

of human redemption, a splendid proof of the truth, faithfulness, and goodness of God." Reuben loses the birthright, the priesthood, the royal dignity. Joseph, best beloved, receives the birthright in the double portion of his sons. Levi receives the priesthood, the Urim and Thummim; Judah the royal dignity. To the latter he says: "Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise;" and then enraptured with the vision, for which he had waited, he says, "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah till Shiloh come." Does history confirm that prediction? Are the lines clearly defined that trace its course down the ages? These questions are answered in sparkling gems of truth.

After the death of the aged seer, after Joseph had left vacant the high office that he held as chief minister of the land, it is added significantly in the record, "that another king arose who knew not Joseph." Forgetting that he had been the saviour of the land, his brethren and children groaned in the deepest servitude of slavery for many weary generations. Delivered by the outstretched hand of God; guided through the Red Sea; fed upon manna from heaven; quails to supply their lack of flesh; water supplied from the granite rock; led and protected by the pillar of cloud and fire; at length the pilgrim host reach the land promised to their pilgrim fathers.

Judah has the pre-eminence among the tribes. It outnumbered the rest in the numbering. The standard was a lion, that led in the van of battle. The tribe occupied a commanding position in Canaan. The future Jerusalem, the great capital; the temple, the centre of Hebrew polity and faith, were in the boundaries of Judea. There the law was read, there sacrifices offered, and that city became the centre of power and wealth to the whole Israelitish people. Saul, the first anointed king, though towering above the rest of the people, vacates the throne, the first and last of his dynasty.

Pause a moment at the reign of David. He leads the united nation up to the radiant sun-crowned summit of prosperity. His eye scanned the surrounding nations, prostrate or tributary at his feet. He was the central glory of Judah, the star of his tribe, the monument whose shadow fell upon all the succeeding ages. Solomon takes the sceptre as it falls from the hand of his father. Riches flowed at his feet. Fountains, strangers to the hill of Zion, at his bid trickled down its slopes. Cities rose as if by