

# THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH.

BY ISAIAH-BEN-AMUZ THE PROPHET.

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

## BOOK IV.

### THE PERIOD OF SAMUEL.

#### THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL.

(B.C. 1054.) *The Defeat at Gilboa reported to David.*

1 **I**T was after the death of Saul, when David was resting from the defeat of the Amalekites for two days, after  
2 David had returned to Ziklag, that on the third day a man came from the camp of the army of Saul, with his clothes torn, and earth on his head, and when he reached David he inclined to the earth and bowed.

3 Then David asked him, "Where do you come from?"

And he replied, "I have escaped from the Camp of Israel."

4 "What has been the event?" David asked him further. "Inform me, I pray."

When he replied, "Both the regular soldiers, and also ten thousand of the militia have fallen, and Saul has been killed, and Jonathan his son is dead!"

5 Then David asked the young man, "Can you tell me if you know how Saul was killed, and Jonathan his son?"

6 And the youth related to him, "I happened to be upon the hill of Gilboa, and saw Saul leaning on his spear, and the chariots and horsemen  
7 were charging down upon him. And he looked behind him, and saw and called to me, when I replied, 'I am  
8 here!' Then he said to me, 'Who are you?' And I answered him, 'I  
9 am an Amalekite.' When he said,

'Stand by and kill me, for I am seized with terror and all my spirit has left me.' So I stood by him and  
10 killed him. Then I examined who he might be after he had fallen, and took the coronet which was on his head, and the bracelets from his arms, and have brought them here to my lord!"

Then David seized his robes and tore  
11 them, and all his men who were with him did the same; and they mourned  
12 and wept and lamented until the evening over Saul, and over Jonathan his son, and over the army of the  
EVER-LIVING, and over the House of Israel who had fallen by the sword.

David afterwards asked the young  
13 man, "Will you inform from where you come?"

"And he answered, "I am the son of a foreigner, an Amalekite."

Then David said to him, "Were you  
14 not afraid to stretch out your hand to destroy the consecrated to the  
LORD?" And David called to one  
15 of his lads, and said, "Go up to and assail and kill him!" And David  
16 said to him, "Your blood is on your own head, for your mouth gave evidence against you!—saying, 'I killed the LORD'S anointed!'"

David also chanted this elegy over  
17 Saul and his son Jonathan, and  
18 ordered the tribe of Judah to be

taught archery, as it is recorded in the History of the Heroes.

### ELEGY UPON SAUL AND JONATHAN.

- 19 "Have not the glorious heroes fallen,  
Israel, upon your hills?
- 20 Tell it not in the city Gath!  
Publish it not in the streets of  
Askalon!  
Lest it gladden Philistia's daughters,—  
Lest the girls of the vile rejoice!
- 21 Let no dew fall on the hills of  
Gilboa,  
Or rain on the high land fields!  
For there the hero's shield was cast,  
Saul's shield unprotected by oil!
- 22 From the blood of the wounded,—  
From the strength of the brave,—  
The bow of Jonathan turned not  
away;  
Nor Saul flashed his sword in vain!
- 23 Saul and Jonathan loved and were  
friends in life,  
And in death they were not divided.  
They had the voices of eagles,  
They were as lions strong!
- 24 Daughters of Israel, weep for Saul;  
Who clothed you with many jewels;  
Put not on your gold and gems!
- 25 For the heroes are fallen in war,  
With Jonathan, matchless in might!
- 26 I grieve for you, my brother Jonathan!  
Pleasant to me was your wonderful  
love,—  
It surpassed the love for women.
- 27 How have the mighty fallen!  
And the arms of the warrior failed!"

(B.C. 1055.) **David asks of God whether he should seize a Fort in Judah?**

- 2 And after that David inquired from the EVER-LIVING, saying, "Shall I go up to one of the Forts of Judah?"

When the EVER-LIVING answered him, "Go up."

Then David asked, "To which shall I go up?"

And the EVER-LIVING replied to him, "To Hebron."

- 2 So David went up, with his two

wives Akhinoam, the Jezraalite, and Abigail, the widow of Nabal the Karmelite, and the men who were 3 with him accompanied David each with his family, and settled in the City of Hebron. Then the men of 4 Judah came and consecrated David as King over the House of Judah, and informed him that the men of Yabesh Gilad had buried Saul.

David therefore sent messengers 5 to the men of Yabesh Gilad, and said to them, "May you be blessed by the EVER-LIVING for showing this kindness to your Prince, to Saul, and burying him. May the EVER- 6 LIVING therefore show you kindness and truth, and I also make you this present, on account of what you have done. Strengthen your hand, and 7 also be brave men, although your lord, Saul, is dead. But as for me, the House of Judah have consecrated me king over themselves."

But Abner-ben-Ner, the commander of Saul's army, took Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, and brought him to the camp, and he reigned over 9 Gilad, and Asher, and Jezraal, and Ephraim, and Benjamin, and over all Israel.

(B.C. 1054.) **History of Ishbosheth.**

Ishbosheth the son of Saul was 10 forty years old at his coronation over Israel, and was king two years. But Judah followed David, and the period 11 of time that David was king in Hebron was seven years and six months.

(B.C. 1053.) **The Treachery of Joab, and outbreak of War between Judah and Israel.**

Abner-ben-Ner and the servants of 12 Ishbosheth, son of Saul, went out from Makhanim to Gibaon, and 13 Joab, David's officer, went out and advanced to the pool of Gibaon simultaneously, and he occupied one side of the pool, and they the other side. Then Abner said to Joab, 14 "Let the lads get up and make sport before us."

When Joab answered, "Let them get up."

So they arose, and passed over to 15 the number of twelve for Benjamin, and Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and twelve from the servants of David, and they seized each on the hand of 16

his antagonist, and stabbed into the side of his antagonist, and they fell down together. So they named that place Traitors' rock. It is near Gibaon.

17 Consequently there arose an extremely fierce battle on that day, and Abner and the Generals of Israel retired before the troops of David. And there were three sons of Zeruiah there, Joab, and Abishai, and Ashahel, and Ashahel was swift of foot, like a wild stag; so Ashahel ran after Abner, and did not turn from his path to the right or the left from following Abner. But Abner turned on himself, and asked, "Is that you, Ashahel?" And he replied, "It is."

21 Then Abner said to him, "Turn to your right, or to your left, and seize one of the fellows for yourself, and take his armour."

But Ashahel would not turn from following him.

22 So Abner again said to Ashahel, "Turn from following me! Why must I strike you to the earth? For then I could not lift up my face to your brother Joab!"

23 But he refused to turn away, so Abner struck him with the butt of his spear on the belly, and the spear went through to his back, and he fell there and died terribly. And when the forces arrived at the spot where Ashahel had fallen and died, they halted. But Abishai and Joab pursued Abner till sunset; and at sunset they had reached Gibatt-amah, which is opposite Gikha, on the way to the Desert of Gibeon. And there the Benjaminites collected to Abner, and formed into line, and stood on the top of the hill, whence Abner called to Joab and said, "Must the sword devour for ever? Do you not know that it will be a bitterness to you hereafter, that you have not ordered the forces to turn back from pursuing your own countrymen?"

27 When Joab answered, "By the life of GOD! If you had not spoken, the forces should not have ceased from pursuing their countrymen until the morning."

28 Then Joab signalled by the trumpet, and all the force halted, and pursued Israel no farther, and did not continue the battle. So Abner and his men marched towards the Arbah all that night, and crossed the Jordan, and went to Bithron, whence they arrived at Makhanim

Joab also returned from the pursuit 30 of Abner, and collected the whole of his forces, and found there were lost from David's servants nineteen men, and Ashahel. But David's troops 31 wounded of Benjamin, and Abner's men, three hundred and sixty, and killed sixty. They also took up 32 Ashahel, and buried him in the grave of his father in Bethlehem. Then Joab and his men marched all night, and day broke to them in Hebron.

The war extended, however, between the house of Saul and the house of David; and David advanced and strengthened, but the house of Saul became weaker.

David, also, had sons born to him 2 in Hebron, of whom the eldest was Amon from Akhinoam, the Jezraalite, and the second Kilab, from 3 Abigail the widow of Nabal, the Karmelite, and the third Abshalom, 4 the son of Makah, the daughter of Thalim king of Ghishur, and the fourth Adoniah, the son of Hageth, and the fifth Shifatias, son of Abital, and the sixth Ithram, by Agla of the 5 wives of David. These were born to David in Hebron.

But the war continued between the 6 House of Saul and the House of David, and Abner was the strength of the House of Saul.

#### Quarrel between Abner and Ishbosheth about Rizfah, a widow of Saul.

Saul, however, had a slave wife, 7 and her name was Rizfah, the daughter of Avah.

And he asked Abner, "Why have you gone to that slave-wife of my father?"

But Abner was very angry at the 8 words of Ishbosheth, and exclaimed, "Am I a dog's head,—who have shown kindness to the House of Saul, your father, and his relatives, and friends, instead of to Judah, and have not delivered you to the hand of David, that you accuse me of sin to-day with that woman? May the 9 EVER-LIVING do so to Abner, and more than that,—if, according to what the EVER-LIVING has promised to David, I will not do for him, and 10 transfer the Army from the House of Saul, and establish the throne of David over Israel and Judah, from Dan to Beersheba." And he was not 11 able in return to reply a word to Abner, for he was afraid of him.

(B.C. 1048.) **Abner intrigues with David.—His Murder and Burial.**

- 12 Abner consequently sent messengers privately to David to ask, "Whose is the country?" and adding, "Make your bargain with me, and I will give my hand to you to turn all Israel to you!"
- 13 And he replied, "Right! I will make a bargain with you. Only one thing I will demand of you, that is, you shall not see my face unless you bring into my presence Mikal, Saul's daughter, when you come to see me."
- 14 Then David sent ambassadors to Ishbosheth the son of Saul, to say, "Give me my wife Mikal, whom I acquired by a hundred foreskins of the Philistim."
- 15 So Ishbosheth sent, and took her from her husband—from Faltial-ben Losh. But her husband went along with her, and wept with her to Bakhurim, where Abner said to him, "Be off! Go back! and be quiet!"
- 17 Then Abner's plan was to say to the judges of Israel, "Formerly you were seeking David to be king over you; so now effect it, for the EVER-LIVING has spoken to David, saying, 'By the hand of David My servant, I will rescue My People Israel from the power of the Philistim, and from the power of all their enemies.'"
- 19 Abner also whispered in the ears of Benjamin. At last Abner sent to tell David privately in Hebron that all was ready in the ears of Israel, and all was good in the opinion of Benjamin. Then Abner himself went to David at Hebron with twenty officers, and David made a feast for Abner and the officers who were with him. Abner afterwards said to David, "I will arise, and go, and bring to your majesty the representatives of Israel, and they will make a treaty with you, when you can reign in all your soul's desires."
- David then took leave of Abner, and he departed in peace.
- 22 Just then, however, a detachment of the troops of David arrived with Joab, and brought a great booty with them. Abner was not, however, in Hebron with David, for he had taken leave and gone quietly. When Joab and all the army with him arrived, they informed Joab, saying, "Abner-ben-Ner has been with the king, but

he has taken leave of him, and he has gone away in peace."

Then Joab went to the king and demanded, "What have you done? Why has Abner been to you, and you have let him go! And he has departed in peace! Do you know Abner-ben-Ner? He came only to pump you,—and to learn your purposes and plans!"

Then Joab went out unknown to David and sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the well of Sirah. (But David did not know it.) So Abner returned to Hebron, and Joab met him in front of the gate, and spoke to him pleasantly,—then stabbed him in the belly, and killed him on account of the blood of Ashahel his brother.

When David afterwards heard of this, he exclaimed, "I and my kingdom are completely guiltless before the EVER-LIVING of the blood of Abner-ben-Ner. Let there rest on the head of Joab, and on all the house of his father, sickness and disease, and convulsion, and sword-stroke, and want of bread!"

Thus Joab, and Abishai his brother murdered Abner because of the death of Ashahel their brother, at Gibeon in battle.

But David said to Joab, and to all the force that were with him, "Tear your clothes, and gird on sackcloth, and mourn for Abner," and King David went after the bier. So they buried Abner in Hebron, when the king lifted up his voice and wept at the tomb, and all the army wept.

The king also lamented Abner, and said:

(B.C. 1048.)

**ELEGY ON ABNER.**

"Abner! How like a flower you  
fade in Death!  
Your hands unbound, your feet  
not chained together!  
For, falling, by the sons of crime,  
you fell!"

And all the forces continued to weep over him.

When all the army brought food to David to eat on that day, they heard David say, "May GOD do so to me, and more than that, if before the sun sets I taste of food of any kind whatever!"

