

give him and his descendants all his blessings, according to promise.

Abraham had a son, Isaac, whom Sarah bore. Isaac's Jacob, had twelve sons; and Jacob removed with them and families, from Canaan to the land of Egypt, because there was sore famine there; but there was great plenty of corn in Egypt. After many years they became a great nation; and the Egyptians were exceedingly afraid that the Hebrews were abundantly more powerful and mightier than they, so Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and his servants were very cruel to them, and made them work very hard. Pharaoh commanded all their male children to be cast into the river. The Hebrews cried to God, and he sent Moses and Aaron, whom he had chosen, to show His signs among the Egyptians, and wonders in the land of Ham, that they might deliver them from the bondage of the Egyptians; but Pharaoh would not listen to Moses, so God sent plagues upon Egypt. Afterwards Pharaoh let the Israelites go out of Egypt. They passed through the Red Sea on dry land when the waters were divided. Pharaoh pursued after them with horses and chariots, and a great army; but they were all drowned in the Red Sea.

God was very kind to the Israelites, and guided them in their journey, by a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, but they often murmured against God, for want of bread and water, so God punished them by making them wander in the wilderness forty years. He sent manna from heaven to them to eat. He also sent Moses to strike the rock, and the waters flowed out of it for them to drink.

The Israelites assembled, and stopped near Mount Sinai; God delivered to Moses the Ten Commandments thereon, to tell them what they should do and what they should not do. God appointed Aaron to teach the Commandments to the Israelites. Aaron was the first high priest of Israel. The priests offered sacrifices to God. Aaron and Moses died both in the wilderness.

After Moses' death Joshua was the second leader of the people, and he brought them into Canaan from the wilderness. He divided their land into twelve parts, and gave a part to each tribe. After the death of Joshua the people fell into idolatry; and he forsook them, and allowed the Philistines and Midianites to oppress them. When the Israelites repented, God raised up some good men out from among them to rule over Israel, and these men were called Judges. (The) thirteen Judges ruled over the Israelites.

After the Judges, the Israelites desired to have a king to rule over them, instead of Judges, as other nations had. A suc-

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[Letter from

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