

3rd. Lower Egypt including Goshen on the East and Rahab on the West. That Rahab, and that rich level land between the branches of the river, called the Delta from its shape (  $\nabla$  ) were identical we think very probably for the following reason, which we give in the words of the learned Bochart. "The Hebrew word Rahab or Raab, is the same with the Egyptian name Rib or Riph, where by to this very day, the Delta is called, from its resemblance to the shape of a pear, called by the natives Rib."

Of *Rameses*, 20 miles below Noph, and *Pithom* 60 North East, both in the land of Goshen, we have little to say, but that they were called "treasure cities," and were built by the Israelites. The expression "treasure cities," may point either to their being places for storing grain or for defence. Pithom in particular from its situation near the wilderness, would probably be a fortified city, to protect the frontier from the incursions of the Arab hordes.

*On* or Heliopolis, that is, city of the Sun, situated on the same branch of the Nile with *Rameses*, but 10 miles below, was pre-eminently given to idolatry. And the Sun, as its name imports, was the chief object of worship. *Jeremiah* (43: 13,) calls it also *Bethshemish* house of the Sun, for the same reason. It is called *On* in *Gen.*, 41: 45, and *Aven* in *Ezekiel* 30: 17. Both these words have a corresponding meaning. The one labour and the other vanity; because idolatry is heavy toil, and its end perfect vanity. *Joseph* married the daughter of the priest of *On*. *Josephus* the historian tells us, that this city was given to the Israelites, when they came first to the country. This is probable enough, as it was in the land of Goshen. It is called in our translation, "the city of destruction," *Isaiah* 19: 18. This passage foretells the conversion of the Egyptian people to their Lord their God; and the specification of Heliopolis; or *On*, the most idolatrous probably of the whole, intimates, that in Egypt the most stubborn knee should yet bend, and the most sottish heart become sensitive.

We pass on now to cities in Rahab or the Delta. And *Zoan*, called *Zanis* by the Greeks is the first to be named for various reasons. If one counts from the East, then this city was situated on the second mouth of the Nile, in a large bay, full of little islands. It appears to have been the most ancient city in Egypt, although, (*Num.* 13: 22.) "Hebron was built seven years before." It was evidently the chief capital of the country, for although *Noph* and *Hanes* (*Isaiah* 19: 11.) were sometimes honored with Pharaoh's court, yet *Zoan* is always first mentioned. Besides the seventy eighth psalm (12) declares that several of the miracles performed by *Moses* were wrought in the "field of *Zoan*." It may be mentioned by the way, that in *Gen.* 13: 10., the Syriac version of the Old Testament reads *Zoan*, for *Zoar*, which reading is certainly preferable, according to the present arrangement of the verse. From *Ezek.* 30: 13., it is probable *Zoan* was in a declining state, and that the royal residence was permanently fixed at *Noph*.

About 30 miles East, also on the coast, was situated on *Sin* or *Pelusium*, thus mentioned by *Ezekiel* (30: 15.,) "I will pour my fury upon *Sin*, the strength of Egypt." *Sin* in the Syrian tongue and *Pelos* in the Greek, both signify dirt, probably from the excessive mud in the streets, so denominated. And it was very properly called the "strength or key of Egypt," on the East, both because it was nearest the desert, and was moreover well fortified. *Suidas* a learned Greek Grammarian, who lived some centuries ago, calls *Pelusium*, "the key of Egypt." *Damietta* stands on its ruins.

*Pibeseh* *Ezek.* (30. 17.,) stands on the same stream with *Sin*, a little to the South. Not far from *Sin*, the harbor of *Tahpanhes*, or *Hanes*, was situated. *Jeremiah*, (43: 9,) tells us Pharaoh had a house or palace here,