36 So all the army admired and approved all the king did. It was good  
 37 in the opinion of the forces. And all the army, and all Israel, recognised at the time that the king had not caused the death of Abner-ben-Ner.  
 38 The king also said to his Ministers, "Do you not know that a Prince and a Great Man has fallen to-day in  
 39 Israel? And I, the king, am weak and feeble, and these men, the sons of Zeruiah, overpower me? May the EVER-LIVING make repayment of the wrong they have done to their neighbour."

### Terror in Israel on hearing of Abner's Murder.

4 When the son of Saul heard that Abner had been killed in Hebron, his, and all Israel's, hands dropped  
 2 down. But there were two men, Generals of Division to the son of Saul,—the one named Banah and the other Rekab, sons of Rimon the Barothite,—of the tribe of Benjamin (for Baroth had been assigned to  
 3 Benjamin, but the Barothites removed to Githim and are settled there until to-day.<sup>1</sup>  
 4 But Jonathan the son of Saul had a son, a cripple, who was five years old when news came from Jazraal about Saul and Jonathan, and his nurse took him up and ran away, but in the hurry of flight she fell, and he was lamed, so he was named Mefibosheth.<sup>2</sup>  
 5 These sons of Rimon the Barothite, Rekab and Banah, went secretly one day to the palace of Ishbosheth, when he was lying on his couch at noon,  
 6 and arrived at the interior of the palace through the corn stores. Then both Rekab and Banah his brother  
 7 crawled slyly, and came to the chamber where he lay upon his couch in his sleeping room, where they stabbed and killed him, and cut off his head. They then took

<sup>1</sup> Vv. 3, 4. The lines in parentheses are, I think, the note of some old transcriber, not part of the historian, Isaiah's, text, for they break the narrative. They are probably intended to explain the fact of a son of Jonathan escaping from the hands of the murderers in this Revolution, and being pensioned several years after by David, which is recorded subsequently, in Ch. 9, v. 1, of this book.—F. F.

<sup>2</sup> "The Cripple."

his head and went off and travelled all night, and brought the head of 8 Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, to David at Hebron, and said to the king, "Here is the head of Ishbosheth-ben-Saul, your enemy, who sought your life, which the EVER-LIVING has given to our Prince, the King. You are revenged to day on Saul and his race!"

But David replied to Banah and 9 his brother, sons of Rimon the Barothite, and said to them, "By the life of the EVER-LIVING, Who rescued my life from all its distress, when a man reported to me, 'Saul 10 has been killed,' as though it would be pleasant in my opinion,—I seized that man, who brought me that news, and ordered his execution in Ziklag.— You villains have murdered a good 11 man in his own house upon his bed! So now I will require his blood from your hands, and I will rid the earth of you!"

David then commanded his at- 12 tendants, and they slew them, and cut off their hands and feet, and hung them up by the pool in Hebron. But they buried the head of Ishbosheth in the tomb of Abner at Hebron.

### (B.C. 1048.) David elected King.

All the tribes of Israel then came 5 to David at Hebron and addressed him, saying, "Formerly, when Saul 2 was king over us, you led out and brought back Israel. And the LORD said to you, 'You shall shepherd My People of Israel,'—so, therefore, become now the Leader of Israel."

All the Judges of Israel also came 3 to the king at Hebron, and King David made a treaty with them before the EVER-LIVING and all Israel rejoiced with King David

David was thirty years old at his 4 election as king, and was king forty years. He was king over Judah in 5 Hebron seven years and six months, and king in Jerusalem thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.

### (B.C. 1043.) History of David, as King or Commander of United Israel.

When the king and his Generals 6 marched against Jerusalem, the Jebusites occupied the district, and

they taunted David, saying, "Do not come here! for the lame and the blind and the crippled can say, 'David shall not enter here!'"

7 David, however, captured the suburb of Zion,—(which is now the City of  
8 David), and David at the time the Aqueduct was captured said, "Destroy all the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, hated of David's soul, because they said, 'The blind and the lame can prevent you entering our place!'"

9 David afterwards settled in the Fortress, and walled around it from  
10 Miloa to his palace. Thus David advanced and became great, and the EVER-LIVING GOD fought for him.

11 Khiram,<sup>1</sup> king of Tzur,<sup>2</sup> also sent to David cedar wood and workmen in wood, and stone cutters, and they  
12 built David a palace; for David knew that the EVER-LIVING had fixed his kingship over Israel, and that He had raised him to the kingship over His People Israel.

13 David also married slave-wives, and wives from Jerusalem, after he came from Hebron, and they also bore David sons and daughters.

14 These are the names of those borne to him in Jerusalem,—Shamna, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Sholomon  
15 (Solomon) and Ibkhar, and Alishua,  
16 and Nefeg, and Jafia, and Alishama, and Alifalet.

(B.C. 1047.) **The Philistines assail David.**

17 When the Philishtim heard that David had been consecrated king over Israel, the Philishtim forces advanced to assail David, but David heard of it, and proceeded to the  
18 frontier, where the Philishtim had posted themselves on the plain of Refaim. Then David enquired from  
19 the EVER-LIVING, "If I attack the Philishtim, will You give them into my power?"

And the EVER-LIVING replied, "Attack,—for I will give the Philishtim into your power."

20 So David went to Bal-Frashim and fought there, and said, "LORD, sweep my enemies before me as water

sweeps!" Therefore the name of that place is called Sweepton.<sup>1</sup> The Philishtim also abandoned their idols, and David and his men carried them away.

The Philishtim, however, again  
22 advanced and encamped on the plain of Refaim; when David enquired of  
23 the EVER-LIVING, and He answered, "Do not advance. Turn their rear, and come upon them opposite the  
24 Valley of Weeping. And when you hear the sound of marching at the heads of the Valley of Weeping, then rush forward, for the EVER-LIVING will advance before you to defeat the army of the Philishtim!"

David consequently did as the  
25 EVER-LIVING commanded, and defeated the Philishtim at Geba on the road to Gazer.

(B.C. 1042.) **David brings the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, and imprisons his Wife Mikal.**

David afterwards assembled all the  
6 gentry of Israel, thirty thousand.

Then David arose, and marched  
2 with all his army from Bali of Judah to bring up from there the Ark of GOD, where the name of the  
EVER-LIVING POWER, who rests above the Kerubim, is called upon. And they placed the Ark of GOD upon  
3 a waggon, and carried it from the house of Abinadab which was on the Hill. And Uza and Akhio, sons  
of Abinadab, the priests, were with the new waggon, and brought it from  
4 the house of Abinadab on the Hill, bearing the Ark of the EVER-LIVING GOD. But Akhio walked before the  
Ark, with David and all the House of  
5 Israel rejoicing before the EVER-LIVING, with boughs of trees, and harps and lutes, and trumpets, and timbrels and cymbals. When they  
6 came to the paved square, and Uzah was driving the Ark of GOD, he seized hold of it, for the bullocks stumbled. But the EVER-LIVING was angry  
7 with Uzah, and GOD struck him there from the seat, and he died on the spot beside the Ark of GOD.

Then David was terrified because  
8 the EVER-LIVING had suddenly crushed Uzah. (And that place is called "Uzah's crush" to this day.)<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Hiram.

<sup>2</sup> Tyre, as Grecianized, and which barbarizing of the name has been continued through Latin versions to our English ones.—F. F.

<sup>1</sup> Bal-frashim.

<sup>2</sup> V. 8. "Uzah's crush" is an ancient editor's note.—F. F.

- 9 And David was afraid of the EVER-LIVING at the time, and said, "The Ark of the EVER-LIVING shall not come to me!" So David would not take with him the Ark of the EVER-LIVING to the City of David, but placed it in the house of Abd-Edom the gardener, and the Ark of the EVER-LIVING remained in the house of Abd-Edom the gardener three months. Then the EVER-LIVING blessed Abd-Edom and all his family.
- 12 And it was reported to King David that "The EVER-LIVING had blessed the house of Abd-Edom, and all that belonged to him for receiving the Ark of GOD." So David went and brought up the Ark of GOD from the house of Abd-Edom, with rejoicing, to the City of David.
- 13 But when the bearers of the Ark of the EVER-LIVING had advanced six steps, they sacrificed a bullock and fat calf, and David danced with all his might before the EVER-LIVING; and David was clothed with an ephod. Thus David and all the House of Israel brought up the Ark of the EVER-LIVING with cheering and sound of trumpets, but when the Ark of the EVER-LIVING came to the City of David, Mikal the daughter of Saul leaned and looked out of a window and saw King David skipping and dancing before the EVER-LIVING, and she despised him in her heart.
- 17 Thus they brought the Ark of the EVER-LIVING, and set it in its place within the Pavilion which David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt-offerings and thank-offerings before the EVER-LIVING. When David had completed the burnt-offerings and thank-offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the EVER-LIVING POWER. He also distributed to all the people, to all collected from Israel,—both men and women,—a loaf of bread, and a horn of wine, and a cake; then all the people returned each to his house.
- 20 When Mikal the daughter of Saul came to meet David, she said; "How dignified the king of Israel was to-day, when he exhibited himself to the eyes of his servant girls as common fellows exhibit themselves!"
- 21 But David replied to Mikal, "It was before the EVER-LIVING, who chose me instead of your father! and instead of all your house, and

commanded me to be guardian over all the people of the EVER-LIVING,—over Israel,—so I sported before the EVER-LIVING. And I will degrade myself more than that, and will humble myself in my own eyes, but by the servant-girls whom you mention I shall be honoured! But for Mikal the daughter of Saul,—there shall be no child for her to the day of her death!"

### (B.C. 1041.) David Proposes to Build a Temple.

But when the king dwelt in his palace, and the EVER-LIVING had given him peace all round from his enemies, then the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See, I now rest in a palace of cedar, but the Ark of GOD remains under curtains."

When Nathan answered the king, "All that is in your heart, do it, for the EVER-LIVING is with you."

But in that night the message of the EVER-LIVING came to Nathan, saying, "Go and speak to My servant David to say, 'Thus says the EVER-LIVING, Will you build Me a house to dwell in, when I have not rested in a house from the days I brought Israel up out of the Mitzeraim to this day, but have marched with a pavilion and tabernacle, in which I have travelled with the forces of the Children of Israel? Have I spoken to the one tribe of Israel whom I commanded to shepherd My People Israel, to ask, Why have you not built Me a palace of cedar?'"

"Consequently now say this to My servant David, 'Thus says the EVER-LIVING POWER, I took you from following after the sheep to become a Leader over My People Israel, and I have been with you wherever you went, and have defeated your enemies before you, and made your name great, like the name of those famous on the earth; I have also provided a position for My People Israel and planted them, and they shall rest in it, and never fear, nor shall the sons of Evil again afflict as formerly. But from the day when I dictated a Constitution to My People Israel, and gave you rest from all your enemies, did the EVER-LIVING enquire, What house will you make for the LORD? Your days, however, shall be completed, and you shall sleep with your

fathers, but I will raise an heir after you who shall come from your loins, and I will fix him in your kingship.

13 He shall build a house to My name, and I will establish the throne of his

14 kingship for ever! I shall be his Father, and he will be My son. He will be a guide to the wandering; and I will cause him to correct men with a staff, and the sons of Adam with a

15 touch, and I will never turn my friendship from him, as I turned it from Saul, when I caused it to turn

16 from him to you; for your House, and your kingship shall endure for ever. Your throne shall be established for ever.”

17 All these words, and all this vision, Nathan related to David.

18 King David consequently went and sat before the EVER-LIVING and said, “Who am I, LORD, my Prince? and who was my father, that You

19 have brought me so far? But even this is little in Your sight, SUPREME LORD, for You have promised also to extend the house of Your servant, and to show this to a man, SUPREME

20 LORD. So why again should David speak to You further, since You know

21 Your servant, SUPREME LORD? For according to Your promise, and Your heart, You have given all this greatness to glorify Your servant. Therefore I magnify You, EVER-LIVING

22 GOD, for there is none like You, and there is no GOD except You, from all

23 that we hear with our ears. And who are like Your People Israel? A singular nation in the earth, to whom a God comes to instruct it, as a People, and to fix a fame upon it, and to effect for it the mighty works and wonders in Your land, in the presence of Your People, whom You redeemed from the heathen of Mitzeraim and their gods. And established the People

24 of Israel for Yourself, as a People for ever. And You are become their EVER-LIVING GOD.

