went out to meet him, and prepared to fight in the plain of Zefatah near Mareshah, where Asa cried to his EVER-LIVING GOD, and said:—"LORD! there is no difference with You, when helping, between the weak and the strong! Help us, our EVER-LIVING GOD, for we rely upon You, and in Your Name we come against this host. You are our EVER-LIVING GOD,—let not man prevail against You!" And the EVER-LIVING routed the Kushites before Asa, and before Judah,—so the Kushites fled. But Asa pursued them, with the force that was with him, to Gherar, where he overwhelmed the Kushites, and gave no quarter, for they were broken before the EVER-LIVING, and before His army, and very great plunder was collected.

He next assailed all the towns around Gherar,—for a terror from the LORD came upon them,—and sacked all the Cities, for there was much property in them. They also attacked the cattle folds, and captured many sheep, and camels, and afterwards returned to Jerusalem.

(941 B.C.) **Azariah's Address to Asa and his Army.**

Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Azariah - ben - Audad, and he went out to meet Asa, and said to him; "Listen to me, Asa! and the Army of Judah, and Benjamin! The EVER-LIVING is with you, so you be with Him;—for if you seek Him, He will be found by you;—and if you abandon Him, He will abandon you. For a long time Israel had had no TRUE GOD, or Teaching Priest, and no Law, yet when in its distress it turned to the GOD of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them, and in those past times there was no safety in going out or in coming in,

¹ NOTE.—Ch. 14, v. 8. "Zerakh, the Kushite." The Kush of the Hebrew Histories was a state extending from the Persian Gulf across Northern Arabia to the Gulf of Akabah in the Red Sea. It was not, as the Greeks imagined, Ethiopia in Central Africa, and as all our modern commentators, following their blunder, make it seem to be.—F. F.

and revolutions came upon all the
6 population of the country. Tribe
assailed Tribe, and City, City,—for
GOD let them be tormented with every
7 distress ; but you, be bold, and do not
drop your hands, for your work will
be reward d."

(941 B.C.) **Asa attempts a Moral
Reformation.**

8 And when Asa heard these words,
and the Sermon of Audud the
Preacher, he was encouraged, and
expelled the abominations from all
the land of Judah, and Benjamin,
and from the towns he had cap-
tured in Mount Ephraim, and
restored the Altar of the EVER-
LIVING that was before the Porch of
9 the LORD, and collected the Represent-
atives of Judah, and Benjamin,
and the settlers amongst them, from
Ephraim and Manasseh and Simeon,
—for many from Israel had deserted
to him, when they saw that his EVER-
LIVING GOD was with him.
10 These assembled at Jerusalem in
the third month of the fifteenth year
11 of the Kingship of Asa, and sacrificed
to the EVER-LIVING some of the
prizes. They brought seven hundred
bullocks, and seven thousand sheep,
12 and came to a Resolution to seek the
EVER-LIVING GOD of their forefathers
with all their heart, and all their mind ;
13 and that all who would not seek the
EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel should be
put to death, from the least to the
14 greatest, whether man or woman ; and
swore it to the EVER-LIVING with a
loud voice, and with cheering, and
15 with trumpets and horns. And the
Representatives of Judah swore
gladly, for they swore with complete
heart, and sought Him with full
delight, and found Him, for the EVER-
LIVING gave them rest all round.

**Asa deposes his Mother from her
Queendom for Idolatry.**

16 King Asa also dismissed Makah, his
mother, from her station, because she
had made a filthy image to LUST.
Asa also cut up the foul image, and
crushed it, and flung it into the
Kedron brook.
17 He did not, however, remove the
Mounds from Israel,—yet the heart
of Asa was sound all his days, and he
brought all the Consecrations of silver

and gold of his father, and the Con-
secrations of himself, into the House
of the EVER-LIVING.

There was no more war afterwards, 18
until the thirty-fifth year of the King-
ship of Asa.

(940 B.C.) **Basha of Israel assails
Judah.—Asa allies with Ben-hadad.**

In the thirty-sixth year of the 16
Kingship of Asa, Basha King of Israel
came up against Judah, and built
Ramah, so as not to allow a passage
to Asa King of Judah.

Asa consequently took silver and 2
gold out of the Treasures of the House
of the EVER-LIVING, and the Royal
Palace, and sent to Ben-Hadad, King
of Aram, who was Resident in Damask,
and said ;

" There is a Treaty between myself
and you, as there was between my
father and your father, therefore I 3
have sent silver and gold to you to
break the treaty with Basha, King
of Israel, that he may retreat from
me."

(940 B.C.)

And Ben-hadad listened to King Asa, 4
and sent the Generals of his forces
against the Cities of Israel, and they
assailed Aion, and Dan, and Abel-
maim, and all the prosperous Towns
of Naphthali ; and when Basha heard 5
it he ceased from the building of
Ramah, and left his works, and King 6
Asa took the forces of Judah, and
carried off the stones and timber, with
which Basha was building, from
Ramah, and built Gheba and Mitzfah
with them.

**The Preacher Hanani denounces the
Treaty with Ben-hadad.**

But at that time Hanani, the 7
Preacher, came to Asa King of Judah,
and said to him ;—

" Because you have trusted yourself
to the King of Aram, and have not
trusted upon your EVER-LIVING GOD,
the Army of the King of Aram will
slip from your hand ! Were not the 8
Kushim and the Lubim, with their
great Army of Chariots and horsemen,
very numerous ?—But because you re-
lied upon the EVER-LIVING, they were
given to your hand. For the eyes of 9
the EVER-LIVING dart to all the earth,
to strengthen, if the heart is sound to

him!—You have done foolishly about this,—therefore from now there will be wars for you!”

10 Consequently Asa was furious at the seer, and put him into the Prison of the Stocks, for he was enraged with him about it. Asa also oppressed the
11 people at the same time. But you must seek the beginning and end of the affairs of Asa as they are recorded in the records of the Kings of Judah and Israel.

Asa Suffers from Gout in his Old Age.

12 In the thirty-ninth year of his Kingship, Asa became lame in his feet,—His suffering was very great.—However, in his suffering he did not consult the EVER-LIVING,—but Physicians,
13 so Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the forty-first year of his reign.

(914 B.C.)

14 But they buried him in his own tomb which he had formed for himself in the City of David, and laid him on a bed that was filled with perfumes, and spices, and preservatives, prepared by chemists. They also burnt a very great burning for him.

(914 B.C.) Jhosaphat begins to Reign.

17 And Jhosaphat his son reigned in his place, and strengthened himself
2 against Israel, and put a force in every Fortified City of Judah, and appointed commanders in the country of Judah, and in the Cities of Ephraim,
3 that Asa his father had captured, for the EVER-LIVING was with Jhosaphat, because he walked in the paths of David his ancestral father, and did
4 not seek Baals, but the GOD of his fathers: and followed his instructions,
5 and not as Israel did. Consequently the EVER-LIVING fixed the government in his hand, and all Judah paid tribute to Jhosaphat, and he possessed
6 wealth and much honour, and he exalted his heart in the paths of the EVER-LIVING, and he expelled the Mounds and Shrines from Judah.

(912 B.C.)

7 In the third year of his reign, also he sent his Officers Ben-khail, and Abdiah, Zakeriah, and Nathanal, and Mikhihu, to teach in the Cities of
8 Judah; and with them the Levites,

Shemhiu, and Nathanihu, and Zakarihu, and Asahal, and Shemiramoth, and Jhonathan, and Aduihu, and Tobihu, and Tob-adoniah, the Levites, and Alishama, and Jhoram the Priests,
9 who taught in Judah. They had a book of the Laws of the EVER-LIVING with them, and they went round in all the towns of Judah, and taught the people, so that a reverence for the EVER-
10 LIVING came upon all the Kings of the neighbouring countries around Judah, and they did not fight with Jhosaphat.

The Philishtim also brought tribute
11 to Jhosaphat, and a money tax; while the Arabians brought him of sheep seven thousand seven hundred rams; and seven thousand seven hundred he-goats. Thus Jhosaphat advanced and
12 increased continually, and built Palaces in Judea and residential towns. He had many well-disciplined
13 soldiers in the Cities of Judah, and a large army of brave men in Jerusalem, whose Commanders, of their Ancestral
14 Houses, were the following:—As Generals in Judah were Aduah, the Commander-in-Chief, and three hundred thousand soldiers under him.

And his Lieutenant was General
15 Jhehanan, and with him were two hundred and eighty thousand.

And under him Amasiah, -ben-Zikri,
16 the Volunteer, and with him two hundred thousand trained men.

Aliada was the Commander of the
17 disciplined troops from Benjamin, and had with him of Archers and Shield-men, two hundred thousand,

His Lieutenant was Jhozabad, who
18 contracted for a hundred and eighty thousand armed for war.

These served the King, besides those
19 the King placed in the Fortified Cities of Judah.

(897 B.C.) Jhosaphat's Prosperity. He joins Ahab against Ramoth-Gilad.

Jhosaphat thus possessed wealth
18 and honour, in plenty, and made friendship with Ahab, and went down 2 at the end of Summer to Ahab at Shomeron, when Ahab sacrificed many sheep and oxen, as did his people, and he persuaded him to advance against Ramoth-Gilad. For
3 Ahab, King of Israel, said to Jhosaphat, King of Judah, “Will you go with me to Ramoth-Gilad?”

When he replied, "You and I are alike! And your people as my people in battle."

4 "But," Jhosaphat said to the King of Israel, "let us, I pray, enquire what day the EVER-LIVING says!"

5 The King of Israel consequently collected seven hundred men of his Preachers, and asked them, "Should we go up to Ramoth-Gilad to fight,—or refrain?"

And they replied, "Advance! and the Gods will give it to the hand of the King!"

6 But Jhosaphat asked, "Is there not here any Preacher of the EVER-LIVING, that we may enquire from Him?"

7 And the King of Israel replied to Jhosaphat, "There is one man! from whom we could enquire of the EVER-LIVING,—but I hate him;—for he never proclaims success to me, but misfortune all his time. He is Mikiah,-ben-Imla."

Jhosaphat, however answered, "Let not the King say so!"

8 The King of Israel therefore called to a Chamberlain, and said, "Bring Mikiah,-ben-Imla."

9 And the King of Israel, and Jhosaphat, King of Judah, each sat on his throne, clothed in splendid robes, and placed in the Square opposite the Gate of Shomeron, with all the Preachers reciting before them; and Zedekihu,-ben-Kananiah, had made iron horns for himself, and exclaimed, "Thus says the EVER-LIVING, you shall push Aram with these to destruction!"

11 And all the Preachers recited the same, and said, "Go up to Ramoth-Gilad, and prosper! For the LORD will give it into the hand of the King!"

12 Consequently the Messenger who had gone to invite Mikiah, said to him: "You will perceive the promises of the Preachers are unanimously for good to the King! So let your promise be like one of theirs, and promise good!"

13 But Mikiah answered: "By the life of the EVER-LIVING! Whatever GOD commands by me to him, I shall say!"

14 When they came to the King, the King asked him, "Mikiah, should I go to Ramoth-Gilad to fight, or should I refrain?" And he replied, "Go up and prosper;—when they are given to your hand!"

