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GENESIS

AUTHOR, Moses (commonly accepted)

THE BOOK OF ORIGINS

A record of the origin of, -Our Universe, -the Human Race, -Sin -Redemption, -Family life, -Corruption of society, -The Nations, -the Different languages, -the Hebrew Race, &c. The early chapters of the book have been continually under the fire of modern criticism. But the facts they present, when rightly interpreted and understood, have never been disproved. It is not the purpose of the author of Genesis to give an elaborate account of the creation; only a single chapter is devoted to the subject; just a bare outline containing a few fundamental facts, while thirty-eight chapters are given to an account of the history of the chosen family.

MAIN THEME

Man's sin, and the initial steps taken for his redemption by a divine covenant, made with a chosen race whose early history is here portrayed.

KEY WORD, Beginning.

FIRST MESSIANIC PROMISE # Ge 3.15

SYNOPSIS.

I. The History of Creation.

(a) Of our Universe # Ge 1:1-25

(b) Of Man # Ge 1:26-31 2:18-24

II. The Story of Primeval Man.

(a) The Temptation and Fall; the personality and character of the Tempter, -the penalty of sin, and the promise of a coming Redeemer. Ch. 3 # Ge 3:1

(b) The story of Cain and Abel Ch. 4 # Ge 4:1

(c) The genealogy and death of the patriarchs Ch. 5 # Ge 5:1

(d) The Events connected with the Flood Chs. 6,7,8 # Ge 6:1 - 8:1

(e) The rainbow covenant and Noah's sin Ch. 9 # Ge 9:1

(f) The Descendants of Noah Ch. 10 # Ge 10:1

(g) The confusion of tongues at Babel Ch. 11 # Ge 11:1

III. The History of the Chosen Family

(1) The Career of Abraham

- (a) His divine call Ch. 12 # Ge 12:1
- (b) The story of Abraham and Lot Chs. 13,14 # Ge 13:1 - 14:1
- (c) The divine revelations and promises to Abraham, particularly, the promise of a son, the possession of the Holy Land, and of a great prosperity Chs. 15-17 # Ge 15:1 - 17:1
- (d) His intercession for the Cities of the Plain and their destruction Chs. 18,19 # Ge 18:1 - 19:1
- (e) His life at Gerar, and the fulfillment of the promise of a son in the birth of Isaac Chs. 20,21 # Gen 20:1 - 21:1
- (f) The test of his obedience by the divine command to offer up Isaac Ch. 22 # Ge 22:1
- (g) His death # Ge 25:8

(2) The Career of Isaac

- (a) His birth # Ge 21:3
- (b) His marriage Ch. 24 # Ge 24:1
- (c) The birth of his sons Jacob and Esau # Ge 25:20-26
- (d) His later years Chs. 26,27 # Ge 26:1 -27:1

For other events connected with his life,

(3) The Career of Jacob

- (a) His craftiness in securing the birthright # Ge 27:1-29
- (b) His vision of the heavenly ladder # Ge 28:10-22
- (c) Incidents connected with his marriage and life in Padan-aram Chs. 29-31 # Ge 29:1 - 31:1

For further history of his life

(4) The Career of Esau as related in Genesis

(5) The Career of Joseph, the Later Years of Jacob, and the Descent of the Chosen Family into Egypt Chs. 37-50 # Ge 37:1 - 50:1

For further history of his life

PROMINENT NAMES ASSOCIATED TOGETHER

Adam and Eve, -Cain and Abel, -Abraham and Lot, -Isaac and Ishmael, -Esau and Jacob, -Joseph and his brethren.

FIVE GREAT SPIRITUAL CHARACTERS.

(1) Enoch, the man who "walked with God,"

(2) Noah, the Ark Builder

(3) Abraham, the Father of the Faithful

(4) Jacob, the man whose life was transformed by prayer

(5) Joseph, the son of Jacob, who rose from slavery to become the premier of Egypt

THE LESSON OF THE AGES.

The Bible opens with Mankind ruined, Paradise Lost Ch. 3 # Ge 3:1

The Plan of Salvation instituted # Ge 3:15

The Bible closes with the Promise Redeemed, Paradise Regained. See Rev. Chs. 21,22 # Re 21:1 - 22:1

Exodus

Note:- This book should be studied in connection with Moses' Life

AUTHOR AND CENTRAL CHARACTER, Moses

MAIN THEME, The History of Israel from the Death of Joseph to the erection of the Tabernacle

KEY THOUGHT, "Deliverance"

SYNOPSIS. Four Periods in the History of Israel.

I. The Period of Bondage.

- (1) The Oppression in Egypt # Ex 1:7-22
- (2) The events in the early life of Moses
 - (a) His birth and adoption # Ex 2:1-10
 - (b) His fleshly attempt to aid his brethren # Ex 2:11-14
 - (c) His flight to Midian# Ex 2:15
 - (d) His marriage # Ex 2:21

(Forty years pass) # Ac 7:30

II. The Period of Deliverance

- (a) The call of Moses at the burning bush # Ex 3:1-10
- (b) His Divine commission and empowerment. # Ex 3:12-22 4:1-9
- (c) His excuses # Ex 3:11 4:10-13
- (d) Aaron associated with Moses in demanding of Pharaoh the liberation of Israel # Ex 4:27-31 5:1-3
- (e) The bondage made more severe # Ex 5:5-23
- (f) The divine instructions to Moses and Aaron Chs. 6,7 # Ex 6:1 -7:1
- (g) The contest with Pharaoh and the infliction of the ten plagues Chs. 7-11 # Ex 7:11 - 11:1
- (h) The Passover Ch. 12 # Ex 12:1

III. The Period of Discipline

- (a) The Exodus # Ex 12:31-51
- (b) Experiences on the way to Mt. Sinai Chs. 13-18 # Ex 13:1 - 18:1

IV. The Period of Legislation and Organization

- (a) The arrival at Sinai # Ex 19:1,2
- (b) The appearance of Jehovah upon the Mount Ch. 19 # Ex 19:1
- (c) The giving of the Ten Commandments Ch. 20 # Ex 20:1
- (d) Other laws proclaimed Chs. 21-24 # Ex 21:1 - Ch. 24:1
- (e) Directions concerning the building of the tabernacle Chs. 25-27 # Ex 25:1 - 27:1

- (f) The appointment of the high priest Ch. 28 # Ex 28:1
- (g) The worship of the golden calf Ch. 32 # Ex 32:1
- (h) The preparation for, and the erection of the tabernacle Chs. 35-40 # Ex 35:1 - 40:1

THE PILGRIMAGE OF ISRAEL A TYPE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, see
1Co 10:1-11

The Egyptian bondage. A type of the bondage of sin.

Moses as deliverer. A type of Christ (see parallel between Christ and Moses),

The Exodus. A type of abandonment of the sinful life.

The Passover lamb. A type of Christ, the Lamb of God.

Pharaoh's pursuit of Israel. # Ex 14:8,9
A type of the evil forces pursuing believers.

The opening of the Red Sea. # Ex 14:21
A type of hindrances removed.

The pillar of cloud and fire. # Ex 14:19,20
A type of the divine presence with believers.

The song of Moses. # Ex 15:1-19
A type of the songs of spiritual victory.

The mixed multitude. # Ex 12:38
A type of the worldly element in the church.

Marah and Elim. # Ex 15:23-27
A type of the bitter and sweet experiences of the religious life.

The Flesh Pots. # Ex 16:3
A type of the sensual pleasures of the old life.

The manna. # Ex 16:4
A type of Christ, the Bread of Life

The water from the rock. # 1Co 10:4
A type of Christ, the living water.

The upholding of Moses' hands. # Ex 17:12
A type of the need of co-operation with leaders.

In the structure of the tabernacle, its furniture, ordinances, the garments of the priesthood, the ark of the covenant, are found many types Christ and the church.

Leviticus

NAME, Derived from the tribe of Levi.

AUTHOR, Moses, commonly accepted

KEY WORDS, "Access" and "Holiness"

SUBJECT MATTER, a digest of divine laws

CENTRAL PERSON, the high priest.

CENTRAL THEME, How can sinful man approach a Holy God? The word "Holy" appears eighty times in this book.

COMPANION BOOK, Hebrews

ANALYSIS

I. The Way of Access to God

(1) Through sacrifices and offerings

- (a) Burnt offerings, signifying atonement and consecrations. # Le 2:1-9
- (b) Meat (meal) offerings, signifying thanksgiving # Le 2:1,2
- (c) Peace offerings, signifying fellowship # Le 7:11-15
- (d) Sin offerings, signifying reconciliation # Le 4:1-35
- (e) Trespass offerings, signifying cleansing from guilt # Le 6:2-7

(2) Through Priestly Mediation

The human priesthood;-

The call of # Le 8:1-5

the cleansing of # Le 8:6

garments of # Le 8:7-13

atonement for # Le 8:14-34

example of the sinfulness of Ch. 10 # Le 10:1

II. Special Enactments Governing Israel

(1) As to food Ch. 11 # Le 11:1

(2) As to cleanliness, sanitation, customs, morals, &C., all emphasizing purity of life, as a condition of divine favour chs. 12-20 # Le 12:1 - 20:1

(3) Purity of priests and offerings Chs. 21. 22 # Le 21:1 - 22:1

III. The Five Annual Solemnities, or Feasts

- (1) The Feast of the Passover, beginning April 14. Commemorating the Exodus # Le 23:5
- (2) The Feast of Pentecost, the sixth day of June, commemorating the giving of the law # Le 23.15
- (3) The Feast of Trumpets, the first of October # Le 23:23-25
- (4) The Day of Atonement, the tenth day of October, the high priest enters the Holy of Holies to make atonement for the sins of the people # Le 16:1 23:27-32
- (5) The Feast of Tabernacles, beginning the fifteenth day of October, commemorating the life in the wilderness, and thanksgiving for the harvest # Le 23:39-43

IV. General Enactments and Instructions

- (1) The Sabbatical Year; once in seven years the ground was left untilled. # Le 25:2-7
- (2) The Year of Jubilee; once in fifty years the slaves were liberated, debtors were freed, and a general restitution took place. # Le 25:8-16
- (3) Conditions of blessing, and warnings concerning chastisement # Le 26:1
- (4) The law of vows # Le 27:1
- (5) The book of Hebrews should be studied as a companion to Leviticus.

Numbers

The book of the pilgrimage of Israel. SEE Moses' Life,

NAME, derived from the numberings of Israel

AUTHOR, Moses (commonly accepted)

CENTRAL LESSON, unbelief bars the entrance to abundant life # He 3:7-19

LEADING TOPICS AND EVENTS

- (1) Organization and legislation Chs. 1-9 # Nu 1:1 - 9:1
- (2) Leaving Mt. Sinai # Nu 10:11-12
- (3) The mixed multitude loath the manna # Nu 11:4-6
- (4) The discouragement of Moses # Nu 11:10-15
- (5) The seventy elders appointed # Nu 11:16-25
- (6) The quails sent # Nu 11:31-34
- (7) The jealousy of Miriam and Aaron Ch. 12 # Nu 12:1

THE FAILURE AT KADESH BARNEA (Lost in sight of home).