25 “And also, EVER-LIVING GOD, the promise You have promised to Your servant, and to his house, to fix it for ever,—do what You have promised,—and he will magnify Your name for ever, proclaiming the EVER-LIVING GOD of Hosts, the GOD over Israel. So let the house of Your servant David, EVER-LIVING, be

27 established before You. For You, EVER-LIVING POWER, the GOD of Israel, have opened the ear to Your

servant, when he said, ‘I will build You a house;’ therefore let Your servant find the heart to pray this prayer to You; for You, EVER-LIVING LORD, are the GOD, and Your promises will become true, and also this good promise to Your servant. Therefore You have begun to bless the family of Your servant, that it may exist for ever before You;—for You, EVER-LIVING LORD, have promised, and with Your blessing have blessed the family of Your servant for ever.”

(B.C. 1040.) **David Conquers Philistia.**

It was after this that David attacked the Philistim and subdued them, when David took their metropolis from the Philistim.

(B.C. 1040.) **David Conquers Moab.**

He also attacked Moab and appointed a land-tax upon their farms, and imposed two taxations: one instead of inflicting death; and a tax for tribute whilst they lived. Thus the Moabites became David's subjects, and paid tribute.

(B.C. 1040.) **David Defeats the King of Zobah.**

David next defeated Hadadazer-ben-Rekhab, king of Zobah<sup>1</sup> on his march to recover his power upon the river Euphrates, when David captured one thousand seven hundred of their chariots, and twenty thousand footmen. But David destroyed all the chariot horses and only preserved a hundred chariots.

(B.C. 1040.) **David Conquers Mesopotamia, the Arami, and Edom.**

The Arami of Damask, however, came to assist Hadadazer, king of the Delta<sup>2</sup> but David defeated twenty-two thousand men of them in Aram. David afterward placed garrisons in Aram of Damask, and Aram became subject to David, and bore tribute, for the EVER-LIVING worked for David wherever he went. Consequently David took the shields of

<sup>1</sup> The Marshes of the Delta of the Euphrates and Tigris.—F. F.

<sup>2</sup> Tzobah. *I.e.*, the Marshes of the Delta of the Euphrates.—F. F.



gold, which the officers of Hadadazer carried, and brought them to Jerusalem. King David also took from Betakh, and Berothai, cities of Hadadazer, a very great quantity of brass.

When Thai, the king of Khamath, heard that David had defeated all the forces of Hadadazer, Thai sent his son Joram to King David to ask for peace from him, and to congratulate him upon the way he had fought Hadadazer, and defeated him,—for Thai had been a general of Hadadazer—and he brought with him articles of silver, and gold, and brass.

These also King David brought to the EVER-LIVING, with the silver and gold which he took from all the nations whom he subdued;—from Aram, and from Moab, and from the Beni-Amon, and from the Philishtim, and from Amalek, and from the booty of Hadadazer-ben-Rekhab, king of the Delta of Zobah. David also acquired fame on his turning the flank upon defeating the eighteen thousand of Aram at the river's mouth by the sea.<sup>1</sup>

He placed garrisons in the whole of Edom, and all Edom was subdued to David. Thus the EVER-LIVING protected David wherever he went, for David reigned over all Israel, and David administered justice and right to all his People.

J'oab-ben-Zeruiah was over his army, and Jehoshafat-ben-Akheilud was Chancellor, and Zadok-ben-Ahkitub and Ahimalek-ben-Abiathar priests, and Sariah secretary, and Beniah-ben-J'hoida commanded the Guards and light infantry, and the sons of David became priests.

(B.C. 1040.) **David enquires for any Refugees of Saul's Family.**

Then David enquired, "Who is there yet of the family of Saul remaining? and I will show him kindness, on account of Jonathan."

And Saul had in his family a servant whose name was Ziba, so they invited him to David, when the king asked him, "Are you Ziba?" And he replied, "Your servant."

Then the king asked him, "Is there yet remaining anyone of the family of Saul, and I will show him kindness for GOD'S sake?"

And Ziba replied to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan, lame in his feet."

When the king asked him, "Where is he?"

Ziba said, "He is in the house of Makri-ben-Amial, the tax-collector."

King David therefore sent and took him from the house of Makri-ben-Amial, the tax-collector, and he brought Mefibosheth-ben-Jonathan, the son of Saul, to David, and he inclined his face, and bowed to him. Then David said "Mefibosheth!" and he replied, "You see your servant."

And David said to him, "Fear nothing, for I will show you kindness on account of your father Jonathan, and I will assign to you all the estate of Saul your ancestor, and you shall eat bread always at my table."

But he bowed to him, and replied, "Why should you regard such a dead dog's head as I am?"

Then the king called to Ziba, the attendant of Saul, and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to all his family I have given to the son of your Prince. So you and your sons can attend to the property for him, and cultivate the estate for him, and provide the son of your Prince with a maintenance. But Mefibosheth, the son of your prince, shall always be supplied with food at my table; and for Ziba there shall be fifteen attendants and ten servants."

And Ziba replied to the king, "Your servant will do all exactly as my Lord, the king, has ordered to his servant, and I will maintain Mefibosheth at my table like one of the sons of the king."

Mefibosheth also had a young son, whose name was Mika, who always lived in the house of Ziba, the steward of Mefibosheth. Mefibosheth, however, resided in Jerusalem, for he was always at the table of the king, and he was lame in both his feet.

(B.C. 1037.) **David sends an Embassy to the Beni-Amon.**

It was after these events that the king of the Beni-Amon died, and Khanon his son reigned in his stead.

<sup>1</sup> That is, at the mouth of the Euphrates, where it enters the Gulf of Persia. This short passage shows David's Empire to have extended much farther east than usually supposed.—F. F.

- 2 So David said, "I will show friendship to Khanon-ben-Nakhsh, as I did to his father." Therefore officers of David went to the country of the
- 3 Beni-Amon. But the chiefs of the Beni-Amon said to Khanon their Prince, "Does David pay honour to your father in your sight, by sending comforters to you? Is it not for the purpose of examining the city and to survey it, and to explore it, that David has sent his officers to you?"
- 4 Khanon consequently took David's officers and shaved off half their beards, and cut off their clothing to the buttocks, and dismissed them.
- 5 But strangers reported to David, so he sent to meet them, for his officers had been grossly insulted,—and the king said, "Stay in Jeriko until your beards are grown,—then return."
- 6 The Beni-Amon, however, were terrified, after they had insulted David. Consequently the Beni-Amon sent and hired of the Arami of Beth-rehob, and of the Arami of Zobah, twenty thousand infantry, and the King of Makah with a thousand men, and of the people of Tob, twelve thousand men.
- 7 David, however, heard of it, and sent J'oab with a strong division of the
- 8 Guards. But the Beni-Amon came out and arranged for battle opposite the Gate, and Aram-Zobah, and Rekhob, and the men of Tob, and Makah, were
- 9 separate in the open country; J'oab consequently saw that there was upon him a battle in front and rear, so he chose all the Guards of Israel, and
- 10 arranged to meet the Arami, and the remainder of the force he gave to Abishai his brother, and arranged
- 11 them to meet the Beni-Amon, and said, "If the Arami are too strong for me, you must save me; and if the Beni-Amon are too strong for you,
- 12 then I will march to help you. Courage! and be bold for the honour of our People, and the honour of the City of our God! And may the EVER-LIVING do what is good in His sight!"
- 13 Then J'oab and the force with him advanced to the fight with Arami, and they fled before him.
- 14 When the Beni-Amon saw that the Arami fled, then they fled before Abishai, and went into the city. J'oab, however, refrained from pursuing the Beni-Amon, and returned to Jerusalem.

(B.C. 1037.) *The Aramites seek Allies, but are Defeated.*

But when the Arami saw that they 15 were defeated by Israel, they assembled together, and sent to Hadadazer, and 16 he sent to the Arami beyond the river,<sup>1</sup> and procured their forces, and Shobak, General of the army of Hadadazer, to lead them. But it was 17 reported to David, who collected the forces of Israel and passed over the Jordan and went to Kilam, where Aram drew out to meet David, and they fought with him. But Aram 18 fled before Israel, and David destroyed of the Aramites seven hundred chariots and four thousand horsemen, and defeated and killed Shobak the General of the army there. When 19 all the kings who were subject to Hadadazer saw that they were defeated before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and were subject, and Aram feared to help the Beni-Amon further.<sup>2</sup>

(B.C. 1035.) *The Beni-Amon Conquered.*

But when the turn of the year 11 came, the season when Generals go out to war, David sent J'oab and his officers with him, and the forces of Israel, and reduced the Beni-Amon to great distress. David, however, remained in Jerusalem.

(B.C. 1035.) *David seduces Bathsheba, the Wife of Uriah.*

One night David arose from his bed, 2 and walked on the verandah of his house, and saw a woman bathing herself on a roof, and a very beautiful woman she was. So David 3 sent and enquired about the woman, and was told "She is Bath-sheba, the daughter of Aliam, the wife of Uriah the Hitite."

Then David sent messengers and 4 took her, and went to her, and lay with her, and prostituting, he defiled her, and then sent her home. But 5 the woman conceived, so she sent and informed David, and said, "I am with child!"

<sup>1</sup> V. 16. That is to Mesopotamia—beyond the River Euphrates, as the words "the River," if not indicated by a special name, always mean in Hebrew history.—F. F.

<sup>2</sup> V. 19. This would seem to show that the Hebrew Empire extended under David and Solomon almost, if not quite, to the Indus, the Western boundary of India.—F. F.

(B.C. 1035.) *The Murder of Uriah.*

6 David therefore sent to J'oab, to say, "Send Uriah the Hitite to me." J'oab accordingly sent Uriah  
7 to David, and Uriah came to him, when David asked "Is J'oab well? and the army well? and the war  
8 going successfully?" Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet."

Uriah accordingly left the palace of the king, but went after the business of the king. Afterwards Uriah lay down in the court of the king's palace with all the officers of his Prince, and did not go to his own house. But David was informed,  
10 "Uriah has not gone to his house."

David consequently asked Uriah, "How is it when you have come from a journey, that you have not gone to your house?"

11 When Uriah answered David, "The Ark, and Israel, and Judah remain in tents, with my commander J'oab; and the officers of my Prince lie on the surface of the field, so should I go to my house to eat and drink and sleep with my wife? By your life! and by the life of your soul, I would not do such a thing as that!"

12 Then David said to Uriah, "Stay here to-day, and to-morrow I will send you off."

Uriah, therefore, remained in Jerusalem that day and the next,  
13 and David invited him, and he ate in his presence, and he gave him drink, and made him drunk;—yet he went at night and lay down in his bed, with other officers of his Prince, and did not go down to his home!  
14 Consequently when morning came David wrote a letter to J'oab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah, and  
15 wrote in the letter commanding, "Station Uriah to-morrow in the front of the battle, at the most dangerous place; then you withdraw from his rear, and let him be assailed and killed."

16 J'oab was then besieging the city, so he posted Uriah at the spot where  
17 he knew there were brave men; and those men sallied out of the city and attacked J'oab, who fell back with the troops of the officers of David, and  
18 Uriah the Hitite was killed. Then J'oab sent and informed David of  
19 all the events of the battle, and instructed the messenger, saying, "Tell

the whole of the events of the battle to the king. But if it happen that it  
20 raises anger in the king, and he says to you, 'Why did you approach the city to fight? Did you not know they would see you from the wall? Who hit Abimalek-ben-Jerubal? Was  
21 it not a woman who flung upon him a piece of a millstone from off the wall, and killed him?' Then you must say, 'Also your officer, Uriah the Hitite has been killed.'"

So the messenger went, and came,  
22 and reported to David all that J'oab sent him for. The messenger also  
23 said to David, "The men overpowered us, and came out to us in the open field when we advanced opposite the gate, and the sentinels picked out  
24 your officers from off the wall, and killed some of the officers of the king,—and your General Uriah the Hitite also was killed."

Then David said to the messenger.  
25 "Say this to J'oab, 'Let not this event be grievous in your eyes, for the sword devours here and there. Be energetic in your assault upon the city, and breach it, and master it.'"

When the wife of Uriah heard he  
26 was dead she mourned over her lord, and refused to eat. David, however,  
27 sent and added her to his family, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done was wrong in the sight of the  
EVER-LIVING.

(B.C. 1034.) *Nathan's Parable*  
*The little Ewe-Lamb.*

The EVER-LIVING consequently  
12 sent Nathan the Preacher to David, and he came to him, and said:—

"There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very great flocks  
2 and herds, but the poor had nothing  
3 except a little single she-lamb, which he had bought, and he comforted it and it grew up with him and his children, and ate of his crumbs, and drank of his cup, and lay on his lap, and was like a daughter to him.

"But a traveller came to the rich  
4 man, who grudged to take from his own flocks and herds to prepare and offer to his visitor, but seized the  
5 she-lamb of the poor man and prepared it for the man who had come to him."

Then David was very furious at the

man, and exclaimed to Nathan, "By the life of the EVER-LIVING! the man who has done that shall die!