But the King answered him, "How often must I put you on Oath, that you will not speak to me, except the truth in the Name of the EVER-LIVING?"

The Vision of Zedekihu,

Then he replied: "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, like sheep who have no shepherd, and the EVER-LIVING asked, "Have these no masters? Let every one return to its own home in peace!"

Consequently the King of Israel exclaimed to Jhosaphat, "Did I not tell you, he would not proclaim good to me, but only misfortune?"

So he answered: "Therefore, hear the Message of the EVER-LIVING! I saw the EVER-LIVING seated on HIS THRONE, and all the Hosts of the Heavens, stationed on His right hand and on His left, and when the EVER-LIVING asked, 'Who will entice Ahab King of Israel, so that he may go up, and fall at Ramoth-Gilad?' And this one said thus, and another said that.

"Then a Spirit came forward and stood before the EVER-LIVING, and said, 'I will entice him!' When the EVER-LIVING asked him how?"

"And he replied, 'I will go, and become a lying Spirit in the mouth of all his Preachers.' So He answered, 'You may entice him, and also succeed! Go, and do so.'

"And now, look! The EVER-LIVING has put a lying Spirit into the mouth of those Preachers of yours;—but the EVER-LIVING told me bad news about you!"

Then Zedekihu, - ben - Kananiah, approached, and struck Mikiah on the jaw, and asked, "By what road did the Spirit from the EVER-LIVING pass from me to speak to you?"

When Mikiah answered, "You will see on that day when you go to an inner Chamber to hide yourself!"

Then the King of Israel exclaimed, "Seize Mikiah! and hand him to Amon the Commandant of the Citadel, and to the Prince Joash, and say to them:—"Put this fellow into the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction, and water of affliction, until I return in safety!"

But Mikiah replied, "If you return in safety the EVER-LIVING has

not spoken by me!" Then he shouted, "Listen, all you People!"

Ahab and Jhosaphat advance to Ramoth-Gilad.

28 So the King of Israel, and Jhosaphat King of Judah, advanced to
29 Ramoth-Gilad, where the King of Israel said to Jhosaphat, "I will disguise myself when going to battle; but you shall wear your robes." The King of Israel consequently disguised himself when he went to battle.

30 The King of Aram, however, had ordered the Commanders of his Chariots, saying;—"Do not fight with small or great, but only with the King of Israel himself."

31 So when the Commanders of the Chariots saw Jhosaphat, they said, "That is the King of Israel," and they surrounded him to fight. But Jhosaphat cried out, when the LORD helped him, and GOD made him
32 escape from them. Then when the

"Why did you help the wicked?
And love the haters of JEHOVAH?
For that, the wrath of the LORD is on you!
However good things are found in you;
For you expelled Ashroth from the land,
And settled your heart to seek your GOD."

4 Thus Jhosaphat returned to Jerusalem, and rested.

(896 B.C.) **Jhosaphat Reforms the Church and Law Courts.**

He afterwards travelled amongst the people from Bar-sheba to Mount Ephraim, and turned them to the EVER-LIVING GOD of their fathers.

5 He also established Judges in the country, in every Fortified Town of
6 Judea, from City to City; and said to the Judges, "Be careful in what you do, for you do not Decide for man, but for the EVER-LIVING, who is with you when you are pronouncing
7 Judgment. Therefore let the fear of the EVER-LIVING be upon you. Be careful when deciding; for there is no corruption with our EVER-LIVING GOD; or making pretences; or taking of bribes."

Jhosaphat Establishes Courts of Appeal.

8 In the same way Jhosaphat appointed Judges in Jerusalem from

Commanders of the Chariots perceived that he was not the King of Israel, they returned from following him. A man, however, drew a bow
33 at a venture, and hit the King of Israel between the joints of his armour, when he said to his Charioteer, "Pull in your hand, and take me out of the battle, for I am wounded!"

(897 B.C.) **Death of Ahab.**

The battle, however, went on that
34 day, and the King of Israel was supported in his Chariot opposite Aram until the evening, but he died at the time of Sun-set.

But Jhosaphat, King of Judah, 19 returned to his home at Jerusalem in safety.

Jehua the Preacher Denounces Jhosaphat.

However, Jehua, -ben-Khanani, the 2 Prophet, went out to meet him, and said to the King Jhosaphat;—

the Levites and Priests, and from the Ancestral Chiefs of Israel, for the Decrees of the EVER-LIVING, and for Appeals. Those resided in Jerusalem. And he commanded 9 them,

"You shall do thus, and examine for the EVER-LIVING, in faithfulness and purity of heart. And in every
10 Appeal that comes to you from your Associates who reside in the towns, between blood and blood, between law and command, or institution, or Decrees, you shall advise them not to offend against the EVER-LIVING; or there will be anger against you, and your Associates. Do that, and you will do no wrong.

"And you see Amarihu, the Chief 11 of the Priests, is your Superintendent in all matters about the EVER-LIVING; with Zebadihu-ben-Ishmaal, the Prince of the House of Judah, for any affairs of the King; and the Levites will be present with you as Recorders. Be earnest, and act; and may the EVER-LIVING be with you in good."

(896 B.C.) **The Moabites and Allies
assail Judea.**

- 20 It occurred after this that the Beni-Moab, and Beni-Amon, with some of the Mennim, came to war against Jhosaphat.
- 2 And messengers came and reported it to Jhosaphat, saying; "A great multitude from Aram-beyond-the-Lake is advancing, and are at Hazeron-Thamar, that is Aingedi."
- 3 Jhosaphat consequently was afraid and turned himself to enquire of the EVER-LIVING, and proclaimed a fast
- 4 to all Judea. Judea therefore collected, to entreat from the EVER-LIVING, and came from all the cities of Judea to entreat the LORD.
- 5 When Jhosaphat stood up in the Parliament of Judea and Jerusalem, in the House of the EVER-LIVING, in front of the New Court, and said:—

He addresses the Parliament.

- 6 "EVER-LIVING GOD of our fathers, are You not GOD in the Heavens? and You rule in all the Kingdoms of the Heathen, and power and might are in Your hands, and none
- 7 can resist You. Are not You our GOD, who drove out the inhabitants of this country before Your people of Israel, and gave it to the race of Abraham, Your friend for ever?
- 8 And they have dwelt in it, and have built a Sanctuary to Your Name in
- 9 it, reflecting, 'If trouble comes upon us, the punishing sword or plague, or famine, we can stand before this Temple, and before YOU, for Your NAME is in this Temple,—and cry to You in our distresses, You will
- 10 listen and hear.' So now see, the Beni-Amon, and Moab, and Mount Sair that it was not granted to Israel to assail, when they came from the land of the Mitzeraim, so they turned from them and did not ravage them;
- 11 —Yet look at them! how they reward us, by coming to expel us from Your inheritance, which You allowed us to possess!
- 12 "Our GOD! Is there no punishment for them? For we have no power before this great host that is coming against us; so we know not what to do; but our eyes are on You!"

Zekerihu addresses Parliament.

And the Representatives of Judea 13 stood before the LORD with their infants, and wives, and sons;

And Ikhazial, -ben-Zekerihu, -ben-Baniah, -ben-Jazal, -ben-Mathaniah, the Levite, of the Beni Asaph, had the Spirit of the EVER-LIVING come upon him in the middle of the Assembly, and exclaimed:— 15

"Listen Representatives of Judea, and Inhabitants of Jerusalem, with King Jhosaphat,—Thus says the EVER-LIVING to you: "Fear not for yourselves, nor be dejected in the presence of this great host! for the battle is not with you, but with GOD!—Descend against them to-morrow. 16 You will see them ascending by the ascent of Ziz; and you will find them at the end of the stream opposite the pastures of Jerual.—You need not 17 fight with them. Station yourselves! Stand! and see the victory of the EVER-LIVING for you!—Fear not, and be not depressed, Judah and Jerusalem!—Go out to-morrow to meet them, and the EVER-LIVING will be with you!"

Then Jhosaphat bent his face earth- 18 ward, and the Representatives of Judea, and the Inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the EVER-LIVING, and bowed to the LORD. But the 19 Levites, of the Beni Kahth and the Beni Korakh, arose, and praised the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel with a loud and high voice.

Jhosaphat marches to Battle.

Early in the morning, they aroused 20 and marched out to the pastures of Thekoa, but before their march Jhosaphat stood up and said;

"Listen to me, Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem! Trust upon your EVER-LIVING GOD and trust yourselves; — trust on His Preachers, and you will succeed!"

And having arranged the army, 21 he appointed Singers to the EVER-LIVING, and they went with sacred splendour, marching before the troops, and exclaiming, "Praise the LORD, for His Mercy endures for ever!" And at the moment they began to 22 cheer, and praise, the EVER-LIVING acted unexpectedly against the Beni Amon, Moab, and Mount Sair, who were advancing against Judah, and routed them; for the Beni Amon, 23

and Moab, assailed the people of Mount Sair with slaughter and destruction, and when they had destroyed the People of Mount Sair, each helped to ruin the other! So when Judah came to the Watchtower in the Pastures, and advanced towards the host, they saw their carcasses fallen on the earth, without fugitives. Then Jhosaphat, and his army went to seize the plunder, and found amongst it property, and clothing, and beautiful jewels, which they stripped for themselves, more than they could carry; and they were three days collecting the spoil, for it was great.

On the fourth day they assembled in the Vale of Thanks, where they thanked the EVER-LIVING. Therefore they called the name of the place "The Vale Thanks" to this day.

Then all the men of Judah, and Jerusalem returned with Jhosaphat at their head, and came to Jerusalem with delight, for the EVER-LIVING had delighted them upon their enemies. So they came to Jerusalem, with lutes and harps and trumpets, and to the Temple of the EVER-LIVING.

A terror of the EVER-LIVING afterwards came upon all the Kingdoms of the Heathen, when they heard how the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel. Consequently the Empire of Jhosaphat had rest, and the EVER-LIVING gave him comfort all around.

Character of Jhosaphat.

Thus Jhosaphat reigned over Judea. He was thirty-five years old at his coronation, and was King in Jerusalem for twenty-five years. His mother's name was Azubah, the daughter of Shilkhi. He walked in the path of his father Asa, and never turned from it, but did right in the eyes of the EVER-LIVING. However, he did not overthrow the Mounds; and the people did not yet fix their hearts on the GOD of their ancestors.

But the remainder of the affairs of Jhosaphat,—the first and the last,—can be seen recorded in the history of Jehua,-ben-Khanani; who was Superintendent of the Records of the Kings of Israel.¹

¹ NOTE.—This 34th verse has apparently been misplaced by some ancient transcriber,

Jhosaphat tries to restore Trade with Tharshish and South Africa.

After this Jhosaphat King of Judea united himself with Ahaziah, King of Israel, (which was a wrong act). He, however, united with him to build ships to go to Tharshish. They also built ships at Ezion-gaber. Consequently Aliazar,-ben-Dodavhu, of Mareseth, preached against Jhosaphat, and said, "Because you have united with Ahaziah, the EVER-LIVING will break your efforts, and the ships will be wrecked, and not be able to go to Tharshish."

(890 B.C.)