- (8) The sending of the spies, and their report Ch. 13 # Nu 13:1
- (9) The rebellion of the people, and the curse pronounced upon them Ch. 14 # Nu 14:1
The whole generation doomed # Nu 14:29
- (10) The events connected with the forty years wandering in the wilderness Chs. 15-19
Nu 15:1 - 19:1
- (11) The return to Kadesh Barnea, the sin of Moses, and the death of Aaron Ch. 20 # Nu 20:1
- (12) The brazen serpent Ch. 21 # Nu 21:1
- (13) Balaam, the mercenary prophet and the corruption of Israel chs. 22-25 # Nu 22:1 - 25:1
- (14) The numbering of the new generation Ch. 26 # Nu 26:1
- (15) Sundry laws concerning inheritance, offerings, feast, vows, &c. chs. 27-30 # Nu 27:1 - 30:1
- (16) The judgment of Midian Ch. 31; the assignment of the land east of the Jordan Ch. 32
Nu 31:1 - 32:1
- (17) The cities of refuge Ch. 35 # Nu 35:1

MESSIANIC TYPES

The Smitten Rock # Nu 20:7-11 see # 1Co 10:4

The Brazen Serpent # Nu 21:6-9 see # Joh 3:14

The Cities of Refuge Ch. 35# Nu 35:1 see # Heb 6:18

THE SEVEN MURMURINGS

- (1) Concerning the way # Nu 11:1-3
- (2) Concerning the food # Nu 11:4-6
- (3) Concerning the giants # Nu 13:33 - 14:2
- (4) Concerning their leaders # Nu 16:3
- (5) Concerning the divine judgments # Nu 16:41
- (6) Concerning the desert # Nu 20:2-5
- (7) The second time concerning the manna # Nu 21:5

Deuteronomy

AUTHOR, Moses (commonly accepted)

NAME. Derived from two Greek words, "deuteros," meaning second, and "nomos," law.

HISTORICAL OCCASION. The former generation of Israel had died in the wilderness; hence it was important that the law should be repeated and expounded to the new generation before they entered the Promised Land.

CONTENTS. A series of discourses and exhortations given by Moses on the plains of Moab before the crossing of the Jordan. # De 1:1

MAIN THEME. A rehearsal of the Laws proclaimed at Sinai, with a call to obedience, interspersed with a review of the experiences of the old generation.

KEY THOUGHT. The divine requirement of obedience. # De 10:12,13

SYNOPSIS

- (1) A rehearsal of God's dealings with Israel in the past, chs. 1-4 # De 1:1 - 4:1
- (2) A repetition of the decalogue and references to the choice of Israel to be a separated people, obedient to the Divine Commandments, chs. 5-11 # De 5:1 - 11:1
- (3) A code of laws to be observed in Canaan, chs. 12-26 # De 12:1 - 26:1
- (4) Blessings pronounced on obedience and curses on disobedience. Death and life set before the people, chs. 27-30 # De 27:1 - 30:1
- (5) The final words of Moses, his song, blessing, &c., chs. 31-33 # De 31:1 - 33:1
- (6) Supplemental account of the last vision and death of Moses, ch. 34 # De 34:1

KEY WORD, "Remember." It is frequently repeated throughout the entire book.

Remember

- (a) The giving of the law # De 4:9,10
- (b) The Covenant # De 4:23
- (c) The Past Slavery # De 5:15
- (d) The Great Deliverance # De 7:18
- (e) The Divine Leadership, and Supplies # De 8:2-6
- (f) The Sins of the Past # De 9:7
- (g) The Divine Judgments # De 24:9
- (h) The Ancient Days # De 32:7

NOTABLE PASSAGES.

- (a) The great commandment and the importance of remembering God's Word # De 6:4-12
- (b) The riches of the divine supplies, and the danger of forgetfulness and idolatry, ch. 8 # De 8:1
- (c) The blessings of obedience, and the curse of sin, ch. 28 # De 28:1

Joshua

AUTHOR, uncertain, probably Joshua

LEADING TOPIC, The Conquest and Division of the Land of Canaan.

KEY THOUGHT, How to be successful in the Battle of Life. # Jos 1:8,9

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

- (1) The Invasion of the Land, chs. 1-5 # Jos 1:1 - 5:1
- (2) The Fall of Jericho, ch. 6 # Jos 6:1
- (3) The Battle at Ai, and Israel at Ebal and Gerizim, chs. 7,8 # Jos 7:1 - 8:1
- (4) The Conquest of the South, ch. 10 # Jos 10:1
- (5) The Conquest of the North, and the list of kings smitten, chs. 11,12 # Jos 11:1 - 12:1
- (6) The Division of the Land, appointment of Cities of Refuge, etc. chs. 13-22 # Jos 13:1 - 22:1
- (7) The Farewell Address, and the Death of Joshua, chs. 23,24 # Jos 23:1 - 24:1

SUGGESTED LESSON, The certainty of the fulfillment of the Divine Purposes.

This is seen,

- (1) In the judgments coming upon the Canaanites because of their awful sins.
- (2) In the descendants of Abraham being given possession of the land according to God's promise, # Ge 12:7

TYPES.

According to the common conception, the Crossing of the Jordan represents Death, --and Canaan, Heaven; but a better analogy is given below;

Canaan, a type of the Higher Christian Life, to be won by warfare # Rom 7:23

Canaanites, a type of our Spiritual Enemies # Eph 6:12

The Warfare of Israel, a type of the Fight of Faith # 1Ti 6:12

Israel's Rest after the Conquest (Josh 11:23), a type of the Rest of the Soul # Jos 11:23 Heb 4:9

The Canaanites partly subdued, a type of Besetting Sins, unconquered # Heb 12:1

CHOICE SELECTIONS

- (a) God's encouragement of Joshua # Jos 1:1-9
- (b) Joshua's Farewell Address # Jos 23:1-16 24:1-27

Judges

WRITER, unknown; tradition attributes the authorship to Samuel

MAIN THEME, The History of Israel during the Times of the Fourteen Judges. The Book portrays a series of relapses into idolatry on the part of God's people, followed by invasions of the Promised Land and the oppressions by their enemies. The narrative centres around the personalities of the heroic judges who were raised up to become deliverers of Israel, whenever they sincerely repented of their sins. The dark side of the picture is especially emphasized in the record. A study of the dates would seem to show that the people maintained an outward loyalty to Jehovah a larger part of the time than the casual reading of the book would indicate.

THREE PERIODS into which the book may be divided.

SYNOPSIS

I. The Period Immediately after the Death of Joshua # Jud 1:1 - 2:10

II. The Period of the Seven Apostasies, Six Servitudes and Civil War, chs. 3-16 # Jud 3:1 - 16:1
The First Servitude, to Mesopotamia, --Judge, Othniel # Jud 3:5-9

The Second Servitude, to Moab, --Judges, Ehud and Shamgar # Jud 3:12-31

The Third Servitude, to Jaban and Sisera, --Judges, Deborah and Barak # Jud 4:1-23

The Fourth Servitude, to Midian, --Judge, Gideon, chs. 6,7# Jud 6:1 - 7:1

The Civil War, Judges, Abimelech, Tola and Jair # Jud 8:33 - 10:5

The Fifth Servitude, to the Philistines and Ammon, --Judges, Jephtha, Ibzan, Elon and Abdon chs. 10-12 # Jud 10:1 - 12:1

The Sixth Servitude, to the Philistines, --Judge, Samson chs. 13-16 # Jud 13:1 - 16:1

III. The Period of Confusion and Anarchy, chs. 17-21 # Jud 17:1 - 21:1

SPIRITUAL MESSAGES

(1) Human Failure, divine mercy, and deliverance.

(2) The power of prayer in emergencies when it becomes a real crying to God. Note in the book the repeated statement that Israel cried unto the Lord. SEE "Crying to God"

COMPANION BOOK, Galatians. Compare the relapse of Israel into idolatry with the backsliding of the Galatian church into ceremonialism.

CHARACTER STUDIES

Deborah, the patriotic woman

Gideon, the mighty man of valour

Jephtha, the man of the rash vow

Samson, the weak strong man

Ruth

A beautiful pastoral story, considered a Literary gem by critics. One of two books in the Bible in which woman is the principal character, --Ruth and Esther.

RUTH, a Moabite, married a Hebrew husband; Esther, a Jewess, married a Gentile king.

AUTHOR unknown, possibly Samuel.

PERIOD, the time of the Judges

SUBJECT, How a Young Moabitish Woman's Life Was Enriched.

- (1) By a beautiful Constancy, and Wise Choice # Ru 1:16
- (2) By a humble Industry # Ru 2:2,3
- (3) By accepting Counsel from an Older Friend # Ru 3:1-5
- (4) By a Providential Alliance # Ru 4:10,11
- (5) By Exaltation to a Royal Line # Ru 4:13-17

MAIN PURPOSE, To show how a Gentile Woman became one of the Ancestors of Christ

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

- (1) The Sojourn in Moab # Ru 1:1-5
- (2) The sad Return Home # Ru 1:6-22
- (3) Ruth gleanes in the fields of Boaz, ch. 2 # Ru 2:1
- (4) Her Marriage to Boaz # Ru 4:13
- (5) The Birth of her son, the grandfather of David # Ru 4:13-16
- (6) The Genealogy of David # Ru 4:18-22

I Samuel

AUTHOR: Unknown

THE HISTORY centres around Three characters

- (1) Samuel, the last of the Judges.
- (2) Saul, the first King of Israel.
- (3) David, Israel's Versatile King.

THE PERIOD One of Transition;-the rule of the Judges ends, the kingdom is established.

LEADING TOPICS AND EVENTS

The Birth and Dedication of Samuel, ch. 1 # 1Sa 1:1

The Failure of Eli as Judge and Parent # 1Sa 2:12-36

Samuel's Call and remarkable Boyhood, ch. 3 # 1Sa 3:1

The Capture and Return of the Ark of the Covenant, chs. 4-6 # 1Sa 4:1- 6:1

The Defeat of the Philistines through the Prayer of Samuel, ch. 7 # 1Sa 7:1

The Clamour of Israel for a King, ch. 8 # 1Sa 8:1

Saul Chosen, and Anointed King, chs. 9,10 # 1Sa 9:1 - 10:1

Saul's First Battle, ch. 11 # 1Sa 11:1

Samuel proclaims the Kingdom, and warns the people concerning their presumption in demanding a King, ch. 12 # 1Sa 12:1

Saul's Self-will, and Samuel's Prophecy, ch. 13 # 1Sa 13:1

Jonathan's Deliverance of Israel # 1Sa 14:1-16

Obedience is Better than Sacrifice # 1Sa 15:1-23

David Anointed King, ch. 16 # 1Sa 16:1

David Slays the giant, Goliath, ch. 17 # 1Ch 17:1

The Friendship of David and Jonathan, ch. 18 # 1Sa 18:1

The Persecution of David by Saul # 1Sa 18:9 - 27:4

The Last Years of Saul's reign, and his Suicide, chs. 26-31 # 1Sa 26:1 - 31:1

SPIRITUAL MESSAGE, --Prayer, the Dominating Element in the life of Samuel.

- (a) Born in answer to prayer # 1Sa 1:10-28
- (b) Name means "Asked of God," # 1Sa 1:20
- (c) His prayer brings deliverance at Mizpah # 1Sa 7:2-13
- (d) His prayer, when Israel insisted on having a king # 1Sa 8:21
- (e) His unceasing prayer for his people # 1Sa 12:23

FIVE DEVIATIONS FROM THE DIVINE LAW which resulted in misery.

- (1) Polygamy # 1Sa 1:6
- (2) Parental Indulgence # 1Sa 2:22-25 8:1-5
- (3) Trust in Sacred Objects # 1Sa 4:3
- (4) Impatience # 1Sa 13:8,9
- (5) Partial Obedience, ch. 15 # 1Sa 15:1

2 Samuel

AUTHOR: Unknown

MAIN SUBJECT, The reign of David,

FIRST PERIOD, The Early Years of the Reign

During this period the king, although engaged in military campaigns common to the age, yet manifested a spiritual mind.

(1) Preliminary Events.