6 And for the she-lamb, he shall pay four as a fine, whoever has done this thing,—and he shall have no pity!"

7 But Nathan replied to David,

"YOU ARE THE MAN!

"Thus says the EVER-LIVING God of Israel: 'I consecrated you king over Israel, and I delivered you 8 from the hand of Saul, and I gave you the palace of your Prince, and the wives of your Prince to your bosom, and I gave you the Houses of Israel and Judah,—and I added portions to you from here and from there.

9 So why have you despised the commandment of the EVER-LIVING by committing this sin in His sight? You have cut off Uriah the Hitite by the sword, and have taken his wife to yourself as a wife, and have murdered him by the sword of the Beni-Amon; 10 so now the sword shall not depart from your house for ever,—as a punishment—for you despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah, the Hitite, to be a wife for yourself!

11 "Thus says the EVER-LIVING, 'I will raise against you outrage from your own family, and I will cause your wives to be taken in your sight, and given to your neighbour, and he shall ravish your wives in the sight of 12 this sun; for YOU have done it secretly; but I will effect this event in the presence of all Israel, and in the face of the sun!'"

13 Then David exclaimed to Nathan, "I have sinned against the EVER-LIVING."

When Nathan replied, "The EVER-LIVING, also, will pardon your 14 offence,—you shall not die. However, since you have given occasion for the enemies of the EVER-LIVING to libel, by this thing, the son that will be born to you will certainly die!"

15 Nathan then went to his home.

The EVER-LIVING subsequently struck the child which the wife of Uriah had borne to David, and it was 16 mortal. David, however, entreated GOD on account of the child, and mourned, and slept on the ground, 17 until the officers of his palace came to him, and took him up from the earth. But he would not be comforted, and would not eat bread with 18 them. At the end of seven days, however, the child died, but David's

officers feared to tell him that the child was dead; "for," they said "when the child was alive, and we spoke, he would not listen to our voice, therefore if we should say, 'The child is dead,' he will do worse!"

David, however, perceived that his 19 ministers were whispering, and David understood that the child was dead; so David asked his ministers, "Has the child died?" and they replied, "He has died."

Then David arose from the ground, 20 and washed, and dressed, and changed his clothing, and went to the House of the EVER-LIVING, and worshipped; then he went to his palace, and asked for, and they offered him, food, and he ate. But his 21 ministers asked him, "What a thing this is that you did on account of the child! You mourned and wept for him when alive,—but now the child has died, you get up and eat bread!"

When David replied, "Whilst the 22 child was alive, I mourned and wept, for I reflected, "Who knows but the EVER-LIVING will pity me, and let the child live? But now he 23 has died,—why should I grieve? Am I ever able to bring him back to me? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me!" David also com- 24 forted Bathsheba his wife, and went to her and slept with her, and she bore a son and called his name Solomon,<sup>1</sup> and the EVER-LIVING 25 loved him; and sent by the means of Nathan the Reciter, and called his name J'adidiah,—“Pardoned by the EVER-LIVING.”

### Joab captures the Capital of the Beni-Amon, but sends for David to take the Fortress.

Joab, however, was warring with 26 the Beni-Amon at Rabah, and he captured the Royal City. So Joab 27 sent messengers to David to say, "I am fighting at Rabah, and have captured the City of Waters, so now 28 collect the remainder of the forces, and come to the citadel to capture it, or I shall capture the citadel and they will fix my name upon it."

David consequently collected the 29

<sup>1</sup> The name in Hebrew means PEACE, or REST.—F. F.

forces and went to Rabah, and  
 30 attacked and captured it, and took  
 the crown from off the head of its  
 king. Its value was a talent of gold :  
 and the beautiful stone on the top  
 was David's. And they brought out  
 from the town a very great quantity  
 31 of booty. He also brought out the  
 people and settled them in Megrah,  
 and at the iron-works, and to manu-  
 facture iron, and distributed them  
 through his dominions, and did the  
 same to all the cities of the Beni-  
 Amon. After which David returned  
 with all the forces to Jerusalem.<sup>1</sup>

(B.C. 1032.) *Crimes and Dissensions  
 in the Family of David.*

13 These events followed. Absalom,  
 the son of David, had a beautiful  
 cousin whose name was Thamar, and  
 Amnon the son of David loved her ;  
 2 and Amnon grieved until he made  
 himself ill because of Thamar his  
 cousin, for she was a maiden. But  
 it was difficult in the opinion of  
 Amnon to acquire her in any way.

3 Amnon, however, had a friend,  
 named J'onadab, the son of Shemiah,  
 the brother of David. This J'onadab  
 4 was a very crafty man, so he asked  
 him, " Why, now, are you like this ?  
 A king's son downhearted morning  
 after morning ! Why not tell me ? "

So Amnon said to him, " It is  
 about Thamar, the cousin of Absa-  
 lom, whom I love ! "

5 J'onadab, however, replied, " Lie  
 on your bed, and sham sickness ;  
 when your father will come to see  
 you. Then say to him, ' Will you  
 send Thamar, my cousin, and let  
 her make cakes before my eyes, so  
 that I may see it, and I will eat from  
 her hand. ' "

6 Amnon consequently lay down, as  
 if sick, and the king came to see

him, when Amnon said to him : " I  
 wish you to send Thamar my cousin,  
 and let her prepare food and do the  
 cooking before my sight, so that I  
 may see it, and I will eat after her  
 hand ! "

David therefore sent to Thamar at 7  
 her house to say, " Come to the house  
 of Amnon, your cousin, and make  
 him cakes. "

Thamar, therefore, went to the 8  
 house of Amnon, her cousin, and he  
 was lying down. Then she took the 9  
 dough and kneaded it, and made  
 pancakes and baked the cakes, and  
 took the fry-pan and the dough to  
 him, but he refused to eat.

Suddenly Amnon exclaimed, " Let  
 every one go out from me ! "

They all went out from him.

Then Amnon said to Thamar, 10  
 " Bring me the cakes to the chamber,  
 and I will eat them from your hand. "

So Thamar took the pancakes  
 which she had made, and brought  
 them to Amnon, her cousin, in the  
 chamber, and she offered him the 11  
 food, but he seized her and said,  
 " Come to me ! lie with me ! my  
 cousin ! "

But she replied, " No, my 12  
 cousin, I will not, for such a thing  
 should not be done in Israel ! Do  
 not commit such a crime as that !  
 And would you expose me to scorn ? 13  
 And expose yourself as one of the  
 blackguards in Israel ? But you,—  
 speak, I pray, to the king, for he would  
 not refuse me to you ! "

But he would not listen to her, and 14  
 being stronger than her, he over-  
 powered and violated her. Then 15  
 Amnon hated her with a very great  
 hatred ;—for the hatred with which  
 he hated her was greater than the  
 lust with which he had lusted for her,  
 and Amnon said to her, " Get up !  
 Be off ! "

But she replied to him, " Do not 16  
 add to this great wrong, that you  
 have done to me, by driving me out ! "

He would not, however, listen to 17  
 her, but called to an attendant who  
 waited upon him, and said, " Drive  
 this woman out at once from me  
 into the street, and lock the door  
 after her ! "

Now she wore a long-sleeved robe, 18  
 such as the daughters of the king  
 wore, with a maiden's cloak, yet his  
 valet sent her out into the street, and  
 locked the door after her.

<sup>1</sup> Ch. 12, v. 31. The hideous cruelties repre-  
 sented by the Septuagint, Vulgate, and our  
 old translators, to have been practised upon  
 his captives by David, have perverted this  
 passage into one totally contrary in meaning  
 to the Hebrew text, which is as I render it.  
 The Latin translators, full of the national  
 brutality of their countrymen, the Romans,  
 seemed to imagine that the more atrociously  
 cruel they represented a man to be, the more  
 glorious and admirable he would appear.  
 This was the ideal of the heathen Romans,  
 but not of the Sacred Scriptures, and it is  
 a shame to modern scholars to have been  
 enslaved to it so long.—F. F.

- 19 Then Thamar threw dust on her head, and tore the long-sleeved robe she wore, and spread her hands over her face, and went weeping.
- 20 But Absalom her cousin asked her, "Has Amnon your cousin been with you? However, at present keep silent, my cousin, for he is your relative; do not lay this matter to your heart." Consequently Thamar was quiet and secluded herself in the house of Absalom her cousin.
- 21 When King David heard the whole of these things, he was very angry.

(B.C. 1030.) **Murder of Amnon by Absalom.**

- 22 Absalom, however, said nothing for bad or good to Amnon about the wrong he had done to his cousin
- 23 Thamar. But when two years had passed, and they were shearing for Absalom at Bal-Khatzor, which is in Ephraim, Absalom invited all the sons of the king. Absalom also went to the king and said, "There is a Shearing Feast with your servant,—will the king and his ministers come to your servant?"
- 25 But the king answered Absalom, "No, my boy, all of us cannot go now. We will not burden you." Then he pressed him, but he would not go, but thanked him.
- 26 So Absalom said, "If not,—let Amnon my brother go with us?" And the king asked him, "Why should he go with you?"
- 27 But Absalom pressed him, till he sent Amnon and all the king's sons with him.
- 28 Then Absalom instructed his attendants, saying, "Watch till you see Amnon's heart merry with wine, and when I say to you 'Stab Amnon, and kill him;' be bold and strong-hearted."
- 29 The attendants of Absalom consequently did to Amnon as Absalom commanded.
- Then all the sons of the king got up, and mounted each on his mule,
- 30 and fled. But while they were on the road a report reached David, saying, "Absalom has stabbed all the king's sons, and not one of them is left."
- 31 Then the king arose and tore his clothes, and laid on the ground, and all his ministers stood tearing their
- 32 clothing. But J'onadab, the son of

Shemiah, the brother of David, interposed, and said, "Do not let my Prince think that all the young Princes have been killed,—for Amnon only has been killed. For that has been determined by Absalom from the day he ravished his cousin Thamar. So, now, let not the king lay this matter on his heart, thinking all the sons of the king are killed, for except Amnon, none have been killed;—and Absalom has fled!"

Then the man on the lookout raised his eyes, and looked, and saw a great crowd of people coming along from the further road at the side of the hill. J'onadab consequently said to the king, "See! the Princes are coming as your servant said,—these are they!" And by the time he had ceased speaking the king's sons arrived, and lifted up their voices and wept, and the king and all his ministers also wept,—a very great weeping. And he mourned over his son all the year.

Absalom, however, had fled, and went to Thalmi-ben-Amikhor, King of Geshur.

(B.C. 1029.)

Thus Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years.<sup>1</sup> King David, however, longed for Absalom, after he was consoled for the death of Amnon.

(B.C. 1027.) **Joab brings back Absalom.**

And J'oab-ben-Zeruiah knew that the heart of the king was upon Absalom, so J'oab sent to Thiquah and brought a clever woman from there, and said to her, "I want you to disarrange yourself, and clothe yourself in widow's weeds, and not to tidy yourself with oil, but seem like a woman distressed for a long time over death. Then go to the king to speak to him this speech."

Then J'oab put the words into her mouth.

The woman of Thiquah accordingly appealed to the king, and fell on her face to the earth, and lay there, and exclaimed, "Save me, King!"

<sup>1</sup> Vv. 37—38. The Hebrew text differs greatly from the Authorised Version and the Revised, as I read it.—F. F.

5 Consequently the king asked her, "What is your affair?"

And she answered, "I am a desolate widow woman whose husband  
6 died. But your servant had two sons, who fought in the field when there was no separator between them, and the one struck the other, and  
7 killed him; so all the clan arose against your servant and said, 'Give up the murderer of his brother! and we will kill him, for the life of his brother whom he has murdered!' Thus the property will be desolated; and my heir will be destroyed, and the only coal left to me to continue my husband's name, will be extinguished on the ground."

8 But the king said to the woman, "Go to your home, and I will give orders about you."

9 Then the Thiquoan woman answered the king, "Let the fault fall upon me, your Majesty, and on the house of my fathers, and let the King and his throne be innocent."

10 So the king replied, "Whoever threatens you, bring him to me, and he shall never again injure you."

11 "However," she said, "King, remember your EVER-LIVING GOD, mighty redeemer of bloodshed! and let them not destroy my son."

When he replied, "By the life of the EVER-LIVING not a hair of your son shall fall to the ground!"

12 But the woman repeated, "Let your handmaid now speak a word to his Majesty the King."

And he said, "Speak to me."

