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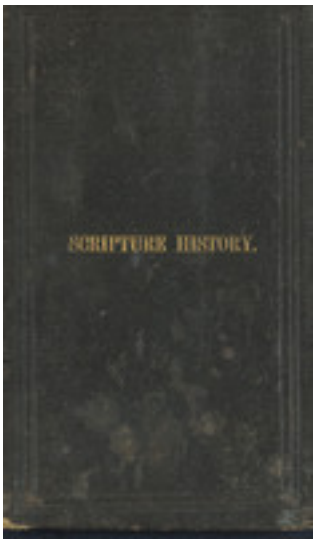

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SCRIPTURE HISTORY.

H. Jacobowsky.

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1870

SCRIPTURE HISTORY.

SIMPLY ARRANGED

FOR THE

USE OF JEWISH SCHOOLS.

By PYKE.

Second American Edition.

Printed for the Sunday School of the Congregation B'NAI JESHURUN.

NEW YORK:
H. SAKOLSKI'S HEBREW BOOK STORE,
53 DIVISION STREET.

5639.—1879.

TABLE OF KINGS.

KINGS OF ALL ISRAEL.

	YEARS.
Saul reigned	40
David reigned	40
Solomon reigned	40

KINGS OF ISRAEL.

NAMES.	REIGNED, YEARS.	MONTHS.
Jeroboam	22	0
Nadab	2	0
Baasha	24	0
Elah	2	0
Omri	12	0
Ahab	22	0
Ahaziah	2	0
Jehoram or Joram	12	0
Jehu	28	0
Jehoahaz	17	0
Joash	16	0
Jeroboam	41	0
Zachariah	0	6
Shallum	0	1
Menahem	10	0
Pekahiah	2	0
Pekah	20	0
Hoshea	9	0

KINGS OF JUDAH.

NAMES.	REIGNED, YEARS.	MONTHS.
Rehoboam	17	0
Abijam	3	0
Asa	41	0
Jehoshaphat	25	0
Jehoram	8	0
Ahaziah	1	0
Joash	40	0
Amaziah	29	0
Azuriah or Uzziah	52	0
Jotham	16	0
Ahaz	16	0
Hezekiah	29	0
Manasseh	55	0
Amon	2	0
Josiah	31	0
Jehoahaz	0	3
Jehoiakim	11	0
Jehoiachin	0	3
Zedekiah	11	0

SCRIPTURE HISTORY.

SECTION I.

Q. What is the name of the book in which we learn the laws of the Jewish religion?

A. The Bible; which means book, but is only applied to the Sacred Scriptures.

Q. Should we not prize this book above all others?

A. Yes; because it informs us of our duties to God, to our fellow-men, and to ourselves.

Q. What is the first book of the Bible called?

A. Genesis; which means creation.

Q. What does creation mean?

A. A forming something out of nothing.

Q. Is it in the power of any human being to create?

A. No; God alone can create and produce whatever He wishes.

Q. By what other names is God then known?

A. The Creator, Almighty, Omnipotent Being.

Q. What did God create in the beginning?

A. The heaven and the earth.

Q. How long was he in creating all things?

A. Six days. On the first day He created light, by saying "Be there light, and light was."

Q. What did God create on the following days?

A. On the second day He created heaven; on the third, plants; on the fourth, the sun, moon, and stars; on the fifth, fishes and fowls; and on the sixth, beasts, reptiles and man.

Q. What did God on the seventh day?

A. He rested in it from all His work, and blessed it.

Q. Who was the first man?

A. Adam; so called because he was formed from the ground, which in Hebrew is called Adamah.

Q. Where was Adam placed?

A. In the garden of Eden; with the permission to eat freely of every tree therein, except of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, death being pronounced as his punishment, in case of disobedience.

Q. Who gave names to the beasts and birds?

A. Adam.

Q. After this whom did God form?

A. The first woman; of one of Adam's ribs taken from him while he slept.

Q. What did Adam name her?

A. Eve (Hebrew Chavah), living; because she was the mother of all living.

Q. What did Eve?

A. Being tempted by the serpent, she ate of the forbidden fruit, and gave it also to Adam to eat with her, for which sin they were both driven out of the garden of Eden, and compelled to labour all the days of their life.

Q. What else followed their sin?

A. God caused the ground to bring forth thorns and thistles.

Q. What were the names of Adam and Eve's eldest sons?

A. Cain and Abel; Cain, the elder, was a husbandman, and Abel was a shepherd.

Q. What did they bring as an offering to God?

A. Cain brought of the fruit of the ground, and Abel of the first-born and best of his flock; but Cain's offering was not regarded with favour by God, because he was sinful.

Q. Did Cain repent of his sinfulness?

A. No; he was very angry and became still more wicked, for he killed his brother Abel when they were in the field together.

Q. How was Cain punished for this?

A. The ground was forbidden to yield to him her fruit, and he was condemned to be a vagabond and a wanderer in the earth.

Q. What did Cain say?

A. That his punishment was greater than he could bear; for being driven from God's presence, he feared that any one finding him, would slay him.

Q. What did God to dispel his fears?

A. He appointed a sign for him, by which he might know, that none finding him should smite him; after which Cain went from the presence of the Eternal, and abode in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

SECTION II.

Q. REPEAT the names of the first founders of families?

A. Adam, Seth, Enos, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, and Noah.

Q. Which of the patriarchs was taken by God without dying?

A. Enoch; for he was a righteous man.

Q. Who was the oldest man?

A. Methuselah; who lived nine hundred and sixty-nine years.

Q. How old was Lamech when Noah was born unto him?

A. One hundred and eighty-two years; and he called him Noah, because he said, this son would comfort him in the work of his hands, Noah meaning comfort.

Q. How many sons had Noah?

A. Three; Shem, Ham, and Japheth. He was five hundred years old when they were born.

Q. What was the conduct of the people of the earth at this time?

A. They were so wicked that God said He would destroy them, and all the other living creatures of the earth by a flood of waters.

Q. Who alone found favour in the eyes of God?

A. Noah; for he was a good and pious man; so God told him to build an ark, and to caulk it inside and outside with pitch, which prevents water penetrating.

Q. Who was saved in the ark with Noah?

A. His wife, his three sons, and their wives, besides whom he took with him by God's command, of the clean of all living creatures by sevens, the male and its female, and of the unclean by twos, the male and its female, also food for himself and family.

Q. What is here meant by clean animals?

A. Such as were fit for sacrifice.

Q. How long did it rain on the earth?

A. Forty days and forty nights; and the ark was borne up by the waters, which covered even the highest mountains, and destroyed every thing.

Q. How long did the waters prevail on the earth?

A. One hundred and fifty days; and the ark rested on the mountains of Ararat in Armenia, a province of Asiatic Turkey.

Q. What did Noah when the waters began to abate?

A. He sent forth a raven, which went backwards and forwards until the waters were dried up. He also sent forth a dove, but she, finding no dry place on which to rest, returned to the ark.

Q. What did Noah then?

A. He waited seven days longer, and again sent out the dove, which returned at evening with an olive-leaf torn off in her mouth, so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth.

Q. Did Noah then leave the ark?

A. No; he waited seven days longer, and sent forth the dove again, which returned no more; so Noah discovered that the earth was dry, and by God's command, he, and all that were with him, left the ark, after having been in it about a year.

Q. What did Noah then?

A. He built an altar unto the Eternal, and offered thereon burnt-offerings; and God then promised that He would not again curse the ground for man's sake, but while the earth lasts, seed time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, shall not cease.

Q. What further did God say to Noah and his sons?

A. He blessed them, and bade them be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and gave them dominion over every living creature, but forbade them to eat blood, it being the source of life, to commit murder, and suicide, or self murder.

Q. What is the token by which we may know the earth will never again be destroyed by a flood?

A. The rainbow; which God had set in the clouds, and now appointed as a sign of the covenant between Himself and Noah and his descendants.

Q. How old was Noah at the time of the flood?

A. Six hundred years; and he died at the age of nine hundred and fifty.

Q. Who are descended from Noah's Sons?

A. All the nations of the earth.

Q. What did the people undertake soon after the flood?

A. Wishing to make themselves a name, and prevent their being scattered upon the face of the earth, they commenced building a city and a tower in the plain of Shinar, but God prevented its completion, by confounding their language, they, until then, having spoken but one, so that they could not understand each other; hence the city was called Babel, which means confusion.

Q. And what became of the people?

A. God scattered them from thence upon the face of all the earth.

SECTION III.

Q. Who was Terah?

A. One of Shem's descendants; and he had three sons, Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

Q. What became of Haran?

A. He died before his father Terah, in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldees, which is supposed to be Orfah, a town of Mesopotamia, in Asiatic Turkey, leaving a son named Lot.

Q. What were the names of Abram and Nahor's wives?

A. Sarai, who was childless, was Abram's wife; and Nahor's wife was Milcah, daughter of Haran.

Q. Where did Terah go with all his family?

A. To Haran, another city of Mesopotamia, where God appeared to Abram, and told him to leave his father's house, and go to a land that He would show him, where He would make of him a great nation.

Q. Did Abram obey this command?

A. Yes; he took Sarai his wife, and Lot his nephew, and all his property, and went into the land of Canaan, being then seventy-five years old.

Q. Did not the Eternal appear unto Abram in Canaan?

A. Yes, and said, "Unto thy seed will I give this land;" so Abram built an altar unto the Eternal.

Q. Where did he next pitch his tent?

A. Between Bethel and Ai, where he built an altar, and called on the name of the Eternal, and afterwards journeyed southwards.

Q. What country did he next visit?

A. Egypt, having left Canaan on account of a famine

Q. What is a famine?

A. A scarcity of food.

Q. What was the condition of Abram and Lot on leaving Egypt?

A. They were both rich in cattle, but Abram had in addition, silver and gold.

Q. Where did Abram go?

A. To the place where his tent had been previously, between Bethel and Ai, and here he separated from Lot, for their herdmen quarrelled, neither could the land yield sufficient support for their cattle.

Q. What part of the country did Lot choose?

A. The plain of Jordan, because it was well watered; and he dwelt in the city of Sodom, the men of which were very sinful.

Q. What did the Eternal say to Abram after this separation?

A. "Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art, northward and southward, and eastward and westward, for all the land, which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever, and I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth."

Q. Where did Abram then pitch his tent?

A. At Mamre, in Hebron; and built there an altar unto the Eternal.

Q. What took place among the surrounding nations at that time?

A. They were engaged in war with some kingdoms of the east.

Q. What was the result?

A. The king of Sodom and his confederates were defeated, and Lot was taken prisoner, and carried away with all his property; but Abram hearing of it, pursued the eastern kings, defeated them, and thus rescued Lot, and restored his property.

Q. What happend to Abram after Lot's rescue?

A. God appeared unto him in a vision, and promised to protect and reward him; and Abram then complained of being childless.

Q. How did God answer him?

A. He promised him a son, and told him to look up at the stars and count them, if he were able, and said, his seed should be as numerous, and Abram believed in the Eternal, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

Q. What besides did God promise Abram?

A. To give him the land of Canaan as a possession, in proof of which God commanded him to prepare certain animals in a particular manner, and at the setting of the sun an overpowering sleep, and a horror of great darkness fell upon him.

Q. What followed?

A. God told him that his seed should be afflicted four hundred years in a strange land, and at the end of that period He would judge that nation, and bring out Abram's descendants with great possessions.

Q. Who was Abram's first child?

A. Ishmael, son of Hagar, Sarai's Egyptian handmaid.

Q. What happened to Hagar before Ishmael's birth?

A. Sarai ill-treating her, she fled, and was found by an angel of God by a fountain in the desert.

Q. What did the angel tell her?

A. To return to her mistress; and promised her a son, whose name was to be Ishmael (Hebrew Yishmangale,) meaning God

heareth, for God heard her affliction. Abram was eighty-six at the time of this child's birth.

Q. How old was he when God again appeared to him?

A. Ninety-nine; this time God repeated all the promises which he had before made to Abram, and changed his name to Abraham, saying, "For a father of a multitude of nations have I made thee." He also made a covenant to be a God to Abraham and his descendants for ever.

Q. What was the covenant?

A. The circumcision.

Q. What penalty did God pronounce against any male of Abraham's descendants, who should not keep this covenant?

A. That his soul shall be cut off from his people.

Q. What did God say about Sarai, Abraham's wife?

A. He changed her name to Sarah, and promised her a son, who was to be called Isaac (Heb. Yitzchak, laughter) because Abraham, on being promised such a blessing in his old age, laughed or rejoiced.

Q. What did Abraham, after God had finished speaking?

A. He, with Ishmael, his son, who was then thirteen, and all his men-servants, entered into the covenant of the circumcision.

Q. Did the Eternal appear again to Abraham?

A. Yes, at Mamre, and informed him of his intention of destroying Sodom, on account of the great wickedness of its inhabitants.

Q. Did not Abraham intercede for them?

A. Yes, and God said, He would not destroy the city if there were but ten righteous men to be found in it.

Q. How was Lot who dwelt in Sodom, warned of its intended destruction?

A. By two angels or messengers. So he left the city, with his wife and two daughters, and God told him to escape to the mountain, lest he should be swept away.

Q. How did Lot reply?

A. He begged God to allow him to escape to Zoar, and his prayer was granted.

Q. What became of Lot's wife?

A. She looked back on Sodom, and became a pillar of salt.

Q. What cities were destroyed with Sodom?

A. Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, by brimstone and fire, which descended from heaven; their site is now covered by the Dead Sea.

Q. What sons had Lot after the destruction of Sodom?

A. Two, Moab and Ben-ammi, who became the founders of the nations of Moab and Amnon.

Q. How old was Abraham when his promised son Isaac was born?

A. One hundred years.

Q. What became of Isaac's brother, Ishmael?

A. Sarah saw him mocking, and therefore caused Abraham to send him away with his mother Hagar, and they wandered into the desert, where Ishmael would have perished with thirst, had not God caused Hagar to discover a well of water, which revived him.

Q. Where did he dwell after this?

A. In the desert of Paran, and from him the wandering Arabs claim their descent.

Q. What took place after this?

A. God commanded Abraham to take his beloved son Isaac, and offer him up as a burnt-offering, so he rose early in the morning, and took with him Isaac and two young men, his servants, and went to the place where God had told him.

Q. What did Isaac say to his father on the way?

A. "Behold the fire and the wood, but where is any of the flock for a burnt-offering," and Abraham replied, "My son, God Himself will provide."

Q. What did Abraham build on reaching the place?

A. An altar, then he bound Isaac, laid him on the altar, and took the knife to slay him, when an angel of God called to him from heaven, forbidding him to injure the lad, as God now knew that Abraham feared Him, since he had not kept back his only son from Him.

Q. What did Abraham see, on raising his eyes?

A. A ram caught in the thicket by its horns, which he offered up instead of his son.

Q. What did the angel say on calling to Abraham a second time?

A. That because he had not kept back his only son, God would bless him, and multiply his seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand on the sea-shore, and that all the nations of the earth should be blessed in his seed.

Q. Where did Sarah die?

A. At Hebron, in Canaan, at the age of one hundred and twenty-seven, and was buried in the cave of Machpelah, which Abraham purchased of the sons of Heth.

Q. When Abraham was very old what did he make his servant promise?

A. That he would choose a wife for his son Isaac from among Abraham's own family, and to fulfill this promise, the servant went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor, Abraham's brother.

Q. What did the servant when he came to a well of water outside the city?

A. He prayed to God, that the damsel, whom He had appointed for Isaac, should answer his request of drinking from her pitcher, by saying, "Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also."

Q. What happened before the servant had finished speaking?

A. Rebekah, daugther of Bethuel, the son of Milcah and Nahor, came to the well, and gave him drink from her pitcher, and drew water for his camels also.

Q. What did the servant after this?

A. He blessed God, and made Rebekah rich presents, went with her to her father's house, and made known his errand to her brother Laban, and her father Bethuel.

Q. What did they say?

A. "The thing has gone forth from the Eternal, we cannot speak unto thee bad or good. Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her and go, and let her be thy lord's son's wife, as the Eternal had spoken."

Q. When Rebekah was asked, what did she say?

A. "I will go;" so she went with the servant, and became the wife of Isaac, who was then forty years old.

Q. Unto whom did Abraham give all his wealth?

A. Unto Isaac, being his heir, but to the six sons of Keturah, whom he had married after Sarah's death, he gave presents.

Q. How old was Abraham when he died?

A. One hundred and seventy-five years, and was buried in the cave of Machpelah, by his sons Isaac and Ishmael.

SECTION IV.

Q. How many sons had Isaac?

A. Two, Esau and Jacob, the former was Isaac's favourite, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Q. To whom did Esau sell his birthright?

A. To Jacob, for some pottage, one day when he came home faint from the field, as he thought it would be of no use to him should he die of hunger.

Q. Whom did Esau marry?

A. Two Canaanitish women, which grieved his parents very much.

Q. When Isaac was old, and nearly blind, what did he request of Esau, his eldest son?

A. That he should go out hunting to procure him some savoury meat, of which Isaac was fond, that he might bless him before he died.

Q. What happened during Esau's absence?

A. Rebekah, having overheard Isaac, persuaded Jacob to disguise himself as Esau, and take his father the meat, and Isaac, being too blind to discover the deception, bestowed on Jacob the blessing intended for Esau.

