

THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH.

BY ISAIAH-BEN-AMAZ THE PROPHET.

(See II. Chronicles, Ch. 32, v. 32.)

BOOK VI.

THE MONARCHICAL PERIOD.

THE SECOND BOOK OF KINGS.

B.C. 896) Ahaziah reigns over Israel, and Elijah foretells his death. — Moab revolts from Israel.

1 AFTER the death of Ahab, Moab
2 A revolted from Israel; and
Akhaziah lay sick at that time, in
his chamber at Shomeron, and was
anxious,—so he sent messengers to go
and inquire from Bal-zebub, the god
of Akron, "If I can revive from this
3 illness?" But a Messenger of the
EVER-LIVING commanded Elijah, the
Tishbite, "Arise! Go up to meet
the Ambassadors of the King of
Shomeron, and say to them;—

"Is it because there is not a GOD
in Israel that you go to inquire of
4 Bal-zebub, the god of Akron?—Con-
sequently thus says the EVER-LIVING,
'From the bed that you are upon
you shall not arise, for you shall
die.'" Then Elijah departed.

5 When the messengers returned to
him, he asked them, "Why have you
6 returned?" They answered him:—
"A man came up to meet us and
said, 'Go! Return to the king who
sent you, and say to him, Thus asks
the EVER-LIVING: Was it because
there is no GOD in Israel that you
sent to inquire of Bal-zebub, the god
of Akron?—Therefore from the bed
you lie upon you shall not arise;—
for you shall die!'"

7 Then he asked them, "What kind
of a man was he who came up to

meet you? And said these things to
you?"

And they replied to him, "A man 8
covered with hair, and belted with a
leather belt round his waist."

When he exclaimed, "It is Elijah
the Tishbite."

**Akhaziah orders Elijah to come to
him.—He refuses.**

He therefore sent to him a Captain 9
of his Guards, who went up to him
where he lived on the top of a hill,
and said, "MAN of GOD, the king
commands you to come down."

But Elijah answered and said to the 10
Captain of the Guards, "If I am a
MAN of GOD, let fire come down from
the skies, and devour you and your
company." And fire came down
from the skies and consumed him
and his company.

Then again he sent to him another 11
Captain of the Guards with his com-
pany, who spoke, and said to him,
"MAN of GOD, the king asks you to
descend from that hill."

But Elijah replied and said to them, 12
"If I am a MAN of GOD, let fire de-
scend from the skies and consume
you and your company." When fire
came down upon them from the skies
and consumed him and his company!

But again he sent a third Captain 13
of the Guards with his company, and
the third went up and arrived, but he
knelt on his knees before Elijah, and
showed him respect, and said, "MAN

of GOD! let my life and the lives of these servants of yours be precious in your sight! For fire came down from the skies and consumed the two Captains and their companies,—but now let my life be precious in your eyes!"

Elijah commanded from the Ever-living to Visit the King.

15 Then the Messenger of the EVER-LIVING commanded Elijah, "Go down with him:—fear not for his presence."

16 So he arose, and descended with him to the king, and said to him, "Thus asks the EVER-LIVING, 'Why have you sent messengers to inquire of Bal-zebub, the god of Akron? Is it because there is no GOD in Israel to ask for His decision? Therefore from the bed upon which you are laid you shall not descend,—for you shall die!'" And he did die according to the word of Elijah, and Jhoram his brother began to reign in his place in the second year of Jhoram-ben-Jhoshafat king of Judah, for he had not a son.

18 As for the other things that Akhaziah did, they are written in the history of events of the period of the kings of Israel.

(B.C. 896.) The Death of Elijah.

2 When the EVER-LIVING was about to take up Elijah in a tempest to the Heavens, Elijah and Alisha were travelling in Gilgal, and Elijah said to Alisha, "Go back, now, from here, for the EVER-LIVING will send me to Bethel."

But Alisha replied, "By the life of the EVER-LIVING, and by your life, I will not leave you!" So they descended to Bethel.

3 When at Bethel, some Preachers came to Alisha, and asked him, "Do you know that the EVER-LIVING will take your master from your head?"

And he replied, "I know it! Be silent."

4 Elijah again said to Alisha, "Turn back, I pray, here,—for the EVER-LIVING has sent me to Jeriko."

5 But he replied, "By the life of the EVER-LIVING, and by the life of your soul, I will not leave you!" So they went on to Jeriko, where the Preachers who were in Jeriko approached to Alisha, and asked him, "Do you know that to-day the EVER-LIVING will take your master from your head?"

And he answered, "I also know it. Be silent!"

6 Then Elijah said to him, "Return, I beg, here, for the EVER-LIVING has sent me to the Jordan."

But he replied, "By the life of the EVER-LIVING and the life of your soul, I will not leave you!"

7 So both of them went on; and fifty men from the Preachers went and stationed themselves at a distance to the south, but they two stood by the Jordan, and Elijah took his mantle, 8 and folded it, and struck the waters, when they divided on this side and that, and both passed over on dry land.

9 When they had passed over Elijah said to Alisha, "Ask what I shall do for you before GOD takes me from you?"

And Alisha answered, "Let twice your spirit come upon me."

10 When he replied, "You have asked a hard thing. If you see me taken from you, then it will come to you;—but if not, it will not come."

(B.C. 896.) Elisha receives Elijah's Mantle.

11 While they were walking and conversing, a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire and stopped between them, and Elijah ascended in a tempest to the Heavens, but Alisha looked 12 on and shouted, "My father! My father! The chariot of Israel and its horses!" But he never saw him again. He seized his robe, however, and it tore into two, and the mantle 13 that Elijah wore fell upon him. Then he returned and stood on the bank of the Jordan, and took the mantle of 14 Elijah, which had fallen from off him, and struck the waters, and said, "Come, EVER-LIVING, the GOD of Elijah, as if to himself." Then he struck the waters, and they divided, on this side and that, and Alisha 15 crossed over. And the pupils of the Preachers who were in Jeriko, to the south, saw it, and remarked, "The spirit of Elijah has fallen upon Alisha," so they went to meet him, and bowed to him to the earth, and said, "You 16 see now your servants are fifty strong men. Let us go and seek Elijah, for fear the spirit of the EVER-LIVING should carry him away, and drive him to some of the hills, or to some of the vales."

But he replied, "Do not go." They, however, pressed him until he 17

was ashamed, when he answered
"Go."

The Young Preachers seek for Elijah.

So the fifty men went, and searched
for three days, but could not find
18 him. They consequently returned
to him, for he was staying in Jeriko,
and he said to them, "Did I not tell
you not to go?"

(B. C. 896.) Anecdotes of Elisha.

19 The men of the town once said to
Alisha, "The position of the town is
good, as your lordship perceives, but
the water is bad, and the ground
barren."

20 He consequently replied, "Fetch
me a new bowl, and put salt in it,
21 and bring it me." Then he went to
the water-springs and threw the salt
into them, and said, "Thus says the
EVER-LIVING! I have cured these
waters, death and barrenness shall no
22 more come from them." And the
waters have been healthy to this day,
according to the message Alisha del-
ivered.

23 Once he went up from there to
Bethel, and as he was on the road some
young lads met him near the town, and
ridiculed him, exclaiming, "Go up bald
24 head! Go up bald head!" when he
turned and cursed them in the Name
of the EVER-LIVING, and two bears
from the forest met them and tore
forty-two of the lads.—From there he
went to Mount Karmel, and after-
wards he settled in Shomeron.

(B. C. 896.) Jhoram-ben-Akhab reigns over Israel.

3 Jhoram-ben-Akhab began to reign
over Israel, in Shomeron, in the
eleventh year of Jhoshafat king of
Judah, and he reigned twelve years,
2 and did wrong in the eyes of the
EVER-LIVING; but not like his father
and mother, for he overturned the
Columns of Bal that his father had
3 made. From the sins, however, of
Jerabam-ben-Nebat, which he caused
Israel to sin, he did not turn away.

Moab Revolts, but is again Subdued.

4 Mesha, the king of Moab, was his
shepherd, and paid to the king of
Israel a hundred thousand lambs, and
a hundred thousand rams' fleeces.
5 But when Akhab died the king of

Moab revolted from the king of Israel.
Then King Jhoram at once set out 6
from Shomeron, and organized the
forces of Israel, and marched. He 7
also sent to Jhoshafat king of Judah
to say, "Moab has revolted from me
—will you go with me to Moab to
fight?" And he answered, "I will
go, for mine are yours, and your
people are like mine, and my cavalry
like your cavalry." He also asked, 8
"By what road shall we advance?"
When he replied, "By way of the
Pastures of Edom."

(B. C. 895.) The March.

The king of Israel and the king of 9
Judah and the king of Edom conse-
quently marched by that route for
seven days, until there was no water
for the soldiers, or the cattle belong-
ing to them, so that the king of Israel 10
exclaimed, "Alas! why has the EVER-
LIVING collected these three kings to
give them to the hand of Moab!"

(B. C. 896.) Jhoshafat asks for a Prophet.

But Jhoshafat enquired, "Is there 11
not a Preacher of the EVER-LIVING
here, that we may enquire of the
EVER-LIVING through him?"

Then one of the officers addressed
the king of Israel and said, "Alisha-
ben-Shafat is here, who poured water
on the hands of Elijah."

And Jhoshafat added, "The word 12
of the EVER-LIVING is with him."
Therefore the king of Israel, and
Jhoshafat, and the king of Edom,
went to him, when Alisha asked the 13
king of Israel, "Why do you come to
me? Go to the Preachers of your
father, and the Preachers of your
mother!"

But the king of Israel replied,
"No! For the EVER-LIVING has
collected these three kings to give
them to the hand of Moab."

When Alisha answered, "By the 14
life of the EVER-LIVING POWER, be-
fore Whose face I stand,—but for the
presence of Jhoshafat king of Judah, I
would perish rather than attend to
you, or see you! But, however, 15
bring me a harp." And a harp was
brought with a harper. Then the
hand of the EVER-LIVING came upon
him, and he said, "Thus says the 16
EVER-LIVING! 'Make trenches in
this valley.' For thus says the EVER-
17 LIVING, 'No wind shall be perceived,

and no rain shall be seen, yet the valley shall be full of water, and you shall be quenched, with your animals and cattle; but that is a trifle in the sight of the EVER-LIVING, therefore He will give Moab into your power, and you shall storm all the fortified cities, and all the best towns. And you shall fell all the beautiful woods, and stop up all the springs of water, and cover all their beautiful gardens with stones."

20 When morning came, at the time of offering the gift, a flood had come from the direction of Edom, and covered the country with water.

21 As related, all Moab had heard that the kings had come up to fight with them, and had convoked an armed force, and had advanced and were stationed near. They also awoke in the morning when the sun shone upon the waters, and the Moabites at a distance saw the waters red, like blood. So they exclaimed, "That is blood! The kings have been fighting with the sword, and every man has struck his mate! So now, Moab, for the plunder!" And they advanced to the camp of Israel.

But Israel arose and assailed Moab, and they fled before them, and they attacked and defeated Moab, and destroyed the towns; and over all the beautiful gardens they spread stones and destroyed them, and filled up the wells of water, and felled all the pleasant trees to extirpate them. They broke down the walled buildings, and tore up their foundations to the bottom. Consequently the king of Moab saw they were stronger than him in war, so he took with himself seven hundred trained souldiers to break through the king of Edom, but was not able. Then he took his son, the eldest, who would have reigned after him, and offered him as a burnt-offering on the top of the wall, for he was furious against Israel.¹ They afterwards retired from him and returned to their country.

(B.C. 895.) *The Preacher's Widow and her Sons seized for her Debts.*

4 Once a woman, a wife of one of the Preachers, appealed to Alisha, saying,

¹ V. 27. Something seems to have been omitted from the MS. by an old transcriber, I think an account of the capture of the capital of Moab and death of Moab's king.—F. F.

"Your servant, my husband, has died,—and you know that your servant revered the EVER-LIVING,—but a creditor has come to take my two sons for his slaves."

And Alisha asked her, "What can I do for you? Inform me what furniture you have in the house."

When she said, "There is nothing in the house of your handmaid, except a jar of oil."

He then answered, "Go and borrow vessels from all the inhabitants of the street,—barrels of a not small capacity. Then come and shut the door behind you, and behind your sons, and pour into all these vessels, and fill them full."

She accordingly went from him, and shut the door behind herself and her sons who went with her, and they poured. And when they had filled the vessels, she said to one son, "Bring me another cask." But he replied to her, "There is not another cask." Then the oil ceased! She therefore went to the MAN of GOD, and informed him, who said, "Go, sell the oil, and pay your debts, and support yourself with the remainder."

(B.C. 910.) *The Lady of Shunam entertains Elisha.*

At one period Alisha was travelling to Shunam, where there was a great lady, who invited him to eat bread, and whenever he was passing by there to turn in to take food. The woman also said to her husband, "See, now you know that he is a holy MAN of GOD who passes by us continually. Let me furnish the little upper chamber, and put a bed there for him, with a table and a chair, so that when he comes to us he may visit here." And he came there that same day, and turned to go up to her to rest himself.

He consequently said to Ghikhazi, his attendant, "Call this Shunamess." And he called her, and she stood before him. Then he said to him, "Say to her, 'I see how you have cared for us with all this trouble. What can be done for you? Can I speak for you to the king? or to the commander of the army?'"

But she answered, "I reside amongst my own people."

Then he asked, "But what can be done for her?"

And Ghikhazi replied, "She grieves

because she has no son, and her husband is old."

- 15 Then he said, "Call her." And he called her, and she stood in the doorway, when he said, "At the return of this season you shall fold a son in your arms!"

(B.C. 894.) *The Lady's Son has a Sunstroke.*

But she exclaimed, "No Sir! MAN of GOD, do not lie to your handmaid."

- 17 The woman, however, conceived, and bore a son, when that season came round, as Alisha had said to her. And the lad grew up, and one day went out to his father in the harvest field, and said to his father, "My head! My head!" So he ordered his attendant to carry him to his mother. He consequently carried him and brought him to his mother, who placed him on her knees until noon, when he died. Then she arose and laid him on the bed of the MAN of GOD, and closed the door, and went out and approached her husband, and said, "I wish you to send with me one of the servants, and one of the riding asses, for I wish to go quickly to the MAN of GOD, and to return."
- 23 But he asked, "What is the matter with you that you would go to him? To-day is not a festival, nor a Sabbath?" And she answered, "Right."
- 24 Then they saddled the asses, and she said to the servant, "Drive! do not hold back for me to ride,—for have I not told you to be quick?"
- 25 Thus she went, and came to the MAN of GOD on Mount Karmel, and when the MAN of GOD saw her at a distance he said to Ghikhazi his attendant, "Look! the Shunamess is there!"
- 26 Run, now, to meet her, and ask her 'Is all well with you? Is all well with your husband? Is all well with your lad?'"
- 27 But she came to the MAN of GOD on the hill and seized his feet. Ghikhazi, however, came to remove her, when the MAN of GOD said, "Remove her not; for her soul is in grief; but the EVER-LIVING has hidden it from me, and has not informed me of it."
- 28 Then she exclaimed, "Did I ask a son from my lord? Why did you tell me he should be sent to me?"