13 When the woman continued, "But why have you thought like this about the People of GOD? Why has the king spoken thus, when he is in fault, by not having brought back his own fugitive? For the dead who has  
14 died, is like water poured upon the earth, which cannot be recovered, until GOD raises the soul; and a thought, when thought is and thrown  
15 out, goes from us.<sup>1</sup> So now why I have come to speak with your Majesty this speech was because I am afraid of the People, so your servant said, 'I will speak to the king, my chief; the king will do the thing he  
16 says for his handmaid.' And the

king has listened, and will deliver his subject from the hand of the man who would destroy her, and her only son, from the estate of GOD. Your  
17 handmaid also said, 'The promise of his Majesty the King will be a gift, for his Majesty is like a Messenger of GOD, listening to good and bad;' so may your EVER-LIVING GOD be with you!"

Then he interrupted her, and said 18 to the woman, "Do not hide from me, I pray, what I ask of you."

And the woman replied, "Speak then, your Majesty."

When the King asked, "Is not the 19 hand of J'oab in all this?"

And the woman answered, "By the life of your soul, your Majesty, there is not to the right or left of all that has been spoken to your Majesty anything but what your servant J'oab has instructed me! He put into the mouth of your handmaid all these speeches, with the purpose of using  
20 my mouth for an object. Your servant J'oab made these addresses. And my Prince is wise, with the wisdom of a messenger of GOD, who knows all upon earth!"

The king consequently said to 21 J'oab, "Since then you have contrived this conversation with me, go and bring back the young man Absalom."

So J'oab bent his face to the earth, 22 and bowed, and thanked the king.

Then J'oab said, "I know to-day that I have found favour in your eyes, your Majesty, because the king has made such a promise to his servant."

J'oab accordingly arose and went 23 to Ghesur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. But the king commanded, 24 "Let him reside in his own house, for he shall not see my face."

Absalom therefore resided in his own house, and did not see the face of the king.

(B.C. 1025.) *Absalom and his Doings after being Pardoned for Murdering Amnon.*

Absalom was, however, the hand- 25 somest man in all Israel; very splendid. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was not a defect in him. When they cut  
26 his hair,—and it was cut every year—

<sup>1</sup> V. 14. This beautiful metaphor shows that the Old Hebrews believed in a Resurrection of Man, although some modern critics assert the contrary.—F. F.

- he cut it because it was heavy upon him,—when they cut the hair of his head it was valued at two hundred shekels by the royal standard.
- 27 Absalom had three sons and one daughter born to him, and her name was Tamar. She was a woman of great beauty.
- 28 Absalom lived in Jerusalem two years without seeing the face of the
- 29 king. Then Absalom sent to J'obab, to introduce him to the king, but he would not go to him. So he sent a second time, but he would not come.
- 30 Consequently he said to his servants, "You see J'obab's cornfields are alongside mine, and he has sown barley,—go and set it on fire!" And Absalom's servants set it on fire!
- 31 Then J'obab moved and came to Absalom's house, and asked him; "Why have you ordered your servants to fire my standing crops?"
- 32 And Absalom answered J'obab, "Because I sent to you, saying 'Come here, and I will send you to the king to ask "Why have I been brought from Gheshur? It would be as well for me to be there yet."' So now I wish to see the face of the king, and if there is a fault in me, let me be put to death."
- 33 J'obab consequently went to the king and informed him, and he invited Absalom who went to the king and bowed to him, with his face earthward to the face of the king, and the king was reconciled to Absalom.

(B.C. 1024.) *Absalom conspires against his Father.*

- 15 It was after this that Absalom procured himself chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him;
- 2 and early in the mornings Absalom placed himself at the side of the street of the High Court and when any man who had a law suit came to the king for a decision, Absalom would invite him to himself, and ask, "From what village do you come?"
- When he would answer, "Your servant is from one of the Tribes of Israel."
- 3 Then Absalom would say to him, "Look! Your case is good and right; but there is no one appointed by the
- 4 king to hear it for you." Next he would exclaim, "If I were appointed as a judge in the country, and any

man came to me who had a wrong, I would decide and rectify it for you!" And when a person approached to 5 bow to him, he would stretch out his hand, and seize his, and salute him, and by this means Absalom made 6 himself popular to all Israel who came for justice to the king. Thus Absalom stole the hearts of the people of Israel.

When four years had passed, 7 Absalom said to the king, "I wish to go now and pay in Hebron the vows which I vowed to the EVER-LIVING. For your servant vowed a vow while 8 I resided in Gheshur, in the land of Edom, saying, "If the EVER-LIVING will restore me to Jerusalem I will serve the EVER-LIVING."

So the king replied, "Go in peace!" 9 He therefore arose and went.

Absalom then sent secret agents 10 to all the Tribes of Israel to say, "When you hear the sound of the trumpet, then exclaim, 'Absalom reigns in Hebron!'"

There went also two hundred 11 persons from Jerusalem with Absalom, invited guests, and honest men, who knew nothing about all the affair. But Absalom had sent for 12 Akhitophel, the Gilonite, the Counselor of David, from the town of Ghilon, for him to sacrifice the sacrifices;—so there was a powerful conspiracy, and the people came and crowded to Absalom.

Information, however, came to 13 David, reporting "The heart of the people of Israel is gone after Absalom." Consequently David said 14 to all his ministers who were with him at Jerusalem, "Let us arise and fly, for there will be no safety for us before Absalom. Expedite the journey, for fear he should hasten and rush, and drive on to us with ferocity, and assail the city with the sword."

And the King's ministers answered 15 the king, "Whatever his Majesty the King chooses, his ministers will do it."

The king and all his family there- 16 fore went out on their feet, but the king left ten of his slave-wives to take care of the palace. Thus the 17 king with all his forces went out on their feet, and halted at Beth-Merkhak, and all his ministers walked at his side, with the guards and couriers. And the six hundred 18 gardeners who came on foot from the



garden, marched along before the  
 19 face of the king. But the king said  
 to Athai, the gardener, "Why do  
 you especially go with us? Return  
 and settle with that king, for you are  
 a foreigner, so why not return to your  
 20 own home? Formerly you came, and  
 to-day you are a wanderer with us on  
 the march, for I am marching to  
 wherever I can go.—Return and settle  
 with your relatives,—and kindness  
 and truth go with you."

21 But Athai answered the king, and  
 said, "By the life of the EVER-LIVING,  
 and by the life of your Majesty the  
 king, I will be at the place, wherever  
 your Majesty the king is; whether  
 for death or life, there will your  
 servant be."

22 Then David said to Athai, "March,  
 and pass over." So Athai the gardener  
 and all his men and all the children  
 23 with them passed over. And all the  
 land wept with a loud voice, when  
 the force passed with the king over  
 the brook Kidron. Thus all the train  
 passed in the direction of the desert.

24 There were also Zadok, and all the  
 Levites with him carrying the Ark of  
 the Covenant of GOD. But they set  
 down the Ark, and helped Abiathar,  
 until all the forces had passed out  
 from the city.

25 The king, however, said to Zadok,  
 "Take back the Ark of GOD to the  
 city. If I find favour in the sight of  
 the EVER-LIVING, and He brings me  
 back, I shall see it, and His Dwelling.

26 But if He decides not to restore me  
 to you, let Him do to me what is good  
 27 in His sight." The king also said to  
 Zadok the priest, "Cheer up, and  
 return quietly to the city with  
 Akhimatz your son, and Jonathan-

ben-Abiathar's two sons with you.  
 28 You see, I shall be waiting at Aboth  
 in the pastures, until the coming of  
 news from you to inform me."

29 Zadok and Abiathar therefore re-  
 turned the Ark of GOD to Jerusalem,  
 30 and went back there. But David as-  
 cended the Mount of Zethim,<sup>1</sup> going  
 up and weeping with his head covered.  
 He marched with his head covered,  
 and all the troops with him also  
 veiled their heads,—and went ascend-

31 ing and weeping. Then it was  
 reported to David that Akhitophel was  
 in the conspiracy with Absalom, when  
 David exclaimed, "LORD frustrate

the counsels of Akhitophel!" But 32  
 when David came to the peak,  
 where they worship GOD, Hushai, the  
 Arki, came to meet him, tearing his  
 robes and with earth on his head.  
 David, however, said to him, "If you 33  
 go along with me, you will be a  
 burden to me. But if you return to 34  
 the city and say to Absalom; 'I was  
 a minister of the king your father,  
 and will be the same to you,' then  
 you can be of service to me, and can  
 break the contrivances of Akhitophel  
 for me. Will not Zadok and Abiathar 35  
 the priests be assisting you? So  
 that all the talk you hear in the  
 king's palace you can communicate  
 to Zadok and Abiathar the priests.  
 They have also two lads, Akhimatz 36  
 with Zadok, and Jhonathan with  
 Abiathar, and they will transmit by  
 their hand to me everything that you  
 may hear."

Hushai consequently went to watch 37  
 for David in the city after Absalom  
 came to Jerusalem.

When David passed a little beyond 16  
 the hill-tops, there came Ziba, the  
 steward of Mefibosheth, to meet him  
 with a troop of asses loaded, and upon  
 them two hundred loaves of bread,  
 a hundred cakes of raisins, a hundred  
 bundles of vegetables, and a skin of  
 wine. But the king asked Ziba, 2  
 "Whence have you come?"

When Ziba answered, "The asses  
 are for the family of the king to ride,  
 and the bread and raisins for your  
 attendants to eat, and the wine to  
 drink if exhausted in the desert."

Then the king asked, "Where is 3  
 your prince's son?"

And Ziba replied to the king, "He  
 has gone back to Jerusalem, for he  
 said, 'The House of Israel will now  
 restore to me the kingship of my  
 father.'"

The king consequently said to Ziba, 4  
 "Attend! All belonging to Mefi-  
 bosheth I give to you!" And Ziba  
 replied, "I bow to you, for I have  
 found favour in the eyes of the  
 king!"

From there David proceeded to 5  
 Bakhurim, and a man of the clan of  
 the family of Saul came out from it,  
 whose name was Shemai-ben-Gerah,  
 who advanced cursing, and throwing  
 stones at David and all of David's 6  
 officers, and at the people, and the  
 guards on the right and left of him.  
 Shemai also shouted aloud thus:— 7

<sup>1</sup> Olives.—F. F.

“Get off! Get off! you man of  
8 blood! you blackguard! The EVER-  
LIVING has turned upon you all the  
blood of the family of Saul, whom  
you reign instead of! And the EVER-  
LIVING has given the kingship to the  
hand of Absalom your son! Look  
at your miseries, for you are a man  
of blood!”

9 Abishai-ben-Zeruiah, consequently  
asked the king, “Why should this  
dead dog bark at your Majesty the  
king? Let me run over and cut off  
his head.”

10 But the king replied, “What does  
it matter to me and you, son of  
Zeruiah, what he cries, or what the  
EVER-LIVING tells him, to call David?  
And what he says—have I not  
done it?”

11 Then David said to Abishai and all  
his servants, “You see, the son who  
came out of my body seeks my life;  
—so since the son of my right hand  
assails me,—as for that fellow, let  
him abuse, for the EVER-LIVING  
12 tells him! The LORD sees me in my  
depression, and the EVER-LIVING  
will return me blessings instead of  
the cursing of to-day!”

13 So David and his men went on their  
way:—and Shemai marched on the  
side of the hill near him, walking and  
throwing stones and dirt at him.

14 In this way the king and all his  
people went wearily and depressed  
in mind.

(B.C. 1023.) *Absalom's infamous  
Conduct in Jerusalem.*

15 But Absalom and all the forces of  
the men of Israel advanced to  
Jerusalem; and Akhitophel along  
16 with them. Then Hushai, the Arki,  
the friend of David came to Absalom,  
and Hushai exclaimed to Absalom,  
“Long live the King! Long live the  
King!”

17 But Absalom asked Hushai, “Is  
this your love for your friend? Why  
have you not gone with your friend?”

18 When Hushai replied to Absalom,  
“No! For whoever the EVER-  
LIVING and the People choose—and  
all the men of Israel are with—I shall  
19 stop with him! And for the rest,  
Whom shall I be serving? Shall I  
not serve before his son, as I served  
before your father? for I shall be  
before you?”

20 Absalom then said to Akhitophel,

“Come on with you,—advise me  
what I should do?”

And Akhitophel replied to Absalom, 21  
“Go to the slave-wives of your father,  
who are here to take care of the  
palace, and all Israel will hear that  
you have outraged your father, and  
it will strengthen the hands of all  
who are with you.”

Absalom consequently erected a 22  
bed upon a verandah, and Absalom  
violated his father's wives in the  
sight of all Israel.

For in those times the advice of 23  
Akhitophel when he advised was like  
enquiring from the word of GOD.  
Such were all the contrivances of  
Akhitophel, both for David, and for  
Absalom.