Q. Was Esau angry when he returned?

A. Yes, and threatened to slay Jacob; so Rebekah advised him to escape to her brother Laban, who dwelt in Padan-aram.

Q. What did Isaac command Jacob, when he blessed him before his departure?

A. Not to marry a Canaanitish woman, but to choose a wife among his own family, to whom he was now going.

Q. What happened to Jacob while on his journey?

A. He dreamt he saw a ladder, which stood on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven, and that angels of God went up and down on it, and God stood above it, and spoke to him.

Q. What did God say?

A. That He was the Eternal God of Abraham, his father, and the God of Isaac, and that He would give to Jacob the land whereon he was lying, and to his seed, who should be as numerous as the dust of the earth, and in them all the families of the earth should be blessed.

Q. What did Jacob say when he awoke?

A. "Surely the Eternal is in this place, and I knew it not, this is none other than the house of God," so he changed the name of the place from Luz to Beth-el, meaning the house of God.

Q. Where did Jacob go when he left Beth-el?

A. He went to the land of the people of the east, and came to a well in a field, where he met his cousin Rachel, his uncle Laban's daughter, who had come to water her father's flock, for she was a shepherdess.

Q. What did Rachel, when Jacob told her who he was?

A. She went home, and told her father, and he went to meet Jacob, received him kindly and took him home.

Q. Did Jacob obey his father's command of taking a wife from Laban's family?

A. Yes, he married Leah and Rachel, the daughters of Laban, whom he served fourteen years, seven years for Leah, and seven for Rachel, whom he loved most.

Q. After his marriage, what payment did Jacob receive for continuing to serve Laban?

A. Laban gave him part of his flocks and herds, and Jacob became so rich as to excite Laban's jealousy, so God commanded him to depart to his own country after an absence of twenty years.

Q. How many children had he at this time?

A. Eleven sons and one daughter.

Q. When Laban discovered that Jacob had departed with his family and property, what did he?

A. He pursued after him, and overtook him at Mount Gilead, where God appeared to Laban in a dream by night, and commanded him not to injure Jacob, so be entered with him into a covenant of peace, kissed his daughters and grand-children, and returned to his home.

Q. As Jacob pursued his journey, whom did he expect to meet?

A. His brother Esau, with four hundred men, at which he was much afraid, and prayed for God's assistance.

Q. In what manner did he seek to make peace with Esau?

A. He sent him presents.

Q. Where did Jacob's family go after these presents had been sent?

A. They passed the ford Yabbok, and Jacob was left alone.

Q. What then occured to him?

A. An angel wrestled with him, but could not prevail against him, so be touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh, and sprained it; he also blessed him, and changed his name from Jacob to Israel, saying, "For thou hast contended with God and with men, and hast prevailed."

Q. What custom do we, the descendants of Israel, derive from this meeting?

A. We do not eat of the tendon which shrank, which is upon the hollow of the thigh, because the angel touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh, and the tendon shrank.

Q. Whom did Jacob meet after this?

A. Esau; the brothers embraced each other and wept, and Esau after some entreaty accepted Jacob's presents.

Q. Where did God direct Jacob to go?

A. To Bethel; so Jacob desired all who were with him to prepare themselves to accompany him there, to build an altar unto God, so they gave up their idols and ear-rings, and Jacob

buried them under the turpentine tree which was by Shechem.

Q. Did God appear again unto Jacob?

A. Yes; when he came from Padan-aram, and blessed him, and told him, that in future his name should be Israel, and that from him a great nation should be descended, to whom He would give the land which he had promised to Abraham and Isaac.

Q. What nation then is descended from Jacob?

A. The Israelites, now called Jews.

Q. Who died during this journey?

A. Rachel, and left two sons, Joseph and Benjamin: it was directly after the birth of the latter that she expired.

Q. Whom did Jacob see in Hebron?

A. His father Isaac, who died at the age of one hundred and eighty, and was buried by his sons Esau and Jacob.

Q. Where did the brothers go after their father's death?

A. Esau went to Seir or Edom, and there founded the nation of the Edomites, but Jacob dwelt in the land of Canan.

SECTION V.

Q. TELL me the names of Jacob's twelve sons?

A. Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

Q. Of all Israel's children, whom did he love most?

A. Joseph, because he was the son of his old age, and in token of his love, gave him a peculiar garment.

Q. Was Joseph loved by his brothers?

A. No, they hated him, when they observed how much his father favoured him.

Q. What did Joseph request of his brothers?

A. That they should listen to his dreams.

Q. What was his first dream?

A. He dreamed that he and his brothers were binding sheaves in the field, and that his brothers' sheaves bowed to his sheaf, which arose and stood upright.

Q. What did his brothers say when they heard his dream?

A. "Shalt thou indeed reign over us?" and they hated him still more for his dreams.

Q. What was his second dream?

A. He dreamed that the sun, moon, and eleven stars prostrated themselves to him.

Q. What did his father say, when he told him this dream?

A. "What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother, and thy brethren, indeed come to postrate ourselves to thee to the earth?"

Q. What did Israel desire of Joseph?

A. That he should go from Hebron to Shechem, where his brothers were feeding the flocks, to see if it were well with them.

Q. Did Joseph find his brothers in Shechem.

A. No; they had gone to Dothan, so Joseph went to meet them there.

Q. What did his brothers say when they saw him afar off, approaching towards them.

A. "Behold that dreamer cometh. Come now therefore and let us slay him, and cast him into one of the pits, and we will say some evil beast hath eaten him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

Q. Did all the brothers wish to kill Joseph?

A. No; Reuben the eldest advised them not to shed blood, but to cast him in a pit that was in the desert, thinking, he should afterwards be able to deliver him out of their hands, and restore him to his father.

Q. Was Joseph cast into the pit?

A. Yes; but he did not long remain there, for while his brothers were eating there meal, a company of Ishmaelitish merchants passed, and his brother Judah proposed selling him to them, so Joseph was drawn up out of the pit, sold to the Ishmaelites, and carried by them into Egypt.

Q. What did his brothers after this?

A. They took the garment which his father had given him, dipped it in the blood of a goat, and carried it to their father, and asked him if it was his sons' coat.

Q. What did Israel say?

A. "It is my son's garment, an evil beast hath eaten him, Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces," and Israel wept for Joseph, and refused to be comforted.

Q. What became of Joseph, when he arrived in Egypt?

A. Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, bought him, and made him overseer of his house, and God who still protected him, blessed Potiphar's house for Joseph's sake.

Q. What happend to Joseph after some time?

A. He was accused by Potiphar's wife of a crime he had not committed, and cast into prison; but God, who always protects the innocent, gave him favor in the eyes of the officer of the prison, who placed all the prisoners in his charge.

Q. Who were among the prisoners?

A. Pharaoh's chief butler and baker.

Q. What occurred that troubled them?

A. In one night they both dreamed dreams, and told Joseph of it, saying they had no one to interpret them.

Q. What was Joseph's reply?

A. "Do not interpretations belong to God? Relate them to me, I pray you."

Q. What was the interpretation of the chief butler's dream?

A. That in three days Pharaoh would restore him to his former place, and Joseph requested the butler to remember him, and mention him to Pharaoh.

Q. What was the interpretation of the chief baker's dream?

A. That in three days he should be hung.

Q. Did these interpretations come to pass?

A. Yes; but the chief butler did not remember Joseph as he had requested, but forgot him.

Q. What happened some time after this?

A. Pharaoh, king of Egypt, dreamed that he stood by the river, and saw seven fat kine eaten up by seven lean kine, who nevertheless were not improved in appearance; and he awoke, and dreamed again, that he saw seven full ears of corn, swallowed by seven thin ears, and no one could interpret these dreams for Pharaoh.

Q. What did the chief butler then tell Pharaoh?

A. How truly Joseph had interpreted his dream, and that of the chief baker; so Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and told him his dreams, and asked him if he could interpret them.

Q. How did Joseph reply?

A. "Not I, God will answer the peace of Pharaoh."

Q. How did Joseph explain Pharaoh's dream?

A. He said there would be seven years of great plenty, which would be followed by seven years of very severe famine.

Q. What advice did Joseph give Pharaoh?

A. That he should seek out a wise and understanding man, and make him overseer of Egypt, that he might provide during the plentiful years, for the years of famine that were to follow.

Q. What did Pharaoh then say to Joseph?

A. "Since God hath made all this known unto thee, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art, thou shalt be over my house, and to thee shall my people do homage, only in the throne will I be greater than thou."

Q. How did Pharaoh confirm Joseph's rank?

A. He took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and clothed him with garments of fine linen, and

put a gold collar about his neck, and made him ride in the carriage of the second in rank which he had.

Q. How old was Joseph at this time?

A. Thirty years old, and he married the daughter of the priest of On, and had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

Q. How did Joseph provide for the years of famine?

A. By storing up an immense quantity of food in every city, so that when the time of famine came Joseph opened all the storehouses, and there was enough food, not only for the Egyptians, but for all the people of the earth, who came to Joseph to buy grain.

Q. What did Jacob when he found there was corn to be had in Egypt?

A. He desired his sons to go down there to buy grain.

Q. How many of Jacob's sons went?

A. Ten; for Jacob was afraid to send the youngest, Benjamin, lest mischief should befall him.

Q. What did the brothers, when they came to Joseph, the governor of the land.

A. They prostrated themselves before him with their faces to the earth.

Q. Did Joseph know his brothers?

A. Yes; but he made himself strange to them, and spake roughly to them, and they did not recognize him.

Q. What did Joseph then remember?

A. The dreams which he dreamed of them, and he said to them, "Ye are spies."

Q. What was their reply?

A. "Nay, my lord, but to buy grain for food are thy servants come," and they told him that they were twelve brothers, the sons of one man, but that the youngest was with their father, and one was dead.

Q. What did Joseph then do?

A. He put them in prison, where they remained for three days.

Q. What did he then require of them?

A. That they should leave one of their brothers in Egypt, as a pledge that they would return, and bring with them their youngest brother Benjamin, as a proof of the truth of their words.

Q. Which of the brothers remained?

A. Simeon.

Q. How did the brothers feel at this unexpected request?

A. They regarded it as a punishment for the guilt they had practised on their brother Joseph.

Q. What did Joseph command to be put into their sacks, besides the corn they had bought?

A. The money with which they had paid for it.

Q. How did they feel when they found the money?

A. They were afraid, and said one to another, "What is this that God hath done unto us?

Q. What did their father Jacob say when they told him all that had befallen them?

A. "Me ye have bereaved of my children: Joseph is gone, and Simeon is gone, and ye will take Benjamin; all these things are upon me."

Q. What else did he say when Reuben entreated him to allow Benjamin to accompany them into Egypt?

A. "My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he remains alone, if mischief befall him by the way in which ye go, then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave."

Q. When the famine continued, and their corn was consumed, who entreated his father to let the lad go?

A. Judah; who promised to be surety for him; so Israel at last consented, and caused his sons to take with them a present for the governor of Egypt, and the money which had been restored to their bags, as he supposed by mistake.

Q. Where were the brothers taken on their return to Egypt?

A. To Joseph's house; at which they were afraid, because they remembered the money that was restored to their bags, but the steward told them not to fear, treated them kindly, and restored Simeon.

Q. How did Joseph meet his brothers a second time?

A. He inquired of their welfare, and asked after their father.

Q. Did he not notice Benjamin the son of his own mother?

A. Yes, and said, "God be gracious unto thee, my son," and was so affected that he retired to his chamber to weep.

Q. What did Joseph when he had recovered from his weeping?

A. He set them down to a meal, according to their age, and sent them presents, but Benjamin's present was five times as much as the present of all of them.

Q. What did Joseph command his steward to do when they were about to depart?

A. To fill the men's bags with food as much as they could bear, and put every man's money in his bag's mouth, and also to put his silver goblet in the bag's mouth of the youngest.

Q. How did they discover the goblet?

A. Joseph sent his steward after them, who accused them of stealing it, and threatened to keep him with whom it should be found as a servant, then searched their bags, and found it in Benjamin's.

Q. How did the brothers then act?

A. They rent their garments, returned to the city, went to Joseph's house, and fell before him on the earth.

Q. Which of them spoke to Joseph?

A. Judah; and begged Joseph to take him for a servant instead of Benjamin, as he had become surety to his father for the lad's safety.

Q. Had Judah's words any effect on Joseph?

A. Yes; he caused all his servants to leave him, and then made himself known to his brethren, and wept aloud, for his feelings overcame him.

Q. How were his brothers affected?

A. They could not answer him, for they were amazed at his presence.

Q. What then did Joseph say?

A. "Be not grieved nor angry with yourselves, that you sold me hither, for God did sent me before you, for the preservation of life, to prepare for you a subsistence in the earth, to save your lives by a great deliverance."

Q. What did Joseph require of his brothers?

A. That they should tell his father of his condition in Egypt, and bid him come down to him, with his family, and all his possessions, and Pharaoh likewise sent the same message to Israel, and told Joseph to give his brothers wagons and provisions for the way.

Q. When Jacob's sons came to him, and told him all these things, did he believe them?

A. No; but when he saw the wagons, which Joseph had sent to bear him, his spirit revived, and he said, "It is enough, Joseph my son is yet alive, I will go and see him before I die."

Q. What happened to Israel while on his journey to Egypt?

A. God appeared to him at Beer-sheba, where he had stopped to offer sacrifices, and told him not to fear to go into Egypt, for He would be with him, and make of him a great nation.

Q. What was the number of Jacob's family with him in Egypt?

A. Seventy.

Q. How did Joseph meet his father?

A. He fell on his neck and wept, and Israel said, "Now I will fain die, since I have seen thy face, because thou art yet alive."

Q. What part of Egypt did Pharaoh give Jacob and his sons?

A. The land of Goshen, where they dwelt with their flocks and herds, for they were shepherds.

Q. How old was Jacob when he came into Egypt?

A. One hundred and thirty years, and he lived there seventeen years.

Q. What did he desire of Joseph?

A. He made him swear, that he would not bury him in Egypt but in the burying-place of his fathers.

Q. What did Joseph hear after this?

A. That his father was ill, so he went to see him, and took with him his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim.

Q. What did Jacob tell Joseph?

A. All the promises God had made him at Luz in the land of Canaan.

Q. What did he say of Joseph's two sons?

A. That he regarded them as his own sons, saying, "As Reuben and Simeon shall Ephraim and Manasseh be mine," and he blessed them, placing his right hand on the head of Ephraim the younger, and his left on Manasseh the elder.

Q. What did Joseph when he saw this?

A. He was displeased, and wished his father to change his hands; but he the refused saying, Ephraim should be greater.

Q. What did Jacob then do?

A. He called his sons, and desired them to gather themselves together, that he might tell them what should befall them, and then he blessed them, and commanded them to bury him in the cave of Machpelah, after which he expired at the age of one hundred and forty-seven.

Q. What was done with Israel's body?

A. It was embalmed, and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days, and Pharaoh gave Joseph permission to go and bury his father; and he went up, accompanied by a great many Egyptians and Israelites, who on arriving in Canaan mourned seven days.

Q. Where did Jacob's sons bury him?

A. In the cave of Machpelah, as he had commanded them, and then they returned into Egypt.

Q. Of what were Joseph's brothers afraid after their father's death?

A. That Joseph would punish them for the evil they had done him, so they entreated his forgiveness.

Q. How did Joseph reply?

A. He spake kindly to them, and told them, that what they had intended for evil, God had turned into good, by making him the means of preserving many lives.

Q. What did Joseph say unto his brethren before his death?

A. "I die, and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land, unto the land which He sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

Q. What further did Joseph say?

A. "God will surely visit you, and ye shall bring up my bones from hence;" after which he expired at the age of one hundred and ten, having lived to see his great grand-children, and his body was embalmed, and put in a coffin in Egypt.

SECTION VI.

Q. WHAT is the name of the second book of the Bible?

A. Exodus; meaning departure, so called because it contains the account of the departure of the Israelites from Egypt.

Q. You told me that Jacob's family in Egypt consisted of seventy persons; now after the death of Joseph and all his generation, was the number of the Israelites less?

A. No; they increased abundantly, and became a powerful people.

Q. Who now reigned over Egypt?

A. A new king, who knew Joseph not.

Q. What was his name?

A. Pharaoh; the name by which all the Egyptian kings were called.

Q. How did this Pharaoh treat the children of Israel?

A. Very cruelly, and set officers over them, to make them labour very severely; but finding they still increased in number, he ordered all their sons to be destroyed at their birth.

Q. Was this order obeyed?

A. No; so Pharaoh commanded that every son should be cast into the river Nile.

Q. Whom did God raise up to deliver the Israelites from this cruel bondage?

A. Moses, the son of Amram, and Jochebed, of the house of Levi.

Q. How did he escape being drowned, according to Pharaoh's order?

A. His mother concealed him till he was three months old, and then, not being able to hide him any longer, she placed him in an ark of paper reed, which she daubed with bitumen and

pitch, and put it in the flags by the river side, and his sister watched to know what would become of him.

Q. By whom was he found?

A. By Pharaoh's daughter, who pitied him, and gave him to his mother (who had been fetched for that purpose by his sister) to nurse.