At last Jhosaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his ancestors, in the City of David, and Jhoram, his son reigned instead of him.

His brothers the sons of Jhosaphat were Azariah, Jakhial, and Zakerihu, and Azrihu, and Mikal, and Shefatiah. —All these were sons of Jhosaphat, King of Israel, and their father gave them large endowments in money and property, with fortified towns in Judea; but gave the Kingdom to Jhoram, because he was his first-born.

But when Jhoram arose to the dominions of his father, and had secured himself, he murdered the whole of his brothers, and also some of the nobles of Israel.

(889 B.C.)

Jhoram was thirty-two years of age at his coronation, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem, and followed the path of the Kings of Israel,—just as the House of Ahab did,—for the daughter of Ahab became his wife. So he did evil in the eyes of the EVER-LIVING. But the EVER-LIVING did not wish to desolate the House of David, because of the Covenant made with David, and because he promised to give a light to him and his sons for all time.

(889 B.C.) Edom Revolts from Judea.

In his days Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah, and elected

for by the sense it should be read after the 37th verse of this chapter, of which as placed in the common texts, it breaks the sense.—F. F.

9 a King over themselves. Jhoram therefore advanced along with his Generals and all his chariots; but he was risen upon in the night and was defeated by Edom, who surrounded himself, and the Commanders of his
10 chariots. Thus Edom revolted from under the hand of Judea to this day. Libnah also at the same time revolted from under his hand, because he had abandoned the EVER-LIVING GOD of his fathers.

Jhoram's Wickedness.

11 He also erected Mounds in the Cities of Judah, and caused the population of Jerusalem to whore, and
12 forced Judea to do it. So a letter came to him from Elisha,¹ the Preacher, to say;—

“ Thus says the EVER-LIVING, the GOD of David your ancestor, since you have not followed the course of your father Jhosaphat and the path
13 of Asa, King of Judea, but have walked in the ways of the Kings of Israel, and have prostituted Judea and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, as the House of Ahab prostituted; and also have murdered your brothers of your father's family, who were better
14 than yourself; be sure the EVER-LIVING will strike with a great disease your children, and your wives, and
15 property, and all your people; and yourself with many diseases in your bowels; until your bowels will come out day by day in consequence of your disease!”

(887 B.C.)

16 The EVER-LIVING consequently aroused the spirit of the Philishtim against Jhoram, with the Arabians, who were at the side of the Kushim,
17 and they came up to Judea and broke into it, and captured all the property they found belonging to the family of the King, and also his children and wives, and did not leave him a child except Jhoakhaz, his youngest
18 son. And after all that the EVER-LIVING struck him within his bowels
19 with an incurable disease, which recurred from day to day, and as

¹ NOTE. — The common reading has “Elijah”; but that is clearly the error of some old transcriber, for Elisha, not Elijah, the prophet was the contemporary of Jhoram. I consequently correct this ancient slip of the pen.—F. F.

time went on, at the end of a period of two years, his bowels came out in consequence of his disease, and he died in grievous sufferings. Consequently his people did not make burnings for him, like the burnings for his fathers.

Character of Jhoram.

At his coronation he was thirty-two
20 years of age, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years;—and he departed unregretted. So they buried him in the City of David, but not in the Tombs of the Kings.

(885 B.C.) Ahaziah Elected King.

Then the Population of Jerusalem
22 elected Ahaziah his youngest son in his place, for all the elder ones had been murdered by the troops who came with the Army of the Arabians. So Ahaziah, -ben-Jhoram reigned in Judea.

(885 B.C.) Ahaziah's Wicked Reign.

Ahaziah was twenty-two years old
2 at his coronation, and reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athaliah, the daughter of Amri. He also followed the courses
3 of the House of Ahab, for his mother was his wicked adviser. He conse-
4 quently did evil in the eyes of the EVER-LIVING, like the House of Ahab, for they were his counsellors after the death of his father, and destroyed him.

So he followed their advice, and
5 went with Jhoram, -ben-Ahab, King of Israel, to fight against the King of Aram at Ramoth-Gilad, where the Aramites wounded Jhoram, who re-
6 turned to Jezreel to be cured of the wounds which he had received at Ramoth in his fight with Hazahel, King of Aram. So Azariah, -ben-Jhoram, King of Judea, descended to see Jhoram, -ben-Akhab in Jezreel, where he was an invalid. But the
7 degradation of Ahaziah came from GOD by his going to Jhoram, for on his visit he went out with Jhoram against Jehu, -ben-Nimshi, whom the EVER-LIVING had consecrated to cut off the House of Ahab. For it hap-
8 pened that when Jehu was executing the family of Ahab, he found the Nobles of Judea, and the sons of the brothers of Ahaziah attending to Ahaziah, and he murdered them.

9 He also searched out Ahaziah and captured him, for he was hidden in Shomeron, and he was brought to Jehu, who killed him. But they buried him, for they said, "He was descended from Jhosaphat, who sought the EVER-LIVING with all his heart." Thus none of the family of Ahaziah attained power in the Government.

(881 B.C.) **Athaliah Murders her Husband's Children.**

10 When Athaliah, the mother of Ahaziah, saw that her son was dead, she arose with intention to destroy all the Royal race of the House of
11 Judah, but the Royal Princess Jhosabath, took Joash, the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from amongst the children of the King who were being killed, and placed him and his nurse in a bed-chamber. Thus Jhosabath, the daughter of King Jhoram, the wife of Jhoiada the Priest, concealed him, (for she was sister of Ahaziah), from Athaliah, so that he
12 was not killed, but was hidden with them for six years, while Athaliah was Queen over the country.

(878 B.C.) **Jhoiada the High Priest decides to Restore the Line of David to the Throne in Azariah.**

23 But in the seventh year Jhoiada emboldened himself, and took Azeriah, -ben-Jerokham, and Ishmael, -ben-Jokhanan, and Azarihu, -ben-Aubed, and Masihu, -ben-Adihu, and Alishafat, -ben-Zikri, Captains in the
2 Army, into his confidence, and they travelled about Judea, and invited the Levites from all the towns of Judea, and the Ancestral Chiefs of
3 Israel, to come to Jerusalem, when all those assembled made an agreement in the House of GOD with the King.

Then he said to them, "You know that a Prince should reign, as the EVER-LIVING promised to the sons
4 of David. What you must do therefore is this;—A third part of you must come on the Sabbath to the Priests and Levites who guard the
5 Thresholds of the Gates; and a third go to the Royal Palace; and a third go to the Gate of Consultation, when

all the People are in the Courts of the House of the EVER-LIVING. But
6 let none enter the LORD'S House, except the Priests, who minister, with the Levites.—They may enter, for they are sacred,—and let all your forces guard the Ministrations of the EVER-LIVING. Then let the Levites close
7 round the King, each with his vessels in his hands. But kill all else who wish to enter the Temple; but you must accompany the King when he enters and when he departs."

So the Levites, and the Representatives of Judea, did everything as Jhoiada the Priest ordered, and each took his men on the arrival of the Sabbath,—the Sabbath on which they were to act, when Jhoiada the Priest did not dismiss the courses.

Jhoiada the Priest then gave the
9 Captains the spears and shields, and bucklers which had been King David's, and were in the Temple of GOD.—He next stationed all the
10 force, each with his weapon in his hand, from the right shoulder of the Temple, to the left shoulder of the Temple; and from the Altar to surround the Royal apartment. After-
11 wards he brought out the Prince, and they paid homage to him, and administered the Oath, and crowned him. Jhoiada and his sons consecrated him, and exclaimed,—

"May the King live!"

Athaliah, however, heard the noise
12 of the people running and cheering the King, so she came to the Parliament in the House of the EVER-LIVING, and when she looked, and
13 saw the King standing on a platform at the entrance, with the Nobles and Trumpeters around the King, and all the people in the place in delight; and the trumpeters and singers sounding with their instruments of music as a choir of thanksgiving,—then Athaliah tore her robes, and exclaimed, "Treason! treason!"
14 But Jhoiada the Priest ordered out the Captains he had appointed over the force, and said to them,—

"Take her out from among the troops! and whoever follows her, let him die by the sword!" For the Priest said, "Do not kill her in the House of the EVER-LIVING!"

So they laid their hand on her, and
15 brought her to the entrance of the Horse Gate, of the Royal Palace, and killed her there.

Azariah Swears to the Constitution.

16 Jhoiada afterwards wrote a treaty between himself, and the Representatives of the people, and the King, that they would be the people of the EVER-LIVING.

17 All the people afterwards went to the Temple of Bal and threw down his Altar, and shattered his Image, and killed Mathan the Priest of Bal before his Altar.

(878 B.C.) Jhoiada Re-organizes the Service of the Temple.

18 Jhoiada subsequently appointed Officers for the House of the EVER-LIVING, beside the Priests and Levites, whom David had arranged for the LORD'S Temple, to offer Presentations to the EVER-LIVING, as they are directed in the Laws of Moses, and to rejoice and sing as arranged by David. And he appointed Doorkeepers at the Gates of the EVER-LIVING'S Temple, so that anything unclean might not enter.

(877 B.C.) A National Parliament Convoled.

20 After that he assembled the Military Officers, and the Nobles, and the Governors of the People, and the Representatives of the People of the country, and brought the King down from the House of the EVER-LIVING, and proceeded through the High Gate to the Royal Palace, and placed the King on the Throne of Government.

21 And all the Representatives of the People of the Country rejoiced that they had killed Athaliah with the sword.

(878 B.C.) Jhoash Begins to Reign.

24 Jhoash was seven years old at his coronation, and reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zebiah of Bar-Sheba. And Jhoash did right in the eyes of the EVER-LIVING, all the days of Jhoiada the Priest. Jhoiada chose two wives for him, and he begot sons and daughters.

Jhoash Repairs the Temple.

4 It ultimately came into the mind of Jhoash to repair the Temple of the EVER-LIVING, so he assembled the Priests, and Levites, and said to

them, "Go out to the towns of Judea and collect money from all Israel, to restore the House of your GOD, from year to year, and be energetic in the matter."

But the Levites were not energetic.

The King consequently summoned 6 Jhoiada their Chief, and asked him, "Why have you not ordered the Levites to bring in from Judea and Jerusalem the Tax of Moses the Minister of the EVER-LIVING, and of the Parliament of Israel, for the Hall of Witnesses? Although the infamous 7 Athaliah and her sons dilapidated the House of GOD, and also used the sacred thing of the LORD'S Temple for their Bals!"

A Collection Box Ordered for the Temple.

The King then ordered, and they 8 made a chest, and placed it at the outer-gate of the Temple of the EVER-LIVING. He also made a 9 proclamation to Judea and Jerusalem to bring to the EVER-LIVING the Taxes which Moses, the Servant of the LORD laid upon Israel in the Desert.—This pleased all the Nobles 10 and People, and they brought them, and poured into the chest until it was full; and when the chest was 11 brought to the King's accountants by the Levites, and they saw that there was much money, the clerks of the King came with an Officer of the High Priest, and emptied the chest, then returned it to its place again. They did this from time to time, and collected a quantity of money, which 12 the King and Jhoiada gave to carry out the works about the House of the EVER-LIVING, and to pay the wages of the masons and carpenters who repaired the Temple of the EVER-LIVING. And the workmen did the 13 work, and it proceeded regularly under their hands. They thus built up the House of GOD in its proportions and restored it.

