



PART I.

THE KINGS OF JUDAH.

CHAPTER I.

REHOBAM.

JUDAH, from whose descendants this kingdom took its name, was the son of Jacob, and the great-grandson of Abraham. The tribe of Judah was larger than either of the other tribes, and in some respects more important. "Judah," said the inspired Jacob, "thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise." The throne was filled not only by persons belonging to this tribe but to one family—the family of David—four hundred and fifty-six years. It is a fact unparalleled in history that the genealogy of this line of kings is traceable up to the creation of man, so that one can truthfully close by saying: "which was the son of Adam which was