(B.C. 1023.) *Akhitophel advises to  
Capture and Murder David.*

Then Akhitophel said to Absalom, 17  
“Select at once twelve thousand  
men, and I will start and pursue  
David to-night, and come on him 2  
whilst he is weary and weak handed,  
when I shall terrify him; and all the  
force with him will fly,—and I will  
kill the king alone. Then I shall 3  
turn all the people to you, as all the  
men whom you have sought have  
turned. The other people will be  
quiet.”

All this advice was right in the 4  
opinion of Absalom and the opinion  
of all the Nobles of Israel.

(B.C. 1023.) *Hushai counter-plots  
Akhitophel.*

Absalom, however, said, “Let us 5  
now call Hushai, the Arki, for I would  
also hear what is his idea.”

So they brought Hushai to Absalom, 6  
when Absalom said to him, “This is  
the advice of Akhitophel. Shall I  
act upon his advice?—If not what is  
your advice?”

And Hushai answered Absalom, 7  
“The advice that Akhitophel has  
advised is not good, for this reason.”  
—Then Hushai continued,—“You 8  
know your father and the men who  
are with him,—that they are soldiers,  
and sore in mind like a bear robbed  
of her whelps in the field, and your  
father is a man of war, so will not  
lodge with the forces. You see this; 9  
—He will hide in some cave or some  
tower. And it may be we might miss

him by accident, and it will be heard of, and said, 'There has been a defeat of the people who are following Absalom!'—He is himself also a bold man, whose heart is like the heart of a lion. Then the power of Israel will melt, for it knows that your father is a hero, and how brave a man he is. Consequently I advise you to collect to yourself the army of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, like the sand that is by the sea for number, and let them march before you in a mass, and come upon him secretly at the place where he may be found, and assail him, like rain falling on the ground, so that he cannot escape, or any one of the men who are with him. But if he is in a tower,—collect, and carry all the army of Israel to that tower with ropes, and drag it into the river by which it is built, and destroy it!"

And Absalom, and all the Princes of Israel said, "The advice of Hushai the Arki is better than the advice of Akhitophel."

But the EVER-LIVING had suggested it, to destroy the good advice of Akhitophel, because the EVER-LIVING intended to bring punishment upon Absalom.

Hushai next informed Zadok and Abiathar the priests, "Akhitophel has advised Absalom and the Nobles of Israel in this way; but I have advised him in that. So now be quick and inform David saying, 'Do not stay to-night at the ford of the desert, but pass over it, for fear the king should be destroyed, and all his forces with him.'"

Now Jonathan and Akhimatz were posted at Ain-rogel, and a girl was sent to inform them, and they went to inform King David, so that none might be able to see them leaving the city. A young man, however, saw them, and reported to Absalom. The two, however, ran quickly and came to the house of a man in Bakhurim, who had a well in his courtyard, and they went down it. Then the man took and closed the lid over the top of the well, and spread thrashing corn over it so that it was not seen. So when the officers of Absalom came to the man's house and asked, "Where are Jonathan and Akhimatz?" the man replied to them, "They have passed the brook of water." They therefore sought for

them, but not finding, they returned to Jerusalem.

But after they had gone, then those came up from the well and proceeded and informed David, and said to David, "Start, and pass quickly over the water, for Akhitophel has advised thus against you."

Consequently David and all the people with him arose and were crossing the Jordan until daybreak, until there were none left to pass the Jordan.

But when Akhitophel saw that his advice was not being acted upon, he saddled his ass, and started, and went to his own home, at his village, and arranged his affairs;—then hung himself and died, and they buried him in the tomb of his father.

Meantime David went to Makhnaim; so Absalom crossed the Jordan, and all the army of Israel with him. But Absalom had appointed Amasa to command the army instead of Joab. Amasa was the son of a man named Ithra, a Jesraalite, who married Abigail, the daughter of Nakhsh, sister of Zeruiah, the mother of J'oab. Thus Israel and Absalom encamped in the land of Gilad.

When David arrived at Makhnaim, Shobi, the son of Nakhsh, from Rabath, of the Beni-Amon, and Makir-ben-Amial of Lodbar, and Barzilai, the Ghiladite of Rogelim, came with beds, and blankets, and furniture, cups, and wheat and barley, and flour, and oats, and beans, and lentils, and fuel; with honey and butter, and sheep, and cow's cheese for food; and advanced to meet David and the forces with him, for they said, "The people are hungry and exhausted." So they met in the pastures, where David and the force with him had halted, and he appointed colonels of regiments and captains of companies over them. Afterward David arranged the forces, one third under J'oab, and one third under Abishai, and one third under Athai the gardener.

### (B.C. 1023.) Defeat and Death of Absalom.

And the king then said to the forces, "I also will march with you."

But the army said, "You shall not go; for if we are defeated, they will not set their heart upon us; and if they kill half of us, they will not set

their heart upon us; for you are worth ten thousand of us, so it is better you should help by directing us from the city."

- 4 The king consequently replied, "Whatever is good in your opinion I will do." Therefore the king stood at the side of the gate, and all the force went out by companies and regiments. But the king commanded
- 5 J'oab, and Abishai, and Athai, saying,—“Spare the lad Absalom for me!” And all the army heard the king's orders about Absalom, to all the officers.
- 6 Thus the force went into the field to meet Israel, and the battle occurred
- 7 in the forest of Ephraim, where the army of Israel was routed before the generals of David; and in the great rout of that day twenty thousand
- 8 perished, for the battle was spread over all the district, and more of the people were destroyed in the forest than what the sword destroyed at the
- 9 moment. Absalom also fled before the officers of David. Absalom was mounted upon a mule, and the mule ran under the boughs of a great oak-tree, and his head was caught in the oak, so that he hung between the sky and the earth. But the mule that
- 10 was under him passed on. One of the men of David, however, saw him, and informed J'oab, and said, “I have seen Absalom hanging in an oak tree.”
- 11 When J'oab said to the man, “Show him to me! and where you have seen him.—But why did you not strike him to the earth? for then I would have given you ten silvers, and a girdle.”
- 12 But the man replied to J'oab, “Even if you jingled a thousand silvers on my hand, I would not assail the son of the king! for in our hearing the king commanded to you and Abishai, and Athai, saying, ‘Spare for me the
- 13 lad Absalom!’—If I had done, I should have been false to my life, for no event is hidden from the king, and you would have set yourself against me!”
- 14 J'oab, however, replied, “I can't dawdle in this way with you!” and took the three darts in his hand, and thrust them into the heart of Absalom whilst he yet lived in the middle of
- 15 the oak. Then two of J'oab's guards surrounded him and stabbed Absalom, and killed him.

J'oab afterwards sounded the 16 trumpet, and the forces returned from pursuing Israel, for J'oab restrained the men. But they took 17 Absalom and flung him down in the forest into a great pit, and piled over him a very great heap of stones.

Thus all Israel fled each to his home.

Absalom, however, in his life time 18 had erected the column which is in the King's plain, for he said, “I have no son to continue the memory of my name.” So he named the column by his own name, and it is called “The finger of Absalom” to this day.

Then Akhimatz-ben-Zadok said, 19 “I will run and announce to the King, that the EVER-LIVING has done him justice against the hand of his enemies.”

But J'oab replied to him, “No man 20 shall announce this event to-day! You shall, however, announce it to-morrow,—but to-day you shall not announce it,—because the son of the King has been killed.”

J'oab, however, afterwards said to 21 Kusi, “Go! Inform the King what you have seen.” And Kusi turned from J'oab and ran.

Yet Akhimatz-ben-Zadok continued 22 to importune, and said to J'oab, “May I not now also myself run after Kusi?”

And J'oab replied, “What good for you to run, my boy? There is no runner in the country better than him!”

“But yet I wish to run!” 23

Then he said to him “Run!” So he ran. And Akhimatz ran by the road of the pastures and passed beyond Kusi.

David was at this time sitting 24 between the two gates, and a watchman was posted on the roof of the gateway, on the ramparts, who raised his eyes and saw a man running alone. The sentinel accordingly 25 called and informed the King; and the King asked, “If alone is it towards the wall that he comes and approaches?”

Then the sentinel saw another man 26 running, so he cried from the gate, and said, “I see a man, running after!” When the King replied, “He also is a messenger of good news.”

Then the sentinel said, “I recog- 27 nize the running of the first runner,

as the running of Akhimatz-ben-Zadok!"

And the King answered, "He is a good man; and he will bring good news!"

28 Then Akhimatz called out and said to the King, "Peace!" and bowed to the King with his face to the earth, and said, "Thank your EVER-LIVING GOD, who has delivered the men who rose against you to the hand of your Majesty the King!"

29 When the King asked, "Is the lad Absalom safe?" And Akhimatz replied, "I saw a great crowd about the King's general J'oab, and your officers, but I knew not why!"

30 The king therefore said, "Turn and station yourself there!" So he

31 turned and stood. Then Kusi came. And Kusi said "There is good news for your Majesty the King. For the EVER-LIVING has granted you justice to-day from the hands of your enemies; — all who rose against you!"

32 But the King asked of Kusi, "Is the lad Absalom safe?"

When Kusi answered, "May all the enemies of your Majesty the King be like that young man! and all who rise against you for evil!"

19 Then the king trembled, and went up the stairs of the gate, and wept, and exclaimed, "You have gone, my son, Absalom! My son, my son, Absalom! I wish I myself had died instead of you! Absalom! my son! my son!"

2 But it was reported to J'oab, "The king is weeping and lamenting over Absalom! consequently to-day's victory will become a sorrow to all

3 the army; for the army will hear it said now that the king laments it,

4 because of his son, and the forces will have to skulk into the city to-day, like an army skulks in when it is

5 ashamed by flying from battle; for the king hides his face, and the king shrieks with a loud voice, 'My son, Absalom! Absalom! My son! My son!'"

6 J'oab consequently went to the king, into the house, and asked, "Do you wish to insult to their faces to-day all your Officers who have preserved your life, and the lives of your sons and daughters; and the lives of your wives, and the lives of your slave-wives? You love your enemies, and

7 hate your friends! For you make it

clear to-day that your Officers and soldiers are nothing to you! For I now perceive, if Absalom were alive, and all of us had been killed to-day, it would have been right in your eyes!—But, however, get up, and go 8 out, and speak to the hearts of your soldiers,—for, by the EVER-LIVING I swear to you, that, if you delay it, there will not be a single man with you to-night! And that will be worse for you than all the suffering that has come upon you from your youth until now!"

The king consequently arose and 9 sat at the gate; and it was reported to the army, "The king is now sitting at the gate." So the whole force passed in before the king. But Israel fled each to his own home.

### The Ten Tribes consult as to again electing David King.

All the people, however, were dis- 10 cussing in all the tribes of Israel saying, "The king delivered us from the hands of all our enemies, and he protected us from the power of the Philistim; and now he has been chased from the country on account of Absalom. But Absalom whom we 11 consecrated over us has been killed in battle, so why are you silent now about restoring the king?"

### (B.C. 1023.) David asks Judah to re-elect him.

King David, however, sent to 12 Zadok and Abiathar, the priests, to say, "Speak to the judges of Judah, asking, 'Why do you hang back from restoring the king to his house, when all Israel demand the return of the king to his home?' You are my 13 relatives,—my bones, and my flesh,—then why are you hanging back from restoring the king?" And he 14 said to Amasa, "Are you not my bones and my flesh? God do this to me, and more than it, if you shall not be perpetual commander of the army before me in place of J'oab."

Then the heart of the people of 15 Judah turned as one man, and they sent to the king, "Let yourself return with all your servants."

The king consequently returned 16 and came to the Jordan, and Judah came to Ghilgal marching to meet the king, to bring the king over Jordan. Shemai - ben - Ghera, the 17

Benjaminite of Bakhurim, also made haste, and went down with Judah to meet King David, and a thousand men with him from Benjamin; also Ziba the steward of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and twenty attendants, and they crossed the Jordan in the presence of the king. They crossed in a ferry-boat to carry over the family of the king and behaved well in his sight. Then Shemai-ben-Ghera fell down before the king, on his crossing the Jordan, and said to the king, "Do not let Your Majesty impute it as a crime to me, and do not remember how your servant offended at the time when Your Majesty came out from Jerusalem;—let not the king lay it to heart. For your servant knows that he sinned: consequently I have now come the first of all the House of Judah<sup>1</sup> to descend to meet the king."

But Abishai the son of Zeruah interrupted and asked, "Shall not Shemai be put to death for that? for he cursed the Consecrated of the EVER-LIVING."

David, however, answered "What is there between you and I, sons of Zeruah, that you should to-day be inciting me to kill people in Israel? for do I not recognize now that I am king over Israel?" Then the king said to Shemai, "You shall not die," and the king promised him.

