

it, and the Lord himself leaning upon the top thereof, confirming to him and his seed all the promises he had made to Abraham. He also gave him the name of *Israel*, and made him the father of twelve sons; from whom the twelve tribes of Israel are derived. These were Ruben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulon, Dan, Nephthali, Gad, Aser, Joseph, and Benjamin. As Ruben had forfeited his privilege of first-born, which entitled him to a double portion, and to be the priest and prince of his brethren, by defiling his father's bed, the double portion was given to Joseph, from whom descended two tribes, Ephraim and Manasses; the priesthood was given to *Levi*, and the sceptre to *Judah*; according to the blessing given him by his father at his death, Gen. xlix., *The sceptre shall not be taken away from Judah—till he come that is to be sent, (Shilo, the Messias,) and he shall be the expectation of nations.*

§ 9. *Of the Patriarch Joseph.*

Joseph, on account of his virtue, became the favorite of heaven amongst all the sons of Jacob, and was endowed with the spirit of prophecy. He was also his father's favourite, and therefore was hated and envied by his brethren; who, having found an opportunity, sold him to some merchants, who carried him into Egypt, and persuaded their father that a wild beast had devoured him. The merchants sold him to Potiphar, a principal officer to the king, who conceiving a great affection for him, gave him the charge over all his house; till his mistress, who had often solicited him to sin, to which the chaste young man would by no means consent, maliciously accused him to her husband of having made an attempt upon her chastity. Hereupon Joseph was cast into prison, where his prophetic spirit became manifest in the in-

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