Q. What name did she give the child.

A. Moses (Heb. Moshay), saying, "Because I pulled him out of the water."

Q. What happened when Moses was grown up?

A. He went out among his brethren, and saw an Egyptian smiting a Hebrew, so he killed the Egyptian, and secreted him in the sand.

Q. When Pharaoh heard this, what did he seek to do?

A. To slay Moses. But Moses fled into Midian, and dwelt with Jethro, priest of Midian, whose daughter, Zipporah, he married.

Q. Where is Midian.

A. In Arabia Petraea, and it was inhabited by the descendants of Midian, one of the sons of Abraham and Keturah.

Q. How many sons had Moses?

A. Two; Gershom and Eliezer.

Q. How were the children of Israel treated after Moses had fled from Egypt?

A. They were greatly oppressed, and cried for help unto God who heard them, and remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

Q. What occupation did Moses follow, when he dwelt in Midian with Jethro, his father-in-law?

A. He fed Jethro's flock, and one day led it behind the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

Q. What astonishing sight did he see there?

A. A bush that burned, and yet was not destroyed.

Q. What did Moses say when he saw the burning bush?

A. "I will just depart, and see this great sight, why the bush is not consumed."

Q. What happened to Moses when he departed to see?

A. God called unto him, out of the midst of the bush, saying "I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob," and when Moses heard God's voice he screened his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

Q. What did God then tell Moses?

A. That he had seen the affliction of the Israelites in Egypt,

and that he would deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and bring them into a rich and fertile country.

Q. What was this country?

A. The land of Canaan.

Q. What more did God say unto Moses?

A. "Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

Q. What did Moses say unto God.

A. "Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

Q. How did God answer Moses when he spoke thus humbly of himself?

A. God told Moses, that He would be with him.

Q. What did Moses wish to know?

A. What he should say, when the children of Israel, should ask him who had sent him to them, and God told him to answer, "I AM hath sent me unto you," meaning, I am everlasting, I know no change.

Q. What further did God say to Moses?

A. "Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, the Eternal, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you, this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations."

Q. What was Moses to ask of Pharaoh?

A. Permission for the people to go three days journey into the desert, that they might sacrifice to the Eternal, their God.

Q. Did God say Pharaoh would grant his request?

A. God said he would not, but He would stretch out His hand, and smite the Egyptians, and after that Pharaoh would let them go, and they would take with them a great deal of gold, silver, and raiment, belonging to the Egyptians.

Q. After God had said all this, how did Moses answer?

A. That the people would not believe him; so God caused him to perform several miracles, which He said Moses should again perform before the people.

Q. What is a miracle?

A. A wonderful act, performed by the power of God, to prove the truth of an assertion.

Q. Tell me these miracles?

A. Moses' staff was turned into a serpent, which, when he seized, became a staff again; Moses' hand also became leprous as snow, and then again healthy as the other flesh.

Q. What was Moses' next objection to going?

A. That he was not eloquent, but slow of speech.

Q. How did God answer him?

A. "Who hath made man's mouth, or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the open-eyed, or the blind? Have not I, the Eternal? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say."

Q. Did Moses still object to go?

A. Yes; at which God was very angry, and said that his brother Aaron, who was eloquent should go with him, and speak for him.

Q. Did Moses after that any longer resist the will of God?

A. No; he obeyed the command of God.

Q. Where did Moses and Aaron meet after this?

A. In the mountain of God; and when Moses had told Aaron all that had occurred to him, they went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel, and Aaron repeated all the words of the Eternal, and did the signs in the eyes of the people, who on hearing that God had seen their affliction, bowed their heads and prostrated themselves.

Q. What answer did Pharaoh make when Moses and Aaron delivered the message they had received from God?

A. "Who is the Eternal, whose voice I am to obey, to let Israel go? I know not the Eternal, neither will I let Israel go?" And when they repeated the message, he said the Israelites were idle, and commanded more burdens to be laid upon them.

Q. What did Moses when he saw the people were more oppressed.

A. He complained to the Eternal, saying, "Wherefore is it that thou hast sent me?" and God again repeated all his gracious promises.

Q. What did the children of Israel when Moses told them this?

A. They hearkened not unto him, through anguish of spirit, and through hard service.

Q. How old were Moses and Aaron when they spoke to Pharaoh?

A. Moses was eighty, and Aaron was eighty-three.

Q. What miracle was performed when they went unto Pharaoh a second time?

A. Aaron cast down his staff, and it became a serpent, and swallowed up the staves of Pharaoh's wise men.

Q. By what means did God compel Pharaoh to let the Israelites go?

A. God sent plagues upon him and his people.

Q. How many plagues were sent upon the Egyptians before they would let Israel go?

A. Ten; while each one lasted, Pharaoh was very penitent, but on its being removed, he hardened his heart.

Q. Repeat the ten plagues?

A.
1. All the waters of Egypt were turned into blood.
2. The land was covered with frogs.
3. God turned the dust of the land into gnats.
4. An immense number of insects.
5. All the cattle of Egypt died.
6. The Egyptians were afflicted with boils and blains.
7. A very heavy storm of thunder and hail, with fire running along upon the ground.
8. A swarm of locusts.
9. Thick darkness for three days in all the land of Egypt.
10. The slaying of the first-born of the Egyptians.

Q. What part of Egypt alone escaped these plagues?

A. The land of Goshen, where the Israelites dwelt.

Q. What was Moses instructed to tell the Israelites before the infliction of the last plague?

A. To ask for vessels of silver and gold.

Q. What did God say concerning the month in which this took place?

A. "This month shall be unto you the beginning of months, it shall be the first month of the year to you."

Q. What was Moses at the same time instructed to tell the children of Israel?

A. That they should slaughter a lamb, and sprinkle the blood on the door-posts of their houses, that when the Eternal passed through Egypt to slay the first-born of the Egyptians, He would pass over the houses upon which He saw the blood, and not destroy their first-born.

Q. How were the children of Israel to commemorate this great event when they came to the promised land?

A. By keeping the service of the Passover, and explaining its meaning to their children, the first-born of whom they were commanded to devote to God.

Q. At what time were the first-born of the Egyptians slain?

A. At midnight, and Pharaoh rose in the night, and called for Moses and Aaron, and commanded them to depart with the children of Israel.

Q. How were the people compelled to leave Egypt.

A. Very hastily, because the Egyptians said, "We are all dead men," and the Israelites were obliged to take with them

their dough, before it was leavened; they also carried away vessels of silver and gold, and raiment belonging to the Egyptians.

Q. How long had the Israelites dwelt in Egypt?

A. Four hundred and thirty years.

Q. How many left Egypt?

A. About six hundred thousand men, besides women and children.

Q. What food had they?

A. They baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought forth out of Egypt; it was not leavened, for they were driven out of Egypt, and could not tarry.

Q. What did Moses say to the people respecting this?

A. "Remember this day in which ye went out from Egypt, out of the house of servants: for, by strength of hand, the Eternal brought you out thence, nothing leavened shall be eaten. Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, nothing leavened shall be seen with thee."

Q. Did God lead the people the nearest way, through the land of the Philistines?

A. No; for God said, "Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt," so He led them by the way of the desert of the Red Sea.

Q. What did Moses take with him from Egypt?

A. The bones of Joseph, as he had requested.

Q. How did the Eternal guide the people?

A. In a column of cloud by day, and in a column of fire to give them light by night.

Q. What did the king of Egypt when he heard that the people had fled?

A. He pursued them with his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, and when the Israelites saw the Egyptians they were sore afraid, and cried unto the Eternal, and complained to Moses.

Q. How did Moses comfort them?

A. He told them not to fear, for the Eternal would fight for them.

Q. What did God say to Moses?

A. That the Israelites should pass through the sea in safety, and that He would make the Egyptians know, that He was the Eternal.

Q. What separated the Egyptians from the Israelites by night?

A. The column of cloud which appeared to them as a cloud of darkness, but gave light to the Israelites.

Q. What did God tell Moses to do?

A. To stretch out his hand over the sea, and divide it, and the waters were divided, so that the Israelites passed through the midst of the sea on dry ground.

Q. What became of the Egyptians?

A. They pursued the people into the midst of the sea, but the waters returned and drowned them all.

Q. What is the name of the sea in which Pharaoh and his army were drowned?

A. The Red Sea, between Egypt and Arabia.

Q. How did the Israelites acknowledge their deliverance?

A. In a song of praise to God, and Miriam the prophetess, sister of Aaron, took the timbrel, and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances, and likewise sang unto God.

SECTION VII.

Q. WHERE did Moses lead the Israelites from the Red Sea?

A. To the desert of Schur, where they were three days without water.

Q. To what place did they then come?

A. To Marah, so called from the bitterness of its waters (Heb.) Mar, meaning bitter.

Q. What did Moses when the people murmured, saying, "What shall we drink?"

A. He cried unto God, who showed him a wood which he cast into the waters, and they became sweet.

Q. What desert did they afterwards enter?

A. The desert of Sin, where the whole congregation of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron, and said, they had been brought forth into the desert to be killed by famine.

Q. How were their murmurings satisfied?

A. God sent them quails for flesh, and manna for bread?

Q. Where did they find the manna?

A. On the ground; and it was so called, because when the Israelites first seen it, they said one to another (Heb.) "Mann Hoo," "What is it," for they knew not what it was.

Q. What was manna like?

A. It was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like flat cakes, made with honey.

Q. When did they collect it?

A. Every morning, excepting the Sabbath, for which day they provided, by collecting a double quantity on the preceding day.

Q. What did Moses say on the sixth day?

A. "This is that which the Eternal hath said. A strict rest of the Sabbath of holiness, is to-morrow unto the Eternal, bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe to day."

Q. How long did the Israelites eat manna?

A. Forty years, till they came to Canaan.

Q. Where did the people go when they left the desert of Sin?

A. To Rephidim; where, being in great want of water, they murmured against Moses, who was directed by God to smite a crag in Horeb, when the water gushed out.

Q. What event happened to the Israelites in Rephidim?

A. Amalek attacked them, but the Israelitish forces, commanded by Joshua, completely defeated him.

Q. What was Amelek?

A. A tribe of wandering Arabs, supposed to have inhabited Stony Arabia.

Q. Who visited Moses in this place?

A. Jethro, his father-in-law, who, when he saw Moses judging the people the whole day, said that it was too much labour for him, and advised him to choose men of ability for assistant judges.

Q. Where did Jethro go after this?

A. He returned to his own country, and the people journeyed to the desert of Sinai, and encamped before the mountain.

Q. What did God then say to the people through Moses?

A. "Ye have seen what I did unto Egypt, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto Myself, now therefore if ye will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ye shall be a select portion unto Me above all the people: for all the earth is Mine, and ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation."

Q. How did the people answer?

A. "All that the Eternal hath spoken we will do!"

Q What after this were they commanded to do?

A. To sanctify themselves, and be ready against the third day: for on that day, the Eternal would come down before the eyes of all the people upon Mount Sinai, to give the law to his people Israel.

Q. What was the state of the Mount on the morning of the third day?

A. There were thunders and lightnings, and a heavy cloud upon the mountain, and the voice of the cornet exceeding strong, so that all the people that were in the camp trembled.

Q. Where did they stand?

A. At the nether part of the mountain.

Q. What was the appearance of Mount Sinai when the Eternal descended upon it?

A. It was altogether on a smoke, because He went down upon it in fire, and the whole mount trembled greatly.

Q. What event took place on Mount Sinai?

A. God gave there His law to Israel.

Q. How many commandments did God speak to Israel?

A. Ten.

Q. Repeat them.

A. 1. "I am the Eternal thy God, who hath brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of servants."

2. "Thou shalt have no other gods before my face. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in the heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not prostrate thyself to them, nor serve them: For I, the Eternal thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generations of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousand generations of them that love me, and keep my commandments."

3. "Thou shalt not take the name of the Eternal thy God in vain; for the Eternal will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain."

5. "Remember the Sabbath day, to sanctify it. Six days mayest thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Eternal, thy God: on it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy beast, nor the stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Eternal made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested on the seventh day:

therefore, the Eternal blessed the Sabbath day, and sanctified it."

5. "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the ground which the Eternal thy God giveth thee."

6. "Thou shalt not murder."

7. "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

8. "Thou shalt not steal."

9. "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy fellow-man."

10. "Thou shalt not covet thy fellow-man's house; thou shalt not covet thy fellow-man's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor any of his herd, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy fellow-man's."

Q. What did the people on seeing the wondrous state of the mountain?

A. They moved and stood afar off, and said unto Moses, "Speak thou with us, and we will hear, but let not God speak with us, lest we die"

Q. How did Moses answer them?

A. "Fear not, for God is come in order to try you, and that His fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not."

Q. What did Moses then?

A. Stepped near to the thick darkness where God was, and there the Eternal communicated to him the rest of the law.

Q. Tell me some laws concerning kindness to our fellow-creatures

A. Remembering that we were strangers in the land of Egypt, we are commanded not to oppress a stranger, neither may we afflict a widow, or orphan. We are also taught to be charitable to the poor, and to honour the old.

Q How were the people to be brought into Canaan?

A. God said, He would send a messenger before them, to keep them in the way, and bring them into the place which he had prepared.

Q. After the law had been given to Moses, what did he?

A. He wrote all the words of the Eternal in a book, and read them to the people, and they answered, "All that the Eternal hath spoken will we do and hearken."

Q. Where was Moses commanded to go after the delivery of the portion of the law which you have already told me?

A. Into the mountain, to receive the law, and the commandments which God had written on the tablets of stone?

Q. How long did Moses remain in the mountain?

A. Forty days and forty nights, and God then shewed him the patterns of the sanctuary and its vessels which the Israelites were to make.

Q. How was the sanctuary or tent to be divided?

A. Into two parts, called the holy place, and the most holy place, or holy of holies?

Q. What was to be placed in the most holy place?

A. The ark of the testimony, which was a box made of acacia wood, overlaid with gold, to contain the testimony given by God with a lamp continually burning before it.

Q. Whom was Moses to appoint as priests?

A. Aaron and his sons, for whom garments of holiness were to be made.

Q. What did God say he would sanctify?

A. The appointed tent and the altar, also, both Aaron and his sons to minister to Him as priests.

Q. What further did God say?

A. "I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel, and will be their God, and they shall know, that I am the Eternal their God, who brought them forth ont from land of Egypt, that I may dwell in the midst of them. I am the Eternal their God."

Q. What law did God repeat before he finished speaking with Moses?

A. The keeping holy of the seventh day; for He said, "It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever, for in six days the Eternal made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He left off and was refreshed."

Q. What did God give Moses, when He finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai?

A. Two tablets of testimony; tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.

Q. What became of these tablets?

A. The people, impatient at Moses' delay, had caused Aaron to make them a golden calf, to which they were sacrificing when he descended from the mountain, and this idolatry so excited his anger, that he cast down the tablets and broke them.

Q. What did he do with the calf?

A. He burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, which

he threw into the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.

Q. What did Moses then say?

A. "Who is for the Eternal, let him come unto me!"

Q. Who gathered themselves unto him?

A. The sons of Levi; and Moses commanded them to pass through the people and slay them, and there fell about three thousand, after which Moses prayed to God to forgive them.

Q. How were the two tablets replaced?

A. Moses prepared two others, and God wrote the commandments upon them.

Q. How long was Moses in the Mount with God at the second writing of the commandments?

A. Forty days and forty nights, and when he came down, his face beamed, and the people were afraid to step nigh unto him, so he covered it with a veil, and then told them all the words of the Eternal.

Q. What did he say about the Sabbath besides enjoining rest from work?

A. "Ye shall not kindle a fire throughout your habitations on the Sabbath day."

Q. What did Moses then tell besides?

A. That all who were willing hearted, should bring offerings for the making of the ark, its appointend tent, and its vessels, and the people brought much more than enough for the service of the work which had been commanded.

Q. When was Moses directed to set up the appointed tent?

A. On the first day of the first month of the second year after the Exodus, and he placed therein the ark of the testimony, and all its vessels, and anointed Aaron and his sons for priests.

Q. What then covered the appointed tent?

A. A cloud; and the glory of the Eternal filled the dwelling, so that Moses was not able to enter.

Q. Did the cloud continue to cover the dwelling?

A. No; it was taken up when the children of Israel journeyed, and when it rested upon it they rested.

SECTION VIII.

Q. WHAT is the name of the third book of the Bible?

A. Leviticus.

Q. Of what does it principally consist?

A. Of laws concerning the service in the appointend tent; of

birds and animals which may be eaten, and such as may not be eaten; the festivals and many other religious institutions.

Q. What animals may we eat?

A. Among beasts, such as divide the hoof, and are cloven-hoofed, and chew the cud; fish that have fins and scales; and all birds except those enumerated in Lev. xi. from v. 13 to 19; and of prolific creatures among fowl which go upon all four, such as have legs above their feet to leap withal upon the earth.