Then he said to Ghikhazi, "Gird up your loins, and take my staff in your hand. If you meet a man do not address him, and if a man addresses you, do not answer him, and lay my staff upon the face of the child."

But the mother of the child said, "By the life of the EVER-LIVING, and by the life of your soul, I will not part from you." He therefore arose and followed her. But Ghikhazi pushed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child,—but there was neither voice nor utterance. He consequently returned back to meet and inform them, saying, "The child has not awakened!"

Then Alisha came to the house, and saw the child lying as dead upon the bed, so he went in and shut the door behind both of them, and prayed to the EVER-LIVING. Then he went up and lay upon the child and placed his own face to his face, and his own eyes to his eyes, and his own hands to his hands, and bowed over him, and warmed the body of the lad. Then he went away and walked in the house here and there once, and once again, and again ascended, and bent over him, when the lad sneezed seven times, and opened his eyes. At which he called Ghikhazi, and said, "Fetch his mother here." When he invited her, and she came, and he said, "Take up your son."

But she came and fell at his feet, and bowed to the earth,—and then took her son, and departed.

(B.C. 898.) *Elisha and the Pupils of the Preachers.*

Alisha afterwards went to Gilgal, and a famine was in the country, so the pupils of the Preachers came to him, when he said to his attendant, "Set the great pot and boil pottage for the students of the preachers."

And one of them then went to the field to collect vegetables, and found wild vines and gathered some of them, and wild gourds,¹ filling his bag, and returned and flung the collection into the pot, for he knew not what they were. Then they poured out for the

¹ "Wild gourds." In the African and Arabian deserts poisonous and edible gourds grow together, I have been told by relatives who have traversed them, and on the same stems, the poison probably coming from microbic inoculation by some insect.—F. F.

men to eat. But when they would have eaten the bunches, they cried out and said, "MAN of GOD! there is death in the pot!" and they would not eat.

- 41 He therefore commanded, and they took flour and threw into the pot. Then he said, "Pour out for the people," and they ate, and nothing bad came from the pot.

(B.C. 898.) **Elisha and the Famished People.**

- 42 Once a man came from Bal Shalshah, and brought to the MAN of GOD, and presented to him from his first fruits, twenty cakes of barley, and a sack of garden produce, but he said, "Give them to the people, and let them eat."

- 43 When he asked, "What will this be divided to a hundred people?"

He only answered, "Give to the people, and let them eat!—For thus says the EVER-LIVING, 'They will eat and there will be leavings!'"

- 44 So he put it before them, and they ate, and left part of it, as the EVER-LIVING had said.

(B.C. 893.) **Naman the Aramite Leper.**

- 5 Naman was then commander of the Army of the king of Aram—a great man in the presence of his Prince—and he bore renown, for the EVER-LIVING had given success to Aram by him, and the man was a great hero—but a leper! When the troops of the Aramites had invaded the land of Israel they brought back a little girl, who attended on the wife of Naman; and she said, "I wish my master were near the Preacher who is in Shomeron, for there he could be relieved of his leprosy."

- 4 She consequently went and reported to her husband, saying, "The girl you brought from the land of Israel says this and that."

- 5 Then the king of Aram said, "Go! go! and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

- 6 So he went and took ten talents of silver with him, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten robes of honour, and brought the letter to the king of Israel to say:—

"When this letter reaches you, you will see I send my officer Naman

to you, that you may relieve him of his leprosy."

But when the king of Israel read 7 the letter he tore his robes, and exclaimed, "Am I God, able to kill, and revive? that this man should send to me to relieve that man from his leprosy? Who will study it now, and ascertain how he would pick a quarrel with me?"

But when Alisha the MAN of GOD 8 heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent to the king to ask, "Why have you torn your robes?—Come, however, to me and I will teach you that there is a Preacher in Israel." Naman accordingly came 9 with his horses and chariots, and stood before the house of Alisha. But Alisha only sent a messenger to him to say, "Go, and wash seven times in Jordan, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and be clean."

Naman, however, became furious, 11 and went away, and exclaimed, "Look!—I said to myself, 'He will come out, and stand up, and call upon the Name of his EVER-LIVING GOD, and wave his hand over the place, and remove the leprosy.' Are 12 not beautiful Abana and Parfar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the brooks of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and cleanse myself?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

But his Officers approached him, 13 and said, "Sir, if the Preacher had commanded you to do a great thing, would you not have done it? Then why not when he says to you, 'Wash and become clean'?"

He consequently went down to the 14 Jordan, and bathed in it seven times, as the MAN of GOD commanded, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was cleansed! Then he returned to the MAN of GOD, 15 he and all his staff, and entered and stood before him, and said, "Look! Now I have learnt that there is no GOD in all the earth, except HIM in Israel! Therefore I pray accept a present from your servant."

But he answered, "By the life of 16 the EVER-LIVING, before Whom I stand, I will not accept it."

Then he pressed him to take it, but he refused.

Naman then said, "If not, then let 17 there be given to your servant a gift of two mule loads of earth. For your servant will never after now make

offering and sacrifice to another GOD
18 except the EVER-LIVING. Will the
EVER-LIVING, however, forgive your
servant for this thing? When my
Prince goes to the Temple of Rimon
to bow there, and leans upon my arm
to bow in the Temple of Rimon,—if I
bow in the Temple of Rimon, I pray
the EVER-LIVING to forgive your ser-
vant for that thing."

19 And he replied to him, "Go in
peace!"

So he departed with his loads of
earth.

(B.C. 893.) *The Villainy of
Ghikhazi.*

20 Ghikhazi, the attendant of Alisha,
the MAN of GOD, said to himself, "I
see my Master refrained from taking
from the cargo of this Naman the
Aramite what he offered! By the life
of the EVER-LIVING, if I don't run
after him, and get something for
myself from him!"

21 Ghikhazi consequently ran after
Naman, and Naman saw him running,
and alighted from his chariot to go
and meet him, and asked, "Is all
well?"

22 When he replied, "All is well.
My Master has sent me to say that
'There have just come to me two young
men from Mount Ephraim, students
of the Preachers,—give me therefore
a talent of silver, and two Robes of
Honour.'"

23 And Naman replied, "Will you not
take two talents of silver?" And he
pressed him, and put two talents of
silver into two bags, and two Robes
of Honour, and gave them to two of
his own attendants, who carried them
24 before him. When they came to
the hill, he took them from their
hands and put them in the house, and
dismissed the men and they departed.

25 He then went and stood before his
Master, and Alisha asked, "Where
do you come from, Ghikhazi?"

When he answered, "Your servant
has not been anywhere!"

26 But he replied, "Went not my
heart with you when the man de-
scended from his chariot and came to
meet you?—Is this a time for you to
take money? And take Robes? And
Olive-yards, and Vineyards? And
sheep and oxen? And men and
27 women servants?—Therefore the
leprosy of Naman the Aramite shall
stick to you, and your race for ever!"

And he went from his presence a
leper white as snow!

(B.C. 893.) *His Pupils build
Elisha a house.*

The student Preachers afterwards 6
said to Alisha, "You see that the
place where we reside with you is too
small for us. Let us go therefore to 2
the Jordan, and each one of us take a
beam from there and construct for us
a residence to settle in." And he
replied, "Go."

But someone asked, "Will you not 3
consent to go with us?"

And he answered, "I will go." So 4
he went with them, and they arrived
at the Jordan, and selected the trees.

But while one was felling the timber 5
the axe fell into the stream, so that
he cried out and exclaimed, "Alas!
Master! it was borrowed!"

But the MAN of GOD asked, "Where 6
did it fall?" So they showed him
the place, when he seized a stick and
thrust it there and floated the iron,
and said, "It floats for you." When 7
he stretched out his hand and took it.

(B.C. 892.) *Elisha advises the King
of Israel in his Wars with Aram.*

At a time when the king of Aram 8
was at war with Israel, his officers
advised him, saying:—"Fix your
camp at such a place."

But the MAN of GOD sent to the 9
king of Israel to say, "Guard the
passes at that place, or the king of
Aram will encamp there."

The king of Israel therefore sent to 10
the passes which the MAN of GOD
had intimated to him, and took pre-
caution and guarded them, not once
or twice. Consequently the heart of 11
the king of Aram was depressed about
the matter, so he summoned his
officers, and asked them, "Can you
inform me who is advising the king of
Israel?"

When one of his ministers an- 12
swered, "Does not your Majesty
know that Alisha, the Preacher, who
is in Israel, instructs the king of
Israel about the things that you talk
of in your bed-chamber?"

Then he said, "Go and ascertain 13
where he is, and I will send and
capture him."

And they informed him saying,
"He is in Dothan."

He consequently sent Cavalry and 14

Charioteers, and a powerful force, who advanced by night and surrounded the village. But the MAN of GOD arose early to go up to worship, and went out, and saw a force surrounding the village with Cavalry and Charioteers, when his attendant exclaimed to him, "Oh! Master, what shall we do?"

But he replied, "Fear not! for there are more with us than are with them."

Then Alisha prayed and asked, "EVER-LIVING! open his eyes, and let him see!" And the EVER-LIVING opened the eyes of the youth, and he saw, and perceived that the mountain was covered with Cavalry and Chariots

of fire surrounding Alisha, and descending with him. Then Alisha prayed to the EVER-LIVING and said, "Afflict these heathen with a blinding dazzle!" And He afflicted them with a blinding dazzle, as Alisha asked.

Then Alisha said to them, "That is not the road," and, "This is not the road, to the village. March after me and I will lead you to the man whom you seek." But he led them to

Shomeron. And when they came to Shomeron, Alisha said to the EVER-LIVING, "Open their eyes that they may see," when the EVER-LIVING opened their eyes, and they saw they were in the market-place of Shomeron.

The king of Israel, however, asked Alisha, "Shall I cut them off? Shall I assail them, father?"

But he replied, "You shall not assail them! Assail those you capture by your sword and your bow. Set food and water before these, and let them eat and drink, then go to their Master!"

He consequently spread a great feast of food, and they ate and drank. Then he dismissed them, and they went to their Prince; and the troops of Aram did not again invade the land of Israel.

(B.C. 892.) **Ben-hadad besieges Shomeron by Starvation.**

It was after this that Ben-hadad, king of Aram, collected all his forces and came up to besiege Shomeron.

A great famine consequently came in Shomeron while the siege was against it, until an ass's head was sold for eighty pieces of silver, and a quarter

of peas¹ for five silvers. And once when the king was going to the wall, a woman appealed to him, saying, "Help! your Majesty!"

When he replied, "The EVER-LIVING help you!—for I cannot help you, either from the pantry or cellar!"

The king, however, asked her "What is the matter with you?"

When she replied, "This woman said to me, 'Give me your child and we will eat it to-day,—then we will eat my son to-morrow!' And she boiled my son, and we ate him. But when I said the day after, 'Give me your son, that we may eat him,' she hid her son!"

(B.C. 892.) **The King threatens to kill Elisha.**

When the king heard the words of the woman, he tore his robes, as he went on to the wall, and the people saw sackcloth was upon his body, underneath them, and he exclaimed, "May GOD do so to me, and add to it, if the head of Alisha-ben-Shafat shall stand upon him to-day." So he sent a man from his attendants.²

Now Alisha sat in his own house, and some gentlemen sat with him; and previous to the arrival of the Messenger to him, he said to the gentlemen, "Take care! for this son of murder has sent to take off my head. Look! there the Messenger comes! Shut the door, send and keep him outside the doors. For is not the sound of his Master's feet after him?"

And whilst he was speaking to them, the King³ arrived and said, "This trouble is from the EVER-

¹ "Dove's dung," the old interpretation, seems nonsense. "Peas," I take it, with many etymologists, are meant, as the article was a food.—F. F.

² A transposition by the error of a copyist misplaced this clause from Chap. 5, v. 31, to a secondary place in v. 32. I restore it to clear the sense.—F. F.

³ I read "King arrived," in place of "Messenger arrived"; as **המלך**, Ha-Melek, "King," makes sense, and **המלאך**, Ha-malak, "Messenger," does not. The current Hebrew reading is evidently an error of transcription of a single letter, but has been followed in its error by all previous translators, although it makes nonsense.—F. F.

LIVING. Why should I longer trust on the EVER-LIVING?"

7 But Alisha answered:—"Hear the promise of the EVER-LIVING! By to-morrow at this time a sah of flour shall be a shekel, and a sah of barley shall be a shekel, at the gate of Shomeron."

2 An Officer on whose arm the king leaned sneered at the MAN of GOD and said, "If the EVER-LIVING opened windows in the skies, could such a thing happen?"

But he replied, "You shall see it with your own eyes;—but you shall not eat of it!"

The Outcast Lepers find the Aramite Besiegers slain in Panic.

3 It happened there were four men, lepers, outside the gate, and one man said to his companion, "Wherever we turn we shall go to death! If we say we will go to the City, the famine is there, and we shall die. But if we turn to yonder, they will kill us. However, let us proceed to the Camp of Aram,—if they let us live we shall live,—but if they kill us, we can but die!"

5 They consequently rose up, encouraging themselves to go to the Camp of Aram, and arrived at the outskirts of the Camp of Aram, and found no one there! for the Almighty had caused to be heard in the Camp of Aram a noise of chariots, and a sound of cavalry, and the sound as of a great army, so that each said to his comrade, "Don't you see the king of Israel has hired against us the king of the Hitites, and the kings of the

7 Mitzeraim to come upon us?" They consequently arose and fled from themselves and abandoned their baggage, their horses, and their asses in the camp as they were, and had run for their lives! And these lepers having come to the skirts of the camp entered one of the tents, and ate and drank, and carried off silver, and gold, and clothing, and furniture, and hid them. Then they returned and came to another tent and carried off from there, and went and hid it. At last one said to his companion, "We ought not to do so now!—for this is a day of good news! Yet we are silent! And if we wait until dawn of day, they will discover our fault, and then they will come, and catch,

and report us to the palace of the king."

They therefore went and called at the gate, and informed them, saying, "We went to the Camp of Aram and saw neither a man nor a sound of men there, but only of horses in stall, and the tents as they were!"

The watchwere consequently called, and they reported it to the king from their communication. So the king arose in the night and said to his officers "Inform me, now, what do you think Aram is contriving against us? They know that we are famishing. So have they gone from the Camp to entice us into the open field, thinking 'They will come out of the city, when we will seize them alive, and enter the town.'"

Then one of his officers answered and said, "Let them take the five remaining horses that are left to us, for they are like the whole lot of Israel that are left to her—they are like all the crowd of Israel that she possesses,—and send out and ascertain."

