

## OUTLINE OF HISTORY

By H. G. Wells.

WE are now in a position to place in their proper relationship to the general outline of human history the Israelites, and the most remarkable collection of ancient documents in the world, that collection which is known to all Christians as the Old Testament. We find in these documents the most interesting and valuable lights upon the development of civilization, and the clearest indications of a new spirit that was coming into human affairs during the struggles of Egypt and Assyria for predominance in the world of men.

All the books that constitute the Old Testament were certainly in existence, and in very much their present form, at latest by the year 1000 B. C. Most of them were probably recognized as sacred writings in the time of Alexander the Great (300 B. C.).

The Return to Jerusalem. They were the sacred literature of a people, the Jews, who, except for a small remnant of common people, had recently been deported to Babylonia from their own country in 587 B. C. by Nebuchadnezzar II, the Chaldean. They had returned to their city, Jerusalem, and had rebuilt their temple there under the auspices of Cyrus, that Persian conqueror, who, we have already noted, in 539 B. C. overthrew Nabonidus, the last of the Chaldean rulers in Babylonia.

The Babylonian captivity had lasted about fifty years, and many authorities are of opinion that there was a considerable admixture during that period both of race and ideas with the Babylonians.

The position of the land of Judaea and of Jerusalem, its capital, is a peculiar one. The country is a band-shaped strip between the Mediterranean to the west and the desert beyond the Jordan to the east; through it lies the natural high road between the Hittites, Syria, Assyria

and nomadic shepherds in the country between Babylonia and Egypt. The earliest Biblical account is said by the critics to be made up of several pre-existing versions; but whatever its origins the story as we have it today, is full of color and vitality.

What is called Palestine today was at that time the land of Canaan, inhabited by a Semitic people called the Canaanites, closely related to the

## Problems in History.

## DO YOU KNOW—

What four peoples successively conquered the Hebrews between the year 1600 B. C. and the coming of Christ?

## DO YOU KNOW—

Whether the Jewish people ever entirely subjugated what historians call "the promised land"?

## DO YOU KNOW—

When the Hebrews lost the Ark of the Covenant of God?

## DO YOU KNOW—

What is the tragic significance of the Biblical name, Ichabod?

Answers in tomorrow's installment of H. G. Wells' "Outline of History."

Phoenicians who founded Tyre and Sidon, and to the Amorites who took Babylonia, and under Hammurabi, founded the first Babylonian empire. The Canaanites were a settled folk in the days—which were perhaps contemporary with the days of Hammurabi—when Abraham's flocks and herds passed through the land. The God of Abraham, says the Bible nar-

## The LAND of the HEBREWS

Hill country shaded

Route from Phoenicia to the Red Sea, across Palestine.

[The distance from Tyre to Jerusalem is roughly 100 miles—about that of London to Bristol. From Tyre to the Red Sea is about twice the distance as from London to Newcastle.]

Tyre

Sidon

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

Hebron

Beer-sheva

Gaza

Jaffa

Haifa

Damascus

Aleppo

Bagdad

Persia

Arabia

Suez

Red Sea

Mediterranean Sea

Gulf of Persia

Indian Ocean

Arabian Sea

Bay of Bengal

Andaman Sea

Ceylon Sea

Malacca Strait

Sunda Strait

Java Sea

Celebes Sea

Molucca Sea

Arafura Sea

Timor Sea

Tasman Sea

Pacific Ocean

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