(a) The execution of the Amalekite who slew king Saul # 2Sa 1:2-16

(b) David's lamentation for Saul and Jonathan # 2Sa 1:17-27

(2) David Anointed King over Judah # 2Sa 2:4

(3) The Battle between the followers of David and the servants of Ishbosheth # 2Sa 2:8-32

(4) Facts which Indicate the Kings's Godliness

(a) His seeking the divine direction # 2Sa 2:1

(b) His punishment of those who sought to curry favour by assassinating his rival # 2Sa 4:5-12

(c) His discernment, after having been exalted to be king over all Israel, in perceiving that his promotion had come from God # 2Sa 5:1-12

(d) His humility in attributing his military success to divine power # 2Sa 5:20

(e) His enthusiasm for the return of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem # 2Sa 6:1-5

(f) His desire to build a temple for Jehovah and the dedication of great treasures for its erection, chs. 7,8 # 2Sa 7:1 - 8:1

(g) His kindness to the son of Jonathan, ch. 9 # 2Sa 9:1

THE MIDDLE PERIOD

(1) The King's great Military Successes ch. 10 # 2Sa 10:1

(2) His Fall and Punishment

(a) Tempted while at ease # 2Sa 11:1,2

(b) His pollution of a humble home and murder of Uriah, ch. 11 # 2Sa 11:1

(c) Divine judgments overtake him,-- In the denunciation by Nathan, the prophet # 2Sa 12:1-14

In the death of the babe # 2Sa 12:15-19

In the corruption of his son Ammon # 2Sa 13:1-20

In his son Absalom's rebellion, chs. 15-18 # 2Sa 15:1-18:1

FINAL PERIOD, David's Last Years chs. 20-24 # 2Sa 20:1 - 24:1

For other references to David's career,

CHOICE SELECTIONS

David's generosity to Mephibosheth, ch. 9 # 2Sa 9:1

Nathan's Parable # 2Sa 12:1-6

David's Psalm of Thanksgiving, ch. 22 # 2Sa 22:1

1 Kings

AUTHOR: Unknown

TITLE. In the Hebrew Mss., I and II Kings appear as one book, the division may have been made for the convenience of Greek readers.

SYNOPSIS. The Book may be Divided into Two Divisions.

PART I. The History of the Reign of Solomon.

(1) Opening Events, The death of David, and the accession of Solomon, his son, chs. 1,2
1Ki 1:1 - 2:1

(2) The Early Years of Solomon's Reign, the Golden Age of Israel, Made Famous by

- (a) The king's wise choice # 1Ki 3:5-14
- (b) His discriminating judgment # 1Ki 3:16-28
- (c) His surpassing wisdom # 1Ki 4:29-34
- (d) The growth of his dominions # 1Ki 4:21
- (e) The splendour of his court, and palaces # 1Ki 4:22-28 7:1-12
- (f) The building of the temple, chs. 5,6 # 1Ki 5:1 - 6:1
- (g) Other building enterprises and great wealth # 1Ki 9:17-23 10:14-29
- (h) The visit of the Queen of Sheba # 1Ki 10:1-13

(3) The Later Years of His Reign

The decline of his kingdom brought about by,

- (a) His extravagant luxury # 1Ki 10:14-29
- (b) His notorious sensuality # 1Ki 11:1-3
- (c) His apostasy from God # 1Ki 11:4-8
- (d) The enemies which the Lord stirred up against him # 1Ki 11:14-40

PART II. The History of the Kingdoms of Judah and Israel. From the death of Solomon to the Accession of Jehoram, in Judah, and from the Accession of Jeroboam to the Reign of Ahaziah, in Israel.

(1) The Disruption of the Kingdom through the folly of Solomon's son, Rehoboam # 1Ki 11:43 - 12:19

(2) The Ten Tribes revolt, and enthrone Jeroboam as king of Israel # 1Ki 12:20

(3) The Comparative History of the Two Kingdoms.

- (a) The reigns in Judah of Rehoboam, Abijam, Asa and Jehoshaphat # 1Ki 12:1 - 22:50
- (b) The evil reigns in Israel of Jeroboam, Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, Ahab, and Ahaziah # 1Ki 12:20 - 22:53

HEROIC CHARACTER, The prophet Elijah.

- (a) For the summary of his life,
- (b) Prophecies of,
- (c) Miracles of,

CHOICE SELECTIONS

Solomon's Wise Choice # 1Ki 3:5-14

Solomon's Prayer at the dedication of the temple # 1Ki 8:22-53
The Ministry of Elijah chs. 17,18,19,21 # 1Ki 17:1 - 19:1 21:1
The call of Elisha # 1Ki 19:19-21

2 Kings

A Sequel to 1 Kings

AUTHOR: Unknown

MAIN SUBJECT, The History of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah, from the latter of the reign of Ahaziah in Israel, and Jehoram in Judah, up to the time of the captivities. As far as the history of Israel is concerned it is a dark picture of degenerate rulers and sinful people ending in slavery. The Kingdom of Judah was also on the down grade, but judgment was not visited upon her so speedily because of the influence of a number of good kings who reigned during this period; SEE analysis of II Chronicles, The interest of the book largely centres around the record of the lives of two prophets, Elijah and Elisha.

SPIRITUAL MESSAGE, The Powerful Influence of rulers upon a nation.

SYNOPSIS. The book can be divided into three parts.

PART I. Mainly the History of the last days of Elijah.

- (1) He calls down fire from heaven to destroy his enemies. # 2Ki 1:9-12
- (2) The Dividing of the River Jordan # 2Ki 2:8
- (3) His translation # 2Ki 2:11

For other references to his life,

PART II. Mainly the History of Elisha

- (1) He asks for a double portion of grace # 2Ki 2:9
- (2) He divides the Jordan # 2Ki 2:14
- (3) He heals the waters # 2Ki 2:19-22
- (4) The cursing of the mocking children # 2Ki 2:23,24
- (5) The procuring of water for an army # 2Ki 3:15-20
- (6) The increasing of the widow's oil # 2Ki 4:1-7
- (7) The raising of the dead child to life # 2Ki 4:18-37
- (8) The healing of the deadly pottage # 2Ki 4:38-41
- (9) The feeding of the multitude # 2Ki 4:42-44
- (10) The healing of Naaman, the leper # 2Ki 5:5-15
- (11) The smiting of Gehazi with leprosy # 2Ki 5:20-27
- (12) The causing of the iron to swim # 2Ki 6:1-7
- (13) The disclosing of the plans of the king of Syria, ch. 6 # 2Ki 6:1
- (14) Smites the Syrians with blindness # 2Ki 6:18-20
- (15) His prophecy of plenty for a famine-stricken city # 2Ki 7:1-18
- (16) Secures the restoration of her land to the Shunammite woman # 2Ki 8:3-6
- (17) Prophecies concerning the exaltation of Hazael # 2Ki 8:7-15
- (18) Commands the anointing of Jehu as king # 2Ki 9:1-6
- (19) Retains his prophetic power on his death-bed # 2Ki 13:14-19
- (20) The post-mortem manifestation of divine power at his sepulcher # 2Ki 13:20,21

The Secret of his Power,--His desire for the reception of a double portion of grace enabled him to live in the spirit of continual victory,

PART III. Other Notable Events in the history of Judah and Israel

- (1) Jehu's execution of divine judgment upon Joram, Ahaziah, Jezebel, seventy of Ahab's children, and the worshippers of Baal, chs. 9,10 # 2Ki 9:1 - 10:1
- (2) The good reign of Joash (Jehoash), chs. 11,12 # 2Ki 11:1 - 12:1
- (3) The reign of evil kings in Israel, followed by the captivity of the ten tribes, chs. 13-17 # 2Ki 13:1 - 17:1
- (4) The good reign of Hezekiah, chs. 18-20 # 2Ki 18:1 - 20:1
- (5) The evil reign of Manasseh, ch. 21 # 2Ki 21:1
- (6) Josiah, the last of the good kings, chs. 22,23 # 2Ki 22:1 - 23:1
- (7) The series of evil kings in Judah lead to the captivity of the nation, and the destruction of Jerusalem, ch. 25 # 2Ki 25:1

I Chronicles

AUTHORSHIP uncertain, thought to have been edited by Ezra
First and Second Chronicles are one book in the Jewish Bible.

TIME. Probably written during, or shortly after, the captivity.
May be regarded as A SUPPLEMENT to the books of I and II Samuel, and I and II Kings.
Some of the historical descriptions are almost identical with those of the preceding books.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES. The books of Samuel and Kings refer to events in both kingdoms,--whereas Chronicles deals almost exclusively with the history of Judah

CENTRAL THOUGHT, The Sovereignty of God # 1Ch 4:9-10 5:20 11:14 12:18 14:2,10,14,15

CENTRAL CHARACTER, David, for the history of his life,

ANALYSIS OF THE BOOK.

PART I.

- (1) chs. 1-9, Genealogies # 1Ch 1:1 - 9:1
- (2) Ch 10, Overthrow and death of Saul. # 1Ch 10:1

PART II. The Reign of David.

- (1) His accession to the throne,--the capture of Jerusalem,--his mighty men and armies, chs. 11,12 # 1Ch 11:1 - 12:1
- (2) His mistake in attempting to transport the Ark on a "new cart," ch. 13 # 1Ch 13:1
- (3) His victory over the Philistines, ch. 14 # 1Ch 14:1
- (4) The Ark brought to Jerusalem, ch. 15 # 1Ch 15:1
- (5) The great festival of rejoicing, ch. 16 # 1Ch 16:1
- (6) The King's desire to build a temple for Jehovah denied, ch. 17 # 1Ch 17:1
- (7) Great military victories, chs. 18-20 # 1Ch 18:1 - 20:1
- (8) The sinful census, ch. 21 # 1Ch 21:1
- (9) The preparation of materials for the building of the temple, and a charge to Solomon, ch. 22 # 1Ch 22:1
- (10) The further organization of the affairs of the kingdom, chs. 23-27 # 1Ch 23:1- 27:1
- (11) David's last charge to the people and to his son, Solomon;- Solomon made king, chs. 28-29;- the death of David # 1Ch 28:1 - 29:1 29:28

CHOICE SELECTIONS.

- (1) Jabez's Prayer # 1Ch 4:10
- (2) David pours out the water from the well of Bethlehem # 1Ch 11:17-19
- (3) David's Psalm # 1Ch 16:7-36
- (4) Description of David's Chorus Choir and Orchestra, ch. 25 # 1Ch 25:1
- (5) David's last blessing and prayer # 1Ch 29:10-19

II Chronicles

This book is a sequel to I Chronicles, and likewise a supplement to the book of Kings. The history of Judah as related here is on the whole a dark picture of instability and apostasy, interspersed with periods of religious reformation.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES. The Spiritual Element in the History is more emphasized in Chronicles than in Kings.

(a) See below "The Five Periods of Reformation."

(b) Other illustrations of references found only in II Chronicles, Abijah's devout address # 2Ch 13:5-12

Asa's neglect of God # 2Ch 16:12

Jehoshaphat's foolish alliances # 2Ch 20:35

Cause of Uzziah's leprosy # 2Ch 26:16-21

Manasseh's captivity and restoration # 2Ch 33:11-13

FIVE PERIODS OF REFORMATION are described.

(1) Under King Asa, ch. 15 # 2Ch 15:1

(2) Under King Jehoshaphat # 2Ch 17:6-10

(3) Under the priest, Jehoiada, and King Joash # 2Ch 23:16-19

(4) Under King Hezekiah, chs. 29-31 # 2Ch 29:1 - 31:1

(5) Under King Josiah, chs. 34,35 # 2Ch 34:1 - 35:1

SUMMARY. The Reign of Solomon

PART I.

(1) Solomon's sacrifices at Gibeon, and his wise choice, ch. 1 # 2Ch 1:1

(2) The building of the temple, chs. 2-4 # 2Ch 2:1 - 4:1

(3) The glory of the Lord fills the house, ch. 5 # 2Ch 5:1

(4) Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple, ch. 6 # 2Ch 6:1

(5) Jehovah appears to Solomon again at night, ch. 7 # 2Ch 7:1

(6) The prosperity and fame of Solomon, ch. 8 # 2Ch 8:1

(7) The visit of the Queen of Sheba, and the death of Solomon, ch. 9 # 2Ch 9:1

PART II. The Folly of Rehoboam, leading to the Division of the Kingdom, ch. 10 # 2Ch 10:1

PART III. The History of various reigns from Rehoboam to Zedekiah.

