

present roots that occur in no Semitic language. Truly, as the writer remarks in verse 22, "these are ancient things."

Ewald looked upon the brief notice of Jabez as one of great antiquity, but I am not aware that any writer has yet given to that prince his true place in the world's history. So far we have found him to be a convert from gentilism to the worship of Israel's God, and a prince who, in spite of disastrous circumstances attending his birth, received special favours from God, including a happy and prosperous life and the extension of his dominions. His surroundings in the genealogies are Gentile, and some of them peculiarly Egyptian. Those who were able to record facts connected with Egyptian history, such as the incident regarding Mered, may be reasonably supposed to have dwelt at some period in the land of the Pharaohs. The recorders, there can be little doubt, were the Kenite scribes of chapter ii. verse 55, some of whose descendants, including the brother-in-law of Moses, entered the Land of Promise and received an inheritance in Israel, with whom, however, they seem never to have amalgamated. An ancient abode of these scribes was the city of Jabez, a city we search for in vain either in Palestine or in the Kenite region of Arabia Petraea.

Turning to Egypt, there is little difficulty in identifying Jabez with Thebez, the famous capital of the Thebaid, and the University of the Upper Kingdom. The forms by which Thebez is represented in the inscriptions are *ape*, *apet*, *aptu*, etc., the initial *T* or *Th* of the Greek word being the Egyptian feminine article, which was frequently employed as a prefix to names of places, and which as a mere locative prefix, meets us in the geographical nomenclature of other lands, as in Thapsacus, a word derived from Pasach. Thebez, therefore, which is also the name of a somewhat obscure town that existed in Central Palestine in the days of the Judges, may appropriately represent T Jabez. It is most probable that the Palestinian Thebez, like those of Asia Minor and Greece, derived its name from the Egyptian original. In the Bible the title of the Egyptian Thebez is No-Ammon, that city having been the great centre of the worship of the divinity so-called, for Ammon, with his wife Mant and son Chonsu, made up the Theban triad. The first records of the