They consequently took the chariot horses, and the king sent after the army of Aram ordering to go and examine. So they went to the Jordan, and found all the road full of accoutrements and arms which the soldiers of Aram had thrown away. The messengers therefore returned and informed the king.

Then the people went out and plundered the Camp of Aram, and a sah of flour was sold for a shekel, and a sah of barley for a shekel, as the EVER-LIVING had said. And the king appointed the general upon whose arm he rested over the gate; but the crowd trod him under foot at the gate, and he was killed, as the MAN of GOD foretold, when he spoke to the king when visiting him. For it occurred as the MAN of GOD said to the king foretelling, "A sah of barley for a shekel, and a sah of flour for a shekel, shall be bought at this time to-morrow at the gate of Shomeron." When a general sneered at the MAN of GOD and said, "If the EVER-LIVING made windows in the sky, could such an event as this come?" And he answered, "You yourself shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it."

But yet it came to him,—for the crowd trod him under foot at the gate,—and he was killed.

(B.C. 891.) **Elisha advises the Shunamite Lady of an approaching Famine.**

8 Alisha also warned the lady whose son he had revived for her, "Arise and go, yourself and family, and stay where you can stay, for the EVER-LIVING will call a famine, and also bring it upon the country for seven years."¹

2 The woman therefore arose, and did as the MAN of GOD commanded, and went with her family, and stayed in the country of the Philistim for seven years.

(B.C. 885.)

3 But when the seven years were ended, the woman returned from the country of the Philistim, and came to appeal to the king for her house and land, while the king was speaking with Ghikhazi, the attendant of the MAN of GOD, and asking, "Tell me, I pray you, all the great things Alisha has done." And he was relating to the king how he had restored the dead to life, when the woman, whose son had been restored to life, appealed to the king about her house and land. Ghikhazi therefore said, "Your Majesty! This is the woman!—and this is her son, whom Alisha restored to life!"

5 The king then questioned the woman, and she told him, when the king committed her to an Officer with an order to return to her all that was hers, with all the produce of the estate from the day she left the country until then.

(B.C. 881.) **Elisha goes to Damascus and foretells the Cruel Crimes of Hazhaal.**

7 Alisha afterwards went to Damascus, when Ben-hadad the king of Aram was sick, and it was reported to him, that "The MAN of GOD has come here." The king consequently said to Hazhaal, "Take a present with you, and go and meet the MAN of GOD, and enquire of the EVER-LIVING through him if I shall recover from this sickness."

9 Hazhaal therefore went to meet

him, and took a present with him of all the best in Damascus loaded upon forty camels, and went and presented himself before him, and said, "Your servant Ben-hadad, king of Aram, has sent me to you to ask, 'Shall I recover from this illness?'"

When Alisha answered him, "Go! 10 Say, 'You will not live'—for the EVER-LIVING has shown me he shall die."

He, however, fixed himself before 11 him, and stood stiff with insolence.

Then the MAN of GOD wept.

When Hazhaal asked, "Why do 12 you weep, Sir?"

And he answered, "Because I know what cruelty you will do to the children of Israel! You will set fire to their towns; and murder their youths with the sword; and tear their infants to pieces; and rip up their women with child!"

Hazhaal, however, exclaimed,— 13 "What is your servant? Is he a dog?—that he should do such horrible things?"

When Alisha replied, "The EVER-LIVING has shown me YOURSELF, when king over Aram."

(B.C. 885.) **Hazhaal Murders Ben-hadad.**

He then left Alisha, and went to 14 his Prince, who asked him, "What did Alisha say to you?" And he replied, "He told me you should recover." But some days after he 15 took a towel and dipped it in water and spread it over his face, and he died, and Hazhaal reigned instead of him.

(B.C. 892.) **Reign of Jhoram-ben-Jhoshafat.**

In the fifth year of Joram-ben- 16 Akhab king of Israel, Jhoram-ben-Jhoshafat began to reign over Judah in conjunction with Jhoshafat, as kings of Judah. He was thirty-two 17 years old at his coronation, and reigned eight years in Jerusalem, and went in the way of the kings of 18 Israel, as the family of Akhab did;—for a daughter of Akhab was his wife. Thus he did evil in the sight of the EVER-LIVING. But the EVER- 19 LIVING did not desire to wreck Judah because of David his servant, as He had promised to give him a light from his descendants for all time.

¹ This famine must not be confused with that of three years in the time of Akhab, as many commentators and readers imagine; but was an entirely different event.—F. F.

(B.C. 892.) **Edom revolts from Judah.**

- 20 In his days Edom revolted from under the control of Judah, and crowned a king over themselves.
- 21 Joram consequently advanced to Tzair and all his charioteers with him, but Edom advanced by night and defeated his outposts and the commanders of the chariots; so the
- 22 army fled to their homes. Edom consequently revolted from under the control of Judah to this day, and Libnah also at the same time.
- 23 The rest of the affairs of Joram, and all that he did, are written in the history of events in the days of the
- 24 kings of Judah. When Joram slept with his fathers he was buried with his fathers in the City of David, and Akhaziah, his son, reigned after him.

(B.C. 885.) **Reign of Akhaziah over Judah.**

- 25 In the twelfth year of Joram-ben-Akhab, king of Israel, Akhaziah-ben-Jhoram began to reign in Judah.
- 26 Akhaziah was twenty-two years old at his coronation, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem, and his mother's name was Athaliah, a daughter of
- 27 Gomri, king of Israel, and he walked in the path of the house of Akhab, and did wrong in the sight of the EVER-LIVING, like the house of Akhab; for he was connected by marriage to the family of Akhab.

(B.C. 884.) **Joram at War with Hazhaal.**

- 28 When Joram-ben-Akhab went to war with Hazhaal, king of Aram, at Ramoth-Gilad, the Aramites defeated Joram. King Joram returned to be cured to Jezrahal of the wounds which the Aramites had given him at Ramoth, where he fought with Hazhaal, king of Aram. So Akhaziah-ben-Joram, king of Judah, came to visit Joram-ben-Akhab in Jezrahal while he was ill.

(B.C. 884.) **Elisha orders Jehu to Rebel.**

- 9 Then Alisha called one of the students of the Preachers and said to him, "Gird up your waist, and take this flask of oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth Gilad. When you arrive

there, seek out Jehu-ben-Jhoshafat-ben-Nimshi, and go and separate him from his companions, and take him with you to a private room. Then take the flask of oil and pour it upon his head, and say, 'Thus says the EVER-LIVING, I have consecrated you king over Israel.' Then open the door and fly, and do not delay!"

So the youth, the young Preacher, went to Ramoth Gilad. When he found the Generals of the forces sitting together, and said, "I have a message for you, General."

And Jehu asked, "To which of all of us?"

When he replied, "For you, General." He therefore arose and they went to his house, where he poured the oil upon his head, and said to him, "Thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel, 'I have consecrated you king over the People of the EVER-LIVING,—over Israel! And you shall cut off the House of Akhab your Master, and execute justice for Me, for the blood of My servants, the Preachers, and the blood of all the servants of the EVER-LIVING from the hand of Aisabel; and destroy every palace of Akhab, and cut off from Akhab every male and female, or infant in Israel. For I will make the House of Akhab like the House of Jerabam-ben-Nebat, and like the House of Basha-ben-Akhiah,—and the dogs shall devour Aisabel in the streets of Jezrahal,—for she shall never be buried!'"

Then he opened the door and fled.

When Jehu returned to his Master's officers, they asked him, "Is all right? Why did that mad fellow come to you?"

And he answered, "You know the man and his talk."

But they replied, "It is a lie! Come on,—tell us!"

He consequently responded,—"He said this and that to me:—'Thus says the EVER-LIVING, I have consecrated you as king of Israel!'"

Then they rushed, and everyone took his robe and folded it under him on the platform of the doorsteps, and sounded the trumpet, and shouted "Jehu is king!"

Thus Jehu-ben-Jhoshafat-ben-Nimshi conspired against Joram, when guarding Ramoth Gilad for Joram from Hazahal, king of Aram,

15 while king Joram had retired to be cured in Jezrahah of the wounds which the Aramites had given him in the fight with Hazahal, king of Aram.

Then Jehu said, "If that is your intention, let none escape from the town to go to report in Jezrahah."

(B.C. 884.) **Jehu Marches on Jezrahah.**

16 Jehu then mounted and marched towards Jezrahah; for Joram was staying there, and Akhaziah, king of Judah, had come to visit Joram.

17 A watchman, however, was posted on the tower in Jezrahah, and he saw the squadrons of Jehu as they advanced, so he cried, "I see squadrons!"

Joram ordered, "Take a horseman, and send to meet them, and enquire if all is peace."

18 A horseman therefore went to meet him, and said, "The king asks this, 'Is all peace?'"

When Jehu replied, "What have you to do with peace? Turn behind me!"

The watchman again reported, saying, "The messenger arrived at them—but does not return!"

19 Then he sent a second horseman, who came to him, and said, "The king asks this, 'Is all peace?'"

When Jehu answered, "What have you to do with peace? Turn behind me!"

20 Again the watchman reported, saying, "He arrived at them—but does not return! And the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi; for he drives like a madman!"

21 Then Joram exclaimed, "Harness!" And they harnessed his chariot; and Joram, king of Israel, went out with Akhaziah, king of Judah, each in his chariot, and advanced to meet Jehu, and they met him at the farm of

22 Naboth the Jezreelite. And when Joram saw Jehu, he asked, "Is all peace, Jehu?"

But he answered, "How can there be peace while the whoredoms of your mother Aisabel, and her personings are so many?"

23 Then Joram turned his hand and fled, and exclaimed to Akhaziah, "It is a rebellion, Akhaziah."

24 Jehu, however, seized his bow and hit Joram between his arms, and the arrow passed through his heart, and he dropped down in the chariot.

Then he said to Bidkar, the 25 General of his guards, "Lift him up, and fling him out on the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite,—for remember when I and you were riding together after Akhab his father, the EVER-LIVING laid this burden upon him: 'As I saw the blood of 26 Naboth, and the blood of his sons, last night (says the LORD), I will repay it to you upon this very farm,' the EVER-LIVING declared. So now take, and fling him on to the spot, according to the word of the EVER-LIVING."

And Akhaziah, king of Judah, 27 saw it.

Then he fled towards the garden-house; but Jehu followed after him, and shouted, "Him also!"

They wounded him in his chariot at the ascent of the summer-house at Iblam; but he fled to Megido, and died there, and his officers carried 28 him in the chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him in the graves of his fathers, in the City of David.

(It was in the eleventh year of 29 Joram-ben-Akhab that Akhaziah had begun to reign over Judah.)

(B.C. 884.) **Death of Jezabel.**

But Aisabel heard of the coming of 30 Jehu towards Jezreel, so she painted her face, and adorned her head, and looked out of a window; and when 31 he came to the court she asked:—"Had Zimri peace who slew his Master?"

But he raised his face to the win- 32 dow and called out, "Who is on my side? Who?" When two or three eunuchs looked out to him; then he 33 shouted, "Throw her down!" So they threw her down, and her blood splashed the wall, and the horses who trampled upon her!

Then he entered, and ate and 34 drank, and afterwards said, "Pick up that damned woman, and bury her, for she is a king's daughter."

They therefore went to bury her, 35 but found nothing of her, except her skull, and feet, and the palms of her hands.

So they returned and reported it to 36 him, when he remarked, "It was the sentence of the EVER-LIVING, which He delivered by the means of His servant Eliah the Thishbite, saying, 'Upon the vineyard of Jezreel dogs shall eat the carcase of Aisabel!'

37 And the carcase of Aisabel shall become dung upon the surface of the ground of the farm of Jezreel, so that they cannot say, 'This was Aisabel!'"

(B.C. 884.) **Murder of Akhab's Sons at Shomeron.**

10 There were seventy sons of Akhab in Shomeron, therefore Jehu wrote letters and sent to Shomeron as if from the nobles of Jezreel, and the councillors and nobles of Akhab, to say:—

2 "When this letter comes to you, you possess the sons of your Prince, and chariots and horses, and a fortified city, and an arsenal, therefore choose the best and handsomest among the sons of your Prince, and set him on his father's throne, and fight for the House of your Prince."

4 But they were very much afraid and said, "Two kings could not stand against him, so we cannot resist him."

5 Therefore the governor of the palace, and the Governor of the city, and the Councillors, and the Guardians sent to Jehu to say, "We are your servants and we will do all you order us. You must make the best man in your own opinion king over us."

6 He consequently wrote a second letter to them to say, "If you are on my side, and will listen to my word, take the heads of those men, the sons of your Prince, and come to me at this time to-morrow at Jezreel."

The sons of the king were with the nobles of the city who had educated them.

7 When this letter came to them, they took the sons of the king and slaughtered the seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets, and sent 8 them to him at Jezreel, and a messenger came and reported to him, "They have brought the heads of the sons of the king." When he replied, "Put them in two heaps opposite the gate until morning."

9 When it was morning he went out, and stood and addressed the people, and said:—

10 "You are all honourable men! You know I conspired against my master and killed him? But who assailed all these? So you can learn now that not a word of the EVER-LIVING will fall to the earth of all that the EVER-LIVING spoke against the House of Akhab; but the EVER-LIVING will do

what He threatened by means of His servant Eliah."

Then Jehu executed the whole of 11 the nobles of the House of Akhab, in Jezreel, and all his great men, and all his friends, and his priests, until not a remnant was left.

(B.C. 884.) **Jehu advances against Shomeron, and Murders Akhaziah's Brothers on the Way.**

He afterwards arose and advanced 12 and marched to Shomeron. When he reached the Shepherds' shearing house, on the way, Jehu met the 13 brothers of Akhaziah king of Judah, and asked, "Who are you?" And they answered, "We are the brothers of Akhaziah, and we are descending to visit the king's son, and the sons of the nobles."

But he commanded, "Seize them 14 alive!" So they seized them alive, and slaughtered at the pit of the Shearing-house forty-two persons, and spared not a single one of them.

As he marched from there, he met 15 Jhonadab-ben-Rekab coming to meet him, and he addressed him, and asked, "Is your heart right with me, as my heart is with your heart?"

When Jhonadab replied, "It is."

"If it is, give me your hand."

So he gave his hand and mounted to him on the chariot, when he said, 16 "Go with me and see my zeal for the EVER-LIVING!" And he rode with him in the chariot.

When he reached Shomeron he 17 assailed all the Princes of Akhab in Shomeron, until he had destroyed them, according to the sentence of the EVER-LIVING that He pronounced by Eliah.

Jehu Deceives and Slaughters the Priests of Baal.

Jehu afterwards assembled the 18 people and said to them:—

"Akhab served Bal a little—Jehu will serve him much! Therefore, 19 now, all you Preachers of Bal, all you servants of him, and all his priests, come to me, every man in his station, to make with me a big sacrifice to Bal! Everyone who is not in his station will offer an insult to Jehu."

