

The Teachers' Monthly.

Vol. 1.

OCTOBER, 1895.

No. 10.

THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES.

Various attempts have been made to adjust the chronology of the time of the judges, founded upon statements in different parts of Scripture. In 1 Kings 6: 1 the period from the Exodus to the foundation of the Temple is said to be 480 years; and many have adjusted all the intervening chronology to this date. But others disregard that passage, which they deem an interpolation, for the following reasons: 1. There is a variation in the numbers between the Hebrew and the Septuagint, and no date is assigned in the parallel passage in 2 Chr. 3: 2. 2. Josephus, Theophilus and Origen, in treating of the subject, appear to have been in ignorance of this computation, which is first mentioned in the fourth century by Eusebius, though in his latest works he does not adopt it. 3. It is directly opposed to the language of Paul, who assigns 450 years to the time between the division of Canaan and Samuel the prophet (Acts 13: 20). 4. It would require that many of the times of servitude should be included in the government of the judges (apparently in opposition to the repeated statements that "the land had rest"), and that several of these should be regarded as contemporaneous. Still there is not a perfect agreement among these chronologers. A table of the whole era is subjoined, exhibiting the dates of Usher, and Hales, two eminent chronologists in Scripture history, as representing the extremes of opinion on the question. The most probable theory fixes the length of the period at about 30 years below that assigned by Hales.

	Usher.	Hales.
Departure from Egypt.....	B. C. 1491	1648
Death of Moses.....	1451	1608
Death of Joshua.....	1426	1582
Interval.....	10 yrs.	1572
Servitude—Mesopotamia.....	8 "	1394
First Judge—Othniel.....	40 "	1354
Servitude—Moab.....	18 "	1336
Second and third Judges, Ehud and Shamgar.....	80 "	1316
Servitude—Canaan.....	20 "	1296
Fourth Judge—Barak (Deborah).....	40 "	1256
Servitude—Midian.....	7 "	1249
Fifth Judge—Gideon.....	40 "	1209
Sixth and seventh Judges—Tola and Jair.....	48 "	1161
Servitude—Ammon.....	18 "	1143
Eighth Judge—Jephtha (in Gilead).....	6 "	1137
Ninth, tenth and eleventh Judges—Ibzan, Elon and Abdon.....	25 "	1120
Servitude—Philistines.....	20 "	1140
Twelfth Judge—Samson.....	1120	1182
Thirteenth Judge—Eli.....	1141	1142
Servitude—Philistines.....	1120	1122
Fourteenth Judge—Samuel.....	1095	1110
First King—Saul.....	40 yrs.	1056
Second King—David.....	40 "	1015
Temple Founded.....	1012	1027
Time between the Exodus and the founding of the temple....	480	621

(Green's Introduction).