Mefibosheth-ben-Saul also came down to meet the king, and to pay his respects. He had not changed his clothes from the day the king went away, until the day when he returned in peace. And when he came from Jerusalem to meet the king, the king asked him, "Why did you not go away with me, Mefibosheth?"

When he answered "Your Majesty the king, my steward deceived me, for your servant ordered him to saddle my ass, and I would mount it, and follow the king,—for your servant is a cripple,—but instead of it, he libelled your servant to Your Majesty the King. However, Your Majesty is like a Messenger of God, —therefore do what is good in your

<sup>1</sup> V. 21. "House of Joseph" of the Old Versions should evidently be read "House of Judah," to which Shemai really belonged. Therefore I restore the true reading.—F. F.

opinion. For all my father's family would have been dead men, but for Your Majesty. You also appointed your servant to eat at your table. And what right was there ever for me to appeal to the king?"

Then the king replied, "Why should you say more? I will order that you and Ziba must divide the property."

But Mefibosheth answered the king, "Let him take the whole,—since Your Majesty has come back in peace to your home."

Barzilai the Ghiladite also came down from Rogelim and advanced to the Jordan with the king to help him over the Jordan. Barzilai, however, was very old, eighty years of age, and he had provided for the king at his own residence at Makhanim, for he was a very great man. Consequently the king said to Barzilai, "You served me, and provided for me, so I will provide for you with myself in Jerusalem."

But Barzilai answered the king, "How long would be the years of my life if I were to go up with the king to Jerusalem? I am eighty years old to-day. Can I distinguish between pleasant and unpleasant in the taste of what I eat, and what I drink? Can I even hear the tones of men and women singers? Then why should your servant continue to burden the king? How little it costs passing the king over the Jordan?—so why should the king pay me wages for it? Let your servant return, and I will stay in my own village near the tomb of my father and mother.—But however your servant Kimham can go with your Majesty, and do to him whatever is good in your eyes."

So the king replied, "Kimham shall go with me, and I will benefit him, as I see right, and all that you choose I will do for you."

Then all the forces passed over the Jordan, when the king had passed. The king afterwards saluted Barzilai, and thanked him, and he returned to his home.

(B.C. 1023.) **Quarrel between the Ten Tribes and Judah over David's return.**

The king then advanced to Ghilgal, and Kimham his minister with him;

and all the forces of Judah advanced with the king, and also a part of the  
42 forces of Israel; and then all the men of Israel came to the king and asked him "Why have our relatives the men of Judah stolen you, and brought the king and his family over the Jordan, and all the Princes of David with him?"

43 When all the men of Judah retorted upon the men of Israel, "Who drove the king to us? And why are you furious over this business? Have we eaten anything with the king except what we brought ourselves?"

44 And the men of Israel rejoined to the men of Judah, "We have ten parts in the kingdom, and also more in David than you! Then why have you slighted, and not sent a message first to us about restoring our king?"

(B.C. 1022.) **Second Revolt of the Ten Tribes.**

But the words of the men of Judah were more bitter than the words of  
20 the men of Israel, so Sheba-ben-Bikri, a man of Benjamin, cried out, and sounded a trumpet and exclaimed, "We have no part in David, and no share in the son of Jessai,—  
2 Israel, everyone to your tents." So all the Officers of Israel went from following David to follow after Sheba-ben-Bikri; but the Officers of Judah continued with the king and went to Jerusalem.

3 When David came to his palace in Jerusalem, the king took the ten slave-wives whom he had appointed to take care of the palace, and placed them in a house apart, and provided for them, but he went not to them, and they were in confinement to the day of their death. They lived as widows.

4 The king then said to Amasa, "Summon to me the officers of Judah in three days' time; and you appear with them."

5 Amasa accordingly went and convoked Judah, but was delayed beyond  
6 the time appointed. Then David addressed Amasa,<sup>1</sup> "You know that

Sheba-ben-Bikri may injure us more than Absalom, therefore take the soldiers of your Prince and follow after him, for fear he should find some fortified towns and escape from our control."

(The men of J'oab, however, had 7 followed him.)—

So the Guards, and the Light Infantry, and all the Heavy, also proceeded from Jerusalem to pursue Sheba-ben-Bikri, as far as the Great 8 Stone that is near Gibaon, and Amasa marched before them,—where he met J'oab with his belt over his armour, and a sword on the belt braced up to his waist,—and he bowed.

Then J'oab asked, "Are you well, 9 brother Amasa?" and J'oab took the beard of Amasa in his right hand, as if to kiss him, but Amasa did not 10 notice the sword that J'oab had in his hand, so he struck him with it in the belly, and his bowels fell out on the earth, for he could not resist him, but died. (J'oab and Abishai his brother, were pursuing Sheba-ben-Bikri.) And a man of the Staff 11 of J'oab stood near him and exclaimed, "Whoever sides with J'oab, and whoever with David, let him follow J'oab." But Amasa was 12 wallowing in blood in the middle of the highway; so when the man saw that the forces halted, he rolled Amasa from the highway into the fields, and threw a cloak over him, because he saw that all who came to him halted. When he was 13 removed out of the road the men followed J'oab to pursue Sheba-ben-Bikri, who had passed through all 14 the tribes of Israel to Ablah and Beth-Makah, and all the Berim, who had collected and followed him.

They, however, pursued and 15 besieged him in Ablah of Beth-Makah, and built an embankment against the Citadel, and filled up the moat. But while the army with J'oab were battering to breach the wall, a clever woman called out from 16 the city "Listen! listen! I wish to

The history of that mutiny probably followed the name "Abishai," and has been accidentally omitted by a very ancient transcriber, whose blunder has been continued to our day, until I corrected it, by restoring at least "Amasa's" name, although I am not able to reproduce the narrative of Joab and Abishai's mutiny.—F. F.

<sup>1</sup> V. 6. The name should evidently be "Amasa," who was Commander, and not "Abishai." See vv. 7 and 9. It is clear that David was faced by a mutiny in his army led by Joab and Abishai his brother,—the result of the King's grief at the killing of Absalom.

- 17 speak to J'oab! Come here! and I will speak to him!"
- 17 He accordingly approached, and she asked, "Are you J'oab?"
- And he answered, "I am."
- When she replied, "Listen to what I say."
- And he answered, "I will listen."
- 18 When she continued, "Formerly they used to say when discussing a matter, 'Make an enquiry at Abel'—
- 19 and that ended it. I am one of the peaceful crowd in Israel. You are seeking to murder a city and mother in Israel. Why would you desolate the LORD'S estate?"
- 20 But J'oab answered and said to her, "It would be a terror at night to me if I should destroy or desolate it!
- 21 Do not say so! But a man from Mount Ephraim, named Sheba-ben-Bikri, has raised his hand against King David. Only give him to me, and I will leave the town."
- The woman therefore answered J'oab, "Then I will fling you his head over the wall!"
- 22 The woman therefore went to some of the soldiers on the wall, and they cut off the head of Sheba-ben-Bikri, and flung it to J'oab, who blew a trumpet and they retired from the city, each to his tent, and J'oab returned to Jerusalem to the king.

(B.C. 1022.) **J'oab again made Commander-in-Chief.**

- 23 Then J'oab was appointed over the whole army of Israel, and Beniah-ben-Jhodiada over the Guards and
- 24 Light Infantry; and Adoram-ben-Akhilud was Chancellor, and Shebah, Secretary; and Zadok and Abiathar, Priests; and Aira, the Jarite was Priest to David.

(B.C. 1021.) **Three Years' Famine, and the Tragedy of Rizfah's Sons.**

- 21 There was once a famine in the time of David for three years, year after year, so David sought the
- 2 presence of the EVER-LIVING, and the EVER-LIVING said, "It is for Saul and his murderous house, because he killed the Gibaonites."
- 3 The king consequently sent for the

Gibaonites, and asked them (for the Gibaonites were not of the Children of Israel, but a remnant of the Amorites, to whom the Children of Israel had sworn, but Saul wished to exterminate them in his zeal for the Children of Israel and the EVER-LIVING). David asked the Gibaonites "What can I do for you? And by what can I make amends? so that you will bless the inheritance of the EVER-LIVING?"

And the Gibaonites replied to him 4  
"We will not take silver or gold from Saul or his family, and no man shall be killed in Israel for us."

Then he said "Whatever you ask I will do for you."

And they answered the king, "The 5  
man who destroyed us, and who wasted us, so that we are prohibited from residing in any part of Israel, let there be given to us seven men 6  
from his children, and we will hang them for the EVER-LIVING in Gibath of Saul, the Elect of the EVER-LIVING."

And the king said, "I will give them!"

But the king refrained from Mefi- 7  
bosheth, the son of J'honathan, the son of Saul, because of the oath of the EVER-LIVING that was between David and J'honathan, the son of Saul. But the king took the two 8  
sons of Rizfah, the daughter of Aiah, whom she had borne to Saul, Armoni and Mefibosheth, and the five sons of Mikal, the daughter of Saul, whom she bore to Adrial-ben-Barzili, the Makholathite, and delivered them 9  
into the hands of the Gibaonites, and they hung them on a Hill before the EVER-LIVING, and the seven fell at once, and were killed at the time of harvest before they begin to cut the barley.

Rizfah, the daughter of Aiah, how- 10  
ever, took sack cloth and covered the rock with it, from the beginning of harvest until the rain fell on them from the sky, and would not allow a bird of the air to alight upon them by day, or a wild beast of the field by night. And it was reported to David 11  
what Rizfah, the daughter of Aiah, the slave-wife of Saul was doing, so 12  
David sent and took the bones of Saul, and the bones of J'honathan, his son, from the Masters of J'abesh Gilad, which they had taken from the walls of Beth-shan, where the



Philishtim had hung them at the time that the Philishtim defeated Saul at 13 Gilboa, and brought from there the bones of Saul, and the bones of J'honathan his son, and included the 14 bones of those who were hung, and buried the bones of Saul and J'honathan his son in the district of Benjamin, at the side of the tomb of Kish his father. All that the king ordered was done. Then he entreated GOD for the country after that.

(B.C. 1018.) **Rebolt of the Philistines.**

15 But there was war again between the Philishtim and Israel, and David went down with his forces and fought the Philishtim and David became 16 exhausted. Then Banob, who was of the race of the Rephah, and had a spear weighing three hundred shekels of brass, and was clothed in new armour, stood up and declared he 17 would kill David. But Abishai-ben-Zeruiah helped him and struck the Philistine, and killed him. David's Generals consequently swore to him, saying, "You shall not go again with us into battle, so that the light of Israel may not be extinguished." 18 But after this there was again a battle at Gob with the Philishtim, when Sibkai killed Suf, who was of the race of the Rephah. 19 And there was again a battle at Gob with the Philishtim, and Abkhan-ben-Jari, the weaver of Bethlehem, defeated Galitha, the Githite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.<sup>1</sup> 20 There was also another battle with the Philishtim at Gath, where there was a man of Midian with six fingers on his hands, and six toes on his feet,—twenty-four in number—and he was also of the race of the Rephah, and he challenged Israel. But 21 Jhonathan-ben-Shemai, the brother of David, defeated him. These 22 four were born of the Rephaim, in Gath, and fell by the hand of David and by the hands of his Officers.

(B.C. 1018.) **David's Song of Thanks.**

David recited the words of this 22 song to the EVER-LIVING, when the EVER-LIVING had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul, and said;—

**SONG OF THANKS.**

"The LORD was a Rock, and Fortress, 2 and Refuge to me, GOD is my Fort,—I will trust in Him! 3 My shield and buckler, my tower and hold, My Saviour Who saved from oppres- sion!

In despair I will cry to the LORD, 4 And I shall be saved from my foemen.

When Death's waves enclosed, 5 And wild torrents sucked in, The Grave's ropes entangling, 6 And fearing Death's traps,

In my trouble I cried to the LORD,— 7 And cried out aloud to my GOD; And my voice from His Temple He heard,

And my shouts reached His ears.

Then the earth trembled and quaked, 8 The supports of the heavens were shaken,

And quivered because of His wrath. A cloud was sent forth by His 9 breath,

And devouring fire from his mouth, Before him fierce coals were in- flamed.

And He bent down the skies and 10 descended,

And darkness was under His feet! And He rode on the whirlwind and 11 flew,

And was seen on the wings of the wind;

And put on His covering of darkness, 12 Collecting black watery cloud.

And bright streams of fire burnt 13 before Him,

And thundered the LORD from the 14 skies;

The Highest thus uttered His 15 thunders,

And shot lightnings, arrows and darts;

And torrents of water were seen, 16 And the base of the world was laid bare,

Before the Supreme in His anger, By the whiff of the breath of His mouth!

<sup>1</sup> V. 19. This Galitha, the Githite, must not be confused with the "Goliath" whom David slew years before, as the A.V. seems to confuse it.—F. F.