When they had completed it, they 14 brought the rest of the money to the King and Jhoiada the Priest, who made vessels for the House of the EVER-LIVING; vessels for the Services, and Offerings, and Cups; and furniture of Gold and Silver, which were for use in the Offerings at the EVER-LIVING'S Temple continually all the time of Jhoiada.

(850 B.C.)

15 But Jhoiada grew old, and satiated with days, and died,—a hundred and
16 thirty years old at his death. And they buried him in the City of David, with the Kings,—because he had benefited Israel, both towards GOD and His House.

The Nobles persuade the King to restore Idolatry.

17 But after the death of Jhoiada, the Nobles of Judea came and flattered the King, and the King listened to them, and they forsook the House of the EVER-LIVING GOD of their fathers, and served the Idols of LUST, and other Idols; so anger came upon Judea and Jerusalem, because of their
18 sins. However HE sent Preachers to turn them back to the EVER-LIVING and to warn them, but they would not listen.

Zekariah's Warning against Idolatry, and his Murder by the King and Mob of Courtiers.

20 Consequently, the Spirit of God clothed itself in Zekariah, - ben-Jhoiada the Priest, and he stood up before the Parliament and said to them;—"GOD asks this! Why do you transgress the Instructions of the EVER-LIVING? You do not prosper!—Because you have abandoned the LORD,—He will abandon you!"

21 They however conspired against him, and murdered him by stoning, by command of the King, in the Court of the House of the EVER-LIVING!—for Jhoash the King did not remember the kindness that Jhoiada his father had shown to him, but murdered his son, who as he died exclaimed, "The EVER-LIVING sees, and will enquire for it!"

(840 B.C.)

23 And indeed on the revolution of a year, the Army of Aram came up against him, and entered Judea and Jerusalem, and ruined the great Nobles of the People, with the Parliament, and sent all the booty
24 to the King of Damask, although the Aramite army came with a small number of men, yet, the EVER-LIVING gave a very large force into its power, because they had abandoned their EVER-LIVING GOD.—Thus Justice was exe-

cuted upon Jhoash. And when they 25 retired, leaving him in many troubles, his Ministers conspired against him, on account of the blood of the son of Jhoiada the Priest, and murdered him on his bed. Thus he died, and they buried him in the City of David; but he was not buried in the Tombs of the Kings.

The following were the conspirators 26 against him:—

Zabad, -ben-Shimath, the Amonite; and Jozabad, -ben-Shimerith, the Moabite.

But about his sons, and the great 27 load upon him, and his repairing of the House of GOD, can be seen related in the record books of the Kings.

(839 B.C.) The Reign of Amaziah.

His son Amaziah reigned after him, who executed his father's murderers.

Amaziah was twenty-five years old 25 when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jhoadan, of Jerusalem. He did 2 right in the eyes of the EVER-LIVING, yet not with a constant heart. When 3 he became secure in the Government, however, he slew those Ministers who had assaulted the King, his father, but he did not kill their children, for 4 it is written in the Book of the Laws of Moses, as the EVER-LIVING commanded, expressly:—"You shall not kill the fathers on account of their children; nor the children on account of their fathers; but each man shall be put to death for his own crime."

Amaziah calls a Reformatory Parliament.

Amaziah then assembled Judea, 5 and organized the Ancestral Houses, with Generals and Captains for all Judah and Benjamin, Regimenting them from the age of twenty years and upwards, and formed from them three hundred thousand troops to go out for war, trained to spear and shield. He also hired from Israel a 6 hundred thousand trained soldiers, for a hundred talents of silver, but a 7 Man of GOD came and said to the King:—"Israel must not go out with you in war; for the EVER-LIVING is not with Israel, or any of the sons of Ephraim. Therefore if you go out 8 with them made strong for battle,

GOD will defeat you before the enemy ; because there is power with GOD to help, or to defeat."

9 Amaziah, however, asked the Man of GOD;—"What am I to do for the hundred talents of silver which I have paid the Israelite troops?"

When the Man of GOD replied, "GOD is the LORD! He can give you more than that."

10 Consequently Amaziah disbanded the troops who had come to him from Ephraim, and marched them home. They were, however, very furious against Judah, and returned to their homes in burning anger.

11 Amaziah then emboldened himself, and led his people out and marched to the Vale of Salt, and slew ten thousand of the Beni Sair.

12 The Children of Judah also captured ten thousand persons and brought them to the top of the crags, and threw them from the top of the cliffs, and they were all broken.

13 In the meantime, the men of the troops whom Amaziah had dismissed from marching with him to the war, flung themselves upon the villages of Judea, from Shomeron and Beth-horon, and slew thirty thousand, and plundered a great booty.

(839 B.C.) **Amaziah adopts Idolatry.**

14 When Amaziah came back from defeating the Edomites, he brought the Gods of the Beni Sair, and set them up as his own Gods, and bowed before them, and made offerings to them. The EVER-LIVING was consequently angry with Amaziah, and sent a Preacher to him, who asked him:—

"Why have you sought the Gods of a people, who could not deliver that people from your hand?"

16 But while he was addressing him, he replied to him, "Who made you Adviser to the King?—Drop it!—Why would you kill yourself?"

So the Preacher ceased, after saying, "I warn you that GOD intends to destroy you, for having done that, and not listening to my advice!"

826 B.C.) **Amaziah declares War with Israel.**

17 Amaziah, King of Judah, however, advised himself, and sent to Joash-ben-Jhoahaz, the son of Jehu, King of Israel, to say; "Come on! Let us look face to face!"

But Joash King of Israel, sent to 18 Amaziah King of Judea, in reply; "The Bramble that was in Lebanon, sent to the Cedar that was in Lebanon to say, 'Give your daughter to my son as a wife!' When a beast of the field that was in Lebanon passed over, and trampled the Bramble down!

"You think, 'Look! I have defeated 19 Edom!' So your heart is exalted, and you boast!—Stay in your home! Why should you incite yourself to suffer by it, and fall, and Judah with you?"

But Amaziah would not listen; for 20 it was from GOD, because he had pledged himself that he would worship the Gods of Edom. Consequently 21 Joash, King of Israel advanced, and they met face to face, he and Amaziah, King of Judea, at Beth-Semesh, in Judea, where Judea was routed 22 before Israel, and each fled to his home, and Amaziah, King of Judah- 23 ben-Joash, -ben-Jhoahaz, was captured by Joash, King of Israel, at Beth-Shemsh, who brought him to Jerusalem, where he broke down the walls of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim, to the Corner Gate for four hundred cubits. He also transferred 24 all the Gold and silver, and all the vessels that he found in the House of GOD, with Abed-Edom; and the Treasuries of the Royal Palace, with the securities, and lodged them in Shomeron.

But Amaziah, -ben-Joash, King of 25 Judea, lived after the death of Joash, -ben-Jhoahaz, King of Israel, for fifteen years.

The rest of the events of Amaziah, 26 the first and the last, can be seen recorded, in the records of the Kings of Judea and Israel.

(810 B.C.)

But after the time that Amaziah 27 revolted from the EVER-LIVING, they contrived a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lakish. They, however, sent after him to Lakish, and killed him there, and 28 carried him on horses, and buried him with his fathers in a village of Judea.

(B.C. 810.) **The Parliament elect Uzihu King.**

Then the Parliament of Judea took 28 Uzihu, who was sixteen years old,

and crowned him in place of his father, Amazihu.

- 2 He built Ailoth, which he recovered for Judea, after that King slept with his fathers.
- 3 Uzihu was sixteen years old at his coronation, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's
- 4 name was Jakiliah of Jerusalem. He did right in the sight of the EVER-LIVING, in all that his father Amazihu
- 5 had done, and sought GOD in the days of Zakerihu, the instructor in the manifestation of GOD, and in the period when he sought the EVER-LIVING GOD gave him success. So
- 6 he went out and fought with the Philishtim, and broke the wall of Gath, and the wall of Jabrah, and the wall of Ashdod, and Jabnah in the Wood, and built Cities near Ashdod, and
- 7 amongst the Philishtim. For GOD helped him against the Philishtim, and against the Arabians, and the
- 8 population of Garbal, Maninim. The Amonites also paid tribute to Uzihu, and his power extended to the passage
- 9 into Mitzeraim, for he advanced to high power.

Uzihu Fortifies his Country.

- 10 Uzihu also built Forts in the pastures, and excavated many reservoirs, for he had much cattle, both on the slopes, and the plain, with farms and vineyards on the hills, and in Karmel, for he was a lover of the ground.

(810 B.C.) He trains a Standing Army.

- 11 Uzihu had also an army trained for war, who went out to war, in numbered regiments, under the control of Javal the Secretary and Masiah the organizer, under the command of Hananiah the General of the King.
- 12 The whole number of Ancestral Chiefs in the Army was two thousand six hundred, and under their
- 13 hand a warlike force of three hundred and seven thousand, five hundred disciplined for battle. A powerful force to support the King against the
- 14 enemy. And Uzihu provided them with shields and spears, and helmets, and armour, and bows, and stone
- 15 slings. He also made artillery in Jerusalem, contrived to be fixed in the Forts, and at the bastions, to shoot arrows, and great stones. His fame consequently went out afar, for

he was remarkably skilful as well as bold. But as he strengthened himself his heart mounted to destruction, and he sinned against his EVER-LIVING GOD; for he entered the Temple of the EVER-LIVING to offer incense on the Altar of Incense. But

17 Azarihu the Priest entered after him, and eighty Priests of the EVER-LIVING with him,—brave men,—who with-

18 stood Uzihu the King, and said to him:—

"It is not for you, Uzihu, to offer incense to the EVER-LIVING but for the Priests, the descendants of Aaron, who are consecrated to offer incense. Go from the Sanctuary,—for you have sinned,—and it will not be accepted from you by the EVER-LIVING GOD!"

And Uzihu was furious, but had the

19 censer in his hand to offer incense, and in his fury with the Priests, the Leprosy rose up in his forehead, before the Priests, in the House of the EVER-LIVING, beside the Altar of Incense!

Then Azarihu the Chief Priest and

20 all the Priests turned upon him, and saw that he was a Leper in the forehead, so dragged him from there, and he also hastened to go out, for the EVER-LIVING afflicted him.

Uzihu dies a Leper.

Thus King Uzihu became a Leper

21 to the day of his death, and resided in a house of retreat for Lepers, for he was excommunicated from the House of the EVER-LIVING, and Jotham his son governed the People of the Country from the Royal Palace.

But the other acts of Uzihu, the

22 first and the last, Isaiah-ben-Amoz, the Preacher wrote. When Uzihu

23 slept with his fathers, they buried him with his ancestors, in a field where the Kings were not, "for," they said, "he was a Leper." Then his son Jotham reigned in his stead.

(758 B.C.) Jotham begins to Reign.

Jotham was twenty-five years of

27 age at his coronation, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem, and his mother's name was Jerosha, the daughter of Zadok. He also did

2 right in the eyes of the EVER-LIVING, as Uzihu his father did, but he did not enter the Temple of the EVER-LIVING; whilst the People continued their corruptions.

- 3 He rebuilt the High Gate of the House of the LORD, and rebuilt a great part of the walls of Ophal. He also built towns in the highlands of Judea, and erected castles and towers in the Jungles.

Jotham Subdues the Beni Amon.

- 5 However, he had war with the Beni Amon, and conquered them, and the Beni Amon paid him yearly a hundred talents of silver, and ten thousand Kors of wheat, with ten thousand of barley. The Beni Amon paid this to him year by year for three years.
- 6 Thus Jotham became powerful because he fixed his courses before the LORD his GOD.

(765 B.C.)

- 7 Regarding the remainder of the affairs of Jotham, and all his wars, and his conduct, they can be seen in the records of the Kings of Israel and Judea. He was twenty-five years old at his coronation, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. Then Jotham slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David, and Ahaz his son reigned in his place.

(748 B.C.) Ahaz begins to Reign.
He reverts to Idolatry.

- 28 Ahaz was twenty years old at his coronation, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and did not do right in the eyes of the LORD, like David his Ancestor, but followed the courses of the Kings of Israel, and also made temples to Balim. Beside he burnt incense, in the Valley of Ben-hinom, and burnt his children in the fire, like the abominable heathen, whom the EVER-LIVING drove out before the Children of Israel. And he sacrificed and offered incense on the Mounds, and on the Hills, and under every shady tree; consequently the EVER-LIVING GOD delivered him to the hand of the King of Aram, who defeated him, and captured a great many from us, as prisoners, and brought them to Damask. He also gave him to the power of the King of Israel, who defeated him with a great slaughter, when Pekah-ben-Remaliah killed on one day in Judea a hundred and twenty thousand, all disciplined soldiers, because he had abandoned the EVER-LIVING GOD of his fathers.
- 7 And Zikri, a General of Ephraim

killed the King's son, Masiah; and Azrikam, the Superintendent of his Palace; and Alkanah the King's Prime Minister. After that they captured of the Children of Israel, two hundred thousand men and women, and plundered much property from them, and carried the plunder to Shomeron. A Preacher of the EVER-LIVING was there, however, named Adad, and he went out to meet the army, as it advanced to Shomeron, and said to it;

"Look!—Because the EVER-LIVING GOD of our ancestors was angry against Judea, He gave it into your hands;—but you have slaughtered amongst them in a fury that has reached the Heavens!

"And now you purpose to degrade into bondmen and women for yourselves, the sons of Judah and Jerusalem! But have you, yourselves, no sins against your EVER-LIVING GOD? Therefore listen to me now:—send back the captives whom you have dragged after you, or the indignation of the EVER-LIVING will be upon you!"

(741 B.C.) The Israelite Generals order a Release of Captives.

Then some men of the Chiefs of the children of Ephraim stood up; Azarihu - ben - Jhohanah, Berekiah - ben - Meshilmoth, and Jkhiziah - ben - Shalum, and Amasa - ben - Khadi, against those who came from the army, and said to them:—

"You shall not bring the captives here! For the indignation of the EVER-LIVING would come upon us. Do you intend to add to our sins? and to our offences? Our sins are quite enough for us! and the burning anger of the EVER-LIVING is upon Israel!"

The Soldiers Obey, and the Officers Clothe the Prisoners.

The soldiers consequently resigned the captives and their property to the Generals, and all the Senate, and the Princes, who have been specified by name, arose and comforted the captives, and clothed all the naked amongst them from the spoil, and shod them, and fed them, and gave them drink, and annointed them, and mounted all the feeble of them upon asses, and took them to Jerikho,

the City of Palms, to the shelter of their countrymen, and then returned to Shomeron.

(740 B.C.) **Ahaz applies to Aram for Help.**

16 At this time King Ahaz, sent to the
17 King of Aram, to help him, for the
Edomites had come and attacked
18 Judea and carried off captives. The
Philishtim also in the Cities on the
slope and the south, revolted from
Judah, and captured Beth-Shemsh,
and Ailon, and Ghederon, and Soko,
and its villages, and Thimnah, and its
villages, and Ghimzo, and its villages
19 and stayed there. For Judea had
provoked the EVER-LIVING by means
of Ahaz King of Judea,¹ who had
become lawless in Judea and sinned
grievously against the LORD.

Thilgath-Pilneser betrays him.

20 So Thilgath-Pilneser, King of Ashur
came, and consulted with him but did
21 not strengthen him; although Ahaz
contributed from the House of the
EVER-LIVING, and the Royal Palace,
and from the Nobles, and paid the
King of Ashur,—he was no help to
him.

(740 B.C.) **Ahaz adopts the Syrian
Idolatry as the Court Faith.**

22 Yet King Ahaz sinned still more
against the EVER-LIVING in the
23 period of his distress, for he sacri-
ficed to the gods of Damask who
defeated him, and said, "Because
the gods of the King of Damask help
him, I will sacrifice to them so that
they may help me!" But they were
to him and all Israel a cause of ruin.
24 So Ahaz collected the vessels of the
House of GOD, and cut up the vessels
of GOD'S House, and closed the Doors
of the House of the EVER-LIVING,
and made Altars for himself in all
25 the squares of Jerusalem. In every
City of Judah he also made Mounds
to offer incense to seducing gods, and
provoked the EVER-LIVING GOD of
his fathers.
26 But his other doings, and all his
courses, the first and the last, can be
seen written in the records of the

Kings of Judah and Israel. At last 27
Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they
buried him in the City of Jerusalem,
for they would not bring him to the
Tombs of the Kings of Israel. Then
his son Hezekiah reigned instead of
him.

(726 B.C.) **Hezekiah begins his
Noble Reign.**

King Hezekiah was twenty-five 29
years old; and he reigned in Jeru-
salem twenty - nine years. His
mother's name was Abiah, the
daughter of Zekerihu.

**He Restored the National Worship
of God.**

He did right in the eyes of the 2
EVER-LIVING, as David his Ancestor
had done. He, in the first month of 3
the first year of his coronation, opened
the Doors of the House of the EVER-
LIVING, and repaired it. Then he 4
brought the Priests and Levites, and
assembled them in the East Square,
and said to them;— 5

Hezekiah's Speech to the Priests.

"Listen now to me, you Levites;
Consecrate yourselves, and conse-
crate the House of the EVER-LIVING,
the GOD of your fathers, and carry
out the filth from the Sanctuary, for 6
our fathers sinned, and did wrong in
the eyes of the EVER-LIVING GOD,
and abandoned and turned away
their faces from the dwelling of the
EVER-LIVING, and turned their backs.
They even closed the doors of His 7
Hall, and put out the Lamps, and
burnt no incense, and burnt no
offerings in the Sanctuary to the GOD
of Israel! Consequently the anger 8
of the EVER-LIVING came upon Judea
and Jerusalem, so He delivered them
to agitation, and terror, and per-
plexity, as we can see with our eyes.
For, look! our fathers fell by the 9
sword, and our sons and our daugh-
ters, and our wives were captured on
account of it. However it is in my 10
heart to make a Covenant with the
EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel, that He
may turn from us His indignant anger.

"My sons! Be not idle! For the 11
EVER-LIVING chose you to stand
before Him, and to Minister to Him,
and to be Ministers and to offer
Incense."

¹ NOTE.—Ch. 28, v. 19. The ordinary
Hebrew text reads "Israel,"—but as Ahaz was
King of Judea, I rectify the Copyist's error.
—F. F.

The Levites Reconsecrate the Temple.

- 12 Then the Levites arose;—Mak-hath, ben-Amasi, and Joal, ben-Azarihu, of the Beni Kahth; and of the Beni Merari, Kish, ben-Abdi, and Azarihu, ben-Jkhalelal; and from the Ghersoni, Joakh - ben - Zimah, and
- 13 Aden, ben-Joakh; and from the Beni Alizafan, Shimri and Javal; and from the Beni Asaph, Zekerihu, and
- 14 Mathanihu. And from the Beni Heyman, Jekhoal, and Shimai; and from the Beni Jeduthun, Shemiah, and Azial;—who collected their relatives, and consecrated themselves, and went, as the King ordered, to the business of the EVER-LIVING,—to
- 16 purify the House of the LORD. But the Priests preceded them to the House of the EVER-LIVING, to purify it, and they flung out all the defilement that they found in the Sanctuary of the EVER-LIVING, and the Court of the LORD'S House, and the Levites carried it out to the brook of Kidron.
- 17 They began on the first day of the first month to cleanse, and on the eighth day of the month they reached the Porch of the EVER-LIVING, and consecrated the House of the EVER-LIVING for eight days, and finished on the sixteenth day of the first month.

(726 B.C.) They report the Purification to the King, and he Reconsecrates the Temple.

- 18 They then went to the presence of King Hezekiah, and said:—"We have cleansed all the House of the EVER-LIVING, and the Altar of Burnt-offerings, and all its instruments, and the Table of the Show-bread, with all its appliances, and all the instruments which King Ahaz defiled in his reign, by his crimes,—we have repaired and consecrated, and you can see them before the Altar of the EVER-LIVING."
- 20 King Hezekiah consequently made ready, and assembled the nobles of the City, and they went up to the
- 21 House of the EVER-LIVING, and brought seven bullocks and seven rams, with seven lambs, and seven perfect goats, for sin offerings, for the Kingdom, and for the Sanctuary, and for Judea, and commanded to the Descendants of Aaron,—the Priests and Levites,—to offer them

on the Altar of the EVER-LIVING. So they slaughtered the bullocks, and the Priests took the blood and sprinkled it upon the Altar. Then they brought the Goats for the Sin-offerings before the King, and the Parliament, and they laid their hands upon them. The Priests afterwards slew them, and made with their blood Sin-offerings on the Altar, to expiate for all Israel; "Because," said the King, "let the Sin-offerings, be offered for all Israel."

He also appointed the Levites in the House of the EVER-LIVING, with cymbals, and lutes, and harps, as David, and Gad, the King's Seer, with Nathan the Preacher, had ordained;—He ordained the same from the hand of the EVER-LIVING, by the medium of his Preachers.

So the Levites stood with the Davidian instruments, and the Priests with trumpets, when Hezekiah commanded to offer the Burnt-offering on the Altar, and as the Offering began, they sang of the EVER-LIVING with trumpets, and by hand on the Davidian instruments of the King of Israel. Then all the Senate bowed, and the Singers sang, and the trumpets sounded, until the whole of the Offerings were completed. And, when the Offering was completed, the King knelt, and his guests bowed with him, and Hezekiah the King, and his Nobles requested the Levites to praise the EVER-LIVING in the words of David, and Asaph the Seer. So they praised him gladly, and bowed themselves and worshipped.

Then Hezekiah spoke and said:—"Now you have filled your hand for the EVER-LIVING, approach and bring Sacrifices and Thank-offerings to the House of the LORD."—So the Assembly brought offerings, and all of a willing heart, offered up. Consequently the number of the Offerings that the Parliament brought were seventy bullocks, a hundred rams, and two hundred lambs, as a Burnt-offering to the EVER-LIVING for all of them.

The Levites called to Help in the Consecration.

But the Consecration was six hundred bullocks, and three thousand sheep, so that the Priests were too few, and were not able to strip the

whole of the Burnt-offerings, therefore their relatives, the Levites had to help them, until the completion of the work, and until the Priests should consecrate themselves, for the Levites were more right-hearted to the consecration of themselves than the Priests. And they also burnt the most of the fat of the Thank-offerings, and the drink-offerings with the Burnt-offerings, and arranged the Services of the EVER-LIVING'S House.

36 So Hezekiah, and all the People were pleased at what GOD had provided for the People, for the affair was unexpected.

Hezekiah invites all Israel to a Racial Festival to God.

30 Hezekiah next sent to all Israel and Judea, and wrote a letter to Ephraim and Manasseh, to invite them to the House of the EVER-LIVING at Jerusalem, to make a Passover to the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel. For the King, and his Nobles, and all the Parliament at Jerusalem had decided to make a Passover in the Second Month, because they were not able to make it at its proper period, for the Priests were not consecrated in sufficient numbers, and the People had not collected to Jerusalem. So the thing was right in the opinion of the King, and in the opinion of all the Parliament. Consequently they fixed by a Decree to send abroad a proclamation to all Israel from Barsheba to Dan, for them to come to make a Passover to the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel at Jerusalem,—for not many made it according to the Scriptures. Runners were therefore sent with letters from the hand of the King and the nobles of all Israel and Judea, as the King had commanded, to say to the Children of Israel:—

“Return to the EVER-LIVING GOD of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Israel, and He will return to the fugitive remnant of you from the hand of the Kings of Ashur;—and be not like your ancestors, and your countrymen who have risen against the EVER-LIVING GOD of your fathers, Who delivered them from the wasting you now see. Do not now stiffen yourselves, like your fathers! Give your hand to GOD! Come and make

yourselves holy, as He is Holy for Ever, and serve your EVER-LIVING GOD, when He will turn His indignant anger from you. For when you turn to the EVER-LIVING, your brothers and children will find compassion before those who captured them, and will be returned to this land; for your EVER-LIVING GOD is gentle and merciful, and will not turn away from you,—if you return to Him.”

(726 B.C.) Hezekiah's Appeal Ridiculed.

So the Runners went from City to City in the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, and as far as Zebulon, but they were a subject of scorn and laughter for them. Except that some persons from Manasseh and Zebulon obeyed, and came to Jerusalem. In Judea, however, the hand of the EVER-LIVING was given to them, with one heart to act upon the order of the King and nobles in the affair of the EVER-LIVING. Consequently a great many people collected at Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Unfermented Bread in the Second Month. A very great crowd, who rose up and overturned the pagan Altars which were in Jerusalem, and overthrew all the Incense-Altars and flung them into the Kidron brook, and slew the Passover on the fourteenth of the Second Month. Then the Priests and the Levites became ashamed, and consecrated themselves, and brought Burnt-offerings to the House of the EVER-LIVING, and stood at their duty as Decreed in the Laws of Moses the MAN of GOD,—the Priests sprinkling the blood from the hand of the Levites.

For there were many in the Parliament who had not consecrated themselves, therefore the Levites conducted the Killing of the Passovers, for all who were clean for the Sanctuary of the LORD;—Because of the crowds of people; the crowds from Ephraim, and Manasseh, and Issakar, and Zebulon, who had purified themselves.—Thus they ate the Passover, but not according to the Records. But Hezekiah prayed for them, and said, “O EVER-LIVING, be kind, and expiate for it to every one whose heart is settled to seek for GOD,—the EVER-LIVING

GOD of our ancestors,—although not according to the cleansings of the Sanctuary." And the EVER-LIVING listened to Hezekiah, and accepted the people.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread Restored.

21 So the Children of Israel who were found in Jerusalem, made the Feast of Unfermented Bread for seven days with great gladness, the Levites and Priests giving thanks to the EVER-LIVING day by day with powerful instruments unto the LORD. While Hezekiah spoke to the heart of every skilful Levite who showed good will for the EVER-LIVING. And the Assembly ate for seven days of the Sacrifices of the Altar, and Thank-offerings, and confessed to the EVER-LIVING GOD of their fathers.

A Second Feast.

23 Then all the Parliament decided to celebrate for seven days after. So they made a Festival of seven days, when Hezekiah King of Judah gave up to the Assembly a thousand bullocks, and seven thousand sheep; and the nobles gave to the Assembly a thousand bullocks, and ten thousand sheep, and many Priests consecrated themselves. Then all the Parliament of Judah with Priests and Levites rejoiced, with all the crowd who came from Israel, and the foreigners who came from the country of Israel, and the residents in Judea. So there was great Festivity in Jerusalem;—for from the days of Solomon-ben-David, King of Israel, there had never been like that in Jerusalem.

726 B.C.) **A National Destruction of Idols.**

31 And when they had finished all this, all the Israelites who had been there, went out to the towns of Judea and smashed the Columns, and cut up the Lust-Booths and overturned the Mounds, and the Altars in all Judea, and Benjamin, and Ephraim, and Manasseh totally. Then all the Children of Israel returned each to his own home, and village.

Hezekiah restores National Worship.

2 After that Hezekiah restored the Courses of the Priests and Levites,

with the regulations for the work of each band of the Priests and Levites. For the Burnt-offerings, and for the Thank-offerings, for Ministrations, and for Thanks-givings, and for Praise at the Gates of the Lord's Camp. And the King gave from his own property the Burnt-offerings for the Morning Sacrifice, and the Evening Sacrifice; for the Sabbaths; and for the Months; and for the Assemblies; as they were prescribed for in the Laws of the EVER-LIVING.

He also commanded the residents in Jerusalem; "Give gifts to the Priests and Levites, because they instruct you in the Laws of the EVER-LIVING." And when the order was promulgated, the Children of Israel heaped up the first-fruits of corn, and wine, and oil, and honey, and all the produce of the land. Many also brought the tythes. The Children of Israel, and Judah, with the residents in the villages of Judea, also tythed the cattle and sheep, and dedicated the tythes to the Sanctuary of their EVER-LIVING GOD, and brought and heaped them in heaps. They began in the third Month the collection, and completed it in the seventh month, when Hezekiah and the nobles went and examined the stacks, and thanked the EVER-LIVING, and the People of Israel.

Decision as to Distribution of the Tythes.

Hezekiah then enquired of the Priests and Levites about the stacks, when Azarihu the Priest, the Head of the House of Zadok, answered him and said; "From when the Offerings began to come to the House of the EVER-LIVING, we have had enough food and plenty to spare; for the EVER-LIVING has blessed His people, and this great mass remains "

Hezekiah re-organizes the Endowments of the National Church.

Consequently Hezekiah ordered to store it in the chambers of the House of the EVER-LIVING. So they stored it. And brought in the offerings, and tythes, and gifts, honestly, and appointed over them Konenihu, the Levite; and Shimai his brother as his assistant; with Jekhial, and Azarihu, and Asahal, and Jerimoth, and Josabad, and Alial, and Ismakihu, and

Mathath, and Ben-Hihu, officers under the hand of Konenihu, and Shimai his brother, whom Hezekiah the King appointed, and Azeriah, the Governor of the House of GOD. But Koraben-Imnah, the Levite, the Door-keeper on the East, was Superintendent of the Vows made to GOD, to distribute the offerings made to the EVER-LIVING, and the consecrated gifts, with Adan under his hand, and Miniamin, and Jeshua, and Shemihu, Anarihu, and Shekanihu, in the Cities of the Priests, as Trustees to distribute to their associates their shares, whether great or small; along with those on the Genealogical records, from the age of three years and upwards, with all who entered the House of the EVER-LIVING, to serve from day to day in their Services, and Ministrations, in their Courses. With the Genealogized Priests, by their ancestral Houses; and the Levites, from the age of three years and upwards, in their Trusts by their Courses. And for the registration of all infants, wives, and sons, and daughters, belonging to the whole aggregate, for it was entrusted to them as a Sacred duty. And for the Descendants of Aaron in the pasture lands of their Cities, in all, city by city, men were appointed by name to pay to every male; and the salaries to the Priests, and to all the Registered Levites. Hezekiah did this in all Judea, and acted well, and rightly, and truly before his EVER-LIVING GOD. For in every work that he began,—in the Services of the House of GOD,—or in the Law,—or in the Ordinances,—he sought his GOD with all his heart, in the work,—and he prospered.

(713 B.C.) **Senakerib assails Judea.**

32 After these events, and this faithfulness, Senakerib King of Ashur came and advanced against Judea, and encamped against the Fortified Cities, to clutch them for himself. But when Hezekiah saw how Senakerib advanced, to fight resolutely against Jerusalem, he consulted with his Nobles and Generals how to obstruct the waters from the springs that were outside the City,—and they helped him. So they collected many people and turned the springs aside, and the brook that wound through the

country, reflecting;—"Why should the King of Ashur come and find plenty of water?" They also strengthened and rebuilt the whole of the wall that had become dilapidated, and heightened the towers, and formed another outer wall, and repaired the fortress of the City of David, and made missiles and plenty of shields.

He also placed Military Officers over the people, and collected them to himself in the Square of the Tower Gate, and spoke to their hearts and said,

"Be bold and courageous! and fear not, nor be depressed at the face of the king of Ashur; or at the face of all the rabble who are with him, for there are more with us, than with him. With him there is an arm of flesh;—with us is our EVER-LIVING GOD to help, and to fight our battles."

And the people were pleased at the speech of Hezekiah, King of Judah.

(710 B.C.) **Senakerib sends his General against Jerusalem.**

After that Senakerib, the King of Ashur, sent his Minister to Jerusalem, against Hezekiah, King of Judah, and all of Judea who were with him in Jerusalem; but himself with his Commanders was at Lakish, and they said:

Senakerib's Speech.

"Thus asks Senakerib, King of Ashur! Upon what do you rely, that you remain in the Fortress of Jerusalem? Let not Hezekiah seduce you, to give you to Death, by Famine and Thirst, by saying, 'Our EVER-LIVING GOD will rescue you from the hands of the King of Ashur!' Is that not Him whose Mounds and Altars Hezekiah has thrown down? and commanded to Judea and Jerusalem, saying, 'You shall worship at a single Altar, and offer incense on it?' Do you not know what I, and my fathers have done to all the Peoples of the Countries? Were the Gods of the Nations of the Countries able to rescue their lands from My Hand? Who, among all these Gods of the Nations whom My Ancestors desolated,—who has been able to rescue them from My Hand? So now, let not Hezekiah deceive you, nor seduce you, like

that,—and do not trust to him!—For none of all the Gods of any Nation or Kingdom has been able to rescue his people from My Hand, or from the hand of My Fathers! So that GOD of yours cannot rescue you from my hand!"

16 His Officers declaimed still more against the EVER-LIVING GOD, and
17 against Hezekiah, His servant. He also wrote letters to insult the LIVING GOD of Israel, and said to Him, "You are like the Gods of the Nations of the Countries who could not rescue their Peoples from My
18 Hand! So the GOD of Hezekiah cannot rescue His people from My Hand!" Then they shouted with a loud voice in Judith to the People of Jerusalem who were on the wall, to terrify and dispirit them, so that they
19 might capture the City. They consequently spoke of the GOD of Jerusalem as of the Gods of the Peoples of the earth, made by the hands of men!

20 But Hezekiah the King, and Isaiah-ben-Amoz the Preacher, prayed about
21 this, and cried to the Heavens, and the EVER-LIVING sent His Messenger, and destroyed all the soldiers of the Army, with its Commander, and Generals, in the camp of the King of Ashur. So he returned disgraced back to his own country, and went to the House of his God, and the progeny of his own bowels caused him to fall there by the sword.

22 Thus the EVER-LIVING saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Senakerib King of Ashur, and from the hand of
23 all, and turned them back. Consequently many brought gifts to the EVER-LIVING at Jerusalem, with congratulations to Hezekiah, King of Judea, and he was raised in the opinion of all the Nations after that.

Hezekiah is taken III.

24 At this period Hezekiah was il-
nearly to death, but he prayed to the EVER-LIVING, Who answered him,
25 and performed a sign for him. But Hezekiah did not repay to Him in return; for his heart was proud. Therefore anger came upon himself, and Judea, and Jerusalem.

(710 B.C.) Hezekiah's Prosperity.

26 Then Hezekiah lowered the pride of his heart, and the People of

Jerusalem with him, so that the anger of the EVER-LIVING did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah. Then Hezekiah became 27 rich and very greatly honoured, so he made himself treasuries for the silver and gold, and precious stones, and for the spices, and the shields, and 28 all his costly furniture, and barns to collect corn, and wine, and oil; and yards for all kinds of cattle; and cattle and flocks for the yards. He 29 also made villages for himself, and acquired sheep and oxen in abundance; for GOD gave him very great Prosperity. It was Hezekiah also 30 who turned the upper waters of the Ghion, and conducted them to a bed on the West of the City of David, for Hezekiah succeeded in all that he did.

But, however, in the affair of the 31 Scientific Inquirers, who were sent to him from Babel, to enquire about the remarkable Event which had happened to the Earth, GOD left him, to test him, and know all his heart.¹

But the rest of the doings of Heze- 32 kiah, and his piety, they can be seen written in the Visions of Isaiah-ben-Amoz, the Preacher, in the History of the Kings of Judah and Israel.²

(698 B.C.)

Then Hezekiah slept with his 33 fathers, and they buried him on the top of the Tombs of the Descendants of David, and made a mourning for him. After his death all Judea, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, elected Manasseh, his son King in his stead.

(698 B.C.) **Manasseh begins to Reign.**

Manasseh was twelve years old at 33 his coronation, and reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem.

¹ NOTE.—Ch. 32, v. 31. This referred to the going back of the Shadow on the Dial, which the Chaldean Astronomers had noted, and enquired after, as the Greek pagan Historians tell us they informed Alexander the Great that it was one of the wonders they had recorded in their Scientific Books. See Professor A. L. Totton's Chronology.—F. F.

² NOTE.—Ch. 32, v. 32. This statement and that in Ch. 16, v. 22, of II. Chronicles, prove, I think, that the Prophet Isaiah was the writer of the Six Historical Books, from Judges to Second Kings inclusive, and accounts for their masterly and philosophic style as compared to those later written records of the family of David, called "The Chronicles."—F. F.

The Idolatry and Wickedness of Manasseh,

2 But he did wrong in the eyes of the EVER-LIVING, like the abominable heathen, whom the EVER-LIVING had driven out from before the children
3 of Israel, and went and rebuilt the monuds that Hezekiah his father had overturned, and raised altars to Balim, and made Lust-booths,—and bowed to all the Host of the skies,
4 and served them. He also built altars in the House of the LORD, where the EVER-LIVING had said to Jerusalem, HIS NAME should be for ever!

5 Yes! He built altars to all the Host of the skies, in the Second Court of the House of the EVER-LIVING! He, himself, also, passed his children to the fire in the Valley of Ben-hinom! and to clouds, and snakes, and incantations; and practised necromancy with ventriloquists; and did much evil in the sight of the EVER-LIVING,
7 to provoke Him. He also placed an Image of the Imagination which he had formed, in the House of GOD; of which GOD had said to David, and Solomon his son, "In this House, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the Tribes of Israel,
8 to fix My NAME for ever. And I will not again turn the foot of Israel off from the ground that I appointed for their fathers;—if only they will practise all that I directed them, and all My Laws, and Institutions, and Decrees by the hand of Moses."

(677 B.C.)

9 Yet Manasseh seduced Judea, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to practise depravity more than the Heathen whom the EVER-LIVING wasted before the face of the Children of Israel. The EVER-LIVING, however, spoke to Manasseh and to his people, but they would not listen. Consequently the EVER-LIVING brought upon them the Generals of the Army of the Kings of Ashur, who took Manasseh with hooks, and chained him in chains, and transferred him to Babel, when in his distress he appeased the anger of the EVER-LIVING GOD, and humbled himself very greatly before the GOD
12 of his fathers, and prayed to Him, Who pitied, and listened to his sup-

plication, and restored him to Jerusalem, to his Kingship. Then Manasseh acknowledged that the EVER-LIVING was GOD.

Manasseh Repents his Apostasy, and Restores God's Worship.

After that he built an outer wall to
14 the City of David, alongside of the brook Ghihon, and extending to the Fish-gate, and around the hill, and it was very high. He also placed Mili-
15 tary Officers in all the Fortified Cities of Judea; and threw out the foreign Gods, and the Image from the House of the EVER-LIVING, and all the altars he had built on the Hill of the LORD'S House, and in Jerusalem, and flung them out of the City. Then he
16 rebuilt the Altar of the EVER-LIVING, and sacrificed upon it Thank-offerings, and confessed, and promised to the EVER-LIVING, to serve the LIVING
17 GOD of Israel. However, the people still sacrificed at the Mounds, but only to the EVER-LIVING GOD.

Summary of his Life.

But the other acts of Manasseh,
18 and his prayer to his GOD, and the speeches of the Seers, who addressed him in the NAME of the LIVING GOD of Israel, can be seen in the Histories of the Kings of Israel, with his
19 prayer, and the pity shown him, with all his sins and wickedness, and the places in which he built mounds, and set up Lust-booths and Idols before he repented, can be read as recorded in the Books of the Seers.

(641 B.C.)

At last Manasseh slept with his
20 fathers, and they buried him in his own Palace, and Amon his son reigned in his place.

Amon begins to Reign.

Amon was twenty-two years old at
21 his coronation, and reigned two years in Jerusalem, and did evil in the sight
22 of the EVER-LIVING, as Manasseh his father had done; and to all the Idols that his father had made Amon sacrificed and served. And he never
23 repented before the EVER-LIVING, as his father Manasseh repented; but Amon himself offended more.

(639 B.C.) **Amon Murdered by his Ministers, who are afterwards Murdered by a Popular Revolution.**

24 His Ministers consequently conspired against him, and killed him in
25 his own Palace. But the People of the country assailed all the conspirators against King Amon; then the country people elected Joash his son King in his place.

(641—634 B.C.) **Joshiah begins to Reign. His good Life and Conduct.**

34 Joshiah was eight years old at his coronation, and reigned thirty-one
2 years in Jerusalem, and did right in the eyes of the EVER-LIVING, and walked in the ways of his Ancestor David, and turned not to the right or
3 the left, but in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet a youth, he began to seek the God of his Ancestor David; and in the twelfth year began to cleanse Judea and Jerusalem from the Mounds and Lust-booths, and
4 Images, and Castings. He had the Altars to the Balim smashed in his own presence; and cut down the Images of the Sun that were elevated over them, and ground to powder the Lusters, and Idols, and Castings, and scattered the dust on the surface of the graves
5 of the sacrificers to them. He also burnt the bones of the Priests on their Altars.—Thus he cleansed Judea
6 and Jerusalem, with the Cities of Manasseh, and Ephraim, and Simeon, and as far as Naphthali; he destroyed
7 them all round, when he broke the Altars, and the Lusters, and Images, and reduced them to powder, and cut down all the Images of the Sun, in the land of Israel. Then he returned to Jerusalem.

(630 B.C.) **Joshiah Repairs the Temple.**

8 Thus in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had cleansed the country, and the Temple, he ordered Shaphan-ben-Azalihu, and Shamihu, Governor of the City, and Joakh-ben-Joakhaz, the Recorder, to repair
9 Temple of the EVER-LIVING. So they went to Hilkihu, the High Priest, and delivered the money to repair the House of GOD, which the Levites

who guarded the Threshold had collected from the hands of Manasseh and Ephraim, and from all the Remnant of Israel, and from all Judea, and Benjamin, and which they had brought to Jerusalem, and he paid it
10 into the hands of the Superintendents who did the work at the House of the EVER-LIVING, and they paid it to the workmen who worked in the LORD'S House to mend and repair the Temple. They also paid it to the carpenters
11 and masons, and bought stone from the cutters, and timber for girders, and rafters, for the houses that the Kings of Judah had destroyed. And
12 the men did their work faithfully, and the Directors over them were, Jakhath, and Abdiu;—Levites from the Beni Merari; and Zekariah, and Meshulam, from the Beni Kahth; to Superintend, and Levites who all understood carpentry work. They
13 superintended the labourers, and directed all the work done, in one sort or the other. But the accountants, and architects, and valuers were from the Levites.

(624 B.C.) **The Autograph Copy of the Law engraved by Moses on Tablets, discovered.**

Once when they were drawing
14 money from the Treasury of the House of the EVER-LIVING, Hilkihu the Priest found the Book of the EVER-LIVING'S LAWS, in the hand-writing of Moses.¹

So Hilkihu the Priest spoke to
15 Shaphan the Secretary and said; "I have found the Book of the Law in the House of the EVER-LIVING"; and Hilkihu handed the Book to

¹ NOTE.—Ch. 34, v. 14. It must not be inferred by the reader that no other copies of the Law by Moses were previously in existence in the hands of the Public of ancient Israel, until this copy was found in the Temple library, for such copies are frequently alluded to in the two books of Chronicles, to say nothing of similar allusions in Samuel and Kings, works of several centuries earlier date than the Chronicles. What is said by the Sacred Historian is, that the ACTUAL ORIGINAL COPY IN THE HAND-WRITING OF MOSES was now discovered amongst the other Public Records of the Nation, and it is to us a most important statement, in the face of the scepticism of our day. Hence I specially note this passage. The actual Hebrew is, **אֶת־סֵפֶר הַתּוֹרָה־הַזֶּה בְּיַד־שָׁפָן**. That is "The actual engraving of the Law of THE EVER-LIVING in the hand of Moses."

16 Shaphan. Thus Shaphan took the Book to the King, and reported to the King saying:—

“All that you committed to the hands of your servants has been done. For they have removed the money found in the House of the EVER-LIVING, and given it to the custody of the Superintendents, and to the hands of those working in the business.” Shaphan the Secretary further informed the King saying, “Hilkihu the Priest has given me a Book.” Then Shaphan read from it to the King. But when the King heard the words of the Law, he tore his robes.—

20 Then the King commanded Hilkihu, and Akikam - ben - Shaphan, and Abdon-ben-Mikah, and Shaphan the Secretary, and Asiah, the King's servant, to; “Go and enquire of the EVER-LIVING, about me, and about the remnant in Israel, and in Judea, regarding the Book that has been found. For a great anger of the LORD may be poured on us, because our ancestors have not regarded the Commands of the EVER-LIVING, to practise all that is written in this Book.”

Huldah's Reply.

22 So Hilkihu and the King's Messengers went to Huldah the Preacheress, the wife of Shalum-ben-Thokahth-ben-Khasrah, Keeper of the Wardrobe, who resided in Jerusalem, in the Seminary, and asked her about it; when she replied to them:—

“Thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel! ‘Say to the man who sent you to me,—thus says the EVER-LIVING, I will bring evil on this place, and on its inhabitants.—The whole of the curses written in the Book that you read before the King of Judah; because you forsook Me, and burnt incense to Seducing Gods, by which they provoked Me in every act of their hand. Therefore I will pour My indignation on this place, and it will not be extinguished! But to the King of Judah who sent you to enquire of the EVER-LIVING,—Say thus to him; ‘Thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel about the things you have heard.

27 “‘Because your heart is impressionable, and you were humble before GOD, when you heard His words

against this place, and against its inhabitants, and humbled yourself before Me, and tore your robes, and wept before Me, I also have listened, says the EVER-LIVING. Therefore I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be added to your Tomb in peace, and your eyes shall not see all the misery that I will bring on this place, and on its inhabitants!’”

So they related this Message to the King.

The King Assembles the Parliament on the Matter.

The King consequently sent and collected all the Magistracy of Judea to Jerusalem, when the King ascended to the House of the EVER-LIVING, and all the Parliament of Judea with him, and the People of Jerusalem, with the Priests and Levites, and all the Public, from the greatest to the least, and read in their hearing all the contents of the Book of Laws which had been found in the LORD's House. After that the King stood up on his platform, and made an Agreement before the EVER-LIVING to walk after the Lord, and to keep His Commands, and Evidences, and Institutions with all his heart, and all his mind, and to practise the realities of the Covenant written in that Book. He then stationed all who were present in Jerusalem, and in Benjamin; and they with the inhabitants of Jerusalem made the same Promise to GOD, the GOD of their fathers. So Josiah expelled all the abominations from the whole country that belonged to the Children of Israel, and compelled all resident in Israel to serve, Yes, to serve the EVER-LIVING GOD.—They did not turn from the following the LIVING GOD of their fathers all his days.

(623 B.C.) King Josiah makes a Passover.

Josiah afterwards made a Passover to the EVER-LIVING in Jerusalem, and slew the Passover on the fourteenth day of the First month, when he appointed the Priests to their duties, and exhorted them to the services of the House of the EVER-LIVING, and commanded the Levites to instruct all Israel about their duties to the LORD; and, “To take the Holy

Ark to the apartment that Solomon, the son of David, King of Israel had built. "Let it no more be borne on your shoulders.—Serve your EVER-LIVING GOD now, with the People of
 4 Israel; and arrange yourselves by your Ancestral Houses, according to your Divisions, as recorded by David King of Israel, and by the records of
 5 his son Solomon, and attend to your duty by sections of Ancestral Houses, with your brothers, the sons of the People, and the Divisions of the Ancestral Houses of the Levites. So
 6 kill the Passover, and consecrate yourselves, and unite with your brothers to practise the Command of the EVER-LIVING, sent by the Hand of Moses."

Joshiah giveth a free Passover.

7 Joshiah then gave to the Children of his People lambs from the sheep, and young goats, for the Passover, to all present, to the number of thirty thousand, and three thousand oxen. These were the private property of the King.

The Gifts of his Ministers.

8 And his Ministers gave of free will to the People, the Priests, and the Levites,—Hilkiah, and Zekariah, and Jehkiah, the Leaders of the House of GOD, they gave to the Priests for their Passover two thousand and six hundred (lambs), and three hundred
 9 oxen. Konenihu and Shimihu, and Nathanael, his brother, and Khashabihu, and Javal, and Jozabad, nobles of the Levites, gave to the Levites for their Passover, five thousand (lambs), and five hundred oxen.
 10 Thus the Service was prepared, and the Priests appointed, and the Levites in their Divisions, according to the
 11 order of the King. And they killed the Passover. Then the Priests sprinkled from their hands, and the Levites
 12 stripped, and removed the Burnt-offering that had to be presented by the Sections of Ancestral Houses of the Children of the People, and approached the EVER-LIVING, as prescribed in the Book of Moses.
 13 And the same with the oxen. They then roasted the Passover with fire, as Decreed, and boiled the Consecrations in boilers and cauldrons, and pans, and distributed to all the
 14 Children of the People; and afterwards

prepared for themselves, and for the Priests, because the Priests, the Descendants of Aaron, were offering Burnt-offerings from the Dawn until night. So the Levites prepared for themselves, and for the Descendants of Aaron.

The Choir Restored.

The Singers, also, the Descendants
 15 of Asaph, and Heman, and Jeduthun, the Royal Seer, and the Door-Keepers from Gate to Gate, who could not themselves go away from their duty, like their brothers,—the Levites prepared for them. They also prepared
 16 for all the Services of the EVER-LIVING on that day, in making the Passover, and offering the Burnt-offerings, upon the Altar of the LORD, as King Joshiah commanded.

Thus the Children of Israel who
 17 were present at that time made the Passover, and the Feast of Unfermented Bread for seven days. No
 18 Passover like this was made in Israel from the days of Samuel the Preacher, by all the Kings of Israel. They did not make a Passover such as Joshiah made, with the Priests and Levites, and all Judah and Israel present, with the inhabitants of Jerusalem.—
 19 Joshiah made this Passover in the eighteenth year of his reign.

(610 B.C.) Pharaoh Neko Invades Judæa.

After all this when Joshiah had
 20 repaired the Temple, Neko, King of the Mitzeraim came up to attack Karkemish on the Frath,¹ but Joshiah went out to oppose him. When he
 21 sent Messengers to ask, "What is there between you and I, King of Judah?—I have not prepared to-day against you, but against the House I am at war with, and GOD commanded me to make haste.—Restrain yourself from opposing GOD Who is with me, and He will not destroy you."

Joshiah, however, would not turn
 22 from opposing him, but determined to fight, and would not listen to the statements of Neko from the mouth of the EVER-LIVING, but went to battle with him on the plain of Megiddo, where the Archers shot
 23 King Joshiah. So the King said to his servants, "Take me to the rear ;

¹ Euphrates.

24 —for I am badly wounded!" His servants consequently took him to the rear from amongst the chariots, and placed him on another chariot he had, and they carried him to Jerusalem, where he died, and was buried in the Tombs of his fathers. But all Judea and Jerusalem mourned over

25 Josiah. Jeremiah also lamented over Josiah, and all the Men and Women Singers speak in their Laments of Josiah to this day, and they are remembered in Israel, and can be seen written in the Elegies.

26 For the rest of the events of Josiah, and his piety in accordance to the Written Laws of the EVER-

27 LIVING, and his Speeches, the first and the last, are recorded in the Records of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

(610 B.C.) *The People Elect as King Jhoahaz.*

36 Then the People of the country took Jhoahaz - ben - Josiah, and crowned him in his father's stead, at Jerusalem. Jhoahaz was twenty-three years of age at his coronation, and reigned three months in Jerusalem, for the King of the Mitzeraim expelled him from Jerusalem, and fined the country a hundred talents of silver, and a talent of Gold. The King of the Mitzeraim also made Aliakam King over Judea and Jerusalem, and changed his name to Jhoiakim. Then Neko took Jhoahaz his brother and sent him to the Mitzeraim.

(610 B.C.) *Jhoiakim dethroned by Nebukadnezzar.*

5 Jhoiakim was twenty-five years old at his coronation, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem, but did evil in the eyes of the EVER-LIVING GOD, and Nebukadnezzar, King of Babel advanced against him, and bound him in chains, and carried him to Babel.

7 The rest of the doings of Jhoiakim, and the depravities he committed, and were habitual with him, are written in the Records of the Kings of Israel and Judah. But Jhoiakim, his son reigned after.

(607 B.C.) *The Vicereignty of Jhoiakim under Nebukadnezzar.*

9 Jhoiakim was eighteen years old at his coronation, and reigned three

months and ten days in Jerusalem, and did wrong in the sight of the EVER-LIVING; But, at the turn of the 10 year King Nebukadnezzar sent and had him brought to Babel, with the precious vessels of the House of the LORD, and made Zekeriah his brother King over Judea and Jerusalem.

(599 B.C.) *Zakeriah's Vicereignty under Babylon.*

Zakeriah was twenty-one years of 11 age at his coronation, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. But he 12 did wrong in the eyes of the EVER-LIVING GOD. He did not submit and repent at the words of Jeremiah, the Preacher, from the mouth of the EVER-LIVING; and also he revolted 13 from Nebukadnezzar to whom he had sworn obedience by GOD, and stiffened his neck, and encouraged his heart, against turning to the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel. All the Nobles, 14 also, the Priests and the People, heaped crime upon crime, with all the depravities of the Heathen, and defiled the House of the LORD, which had been Consecrated in Jerusalem. Although the EVER-LIVING GOD of 15 their fathers sent to them, by the hand of His Messengers, diligently sending, because He was grieved for His People, and for their sons. But 16 they jeered at the Messengers of GOD and despised His Messages, and were disgusted at His Preachers, until the indignation of the LORD arose against His People without remedy, and he brought up against them the 17 King of the Kasdim, who slaughtered their choice young men in the Consecrated House, and had no pity over boy or girl, old man, or grey-haired —He gave all to his power!

(588 B.C.)

And all the vessels of the House of 18 GOD, great or small, and the Treasures of the House of the EVER-LIVING, and the Treasures of the King, and his Nobles, he carried the whole to Babel. Then he burnt the 19 House of GOD, and threw down the walls of Jerusalem, and burnt all the Palaces with fire, and destroyed all their costly furniture, and transported 20 to Babel the remnants from the sword, and they became slaves to him, and his children, until the Empire of the King of Persia, and accomplished the 21

Message from the EVER-LIVING by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths, for all the time it was waste, it rested, for a complete seventy years.

(536 B.C.) **Cyrus Proclaims Freedom to the Jewish Captives of Babylon.**

22 But in the first year of Kuresh, King of Persia, was completed the promise of the EVER-LIVING by the

mouth of Jeremiah, and the EVER-LIVING aroused the spirit of Kuresh, King of Persia, and he passed a proclamation to all his Empire, and also recorded it in writing, to command ;—

"Thus says Kuresh King of Persia ²³ to all the Kingdoms of the earth ; the EVER-LIVING GOD of the Heavens gave to me the whole Empire of the earth. He has also appointed me to build Him a Temple in Jerusalem, which is in Judea. Whoever of His People is with you,—the LORD GOD is with him, let him go up."

THE END OF THE SECOND BOOK OF CHRONICLES.—THE HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID.

THE END