Abijah, ch. 13 # 2Ch 13:1

Asa, chs. 14-16 # 2Ch 14:1 - 16:1

Jehoshaphat, chs. 17-20 # 2Ch 17:1 - 20:1

Jehoram, ch. 21 # 2Ch 21:1

Ahaziah # 2Ch 22:1-9

Athaliah (queen) # 2Ch 22:10 - 23:15

Joash, ch. 24 # 2Ch 24:1

Amaziah, ch. 25 # 2Ch 25:1

Uzziah, ch. 26 # 2Ch 26:1

Jotham, ch. 27 # 2Ch 27:1

Ahaz, ch. 28 # 2Ch 28:1

Hezekiah, chs. 29-32 # 2Ch 29:1 - 32:1

Manasseh # 2Ch 33:1-20

Amon # 2Ch 33:21-25

Josiah, chs. 34,35 # 2Ch 34:1 - 35:1

Jehoahaz # 2Ch 36:1-3

Jehoiakim # 2Ch 36:4-8

Jehoiachin # 2Ch 36:9,10

Zedekiah # 2Ch 36:11-13

SPIRITUAL MESSAGE, The Power of Prayer to give success and victory

2Ch 11:16 13:13-18 14:11 15:12 17:4 20:3 26:5 27:6 30:18-20

2Ch 31:21 32:20 34:3

SPIRITUAL LESSONS

(1) The Preëminence of wisdom # 2Ch 1:7-12

(2) The Glory of the Lord fills the prepared temple # 2Ch 5:13,14

(3) The Spirit of Praise renders God's people invincible # 2Ch 20:20-25

Ezra

WRITER unknown. It is generally conceded that Ezra was not the author of the entire book, but may have been the compiler of those portions which he did not write. He was a Jewish exile in Babylon of priestly descent. # Ezr 7:1-6
For his characteristics

MAIN SUBJECTS. The return of the Jews from their captivity in Babylon, the rebuilding of the temple and the inauguration of social and religious reforms.

SPIRITUAL MESSAGE. The power of the Word of God in human life. Referred to as the "Word of the Lord" # Ezr 1:1 9:4
"Law of Moses" # Ezr 3:2 6:18 7:6
"Commandments" # Ezr 6:14 10:3,5
"Law of the Lord" # Ezr 7:10,14

SYNOPSIS

PART I. The Return of the First Colony of Jews under the Leadership of Zerubbabel, chs. 1-6
Ezr 1:1 - 6:1

- (a) Authorized by King Cyrus # Ezr 1:1-4
- (b) The names of the returning remnant of the people, the priests, the Levites, the descendants of Solomon's servants, and their substance and gifts, ch. 2 # Ezr 2:1

PART II. Their Building Enterprises.

- (a) The altar rebuilt and worship established # Ezr 3:1-6
- (b) The foundation of the temple laid # Ezr 3:8-13
- (c) The people of the land desire to join in the work # Ezr 4:1,2
- (d) When their offer was rejected they became violent opposers, causing the suspension of the work # Ezr 4:4-24
- (e) After a long delay the work was resumed by an edict of King Darius, chs. 5,6 # Ezr 5:1 - 6:1
- (f) The temple finished and dedicated and ancient rites observed # Ezr 6:15-22

PART III. The Return of the Second Colony under Ezra, authorized by the king, Artaxerxes, chs. 7-10 # Ezr 7:1 - 10:1

- (a) The list of Ezra's company of returning exiles, and their arrival at Jerusalem, ch. 8 # Ezr 8:1
- (b) The correction of social evils by Ezra, chs. 9,10 # Ezr 9:1 - 10:1

THE LITERARY AND RELIGIOUS WORK OF EZRA. He is the reputed author of several Psalms, notably the 119th.

According to ancient tradition he wrote First and Second Chronicles, but this cannot be proven. He was associated with Nehemiah in initiating a revival of the study of the Scriptures, Neh. ch. 8 # Ne 8:1

He was reputed to be the organizer of the Jewish synagogue, and to have assembled most of the books of the Old Testament.

CHOICE SELECTIONS

- (1) Ezra's sublime trust in divine protection when called upon to carry great treasures through dangerous places. # Ezr 8:21-32
- (2) Ezra's prayer and confession for the people # Ezr 9:5-15

Nehemiah

In the Hebrew manuscripts the books of Ezra and Nehemiah appeared as one book.

AUTHOR OR COMPILER uncertain. A large portion of the book is regarded by many students as an autobiography of Nehemiah.

KEY TEXT, ch. 6.3 # Ne 6:3

LEADING TOPICS, The Rebuilding of the Walls of Jerusalem, the rehearsal of certain Divine Laws, and the restoration of Ancient Ordinances.

SYNOPSIS

PART I. A TYPICAL STUDY.

THEME, The Rebuilding of the Walls of Jerusalem considered as a Type of the upbuilding of the Divine Kingdom in the Earth.

- (a) The walls broken down, ch. 1.3, may typify the defenses of God's kingdom weakened. # Ne 1:3
- (b) The preliminary season of fasting and prayer ch. 1.4-11, may typify the state of mind which should precede all great spiritual enterprises. # Ne 1:4-11
- (c) Nehemiah's sacrifice of a fine position for the good of the cause, ch. 2.5, may typify the sacrificial service always needed when a great work is to be accomplished. # Ne 2:5
- (d) The night inspection of the city, ch. 2.15,16, may typify the necessity of facing the facts before beginning constructive work. # Ne 2:15,16
- (e) The seeking of co-operation, ch. 2.17,18, may typify an essential element in all successful work. # Ne 2:17,18
- (f) The enlistment of all classes, ch. 3, may typify the importance of thorough organization. # Ne 3:1

THE SAME METHODS MAY BE USED IN OVERCOMING HINDRANCES TO SPIRITUAL WORK.

- (a) Ridicule # Ne 2:19
overcome by confidence in God # Ne 2:20
- (b) Wrath and contempt # Ne 4:3
overcome by prayer and hard work # Ne 4:4-6
- (c) Conspiracy # Ne 4:7,8
overcome by watchfulness and prayer # Ne 4:9
- (d) Discouragement of friends # Ne 4:10,12
overcome by steadfast courage # Ne 4:13,14
- (e) Selfish greed # Ne 5:1-5
overcome by rebuke and self-sacrificing example # Ne 5:6-17
- (f) Work completed, enemies confounded by persistent endeavour # Ne 6:1-15

PART II. CLOSING EVENTS.

- (a) The rehearsal and exposition of the Divine Law, ch. 8 # Ne 8:1
- (b) The confession of the Priests and Levites, and the signing of the covenant, chs. 9,10 # Ne 9:1 - 10:1

(c) The call for people to dwell in Jerusalem, ch. 11 # Ne 11:1

(d) The dedication of the walls, ch. 12 # Ne 12:1

(e) Social and religious reforms, ch. 13 # Ne 13:1

Esther

AUTHOR unknown

CANONICITY. The right of the book to a place in the Scripture Canon has been greatly disputed. The name of God does not appear in it, while a heathen king is referred to over one hundred and fifty times. There is no allusion to prayer or spiritual service of any kind, with the possible exception of fasting.

MESSAGE. Without doubt it occupies its place in God's Word because of its hidden teaching of an overshadowing providence in connection with God's people and the certainty of retribution overtaking their enemies.

LEADING TOPIC, The deliverance of the Jews by Queen Esther.

KEY VERSE ch. 4:14 # Es 4:14

SYNOPSIS. The main events of the history centre around three feasts:

I. THE FEAST OF AHASUERUS, and events connected with it.

(1) On the seventh day, when the king was merry with wine, Queen Vashti, being ordered to appear before the assembled princes, refuses # Es 1:1-12

(2) The angry king decides to accept the advice of his wise men, and dethrones the queen # Es 1:13-22

(3) After a kingdom-wide search for a new queen, Esther, the Jewess is chosen # Es 2:1-17

II. THE FEAST OF ESTHER, preliminary events, and its final outcome.

(1) Mordecai, the Jew, the queens's foster father, saves the king's life # Es 2:7,21-23

(2) The promotion of Haman and the failure of Mordecai to do him honour so enrages Haman that he decides to destroy all the Jews # Es 3:1-15

(3) The mourning of the Jews on the discovery of Haman's plot # Es 4:1-4

(4) The heroic determination of Esther to appear before the king with a plan in her mind to foil the plot # Es 4:5-17

(5) Esther's gracious reception by the king, and her invitation to himself and Haman to attend her feast # Es 5:1-8

(6) Haman erects a gallows upon which to hang Mordecai # Es 5:9-14

(7) During a sleepless night the king examines the court records and discovers that Mordecai has received no reward for saving his life # Es 6:1-3

(8) Haman's selfish vanity results in his own humiliation and great honour for Mordecai # Es 6:4-11

(9) Esther's feast and Haman's plot revealed. He is hanged upon the gallows he built for Mordecai, ch. 7 # Es 7:1

III. THE FEAST OF PURIM

(1) Preliminary Events.

(a) The vengeance of the Jews against their enemies authorized by the king, ch. 8 # Es 8:1

- (b) Vengeance executed, ch. 9 # Es 9:1
- (2) The Feast Instituted # Es 9:20-31
- (3) The Exaltation of Mordecai, ch. 10 # Es 10:1

Job

AUTHOR, unknown

DATE, subject of much discussion. Regarded by many scholars as the oldest book in the Bible; others place it as late as the exile.

PLACE, the Land of Uz.

MAIN SUBJECT, the Problem of Job's affliction. The book is poetical and pictorial in its descriptions. It may be divided into twelve scenes.

Scene I. Job and his family before affliction overtook them. Job appears as a godly father, unspoiled by prosperity, ministering, as a priest, to his large household # Job 1:5

Scene II.

(a) Satan enters the divine presence, insinuating that Job serves God because of special favours # Job 1:9-11

(b) Satan is permitted to test Job by inflicting the loss of property and children # Job 1:12-20

(c) Job retains his integrity # Job 1:21,22

Scene III.

(a) Satan re-enters the divine presence, saying, If Job's own body were afflicted, he would curse God # Job 2:1-5

(b) Satan is permitted to smite Job with a horrible disease # Job 2:7,8

(c) The blasphemous advice of his wife, and the triumphant submission of Job # Job 2:9,10

Scene IV. The arrival of Job's three friends, and the seven days silent sympathy # Job 2:11-13

Scene V. Job's patience being exhausted, he utters his complaint, ch. 3 # Job 3:1

Scene VI. The long and fruitless discussions between Job and his three friends concerning his afflictions.

His friends maintain that suffering is the result of personal sin. Job defends himself and asserts his innocence, chs. 4-31 # Job 4:1 - 31:1

Scene VII. Elihu enters into the discussion, chs. 32-37 # Job 32:1 37:1

Scene VIII. The Lord answers Job out of the whirlwind with words of enlightenment and reproof, chs. 38-39 # Job 38:1 - 39:1

Scene IX. Job's confession # Job 40:3-5

Scene X. The Lord speaks the second time ch. 40.7-41 # Job 40:7 - 41:1

Scene XI.

(a) Job's second confession # Job 42:1-6

(b) The Lord's rebuke of Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar for their foolish words, and command for them to offer sacrifices # Job 42:7-9

Scene XII. Job prays for his friends, his own prosperity is restored, and he lives to a great age
Job 42:10-17

SUGGESTED LESSONS.

- (1) The malignant power of Satan in human life.
- (2) The use of suffering in the divine plan as a means of perfecting character.

CHOICE SELECTION, Job's discourse on wisdom ch. 28 # Job # 28.1

Psalms

One hundred and fifty spiritual songs and poems used by the church in all ages in worship and devotional exercises. It was used as the hymn-book of the second temple. The Predominant Themes are Prayer and Praise, but the Psalms cover a great variety of religious experiences. They are quoted more frequently in the New Testament than any other book, except Isaiah. They are often called the Psalms of David because he was the author of a large number of them.

AUTHORSHIP. The authorship of many is uncertain; it is probable that in some cases the name affixed to certain psalms may refer to the COLLECTOR, rather than the AUTHOR. The following is a conjectural list of authors taken from the various versions of the Scriptures.

Attributed to David, 73; to Sons of Korah, 11; to Asaph, 12; to Heman, 1; to Ethan, 1; to Solomon, 2; to Moses, 1; to Haggai, 1; to Zechariah, 1; to Hezekiah, number doubtful; to Ezra, 1; the remainder anonymous.

MESSIANIC PSALMS.

The following are some of the psalms which are regarded as containing direct, or typical, references to Christ:

- (1) Christ, as King, Ps 2; 45; 72; 110; 132 v.11 # Ps 2:1 45:1 72:1 110:1 132.11
- (2) The Sufferings of, Ps 22; 41; 55; 69 # 22:1 41:1 55:12-14 69:20,21
- (3) The Resurrection of, Ps 16 # Ps 16:1
- (4) The Ascension of # Ps 68:18

TOPICAL ARRANGEMENT.

Each Psalm is arranged under some topic which appears prominently in it.

MAIN

Exaltation of, Ps 8 # Ps 8:1

Sinfulness of, Ps 10; 14; 36; 55; 59; and many others # Ps 10:1 14:1 36:1 55:1 59:1

THE WORLDLY AND THE WICKED

- (a) Contrasted with the godly, Ps 1; 4; 5; # Ps 1:1 4:1 5:1
- (b) The delay of the punishment of, Ps 10; # Ps 10:1
- (c) The prosperity of, Ps 37; 73; # Ps 37:1 73:1
- (d) The fate of, Ps 9; 11; # Ps 9:1 11:1
- (e) Trust in riches, Ps 49; # Ps 49:1

RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCES

- (a) Penitence, Ps 25; 38; 51; 130; # Ps 25:1 38:1 51:1 130:1
- (b) Pardon, Ps 32; # Ps 32:1
- (c) Conversion, Ps 40; # Ps 40:1
- (d) Consecration, Ps 116; # Ps 116:1
- (e) Trust, Ps 3; 16; 20; 23; 27; 31; 34; 42; 61; 62; 91; 121; # Ps 3:1 16:1 20:1 23:1 27:1 31:1 34:1 42:1 61:1 62:1 91:1 121:1
- (f) Teachableness, Ps 25; # Ps 25:1
- (g) Aspiration, Ps 42; 63; 143; # 42:1 63:1 143:1
- (h) Prayer, Ps 55; 70; 77; 85; 86; 142; 143; # Ps 55:1 70:1 77:1 85:1 86:1 142:1 143:1
- (i) Praise, Ps 96; 98; 100; 103; 107; 136; 145; 148; 149; 150; # Ps 96:1 98:1 100:1 103:1 107:1 136:1 145:1 148:1 149:1 150:1

- (j) Worship, Ps 43; 84; 100; 122; 132; # Ps 43:1 84:1 100:1 122:1 132:1
- (k) Affliction, Ps 6; 13; 22; 69; 88; 102; # Ps 6:1 13:1 22:1 69:1 88:1 102:1
- (l) Old age, Ps 71; # Ps 71:1
- (m) Vanity of life, Ps 39; 49; 90; # Ps 39:1 49:1 90:1
- (n) Home, Ps 127; # Ps 127:1
- (o) Homesickness, typical, Ps 137; # 137:1

THE CHURCH (typical)

- (a) Safety of, Ps 46; # Ps 46:1
- (b) Glory of, Ps 48; 87; # Ps 48:1 87:1
- (c) Love for, Ps 84; 122; # Ps 84:1 122:1
- (d) Unity in, Ps 133; # Ps 133:1

THE WORD OF GOD, Ps 19; 119; # Ps 19:1 119:1

MISSIONARY, Ps 67; 72; 96; 98; # Ps 67:1 72:1 96:1 98:1

DUTY OF RULERS, Ps 82; 101; # Ps 82:1 101:1

DIVINE ATTRIBUTES

- (a) Wisdom, Majesty, and Power, Ps 18; 19; 29; 62; 66; 89; 93; 97; 99; 118; 147 # Ps 18:1 19:1 29:1 62:1 66:1 89:1 93:1 97:1 99:1 118:1 147:1
- (b) Mercy, Ps 32; 85; 136 # Ps 32:1 85:1 136:1
- (c) Infinite Knowledge, Ps 139 # Ps 139:1
- (d) Creative Power, Ps 33; 89; 104 # Ps 33:1 89:1 104:1

ISRAEL'S EXPERIENCES

- (a) Unbelief, Ps 78 # Ps 78:1
- (b) Desolation and misery of, Ps 79; 80 # Ps 79:1 80:1
- (c) Backsliding of, Ps 81 # Ps 81:1
- (d) Divine Providence, Ps 105; 106; 114 # Ps 105:1 106:1 114:1

Proverbs

A COLLECTION OF MORAL AND RELIGIOUS MAXIMS containing instruction concerning right living. Also brief discourses on Wisdom, Justice, Temperance, Industry, Purity, etc. In these pithy sayings a sharp contrast is drawn between Wisdom and Folly, Righteousness and Sin.

AUTHORS. Solomon is generally credited with the authorship of a large portion of the Proverbs. It is quite probable that all were not original with him. In chapters 30 and 31 are found the words of Agur and Lemuel.

CHIEF PURPOSE, To give Moral Instruction, especially to young People.

KEY VERSE

Pr 1:4

KEY THOUGHT, "The fear of the Lord," which occurs fourteen times.

SYNOPSIS.

- (1) Fatherly counsels and warnings, with exhortations concerning the attainment of wisdom, chs. 1-7 # Pr 1:1 - 7:1
- (2) Wisdom's call, chs. 8,9 # Pr 8:1 - 9:1
- (3) Proverbs of Solomon;--contrasts between Good and Evil, Wisdom and Folly, chs. 10-20 # Pr 10:1 - 20:1
- (4) Proverbial maxims and counsels, chs. 21-24 # Pr 21:1 - 24:1
- (5) Proverbs of Solomon copied by men of King Hezekiah, chs. 25-29 # Pr 25:1 - 29:1
- (6) The words of Agur, the oracle, ch. 30 # Pr 30:1
- (7) The words of King Lemuel;--a mother's advice # Pr 31:1-9

The description of an Ideal wife # Pr 31:10-31

CHOICE SELECTIONS

Wisdom, the Call of, # Pr 1:20-23
the Source of # Pr 2:6 8:1-36
the Preciousness of # Pr 3:13-26
the Principal thing # Pr 4:5-13
the Richest Treasure # Pr 8:11-36
the Feast of # Pr 9:1-6

SUBJECTS SPECIALLY DISCUSSED

Anger # Pr 14:17,29 15:18 16:32 19:11
Benevolence # Pr 3:9,10 11:24-26 14:21 19:17 22:9
Children, correction of # Pr 13:24 19:18 22:6,15 23:13,14

Enticers # Pr 4:14 9:13 16:29
Fear of God # Pr 1:7 3:7 9:10 10:27 14:26,27 15:16,33 16:6 19:23 23:17 24:21
Fools
Slanderous # Pr 10:18
Short-lived # Pr 10:21
Mischief-makers # Pr 10:23

Self-righteous # Pr 12:15

Irritable # Pr 12:16

Mock at sin # Pr 14:9

Talk nonsense # Pr 15:2

Insensible # Pr 17:10

Dangerous # Pr 17:12

Visionary # Pr 17:24

Meddlesome # Pr 20:3

Despise Wisdom # Pr 23:9

Stupid # Pr 27:22

Self-confident # Pr 14:16 28:26

Garrulous # Pr 29:11

Friendship # Pr 17:17 18:24 19:4 27:10,17

Indolence # Pr 6:6-11 10:4,5 12:27 13:4 15:19 18:9 19:15,24 20:4,13 22:13

Pr 24:30-34 26:13-16

Knowledge Divine # Pr 15:11 21:2 24:12

Oppression # Pr 14:31 22:22 28:16

Pride # 6:17 11:2 13:10 15:25 16:18,19 18:12 21:4,24 29:23 30:13

Prudence # Pr 12:23 13:16 14:8,15,18 15:5 16:21 18:15 27:12

Scorners # Pr 3:34 9:7 14:6 19:25 24:9

Strife # 3:30 10:12 15:18 16:28 17:1,14,19 18:6,19 20:3 22:10 25:8 30:33

Temperance # 20:1 21:17 23:1-3,20 23:29-35 25:16 31:4-7

The Tongue # Pr 4:24 10:11-32 12:6,18,22 13:3 14:3 15:1-7,23 16:13,23,27 17:4

Pr 18:7,21 19:1 20:19 21:23 26:28 30:32

Unjust Gain # Pr 10:2 13:11 21:6 28:8

Wealth # Pr 10:2,15 11:4,28 13:7,11 15:6 16:8 18:11 19:4 27:24 28:6,22

Women, evil # Pr 2:16-19 5:3-14,20,23 6:24-35 7:5-27 9:13-18

Women, good # Pr 5:18,19 31:10-31

SPIRITUAL LESSON

Solomon was a GUIDE-POST, rather than an example. He pointed the way to Wisdom, but in the latter part of his life he did not walk in it; hence his son, Rehoboam, followed his EXAMPLE, rather than his COUNSELS, and became a foolish and evil ruler.

Ecclesiastes

NAME, borrowed from the Septuagint. In the Hebrew Bible it is called "Koheleth." The meaning of this word is somewhat disputed, but it is rendered in the English version **PREACHER**, or one who addresses an assembly.

AUTHORSHIP doubtful, but is commonly ascribed to Solomon.

Ec 1:1,2

Many of the experiences related seem to correspond to those likely to have happened in his life, judging from the bare outline of his history found in the Bible.

KEY VERSE

Ec 12:13

KEY WORDS, "Vanity," and "under the sun," --each expression occurs more than twenty-five times.

CONTENTS

The book contains the reflections and experiences of a philosopher whose mind was in conflict over the problems of life. After speaking of the disillusionments that had come to him, he presents the view of the Epicurean materialist, that there is nothing better than the carnal enjoyment of the pleasures of life. As this idea reappears all through the book, it is quite evident that the writer was struggling with it, while at the same time he was uttering profound truths concerning man's duty and obligations to God. At last he seems to emerge from his speculations and doubts, and reaches the noble conclusion in Chapter 12:13, "Fear God and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man." # Ec 12:13

SYNOPSIS. Chs. 1,2

(1) Introduction. Reflection of the monotonous round of life # Ec 1:1-11

(2) The Search of the natural man for his satisfaction and happiness.

(a) It is not to be found in the acquisition of wisdom # Ec 1:12-18

(b) It is not to be found in worldly pleasure # Ec 2:1-3

(c) It is not to be found in art or agriculture # Ec 2:4-6

(d) It is not to be found in great possessions # Ec 2:7-11

(3) Conclusions

(a) The wise man is superior to the fool # Ec 2:12-21

(b) Of the Epicurean, -there is nothing better than to eat and drink and enjoy life # Ec 2:24-26

Ch. 3. The natural man's view of the weary round of life.

(a) There is a time for everything # Ec 3:1-8

(b) The conclusion of the Materialist # Ec 3:13-22

Ch. 4. The study of the Social Evils apart from faith # Ec 4:1-15

Conclusion, all is vanity and vexation of spirit # Ec 4:16

Ch. 5.

(a) Advices concerning religious duties # Ec 5:1-7

(b) The vanity of riches # Ec 5:9-17

(c) The conclusion is, -Eat and drink and enjoy life # Ec 5:18-20

Ch. 6. The vanity of long life # Ec 6:3-12

Ch. 7.

(a) A series of wise sayings # Ec 7:1-24

(b) Conclusions concerning the evil woman # Ec 7:25-28

Ch. 8.

(a) Civil duties # Ec 8:1-5

(b) The uncertainty of life # Ec 8:6-8

(c) The certainty of Divine judgment, and the injustices of life # Ec 8:10-14

(d) Epicurean conclusion # Ec 8:15 (e) The work of God and man # Ec 8:16,17

Ch. 9.

(a) Like things happen to the righteous and the wicked; the grave is the goal of life, man is a creature of circumstances. Epicurean conclusion, "Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow die."
Ec 9:1-9

(b) Wisdom is preëminent though often unappreciated # Ec 9:13-18

Ch. 10. Various wise sayings, the contrast between wisdom and folly, etc.

Ch. 11.

(a) Advices concerning benevolences # Ec 11:1-6

(b) Advice to the young # Ec 11:9-10

Ch. 12. A poetical description of old age # Ec 12:1-7

The closing words of the preacher and the final conclusion concerning the highest duty of man
12:8-14

Song of Solomon

AUTHOR, Solomon, according to tradition. This book has been severely criticized because of its amorous language. Its right to a place in the Bible has been defended by many saintly souls in all ages. They have regarded it as a Spiritual Allegory, representing the holy affections existing between God and his Chosen People, or Christ and his church.

IT IS AN ORIENTAL POEM, the ardent expressions of which can only be properly interpreted by a mature spiritual mind.

SYNOPSIS (the Bridegroom representing Christ,-the bride, the Church)

- (1) Spiritual communion between the Bride and the heavenly Bridegroom # So 1:1 - 2:7
- (2) The Bride misses her companion and seeks him # So 2:8 - 3:5
- (3) The ardent discourses of the Bride and the Bridegroom on their mutual love and the graces of each other # So 3:6 - 8:14

KEY THOUGHT, "My Beloved," the believer's title for Christ # So 2:16

COMPANION PASSAGE, the forty-fifth Psalm # Ps 45:1

SIDE LIGHTS

The Heavenly Bridegroom

- (1) His love covers all defects of the Bride # So 4:7
- (2) He rejoices over her # Isa 62:5
- (3) He gave his life for her # Eph 5:25
- (4) He will come to claim her as his own # Mt 25:6

The Bride

- (1) Loves the Bridegroom # So 2:16
- (2) Feels her unworthiness # So 1:5
- (3) Has been purified and dressed in spotless robes # Re 19:8
- (4) Wears the jewels of Divine grace # Isa 61:10
- (5) Issues the invitations to the wedding # Re 22:17

THE MARRIAGE SUPPER

- (1) Prepared by the Father for the Son # Mt 22:2
- (2) Costly preparations made # Mt 22:4
- (3) Invitations to, a great honour # Re 19:9
- (4) Invitations scorned by many # Mt 22:5
- (5) Invitations include all classes # Mt 22:10
- (6) Neglect of wedding garment leads to exclusion from # Mt 22:11-13

Isaiah

THE PROPHET, The Son of Amoz

Prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah # Isa 1:1

His Call and anointing # Isa 6:1-8

His Family # Isa 7:3 8:3,4

GENERALLY REGARDED AS THE GREATEST of the Old Testament Prophets

(1) Because he is preëminently the Prophet of Redemption

(2) Many of the passages in his book are among the finest in literature. Some modern scholars have studied this poetical prophecy as a botanist studies flowers, dissecting and analyzing them. By the use of this scientific method the beauty and unity of the book, like that of the rose, is almost forgotten as the different parts are pulled to pieces for examination.

SYNOPSIS

SECTION I. chs. 1-39, Refers chiefly to events leading up to the Captivity. # Isa 1:1 - 39:1

(a) Exhortations and warnings of Divine Judgments, mingled with predictions of better days and the coming of the Messiah, chs. 1-12 # Isa 1:1 - 12:1

(b) Prophecies respecting surrounding nations, -Assyria, Babylonia, Moab, Egypt, Philistia, Syria, Edom, and Tyre, etc. chs. 13-23 # Isa 13:1 - 23:1

(c) Writings concerning the sins and misery of the people, promises of salvation, a song of Confidence in God, and his care over his vineyard, chs. 24-27 # Isa 24:1 - 27:1

(d) Chiefly woes pronounced upon Ephraim and Jerusalem, especially for trusting in foreign alliances, chs. 28-31 # Isa 28:1 - 31:1

(e) Promises of a Righteous King, and the outpouring of the Spirit, the exaltation of the Righteous, and the turning of the wilderness into a Garden of the Lord, chs. 32-35 # Isa 32:1 - 35:1

(f) Hezekiah's deliverance from the Assyrians, and the lengthening of his life, chs. 36-39 # Isa 36:1 - 39:1

SECTION II.

The second part of the book contains Predictions, Warnings, and Promises which refer to events beyond the Captivity, and reach on down the centuries through the Christian Dispensation. This portion of the prophecy is especially rich in Messianic references.

THE KEY WORD is "Salvation." Isaiah means, "Salvation of Jehovah."

Salvation

(a) Wells of # Isa 12:3

(b) Joy of # Isa 25:9

(c) Walls of # Isa 26:1

(d) Everlasting # Isa 45:17

(e) Day of # Isa 49:8

(f) Feet of the heralds of # Isa 52:7

(g) Spread of # Isa 52:10

- (h) Arm of # Isa 59:16
- (i) Helmet of # Isa 59:17
- (j) Garments of # Isa 61:10
- (k) Light of # Isa 62:1

SEVEN EVERLASTINGS

- (1) Strength # Isa 26:4
- (2) Judgments # Isa 33:14
- (3) Joy # Isa 35:10
- (4) Salvation # Isa 45:17
- (5) Kindness # Isa 54:8
- (6) Covenant # Isa 55:3
- (7) Light # Isa 60:19

Jeremiah

Contains the Biography and Message of "The Weeping Prophet"

THE PERIOD, Dark days in the Kingdom of Judah,-from the thirteenth year of Josiah (the last good king) until some years beyond the captivity.

MAIN THEMES, The Backsliding, Bondage, and Restoration of the Jews.

THE LIFE OF JEREMIAH

Family # Jer 1:1

Birth, and Divine choice as Prophet # Jer 1:5

Youthful Call,-in the days of King Josiah # Jer 1:2-6

Divine Enduement # Jer 1:9

Commission # Jer 1:10

Promise of Divine Presence # Jer 1:19

Pressure of Duty upon # Jer 20:9

Sustained by the Word of God # Jer 15:16

Persecution of, predicted # Jer 1:19

Put in the Stocks # Jer 20:2

In a miry Dungeon # Jer 38:6

Carried into Egypt # Jer 43:5-7

SYNOPSIS OF THE BOOK

(1) Call of the prophet, ch. 1 # Jer 1:1

(2) Rebukes, Warnings, and Promises to the Jews, chs. 2-20 # Jer 2:1 - 20:1

(3) A Denunciation of rulers, and also of False Shepherds and Prophets, chs. 21-23 Jer 21:1 - 23:1

(4) Predictions of Divine Judgments, the Overthrow of Jerusalem, and the Seventy Years captivity, chs. 25-29 # Jer 25:1 - 29:1

(5) Promises of the Restoration of the Jews, chs. 30-33 # Jer 30:1 - 33:1

(6) Prophecies occasioned by the sins of Jehoiakim and Zedekiah, chs. 34-39 # Jer 34:1 - 39:1

(7) The wretched condition of the Remnant left in Judah, and Prophecies uttered to them, chs. 40-44 # Jer 40:1 - 44:1

(8) Consolation to Baruch, ch. 45 # Jer 45:1

(9) Prophecies concerning the Hostile Nations, chs. 46-51 # Jer 46:1 - 51:1

THE MESSAGE

(1) Some High Spots In

(a) The fountain and cistern # Jer 2:13

(b) The ineradicable stain of sin # Jer 2:22

(c) The search for a man # Jer 5:1

(d) The old ways, best # Jer 6:16

(e) The lost opportunity # Jer 8:20

(f) The tearful call to repentance # Jer 9:1

(g) The depravity of the human heart # Jer 17:9

(h) The clay and the potter, ch. 18 # Jer 18:1

(i) The false Shepherds, ch. 23 # Jer 23:1

(j) How to find God # Jer 29:13

(k) The new covenant # Jer 31:31-34

(1) The mutilation of God's Word # Jer 36:21-24

(2) Rejected

(a) By his neighbours # Jer 11:19-21

(b) By his own family # Jer 12:6

(c) By the priests and prophets # Jer 20:1,2

(d) By his friends # Jer 20:10

(e) By all the people # Jer 26:8

(f) By the King # Jer 36:23

The Lamentations of Jeremiah

A SEQUEL TO THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

THEME, a series of dirges in the form of an acrostic, written as if for a National Funeral, portraying the capture and destruction of Jerusalem. In the Septuagint Version the following introductory words are found, "And it came to pass after Israel was led into captivity that Jeremiah sat weeping and lamenting and lamented this lamentation over Jerusalem."

In the Hebrew Scriptures chapters 1, 2, 4, and 5 have each twenty-two verses, and each verse begins with one the of the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet in order. In chapter three the first three verses begin with aleph, the second three with beth, and so on throughout. The fifth chapter has twenty-two verses, but no acrostic.

SYNOPSIS OF THE BOOK

- (1) The ruin of Jerusalem and misery of the exiles, because of their sins, ch. 1 # La 1:1
- (2) Jehovah, the ancient defender of Israel, has given up his people to their awful fate, ch. 2 # La 2:1
- (3) Jeremiah's grief over the afflictions of his people,-his trust God, and his own persecution, ch. 3 # La 3:1
- (4) The former glory of Israel contrasted with their present misery, ch. 4 # La 4:1
- (5) A prayer for mercy, ch. 5 # La 5:1

KEY VERSE

La 1:12

Ezekiel

NAME MEANS God Strengthens.

THIS PROPHECY, like Daniel and Revelation, might be termed a Mystery Book. It contains much imagery which is difficult of interpretation. Nevertheless, many of its teachings are clear and of the highest value.

SYNOPSIS OF THE BOOK

SECTION I.

The preparation and Call of the Prophet, chs. 1-3 # Eze 1:1 - 3:1

- (a) Son of a priest # Eze 1:3
- (b) Carried away captive to Babylon # Eze 1:1 2Ki 24:11-16
- (c) His vision of God ch. 1 # Eze 1:1
- (d) His Call # Eze 1:3
- (e) His Commission and Enduement chs. 2,3 # Eze 2:1 - 3:1
- (f) Spiritual Food # Eze 3:1-3
- See # Rev 10:10
- (g) His Task, a Spiritual Watchman # Eze 3:4-11 17-21
- (h) Ezekiel claims the highest degree of Inspiration. The words "Thus saith Jehovah" are reiterated over and over again throughout the entire book.

KEY NOTE, "I am Jehovah."

SECTION II, a portrayal of the Apostate Condition of Judah before the captivity.

- (a) Largely visions, warnings and predictions concerning the guilt of the people and the coming destruction of Jerusalem, chs. 4-24# Eze 4:1 - 24:1
- (b) Divine judgments upon the Seven Surrounding Nations, chs. 25-32# Eze 25:1 - 32:1

SECTION III. Chiefly Predictions and Promises concerning the means by which the glory of the nations is to be restored, chs. 33-48 # Eze 33:1 - 48:1

- (a) By Heeding the Warnings of the Spiritual Watchmen, and repenting of Sin, Ch. 33 # Eze 33:1
- (b) By displacing the False Shepherds, and the coming of the Good Shepherd, who will feed the flock, ch. 34 # Eze 34:1
- (c) By a National Revival, and a Spiritual Resurrection in the Valley of Dry Bones, chs. 36,37 # Eze 36:1 - 37:1
- (d) By the Overthrow of the Enemies of the Nation, chs. 38,39 # Eze 38:1 - 39:1
- (e) By the Building of a New Sanctuary, chs. 40-42 # Eze 40:1 - 42:1
- (f) By the returning of the Glory of the Lord # Eze 43:4,5 44:4
- (g) By the Ministry of a Loyal Priesthood # Eze 44:9-31
- (h) By Life-giving Waters issuing from the Sanctuary, ch. 47 # Eze 47:1
- See # Rev 22:1,2

OUTSTANDING EVENTS in the book

- (1) The Departure of the Glory of the Lord from the Temple # Eze 10:16-18 11:23
- (2) The Fall of Jerusalem # Eze 33:21
- (3) The Return of the Shekinah Prophesied # Eze 44:4

CHOICE SELECTIONS

- (1) The New Heart # Eze 11:19 36:25-28
- (2) Personal Responsibility # Eze 18:20-32
- (3) Untempered Mortar # Eze 13:10-15
- (4) The Search for a Man of Integrity # Eze 22:30
see# Jer 5:1
- (5) Sentimental Hearers # Eze 33:30-32
- (6) Chapters for Ministers, 13, 33, 34 # Eze 13:1 33:1 34:1
- (7) Revival Chapter, 37 Eze 37:1

Daniel

A COMPANION TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION

AUTHOR, like Ezekiel, a captive in Babylon

He was brought before King Nebuchadnezzar while young, and trained in the Chaldean language and sciences # Da 1:17,18

SEE 14300

CAREER OF, Resembled that of Joseph;-Promoted to the highest office in the realm # Da 2:48
he maintained his spiritual life in the midst of a heathen court # Da 6:10

MAIN THEME, the Sovereignty of God over the affairs of men in all ages. The pagan king's confessions of this fact constitute the Key Verses of this book.# Da 2:47 4:37 6:26

SECTION I. Largely a Narrative of Personal Biography and Local History. It contains an account of thrilling events and divine interpositions unsurpassed in the Old Testament. It refers to six moral conflicts in which Daniel and his companions participated.

First Conflict. Between pagan Self-indulgence, and conscientious Abstinence, in promoting health.

Abstinence wins# Da 1:8-15

Second Conflict. Between pagan Magic and heavenly Wisdom in the interpretation of dreams.
Divine Wisdom Wins# Da 2:1-47

Third Conflict. Heathen Idolatry arrayed against Loyalty to God.
Loyalty to God Wins# Da 3:1-30

Fourth Conflict. A pagan king's Pride arrayed against Divine Sovereignty.
God wins,-the king turned out to eat grass# Da 4:4-37

Fifth Conflict. Impious Sacrilege arrayed against Reverence for Sacred Objects
Reverence wins,-the Handwriting on the Wall. Belshazzar dethroned# Da 5:1-30

Sixth Conflict. Between Malicious Plotting and the Providence of God over his Saints
Providence wins. The lions mouths stopped# Da 6:1-28

SECTION II. Visions and Prophecies relating to the controlling hand of God moving the scenes in the Panorama of History, chs. 7-12# Da 7:1 - 12:1

INTERPRETATION. The Book of Daniel is a companion to the Book of Revelation; both contain much imagery which is mysterious. The attempt to fit the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation into the facts and events of human history has produced an endless conflict of opinions. The true interpretation of the details of the visions is not always clear. Two Facts are generally acknowledged by candid scholars-

(1) That the prophecies represent a partly veiled Revelation of Future Events in secular and sacred history.

(2) That the visions point to the ultimate triumph of God's Kingdom over all Satanic and World Powers.

In Chapter Seven many commentators see the Four Beasts as representing the Four great Empires,-Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome # Da 7:1-7 followed by a vision of the Coming Messiah.

In Chapter Eight another period of Medo-Persian and Grecian history appears under the figure of a beast.

Chapter Nine contains Daniel's prayer and a veiled prophecy of the time of the Coming of the Messiah.

Chapters Ten to Twelve contain additional far-reaching predictions and revelations of future events.

These three chapters have been the battle ground of theological controversy with many varied interpretations.

CHOICE SELECTIONS

- (1) The Purpose of Daniel # Da 1:8
- (2) The Stone out of the Mountain # Da 2:44-45
- (3) The Answer of the Three Hebrew Captives # Da 3:16-18
- (4) The Feast of Belshazzar, ch. 5 # Da 5:1
- (5) Daniel in the Lions Den # Da 6:1-24
- (6) The Vision of the Judgment # Da 7:9-14
- (7) The Soul-winner's Promise # Da 12:3

Hosea

AUTHOR, Hosea, The son of Beerī # Ho 1:1

A contemporary of Isaiah and Micah.

His Message was addressed to the Northern Kingdom

ESPECIAL FITNESS FOR HIS TASK

(1) He is supposed to have been a native of the North, and was familiar with the evil conditions existing in Israel. This gave a special weight to his message.

(2) It would appear from the narrative that he married a wife who proved to be unchaste. This statement is doubted by some scholars, but if true would have enabled him to vividly portray God's attitude toward Israel, his adulterous spouse. # Ho 1:2-3 2:1-5

But the style of the book is highly figurative, and it may be that this account of his experience with his wife was allegorical.

SPIRITUAL MESSAGE.

Apostasy from God is Spiritual Adultery.

(a) God, the Husband # Ho 2:20 Isa 54:5

(b) Israel, the unchaste Wife # Ho 2:2

SYNOPSIS

SECTION I. Israel's Apostasy symbolized by the experience of the prophet in his marriage, chs. 1-3 # Ho 1:1 - 3:1

SECTION II. Prophetic Discourses, chiefly descriptions of the backsliding and idolatry of the people, mingled with threatenings and exhortations, chs 4-13 # Ho 4:1 - 13:1

The formal call to repentance, and promises of future blessings ch 14 # Ho 14:1

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE HIGHLY FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE used to express the evil conditions in Israel

(1) The Valley of Achor, for a door of Hope # Ho 2:15 # Jos 7:24-26

(2) "Joined to idols," # Ho 4:17

(3) "Mixed among the people" (no longer a separated and holy nation) # Ho 7:8

(4) "A cake not turned" (dough on one side, expressing half-heartedness) # Ho 7:8

(5) "Strangers have devoured his strength" (weakened by evil associations) # Ho 7:9

(6) Grey hairs are here and there upon him" (premature old age, and unconscious deterioration) # Ho 7:9

(7) "Israel swallowed up" (national identity lost) # Ho 8:8

(8) "A vessel wherein there is no pleasure" (a marred and useless vessel unto the Lord) # Ho 8:8

(9) "The balances of deceit" (commercial trickery in business) # Ho 12:7

CHOICE SELECTION

Penitence, and its blessings, ch 14 # Ho 14:1

Joel

AUTHOR, Joel, a prophet of Judah. Very little known concerning # Joe 1:1

NAME. Means "Jehovah is God."

DATE. Uncertain

STYLE. Lofty; the book is forcefully and elegantly written

KEY THOUGHT, National repentance and its blessings.

OCCASION, The visitation of a plague of locusts and a severe drought, regarded as punishments for the sins of the people. The former prophetic of coming invasions of the armies of Judah's enemies.

KEY PHRASE, "The day of the Lord" # Joe 1:15 2:1,11,31 3:14

THE DAY OF THE LORD.

(1) A time of Judgments upon the People for their Sins.

(a) The plague of locusts # Joe 1:4-9

(b) The severe drought # Joe 1:10-20

(c) The invasion of enemies # Joe 2:1-10

(2) Calls to Penitence and Prayer # Joe 2:12-17

(3) Promises Future Deliverance # Joe 2:18-20

(4) Will be a Season of Great Refreshing.

(a) In nature, copious rains will insure plentiful harvests # Joe 2:23,24

(b) The outpouring of the Holy Spirit will usher in a great revival # Joe 2:28-32

See Acts Ch 2 # Ac 2:1

(5) In the Valley of Decision

(a) The Gentile nations will be judged # Joe 3:1-16

(b) Zion shall receive a glorious blessing # Joe 3:17-21

CHOICE SELECTIONS

Whole-hearted penitence # Joe 2:12-17

Promises of the Pentecostal outpouring of the latter days # Joe 2:28-32

Amos

THE WRITER.

His name means "Burden", or "burden-bearer"

A citizen of Tekoa, in the tribe of Judah.

A herdsman and dresser of sycamore trees # Am 7:14

His call # Am 7:15

The attempt to silence him # Am 7:10-13

DATE. Prophesied during the reigns of Jeroboam II in Israel, and Uzziah in Judah.

STYLE, simple but picturesque. The book abounds in striking metaphors.

Illustrations,

- (a) The straining of God's mercy by sinners compared to the overloading of a wagon # Am 2:13
- (b) The pressure of duty upon the prophet compared to the roaring of a lion in his ears # Am 3:8
- (c) The narrow escape of a remnant of Israel compared to a shepherd recovering two legs or the piece of an ear from a lion # Am 3:12
- (d) The scarcity of God's Word compared to a famine in the natural world # Am 8:11,12

Amos, as a prophet, was in many respects like Christ.

- (1) In his occupation, a working man # Am 7:14
- (2) In his humility, -acknowledged his lowly origin # Am 7:15
- (3) In his method of teaching by illustrations
- (4) In his claim of Divine Inspiration, "Thus said the Lord," occurs forty times in his prophecy
- (5) In being charged with treason # Am 7:10 # Joh 19:12
- (6) In the pressure of duty which was upon him # Am 3:8 # Joh 9:4
- (7) In denouncing the selfishness of the rich # Am 6:4-6 # Lu 12:15-21

SYNOPSIS.

- (1) Impending judgments on surrounding nations # Am 1:3-15 2:1-3
- (2) Threatening discourses.
 - (a) Against Judah # Am 2:4,5
 - (b) Against Israel # Am 2:6-16
- (3) The call to Israel to seek God in sincerity, ch 5 # Am 5:1
- (4) Luxurious living condemned # Am 6:4-14
- (5) A series of five visions.
 - (a) A Vision of the Locusts # Am 7:1-3
 - (b) A Vision of the Fire # Am 7:4-5
 - (c) A Vision of the Plumbline # Am 7:7-9
 - (d) A Vision of a Basket of summer fruit # Am 8:1-3
 - (e) A Vision of a Smitten sanctuary # Am 9:1-10
- (6) The visions interrupted by an attempt to intimidate the prophet # Am 7:10-13
- (7) The prediction of the dispersion and restoration of Israel # Am 9:9-15

Obadiah

AUTHOR, nothing is known concerning.

THE PROPHECY centres around an ancient feud between Edom and Israel. The Edomites were descendants of Esau, and had a grudge against Israel because Jacob had cheated their ancestor out of his birthright.

Ge 25:21-34 27:41

KEY THOUGHT, verse 10 # Ob 1:10

The Edomites refused Israel a passage through their country # Nu 20:14-21

They rejoiced over the capture of Jerusalem # Ps 137:7

SYNOPSIS

The Doom of Edom for their pride and wrong unto Jacob # Ob 1-16

The Deliverance of the Chosen People, and the inclusion of Edom in the future Kingdom

Ob 17-21 Nu 24:18

SPIRITUAL LESSON

God's special providential care over the Jews, and the certainty of punishment upon those who persecute them.

Jonah

JONAH, a native of Galilee, one of the earlier prophets # 2Ki 14:25

Called to go as a missionary to Nineveh, and warn the enemies of his country, he went with great reluctance. This narrative has been ridiculed as a myth by unbelievers, and is regarded by some scholars as a legend, or parable.

The Jews accepted it as historical,

Jesus Christ vouched for its truth # Mt 12:39-41 Lu 11:29,30

THE CHARACTER OF JONAH.

- (1) "Sanctified in spots," a strange mixture of strength and weakness
- (2) Self-willed # Jon 1:1-3
- (3) Godly # Jon 1:9
- (4) Courageous # Jon 1:12
- (5) Prayerful # Jon 2:1-9
- (6) Obedient after chastisement # Jon 3:3,4
- (7) Bigoted and selfish, disappointed when the Ninevites repented # Jon 3:4-10 4:1
- (8) Had too much concern for his own reputation # Jon 4:2,3

SYNOPSIS

Ch 1. The Divine command evaded; the flight and punishment of the prophet.

Ch 2. The Prayer and the Deliverance.

Ch 3. The Second Commission Obeyed.

Ch 4. The Childish Complaint of the prophet; the great exhibition of Divine Mercy, coupled with the rebuke to the prophet.

SPIRITUAL LESSONS

- (1) The peril of running away from duty.
- (2) The temptation to selfish patriotism and religious bigotry.
- (3) The Divine employment of imperfect men as channels of Truth.
- (4) The Wideness of God's Mercy.

Micah

AUTHOR, Micah, a native of Moresheth, in Judah.

He prophesied during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz' and Hezekiah;-was a contemporary of Isaiah
Mic 1:1

His name means, "Who is like Jehovah." He belonged to the territory of Judah, but spoke to both Judah and Israel.

His anointing, # Mic 3:8

SYNOPSIS

I. General Divisions

Chs. 1-3, Chiefly threatenings of coming judgments. # Mic 1:1 - 3:1

Chs. 4-5, Prophetic promises of deliverance. # Mic 4:1 - 5:1

Chs. 6-7, Mainly Exhortations and confessions of National Sins, coupled with promises of restoration. # Mic 6:1 - 7:1

II. Particular Sins Condemned.

(a) Idolatry # Mic 1:7 5:13

(b) Evil plans and devices # Mic 2:1

(c) Covetousness # Mic 2:2

(d) Rapacity of princes, prophets and priests # Mic 3:2-11

(e) Witchcraft # Mic 5:12

(f) Dishonesty # Mic 6:10-12

(g) Universal corruption # Mic 7:2-4

(h) Treachery # Mic 7:5,6

III. Future Hopes.

(a) The establishment of a Righteous Kingdom # Mic 4:1-8

(b) The coming of a Messiah King # Mic 5:2

(c) The Reformation and Restoration of the nation # Mic 7:7-17

(d) The complete Triumph of Divine Grace # Mic 7:18-20

QUOTATIONS FROM-

(a) By the elders,-thus saving the life of Jeremiah # Jer 26:16-19 Mic 3:12

(b) By the Sanhedrin, to Herod the Great at the time of the Birth of Christ # Mt 2:5,6 Mic 5:2

(c) By Christ,-in sending forth his disciples # Mt 10:35,36 Mic 7:6

NOTABLE PASSAGES

The definition of True Religion # Mic 6:8

The Birth-place of Christ announced # Mic 5:2

God's disposal of the Sins of Believers # Mic 7:18-19

Nahum

AUTHOR, little known concerning. Name means "compassionate" or "full of comfort."

DATE. Some time before the Fall of Nineveh.

MAIN THEME, the Destruction of Nineveh.

HISTORICAL SETTING. This book is regarded by some scholars as a sequel to Jonah. It would appear that the Assyrians, after their repentance at the preaching of Jonah, soon relapsed into gross idolatry. They plundered other nations and their capital became like a lions' den full of prey. # Na 2:11,12

THE PURPOSE of the book was to pronounce Divine Vengeance upon the bloody city, and to console Judah with promises of future deliverance # Na 3:1 1:13-15

SYNOPSIS.

Ch. 1. A vision of the majesty and invincible power of Jehovah, who will break the yoke of the Assyrians and deliver Judah. # Na 1:1

Ch. 2. A dramatic description of the Siege of Nineveh. # Na 2:1

Ch. 3. A woe pronounced upon the bloody city, and her complete ruin foretold. # Na 3:1

NOTE.- Some expositors have seen in Ch 2.4 an allusion to the modern automobile, but this is a far-fetched interpretation. # Na 2:4

Habakkuk

AUTHOR. Some have inferred from his Psalm, chapter 3, and the direction to the chief musician, that he was a chorister in the temple; but this is purely conjectural.

DATE uncertain. The prophet evidently lived in the Chaldean period. Many scholars fix the time of the prophecy during the reign of Jehoiakim.

MAIN THEME, The Mysteries of Providence.

KEY VERSE

Hab 1:3

SYNOPSIS.

The book opens with the prophet in perplexity over the mystery of unpunished evil in the world. The first two chapters are mainly composed of a dialogue between Habakkuk and Jehovah.

(1) The prophet complains to God that he sees sinful violence on every hand, yet no punishment is visited upon the evildoers # Hab 1:1-4

(2) He receives a reply revealing the divine plan of using the Chaldeans as a swift and terrible instrument of judgment upon the wicked nations # Hab 1:5-11

(3) Still the moral problem is unanswered in the mind of the prophet. How can a holy God use these wicked heathen to waste and destroy people more righteous than they? Are the wrong and violence to continue forever? # Hab 1:12-17

(4) The prophet ascends his watch-tower to look over the world. He receives the reply of Jehovah, and is told the Purpose of God is soon to be fulfilled, and is encouraged to wait for it, # Hab 2:1-3 Then follows the sentence that has been a watchword in the Christian Church # Hab 2:4

(5) Content with the new light received, the prophet utters a series of five woes against

THE DISHONESTY # Hab 2:6

THE COVETOUSNESS # Hab 2:9

THE BLOODY BUILDING ENTERPRISES # Hab 2:12

THE DEBAUCHERY # Hab 2:15

and THE IDOLATRY of the great world-power # Hab 2:18-20

(6) Finally he utters a sublime prayer (or psalm of praise), speaking of the majesty and glory of Jehovah and declaring his unwavering trust in the divine plans # Hab 3:1-19

NOTABLE PASSAGES.

The Morning Star of the Reformation # Hab 2:4 Ro 1:17 Heb 10:38

The Triumph of Missions # Hab 2:14

The Woe to the Drunkard-maker # Hab 2:15

An All-conquering Faith. # Hab 3:17,18

Zephaniah

WRITER, evidently a direct descendant of King Hezekiah
Zep 1:1

He prophesied during the reign of Josiah, King of Judah
Zep 1:1

It is thought he uttered his prophecy near the beginning of Josiah's reign, before the religious revival which swept over the kingdom at that period. See 2 Kings, chs 22,23
2Ki 22:1 - 23:1

Tradition says that Zephaniah was associated with Huldah, the Prophetess, and Jeremiah in the initiation of the reformation of the kingdom.

MAIN THEME, The searching Judgments of God.

KEY TEXT
Zep 1:12

CONTENTS. The book is exceedingly somber in its tone, and is filled with threatenings and denunciations; but the sun breaks through the clouds in the last chapter, and the prophet foretells the coming of a glad day, when the Hebrews shall become a praise among all the people of the earth.

SYNOPSIS

- (1) The announcement of coming judgments upon Judah ch 1 # Zep 1:1
- (2) The Call to Repentance # Zep 2:1-3
- (3) Judgments threatened upon surrounding nations # Zep 2:4-15
- (4) A woe pronounced upon the sinners of Jerusalem because of their corruption and spiritual blindness in continuing in wickedness, in spite of all the judgments meted out to the heathen nations # Zep 3:1-8
- (5) A universal judgment foretold, which only a godly remnant should escape # Zep 3:8-13
- (6) The future glory of Israel, when Jehovah shall deliver his people, and cause them to become famous throughout the earth # Zep 3:14-20

Haggai

"**THE PROPHET OF THE TEMPLE**" was reputed to have been born during the seventy years' captivity in Babylon, and to have returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel. He was a colleague of Zechariah # Ezr 5:1 6:14

MAIN THEME. Sharp rebukes for the neglect to rebuild the temple, coupled with cheering exhortations and promises to those undertaking the work.

KEY VERSE

Hag 2:4

HISTORICAL OCCASION.

The remnant that had returned from captivity were selfishly pre-occupied with their own affairs, and were more concerned in beautifying their own dwellings than in rebuilding the Lord's house. The work had ceased for years. # Hag 1:4

THE MESSAGE.

- (1) A cutting reproof, showing that God had withheld his natural blessings, because his temple was left in ruins. # Hag 1:3-11
- (2) Words of encouragement as the work of rebuilding the temple was resumed # Hag 1:12-15
- (3) Inspiring promises to the older people who had seen Solomon's Temple, and the were discouraged at the inferiority of the structure they were able to build # Hag 2:3. They were told of a coming manifestation of divine power and the appearing of the Messiah when the glory of the Lord would fill the house # Hag 2:7-9
- (4) A reminder of their unworthiness to erect a house for the Lord of Hosts # Hag 2:10-14
- (5) Predictions of the doom of the heathen nations, and words of commendation for Zerubbabel, as God's chosen instrument # Hag 2:20-23

CHOICE SELECTIONS

Hag 2:4-9

Divine Presence, strengthening # Hag 2:4

--- Power, moving # Hag 2:6

--- Glory, filling # Hag 2:7

--- Peace, coming # Hag 2:9

Zechariah

I. The Call to Repentance 1:1-6

II. The Eight Visions of Zechariah 1:7--6:8

- A. The Horses among the Myrtle Trees 1:7-17
- B. The Four Horns and Four Craftsmen 1:18-21
- C. The Man with the Measuring Line
- D. The Cleansing of Joshua, the High Priest
- E. The Golden Lampstand and Olive Trees
- F. The Flying Scroll 5:1-4
- G. The Woman in the Basket 5:5-11
- H. The Four Chariots 6:1-8

III. The Crowning of Joshua 6:9-15

IV. The Question of Fasting 7:1-3

V. The Four Messages of Zechariah 7:4--8:23

- A. Rebuke of Hypocrisy 7:4-7
- B. Repent of Disobedience 7:8-14
- C. Restoration of Israel 8:1-17
- D. Rejoice in Israel's Future 8:18-23

VI. The Two Burdens of Zechariah 9:1--14:21

- A. The First Burden: The Rejection of the Messiah 9:1--11:17
 - 1. Judgment on Surrounding Nations 9:1-8
 - 2. Coming of the Messiah 9:9--10:12
 - 3. Rejection of the Messiah 11
- B. The Second Burden: The Reign of the Messiah 12:1--14:21
 - 1. Deliverance of Israel 12:1--13:9
 - 2. Reign of the Messiah 14

Malachi

WRITER. Nothing is known of the prophet's life except what is found in his book. He was probably a contemporary of Nehemiah; the conditions described in the prophecy best answer to that time.

STYLE, Forceful and Peculiar. Jehovah is represented as having a dialogue with his people. "Ye Say" is contrasted with "Thus saith Jehovah of hosts" through the first three chapters.

THEME, A graphic picture of the closing period of Old Testament history, showing that great reforms were needed to prepare the way for the coming Messiah.

KEY TEXT

Mal 3.8

SYNOPSIS

I. DARK SIDE OF THE PICTURE. The sins of a dishonest, ungrateful people, and an unfaithful priesthood.

(1) Robbing God.

- (a) By failure to respond to Divine Love # Mal 1:2
- (b) By dishonouring God's Name # Mal 1:6
- (c) By presenting blemished offerings # Mal 1:7,8,13,14
- (d) The priests, by evil example, becoming stumbling-blocks, instead of spiritual leaders # Mal 2:1-8
- (e) By honouring sinners # Mal 2:17 3:15
- (f) By selfishly withholding tithes # Mal 3:8
- (g) By justifying impiety # Mal 3:14

(2) Social Sins

- (a) Treacherous dealing with brethren # Mal 2:10
- (b) Inter-marriage with the heathen # Mal 2:11
- (c) Divorcing wives # Mal 2:14-16
- (d) Sorcery, impurity, oppression # Mal 3:5

II. THE LIGHT SIDE OF THE PICTURE

Glorious Promises

- (1) Of the coming of the Messenger of the Covenant # Mal 3:1-4
- (2) Of the outpouring of a Great Blessing # Mal 3:10-12
- (3) Of the saints becoming Jehovah's peculiar Treasure # Mal 3:16-18
- (4) Of the dawning of a New Day in which righteousness shall triumph # Mal 4:2,3
- (5) Of the appearance of a Spiritual Reformer before the Day of the Lord is ushered in # Mal 4:5,6

CHOICE SELECTIONS

Ch. 3. The Purifying Messenger of the Covenant # Mal 3:1-4

Ch. 3. The Cataract of Blessing # Mal 3:10

Ch. 3. God's Jewels # Mal 3:16,17