17 He sent from on high, and He took  
me,  
Pulled me out from the powerful  
seas!

18 From my enemies strong He re-  
deemed me,  
From haters more strong than my-  
self.  
In the day of distresses He helped  
me;—

19 The LORD was Himself my support,  
20 And brought me again into freedom.

21 He drilled me, because He approved ;  
For my virtues the LORD gave  
reward,  
My honour renewed to my hand,—

22 For I kept to the path of the LORD,  
And I went not astray from my GOD ;

23 For all His decrees I kept with me,  
And turned not away from His laws.

24 And to Him I always was faithful,—

25 So the LORD gave my goodness  
reward,  
Because I was pure in His sight.

26 To the merciful, You will show  
mercy,  
And with the upright You are  
straight ;

27 You are pure to those who are pure,  
But with the rebellious, You strive !

28 And You save the oppressed of the  
people,  
And look down with scorn on the  
proud,

29 And You, LORD, alone are my  
light;—  
LORD, therefore enlighten my gloom,  
30 For by that I an army can chase,  
And with GOD can leap over a wall.

31 The pathway of GOD is a straight  
one ;  
The words of the Lord are refined ;  
He is to all trusting a shield.—

32 For who is a GOD, but the LORD ?  
And who is a rock but our GOD ?

33 The GOD who is mighty in strength,  
Whose pathway is perfectly straight,

34 Who makes my feet like to a stag's,  
Who supports me in mounting the  
hills.

35 Who instructed my hands in the  
fighting,  
And to break a steel bow with my  
arms.

36 And You are my shield of salvation,  
And, imparting Your power to  
myself,

37 You stretch out my stridings below  
me,

So my ankles will never slip down,  
I can chase all my foes and 38  
destroy them,  
And never turn back till they're  
done !  
I assail them and strike till they  
rise not,  
For under my feet they fall down. 39  
You gird me with strength for the 40  
war,  
And my legs under me are kept  
straight,  
But You throw my enemies back- 41  
wards,  
So that I can destroy those who  
hate.  
They shout—but they have no 42  
Defender,—  
To the LORD, but He answers them  
not ;  
While I grind them like dust of the 43  
earth,  
I stamp them like mire in the streets !  
You saved from the strife of my  
people,  
And kept at the head of the Tribes. 44  
A people I never knew serve me, 45  
And sons of the strangers bow  
down,  
To hear me with listening ears ;  
And the children of foreigners run, 46  
Their robes closely girt by their  
belts !  
Let the LORD live ! bless my Rock ! 47  
I for ever exult in my GOD,  
And rejoice in GOD'S Fortress that  
saved me,—  
The GOD Who has given me my 48  
right,—  
Who subjected the nations beneath  
me,—  
Freed from foes, and has raised me 49  
on high,  
And redeemed from the men who  
opposed.—  
For this I will praise You, O LORD, 50  
And chant of Your name to the  
heathen,  
Your salvation exalt in my heart, 51  
And the kindness You show your  
Messiah,—  
And David's enduring heir !  
And these are the last words of 23  
David,  
Says David the son of Jessai,  
And the speech of the man raised  
on high,  
And whom Jacob's God had ap-  
proved,

And sweetly to Israel who sings,—  
 2 For to me the LORD'S spirit has  
 spoken,  
 And this has declared by my tongue,  
 3 And Israel's GOD has informed me,  
 And Israel's hope has revealed,  
 As a guide to the righteous of men,  
 As a guide to the reverence of GOD ;  
 4 Like the light of the morning at  
 sunrise,  
 As a bright shining dawn without  
 clouds,  
 With showers for the meadows of  
 earth.

5 Tho' my house is not perfect with  
 GOD,  
 Yet He made a long treaty with me,  
 Extending and sure in all things,  
 For it perfectly saves and delights.—  
 And will He not cause it to flourish?  
 6 But the Vile He will fling out like  
 thorns,  
 Which cannot be taken by hand,  
 7 But the man who approaches to  
 them,  
 Must take staves of iron or wood,  
 And put them to burn in the fire !”

### THE MUSTER ROLL OF DAVID'S OFFICERS.

(B.C. 1018.)

8 The following are the names of the  
 heroes whom David appointed officers:  
 J'asheb-Bashebeth the Thakhmoni,  
 Chief of the Staff, with Adino, the  
 Atznite, over the eight hundred. He  
 9 was lame of one foot. And after him,  
 Alazar-ben-Dodi-ben-Akhokhi, one of  
 the three generals who were with  
 David when they defied the Philishtim  
 who had drawn out for battle, and  
 10 the men of Israel had fled. He arose  
 and fought the Philishtim until his  
 hand was cramped, and his hand  
 stuck to his sword. But the EVER-  
 LIVING produced a great victory on  
 that day for him, and the forces that  
 stuck behind like his skin.

11 And after him Shamah-ben-Aga of  
 Harari. Once when the Philishtim  
 had gone out to raid, and were posted  
 in a part of a field full of lentils, and  
 the force fled before the Philishtim,  
 12 he stood in the open, and re-formed  
 it, and attacked the Philishtim when  
 the EVER-LIVING granted a great  
 victory.

13 These three had descended with

their troop of thirty, and came in  
 harvest time to David at the Cave  
 of Adulam. And the troops of the  
 Philishtim were encamped in the  
 plain of Rephaim. For David at 14  
 that time was in the cave, and the  
 Philishtim then occupied Bethlehem.  
 David, however, desired and said,  
 “Who will get me a drink of water 15  
 from the well of Bethlehem, that is  
 near the gate?” When the three 16  
 heroes passed through the camp of  
 the Philishtim, and drew water from  
 the well that is near the gate of  
 Bethlehem, and brought it to David,—  
 but he would not drink it, but poured  
 it out to the EVER-LIVING, and said, 17  
 “The EVER-LIVING would punish  
 me if I did that.—It is the blood of  
 the men who risked their lives, so I  
 will not drink it.”

These were the actions of these  
 three heroes.

Abishai, also, the brother of J'oab- 18  
 ben-Zeruiah, was a great hero, for  
 he raised his spear against three  
 hundred, and defeated them. He was  
 not considered equal to the three.  
 However he had honour with the three, 19  
 and became their commander, but he  
 did not equal the three.

Beniah also was a brave man of 20  
 many deeds, of Kabtzal. He defeated  
 the two champions of Moab. He  
 descended and overpowered a lion in  
 a pit on a snowy day. He also 21  
 defeated the Mitzerite officer whom  
 he met. The Egyptian had a spear  
 in his hand, but he ran at him with  
 a club, and pulled the spear from the  
 hands of the Egyptian, and killed  
 him with his own spear. Beniah- 22  
 ben-Jhoiadah performed these deeds,  
 therefore he was stationed with the  
 Three Heroes. He was honoured 23  
 with the Thirty, but became not one  
 of the three. David, however, made  
 him his councillor.

Asahel, the brother of J'oab was in 24  
 the Thirty.

Alkanan-ben-Dodo, the Bethle- 25  
 hemite.

Khlitz, the Flatite, 26

Aira-ben-Aksh, the Theqavite ;

Abiazer of Anathoth ; 27

Mibuni the Khushite ;

Tzalgon the Akhokhite, 28

Makri the Netofathite ;

Kleb-ben-Banah, the Netofathite ; 29

Athi-ben-Ribai of Gibath, sons of  
 Benjamin ;

- 30 Beniah the Frathonite ;  
Hadi from the rock of Gash ;  
31 Abi-alban, the Arbathite,  
Azmoth the Barkhumite ;  
32 Alikabah, the Shalbonite ;  
Jonathan the son of J'ashom ;  
33 Shamah, the Harahite ;  
Ahyam-ben-Sharaal of Halur ;  
34 Alifalet-ben-Akhasbi, son of the  
Makathili ;  
Aliam-ben-Akhithofel, the Ghilomite ;  
35 Khatzri, the Karmelite,  
Fari, the Arabian,  
36 Igal-ben-Nathan, with Tzoboh, sons  
of the Gadite ;  
37 Tzeleg, the Amonite ;  
Nakhori, the Barothite, squire to  
Joab-ben-Zeruiah ;  
38 Aira, the Itherite ;  
Gareb, the Itherite ;  
39 Uriah the Hitite ; in all thirty-seven.

(B.C. 1017.) **David orders a Con-  
scription, and the Result.**

- 24 The EVER-LIVING, however, was again angry with Israel, when David turned, and commanded to go and make a Conscription of Israel and  
2 Judah, for the king ordered J'oab commander of his forces "to whip them up"<sup>1</sup> in all the tribes of Israel from Dan to Bersheba, and brigade in the forces, that I may know the number of my forces."  
3 But J'oab answered the king, "May your EVER-LIVING GOD increase the forces by enlistment<sup>2</sup> a hundred fold, that the eyes of your Majesty may see:—but, your Majesty, why are you inclined to this thing?"  
4 The order of the king, however, prevailed over J'oab, and the Officers of the army, so J'oab and the Officers of the army went from the presence of the king to conscript Israel for the  
5 forces. They also passed over the Jordan and encamped at Aroar, on the south of the city which is in the  
6 mid-valley of Gad and Jazer. Thence he went to Gilgal, and the lowlands of Khadshi, and came to Dan, and  
7 around to Zidon. From there they went to the fortress of Tzur, and

<sup>1</sup> Literal translation of the word שוֹמְנָה, Shôt-na, of the Hebrew.—F. F.

<sup>2</sup> V. 3. "By enlistment" Hebrew is literally "From up and down." קָהֵמוּ קָהֵמוּ = Kahem v Kahem.—F. F.

all the villages of the Hivites, and the Cananites. Then they went to 8 the south of Judah to Bersheba, and "whipped up" the whole country, and came to a finish on the tenth day of the ninth month at Jerusalem, when 9 J'oab delivered the number enrolled in the forces to the king, and in Israel it was eight hundred thousand men, strong to draw the sword ; and of the men of Judah, five hundred thousand men.

Then the heart of David reproved 10 him after he had conscripted the people. And David said to the EVER-LIVING, "I have sinned grievously by what I have done! But now, LORD, pass over the fault of Your servant, for I have been foolish."

When David arose in the morning, 11 —then the word of the EVER-LIVING came to Gad the Reciter,—David's Preacher<sup>1</sup>—to say,

"Go, and speak to David, 'Thus 12 says the EVER-LIVING;—I will lay three loads for you. Choose one of them, and I will make it for you!'"

Gad consequently went to David 13 and informed him, and asked, "Shall seven years of famine come for you upon the country? or will you fly for three months before your enemies while they pursue you? or shall there be three days' destruction on your country? Now instruct me, and show what reply I shall return to my sender?"

When the king replied to Gad, "It 14 is very hard for me! Let me, however, fall into the hand of the EVER-LIVING, for His mercies are many,—for I would not fall into the hand of man."

The EVER-LIVING therefore sent a 15 destruction to Israel from daybreak until after noon, and there died of the people, from Dan to Bersheba, seventy-seven thousand men. But 16 when the Messenger stretched his hand to Jerusalem to desolate it, He had pity for the flock, and said to the Messenger, "Enough of the people are desolated now, withdraw your hand." And the Messenger of the EVER-LIVING was near the thrashing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

But David appealed to the EVER- 17 LIVING, when he saw the Messenger who assailed the people, exclaiming, "I myself have sinned, and I myself

<sup>1</sup> Or Chaplain.—F. F.

have offended ; but these sheep what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, be on me and upon my father's house."

18 Then Gad came at that moment and said to him, "Go up,—raise an altar to the EVER-LIVING at the grainery of Araunah the Jebusite."

19 Consequently David went up as the  
20 EVER-LIVING ordered him, and Araunah looking forward saw the king and his Officers approaching to him, so Araunah went and bowed to the king, with face earthward. Then  
21 Araunah asked, "Why does His Majesty come to his servant?"

And David replied, "To buy from you this grainery to build an altar to the EVER-LIVING, to remove the plague from off the people."

22 Araunah said to David, "Take it!

And let the king offer up what is good in his eyes. See, there are the oxen for a sacrifice, and the thrashing machine and yokes of the oxen for wood. Araunah as a king gives the whole to the king." And Araunah added to the king, "May your EVER-LIVING GOD accept you!"

David, however, replied to Araunah, "No!—but I will buy them of you by payment, for I will not offer to my EVER-LIVING GOD an offering costing me nothing."

So David bought the grainery and the oxen, for fifty shekels of silver, and David built there an altar to the EVER-LIVING, and offered a burnt-offering, and thank-offering, when the EVER-LIVING was entreated for the land, and removed the plague from the country.

END OF THE SECOND BOOK OF THE PERIOD OF SAMUEL.—BOOK IV. OF  
THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL.