

or by the foreign tribes he had called to his assistance, Ati was put to death, leaving his queen, Zobebah, the mother of a posthumous child. Her husband dead, his murderers within the walls of her palace, her enemies emboldened to renew the strife for empire, and, perhaps in addition to all this, a Babylonian invasion upon her borders, we can understand how Jabez was her Benoni and Ichabod, and her exclamation, "I bare him with sorrow." It is not a little remarkable, as has been already stated, that the Abbé Banier and other students of mythology explain Cybele, the commoner name of Cybebe, by the Hebrew word *chebel*, "to bring forth with pain."

The Phrygian legend of Cybebe, originally no doubt a legend or tradition from Apirak or Avaris, the land of the so-called shepherds, has given us the clue to the subsequent history of the family of Ati. This wife of the murdered Atys and mother of Sabazius found a friend in Marsyas. Among the Palestinian or Arabian tribes whom Ati had invited to aid him against his enemies was a Midianite family, probably in the line of Ephraim, whom Josephus and the Arabian historians represent as an invader of Egypt. The Midianites, as we learn from the story of Joseph, were in friendly relations with the Shepherd dynasty, and their name, as Matenuu, long denoted a class of Egyptian mercenaries. The chief of these Midianite warriors and the son of Ephraim was Laadah of the Chronicles, known to Egyptian history as Alites or Salatis, the leader of the Shepherds; and his son Mareshah, the Moeris of the Egyptians and the Marsyas of the Greek tradition, became the friend of the widowed Zobebah and the orphan Jabez. Assuming the command of the faithful Egyptians and their allies, Laadah and his son subdued the revolvers, overcame the claimants for the throne, and drove them far into the Upper Kingdom, where, unable to regain their lost dominion, they were fain to content themselves with censuring Pepi or Jabez for employing the doughty shepherds in his service. In gratitude doubtless for such signal benefits, the youthful Jabez added to his name that of the wise and warlike Midianite who had been to him a father, and called himself Pepi Merira, Jabez of Mareshah. If we rely upon ancient testimony, and find that Jabez was a king from the day of his birth, we see Joseph