But Jehu did it cunningly to destroy those servants of Bal. "Therefore," Jehu said, "proclaim an 20 Assembly to Bal!" They accordingly

21 proclaimed one, and Jehu sent through all Israel, and all the servants of Bal came—there was not a single one who did not come—and went to the Temple of Bal and filled the Temple of Bal all over. He then said to the Superintendent of the Wardrobe, "Bring out uniforms for all the ministers of Bal."
 And he brought the uniforms out.
 23 Then Jehu and Jhonadab-ben-Rekab came to the Temple of Bal, and he said to the ministers of Bal, "Search and examine, for fear there should be among you any ministers of Jehovah; for I will expel all, except the ministers of Bal."
 24 Then they entered and made sacrifices, and burnt-offerings; but Jehu had chosen for himself outside eighty men and said:—
 "The man who allows one of these fellows, whom I have prepared for your hands, to escape, his life shall be for his!"
 25 So when they had finished making the burnt-offering, Jehu commanded the infantry and their officers, "Advance! Charge! Let not a man come out!" Then the infantry and their officers charged with the sword, and went to the sanctuary of the Temple of Bal, and they brought out the columns of the Temple of Bal, and fired them, and threw down the Temple of Bal, and turned it into a dunghill to this day. Thus Jehu swept Bal from Israel.
 (B.C. 884.) **Jehu continues the Sins of Jerabam-ben-Nebat.**
 29 However, Jehu did not turn from the sins of Jerabam-ben-Nebat, who caused Israel to sin—from the worship of the calves of gold that were at Bethel and at Dan; consequently the EVER-LIVING said to Jehu:—
 "Because you have done well and right in My sight, according to all that it was in My heart that you should do to the House of Akhab, four of your descendants shall sit upon the throne of Israel."
 31 Jehu, however, did not continue to walk in the laws of the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel with all his heart. He did not turn from the sins of Jerabam, who made Israel sin. In his days the EVER-LIVING lessened the boundaries of Israel, and Hazaa! conquered from them upon all the borders of Israel,
 33 from the Jordan eastward towards the

sun, all the country of Gilad, the Gadites, and Reubenites, and Manassites, from Aroar upon the river Arnon, with Gilad and Bashan.
 The rest of the affairs of Jehu, and all that he did, and all his achievements, they are recorded in the history of the events of the times of the Kings of Israel.
 When Jehu slept with his fathers they buried him in Shomeron, and Jhoakhaz his son reigned in his place. The period that Jehu was King over Israel was twenty-eight years in Shomeron.

(B.C. 884.) **Queen Athaliah of Israel Murders the Royal Family — except one Boy.**

When Athaliah the mother of Akhaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed the whole of the Royal Family. Jhosheba, the daughter of King Joram, however, sister of Akhaziah, took Joash the son of Akhaziah and stole him from among the children of the king who were being murdered, and nursed him in a secret chamber, and concealed him from the sight of Athaliah, so he was not killed. He was afterwards hidden with her in the House of the EVER-LIVING for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the country.

Jhoiada the High Priest dethrones and kills Athaliah.

But in the seventh year Jhoiada sent and invited the Captains of the Guards, and Infantry, and brought them to him in the House of the EVER-LIVING, and showed them the son of the king, and instructed them saying, "This is what you must do three days hence. Come on the Sabbath and fix the Guards to guard the king's palace, and relieve the Guards at the gate, and dismiss the Officers at the first gate, and yourselves remain to guard the Temple from being entered. And let half of your troops come every Sabbath, and stand as a guard to keep the Temple of the EVER-LIVING for the king, and form yourselves around the king each with his arms in his hands, and if any refuses, let him be killed. You must also attend the king wherever he goes."
 The Captains of the Companies accordingly did all that Jhoiada the

Priest commanded, and taking each his men, came on the Sabbath. When they arrived on the Sabbath, they came to Jhoiada the priest, and the priest gave to the Captains of the Companies the spears, and shields, which since the time of King David had been in the Temple of the EVER-LIVING, and the Infantry were posted each with his arms in his hands at the right side of the Temple—and at the left side of the Temple—towards the altar—and towards the Royal Palace, all round. Then he brought out the son of the king, and put to him the Declaration, and the Constitution, and crowned him, and consecrated him, when they clapped hands and shouted, "Long live the King!"

But Athaliah heard the shout of the troops and crowd, and went to the crowd in the Temple of the EVER-LIVING, and looked, and saw the king standing by on a platform like a judge, and the Captains and the Courtiers of the king, and many people of the country besides, who applauded with the Courtiers. Then Athaliah tore her robes and shouted "Treason! treason!" But Jhoiada the priest commanded the Captains of the Guards and Officers of the army, saying to them: "Take her out of the Temple to the colonnade, and bring her to death by the sword. But," said the Priest, "kill her not in the House of the EVER-LIVING."

They consequently laid hands on her and brought her to the gangway of the cavalry barracks of the king, and killed her there.

(B.C. 878.) **Jhoash Crowned King of Judah.**

Jhoiada next read the Covenant between the EVER-LIVING and the king, and the people, which was to be maintained by the people towards the EVER-LIVING, and between the King and the people.

The Representatives of the country went afterwards to the Temple of Bal and threw down his altar, and smashed his image with delight, and killed Mattan the priest of Bal before his altar, and appointed a priest from the orders of the Temple of the EVER-LIVING.

He then collected the Captains of the Guards, and the body-guard, and the Courtiers, and Representa-

tives of the country, and brought the king down from the Temple of the EVER-LIVING, and conducted him by way of the Infantry Gate to the Royal Palace, and set him upon the Royal throne. All the Representatives of the country rejoiced, and the City was content, when they had killed Athaliah by the sword at the Royal Palace.

Jhoash was seven years old when he was crowned. In the seventh year of Jehu, Jhoash began to reign, and reigned forty years in Jerusalem, and his mother's name was Tzibah of Bersheba. Jhoash did right in the sight of the EVER-LIVING, as Jhoida the Priest taught him, except that he did not overturn the Columns—the people still sacrificed and offered incense at the Columns.

(B.C. 876.) **Jhoash Orders a Repairing of the Temple.**

Jhoash also ordered the Priests, "All the statutory money that is collected for the House of the EVER-LIVING; the money from the personal tax, money assessed for lives, or which is offered by any one freely, who comes to the Temple of the EVER-LIVING,—let the Priests take of it themselves, each for his salary, but let them repair the dilapidations of the Temple, wherever they find it dilapidated."

(B.C. 856.) **The Priests Neglect their Duty to repair it.**

However, in the thirteenth year of King Jhoash it was found the Priests had not repaired the dilapidations of the Temple. Consequently King Jhoash summoned Jhoiada the High Priest, with the Priests, and asked them, "Why have you not repaired the dilapidations of the Temple? Cease further to appropriate the money as wages for yourselves, but pay for the dilapidations of the Temple." Therefore he prohibited the Priests from collecting money from the people, because they did not repair the dilapidations of the Temple.

(B.C. 856.) **The Temple repaired under a Royal Commission.**

Consequently Jhoiada the Priest prepared a box and cut a hole in its

11 lid, and placed it at the side of the
 Altar, at the right-hand entrance to
 12 the House of the EVER-LIVING, and
 the Priests on guard at the threshold
 put into it all the money brought to
 13 the Temple of the EVER-LIVING, for
 the builders, the stone masons, and
 workers in wood, and carved stones,
 to repair the dilapidations of the
 House of the EVER-LIVING, and for
 all that was brought to the Temple to
 14 repair it. But there were not made
 for the Temple of the EVER-LIVING
 silver dishes for the sacrifices, tongs,
 forks—any instruments of gold or
 instruments of silver—from the money
 that was brought to the House of the
 15 EVER-LIVING, but it was paid to those
 doing the work, and they repaired the
 House of the EVER-LIVING with it.
 16 The men also to whom was entrusted
 the money to pay for doing the work
 were not dishonest, for they did it
 17 faithfully. The money from offerings,
 and the money from fines for offences,
 was not brought into the Temple of
 the EVER-LIVING; it belonged to
 the Priests.

(B.C. 850.) **Hazahal captures Gath
 and threatens Jerusalem.**

18 At this time Hazahal King of Aram
 advanced against Gath to attack it,
 and captured it. Then Hazahal set
 his face to advance against Jerusalem,
 19 but Jhoash King of Judah took all
 the consecrations that Jhoshafat and
 Jhoram, and Akhaziah his ancestors,
 Kings of Judah, had consecrated, and
 his own consecrations, and the gold
 found in the treasury of the Temple
 of the EVER-LIVING, and the Royal
 Palace, and sent it to Hazahal, King
 of Aram, so he retreated from Jeru-
 salem.

The Murder of Jhoash.

20 The rest of the affairs of Jhoash,
 and all he did, are written in the
 history of the events during the
 21 period of the kings of Judah. His
 ministers, however, arose and con-
 spired and assailed Jhoash at Beth-
 22 mila in the vale of Sila, where
 Jozakar-ben-Shamath and Jhozaber-
 ben-Shamer, his ministers, assaulted
 him, and he was killed, and they
 buried him with his fathers, in the
 City of David, and Amatziah his son
 reigned in his stead.

(B.C. 856.) **Jhoakhaz-ben-Jehu reigns
 over Israel.**

In the twenty-third year of Joash 13
 son of Akhaziah, king of Judah,
 Jhoakhaz-ben-Jehu began to reign
 over Israel in Shomeron, for seven-
 teen years. But he did wrong in the 2
 sight of the EVER-LIVING, and fol-
 lowed after the sin of Jerabam-ben-
 Nebat, who made Israel sin. He did
 not turn from it. Consequently the 3
 EVER-LIVING was angry with Israel,
 and He delivered it to the power of
 Hazahal, king of Aram, and to the
 power of Ben-hadad son of Hazahal,
 all their time.

(B.C. 856 to 849.) **Israel drives out
 the Aramite Invaders.**

Jhoakhaz afterwards turned to the 4
 EVER-LIVING, and He rescued him;
 for the EVER-LIVING pitied the dis-
 tress of Israel. For the kings of Aram
 distressed them. Therefore the EVER- 5
 LIVING gave to Israel a relief, and
 they escaped from beneath the hand
 of Aram, and the children of Israel
 returned to their homes as formerly.
 However, they did not abandon the 6
 sins of the House of Jerabam with
 which Israel had gone to sin. The
 Shrine was also left in Shomeron.

No army was, however, left to 7
 Jhoakhaz except fifty cavalry, and ten
 chariots, and ten thousand infantry,
 for the king of Aram had destroyed
 them, and made them like dust to the
 tempest.

The remainder of the affairs of 8
 Jhoakhaz, and all he did, and his
 courage, are recorded in the history
 of the events of the kings of Israel.

(B.C. 839.)

When Jhoakhaz slept with his 9
 fathers they buried him in Shomeron,
 and Jhoash his son reigned after him.

Jhoash Reigns in Israel.

In the twenty-seventh year of Jhoash 10
 king of Judah, Jhoash son of Jhoakhaz
 began to reign over Israel in Shom-
 11 eron, for sixteen years. But he did
 wrong in the sight of the EVER-LIVING.
 He turned not from the sin of Jerabam-
 ben-Nebath, which he caused Israel to
 sin. He followed it.

(B.C. 825.)

As to the other affairs of Jhoash, 12
 and all that he did, and his courage

—how he fought with Amatziah king of Judah—they are recorded in the history of events during the period of the kings of Israel. Then Jhoash slept with his fathers, and Jarabam sat on his throne, and he buried Jhoash in Shomeron with the kings of Israel.

(B.C. 839.) *Elisha's Illness and Death, and Promise to Jhoash.*

14 When Alisha was ill with the illness that was his death, Jhoash king of Israel visited him, and wept before him, and exclaimed, "My father! My father! The chariot of Israel and its horses!"

15 Then Alisha said to him, "Take a bow and arrows."

So he took a bow and arrows.

He next said to the king of Israel,

16 "Draw the bow with your hands."

And he drew the bow with his hands, and Alisha put his hands on the hands of the king and said,

17 "Open the window towards the east."

So he opened it.

Then Alisha said, "Shoot."

And he shot.

When he exclaimed, "An arrow of deliverance from the EVER-LIVING, and an arrow of deliverance against Aram! For you shall defeat Aram with a crash to destruction." Then he added, "Take your arrows."

And he took.

Then he said to the king of Israel, "Shoot at the ground!"

So he shot three times, then stopped.

19 And the MAN of GOD was angry, and exclaimed to him, "You should have shot five or six times, then you would have defeated Aram to destruction; but now you have only defeated Aram three times."

(B.C. 838).

20 Thus Alisha died, and they buried him when the raiders from Moab were coming into the country, at the fall of the year. They were burying another man also, but when they saw the raiders they threw the man into the grave of Alisha, and ran away. When, however, the man touched the corpse of Alisha, he arose on his feet.

(B.C. 839.) *The Ruin of Israel arrested by Jhoash.*

22 Hazahal, king of Aram, then oppressed Israel all the days of Jhoakhaz, 23 but afterwards the EVER-LIVING

pitied them and showed mercy, and turned towards them, because of His Covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and did not desire to desolate them, nor to throw them from His presence at that time. Therefore 24 Hazahal king of Aram died, and Ben-hadad his son reigned after him. Then Jhoash turned upon Ben-hadad, 25

(About B.C. 836.)

and took the cities from the hand of Ben-hadad, the son of Hazahal, which he had taken from the possession of his father Jhoakhaz—Jhoash defeated him in battle three times, and recovered the towns to Israel.

(B.C. 839.) *Reign of Amatziah over Judah.*

In the second year of Jhoash king 14 of Israel, Amatziah-ben-Jhoash began to reign in Judah. He was twenty- 2 five years old at his coronation, and was king in Jerusalem for twenty-nine years, and his mother's name was Jhoadin, of Jerusalem; and he 3 did right in the sight of the EVER-LIVING. Not, however, like his ancestor David, but exactly as his father Jhoash did. Yet he did not take away 4 the Columns—the people still offered sacrifice and incense at the Columns.

(B.C. 838.) *Amatziah executes his Father's Murderers.*

When he had fixed himself firmly 5 in possession of the kingship, he executed those ministers of his father who had killed the king his father. But he did not kill the sons of the 6 murderers, because it is written in the law of Moses that the EVER-LIVING commanded, saying, "You shall not kill the parents on account of their children; and you shall not kill the children on account of their parents; a man shall only be killed for his own crime."

He defeated ten thousand of Edom 7 and the Amalekites, and seized Sela by war, and called its name Jakthal to this day.

(B.C. 827.) *Amatziah Challenges Jhoash to War.*

Then Amatziah sent Ambassadors 8 to Jhoash-ben-Jhoakaz—the descendant of Jehu, king of Israel, to say, "Come, let us see faces!"