Q. What are we strictly forbidden to eat?

A. Blood, also carrion or any thing that is torn, or considered as though torn, that is, not properly killed.

Q. What did Aaron when he had been fully prepared for holy office?

A. He made the offerings commanded, and blessed the people, and the glory of the Eternal appeared unto all the people.

Q. What then happened?

A. There went out fire from before the Eternal which consumed the burnt-offering lying upon the altar.

Q. What then did Nadab and Abihu, sons of Aaron?

A. They offered strange fire before the Eternal.

Q. What is meant by strange fire?

A. That which God had not commanded.

Q. How were they punished?

A. There went out fire from the Eternal and devoured them.

Q. What is to be found in the twenty-third chapter of Leviticus?

A. A recapitulation of the festivals which the Israelites are to keep unto the Eternal.

Q. Which is the first?

A. The Passover (Pesach), which commences on the fourteenth day of the first month (Nissan), and lasts eight days, during which time we eat unleavened bread, in commemoration of the departure of the Israelites from Egypt.

Q. What is the second?

A. The Pentecost, or Festival of the Harvest, called also the Festival of Weeks (Heb. Shabbuoth), because we count seven complete weeks from the second night of Passover till this festival, which falls on the sixth and seventh of the third month, Sivan.

Q. What memorable event took place on this festival?

A. The Creator appeared on Mount Sinai and gave to our ancestors the Ten Commandments.

Q. Which is the third festival?

A. That now called New Year (Heb. Rosh Hashanah), on

the first and second days of the seventh month Tishri, days of strict rest, a memorial of sounding the cornet.

Q. How are we to keep the tenth day of the same month?

A. As a day of expiation (Youm Hakkippurim), on which we hold a solemn fast; for God has said, whatsoever soul it be, that shall not fast on that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people; and whatsoever soul it be, that doeth any work on that same day, the same soul will He destroy from among his people.

Q. What commences on the fifteenth day of the same month?

A. The festival of Tabernacles (Succoth), when we are commanded to abide in booths seven days, in commemoration of the time when God made the children of Israel to abide in booths, when He brought them out of the land of Egypt. The eighth and ninth days of this festival are also kept very sacred.

SECTION IX.

Q What is the fourth book of the Bible?

A. Numbers.

Q. Who was commanded to number the children of Israel?

A. Moses; and he numbered them in their tribes in the desert of Sinai.

Q What tribe was not numbered with others, but by itself?

A. The tribe of Levi; who were charged to keep the dwelling of testimony, and all its vessels, and were commanded to encamp round it.

Q. How were the other tribes to encamp in the desert?

A. Separately, each man by his own standard, at some distance around the appointed tent.

Q. How did the people know when to journey?

A. When the cloud was taken from the dwelling of testimony.

Q. What went before them?

A. The ark of the covenant to search out a resting place for them.

Q. What did Moses say when the Ark went forward?

A. "Rise up, Eternal, and let thine enemies be scattered, and let them that hate thee, flee before thee."

Q. What did he say when it rested?

A. "Return, O Eternal, unto the myriads of thousands of Israel."

Q. Where did the people again complain?

A. At Taberah.

Q. How were they punished?

A The fire of the Eternal consumed many of them, but at the prayer of Moses it sank down.

Q. Why did the people again complain?

A. For the want of flesh to eat; so God sent them quails, but chastised their discontent, by smiting them with a very great slaughter; so the place was called Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people that lusted.

Q. Where did the people abide after leaving Kibroth-hattaavah?

A. At Hazeroth; where Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses, because of the Cushite woman, whom he had married.

Q How were they punished for speaking against God's faithful servant?

A. Miriam was afflicted with leprosy, but Moses being very meek, entreated God to heal her.

Q. Was she cured immediately?

A. No; she was shut out from the camp seven days, for lepers were not allowed to associate with the rest of the community.

Q. Where did the people encamp after leaving Hazeroth?

A. In the desert of Paran; whence Moses was commanded to send out twelve men, one from each tribe, to search the land of Canaan.

Q. What was the result of the search?

A. The spies were absent forty days, and on their return brought with them luxuriant fruit, the produce of the country, which they described as very rich and fertile, but its people powerful, and its cities fortified and very great.

Q. What did Caleb, one of the spies, say?

A. "Let us go up at once, and posses it, for we are well able to overcome it;" but the other spies objected, saying, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we."

Q. What effect had this evil report on the people?

A. They went and said, "Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt."

Q. Who endeavoured to dissuade them from this?

A. Two of the spies, Caleb and Joshua; but the people would not listen to them, but threatened to stone them.

Q. How were they punished for their want of confidence in God?

A. God declared that not one of that generation, with the exception of Caleb and Joshua, should enter Canaan, but should be condemned to wander in the desert forty years.

Q. Why was this period of time appointed?

A. Because the spies had been forty days searching the land, and God said they should wander one year for each day.

Q. What became of the men who brought the evil report?

A. They died of the plague.

Q. What was done to the man who was found picking up wood on the Sabbath day?

A. He was stoned to death.

Q. What did God then command Moses to tell the people?

A. That they should make fringes on the borders of their garments, and put a purple thread upon the fringes, that when they saw it, they might remember, and do all of God's commandments.

Q. Who rebelled at this time against Moses and Aaron?

A. Korah, one of the Levites, and with him Dathan, Abiram, and On, and two hundred and fifty other princes, who accused them of taking too much upon themselves.

Q. How were they punished?

A. The earth opened, and swallowed Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, and there came out a fire from the Eternal, which consumed the two hundred and fifty princes.

Q. What did the people say to Moses and Aaron the next day?

A. "Ye have put to the death people of the Eternal."

Q. Were they punished for this?

A. Yes; fourteen thousand seven hundred died of the plague, which, on Aaron making an expiation for them, was restrained.

Q. What sign did God appoint to prevent the future murmurings of the people?

A. He commanded them to bring into the appointed tent twelve staves, one for each tribe, each man's name upon his staff, and said He would cause that man's staff to blossom whom He should choose.

Q. Whose staff blossomed?

A. Aaron's, and it brought forth almonds.

Q. Where did the whole congregation then go?

A. To the desert of Sin, and abode in Kadesh, where Miriam died.

Q. Of what were the people in want at Kadesh?

A. Of water, which Moses was directed to procure, by speaking to the rock that was before them.

Q. How did he obey this command?

A. He smote the rock twice, and the water came out abundantly.

Q. Was not God angry with Moses and Aaron, for striking the rock, instead of speaking to it as He had commanded?

A. Yes; and as a punishment for their not having strictly obeyed Him, He said they should not bring the people into the promised land.

Q. What was the water called?

A. The water of Meribah; because the children of Israel quarrelled with the Eternal, and he was sanctified in them.

Q. Where did the people go when they journeyed from Kadesh?

A. To Mount Hor; where Aaron died, at the age of one hundred and twenty three years, and the people mourned for him thirty days.

Q. Who succeeded him as high-priest?

A. Eleazer, his son.

Q. Of what did the Israelites next complain?

A. Of want of bread; for they disliked the manna, and God punished them for complaining by sending burning serpents among them, which bit them, so that many died.

Q. What did they then acknowledge?

A. That they had sinned, and came to Moses, and requested him to pray to God to remove the serpents from them.

Q. How did God answer this prayer?

A. He told Moses to make a serpent of copper, and put it upon a banner, so that every one who had been bitten should recover when he saw it.

Q. After the Israelites had been journeying some time, through whose land did they ask permission to pass?

A. That of Sihon, king of the Amorites; but he refused, and fought a battle with them, in which the Israelites were victorious, and took possession of his land.

Q. Who then came out to fight against Israel?

A. Og, king of Bashan, but was utterly defeated.

Q. Where did the people next encamp?

A. On the plains of Moab, on this side of the Jordan by Jericho.

Q. How did the Moabites feel, when they saw all that had been done to the Amorites, and how numerous the people were?

A. They were sore afraid, and their king Balak sent unto Balaam, the prophet, to come and curse Israel.

Q. What happened to Balaam as he was going to Balak?

A. An angel of the Eternal stood in his way, and was perceived by the ass on which Balaam rode, and she crouched under him.

Q. What followed?

A. When Balaam, not perceiving the angel, smote the ass

three times, God caused her to speak, and reprove him for his cruelty, and then Balaam likewise perceived the angel who told him to go, but only to speak what God should direct him.

Q. What did Balaam when Balak showed him the Israelites encamped in the plain, and told him to curse them?

A. He blessed them three times, and predicted their future prosperity, at which Balak was very angry, and sent him away.

Q. What became of Balaam?

A. He was slain some time after, when the Midianites were destroyed by Israel.

Q What sin did the Israelites commit while abiding in Shittim?

A. They worshipped the gods of Moab, and where punished by a pestilence, which destroyed twenty-four thousand.

Q. What was Moses commanded to do after the pestilence had ceased?

A. To number the people; and he numbered them in the plains of Moab.

Q. Were they the same men whom Moses had numbered in the desert of Sinai?

A. No; they had, as God had threatened, all died in the desert, with the exception of Caleb and Joshua.

Q. In what were the tribes of Reuben and Gad very rich?

A. In cattle; and when they saw that the land on the east side of the Jordan was suited for cattle, they entreated Moses to give it to them for a possession, and not to let them cross the Jordan.

Q. Was Moses pleased at this request?

A. No; he reproached them for discouraging the people, and compared their conduct to that of the spies who had searched Canaan.

Q. Upon what condition did Moses grant their request?

A. That they should place their wives, children, and cattle in safety, but that they themselves should pass over Jordan with the other tribes, and assist in conquering the land.

Q. What were the Israelites commanded to do when they had passed the Jordan, and entered the land of Canaan?

A. They were to dispossess the inhabitants of the land, and to destroy all their idols, and divide the land among themselves, each tribe possessing a certain portion.

Q. Who were appointed to divide the land?

A. Eleazar, the priest, and Joshua, the Son of Nun.

Q. How many cities were to be appointed for the Levites?

A. Forty-eight.

SECTION X.

Q. WHAT is the name of the fifth Book of the Bible?

A. Deuteronomy.

Q. What does it record?

A. The rehearsal which Moses made to the people, at the end of the fortieth year of their journeying through the desert, of all that had occurred during that time, and of the laws which had been delivered to them.

Q. What did Moses say concerning the law?

A. "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall you diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Eternal, your God, which I command you."

Q. What punishment did Moses announce against the people should they forget God's covenant?

A. That they should perish from the land of their possession, and should be scattered among other nations, and be few in number

Q. Were they always to remain in this miserable condition?

A. Not if they were truely penitent, for as Moses says, "But if thence thou shalt seek the Eternal, thy God, thou shalt find Him, if thou seek Him with all thy heart, and with all thy soul."

Q. Why are we above all people so peculiarly called upon to obey strictly the law of God?

A. Because we were chosen above all people to witness God's wonders, as it is said, "Hath God tried to go, and take Him a nation from the midst of another nation by trials, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a strong hand, and by a stretched-out arm, and by great dread, according to all that the Eternal, your God, did for you in Egypt, before your eyes?"

Q. What further is said upon this subject?

A. "Unto thee it was shown, that thou mayest know that the Eternal, He is God, there is none else besides Him, out of heaven He made thee to hear His voice, that He might instruct thee, and upon earth He showed thee His great fire, and thou heardest His words out of the midst of the same."

Q. Why did Moses after this repeat to the people their many rebellions?

A. Because he thought that in time to come they might imagine that it was from their own righteousness that the Eternal had given them the land, and driven out its original inhabitants.

Q. Repeat his words as they are written in the Bible.

A. "Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thy heart dost thou go to possess their land, but for the wickedness

of these nations the Eternal thy God doth dispossess them from before thee, and that He may perform the word which the Eternal sware unto thy fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jocob."

Q. What further did Moses tell them?

A. The blessings that would attend them, if they were obedient to God's command, and the curses that would fall upon them, if they disobeyed them.

Q. And if the people, being scattered among other nations according to the curse for disobedience, should return unto God, and obey His law, how does Moses say God will treat them?

A. "Then the Eternal thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion on thee, and will return and gather thee from all the people, whither the Eternal thy God hath scattered thee."

Q. Is the law very difficult to be learned?

A. No; for as it says in the Bible, "For this commandment, which I command thee this day, is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off; it is not in the Heaven, that thou shouldst say, 'Who shall go up for us to the Heaven, and take it unto us, and let us hear that we may do it', neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldst say, 'Who shall pass over the sea for us, and take it unto us, and let us hear it, that we may do it', but the word is very nigh unto thee in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it."

Q. What did Moses after he had repeated all the words of the law?

A. He commanded Joshua to be strong and firm, for God had appointed him to lead the people into the promised land.

Q. What did Moses command the Levites to do with the book of the law, which he had written?

A. To put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the Eternal.

Q. What did Moses after all these things?

A. He wrote a sublime song which he taught the children of Israel, and pronounced a blessing on each of the twelve tribes.

Q. Where did he go after he had blessed the people?

A. Up to Mount Nebo, in the land of Moab, whence God showed him all the land of promise.

Q. What then happened to him?

A. He died at the age of one hundred and twenty, and was buried in a glen in the land of Moab, but no one knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day, and the people mourned for him thirty days.

Q. Repeat the names of the books of the Bible, which we have now gone through?

A. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Q. By what name are these five books known?

A. The Pentateuch, or five books of Moses.

SECTION XI.

Q. What did the Eternal say to Joshua after the death of Moses?

A. That he would be with him as He had been with Moses, and exhorted him to be strong and firm, and to obey the law strictly, for he had appointed him leader of the people.

Q. Whom did Joshua send out of Shittim?

A. Two men to spy out Jericho, and they lodged there with a woman, named Rahab; and when the king of Jericho heard it, he ordered her to deliver them up to him, but she concealed them, and told him they had escaped.

Q What did she demand of them for her kindness?

A. That when they came to possess the land, they should save her, and her family, to which the spies assented.

Q. By what means did the Eternal magnify Joshua in the sight of the people?

A. By causing them to pass the river Jordan on dry ground, in commemoration of which, they took twelve stones out of the midst of Jordan, and set them up at Gilgal, where they next encamped.

Q. What took place here?

A. The people entered into the covenant of the circumcision, and kept the festival of the Passover; here also they ate of the produce of the land for the first time, as the manna ceased when they entered Canaan.

Q. What city did the Israelites first take in Canaan, and how did they gain possession thereof?

A. Jericho; they encompassed it as they had been commanded for seven days, bearing with them the ark of the Eternal, preceded by seven priests with cornets, and on the seventh day, the priests blew the cornets, the people shouted, and the walls of Jericho fell down.

Q. What became of the people of Jericho?

A. They were all slain, except Rahab, and her family, and the Israelites burnt the city, and all that it contained, except the silver and gold, and vessels of copper and iron, which were put into the treasury of the house of the Eternal.

Q. Who retained some of this property?

A. Achan, of the tribe of Judah.

Q. How was his sin discovered and punished?

A. The Israelites being defeated before Ai, the next city that they besieged in Canaan, Joshua complained to God, and was told, that this defeat was in consequence of sin among the people; he, therefore, took means to discover the culprit, and caused Achan to be put to death, when the spoil was found with him.

Q. Did Joshua succeed in his next attack upon Ai?

A. Yes; he took and burnt the city, and destroyed twelve thousand of its inhabitants; its king also he caused to be hanged on a tree, until the evening.

Q. What did Joshua after this?

A. He built an altar unto the Eternal God of Israel on Mount Ebal, and read to the people all the words of the law.

Q. What did the kings of Canaan when they heard of the destruction of Jericho and Ai?

A. They gathered themselves together to fight against Israel.

Q. What did the Gibeonites when they heard of Israel's exploits?

A. Wishing to save themselves from the destruction with which all the inhabitants of Canaan where threatened, they deceived Joshua by pretending to have come from a very distant land, and he believing them, and not taking counsel of God, made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live.

Q. When did the Israelites discover that they had been deceived?

A. Three days after they had made the covenant, when they heard that the Gibeonites were near to them.

Q. Did the Israelites then smite them?

A. No; because the princes of the congregation had sworn unto them by the Eternal God of Israel to let them live, but they were not allowed to go entirely unpunished, for they were made bonds-men to the Israelites by Joshua.

Q. What services did the Israelites afterwards render the Gibeonites?

A. They defeated and hanged the five kings of the Amorites who had made war on the Gibeonites when they heard of the treaty made by the latter with Israel.

Q. What miracle did Joshua perform during the fight?

A. He commanded the sun and moon to stand still, and they remained stationary one day.

Q. What did Jabin, king of Hazor, when he heard of the conquests of Joshua.

A. He assembled many of the other kings of the land to fight against Israel, and they encamped at the water of Merom, where Joshua attacked and completly defeated them.

Q. How many kings did the Israelites conquer?

A. Thirty-one.

Q. After this, what did God command Joshua to do?

A. To divide the land by lot among the nine and a half tribes

Q. Why was it not divided among the twelve tribes?

A. Because Moses had given two and a half tribes their inheritance on the other side of Jordan.

Q. To what tribe was no inheritance given?

A. To the tribe of Levi; for they were the priests, and dwelt in their appointed cities.

Q. Where did the Israelites first set up the appointed tent in Canaan?

A. At Shiloh.

Q. When did the two and a half tribes return to the land of their possession on the other side of Jordan?

A. When their brethren, whom they had till now assisted, were settled in their land, and on their return they built an altar, and when the children of Israel heard of it, they assembled at Shiloh, to go up to war against them, because they thought the altar had been built that they might rebel against God.

