

A. Their journey through the desert; the promulgation made to them of the Mosaic law in the midst of thunders and lightning on mount Sinai; their wars with the inhabitants of the Promised Land, or land of Chanaan; the appointment after Josue's death (1245) of judges to govern them, the most renowned of whom were Gedeon, Jephthe, Samson and Samuel: finally, the establishment of monarchical government, first in the person of Saul (1095) and then of David, whose son Solomon built the noblest and most beautiful temple ever erected in honour of the Supreme Being.

Q. What celebrated personages appeared in the days of the Judges of Israel?

A. In the days of the Judges, if ever, appeared those far-famed heroes, Minos, Bacchus, Saturn, Jupiter, Hercules, Orpheus, and many others whom Greece and Rome in aftertimes adored as gods and demi-gods.

Q. What other events stand conspicuous in the history of the fourth age?

A. The conquest of the world by Sesostris, king of Egypt, and the memorable siege of Troy (1219—1209), which has been immortalised by Homer and Virgil.

Q. Which is the first republic mentioned in history?

A. The first republican form of government was that of the Athenians after the death of their virtuous and brave king Codrus, precisely at the time when Saul ascended the throne of Israel.

FIFTH AGE (B. C 1005—538).

Q. What change took place in the Jewish nation under Roboam, successor to Solomon?

A. Ten out of the twelve tribes revolted and formed a separate state, called the *Kingdom of Israel* (980); the remaining tribes, Juda and Benjamin, composed the *Kingdom of Juda*.

Q. What was the fate of the Jewish nation after the separation of the ten tribes?

A. The two kingdoms waged war incessantly against each other—in both, the people and princes relapsed into the worship of idols, and became so corrupt that the Lord in his anger permitted the Assyrians to invade the whole

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