

localities now successfully identified, attention may be called *first* to the time when this invasion of Jehoshaphat's kingdom occurred. It happened after Jehu's threatening of wrath upon Jehoshaphat for helping Ahab at Ramoth-gilead—at a time, that is, when Jehoshaphat had reason to expect some sort of calamity to befall him. It took place while Moab was independent—which she became on the death of Ahab, probably about B.C. 896¹—and was thus in a condition of unsettlement likely to induce her to favour, and perhaps head, such an enterprise as that of a raid into Judah; and it fell out before Jehoshaphat's relapse into a second sinful alliance with an Israelitish king, which a writer, anxious to glorify Jehoshaphat, would not have placed after, but before that sovereign's brilliant display of faith in connection with the Ammonite and the Moabite invasion. Then a *second* mark of authenticity may be noted in the name of the prophet who so prominently figured on this occasion. "Of the four ancestors of this Jahaziel mentioned in ver. 14," writes Ewald, "we know from 1 Chron. xxv. 16 that the first Mattaniah lived in David's time, and belonged to the family of Asaph. As Jehoshaphat belongs to the fourth and fifth generation after David, all this agrees together, and supplies a proof of the historical credibility of this event." A *third* proof may be found in the manner in which the invading hosts are represented as having exterminated one another. Possibly it was not unusual for half-savage hordes, engaged in a joint campaign, when taken by a sudden panic, to fly at each others' throats; and it may be that nothing more than a knowledge of this practice was required by the King of Moab to make him cry when he beheld what he deemed to be the blood of his opponents, "This is blood; the kings (of Israel, Judah, and Edom) are surely destroyed, and they have smitten each man his fellow."² Yet it is not without bearing on the point at issue that the triple alliance against Moab was formed some years later than the raid into Judah, and that the Moabites were here with the

¹ 2 Kings iii. 5; cf. *Records of the Past*, xi. 165.

² 2 Kings iii. 23.