Q. What explanation did the two and a half tribes give for the erection of the altar?

A. That it might be a witness in time to come, that they, although separated by the Jordan from the other tribes of Israel, had an equal right to join with them in doing the service of the Eternal, and on hearing this account, the people were pleased and desisted from going to battle.

Q. What did Joshua just before his death?

A. He assembled the people at Shechem, and after having exhorted them not to intermarry with the surrounding nations, by which they might be led into the sin of idolatry, he recounted to them the mighty deeds performed by God in their behalf since the time of their ancestor Abraham, and counselled them to fear the Eternal, and serve Him in sincerity and truth.

Q. How did the people answer.

A. That they would remain faithful to God, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt and had performed such great miracles before their eyes, and Joshua then wrote all these words in a book, and raised a stone as a witness saying, "It shall be a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God."

Q. What happened after these things?

A. Joshua died, being one hundred and ten years old.

Q. What did the Israelites with the bones of Joseph, which they had brought up out of Egypt?

A They buried them in Shechem, as Joseph had requested when he foretold the return of the children of Israel to Canaan.

SECTION XII.

Q What was the conduct of the Israelites after the death of Joshua, and all his generations?

A. They forsook the Eternal God of their fathers, and served other gods, and were punished by being delivered into the hands of their enemies; nevertheless, on their repentance, God raised them up judges who rescued them from their oppressors.

Q. Repeat the names of the judges of Israel.

A. Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Barak, Gideon, Abimelech, Tolah, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Samson, Eli, and Samuel; the two latter were likewise high priests.

Q. Who was Othniel, the first judge?

A. The brother of Caleb; and he delivered the people out of the hands of the king of Mesopotamia, whom they had served eight years.

Q. How long did Othniel judge Israel?

A. Forty years; and after his death the people again sinned, and were oppressed by Eglon, king of Moab, for eighteen years.

Q. Who delivered them from Eglon?

A. Ehud, son of Gera, a Benjamite, a left-handed man.

Q. Who judged after Ehud?

A. Shamgar, son of Anath, who smote six hundred Philistines with an ox-goad.

Q. How did the Israelites behave after the death of Ehud?

A. They did evil in the eyes of the Eternal, so they were delivered into the hand of Jabin, king of Canaan, by whom they were oppressed twenty years.

Q. Who judged Israel at this time?

A. Deborah, a prophetess.

Q. Whom did she call upon to deliver the people?

A. Barak; who assembled ten thousand men, and went accompanied by Deborah to fight against the army of Jabin, commanded by his general Sissera.

Q. What was the result of the battle?

A. Jabin's army was totally destroyed. and Jaen the wife of Heber, the Kenite, killed its general Sissera, by driving a tent pin into his temples with a hammer, while he was sleeping in her tent, whither he had fled for concealment.

Q. How did Deborah and Barak celebrate the victory?

A. By a song of thanksgiving to God.

Q. How long after this did the land remain quiet?

A. Forty years; when the people again sinning were delivered into the hands of the Midianites for seven years.

Q. What did they at the end of this time?

A. They cried unto God, and He appointed Gideon as a deliverer.

Q. By what other name is Gideon known?

A. Jerubbaal; because he cast down the altar of the false god Baal.

Q. By what sign was Gideon to know that he was to save Israel?

A. When all the earth was dry, God caused the dew to fall on a piece of wool only, placed in the threshing floor by Gideon, and again caused the fleece to be dry when there was dew on all the ground.

Q. What did God say to Gideon when a very numerous army assembled to fight the Midianites?

A. God said, it was too numerous, for the people might say, they had saved themselves; Gideon was therefore commanded to proclaim that all those who were afraid might depart.

Q How many took advantage of this proclamation?

A Twenty-two thousand, and there then remained ten thousand?

Q. Was this number considered small enough?

A. No; so Gideon was commanded to bring the people down to the water, and to select those only who should lap the water with their tongues.

Q. How many were chosen?

A. Three hundred; and God delivered the Midianites into the hands of these few.

Q. What means did Gideon employ to obtain the victory.

A. He divided his men into three companies, and furnished each man with a cornet and an empty pitcher containing a torch, and when they surrounded the enemies' camp, they blew their cornets, and brake their pitchers, exclaiming, "the sword of the Eternal and Gideon," when the Midianites in their terror fell upon each other.

Q. What did the men of Israel desire after this conquest?

A. That Gideon should govern them, but he refused saying,

"The Eternal shall govern you;" and the country was in peace forty years during the days of Gideon.

Q. Who ruled after him?

A. His son Abimelech, who in order to become ruler, slew all his brothers, except Jotham, the youngest, who escaped.

Q. What happened when Abimelech had reigned three years?

A. The people of Shechem, who had raised him to this dignity revolted, incited by Gaal, the son of Ebed, but Abimelech defeated Gaal, slew all the people of Shechem, pulled it down and scattered salt on it.

Q. What became of Abimelech?

A. While he was attempting to set fire to a tower in Thebez, a woman cast a stone upon his head and wounded him, but not wishing it to be said that a woman slew him, he requested his armour-bearer to kill him with his sword. Thus was Abimelech punished for slaying his brothers.

Q. Who judged Israel after Abimelech?

A. Tolah, of the tribe of Issachar, who was judge twenty-three years, and Jair, the Gileadite, who judged Israel twenty-two years.

Q. What happened after the death of the latter?

A. The people fell into idolatry, and were delivered into the hands of the Philistines and Ammonites, who oppressed them eighteen years.

Q. How were they rescued?

A. They repented of their sins, and assembled together, and were led against the Ammonites by Jephthah, a Gileadite, a great hero, who judged Israel six years.

Q. What incident distinguished this campaign?

A. Jephthah had vowed that if he returned victorious, he would offer up to God whoever came forth out of his house to meet him. His only child, a daughter, being the first who met him, Jephthah did unto her according to his vow.

Q. Who succeeded Jephthah?

A. Ibzan, of Bethlehem, judged seven years, Elon, a Zebulonite, ten years, and Abdon, the son of Hillel, the Pirathonite, eight years.

Q. How did the children of Israel now conduct themselves?

A. They again did evil in the eyes of the Eternal, and were oppressed by the Philistines forty years.

Q. What happened at this time?

A. An angel appeared unto Manoah, of the tribe of Dan, and told him that he should have a son, who should be a Nazarite, and that he should save Israel out of the hands of the Philistines.

Q. What was a Nazarite?

A. A person who devoted himself to the service of God by abstaining from wine and other strong drinks, allowing his hair to grow, and leading a very pure life.

Q. What was the name of Manoah's promised child?

A. Samson.

Q. For what was Samson remarkable?

A. For his great strength; for once when he was a prisoner among the Philistines, he burst asunder the cords with which he was bound, and slew a thousand of his enemies with the cheek-bone of an ass.

Q. What other proof of his strength did he give?

A. He carried the gates of the city of Gaza away upon his shoulders.

Q. How did the Philistines at last get Samson in their power?

A. They bribed a woman, whose name was Delilah, to discover in what his great strength lay, and when he told her it was in his hair, she cut it off while he slept, and he became weak as another man; so the Philistines put out his eyes, bound him with fetters of copper, and made him labour within the prison-house.

Q. What became of Samson?

A. The Philistines having assembled to sacrifice to their god, Dagon called for Samson to amuse them, and while thus engaged he prayed to God to strengthen him, that he might be avenged on his enemies for the loss of his eyes, and clasping the two middle columns upon which the house stood, he pulled it down, and crushed himself, with all the people that were within the building.

Q. How long did Samson judge Israel?

A. Twenty years.

SECTION XIII.

Q. WHEN did Ruth live?

A. During the time of the judges.

Q. What was she?

A. A Moabitess, whom Mahlon, an Israelite, had married during his sojurn in Moab, whither he had gone with his father's family, on account of a famine in Palestine.

Q. Did the family continue long in Moab?

A. No; only ten years, for the father Elimelech, and his two sons dying, left Noami the mother, a widow, and childless, so she resolved to return to her own country Palestine, and endea-

vored to persuade her two daughters-in-law to remain in Moab, one consented, but Ruth refused to leave her.

Q. What became of Ruth on arriving in Palestine?

A. While gleaning in the field for her own and Naomi's support, she was seen by Boaz (a relation of Elimelech) who conceived an affection for her, and married her.

Q. What distinguished person was descended from Ruth?

A. Our great king David, who was her great-grandson.

SECTION XIV.

Q. WHO was Hannah?

A. One of the wives of Elkanah, the Levite.

Q. How many wives then had Elkanah?

A. Two; the name of the other was Penninah, who had children, and taunted Hannah, because she was childless.

Q. How did her husband seek to console Hannah for her want of children?

A. He was accustomed to go to Shiloh every year to sacrifice unto God, and at these times he made presents to his family, but Hannah's present was always the most valuable.

Q. What happened on one of these occasions?

A. Hannah prayed fervently unto God, and said that if a son were granted her, she would give him unto the Eternal all the days of his life.

Q. Did God grant Hannah's prayer?

A. Yes; for she bare a son, and called his name Samuel (Heb. Shemuel), meaning God heard.

Q. What did she with the child as soon as he was weaned?

A. Hannah took him to Shiloh to devote him to God, as she had vowed, and expressed her gratitude to God in a song of praise.

Q. Did she ever have any more children?

A. Yes; she afterwards bare three sons and two daughters.

Q. Who was high priest at this time?

A. Eli; who became judge some time after the death of Samson.

Q. Had Eli any children?

A. Yes; two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, who, instead of setting a good example to the people, behaved very wickedly, and thus provoked God's anger.

Q. Was God well pleased with Eli, their father?

A. No; because he did not prevent his sons from committing

evil deeds, and one night, while Samuel was still a lad, God called him, and told him that He would punish Eli and his family.

Q. Did Samuel continue to find favour with God?

A. Yes; and he became a prophet in Israel.

Q. With whom were the Israelites now engaged in war?

A. With the Philistines, by whom they were defeated; so they took with them to battle the ark of the covenant of the Eternal, guarded by Hophni and Phinehas, thinking to save themselves thereby.

Q. Did this cause the Israelites to be more successful?

A. No; they were again defeated with great slaughter, the ark of God fell into the hands of the Philistines, and Eli's two sons were slain.

Q. What happened to Eli when he received these evil tidings?

A. He was so much affected, that he fell back off his chair, and broke his neck. He was ninety-eight years old, and had judged Israel forty years.

Q. Who succeeded Eli as judge?

A. Samuel, the prophet.

Q. How did Israel regain possession of the ark of God?

A. The Philistines at first placed it in the house of their chief idol Dagon, which they found defaced and cast down before it, and after removing it to various cities, the inhabitants of which were afflicted with severe illness during its stay, they resolved to return it to the Israelites, having retained it only seven months.

Q. What did Samuel then say to the people?

A. If they would remove the strange gods from among them, and return unto the Eternal, and serve Him only, He would deliver them out of the hands of the Philistines.

Q. What then did the people?

A. They gathered themselves together at Mizpeh, and fasted, and said, "We have sinned against the Eternal."

Q. What happened while they were assembled here?

A. The Philistines went up against them, and when Israel heard of it they were afraid, and entreated Samuel to pray to God to save them out of the hands of their enemies.

Q. Were Samuel's prayers of any avail?

A. Yes; for the Eternal sent a heavy storm upon the Philistines which confounded them, and they were defeated before Israel.

Q. Where was Samuel's house?

A. At Ramah, where he built an altar unto the Eternal; but once a year visited Beth-el, Gilgal, and Mizpeh to judge Israel.

Q. Whom did Samuel appoint to assist him in judging when he grew old?

A. His two sons, Joel and Abiah; but they did not follow their father's example, but took bribes, and acted very unjustly, which conduct caused the people to complain to Samuel, and to demand of him to make them a king.

Q. Was not Samuel much displeased at this request?

A. Yes; and explained to them how much a king would oppress them, but the people refused to obey his voice, and said, "Nay, but we will have a king over us."

Q. Whom did Samuel by God's direction anoint as king?

A. Saul, the son of Kish, a Benjamite.

Q. How did the people receive their king?

A. The people shouted and said, "May the king live," but some despised him and said, "How shall this man save us."

Q. How did Saul gain the affections of all the people?

A. By delivering the men of Jabesh-Gilead out of the hands of Nahash, the Amonite.

Q. Relate the circumstances.

A Nahash encamped against Jabesh-Gilead, and the men of the city said to him, "Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee," to which he consented on condition that every man would allow him to thrust out his right eye.

Q. Did they agree to these conditions?

A. They said, "Give us seven days respite that we may send messengers unto all the boundaries of Israel, and then if there be no man to save us, we will come out to thee."

Q. What was the result?

A. When Saul heard of this he was very angry, and assembled all Israel, went up to Jabesh-Gilead, and smote the Amonites so completely that not two of them remained together.

Q. What did the people then wish to do?

A. They were so pleased with Saul's bravery, that they offered to put to death all those who had at first doubted his ability, but Saul would not allow a man to be slain on the day in which the Eternal had wrought salvation in Israel.

Q. What did Samuel say?

A. "Come and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there," so all the people went, and made Saul king before the Eternal, in Gilgal, offered sacrifices, and rejoiced greatly.

Q. How did Samuel, being now an old and grey-headed man, address the people, before he resigned his office of judge?

A. "Behold, here I am, witness against me before the Eternal, and before His anointed, whose ox have I taken? or, whose ass have I taken? or, whom have I wronged? whom have I crushed? or of whose hand have I taken any ransom? so that I hid mine eyes from him, and I will restore it to you."

Q. How did the people answer?

A. "Thou hast not wronged us, nor crushed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand," and Samuel said, that God and His anointed were witnesses of his justice and integrity.

Q. What more did he say to the people?

A. He told them of the many evil actions they had committed, and how sinfully they had acted, in not being satisfied with God alone for their king.

Q. How did Samuel convince them of their guilt?

A. By calling upon God, who at Samuel's request sent a storm of thunder and rain, although it was the time of wheat-harvest.

Q. Were not the people afraid?

A. Yes, and asked Samuel to pray for them, saying, "We have added unto all our sins this evil to ask us a king."

Q. How did Samuel allay the people's fears?

A. He told them that although they had done all this evil, yet if they departed not from the Eternal, but served Him with all their heart, He would not forsake the people whom He had chosen.

SECTION XV.

Q. WHAT happened when Saul had reigned two years?

A. He made war on the Philistines, and his son Jonathan defeated their garrison that was in Geba.

Q. Where did Saul assemble the people to fight the Philistines?

A. At Gilgal; but Samuel not coming up at the appointed time, they became dispirited and scattered themselves.

Q. What sin did Saul then commit?

A. Fearing the Philistines would attack him before a sacrifice had been made to God, he took upon himself the office of the highpriest by offering the burnt-offering.

Q. What did Samuel say when he came up?

A. He told Saul he had acted very foolishly, and had not kept God's commandment, and for this, his kingdom should not continue in his family, but that God would bestow it upon a man after his own heart.

Q. Were the Israelites well prepared to resist the Philistines at this time?

A. No; for the Philistines would not allow any smith to remain in the country, fearing the Israelites would make themselves swords and spears, and the only persons possessing those weapons were Saul and Jonathan.

Q. Tell me some act of bravery which Jonathan performed?

A. He, accompanied only by his armour-bearer, attacked the garrison of the Philistines and vanquished them.

Q. Did he complete the victory without any other assistance?

A. When Saul discovered his absence he joined him with all the people he had with him, and likewise the Israelites that had hidden themselves from fear of the Philistines.

Q. After the victory was gained what great danger did Jonathan escape?

Q. Saul had vowed that whoever tasted food that day until the enemy were destroyed should surely die; Jonathan not knowing this, and feeling faint, tasted a little wild honey, and when Saul discovered it, he would have put him to death.

Q. Who prevented Saul doing this?

A. The people, in gratitude for Jonathan having delivered them from the hands of the Philistines.

Q. What message did God command Samuel to deliver to Saul?

A. That he was to attack the Amalekites, and utterly destroy them and their possessions.

Q. Did Saul obey.

A. Not entirely; for though he smote the Amalekites, he preserved alive Agag, their king, and took of the spoil, the best of the flock, and all that was good, but everything that was vile and refuse was doomed to destruction.

Q. How was Samuel commanded to reprove Saul?

A. He said, "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken better than the fat of rams. Because thou hast scorned the word of the Eternal, He hath also rejected thee from being king."

Q. What did Samuel then?

A. He went to Gilgal, and put Agag to death, after which he went to Ramah, and came no more to see Saul until the day of his death.

Q. Whom was Samuel instructed to anoint secretly instead of Saul?

A. David, the youngest son of Jesse, of the tribe of Judah; and the Spirit of the Eternal came powerfully upon David from that day forward.

Q. How did Saul become acquainted with David?

A. Saul's mind having become affected by Samuel's reproaches, he was recommended by his servants to procure a skillful player on the harp, and David being named, was sent for, and whenever Saul was attacked by his dreadful malady, he recovered when David played to him.

Q. Who again at this time invaded the land of Israel?

A. The Philistines; and there came out of their camp, a giant, named Goliath of Gath, who defied the armies of Israel, and challenged any Israelite warrior to meet him in single combat.

Q. Was this challenge accepted?

A. All the Israelites were greatly afraid, and although Saul promised his daughter in marriage to whomsoever should kill Goliath, yet for forty days no one appeared willing to fight the giant.

Q. What happened then?

A. David, who had been sent by his father to inquire after the welfare of his three brothers who served in the army, presented himself to Saul, and offered to fight the Philistine.

Q. Was Saul willing to accept David as the champion of Israel?

A. No; he said, "Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for thou art but a lad, and he a man of war from his youth."

Q. How did David answer this objection?

A. He told Saul that he had killed a lion and a bear that had attacked his father's flock, and said, "The Eternal that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine," and Saul then said, "Go, and the Eternal be with thee."

Q. How did David prepare himself for the combat?

A. He refused a suit of armour given Him by Saul, and advanced, armed only with a stick, five smooth stones out of the brook, and his sling.

Q. What did Goliath when he saw David approaching thus armed?

A. He despised David, and said, "Am I a dog that thou comest to me with sticks?"

Q. How did David answer him?

A. David said that Goliath, though armed with sword and spear, as well as all the camp of the Philistines, would be delivered into his hands, that all the earth might know that there was a God in Israel, who saved not with sword and spear.

Q. What was the result of the combat?

A. David took a stone and slung it, and it sunk into the Philistine's forehead, so that he fell to the earth, and David, having no sword, took Goliath's and cut off his head.

Q. What did the Philistines when they saw that their hero was dead?

A. They ran away, but were pursued and defeated by the Israelites.

Q. How was David treated after this heroic action?

A. Jonathan became tenderly attached to him, and loved him as his own soul, and Saul took him and would not let him return to his father's house, and set him over the men of war.

Q. What happened when David returned from smiting the Philistines?

A. The women came out of all the cities of Israel, towards Saul, rejoicing and singing, "Saul hath smitten his thousands, and David his myriads."

Q How did Saul feel when he heard David spoken of more highly than himself?

A. He became very jealous, and being attacked on the following day by his accustomed malady he attempted to kill David while he was playing to him.

Q. Did Saul fulfil his promise of giving his daughter in marriage to David for killing Goliath?

A. Yes; Michal, Saul's younger daughter, loved David, and became his wife, but notwithstanding this relationship, Saul continually sought to take David's life, and in two of these attempts was prevented, once by Jonathan, and once by Michal.

Q. What did David when he found himself exposed to such continual danger?

A. He resolved to leave the country, and on his journey stopped at Nob, where Abimelech, the priest, not having any other food, gave him hallowed bread, and David, having come away without his weapons, he also gave him Goliath's sword.

Q. What did Saul when he heard of these things?

A. He ordered all the priests of Nob to be slaughtered; so eighty-five were slain, and only one, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David.

Q. Did Saul continue to pursue David?

A. Yes; he sought constantly to kill him, and on one occasion took shelter in a cave where David and his men were concealed. David, however, although Saul was entirely in his power, only cut off the skirt of his mantle secretly, to prove to him afterwards that he bore him on enmity.

Q. What did Saul say when David told him this?

A. "Thou art more righteous than I, for thou hast requited the good, whereas I have requited thee the evil."

Q. Who died at this time?

A. Samuel; and all the Israelites were gathered together, bewailed him, and buried him in his house at Ramah.

Q. What did Saul when he was told David was in the Desert of Ziph?

A. He pursued after him, and his life was once again at David's mercy.

Q. Relate the circumstances.

A. One night when Saul lay sleeping, and his people round him, David and Abishai approached; the latter wished to kill Saul but David prevented him, and only removed the spear and the cruse of water from the resting place of Saul's head.

Q. Were they discovered performing this daring act?

A. No; and when David had removed to some distance, he called and awakened Abner, Saul's general, and reproached him for guarding the king so negligently.

Q. What did Saul when he heard the circumstances?

A. He said he had sinned, and that he would never harm David any more, because he had saved his life that day.

Q. Did David place any confidence in Saul's promise?

A. No; he was still afraid of falling into the power of Saul, so he took refuge with Achish, king of Gath, and remained in the country of the Philistines one year and four months.

Q. What happened while David resided there?

A. The Philistines made war on Israel, and Achish, who placed great confidence in David, wished to give him a command in his army, but the other chiefs, distrusting David, would not permit it.

Q. Where did the Philistines fight against Israel?

A. In Mount Gilboa. The Israelites were defeated, and Saul's three sons, of whom Jonathan was one, slain.

Q. What was the fate of Saul?

A. He was severely wounded by the archers, and to prevent himself being slain by the enemy, and his armour-bearer having refused to kill him, he threw himself on his sword and died.

Q. How did the Philistines treat the bodies of Saul and his sons?

A. With great indignity; but when the inhabitants of Jabesh-Gilead heard of it, they came in the night time, and rescued them.

Q. How did David feel when he heard these dreadful tidings?

A. He mourned deeply, wept and fasted, and uttered lamenta-

tions over Saul and Jonathan, his son, full of the most sublime and beautiful sentiments.

SECTION XVI.

Q. WHO was chosen king after the death of Saul?

A. The house of Judah anointed David king over them, but Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, was made king over the rest of Israel by Abner, Saul's general.

Q. How old was Ish-bosheth at this time?

A. Forty years old, and after he had reigned two years, he was killed by two of his own servants who were afterwards executed by command of David, now sole king.

Q. How old was David when he began to reign?

A. Thirty years old, and he reigned forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty.three years over all Israel and Judah?

Q. With whom did David make an alliance?

A. With Hiram, king of Tyre; who sent him work-people to build him a house in that part of Jerusalem, called the city of David.

Q. What did David after defeating the Philistines?

A. He brought up the ark of God to the city of David with gladness.

Q. What did David say to Nathan, the prophet, when God had given him rest from all his enemies?

A. As the ark of God had till now been kept in a tent, he wished to build a house for it, but was commanded not to do so by the prophet who said, that God would establish the throne of his kingdom for ever, and that his son and successor should build a house for God's name.

Q. What did David after this?

A. He engaged in war with the surrounding nations, and greatly extended his dominions.

Q. How far did this dominions extend?

A. From the Mediteranean to the Euphrates, and from the Red Sea to Lebanon.

Q. Was the whole life of David pure?

A. No; he committed several transgressions, for which God sent punishments upon him.

Q. By what was David distinguished from many other sinners?

A. By his readiness to acknowledge that he had sinned, and

by his deep and sincere repentance which he expressed in the most beautiful Psalms.

Q. Who was Absalom?

A. One of David's sons; noted for his handsome appearance and beautiful hair, and who endeavoured to obtain the favour of the people and supplant his father on the throne.

Q. How was he punished for this unnatural rebellion?

A. The mule on which he rode during the battle with his father's troops passed under a tree, and his hair catching in the branches, the mule went away, and left him hanging till Joab, David's general, with his followers came and killed him.

Q. How did David receive the tidings of his son's death?

A. He was agitated, and wept bitterly crying, "Would I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

Q. How did David spend the latter years of his life?

A. In preparing materials for building the temple; and when he found his death approaching he sent for his son Solomon, told him he had been appointed to erect God's temple, gave him much good advice, made him king, and then expired, and was buried in the City of David.

Q. By what names is David known in history?

A. The poet king, from having written such beautiful psalms; and the shepherd king, because he was a shepherd, before God chose him to be a king.

Q. With whom did Solomon make affinity?

A. With Pharaoh, king of Egypt, by marrying his daughter.

Q. What happened to Solomon in Gibeon?

A. The Eternal appeared to him in a dream by night, and said, "Ask what I shall give thee."

Q. How did Solomon answer?

A. "Give thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad, for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?"

Q. Did this answer please God?

A. Yes; and He said, since Solomon had not asked for himself long life, or riches, or the life of his enemies, but only for understanding to discern judgment, He had not alone given him a wise and understanding heart, but also both riches and honour, and a promise of a long life, if he kept His statutes and commandments as his father David had done.

Q. What was the first example of his wisdom thus divinely obtained?

A. Two women came to him bringing a child which they both claimed, when the king to decide the dispute, ordered a sword

to be brought to him that the child might be cut in two, and half given to each woman.

Q. Were the women satisfied with this decision?

A. One was; but the other said, that she would rather give up her claim than allow the child to be put to death, so the king ordered it to be given to this one, declaring her to be the true mother.

Q. In what condition was Palestine during the reign of Solomon?

A. In a state of profound peace; as we are told in the Bible that every man abode in safety under his vine, and under his fig-tree, from Dan even to Beer-sheba all the days of Solomon.

Q. Did Solomon continue the alliance with Hiram, king of Tyre, which his father David had formed?

A. Yes; and Hiram allowed him to cut down cedar trees and fir trees out of Lebanon for the erection of the temple of God, and permitted his workmen to work with Solomon's in the preparation of the materials.

Q. When did Solomon commence the building of the temple?

A. In the fourth year of his reign, four hundred and eighty years after the departure of the Israelites from Egypt, and it was finished in the eleventh year of his reign, so that he was seven years in building it.

Q. Where was it situated?

A. In Jerusalem, on Mount Moriah.

Q. What can you tell me that was remarkable during the building of the temple.

A. That it was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither, so that there was neither hammer, nor axe, nor any tool of iron heard in the house while it was building.

Q. What did Solomon when the temple was erected?

A. He brought in the things which his father David had hallowed, and put them among the treasures of the house of the Eternal, and then assembled all the elders of Israel to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Eternal out of the City of David.

Q. What was there in this ark?

A. Nothing, save the two tablets of stone, which Moses had placed there at Horeb, when the Eternal made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

Q. What happened when the priests came out of the holy place after placing the ark?

A. The cloud filled the house of the Eternal, so that the priests could not stand to minister, for the glory of the Eternal had filled the house of the Eternal.

Q. What then did Solomon?

A. He blessed all the assembly of Israel, then placing himself before the altar of the Eternal, and spreading forth his hands towards heaven, he uttered a most beautiful prayer.

Q. What did he say in this prayer?

A. He entreated God to listen to the prayers of all Israel when offered, not alone in that house, but if at any time when at a distance they should be in trouble, or should have committed any sin, and direct their voice with repentance towards that house, he would from His abode in heaven hear and forgive.

Q. Did Solomon pray only on behalf of the people of Israel?

A. No; for he said strangers would hear of God's great name, and mighty acts, and call upon the name of the Eternal, and Solomon entreated Him to listen to their prayers when directed towards that house, that all the earth might know and fear God as Israel did.

Q. What did Solomon when his prayer was ended?

A. He blessed the people, and exhorted them to keep God's commandments, and then he, and all Israel with him, offered a sacrifice before the Eternal, and held a festival fourteen days.

Q. What occurred after this?

A. God appeared to Solomon a second time, as He had appeared to him at Gibeon, and told him that He had heard his prayer, and had sanctified the house which Solomon had built, and promised that if he would keep his commandments, to establish the throne of his kingdom upon Israel for ever.

Q. What did Solomon build besides the temple?

A. A palace for himself which occupied thirteen years in building, also a palace for Pharaoh's daughter, his wife.

Q. What did king Solomon likewise make?

A. Ships; and Hiram, king of Tyre, sent him sailors, skilled in navigation who, with Solomon's own servants, undertook many trading expeditions.

Q. What did the Queen of Sheba when she heard of the fame of Solomon.

A. She travelled from her own country on purpose to question Solomon, and prove whether he was really as wise as he had been represented.

Q. Was her curiosity gratified?

A. Yes; for she told him that she had heard of his wisdom, but had not believed the account, but now she had seen him, she considered it far greater than she had been told, and she

made him many rich presents, and then returned to her own country?

Q. What proofs of Solomon's wisdom have we remaining to this day?

A. The book of Proverbs, Song of Songs, and Ecclesiastes, or the Preacher, of which he was the author; poems and works on natural history and botany are also mentioned in the Bible as written by him, but are not now in existence.

Q. Was Solomon pious the whole of his life?

A. No; in his old age, his wives, many of whom were aliens, whom Solomon had married contrary to God's commandment, inclined his heart after other gods, so that it was not completely with the Eternal his God, as was the heart of David, his father.

Q. How was he punished for forsaking God?

A. God declared that He would take a portion of his kingdom away from Solomon's son, and give it to another.

Q. How long did Solomon reign in Jerusalem over all Israel?

A. Forty years, and he was buried in the city of David, his father.

Q. Who succeeded Solomon?

A. Rehoboam, his son, who was made king in the forty-first year of his age.

Q. What occurred soon after this accession?

A. The division of Palestine into two kingdoms, the kingdom of Judah and the kingdom of Israel.

Q. What caused this revolution?

A. When the people came to Rehoboam, and asked him to lighten the taxes which Solomon had imposed on them, he, contrary to the advice of the old councilors of his father, spoke roughly, saying, he would double their burdens, and the consequence was that ten of the tribes rebelled.

Q. Whom did they choose for their king?

A. Jeroboam, son of Nebat, one of Solomon's officers.

Q. What tribes remained faithful to Rehoboam?

A. The tribes of Judah and Benjamin.

Q. Repeat the names of the kings who reigned in Judah, beginning with Rehoboam.

A. Rehoboam, Abijam, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, Abaziah, Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah.

Q. Repeat the names of the kings of Israel, beginning with Jeroboam.

A. Jeroboam, Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Omri, Ahab, Ahaziah, Jehoram or Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, Joash, Jeroboam, Zachariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah and Hoshea.

Q. In what city did Jeroboam dwell?

A. In Shechem, in Mount Ephraim.

Q. Was Jeroboam a good man?

A. No; for being afraid that if the people went up to the temple at Jerusalem, as they had been accustomed, they might rebel against him, and return to Rehoboam, he caused two golden calves to be set up, one in Bethel, and the other in Dan, and commanded the people to worship them.

Q. What happened to Jeroboam as he was offering on the altar to his idol at Bethel?

A. A man of God came to him out of Judah, and told him that one of the house of David should arise and destroy the priests of those idolatrous places, and as a proof of the truth of his words, he said the altar should be rent, and the ashes that were upon it poured out.

Q. What did Jeroboam when he heard this?

A. He put forth his hand to seize the man of God, and his hand dried up, so that he could not pull it in again, and the altar was rent, and the ashes poured out according to the words of the prophet.

Q. Did Jeroboam recover the use of his hand?

A. He begged the prophet to pray to God to heal him, and his hand became as it was before

Q. Did Jeroboam reform after this?

A. No; for he appointed priests from the lowest of the people and died after a wicked reign of twenty-two years, and was succeeded by his son Nadab.

Q. How long did Rehoboam reign in Jerusalem over Judah?

A. Seventeen years; and during his reign Judah did evil in the eyes of the Eternal.

Q. How were they punished?

A. In the fifth year of Rehoboam's reign Shishak, king of Egypt, attacked Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the Eternal, and of the king's house, and there was war between Jeroboam and Rehoboam all their days.

Q. Who succeeded Rehoboam?

A. His son Abijam, who commenced his reign in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam.

Q. What was his character?

A. He was as wicked as his father had been, and reigned three years, during which time there was constant warfare between Judah and Israel.

Q. Who succeeded Abijam?

A. His son Asa, in the twentieth year of Jeroboam, king of Israel. Asa reigned forty-one years, and did that which was right in the eyes of the Eternal as did David his father, and removed all the idols.

Q. Who commenced reigning in Israel in the second year of Asa?

A. Nadab, son of Jeroboam, a wicked man, and when he had reigned two years, Baasha, the son of Abijah, of the house of Issachar, killed him, and reigned in his stead.

Q. What was the character of Baasha?

A. He did evil in the eyes of the Eternal, and for this it was announced to him that his family, like that of Jeroboam should be entirely exterminated.

Q. What relation subsisted between Asa, king of Judah, and Baasha, king of Israel?

A. There was constant war between them; but Asa obtained assistance from Ben-Hadad, king of Syria.

Q. How long did Baasha reign?

A. Twenty-four years, and was succeeded by his son Elah, who began his reign in the twenty-sixth year of Asa, king of Judah, and reigned only two years.

Q. What was the manner of Elah's death?

A. He was murdered, while feasting immoderately, by his officer Zimri, who then reigned in his stead, and destroyed all the family of Baasha, according to God's word.

Q. How long was Zimri king?

A. Seven days, when the people rose against him, and made Omri king, who began his reign in the thirty-first year of Asa, king of Judah, and reigned wickedly twelve years.

Q. What city did Omri build?

A. Samaria, where he was buried, and was succeeded by his son Ahab, who began to reign in the thirty-eighth year of Asa, king of Judah, and when Ahab had reigned three years, Asa died, and was succeeded by his son Jehoshaphat.

Q. What was the character of Ahab, king of Israel?

A. He was more wicked, and committed more evil actions than all the other kings, being incited thereto by his wife Jezebel, daughter of a heathen king, whose idols Ahab worshipped.

Q. What prophet lived in the reign of Ahab?

A. Elijah, the Tishbite; who declared that there should be no dew or rain in Israel, in consequence of Ahab's sinfulness.

Q. Where was the prophet commanded by God to hide himself?

A. By the brook Cherith, that faces Jordan; and he was nourished by the water of the brook, and food brought to him night and morning by ravens.

Q. What did Elijah when the brook became dry far want of rain?

A. He went by command of God to Zarephath, to abide with a widow who dwelt there, but she possessed only a handful of meal in a pitcher, and a little oil in a cruse.

Q. How then did she support Elijah, if she had so little for herself and her son?

A. Her scanty provisions were miraculously prevented from decreasing, until God sent showers upon the earth.

Q. What happened to the widow's son while Elijah was with her?

A. He became so ill, that he died, but at Elijah's earnest prayer God restored the child to life.

Q. What happened in consequence of there not having been any rain for three years?

A. A very severe famine; and Elijah, being directed to show himself to Ahab, met him while he was seeking for grass to save the cattle alive.

Q. How did Ahab salute Elijah?

A. He said, "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" because Ahab imagined in his sinfulness that Elijah had caused the drought and the famine.

Q. How did Elijah answer him?

A. That it was not he, but Ahab and his family that had troubled Israel, by forsaking the commandments of the Eternal; he also told Ahab to assemble all Israel, and the four-hundred and fifty priests of the false god Baal upon Mount Carmel.

Q. How did Elijah address the people on Mount Carmel?

A. He endeavoured to convince them that the Eternal was the only true God, and said, "Call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Eternal, and the god that answereth by fire, let him be God."

Q. What was then done?

A. The prophets of Baal prepared their sacrifice, and called upon their god the whole day, but there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that attended.

Q. How did Elijah then proceed?

A. He prepared his sacrifice, and caused water to be poured over it three times, and likewise had a trench which ran round the altar filled with water, and then earnestly called upon God, to manifest His power.

Q. What then occurred?

A. The fire of the Eternal fell, and consumed the burnt-sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench; and when the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Eternal, He is the God, the Eternal, He is the God."

Q. What was done with the prophets of Baal?

A. Elijah caused them to be slain, and thereby incurred the hatred of Jezebel, who threatened to kill him, so Elijah fled into the desert, and was fed by an angel.

Q. Whom was Elijah commanded to appoint as prophet instead of himself?

A. Elisha, the son of Shaphat, and he passed by him as Elisha was ploughing, and cast his robe upon him.

Q. How did Ahab again disobey God?

A. By making a covenant with Ben-Hadad, king of Syria, after having gained two victories over him, and thus having it in his power to destroy him according to Divine command.

Q. What great crime did Jezebel cause to be committed about this time?

A. Ahab having desired to possess a vineyard belonging to Naboth, a Jezreelite, who refused to part with it, Jezebel procured false witnesses to accuse Naboth, and caused the innocent man to be stoned to death, and then seized the coveted vineyard.

Q. What punishment was Elijah commanded to anounce against Ahab while taking possession of this unjustly acquired property?

A. That the dogs should eat Jezebel and all the family of Ahab who died in the city; and those that died in the field, the fowls of the heaven should eat.

Q. When Ahab, deceived by false prophets, who promised him success, again went up to fight Ben-Hadad, king of Syria, accompanied him?

A. Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, in whose garments Ahab disguised himself, but was nevertheless mortally wounded, and his blood covering his chariot, which was afterwards rinsed in the pool of Samaria, was licked up by the dogs, according to the word of the Eternal.

Q. You have mentioned Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, tell me his character?

A. He did that which was right in the eyes of the Eternal, and was therefore prosperous, and gained through God's power a great victory over the Ethiopians, who had invaded Judah, and after a reign of twenty-five years was succeeded by his son, Jehoram.

Q. Who became king of Israel in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat's reign?

A. Ahaziah, Ahab's son and successor, who after a reign of only two years fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber in Samaria, and, becoming ill, sent to enquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether he would recover.

Q. What answer did he receive?

A. Elijah met the messengers and sent them back to the king saying, since Ahaziah had sent to enquire of a false god, and not of the Eternal, he should surely die; so Ahaziah died, and was succeeded by his brother Jehoram, in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah.

Q. What happened to the prophet Elijah about this time?

A. As he was walking with Elisha, there appeared a chariot and horses of fire, which took Elijah up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Q. What did Elisha when he beheld this spectacle?

A. He exclaimed, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and horsemen thereof!" and he rent his garments, and took up Elijah's robe which had fallen from him.

Q. What miracles did Elisha perform after this?

A. With the robe of Elijah he parted the waters of Jordan, and passed over on dry ground, he also purified the waters of Jericho with salt.

Q. What happened to him while he was on his way to Bethel?

A. He was met by some children, who reviled him saying, "Go up, thou bald head."

Q. What happened to these wicked children?

A. Forty-two of them were destroyed by two she-bears which came out of the forest.

Q. What was the conduct of Jehoram, king of Israel?

A. He did evil in the eyes of the Eternal, but not like his father Ahab.

Q. Who rebelled against him in the beginning of his reign?

A. The king of Moab; and in consequence Jehoram entered into an alliance with the kings of Judah and Edom to proceed against him.

Q. What success had they?

A. Being in great want of water, they, by Elisha's directions, dug trenches, which were miraculously filled during the night, and when the sun shone upon the waters in the morning they appeared to the Moabites as red as blood, so they thinking that the kings had quarrelled and fought with each other, advanced

to plunder the camp, but were completely defeated by the Israelites.

Q. What miracles did Elisha perform about this time?

A. He caused a small vessel of oil, belonging to a poor widow, to fill a number of vessels; he also restored a child to life, and Naaman, the leper, to health.

Q. Who was Namaan, and how was he cured of his leprosy?

A. He was the general of the king of Syria, and was healed of his loathouse disease by bathing seven times in the Jordan.

Q. How did Namaan express his gratitude?

A. He said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel," and wished to make Elisha presents, but he would not receive them.

Q. Who afterwards fraudulently obtained these presents?

A. Gehazi, the prophet's servant; for which he was punished, by being smitten with the disease of which Naaman had been relieved.

Q. What happened to Elisha about this time?

A. Ben-Hadad, king of Syria, having discovered that Elisha made known his secret counsel to the king of Israel, sent a great force to Dothan to take the prophet, but the men were smitten with blindness, and led by Elisha to Samaria where they recovered their sight, were fed and sent back to their lord.

Q. What did Ben-Hadad after this?

A. He went up and besieged Samaria, which was suffering from a dreadful famine.

Q. Did he succeed in his attack?

A. No; for God caused the Syrians to hear a noise resembling the approach of a very large army, so they fled and left their camp as it was, and the Israelites came out and procured plenty of food.

Q. What became of Ben-Hadad?

A. He was murdered during his illness by his servant Hazael, who then usurped the throne of Syria.

Q. In what year of Jehoram, king of Israel, did Jehoram, king of Judah, begin to reign?

A. In the fifth year, and he reigned eight years, and having married Ahab's daughter, imitated the evil conduct of the kings of Israel.

Q. What happened during his reign?

A. The Edomites revolted, and appointed a king over themselves and the Philistines and the other neighbouring nations invaded Judah, and slew all Jehoram's sons, except his successor

Ahaziah, who began to reign in the twelfth year of Jehoram, king of Israel, and reigned only one year.

Q. Against whom did Ahaziah go to war with Jehoram?

A. Against Hazael, king of Syria; but Jehoram being wounded, Ahaziah went to see him at Jezreel.

Q. What there became of the two kings?

A. They were slain by Jehu, son of Nimshi, who had been anointed king of Israel, and commanded to exterminate the whole race of Ahab by Elisha.

Q. How did Jehu obey this cammand?

A. He caused all Ahab's remaining sons to be slaughtered, and Jezebel, Ahab's wife, being thrown from the window, was eaten by the dogs, according to the words of Elijah, the Tishbite.

Q. Was Jehu a good king?

A. No; he took no heed to walk in the law of the Eternal God of Israel with all his heart, and in his days, Hazael, the king of Syria, smote Israel in all their boundaries.

Q. How long did Jehu reign?

A. Twenty-eight years, and was succeeded by his son Jehoahaz.

Q. What did Athaliah, the mother of Ahaziah, king of Judah when she heard of her son's murder by Jehu?

A. She destroyed all the royal family with the exception of Joash, the son of Ahaziah, who was saved by his aunt Jehosheba, and remained concealed in the temple six years, during which time Athaliah reigned over Judah.

Q. What happened at the end of this time?

A. Jehoiada, the high priest, caused Joash to be proclaimed king, and Athaliah to be slain.

Q. How old was Joash when he became king?

A. Seven years old, and he began to reign in the seventh year of Jehu, king of Israel, and reigned forty years.

Q. What was the character of Joash?

A. He acted righteously as long as Jehoiada lived, and repaired the temple, but after his death he sinned against God.

Q. What event occurred in his reign?

A. Hazael, king of Syria advanced against Jerusalem, and Joash sent him all the treasures of the house of God that he might go away.

Q. How did Joash die?

A. He was killed in a conspiracy by some of his servants, and was succeeded by his son Amaziah.

Q. In what year of Joash, king of Judah, did Jehoahaz, son of Jehu, begin to reign over Israel?

A. In the twenty-third year; and he reigned seventeen years,

but acted so wickedly as to incur the anger of God, who delivered Israel into the hands of the Syrians, but rescued them on the repentance of Jehoahaz.

Q. By whom was Jehoahaz succeeded?

A. By his son Joash, who began his reign in the thirty-seventh year of Joash, king of Judah, and reigned sixteen years, during which time he acted wickedly.

Q. What great man died during this king's reign?

A. The prophet Elisha, whom the king visited during his illness.

Q. Who invaded the land a short time after this?

A. The Moabites; and some people who were burying a man frightened at seeing a troop of men, cast the corpse into the tomb of Elisha, and he revived and rose on his feet when he touched the bones of the prophet.

Q. In what year of Joash did Amaziah, king of Judah, begin to reign?

A. In the second year, and he reigned twenty-nine years.

Q. How did he punish the murderers of his father?

A. He put them to death, but did not injure the children, according to what God had commanded by Moses, that parents should not be punished on account of their children, or children on account of their parents, but every one for his own sin.

Q. I suppose then Amaziah was very attentive to God's commandments.

A. He was at first, but after gaining a victory over the Edomites, he worshipped their gods, and was punished by being defeated at Beth-Shemesh by Joash, king of Israel, who came to Jerusalem, broke down the rampart, and took a great deal of treasure out of the city.

Q. What became of Amaziah?

A. Fifteen years after the death of Joash, king of Israel, who had defeated him, he fled from Jerusalem on account of a conspiracy to Lachish, where he was killed, and Azariah, his son, reigned in his stead.

Q. Who succeeded to the kingdom of Israel in the fifteenth year of the reign of Amaziah?

A. Jeroboam, son of Joash, who reigned prosperously, and restored the boundary of Israel, although his conduct was evil, and after a reign of forty-one years was succeeded by his son Zachariah.

Q. When did Azariah, king of Judah begin to reign?

A. His reign commenced in the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam, king of Israel, and lasted fifty-two years.

Q. What was his character?

A. He was very pious, and gained many victories over his enemies; but then becoming proud, he burnt incense in the temple, for which sin he was struck with leprosy.

Q. What kings reigned in Israel during the reign of Azariah?

A. In the thirty-eighth year of his reign, Zachariah, son of Jeroboam, became king, and being wicked, at the end of six months was killed by Shallum, who then reigned one month, when he in his turn was slain by Menahem, who reigned ten years.

Q. Who attacked Israel during the reign of Menahem?

A. The Assyrians, under their king Pul; but were induced to return to their own country by a bribe paid to them by Menahem.

Q. Who succeeded Menahem?

A. His son Pekahiah, in the fiftieth year of Azariah, king of Judah, and reigned two years, when Pekah, the son of Remaliah, conspired against him, and reigned in his stead.

Q. Relate an event that occurred during Pekah's reign.

A. Tiglath-pileser, another king of Assyria, invaded and conquered a great part of Israel, and carried away many captives.

Q. How long did Pekah reign?

A. Twenty years; and in the second year of his reign that of Jotham, son and successor of Azariah, king of Judah, commenced.

Q. How long did Jotham reign?

A. Sixteen years; and he did right in the sight of the Eternal, and was succeeded by his son Ahaz, in the seventeenth year of Pekah, king of Israel.

Q. How long did Ahaz reign, and what was his character?

A. He reigned sixteen years; he was a very wicked man, and adopted all the idolatrous customs of the surrounding nations.

Q. Who succeeded to the throne of Israel in the twelfth year of Ahaz?

A. Hoshea, son of Elah; who conspired against, and killed the last king Pekah, and reigned nine years.

Q. What event occurred during this time?

A. Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, invaded Israel, and obliged them to pay a yearly tribute.

Q. Did not a still more dreadful misfortune than this occur?

A. Yes; no less than the total destruction of the kingdom of Israel, for, Hoshea revolting, the Assyrian king again invaded Israel, and carried away all the people captive.

Q. Whom did the Assyrian king then place in the cities of Samaria instead of the Israelites?

A. Men from other countries, and upon this mixed population the name of Samaritans was bestowed.

Q. Who succeeded Ahaz, king of Judah?

A. Hezekiah, his son, in the third year of Hoshea, king of Israel.

Q. What was his conduct?

A. He abolished idolatry, restored the temple-services, and celebrated the Passover in a very solemn manner.

Q. What happened in the fourteenth year of his reign?

A. Senacherib, king of Assyria, against whom Hezekiah had rebelled, invaded Judah, but was appeased by Hezekiah paying him a large sum of money, which he was obliged to raise by stripping off the gold with which the doors and the windows of the temple were overlaid.

Q. Did Senacherib then cease molesting Judah?

A. No; he sent his general Rabshakeh against Jerusalem, and sent letters to Hezekiah reviling God.

Q. What did Hezekiah when he received these letters?

A. He went to the temple, and prayed to God for protection, and he was told by the prophet Isaiah that God had heard his prayer, and would save the city for David's sake.

Q. How was this promise fulfilled?

A. An angel of God smote one hundred and eighty-five thousand of the Assyrians the same night, so Senacherib, the king, returned home, and was slain by two of his sons in the house of his idol, and was succeeded by another son Esarhaddon.

Q. What happened to Hezekiah after the departure of the Assyrians?

A. He became very ill, and was told by the prophet Isaiah to prepare for death, but on his praying fervently to God, the prophet announced to him that he should recover, and that fifteen years should be added to his life.

Q. What foolish act did Hezekiah commit after his recovery?

A. When Berodach-baladan, king of Babylon, sent ambassadors to congratulate him on his restoration to health, he ostentatiously displayed to them all his treasures.

Q. What followed this act of vanity?

A. Isaiah foretold that all those treasures of which Hezekiah had been so proud, as well as his children, should be given into the hand of the Babylonian king.

Q. Did Hezekiah perform any work of public utility?

A. Yes; he brought water into Jerusalem by means of an aqueduct, and at his death, after a reign of twenty-nine years, was honoured by the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

Q. Who succeeded him?

A. Mannasseh, his son; a very wicked, idolatrous, and cruel king, who reigned fifty-five years.

Q. How was he punished for his evil conduct?

A. He was carried away captive to Babylon, where he became penitent, and returned to the service of the true God, who heard his prayers, and restored him to his kingdom.

Q. Who succeeded Manasseh?

A. His son Amon; who was even more wicked than his father, for he never repented of his evil deeds as Manasseh had done.

Q. How long did Amon reign?

A. Two years; when he was slain by his servants, and was succeeded by his son Josiah.

Q. How old was Josiah when he began to reign?

A. Eight years old, and his reign of thirty-one years was a virtuous one.

Q. What reformation did Josiah effect?

A. He restored the worship of the true God, by breaking down all the altars of the idols, and caused the temple to be repaired.

Q. What discovery was made while this good work was going on?

A. Hilkiah, the priest, found a copy of the law, and when Shaphan, the scribe, read it to the king he was terrified at the punishment it pronounced against those who departed from it, which punishment the people had incurred by their numerous idolatries.

Q. How did Josiah then proceed?

A. He sent to inquire concerning the words of the book of Huldah, the prophetess, who told him that the threats pronounced in it would certainly be fulfilled, but this evil should not happen in his days.

Q. What did the king and the people then do?

A. They promised to keep God's commandments with all their heart and all their soul.

Q. What festival did Josiah then command the people to observe?

A. The festival of the Passover, which was held with more solemnity than it had been since the days of the judges.

Q. Did Josiah die a natural death?

A. No; he was killed at Megiddo in a battle which he fought with Pharaoh-necho, king of Egypt, when the latter advanced against the king of Assyria.

Q. Who lamented his death?

A. The prophet Jeremiah, and all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for him.

Q. What became of Jehoahaz, his son and successor?

A. After a wicked reign of three months he was deposed by Pharaoh-necho, and carried by him into Egypt, where he died.

Q. Whom did the Egyptian monarch appoint king in his stead?

A. Eliakim, the brother of Jehoahaz, whose name was changed to Jehoiakim; he reigned eleven years.

Q. What happened in the reign of this wicked king?

A. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came up against him, and obliged him to pay tribute, but at the end of three years he rebelled, and was taken captive to Babylon, the treasures of the house of the Eternal being removed with him.

Q. What celebrated man was at this time in Babylon?

A. The prophet Daniel.

Q. Who succeeded Jehoiakim?

A His son Jehoiachin; who, after a short and wicked reign of three months, was likewise carried to Babylon, with many other captives, among whom was the prophet Ezekiel.

Q. Whom did Nebuchadnezzar appoint king in place of Jehoiachin?

A. His uncle Mattaniah, or Zedekiah, who reigned eleven years.

Q. What rash act did Zedekiah commit in the ninth year of his reign?

A. He revolted against the king of Babylon, and so caused Nebuchadnezzar to come up against Jerusalem and besiege it.

Q. What was the result of the siege?

A. On the ninth day of the fourth month of the eleventh year the famine was so great, that the men of war fled, and the city was taken.

Q. What became of the wretched king?

A. He was brought before Nebuchadnezzar, his children slain in his presence, his eyes put out, and then he was carried in fetters to Babylon?

Q. What was then done by order of Nebuchadnezzar?

A. His officer Nebuzaradan burnt the house of the Eternal, the king's house, and those of the great men, the army levelled the rampart of Jerusalem, and all the people were carried away captive.

Q. By what name is the captivity of the Israelites in Babylon known?

A. The seventy years captivity.

Q. How do we commemorate the destruction of Temple?

A. By a solemn fast on the ninth day of Ab (Heb. Tisho Be'ab).

Q. How long after the destruction of the kingdom of Israel did that of the kingdom of Judah take place?

A. One hundred and thirty-three years.

Q. Was the country left intirely without inhabitants?

A. No; some poor people were allowed to remain in the land to be vine-dressers and husbandmen, over whom Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, was appointed governor.

Q. What became of Gedaliah?

A. He was slain with many other Jews by Ishmael, son of Nathaniah, a young man of the royal blood, and on account of his having been a very good man, his death is yearly commemorated by us by a fast on the third day of Tishri, called the fast of Gedaliah.

SECTION XVII.

Q. WHAT happened at the end of the seventy years captivity?

A. Cyrus, king of Persia, and conqueror of Babylon, issued an edict, allowing any of the Jews who chose to return to their own country, and rebuild the temple.

Q. How many of the people took advantage of this decree?

A. Upwards of forty thousand joyfully returned to Palestine under the conduct of Zerubbabel, and the high-priest Joshua.

Q. How did they set about the holy work of rebuilding the temple?

A. They entered into an engagement with the Phoenicians to supply them with building materials, and when the foundation was laid, they appointed the priests and Levites, as in former times, to praise God for his mercy towards Israel.

Q. What did the people on the erection of this second temple?

A. The younger ones shouted with joy, but the elder ones, who had seen the glory of the first temple, wept, so that the sound of joy could not be distinguished from that of weeping.

Q. How were they interrupted in their pious work?

A. The Samaritans, who had been refused permission to assist in the rebuilding of the temple, impeded them in every way, and hired counsellors against them to frustrate their purpose all the days of Cyrus.

Q. What further act of hostility did the Samaritans show the Jews?

A. On the accession of Ahasuerus they sent letters to him

accusing the Jews of being a nation of traitors, so that they were not able to continue building the temple till the second year of the reign of Darius.

Q. Who encouraged the people at this time?

A. The prophets Haggai and Zachariah.

Q. When was the temple finished?

A. On the third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of Darius, having been twenty years in building.

Q. How did the people dedicate it?

A. With much solemnity, and many offerings, and then joyfully kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month Nissan.

Q. What happened in the reign of Artaxerxes, another king of Persia?

A. This king gave Ezra, the scribe, permission to return to Jerusalem with as many of his countrymen as chose to accompany him, and bestowed upon him much silver and gold for the service of the temple.

Q. What power did he confer upon Ezra?

A. He was permitted to appoint magistrates and judges, and to execute judgment on those who disregarded the law of God, or the king's commands.

Q. By what was Ezra grieved on his arrival in Jerusalem?

A. By finding that the Jews had intermarried with foreign women, and he endeavoured to induce them to separate from their idolatrous wives, and only to marry among their own people.

Q. Who succeeded Ezra?

A. Nehemiah; who, while residing at Shushan as cup-bearer to the king, heard of the unfinished and distressed state of Jerusalem, and mourning very much thereat, was permitted by the king to proceed thither.

Q. What did he on arriving at Jerusalem?

A. He induced the people to continue building the walls, and encouraged by Nehemiah, they laboured with so much zeal that, although obliged to work with only one hand, while they held weapons of defence in the other, the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth day of Ellul, having been fifty-two days in building.

Q. Why were the people thus armed while at work?

A. To keep off the attacks of the Samaritans now headed by Sanballat.

Q. What was the number of the congregation in Jerusalem?

A. Forty-two thousand, three hundred and sixty.

Q. What did the people request of Ezra?

A. That he should read to them the book of the law of Moses.

Q. What discovery was made on the second day of reading the law?

A. That the festival of Tabernacles was to be observed in that month, so the people made themselves booths, and dwelt therein seven days, and on the eighth day they held a solemn assembly.

Q. What did the people after the conclusion of the festival?

A. They appointed a solemn fast on the twenty-fourth of the month, on which they made a public confession of their sins, and made a covenant to keep the law in purity.

Q. Did Nehemiah remain in Jerusalem?

A. No; he returned to the court of the Persian king, but on hearing that the people had fallen into their old sinful ways, he returned to Jerusalem, and exerted himself vigorously to correct the abuses he found there.

Q. Do we know positively when the deaths of the two great men Ezra and Nehemiah took place?

A. No; as no mention is made of it in the Bible.

SECTION XVIII.

Q. Who was Esther?

A. A Jewess, who became the wife of Ahasuerus, likewise called Artaxorxes, king of Persia.

Q. How was she raised to so exalted a station?

A. Vashti, the former wife of Ahasuerus, having displeased him, he divorced her, and chose Esther in her place.

Q. By whom had Esther been brought up?

A. By her cousin Mordecai; a descendant of one of the captive Jews, who had been carried away by Nebuchadnezzar.

Q. What service did Mordecai render the king after his marriage with Esther?

A. He saved the king's life, by informing Esther of a conspiracy which he had discovered, and when the conspirators had been punished, the circumstance was written in the book of records.

Q. To whom did Mordecai give offence?

A. To Haman, the king's favourite, by refusing to do him reverence like all the other servants of the king.

Q. How did Haman seek to satisfy his wounded pride?

A. By wreaking his vengeance not alone on Mordecai, but upon all the Jews in Persia, whom he wished to destroy, and procured an edict to that effect from the king.

Q. What did Mordecai when he heard of this?

A. He rent his garments, and mourned aloud, as did all the Jews in all the provinces of Persia, when the kings cruel decree arrived.

Q. How did Esther act in this emergency?

A. She fasted three days, and then, by Mordecai's direction, resolved to appear before the king to supplicate for her people.

Q. What risk did she run in thus appearing unsummoned?

A. She was liable by law to be put to death, but when the king saw her, he extended to her his golden sceptre, in token of his favour, and told her whatever her request might be, he would grant it, even to the half of his kingdom.

Q. What had Haman been doing in the meantime?

A. By the advice of his friends he had a very high gallows erected, whereon to hang Mordecai; for this haughty man could take no pleasure in the possession of his great wealth, and the favour of the king so long as the Jew refused to humble himself to him.

Q. What occurred on that night?

A. The king could not sleep, so he ordered the book of records to be read to him, and found therein the account of the before-mentioned conspiracy, discovered by Mordecai, and for which he had not been rewarded.

Q. How did the king then proceed?

A. He asked of Haman what he should do to the man whom he wished to honour very highly.

Q. What was Haman's answer?

A. His great arrogance leading him to believe that the king alluded to him, he advised that the person to be honoured should be clothed in royal robes, with a crown on his head, and he led through the city on one of the kings horses by an officer, proclaiming, "Thus shall be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour."

Q. How did Haman feel when he found that these honours were intended for Mordecai?

A. Very grieved, and went home mourning, where he was told by his wife and friends, that if Mordecai, before whom he had begun to fall, was of the Jewish race, he would not succeed in his attempts against him, but would fall before him.

Q. How were these opinions verified?

A. At a banquet given by the queen, to which the king and Haman alone were invited, Esther accused the latter of wishing to destroy her people, when Ahasuerus became so incensed that he ordered Haman to be executed, and he was hanged on the

gallows, which he had erected for Mordecai, who was then elevated to Haman's former rank.

Q. How was the king's decree against the Jews averted?

A. On Esther's solicitation the Jews were allowed to defend themselves from the attacks of their assailants.

Q. How do we commemorate this providential deliverance of our people from destruction?

A. By a fast on the thirteenth day of Adar, called the fast of Esther, and by a festival on the succeeding day, called Purim.

SECTION XIX.

Q. WHO was Job?

A. A very pious man, who lived in the land of Uz; he was also very rich, and had a family of seven sons and three daughters.

Q. Give me an instance of Job's piety.

A. After his sons had been holding feasts, he offered sacrifices for them for fear they might have sinned against God.

Q. How was Job's faith tried?

A. In one day he lost all his property, and his children; but submitted with resignation to God's will ,saying, "The Eternal gave, and the Eternal hath taken away: blessed be the name of the Eternal."

Q. Did Job's troubles end here?

A. No; he was attacked with a sore disease, and although he mourned, still he did not reproach God.

Q. Who came to comfort Job in this miserable condition?

A. His three friends; but when they saw his great grief they remained seven days and seven nights without speaking.

Q. What happened on the eighth day?

A. Job, giving vent to his sorrow in words, was accused by his friends of want of righteousness; he sought to vindicate himself and told them that they were miserable comforters.

Q. Who at last convinced Job that his afflictions were brought upon him, not as a punishment for want of righteousness, but as a trial of his patience?

A. God himself; who, speaking out of a whirlwind, explained to Job that His works were to great too be judged by man.

Q. What did Job then?

A. He humbled himself and confessed God's great power, and also that he had spoken things that he understood not.

Q. Whom did God then rebuke?

A. Job's three friends; who, He said, had not spoken of Him

unto Job what was right, and He commanded them to offer a burnt-offering, and said, Job should pray for them.

Q. What did God do for Job after this?

A. He gave him possessions twice as great as he had had before, also many children, and blessed his latter days even more than the first ones.

SECTION XX.

Q. MENTION the names of the prophets?

A. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zachariah, and Malachi.

Q. Of what do their prophecies principally consist?

A. Of denunciations against the people for their numerous sins, of exhortations to trust in God's everlasting mercy to Israel, who though scattered on the face of the earth, will be gathered together, and restored to their own land, and of constantly recurring promises of a coming Messiah.

Q. What is meant by the Messiah?

A. A descendant of the family of David, who will possess wisdom, understanding, and great piety, under whose guidance, with God's blessing, we shall be restored to Palestine, the land of our former possession.

Q. Whom are we to expect before the coming of the Messiah?

A. The prophet Elijah, whom Malachi, the last of the prophets, informs us God will send to prepare us to receive him.

Q. What prophets were the contemporaries of Isaiah?

A. Micah and Hosea; they all three prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.

Q. When did Zephaniah and Jeremiah prophesy?

A. The former during the reign of Josiah, and the latter during the reigns of Josiah, Jehoiakim, and Zedekiah. We read the sublime Lamentations of Jeremiah in Synagogue on Tisho Be'ab.

Q. When did Ezekiel prophesy?

A. During the seventy years captivity, he being one of the captives.

Q. What other distinguished young men did Nebuchadnezzar carry away with Daniel?

A. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; and he changed all their names, Daniel to Belteshazzar, Hananiah to Shadrach, Mishael to Meshach, and Azariah to Abednego.

Q. For what purpose had these youths been carried away?

A. To be instructed in the learning of the Chaldeans, but they still adhered strictly to their religion, and refused to eat the king's viands which had been prepared for them, preferring to live on pulse and water.

Q. What very remarkable event occurred to three of these youths?

A. Nebuchadnezzar having set up a golden idol which he desired the people to worship, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, of course, refused, and were cast into a fiery furnace, whence they came out uninjured, although the heat was so intense as to kill the men who had thrown them in.

Q. What happened during the reign of Belshazzar, another king of Babylon?

A. At a great feast to which many of his nobles were invited, he used the gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from the temple of Jerusalem, and while they were carousing, there came forth a man's hand, and traced upon the wall some words in unknown characters.

Q. What then did the horror-struck king?

A. His Chaldean interpreters being unable to read the writing, he sent for Daniel, who declared it to signify, that, for his wickedness, his kingdom should be taken from him, and given to the Medes and Persians.

Q. Was this prophecy fulfilled?

A. Yes; Belshazzar was slain the same night, and Darius, the Mede, conquerred the kingdom of Babylon, over which he then ruled, and, under this prince, Daniel was raised to high rank.

Q. What decree did the enemies of Daniel cause Darius to pass?

A. That for thirty days no one should pray to any but the king, under penalty of being thrown into a den of lions.

Q. Did this cause Daniel to cease in his daily prayers to God?

A. No; and the king, though greatly grieved, could not save him from the punishment, the laws of the Medes and Persians being unalterable.

Q. Was Daniel destroyed by the lions?

A. No; God prevented them from hurting him, so Daniel was taken uninjured out of the den, into which his enemies were then cast, and were immediately devoured by the lions.

Q. What decree did the king then publish?

A. That every one should believe in the God of Daniel, who could work such deliverance.

Q. What was the mission of the prophet Jonah?

A. To go to Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian empire, and prophesy its destruction, on account of the wickedness of its inhabitants; but Jonah, unwilling to execute the Divine command, embarked in a vessel bound for Tarshish.

Q. What happened to this vessel?

A. It was overtaken by a storm, and the sailors, to calm it, were persuaded by Jonah to cast him into the sea.

Q. Was Jonah drowned?

A. No; a great fish swallowed him, and after keeping him alive in its body three days and three nights, cast him in safety on the shore

Q. What was Jonah then commanded to do?

A. To proceed to Nineveh; and this time he obeyed, and prophesied its speedy destruction.

Q. What was the consequence?

A. The people repented, and thus saved their city.

Q. Was Jonah pleased that his prophecy did not come to pass?

A. No; he was very angry, left Nineveh, and made himself a booth, in which he might watch what would become of the city.

Q. What happened while he remained there?

A. A tree sprang up, and sheltered Jonah, but the next day it was destroyed, to the great grief of the prophet, who, now being exposed to the burning rays of the sun, wished to die.

Q. How did God then rebuke Jonah?

A. By showing him how wrong his displeasure had been, since he grieved at the loss of a tree which he had not planted or caused to grow, and yet was angry that God had saved that great city of Nineveh, with its sixty thousand inhabitants.

Q. Who likewise foretold the destruction of Assyria through the wickedness of its inhabitants?

A. Joel and Nahum.

Q. Who were the last of our prophets?

A. Haggai, Zachariah, and Melachi, who lived during the time of Nehemiah.

APPENDIX.

Q. WHAT is meant by the Mosaic code?

A. The body of laws, contained in the Pentateuch, communicated to us by God, through Moses, to serve, to govern us as a nation, and containing directions for our guidance in every circumstance that may affect us during life.

Q. How many laws does the Pentateuch contain?

A. Six hundred and thirteen.

Q. What is the fundamental principle of our religion?

A. The unity of God, and that to Him alone our prayers are due.

Q. Which is our most important prayer expressing this belief?

A. The Shemang, commencing—"Hear, O Israel: the Eternal, our God, the Eternal is One."

Q. How is charity inculcated?

A. We are forbidden to exact interest for money lent among our brethren, or to oppress widows and orphans; neither is the stranger to be persecuted, for we are commanded to act kindly to him, and to love him as ourselves. We ought also not to delay the payment of a hired servant, and when we reap the harvest, and gather the fruit of our vineyard, we are to leave a portion untouched, for the poor and the stranger.

Q. How is honestly inculcated?

A. We are strictly enjoined to use just weights and measures, and to refuse taking a bribe, lest it should induce us to pass an unjust sentence, and prevent us judging righteously.

Q. How are revengeful feelings reproved and kind ones enjoined?

A. These principles are contained in the following verses:—"Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart. Thou shalt not avenge nor retain any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy fellow-man as thyself Thou shalt not bear a false report. Thou shalt not go about as a tale-bearer among thy people. If thou meet one of thine enemy's herd, or his ass wandering, thou shalt surely restore it to him again. If thou see the ass of him that hateth thee crouching under its burden, thou shalt forbear to forsake him."

Q. How are we taught kindness to animals?

A. We are forbidden to muzzle oxen that are employed in treading out the corn, to slaughter the dam and its young in one day, or to make our cattle work on our days of rest.

Q. What are we required to wear, to remind us of God's commandments?

A. Fringes in the borders of our garments. In obedience to this law, the males among us wear what is called Arbo Konfous, meaning four corners, having fringes (Heb. Tsezith) in each corner.

Q. What observances are likewise enjoined on us for the same purpose?

A. "And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand,

and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes, and thou shalt write them upon the door-posts of thy house, and in thy gates." In order, literally, to obey this command, we bind every morning on the forehead and left arm, phylacteries (Heb. Tephilin), and have nailed on the door-post of every room in our houses, small cases, called Mesusoth: these, as well as the Tephilin, contain portions from the Pentateuch, enforcing obedience to God.

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