(B.C. 826.) **Jhoash replies by an Insulting Fable.**

9 But Jhoash king of Israel sent to Amatziah king of Judah to say, "A bramble in Lebanon once sent to the cedar of Lebanon to say, 'Give your daughter to my son as a wife!' Then a wild beast that was in Lebanon passed and trod down the bramble!
10 You have defeated Edom, and so your heart rises in pride! But go home! Why should you excite trouble, and fall yourself, and all Judah with you?"

(B.C. 826.) **Jhoash of Israel Captures Jerusalem.**

11 Amatziah would not listen, however, but advanced against Jhoash king of Israel, and they saw each other's faces, he and Amatziah king of Judah, at
12 Bethshemsh, which is in Judah, where Judah was routed before Israel and
13 everyone fled to his house. And Amatziah-ben-Jhoash-ben-Ahaziah, king of Judah, was also captured by Jhoash king of Israel at Bethshemsh, who then advanced to Jerusalem and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the corner gate,—four hundred cubits.
14 He also took all the gold and silver, and the furniture that he found in the Temple of the EVER-LIVING, or that was found in the Royal Palace, and his children for hostages. Then he returned to Shomeron.
15 For the other affairs of Jhoash, what he did, and his achievements, and how he fought with Amatziah, king of Judah, they are related in the history of events during the times of the
16 Kings of Judah. When Jhoash slept with his fathers, he was buried in Shomeron with the Kings of Israel, and Jerabam his son reigned after him.

(B.C. 810.) **Amatziah of Judah Murdered.**

17 Amatziah - ben - Joash, however, reigned over Judah after the death of Jhoash-ben-Ahaziah king of Israel for
18 fifteen years. But the other affairs of Amatziah are written in the history of events in the period of the Kings
19 of Judah. When they conspired against him in Jerusalem he fled to Lakish. But they sent after him to Lakish and murdered him there.
20 They, however, carried him with the

horseman to Jerusalem and buried him with his fathers in the City of David.

(B.C. 810.) **Azariah Reigns over Judah.**

The people of Judah took Azariah, 21 who was ten years old, and crowned him in place of his father Amatziah. He built Ailath and restored it to 22 Judah. The king afterwards slept with his fathers.

(B.C. 825.) **Jerabam-ben-Joash Reigns over Israel.**

In the fifteenth year of Amatziah- 23 ben-Jhoash, king of Judah, Jerabam-ben-Jhoash, king of Israel, began to reign in Shomeron for forty-one years. But he did wrong in the sight of the 24 EVER-LIVING. He turned not from any of the sins of Jerabam-ben-Nebat, who caused the sin of Israel. He 25 restored the boundaries of Israel from Khamath to the Sea of the Desert, according to the promise of the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel, which He promised by means of Jonah-ben-Amathai, the Preacher, who came from Gath-Khefer. For the EVER- 26 LIVING pitied the immeasurable miseries of Israel both without and within, when there was no ease for Israel. The EVER-LIVING had not 27 yet decided to blot the name of Israel from beneath the heavens, therefore He rescued it by the hand of Jerabam-ben-Joash.

For the other affairs of Jerabam, 28 and all that he did, how he warred, and how he recaptured Damascus and Khamath of Judah to Israel, they are recorded in the history of events of the days of the kings of Israel. Then 29 Jerabam slept with his fathers—with the kings of Israel—and Zakariah his son reigned after him.

(B.C. 810.) **Azeriah Reigns in Judah.**

In the seventeenth year of Jerabam 15 king of Israel, Azeriah-ben-Amatziah, king of Judah, began to reign. He 2 was sixteen years old at his coronation, and reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem, and his mother's name was Jekaliah of Jerusalem; and he did 3 right in the eyes of the EVER-LIVING, as Amatziah his father did. Yet he 4 did not throw down the Columns,—the people still sacrificed and offered

5 incense at the Columns. The EVER-LIVING, however, afflicted the king, and he became a leper towards the time of his death, and resided in a separate house, and Jotham the son of the king was Chief-Justice for the public.

6 For the other affairs of Azeriah, they are related in the history of events during the days of the kings of Judah.

7 When Azeriah slept with his fathers, they buried him with his ancestors in the City of David, and Jotham his son succeeded him as king.

(About B.C. 773.) **Zakeriah-ben-Jerabam Reigns over Israel.**

8 In the thirty-eighth year of Azeriah king of Judah, Zakeriah-ben-Jerabam began to reign over Israel, in Shome-

9 ron, for six months. But he did wrong in the sight of the EVER-LIVING, as his fathers did;—he turned not from the sins of Jerabam-ben-Nebath, who

10 caused the sin of Israel. Shalum-ben-Jabsh, however, conspired against him, and assailed him in public, and killed him, and reigned in his place.

11 But the rest of the affairs of Zakeriah are recorded in the history of events during the period of the kings of Israel.

12 He completed the promise of the EVER-LIVING, which He promised to Jehu, saying, "Four of your descendants shall sit upon the throne of Israel,"—and it was so.

(B.C. 772.) **Shalum-ben-Jabsh Reigns in Israel a Month, and is Murdered.**

13 Shalum-ben-Jabsh began to reign in the thirty-ninth year of Azeriah king of Judah, and he reigned a month in

14 Shomeron, when Menakham-ben-Gadi, of Thirtzah, came to Shomeron, and attacked Shalum-ben-Jabsh, in Shomeron, and killed him, and reigned instead of him.

15 As to the other affairs of Shalum, and his conspiracy that he conspired—they are recorded in the history of events in the days of the kings of Israel.

(B.C. 771.) **The Brutality of Menakham, the Revolutionist.**

16 Menakham afterwards assailed Thifzah, and all who were in it, and its suburbs, and Thirtzah, because they did not surrender, and murdered

all the women with child by ripping them up.

In the thirty-ninth year of Azeriah 17 king of Judah, Menakham-ben-Gadi began to reign over Israel in Shome- 18 ron. But he did evil in the sight of the EVER-LIVING. He turned not from the sins of Jerabam-ben-Nebath, who caused the sin of Israel, all his time.

(B.C. 771.) **Pul, King of Ashur, Invades Israel.**

Pul, king of Ashur, advanced against 19 the country, but Menakham gave to Pul a thousand talents of silver to be his ally, to secure the kingship in his hands. Menakham collected the 20 money from Israel, and from the Officers of the army to give to the king of Ashur—fifty silver shekels from each person—so the king of Ashur retreated and did not remain in the country.

As to the other affairs of Menakham, 21 and all that he did, they are related in the history of events of the days of the kings of Israel. When Menakham 22 slept with his fathers, Pakahiah his son reigned after him.

(B.C. 761.) **Reign of Pekahiah-ben-Menakham.**

In the fiftieth year of Azariah, king 23 of Judah, Pekahiah-ben-Menakham began to reign in Shomeron. But he 24 did wrong in the eyes of the EVER-

LIVING. He did not turn from the sins of Jerabam-ben-Nebath, who caused the sin of Israel; and Pekah- 25 ben-Remaliah his general conspired against him, and assailed him at Shomeron, in the Royal Palace, with Argob, and Ariaah, and fifty other men, from the people of Gilead, and reigned in his place.

The other affairs of Pekahiah, and 26 all that he did, are recorded in the history of events during the period of the kings of Israel.

(B.C. 759.) **Pekakh-ben-Remaliah seizes the Throne of Israel.**

In the fifty-second year of Azeriah 27 king of Judah, Pekakh-ben-Remaliah began to reign over Israel for twenty 28 years. But he did evil in the sight of the EVER-LIVING. He did not turn from the sins of Jerabam-ben-Nebath, who caused the sin of Israel.

(B.C. 740.) **Thiglath - Pilazer, of Ashur, seizes all North-West Israel.**

29 In the time of Pekakh, king of Israel, Thiglath-Pilazer, king of Ashur, came and seized Aion and the meadows of Beth-Makah, and Janokh, and Kadish, and Khatzur, and Gilad, and Galilee, with all the country of Naphthali, and removed them to Ashur.

Hosha-ben-Alah Murders Pekakh and Reigns.

30 Then Hosha-ben-Alah conspired against Pekakh-ben-Remaliah, and assailed and murdered him, and reigned in his place, in the twentieth year of Jotham-ben-Aziah.¹

(B.C. 739.)

31 As to the other affairs of Pekakh, and all that he did, they are related in the history of the events of the times of the kings of Israel.

(B.C. 758.) **Reign of Jotham-ben-Azariah over Judah.**

32 In the second year of Pekakh-ben-Remaliah, king of Israel, Jotham-ben-Aziah, king of Judah, began to

33 reign. He was fifteen years old at his coronation, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem, and his mother's name was Eosha the daughter of Zadok. And he did right in the eyes of the EVER-LIVING, in everything as his father Azariah had done,

34 However, he did not overturn the Columns; the people still sacrificed and offered incense at the Columns. He built the High Gate at the House

35 of the EVER-LIVING. But the rest of the affairs of Jotham, and all that he did, are written of in the history of events during the period of the kings of Judah.

(B.C. 742.) **Retzin, King of Aram, assails Judah.**

37 At this period the EVER-LIVING began to send to Judah, Retzin, king of Aram, and Pekakh-ben-Remaliah.

¹ Several years of civil war followed the murder of Pekakh, of which no details are given, as proved by Ch. 17, v. 1, which indicates some nine or ten years of anarchy between the murder and succession of Hosha.—F. F

When Jotham slept with his fathers, 38 he was buried with his fathers in the City of David, and Ahaz his son succeeded him.

(B.C. 742.) **Ahaz-ben-Jotham Reigns in Judah.**

In the seventeenth year of Pekakh- 16 ben-Remaliah, Ahaz-ben-Jotham, king of Judah, began to reign. He 2 was twelve years old at his coronation, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem, but did not do right in the sight of the EVER-LIVING GOD like David his ancestor. He followed the 3 path of the kings of Israel, and even passed his children through the fire, like the foul heathen whom the EVER-LIVING drove before the face of the children of Israel. He also sacrificed 4 and offered incense at the Columns, and upon the hills, and under every leafy tree. Consequently Retzin, king 5 of Aram, came, and Pekah-ben-Remaliah, king of Israel, against Jerusalem to war, and besieged Ahaz —but were not able to succeed.

(B.C. 740.) **Alliance between Ahaz and the King of Ashur.**

But at that time Retzin re-captured 6 Ailath to Aram, and drove the Jews out of Ailath, and brought Aramites to Ailath and settled them there to this day. Ahaz consequently sent Ambassadors to Thiglath-Pilazer, king of Ashur, to say, "I am your slave and son! Come and save me from the hand of the king of Aram, and from the hand of the king of Israel, who have risen up against me." He also took 8 the silver and gold found in the Temple of the EVER-LIVING, and in the treasuries of the Royal Palace, and sent to the king of Ashur as a present. The king of Ashur 9 consequently listened to him. So the king of Ashur advanced against Damascus and captured it, and transported to Kirah, and killed Retzin.

(B.C. 739.) **Ahaz makes a Heathen Altar.**

King Ahaz went to meet Thiglath- 10 Pilazer, king of Ashur, at Damask, where he saw the altar that was in Damask. The king consequently sent to Uriah the priest a drawing of that altar, and the building of it, with

11 all its formation; and Uriah the priest built an altar exactly like what the king sent to him from Damask. Uriah the Priest made it against the return of king Ahaz from Damask.

12 When the king returned from Damask, and saw the altar, the king approached to the altar, and offered sacrifice upon

13 it, and put incense on the burnt-offering, with its bread, and poured the drink-offering; and sprinkled the blood of the thank-offerings, which

14 he made upon the altar; for he had removed the brazen altar that was before the EVER-LIVING from the front of the house, between his altar and the Temple of the EVER-LIVING, and placed it at the north side of his

15 altar. For the king had ordered Uriah the priest saying, "Burn incense upon this Grand Altar with the Morning Sacrifice, with the food-offering in the evening, and burnt-offering of the king, and its food-offering, and the burnt-offering for all the people of the country, and their food-offerings, and their drink-offerings, and all the blood-offerings, and all the blood of sacrifice sprinkled upon it,—but the brazen Altar shall be for me in the morning."

(B.C. 738.) **King Ahaz and Uriah the Priest desecrate the Temple.**

16 Uriah the priest consequently did exactly as he was ordered by King

17 Ahaz, who also broke down the guard of the bases, and removed from them the baths, and took down the sea from the oxen of brass which were under it, and placed it upon blocks of stone.

18 And the intervening screen which was built between the Temple and the royal entrance to the Court that surrounded the House of the EVER-LIVING, he removed for the sake of the king of Ashur.

(B.C. 726.)

19 The other things that Ahaz did are related in the history of events in the

20 period of the kings of Judah. When Ahaz slept with his fathers he was buried with his ancestors in the City of David, and Hezekiah his son succeeded him.

(B.C. 730.) **Reign of Hoshea-ben-Alah over Israel.**

17 In the twelfth year of Ahaz, king of Judah, Hoshea-ben-Alah began to reign in Shomeron over Israel for

nine years.¹ But he did wrong in the 2 eyes of the EVER-LIVING, yet not like the kings of Israel who were before him.

(B.C. 730.) **Shalmanazer Conquers Israel.**

Shalmanazer, king of Ashur, ad- 3 vanced against him, and Hoshea became his subject, and paid him tribute. However, the king of Ashur 4 discovered Hoshea was conspiring when he sent Ambassadors to Sua, king of Egypt, and did not send up the yearly tribute to the king of Ashur. The king of Ashur consequently deposed and confined him in a fortress. The king of Ashur also 5 invaded the whole country, and ravaged it for three years. In the 6 seventh year of Hoshea, the king of Ashur captured Shomeron and transported Israel to Ashur, and settled them in Khalakh,² and adjoining the river Gozan, and the cities of the Medes.

Reflections upon the Causes of the Fall of Israel.³

It was because the children of 7 Israel, with the kings they made, sinned against their EVER-LIVING GOD—Who had brought them up from the land of the Mitzeraim, from under the hand of Pharoh, king of the Mitzeraim—and revered foreign gods, and walked in the customs of 8 the heathen whom the EVER-LIVING

¹ Nine or ten years of anarchy had preceded.—F. F.

² "Khalakh," now the province of Azerbaijan, in Persia, a name which means "The Land of Fire," as does the Hebrew name Khalakh, upon the river still called Gozan, in Persia, which falls into the south-west of the Caspian Sea. It now forms part of the Russian district of Baku.—F. F.

³ The reflective, or philosophic, passage of Ch. 17, from v. 7 to v. 40, explains the object of Isaiah's masterly epitome of the history of Israel, to show that any governing class who cut themselves from the ancestral religion of the mass of the nation and its traditions, inevitably ends in destroying its social organization and national life, and that any constitution not founded upon a sacred idea and principle of religious duty only runs a short and disastrous career to destruction; the religion of a people being the soul of the State, without which it goes to death and corruption, exactly as an individual does if deprived of vital air. This is a principle or law of universal statesmanship taught by all history, and never violated with impunity.—F. F.

drove out before the children of
 9 Israel. The children of Israel also
 sinned in other things, not being
 accordant with their EVER-LIVING
 GOD, and built Columns for them-
 selves in all their cities, with Obser-
 vatory-towers in the fortified cities.
 10 And they set up Pillars for them-
 selves, and Shrines upon every hill-
 11 top, and under every leafy tree. They
 also burnt incense at all the Columns
 like the heathen, to provoke the
 12 EVER-LIVING; and served idols, al-
 though the EVER-LIVING said to
 them,—“You shall not make any
 13 such things.” Yet the EVER-LIVING
 had warned Israel and Judah by
 means of His Preachers, and every
 Prophet, saying, “Turn from your
 evil paths, and keep My Command-
 ments and Institutions, according to
 the perfect laws that I ordained for
 your ancestors, and that I sent to you
 by the hands of My servants the
 14 Preachers.” They did not, however,
 listen, but stiffened their necks like
 the necks of their fathers, who were
 not faithful to their EVER-LIVING
 15 GOD. And abandoned His Institutions
 and His Covenant, which He made
 with their forefathers, and the
 Evidences that He showed them, and
 went after Imaginations and wor-
 shipped Fancies, and followed the
 heathen around them, of whom the
 EVER-LIVING commanded, “You
 16 shall not do like them.” Thus they
 abandoned the whole of the Com-
 mands of their EVER-LIVING GOD,
 and made two metal Calves, and
 Shrines, and bowed down to all the
 host of the skies, and served Bal;
 17 and passed their sons and daughters
 through the fire, and practised Divi-
 nation, and worshipped snakes, and
 sold themselves to do evil in the sight
 of the EVER-LIVING and provoked
 18 Him. Consequently the EVER-LIVING
 was very angry with Israel, and turned
 them from His presence, reserving
 none except the tribe of Judah alone.
 19 Judah, also, did not regard the
 Commands of their EVER-LIVING
 GOD but followed the same customs
 20 as Israel. Therefore the EVER-
 LIVING rejected all the race of Israel,
 and reduced them, and gave them to
 the power of the plunderer, until He
 21 sent them from His presence. For
 He tore Israel from off the House of
 David, and they crowned Jerabam-
 ben-Nebat, and Jerabam led Israel

from following the EVER-LIVING, and
 caused them to sin the GREAT SIN.
 So the children of Israel went into 22
 all the sin that Jerabam practised.
 They never turned from it, until the 23
 EVER-LIVING turned Israel from His
 presence, as He threatened by the
 means of all His servants the Preach-
 ers,—and rolled Israel from its land
 to Ashur (to this day¹).

(B.C. 678.) **Samaria Colonized by
 Pagans.**

Then the king of Ashur brought 24
 people from Babel, and from Kush,
 and from Awa, and from Khamath,
 and from Sefarvaim, and settled them
 in the cities of Shomeron, and they
 colonized its towns. But it resulted 25
 that the new comers who were settled
 there did not reverence the EVER-
 LIVING, so the EVER-LIVING sent
 lions upon them who killed them.
 Consequently they reported to the 26
 king of Ashur, saying, “The nations
 you have deported and settled
 in the towns of Shomeron do not
 know the decrees of the GOD of the
 country, so He has sent lions to them,
 who kill them, because they have
 no knowledge of the decrees of the
 GOD of the country.”

Consequently the king of Ashur 27
 said, “Send there some of the priests
 whom I have transported from there,
 and let them go and reside there, and
 teach them the decrees of the GOD of
 the country.”

Therefore some of the priests who 28
 had been transported from Shomeron
 returned to Bethel, and taught them
 how to worship the EVER-LIVING.

But they, nation by nation, also 29
 made their own gods, and fixed them
 in the Houses of Columns which the
 Shomerites had constructed, nation
 by nation, in their towns where they
 resided. Thus the people of Babel 30
 made Booths for Girls; the people of
 Kush made Nergal; the people of
 Khamath made Ashima, and the 31
 Avites made Nibkaz and Tharthak;
 and the Sefarvites burnt their sons in
 fire to Adramalek and Agmalek,
 gods of the Sefarvites. Yet they 32

¹ The last clause, “To this day,” is the
 inserted note of some old editor, probably
 Ezra or Nehemiah, after the return from
 Babylon, and not a part of Isaiah's work.—
 F. F.

worshipped the EVER-LIVING, but made for themselves priests from the mass of the priests of the Columns, and also made for themselves temples of Columns. They worshipped the EVER-LIVING, and the gods they were serving according to the customs of the nation from whence they were transported.¹

(B.C. 726.) *The Prosperous Reign of Hezekiah over Judah.*

18 It was in the third year of Hoshea-ben-Alah, king of Israel, that Hezekiah-ben-Ahaz began to reign in Judah. He was fifteen years old at his coronation, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem, and his mother's name was Abi, the daughter of Zakeriah. He did right in the sight of the EVER-LIVING, exactly as his ancestor David did. He threw down the Columns, and smashed the Pillars, and cut down the Shrines, and broke up the Brazen Serpent which Moses had made—for until this period the children of Israel offered incense to it—but he called it

¹ The passages from v. 34 to the end of v. 40 are clearly a subsequent editorial comment of a transcriber, not part of the work of Isaiah, made perhaps by Nehemiah, and only reflect the thoughts of Isaiah which he had copied out. I, therefore, place them at the foot of the page.—F. F.

34 To this day they use their former customs. They both worship the EVER-LIVING, and practise according to their own Institutions, and according to their usages, and according to the law and commands which the EVER-LIVING commanded to the sons of Jacob, who bears the name of Israel, with whom the EVER-LIVING made a Covenant, and commanded them saying, "You shall not worship other gods, nor bow down to them, nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them, but only to the EVER-LIVING Who brought you up from the land of the Mitzeraim with great power, and a directing arm, worship Him, and bow to Him, and sacrifice to Him! And the Institutions, and the Decrees, and the Laws, and the Commands, which He wrote for you guard and practise for all times; and worship no other gods. Worship the EVER-LIVING God alone, and He will deliver you from the hand of your enemies."

40 They, however, would not listen, except they also practised their former customs. Thus these heathen worshipped the EVER-LIVING, yet were serving their idols. Their sons and their grandsons do as their fathers practised to this day.

"Old brass!" He adhered to the 5 EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel.¹

He never turned from following Him, and regarded the Commands that the EVER-LIVING commanded to Moses; so the EVER-LIVING was with him wherever he went. He acted wisely and revolted from the king of Ashur, and served him not. He conquered the Philistim in Gaza and its district, from the fortress of Migdol to the city of Mitzab.

But in the fourth year of King 9 Hezekiah, which was the seventh of Hoshea-ben-Alah, king of Israel, Shalmanazer, king of Ashur, advanced to Shomeron, and besieged it, and 10 captured it at the end of three years; in the seventh year of Hezekiah, which was the tenth year of Hoshea, king of Israel, he captured Shomeron.² Then 11 the king of Ashur transported Israel to Ashur, and planted them in Khalakh, and in the district of the river Gozan, and the cities of the Medes;³ because they would not 12 listen to the voice of their EVER-LIVING GOD, but transgressed the Covenant, the whole of which had been commanded to Moses, the servant of the EVER-LIVING. But they would not listen, nor obey.

(B.C. 713.) *Senakherib Invades Judah.*

In the fourteenth year of King 13 Hezekiah, Senakherib king of Ashur advanced against all the fortified cities of Judah, and seized them. Consequently Hezekiah, king of Judah, 14 sent to the king of Ashur at Lakish to say, "I have done wrong! Return from me, and what you impose upon me, I will pay." So the king of Ashur laid upon Hezekiah, king of Judah, three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. And Hezekiah 15 paid him all the silver found in the

¹ The following clause in v. 5, ch. 18, is an editorial comment. Therefore I put it at the page foot:—

And after him there was none like him among all the kings of Judah, or who were before him, who stuck to the EVER-LIVING.—F. F.

² The enumeration of the years as they stand in the Hebrew and A. V. texts are evidently a transcriber's error. These should read "7th and 10th," not "6th and 7th" as the A. V. has them.—F. F.

³ Now Azerbaijan and Baku, on the southwest of the Caspian Sea.—F. F.

House of the EVER-LIVING, and in the treasuries of the Royal Palace.
 16 At the same time Hezekiah stripped it from the doors of the Temple of the EVER-LIVING, and the door-posts which Hezekiah, king of Judah, had plated, and gave it to the king of Ashur.

(B.C. 710.) **Senakherib breaks his Treaty and Attacks Jerusalem.**

17 Yet the king of Ashur sent Tharthan, and Rab-saris, and Rabshakah, from Lakish to king Hezekiah, with a powerful army to Jerusalem, and they advanced and arrived at Jerusalem, and on arrival stationed themselves at the ascent of the High Reservoir, which is by the highway of the Potters' field.

(B.C. 710.)

18 From there they called for the king, and he sent out to them Aliakim-ben-Hilkiah, who was Superintendent of the Palace, and Shebna, the Secretary, and Joakh-ben-Asaf, the Recorder, and Rabshakah said to them:

Rabshakah's Insulting Speech.

"Say to Hezekiah: The Great King, the king of Ashur, asks this: 'What is the Protector upon whom
 20 you rely?' You say—but they are empty words—'I have genius and strength for the war!'

"On whom did you rely when you
 21 revolted from me? Look, now!—you trusted yourself upon that broken reed—upon Mitzer!—upon which if a man leans it runs into his hand and pierces it! Such is Pharoh, king of the Mitzeraim, to all who trust upon
 22 him! But if you reply to me, 'We trust on our EVER-LIVING GOD': is not that He whose Columns and whose Altars Hezekiah has thrown down,—and ordered Judah and Jerusalem to bow towards the Altar of Jerusalem?

23 But, however, come over, I say, to my Master, the king of Ashur, and I will give you two thousand horses;—if you are able to put riders upon them for yourself! So how can you
 24 turn back the face of one of the last of my Master's captains, and trust yourself to Mitzer for chariots and
 25 horsemen? However, have I advanced against this place without an order from the EVER-LIVING to

destroy it? The EVER-LIVING said to me, 'Invade that country and devastate it!'"

(Here Aliakim-ben-Hilkiah, and 26 Shebna, and Joakh said to Rabshakah, "Speak to your servants, we beg, in Aramith, for we understand it, and do not speak to us in Hebrew, in the hearing of the soldiers on the wall.")

But Rabshakah replied to them:— 27

"Did my Master send me to speak to your Master, or to YOU, the things that I am saying? Was it not to the men on the wall,—who eat their own dung and drink their own piss with you?"

(Then Rabshakah stood up and 28 shouted with a loud voice in Hebrew, and spoke, and said:—)

"Listen to the words of the Great King—the King of Ashur! Thus 29 says the King: 'Let not Hezekiah mislead you, for he is not able to deliver you from my hand! And let
 30 not Hezekiah himself trust on the EVER-LIVING, saying, "The EVER-LIVING will deliver, and not give this city to the hand of the king of Ashur!"'"

Listen not to Hezekiah! 31 —for the king of Ashur says this: 'Make a treaty with me, and come out to me, and let everyone eat of his own grapes, and everyone his own figs, and everyone drink water from his own well, until I come and take
 32 you to a land like your own land,—a land of corn and wine,—a land of bread and vineyards—a land of olives, oil, and honey,—where you can live, and not die,—and listen not to Hezekiah, who deceives you by saying, "The LORD will deliver us!"'

"Have the gods of the nations 33 delivered any one of their countries from the hand of the king of Ashur? Where are the gods of Khamath
 34 and Arfad? Where are the gods of Sefarvaim, Ina, and Avah? Who delivered Shomeron from my hand?"

(The people, however, were silent, 36 and did not answer him a word, for the king's command was to give him no reply.)

Then Aliakim-ben-Hilkiah, Super- 37 intendent of the Palace, and Shebna the Secretary, and Joakh-ben-Asaf, the Recorder, returned to Hezekiah with their clothes torn, and reported to him the speech of Rabshakah; and when Hezekiah heard it, he tore 19 his robes, and put on sackcloth, and

went to the house of the EVER-LIVING.

(B.C. 710.) **Isaiah-ben-Amoz Consulted.**

- 2 He also sent Aliakim, Superintendent of the Palace, and Shebna the Secretary, and the Chief Priests with them to Isaiah the Preacher, and son of Amoz, and they said to him:—

3 “The King says this: ‘It is a time of distress, and reproach, and derision, to-day,—for the children have come to the birth, and there is no strength to bear them! Has not your EVER-LIVING GOD heard all the utterances of Rabshakah, whom the king of Ashur, his master, has sent to insult the GOD of LIFE, and abuse Him, with the speeches your EVER-LIVING GOD has heard? So raise a prayer for the remnant remaining.’”

- 5 Thus the ministers of King Hezekiah related to Isaiah, and Isaiah replied to them:—

Isaiah's Reply to Rabshakah.

- 6 “You can say to your king, ‘The EVER-LIVING says this: “Fear not for the words you have heard spoken, with which the officers of the king of Ashur have reviled Me. I will send a wind upon him, and he shall hear its report, and return to his own country, and fall by the sword in his own land.”’”

Rabshakah Retreats from Jerusalem.

- 8 Rabshakah consequently retreated, and met his king besieging Libnah, for he heard he had marched from Lakish, because he had heard a report about Thirakhah, king of Kush, saying that “He was coming to make war on him;” therefore he retreated. However, he sent messengers to Hezekiah to threaten: “Say this to Hezekiah, king of Judah, ‘Do not exalt your GOD on Whom you trust, saying, He will not give Jerusalem to the hands of the king of Ashur.’ Reflect how you have heard what the kings of Ashur have done to all the countries they devoted to conquest—so shall you escape? Did the gods of the Nations deliver those who worshipped them from my forefathers? Gozan? and Kharan? or the children of Aden, who were in Thalsar? Where is the king of Khamath? and the king of Arfad? and the king of

the Cities of the Sefarvaim? Ina, or Avah?’”

Hezekiah, however, took the letter from the hands of the Ambassadors and read it. Then he went up to the House of the EVER-LIVING, where Hezekiah spread it before the SUPREME.

(B.C. 710.) **Hezekiah's Prayer.**

Hezekiah also prayed before the EVER-LIVING, and said:—

“EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel! You, seated among the Kerubim, are GOD alone of all the kingdoms of the earth. You made the Heavens, and the Earth. ETERNAL-LIFE! incline your ears and listen; open your eyes, EVER-LIVING, and see; and hear the words of Senakerib, which he has sent to insult the GOD of LIFE! Truly, LORD, the kings of Ashur have destroyed nations, and their countries; and flung their gods into the fire. For they were not gods, but only the product of human hands,—of wood and stone. But You, our EVER-LIVING GOD, can certainly save us from his hand, when all the kingdoms of the world will know that You are the LIVING GOD;—and You alone.”

Isaiah - ben - Amoz also sent to Hezekiah to say:—

(B.C. 710.)

“Thus says the LIVING GOD of Israel, ‘When you prayed to Me about Senakerib, king of Ashur, I heard you.’ This is the reply that the EVER-LIVING gives to him:—

God's Reply to His Reviler.

“At you the Virgin Daughter of Zion laughs,
Jerusalem's Daughter shakes her head!
Against whom is your libellous insult?
Against whom do you raise your voice,
And lift up your insolent eyes?—
Against the Holy of Israel.
By your Ambassador's hand
You have insulted My Prince!

“You said, ‘I will ride in my chariot over the hill tops;
Over Lebanon stride, and fell his tall cedars,
And beautiful pines,
And lodge at the side of the forest of Karmel!

- 24 I have dug and have drunk of the sparkling waters,
And have dried with my sole all the moats of the Forts!
- 25 "Have you not heard from afar, of My actions aforetime?
How I planned to make great cities desolate heaps,
Made them weak to your hand, and their people like field grass,
26 And green weeds on a roof scorched before they are grown?
27 All your campings, and march, and advancing I knew,—
And your rage against Me;—yes, your fury at Me,—
And your roaring has come to My ears!
- 28 So My hook I will put in your nose, and My bit in your jaws,
And by the way that you came, lead you back!
- 29 "For your proof, eat the self-sown this year,—and next year the same!—
And the third, sow, and reap, dress the vines, and eat fruits;—
30 For Judah's House shall grow up from its fragments;
31 Branches spring from the root, and bear fruit up aloft;—
From Jerusalem fragments shall go, and escape from Mount Zion,—
The power of the LORD will do this.
- 32 "Ashur's king shall not come to this town, says the LORD,
Nor shoot there an arrow, nor lift up a shield,
Nor heap up a rampart against it!
- 33 By the way he advanced, by that way he shall go,
And not come to this city, the LORD has declared,—
- 34 I shield it, and save it, because of Myself,
And David the Servant to ME."

(B.C. 710.) **Plague destroys Rabshakah's Army.**

- 35 And it occurred that in the same night a Messenger from the EVER-LIVING came and struck in the camp of Ashur a hundred and seventy-five thousand! When they awoke in the morning they found all these dead
36 corpses. Then Senakerib king of Ashur, struck tents, marched, and
37 returned to Nineveh, where, when praying in the House of Nisrok his

god, Adramelek and Shartzar, his sons, assailed him with the sword, and escaped to the district of Ararat, and Aserhadon his son reigned after him.

(B.C. 713.) **Hezekiah's Illness.**

About this time Hezekiah had a 20 serious sickness, so Isaiah came to him and said, "Thus says the EVER-LIVING, 'Arrange for your family, for you will die and not live!'"

He in consequence turned his face 2 to the wall, and prayed to the EVER-LIVING, saying:—

"I entreat You, EVER-LIVING, to 3 remember how I walked before You in truth, and with a thankful heart, and the good I have done in Your sight!"

Then Hezekiah wept with much weeping.

(B.C. 713.) **Longer Life granted to Hezekiah.**

And it happened that Isaiah had 4 not gone halfway to the town, when the message of the EVER-LIVING came to him to say:

"Return and say to Hezekiah, the 5 shepherd of My people: 'Thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of David, your ancestor: "I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears;—I will cure you. Three days hence you shall go up to the House of the EVER-LIVING! I will also add to your days fifteen 6 years, and I will deliver you from the hand of the King of Ashur, with this city, and I will protect this city, because of Myself, and because of David My servant."'"

Isaiah then said, "Take a plaster of 7 figs, and apply it to the inflammation, and he will live!"

But Hezekiah asked Isaiah, "What 8 evidence is there that the EVER-LIVING will cure me, and that I shall three days hence go up to the House of the EVER-LIVING?"

(B.C. 713.) **The Shadow goes back Ten Degrees.**

When Isaiah replied, "This is the evidence from the EVER-LIVING to you, that the EVER-LIVING will fulfil the promise He has promised: the shadow that has gone upwards ten degrees, shall it turn back the ten degrees it has risen."

Hezekiah, however answered him, 10

"It is easy for the shadow to advance ten degrees on the sun-dial, but not for the shadow to go back ten degrees!"

- 11 But Isaiah the Preacher called to the EVER-LIVING, and the shadow turned back from the advance, which it had gone upon the sun-dial of Ahaz, receding ten degrees.

B.C. 712.) **Barodak of Babel sends an Embassy to Hezekiah.**

- 12 At this time Barodak-Baladan, son of Baladan, king of Babel, sent letters and presents to Hezekiah, for he had heard that Hezekiah had been ill.

- 13 And Hezekiah listened to them, and showed them all the stores of his treasures; the silver and gold, and perfumes, and the fine oil; and all the arsenal of his armour; and everything contained in his treasuries. There was nothing that Hezekiah did not show them, in his Palace, and in his dominions. Consequently Isaiah the Preacher came to the king Hezekiah and asked him, "What did those men say? and from whom have they come to you?"

And Hezekiah answered him, "From a distant country;—they came from Babel."

Then he asked, "What did you show them in your Palace?"

When Hezekiah replied, "They have seen all that is in my Palace. There is nothing in my treasuries which they have not seen!"

But Isaiah answered Hezekiah:—"Listen to a message from the EVER-LIVING. Look! the days are coming when all that is in your palace, and which your forefathers have stored up to this day, will be carried to Babel,—not a thing will be left, says the EVER-LIVING! And your sons who proceed from you, whom you have produced, will be seized and made eunuchs in the Temple of the kings of Babel!"

Hezekiah only replied to Isaiah, "The message from the EVER-LIVING that you have delivered is good! for it says that peace and safety shall be in my days!"

Regarding the rest of the affairs of Hezekiah, and all his achievements, and how he made the reservoirs and the aqueducts, and brought the waters to the city, they are recorded in the history of events of the times of the kings of Judah. But Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and Manasheh his son reigned after him.

END OF ISAIAH'S HISTORY OF THE HEBREWS.

SUPPLEMENTARY CHAPTERS TO ISAIAH'S HISTORY OF THE HEBREWS.¹

(B.C. 698.) **Reign of Manasheh, and his Apostasy and Wickedness.**

- 21 Manasheh was twelve years old at his coronation, and reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem, and his mother's name was Hiftzibah. But he did wrong in the eyes of the EVER-LIVING, like the abominable heathen whom the EVER-LIVING drove out before the children of Israel. He also restored and built the Columns that

Hezekiah his father had destroyed, and raised altars to Bal, and made Shrines, like Ahab king of Israel did; and bowed to all the host of the skies, and served them, and built them altars in the House of the EVER-LIVING, although the EVER-LIVING had said, "In Jerusalem I will place My Name." He also built altars to all the Host of the Skies in the two courts of the House of the EVER-LIVING, and passed his son through

¹ Note upon Ch. 21. With Ch. 20 the work of Isaiah (see 2 Chron., Ch. 32, v. 32, in the Hebrew) would seem to end, and the remaining chapters to be the product of a later hand of a date after the Babylonian Captivity. Probably they were by Nehemiah, written as a supplement to Isaiah's history. The style and tone is different, and the wide views of the lessons and philosophy of history contained in the work from Joshua to the 21st of Kings are wanting, and the difference in the dramatic power of the narrative in the four concluding chapters is also noticeable. I would, therefore, head them "Supplementary Chapters to Isaiah's History of Israel." I would also suggest that Isaiah wrote the History of the Hebrews as a prefatory introduction to his warnings to his Nation, and the promises foretold, if it repented; for had he not done so by showing its crimes, those warnings and promises

the fire, to the clouds, and to the serpent, and practised necromancy, and used soothsayers, continually increasing to do evil in the sight of the

- 7 EVER-LIVING to insult Him. He even fixed the Image of Fortune that he had made in the House, which the EVER-LIVING said to David and to Solomon his son: "In this House, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel, I will fix
- 8 My Name for ever! And I will not again cause the feet of Israel to wander from the land that I gave to their forefathers,—if only they continue to practise all that I commanded them, and all the laws that Moses, My Servant, ordered for them."
- 9 But they would not listen. Manasheh thus apostatized to practise sin with the heathen whom the EVER-LIVING swept from before the children of Israel.

(B.C. 690.) **The Preachers sent to Reprove Him.**

- 10 The EVER-LIVING consequently sent a message by the hands of His servants the Preachers, to say:
- 11 "Since Manasheh, king of Judah, has practised these hideous sins,—worse than all that the Amorites who preceded him, and Judah has also
- 12 sinned with his idols,—therefore thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel, 'I will bring such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah that both the ears of all
- 13 who hear it shall tingle. And I will extend over Jerusalem the rule of Shomeron, and the plummet of the House of Ahab, and overturn Jerusalem as a bowl is overturned and flung
- 14 on its face! I will also abandon the remnant of My Inheritance, and give them to the hand of their enemies, and they shall become a contempt and scorn to all their enemies,

because they have done wrong in My sight, and have been an irritation to Me, from the day I brought their fathers from among the Mitzeraim to this day. And Manasheh has also shed very much innocent blood, until he has filled Jerusalem from face to face, to destroy it with the sins he has caused Judah to sin by doing evil in the sight of the EVER-LIVING."

As to the other affairs of Manasheh, and all that he did and the sins that he sinned, they are related in the history of events during the period of the kings of Judah. At last Manasheh slept with his fathers, and was buried in the garden of his palace, in the Park of Aza, and Amon, his son, succeeded him.

(B.C. 643.) **Reign of Amon-ben-Manasheh—His Sins.**

Amon was twenty-two years of age at his coronation, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem, and his mother's name was Meshulamath, daughter of Kharotz of Jatbah. He, however, did wrong in the sight of the EVER-LIVING, as Manasheh his father had done, and followed all the ways his father went, and served the idols that his father served, and bowed to them. He also forsook the EVER-LIVING GOD of his ancestors, and did not walk in the paths of the EVER-LIVING. So the Officers of Amon conspired against him and killed the king in his palace. The country people, however, assailed all the conspirators, against king Amon, and elected his son Josiah king in his place. The rest of the things that Amon did are recorded in the history of events in the times of the kings of Judah. And they buried him in his own tomb in the Park of Aza, and his son Josiah reigned after him.

would have been incomprehensible to the mass of his readers in his own day, and far more so to us. Consequently it is a mistake to read the books from Joshua to the end of the 20th Chapter of the 2nd Kings, as merely a political History of Israel and Judah, by several different writers, as all former students have done, for they are clearly composed for a single purpose, and meant to be the Philosophy of the History of the Hebrew Race, and to point out the sources of their national prosperity, and the causes of their decay, paralysis, and ruin at the time of the Teacher and Prophet—for he was both—and not only to them, but to the whole human race, by a special Divine inspiration.

In his history he tries to make this object clear, by constantly referring his readers to the National Records or former historians he cites, for any information they might desire about merely political events.

This point of view, I think, is well worth the attention of students and critics, as well as theologians. In the old Hebrew arrangement of the Books of the Bible the Books containing the sections dealing with the different periods of the national evolution, decline, and fall of the Hebrew people, from the death of Moses—that is, the Books from Joshua to 2nd Kings—stand immediately before Isaiah, which seems to support my view, and the statement of Chron., Ch. 32, v. 32, already cited, confirms it.—F. F.

(B.C. 641.) Good Josiah Reigns over Israel.

22 Josiah was eight years old at his coronation, and reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem, and the name of his mother was Jedidah, daughter of 2 Adiah of Betzekath, and he did right in the sight of the EVER-LIVING, and walked in all the paths of his ancestor David, and did not turn to the right or left.

(B.C. 624.) He Repairs the Temple.

3 It occurred in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, that the king sent Shafan-ben-Atzaliah the Secretary to the House of the EVER-LIVING to say:

4 "Go to Hilkiyah the High Priest, and let him keep the money coming into the House of the EVER-LIVING, separate from what they collect from the people, and deposit it in the custody of Asaf, the Accountant of the property of the House of the EVER-LIVING, to repair the dilapidations of the House; to pay carpenters, and masons, and builders, and purchase timber, and dressed stone to repair the Temple." However, he did not reckon with them for the money placed in their hands, for they acted faithfully.

(B.C. 624.) The Original Plates of the Law made by Moses found.

8 Then Hilkiyah the High Priest said to Shafan the Secretary, "I have found THE BOOK—Book of the Law,¹ in the House of the EVER-LIVING." So Hilkiyah gave the Book to Shafan when he met him, and Shafan carried the Book to the king, when the king sat at business, and said, "Your Officers have collected the money found in

¹ The reading in the Hebrew, as I take it, is far stronger than in the common translations, whether of the Septuagint and Vulgate, or the English Authorised and Revised Versions, who only give "the Book," or "a Book of the Law." The Hebrew text has *הספר ספר התורה*, which I would read as "THE Book—Book of the Law," that is, in the English idiom, "The ORIGINAL Book of the Law," the autograph copy engraved by Moses and placed in the Ark, under his order, by Aliazar the High Priest, while the Army of Joshua was encamped in Moab, previous to passing from the eastern side of the Jordan to invade Canaan on its west. See Deuteronomy, Ch. 31, v. 24.—F. F.

the Temple and placed it in the custody of Asaf the Accountant of the property of the House of the EVER-LIVING." Then Shafan showed the 10 book to the king, and said, "Hilkiyah the Priest gave me this Book," and Shafan read it before the king.

But when the king heard the contents of the Book of Law, he tore his robes, and the king commanded 12 Hilkiyah the Priest, and Akhikam-ben-Shafan, and Akbur-ben-Mikiah, and Shafan the Secretary, and Asiah, the Attendant of the king, saying:—

"Go, enquire of the EVER-LIVING 13 about me, and about the people, and about all Judah, in regard to the contents of this Book that has been found; for a great anger from the EVER-LIVING must be kindled against us, because our ancestors have not listened to the commands of this Book, or practised all that was written for us!"

(B.C. 624.) Josiah consults Huldah the Reciter.

Hilkiyah, the Priest, and Akhikam, 14 and Akbur, and Shafan and Ashiah, went therefore to Huldah the Reciter, the wife of Shalem-ben-Thignah-ben-Kharkhas, Keeper of the Robes, who resided in Jerusalem in the Second Rank of the Levites, and spoke to her, and she replied to them:— 15

"The EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel says thus:—'Say to the man who sent you to me: Thus says the EVER-LIVING, I will bring misery upon this place, and upon its inhabitants, in accordance with the contents of the Book read to the king of Judah, because they have abandoned Me, 17 and offered incense to other gods to insult Me by all their practices, and to kindle My wrath with this place,—and it shall not be quenched.'

