

We read : " And he spoke 3000 proverbs and his songs were 1005."

But who might be the compiler of the third book, if it was not King Jehoshaphat, of Judah ?

He was one of the best and most distinguished of the Kings of Judah. He reigned from B. C. 914 to 889. Therefore this book was compiled 100 years after the second book, that is about B. C. 900.

Let us see why we should take King Jehoshaphat as the compiler of the third book.

He succeeded his pious father, Asa, in whose steps he walked without turning aside.

During his reign there occurred, as we know, a reformation in the religion of the people ; for we read in II Chronicles XVII, that King Jehoshaphat appointed a commission consisting of five Princes, nine Levites and two Priests to go through the cities of Judah, carrying the Book of the Law with them and giving instruction to the people.

Also, in II Chronicles XX, we find that when the Moabites, Ammonites and Edomites invaded Judah, and when King Jehoshaphat had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, that should praise the Beauty of Holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say " Praise the Lord, for His mercy endureth for ever."

And when they began to sing, the Lord set ambushments and the enemies were smitten, for they stood up one against the other and destroyed themselves. And then the Jews, with King Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, returned to Jerusalem with Psalteries and Harps and Trumpets into the House of the Lord. Hence he seems to have been the compiler of the third book.

The fourth book would naturally fall to good King Hezekiah.

In Proverbs XXXV, 1, we read : " These are the Proverbs of Solomon

which the men of Hezekiah, King of Judah, copied out."

King Hezekiah then made a compilation of Proverbs, and why should he not have done the same thing with the Psalms, especially as we find in II Chronicles XXIX and XXX, that during the solemn revival of God's Ordinances, which had been neglected, he set the Levites in the House of the Lord with Cymbals, with Psalteries and with Harps, according to the commandment of David and of Gad, the King's seer, and of Nathan, the Prophet, for so was the commandment of the Lord by His prophets. This evidences the great interest King Hezekiah had in the Services of the Temple, and he is believed to have compiled the fourth book about 175 years after the appearance of the third, for Hezekiah reigned from B. C. 726 to 697.

I think it is generally accepted that Ezra the Scribe put the last finishing touch to the Book of Psalms, when he closed the Sacred Canon of the Old Testament Scriptures. Therefore the last or fifth Book must be ascribed to him.

In recapitulation then, the first Book of Psalms was compiled by King David ; the second by King Solomon ; the third by King Jehoshaphat ; the fourth by King Hezekiah, and the fifth by Ezra the Scribe. But from what sources were these books compiled ? It is to be remembered that Samuel, the Prophet, collected together those that during his time had the gift of prophecy and formed three schools of them—one was located at Ramah, a second at Gilgal, and a third at Jericho.

The persons composing these communities were called the Sons of the Prophets. No doubt their time was employed in teaching divine things ; for the word to prophesy has a comprehensive meaning. It indicates not only the act of foretelling future events ; but also of explaining Holy Scripture and of singing songs of praise to God.

For instance, when Samuel anointed