"But to the king of Judah who sent 18 you to enquire of the EVER-LIVING, say this to him: Thus says the EVER-LIVING GOD of Israel, about the words that you have heard,—you 19 opened a heart to consider them as from the EVER-LIVING, so that you may hear what I have spoken about this place, and against its inhabitants, for it shall become desolate, and despised. So you tore your robes and wept before Me,—and I have heard you also, says the EVER-LIVING, therefore I will add you to 20

your fathers, and you shall be added to your tomb in peace, and your eyes shall not see all the misery which I will bring upon this place.' ”

And they reported this answer to the king.

(B.C 623.) *The Parliament Convoled to hear the Law read.*

23 The king consequently sent and assembled to himself all the nobles 2 of Judah and Jerusalem, when the king and all the representatives of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests and preachers, and all the people from the lowest to the highest, went up to the House of the EVER-LIVING, and he read in their hearing all the contents of the Book of Laws that had been found in the House of the EVER-LIVING.

(B.C. 623.) *The King and Parliament promise to obey the Law.*

3 Then the king mounted upon the platform and made a Declaration before the EVER-LIVING, to walk after the EVER-LIVING, and to keep His Commandments, and his Evidences, and Constitution, with all the heart and with all the soul; to establish the commands of the Covenant written in that Book,—and the Representatives of the people confirmed the Declaration.

(B.C. 623.) *Joshiah Extirpates the Idols and their Priests.*

4 The king also commanded Hilkiah the High Priest, and the Priests of the Second Rank, and the Guards of the Threshold, to bring out from the Temple of the EVER-LIVING all the appliance they had made for Bal, and for Asherah,¹ and for all the Host of the Skies, and to burn them outside Jerusalem, in the fields of Kedron, and carry their rubbish 5 from the House of GOD. He also stopped the Priest of the Stars, whom the kings of Judah had appointed, who burned incense at the Columns to Bal, and to the Sun, and to the Moon, and the Planets, and to all 6 the Army of the Skies; and sent the shrines out of the House of the EVER-LIVING to the outside of Jerusalem,

to the brook Kedron, and burnt them at the brook Kedron, and crushed their ashes, and flung the ashes on the graves of the followers of these people. He also pulled down the 7 houses of Prostitution which were in the House of the EVER-LIVING, where the women wove curtains for the Shrines. Then he brought all the 8 Priests from the towns of Judah, and defiled the Columns where the Priests offered incense, from Gaba to Bersheba, and overturned the Columns of the Demons which had been erected at the Gate by Joshua, the Governor of the city, on the left hand of each gate of the town. Nor did 9 he permit those priests to sacrifice to the EVER-LIVING at the Columns in Jerusalem, unless they ate biscuits 10 among their brethren. He also defiled the furnace in the valley of the sons of Khinon, where they passed their sons and daughters through the fire to Molok, and destroyed the 11 horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the Sun at the entry of the Temple of the EVER-LIVING near the chamber of Nathan-Melk the eunuch, who was superintendent of the horses and the chariots of the Sun, which he burnt with fire, and the 12 Altars also that were upon the embankment of the aqueduct of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made. And the king threw down the Altars that Manasheh made in the two courts of the House of the EVER-LIVING, and powdered them, and threw their dust into the brook Kedron. The Columns also, which 13 were opposite Jerusalem, on the right of the Hill of Consecration, which Solomon, king of Israel, built to Asheroth and to Kemosh, the abominations of Moab, and to Milkom the horror of the Amonites, the king destroyed. And he broke the Pillars, 14 and cut down the groves, and filled their place with men's bones. The 15 Altar also that was in Bethel, which Jerabam-ben-Nebat had built when he caused the sin of Israel, both that Altar, and the Columns, he threw down, and burnt the Columns to fine dust, and burnt the Shrines. But 16 Joshiah happened to turn and see the tombs which were on the hill, so he sent to take the bones from the tombs, and burnt them upon the Altar, and defiled it, according to the message of the EVER-LIVING

¹ "Asherah"—Fortune, the pagan goddess.—F. F.

which the MAN of GOD proclaimed, when he foretold these events.

17 He asked, "What is that Monument I see?"

And the people of the town replied to him, "The tomb of the MAN of GOD who came from Judah, and foretold these things, that you are doing upon the Altar of Bethel."

18 When he answered, "Let his bones rest! No one shall touch his bones!"

So they preserved his bones,—the bones of the Preacher who came to Shomeron.

19 Josiah, however, destroyed all the Temples of Columns that were in the villages of Shomeron, which the kings of Israel had constructed, as insults to the EVER-LIVING; and did to them as to all the fabrics they had erected as in Bethel, and sacrificed all the Priests of the Columns who were there upon their Altars, and burnt the bones of men upon them, then returned to Jerusalem.

(B.C. 622.) **Josiah Orders a Great Passover.**

21 The king next commanded the people, saying:—

"Make a Passover to your EVER-LIVING GOD, such as is written in this Book of Laws."

22 And they never made such a Passover in the times of the Judges, who judged Israel, and all the time of the kings of Israel, and the kings of

23 Judah, as this which was made in the nineteenth year of King Josiah, as they made at this Passover to the

24 EVER-LIVING in Jerusalem; because the Spirit-raisers, and Soothsayers, and Therafs, and Shakers, existed in the country of Judah and in Jerusalem until the days of Josiah, but he conducted it by the instructions of the Laws written in the Book that had been found by Hilkiah the Priest in the House of the EVER-LIVING.

25 Such a king as he was had not been before him, who turned with all his heart and all his strength to the EVER-LIVING, in accordance with the whole Law of Moses, and after him there did not arise another such.

26 However, the EVER-LIVING did not turn from the great anger which consumed Him against Judah, on account of all the insults with which

27 Manasseh had insulted him. The

EVER-LIVING consequently said, "I will also turn away Judah from before My face, as I have turned Israel, and will waste this city of Jerusalem that I chose, and this House where I said My name shall be."

As to the other affairs of Josiah, 28 and all that he did, they are recorded in the history of events in the times of the kings of Judah.

(B.C. 610.) **Josiah Killed in Battle at Megido.**

In his days, however, Pharoh Nek- 29 ho, king of the Mitzeraim, advanced against the king of Ashur, to the river Euphrates, and King Josiah went to meet him, but he killed him at Migido as soon as he saw him, and his ministers carried him dead 30 from Megido, and brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own tomb. Then the people of the country took Jhohaz the son of Josiah, and consecrated him, and crowned him in the place of his father.

(B.C. 610.) **Jhohaz made King.**

Jhohaz was twenty-six years old at 31 his consecration, and reigned three months in Jerusalem, and his mother's name was Hamutal, daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. But he did wrong 32 in the sight of the EVER-LIVING, in all that his ancestors had done. Pharoh Nekho, however, swept him 33 away at Riblah, in the district of Khamath, from being king in Jerusalem, and laid a fine upon the country of a hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold. Pharoh Nekho also 34 made Aliakim, son of Josiah, king in place of his father Josiah, but changed his name to Jhokim, and took Jhohaz and carried him to Mitzer, and he died there.

(B.C. 610.) **Jokim made Governor of Israel by Pharoh Nekho.**

Jhokim paid the silver and gold to 35 Pharoh. He taxed the land to pay the money to Pharoh; everyone of the people of the country had to provide the silver and the gold according to his valuation to pay to Pharoh Nekho.

Jhokim was twenty-five years old 36 at his coronation, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem, and his mother's name was Zabidah, the

37 daughter of Pheriah of Ramah. But he did evil in the sight of the EVER-LIVING, in all that his ancestors had done.

(B.C. 607.) **Nebukhadnezzar Conquers Judah.**

24 In his time Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, advanced, and Jhokim was subject to him for three years. Then he turned and rebelled from him.

(B.C. 603.)

2 But the EVER-LIVING sent against him the troops of the Kasidim, and the troops of Aram, and the troops of Moab, and the troops of the Amonites, whom he sent against Judah to destroy it, because it was the EVER-LIVING'S intention against Judah to turn it from His presence, for the sin of Manasheh in all that he did, and also for the innocent blood that he shed, filling Jerusalem with innocent blood, which the EVER-LIVING was not willing to forgive.

5 As regards the other affairs of Jhokim, and all that he did, they are written in the history of events during the times of the kings of Judah. But Jhokim slept with his fathers, and Jhoikin his son reigned 7 after him. And the king of Egypt did not again come out from his country, for the king of Babel seized from the River of Egypt to the River Frath,¹ all of which had previously belonged to the king of Mitzer.

(B.C. 599.) **Jhoiakim made Nominal King of Judah by a Revolt.**

8 Jhoiakim was nineteen years old at his coronation, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Nakhshetha, the daughter of Alnathan of Jerusalem.

He, however, did wrong in the sight of the EVER-LIVING, in everything as his ancestors had done.

(B.C. 599.) **Nebukhadnezzar advances against him and Captures Jerusalem.**

10 At this period the Officers of Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, advanced to Jerusalem, and came to besiege the city. Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, also came to the city while 12 his Officers were besieging it, when

Jhoiakim capitulated to the king of Babel, himself, his mother, his ministers and generals, and eunuchs. Thus the king of Babel captured him in the eighth year of his reign. He 13 also took away all the treasure from the House of the EVER-LIVING, and the treasures from the palace of the king, and collected the gold and furniture of gold that Solomon, king of Israel, had made for the Temple of the EVER-LIVING, by the command of the EVER-LIVING, and transported 14 all Jerusalem, and all its nobles, and the whole of the officers of the army, ten thousand, as captives, with all the carpenters and mechanics. He left none except the lower class of the country. He also transported Jhoiakim 15 to Babel, with the king's mother and wives, and his eunuchs, together with 16 the Princes of the country, whom he carried captive from Jerusalem to Babel. Beside which the king of 17 Babel made Mattaniah, his uncle, king in his place, but changed his name to Zedekiah.

(B.C. 590.) **Zedekiah made Governor of Judah by Nebukhadnezzar.**

Zedekiah was twenty-one years of age at his coronation, and reigned eleven years at Jerusalem, and his mother's name was Hamutal, daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. But he 19 did evil in the sight of the EVER-LIVING in everything that Jhoiakim had done, because the anger of the 20 EVER-LIVING was against Jerusalem and Judah to throw them from His Presence, — therefore Zedekiah revolted from the king of Babel.

(B.C. 588.) **Zedekiah Revolts, but Nebukhadnezzar crushes him.**

In consequence, in the ninth year, 25 on the tenth of the tenth month, Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, came with all his forces to Jerusalem, and encamped against it, and they built a surrounding wall against it, and 2 the siege of the city went on to the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. At 3 the ninth month the famine became terrible in the city, and there was no bread for the people of the country, so he burst from the city with a force 4 of soldiers by night, by way of the wall which is towards the Royal Garden, although the Kasidim were around the city, and marched towards

¹ Euphrates

5 the desert. But the forces of the Kasidim pursued after the king, and overtook him at the fords of Jerikho, with all his army, who scattered from
6 him. They consequently seized the king, and carried him to the king of Babel at Riblath, and reported to
7 him for a decision, when he killed the children of Zedekiah before his eyes—then pulled out the eyes of Zedekiah himself, and bound him in chains and had him carried to Babel

(B.C. 588.) **Nebukhadnezzar Burns the Temple and all Jerusalem.**

8 Afterwards, in the seventh of the fifth month, of the nineteenth year of King Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, Nebuzaradan came with many slaughterers, servants of the king of Babel,
9 to Jerusalem, and burnt the house of the EVER-LIVING, and the Royal Palace, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every mansion was burnt
10 with fire. Then all the army of the Kasidim, with the slaughterers, broke down the walls around Jerusalem.

11 Nebuzaradan, chief of the slaughterers, afterwards transported the remnant of the people of the city, with the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babel, and the rest of
12 the great crowd. However, Nebuzaradan, chief of the slaughterers, left the lower classes as farmers and diggers.

13 The Kasidim also broke up the Pillars of brass that were at the House of the EVER-LIVING, and the Bases, and the Brazen Sea which was in the EVER-LIVING'S House, and carried the brass to Babel, with the pots, and the brushes, and sprinklers, and the tongs, and took all the appliances of brass, which were made
14 use of. The snuffers and scissors that were of gold, for gold, and what were of silver, for silver, the chief of the slaughterers took. And the two Pillars, the Single Sea, and the Pillars that Solomon made for the House of the EVER-LIVING were not weighed,
15 for they were fabrics of brass. They were eighteen cubits high, and stood each with its crown of brass,—and the height of the crown was three cubits, with a network, and pomegranates around the crown. The whole of brass, and the second pillar was like it, with its crown.

18 The Chief Slaughterer also took

Sariah, the Chief Priest, and Zefaniah, the Second Priest, and the Commander of the Guard of the Threshold; and from the city he
19 took a eunuch who was stationed over the War Office, and five princes, attendants of the king, whom he found in the city, and the Adjutant General of the Army of the nation, with sixteen from the Parliament of the country, whom he found in the town; Nebuzaradan, Chief of the
20 Slaughterers, took these and conducted them to the king of Babel at Riblath, where the king of Babel
21 assailed and put them to death in Riblath, in the district of Khamath. Thus he transported Judah from its land. But for the remainder of the
22 people in the land of Judah, Nebukhadnezzar, king of Babel, appointed over them Gedaliah-ben-Akhiakam-ben-Shafan.

(B.C. 588.) **Gedaliah Appointed Governor.**

But when the Generals of the
23 forces, they and the Princes, heard that the king of Babel had appointed Gedaliah, they came to Gedaliah at Mitzfah, with Ishmael-ben-Nathan, and Jhonathan-ben-Karakh, and Sariah-ben-Thankhumeth the Naphite, and Jazniah-ben-Hamakathi,
—these and their men, when Gedaliah swore to them and their men,
24 and said, "Fear nothing from the officers of the Kasidim who are stationed in the country, who serve the king of Babel," and bowed to them.

(B.C. 588.) **Gedaliah Murdered, and the People fly to Egypt.**

However, in the seventh month,
25 Ishmael-ben-Nathaniah-ben-Alishamah, of the Royal family, came, and ten men with him, and assailed Gedaliah, and killed him, and the Judeans and Kasidim who were with him at Mitzfah. Then all the people
26 arose, from the least to the greatest, with the officers of the forces, and went to the Mitzeraim, for they were afraid of the Kasidim.

(B.C. 562.) **Jhoiakim freed from Prison.**

In the thirty-seventh year from the
27 transportation of Jhoiakim, king of

Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, Avil-Merodakh, king of Babel, in the year of his coronation, raised the head of Jhoiakim, king of Judah, from
28 prison, and spoke kindly to him, and gave him a seat above the seats of

the other kings who were at Babel. He also removed his prison dress 29 from him, and he ate his food continually in his presence all the time that he lived. And from thence- 30 forward the king regularly supplied a daily allowance during his life.

END OF THE SUPPLEMENT TO II. KINGS AND THE MONARCHICAL PERIOD OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH.