

# The Shorter Bible

## THE OLD TESTAMENT

TRANSLATED AND ARRANGED

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## PREFACE

THE SHORTER BIBLE is not intended as a substitute for the complete text or the time-honored versions. It aims rather, through the selection of certain parts which have seemed to the editors especially well suited to this purpose, to kindle the interest of the busy modern reader in the Bible as a whole.

In the Bible, accounts of the same events or teachings are frequently repeated. The Book of Genesis alone contains between thirty and forty such repetitions. Seven-eighths of Mark is quoted in Matthew and three-fourths in Luke. The reader is often confused by these different versions of the same incidents and teachings. It is quite natural that Paul, even with his astounding versatility, should repeat certain teachings in his letters. About one-third of the Old Testament and about two-thirds of the New represent what is most frequently read or used by the average Bible student.

The effort is made in the SHORTER BIBLE, by omitting these duplicates, by bringing together kindred parts, and by arranging the material in each group according to the nature of its contents or in the order in which it is written, to secure a clearer picture of the origin and development of Judaism and Christianity

and of the work and teachings of their great social and spiritual leaders.

In the translation the aim has been to translate the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek idioms into their modern English equivalents—that is, to make it literal rather than literalistic, and to present the thought of the Biblical writers so simply that it can be easily understood by all. The editors desire to express their deep sense of indebtedness to the many scholars who have prepared the way and to the host of devoted friends who have generously aided in this work.

# CONTENTS

## STORIES AND HISTORIES

### GENESIS

| SECTION | THE PRIMITIVE NARRATIVES   | PAGE |
|---------|--|------|
| 1.      | The Poem of Creation, Gen. 1 <sup>1</sup> -2 <sup>3</sup> . . . . .  | 1    |
| 2.      | The Provisions for Man's Physical, Moral, and<br>Social Development, 2 <sup>4a-8a</sup> , 9, 15-24 . . . . .   | 4    |
| 3.      | Sin and Its Tragic Consequences, 2 <sup>25</sup> -3 <sup>19</sup> , 23, 21 . . . . .   | 5    |
| 4.      | Cain the Criminal, 3 <sup>20</sup> , 4 <sup>1-16a</sup> . . . . .  | 7    |
| 5.      | The Survival of the Morally Fit, 6 <sup>5-7a</sup> , c, 8, 13-17, 7 <sup>1-5</sup> ,<br>6b-8, 12, 16b, 18, 22, 23, 8 <sup>1-3a</sup> , 6-12, 13b, 18, 20, 21b-22 . . . . . | 9    |
| 6.      | The Rainbow of Promise, 9 <sup>1-15</sup> . . . . .  | 11   |
| 7.      | The Traditional Origin of Nations and Languages,<br>11 <sup>1-9</sup> . . . . .  | 12   |

|     | THE ABRAHAM NARRATIVES   |    |
|-----|--|----|
| 8.  | An Unselfish Pioneer, 9 <sup>18a</sup> , 11 <sup>27b-29b</sup> , 30b, 31, 32b, 12 <sup>1-8</sup> ,<br>13 <sup>2</sup> , 5-18 . . . . . | 14 |
| 9.  | Hospitality to Strangers, 18 <sup>1-11a</sup> , 12-14 . . . . .  | 16 |
| 10. | The Destruction of the Morally Unfit, 18 <sup>16</sup> , 20-32,<br>19 <sup>1-28</sup> , 30, 37, 38 . . . . .                           | 17 |
| 11. | Jehovah's Sympathy for Outcasts, 21 <sup>1-3</sup> , 6, 8-21 . . . . .   | 20 |
| 12. | Abraham's Loyalty to His Divine Friend, 22 <sup>1-19</sup> . . . . .   | 22 |
| 13. | The Mission of Abraham's Devoted Servant, 24 <sup>1-61</sup> ,<br>25 <sup>5</sup> , 8, 11b, 24 <sup>62b-67</sup> . . . . .             | 23 |

## THE JACOB-ESAU NARRATIVES

| SECTION   | PAGE |
|---|------|
| 14. Jacob's Trickery in the Home, 25 <sup>21a, b, 24-34</sup> . . . . .   | 29   |
| 15. His Unscrupulous Ambition, 27 <sup>1-40</sup> . . . . .   | 29   |
| 16. The Dream of a Troubled Fugitive, 27 <sup>41-45</sup> , 28 <sup>10-13, 15-22</sup> . . . . .                  | 33   |
| 17. The Deceiver Deceived, 29, 30 <sup>1, 22-24</sup> . . . . .   | 34   |
| 18. Trickery That Again Made Jacob a Fugitive, 30 <sup>25-43</sup> , 31 <sup>1, 2, 17, 18a, 19-21</sup> . . . . . | 37   |
| 19. Facing the Misdeeds of Youth, 32 <sup>3-11, 13b-32</sup> . . . . .  | 39   |
| 20. The Reconciliation of Two Brothers, 33 <sup>1-16</sup> , 35 <sup>1, 6, 16-24</sup> . . . . .                  | 41   |

## THE JOSEPH NARRATIVES

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 21. The Victim of Favoritism, 37 <sup>1, 2b-27, 28b, 31-35</sup> . . . . .   | 43 |
| 22. Joseph's Fidelity to His Ideals, 39 <sup>1-22</sup> . . . . .  | 45 |
| 23. His Readiness to Help Those in Trouble, 40 . . . . .   | 47 |
| 24. His Great Opportunity, 41 <sup>1-36</sup> . . . . .  | 49 |
| 25. The Office Finds the Man, 41 <sup>37-57</sup> . . . . .  | 51 |
| 26. The Testing of Joseph's Brother, 42 <sup>1-26, 29-38</sup> . . . . .   | 53 |
| 27. The Moral Awakening of Joseph's Family, 43 <sup>1-44<sup>13</sup></sup> . . . . .  | 55 |
| 28. Judah's Appeal for Clemency, 44 <sup>14-34</sup> . . . . .   | 59 |
| 29. Joseph's Magnanimity, 45 . . . . .   | 61 |
| 30. Joseph's Loyalty to His Family, 46 <sup>1-6, 28-34</sup> , 47 <sup>1-12, 27</sup> . . . . .  | 63 |
| 31. The End of Jacob's Tempestuous Life, 47 <sup>29-31</sup> , 48 <sup>2b, 9b, 13-21</sup> , 49 <sup>33b-50<sup>14</sup></sup> . . . . . | 65 |
| 32. Joseph's Last Days, 50 <sup>15-26</sup> . . . . .  | 67 |

## EXODUS

## THE DELIVERANCE OF THE HEBREWS FROM EGYPT

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 33. Moses' Training as an Industrial and Religious Leader, Ex. 1 <sup>6-14a, 22</sup> , 2 <sup>1-22</sup> . . . . . | 69 |
|---|----|

# CONTENTS

ix

| SECTION   | PAGE |
|---|------|
| 34. His Call to Public Service, 2 <sup>23</sup> , 3 <sup>1-3a</sup> , 9-14, 16, 17a, c, 18-20, 4 <sup>10-16a</sup> , 18 . . . . .                               | 71   |
| 35. Pharaoh's Pitiless Industrial Oppression, 4 <sup>27-30a</sup> , 31, 5 <sup>1-6<sup>1</sup></sup> . . . . .  | 73   |
| 36. Penalties for Industrial Oppression, 7 <sup>14</sup> , 15a, 16-18, 20b, 21a, 24, 25, 8 <sup>1-6</sup> , 8-15, 20-25a, 28b-32, 9 <sup>1-7</sup> . . . . .    | 76   |
| 37. The Blighting Effects of Oppression, 9 <sup>13</sup> , 17, 18, 23b-30, 33, 34, 10 <sup>3-5</sup> , 11b, 13-20 . . . . .                                     | 79   |
| 38. The Plagues that Broke Pharaoh's Spirit, 10 <sup>21-29</sup> , 11 <sup>4-8</sup> . . . . .  | 81   |
| 39. The Institution of the Passover Feast, 12 <sup>1-9a</sup> , 10-16, 21-24, 26-28 . . . . .   | 82   |
| 40. Israel's Deliverance from Egyptian Despotism, 12 <sup>29-34</sup> , 37-39, 13 <sup>17-22</sup> , 14 <sup>5-8</sup> , 10-14, 19-21c, 23-28, 30, 31 . . . . . | 84   |
| 41. Song of Thanksgiving, 15 <sup>20</sup> , 21, 1-11b . . . . .  | 87   |

## THE HEBREWS IN THE WILDERNESS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 42. The Solemn Compact Between the Hebrews and Their God, 15 <sup>22a</sup> , 27, 16 <sup>1a</sup> , 17 <sup>1b</sup> , 19 <sup>2-6a</sup> , 7-11, 16-18, 20 <sup>1-17</sup> , 34 <sup>27</sup> . . . . . | 89 |
| 43. The Construction of the Tent of Meeting, 25 <sup>1</sup> , 8, 35 <sup>21</sup> , 36 <sup>2</sup> , 3a, 8a, 33 <sup>7-11</sup> . . . . .   | 91 |
| 44. The Beginning of Law and Judicial Organization, 18 <sup>1</sup> , 5, 7-9, 12-27 . . . . .   | 92 |
| 45. The School of Hardship, 16 <sup>2-7</sup> , 13-15, 21, 27, 28, 30, 31, 35a, 17 <sup>2-7</sup> . . . . .   | 94 |

## NUMBERS

### THE QUEST FOR A HOME

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 46. The Selection of Religious Leaders, Num. 6 <sup>22-25</sup> , 11 <sup>16</sup> , 17, 24b-29 . . . . .                                     | 97 |
| 47. The Conflicting Reports of the Hebrew Spies, 13 <sup>17-20</sup> , 22-24, 26b-33, 14 <sup>1b</sup> , 3-9, Deut. 1 <sup>32</sup> . . . . . | 98 |



| SECTION   | PAGE |
|---|------|
| 48. The Penalty for the People's Lack of Faith, 14 <sup>11-24</sup> ,<br>31-33a . . . . .                       | 100  |
| 49. The Advance Toward the East-Jordan, 20 <sup>14-22a</sup> ,<br>21 <sup>4b-9</sup> , 11b-13, 16-18c . . . . . | 101  |
| 50. The Victories Over the Amorites, 21 <sup>21-29</sup> , 31, 32 <sup>39-41</sup> . . . . .                    | 103  |
| 51. Balaam's Obligation to Tell the Truth, 22 <sup>3b-7</sup> , 17, 18,<br>21b-35 . . . . .                     | 104  |
| 52. An Early Ideal of National Glory, 22 <sup>36-39a</sup> , 23 <sup>28</sup> , 24 <sup>1-19</sup> . . . . .    | 106  |
| 53. The Loyalty of the East-Jordan Tribes, 32 <sup>1</sup> , 2, 5-8,<br>16-27 . . . . .                         | 108  |

## DEUTERONOMY

### THE FOUNDATIONS OF A STABLE NATIONAL LIFE

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 54. The Meaning of Israel's Experiences, Deut. 1 <sup>1a</sup> ,<br>8 <sup>2-15</sup> , 17-20, 28 <sup>1</sup> , 3-13, 11 <sup>10-12</sup> . . . . . | 110 |
| 55. Moses' Final Charge to His People, 31 <sup>1-8</sup> , 34 <sup>1-10</sup> . . . . .  | 113 |

## JOSHUA

### THE ENTRANCE INTO CANAAN

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 56. Joshua's Preparations for the Conquest of Jericho,<br>Josh. 1 <sup>1</sup> , 2, 5-7, 9-11, 21-7, 16, 8-24 . . . . . | 115 |
| 57. The Crossing of the Jordan, 3 <sup>1</sup> , 5, 9b, 10b, 11, 13-17, 4 <sup>1</sup> , 3,<br>6-8, 18b . . . . .       | 117 |
| 58. The Capture of Jericho, 6 <sup>1-3</sup> , 5c, 7, 10b, 11, 14-17, 20a, c,<br>21, 25 . . . . .                       | 119 |

## JUDGES

### THE PERIOD OF SETTLEMENT

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 59. The Victory That Gave the Hebrews Independence,<br>Judg. 1 <sup>16a</sup> , 19, 23-25, 27, 29-32, 3 <sup>5a</sup> , 6, 13-15a, 4 <sup>1</sup> , 3b-16 . . . . . | 121 |
| 60. Israel's Battle Hymn of Freedom, 5 <sup>1</sup> , 2, 4-7, 9-13, 14c-31b . . . . .   | 123 |



# CONTENTS

xi

| SECTION   | PAGE |
|---|------|
| 61. The Origin of the First Hebrew State, 6 <sup>2</sup> , 3a, 4b, 5a, 6,<br>11-24, 34, 35, 7 <sup>2</sup> -8a, 8 <sup>4</sup> -10a, 11, 7 <sup>16</sup> -21, 8 <sup>12</sup> -27a, 30-32 . . . . . | 126  |
| 62. Effects of a Rule Founded on Violence, 9 <sup>1</sup> -23, 25-28a,<br>29, 29, 40, 45, 50-56 . . . . .   | 131  |
| 63. Jephthah's Fatal Vow, 11 <sup>1a</sup> , 3-11a, 30-32, 34-40 . . . . .  | 134  |
| 64. Samson's Marriage Feast, 13 <sup>2</sup> -5a, 24, 14 <sup>1</sup> -3, 5-20 . . . . .  | 136  |
| 65. Doing to Others as They Do to You, 15 <sup>1</sup> -16 . . . . .  | 138  |
| 66. A Physical Giant and a Moral Weakling, 16 <sup>4</sup> -31a . . . . .   | 140  |
| 67. In the Days when Everyone Did as He Pleased,<br>17 <sup>1</sup> , 2a, 3b, 2b, 4-7a, 8-13, 18 <sup>1b</sup> , 2-9, 11, 13-31a . . . . .  | 143  |

## RUTH

### A HEBREW IDYL

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 68. Naomi's Fortitude and Ruth's Devotion, Ruth 1 . . . . . | 147 |
| 69. In the Fields of Boaz, 2 . . . . .                      | 148 |
| 70. The Reward of Fortitude and Devotion, 3 . . . . .       | 151 |

## I SAMUEL

### THE FOUNDING OF THE HEBREW COMMONWEALTH

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 71. A Mother's Prayers, I Sam. 1 <sup>1a</sup> , 2-28a, 2 <sup>1</sup> -10 . . . . .   | 155 |
| 72. Samuel's Boyhood Training, 2 <sup>11</sup> , 18-21, 12, 17b, 22a, 23-25c,<br>26, 3 <sup>1</sup> -13, 15-19 . . . . .   | 158 |
| 73. The Need of a National Deliverer, 4 <sup>1b</sup> -4a, 5-7, 9b-10,<br>12-14, 16-18a, 5 <sup>2</sup> -4, 6-11a, 6 <sup>2</sup> -5, 7-10a, 12-14, 16, 21, 7 <sup>1</sup> . . . . . | 160 |
| 74. The Perils Inherent in the Centralized Form of<br>Government, 8 <sup>1</sup> , 3-7, 9-22a . . . . .  | 164 |
| 75. The Selection of Saul as Ruler, 9 <sup>1a</sup> , c, 2-8, 10-27, 10 <sup>1</sup> -7,<br>9, 14-16 . . . . .   | 165 |
| 76. The Election of a Democratic Ruler, 11 <sup>1</sup> -7, 9-11, 15 . . . . .   | 169 |
| 77. Jonathan's Decisive Victory, 13 <sup>2</sup> , 3a, 4-7a, 15b-18, 23,<br>14 <sup>1</sup> , 2, 3b-15 . . . . .   | 170 |
| 78. Saul's Rash Vow, 14 <sup>16</sup> -30, 36-46 . . . . .   | 176 |

| THE RISE OF DAVID AND THE DECLINE OF SAUL  |      |
|--|------|
| SECTION  | PAGE |
| 79. David's Introduction to Public Life, 14 <sup>47, 48, 52</sup> ,<br>16 <sup>14-23</sup> . . . . .   | 176  |
| 80. His Victory Over the Philistine Champion, 17 <sup>1-11</sup> ,<br>32-40, 42-49, 51, 52 . . . . .   | 177  |
| 81. Saul's Jealousy of David, 18 <sup>6-9, 12a, 13-16, 20, 21a, 22-25b</sup> ,<br>27a, c, 28, 29, 19 <sup>1, 4-17</sup> . . . . .                        | 179  |
| 82. Jonathan's Devotion to David, 20 <sup>1b-10, 12-39, 42b</sup> . . . . .  | 182  |
| 83. The Fatal Effects of a Lie, 21 <sup>1-4a, 6-9</sup> , 22 <sup>1, 2, 6-18, 20-23</sup> . . . . .  | 185  |
| 84. David's Magnanimity Toward Saul, 23 <sup>1-14a</sup> , 26 . . . . .  | 188  |
| 85. Abigail's Wise Counsel, 25 <sup>1b-42</sup> . . . . .  | 191  |
| 86. David Among the Philistines, 27 <sup>1-10, 12</sup> , 28 <sup>1, 2</sup> , 29,<br>30 <sup>1, 2, 4, 6, 9a, 11, 13-19a, 20, 21a, 22-26</sup> . . . . . | 195  |
| 87. Saul's Visit to the Medium of Endor, 28 <sup>3-16, 17b, 19b-25</sup> . . . . .   | 199  |
| 88. The Defeat and Death of a Brave Warrior, 31 . . . . .  | 201  |

## II SAMUEL

| DAVID'S LEADERSHIP OF THE HEBREWS  |     |
|--|-----|
| 89. David's Lament Over Saul and Jonathan, II Sam.<br>1 <sup>1-4, 11, 12, 17, 19-27</sup> . . . . .                              | 203 |
| 90. David's Call to Leadership, 2 <sup>1-9, 10b</sup> , 3 <sup>1, 4<sup>5</sup>, 6b</sup> , 5 <sup>1-5</sup> . . . . .           | 204 |
| 91. The Struggle for Independence, 5 <sup>17</sup> , 23 <sup>13-17</sup> , 5 <sup>18-20a</sup> ,<br>22-25, 6, 7a, 9-12 . . . . . | 206 |
| 92. Jerusalem Made the Holy City, 6 <sup>1-7, 9-15, 17-19</sup> , 7 <sup>4b, 8</sup> ,<br>9, 12, 14-16 . . . . .                 | 207 |
| 93. David's Treatment of Jonathan's Son, 9 . . . . .   | 209 |
| 94. David's Foreign Conquests, 8 <sup>2, 14a</sup> , 10 <sup>1-14</sup> , 11 <sup>1</sup> , 12 <sup>26-31b</sup> . . . . .       | 210 |
| 95. His Double Crime, 11 <sup>2-22, 25-27a</sup> . . . . .   | 212 |
| 96. Nathan's Condemnation of David's Crimes, 11 <sup>27b</sup> ,<br>12 <sup>1-10, 13-24a, c</sup> . . . . .                      | 214 |

# CONTENTS

xiii

| SECTION  | PAGE |
|--|------|
| 97. Absalom's Rebellion, 15 <sup>1-7</sup> , 9-15, 17-26, 29, 30, 17 <sup>22b</sup> , 24a                        | 217  |
| 98. The Defeat and Death of Absalom, 17 <sup>24b</sup> , 18 <sup>1-14</sup> , 21, 24a, 31, 32, 19 <sup>1-5</sup> | 219  |

## I KINGS

### SOLOMON'S AUTOCRATIC RULE

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 99. Solomon's Election as Ruler, I Kings 1 <sup>1a</sup> , 5-18, 20-41a, 49-53, 2 <sup>10</sup> , 12   | 222 |
| 100. Solomon's Wisdom, 3 <sup>4-6a</sup> , 7, 9-12a 13a, 15a, 16-28  | 225 |
| 101. The Building of Solomon's Temple, 6 <sup>1b</sup> , 2-8, 10, 9, 15-20a, 23a, 26, 23b-24, 27, 28   | 227 |
| 102. The Dedication of the Temple, 8 <sup>1a</sup> , c, 2a, 3, 4a, 10-13, 22-24a, 27-30, 37-43   | 228 |
| 103. The Wasteful Splendor of Solomon's Rule, 7 <sup>1</sup> , 7-11, 9 <sup>26-28</sup> , 10 <sup>11</sup> , 12, 26, 4 <sup>7</sup> , 10 <sup>1-10</sup> | 230 |
| 104. The Consequences of His Selfish Policy, 11 <sup>1a</sup> , 3, 4a, 7, 23, 24a, c, 25a, 26-32a, 40  | 232 |

### THE PROBLEMS AND PROPHETS OF THE NORTHERN STATE

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 105. Israel's Revolt Against Autocracy, 11 <sup>43</sup> , 12 <sup>2</sup> , 1, 3b-15a, 16-20 | 234 |
| 106. The Protest and Exile of Elijah the Tishbite, 16 <sup>23</sup> , 24, 28, 30, 31b, 32, 17 | 235 |
| 107. The Choice Between Material and Spiritual Ideals, 18 <sup>1-12</sup> , 15-46             | 238 |
| 108. Elijah's Clearer Vision of God's Nature and Methods, 19 <sup>1-8</sup> , 11b-21          | 241 |
| 109. His Defense of the Rights of the People, 21 <sup>1-20a</sup> , 23, 27                    | 243 |
| 110. The Overthrow of an Unscrupulous Aggressor, 20 <sup>1-21</sup> , 23-40                   | 245 |
| 111. Micaiah's Loyalty to His Convictions, 22 <sup>1-28a</sup> , 29, 30a, 34-37               | 248 |

## II KINGS

## ELISHA THE PASTOR AND COUNSELLOR OF THE PEOPLE

| SECTION   | PAGE |
|---|------|
| 112. The Mantle of Elijah, II Kings 2 <sup>1-13a</sup> . . . . .              | 252  |
| 113. The Restoration of the Shunamite's Son, 4 <sup>8-37</sup> . . . . .      | 253  |
| 114. The Healing of Naaman, 5 <sup>1-17, 19-27</sup> . . . . .                | 255  |
| 115. Elisha's Vision of the Spirit Helpers, 6 <sup>8-23</sup> . . . . .       | 258  |
| 116. The Deliverance of Samaria, 6 <sup>24-30, 32a, 33, 71-16</sup> . . . . . | 260  |

## THE BLOODY STRUGGLE WITH TYRANNY AND HEATHENISM

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 117. The Overthrow of the House of Ahab, 9 <sup>1-6, 10b-16a, 17-21a, c, 22a, 23a, 24-26, 30-37</sup> . . . . .                | 263 |
| 118. The Overthrow of Tyranny and Heathenism in Judah, 8 <sup>25, 29b, 9<sup>27</sup>, 11<sup>1-5, 6b-9a</sup></sup> . . . . . | 265 |
| 119. Elisha's Farewell Message, 10 <sup>35, 13<sup>2a</sup>, 3-5, 7, 9, 14-20a, 12-18, 25</sup> . . . . .                      | 267 |

## THE PERIOD OF ASSYRIAN DOMINANCE

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 120. The Decline and Fall of Northern Israel, 14 <sup>16, 25, 29, 15<sup>10, 13b, 14, 17b, 19, 20, 22, 25a, c, 27b, 29, 30a, 17<sup>1b</sup>, 3, 4, 6b, 24, 18<sup>9b-11</sup></sup></sup> . . . . . | 269 |
| 121. Judah's Troubled History, 15 <sup>1, 2b, 5, 16<sup>1-11a, 12-14, 18b, 20</sup></sup> . . . . .  | 270 |
| 122. The Two Great Crises in Hezekiah's Reign, 18 <sup>1, 2a, 8, 13-15, 4a, b, 17-20, 36, 37, 19<sup>1-7, 35-37</sup></sup> . . . . .  | 272 |
| 123. The Heathen Reaction Under Manasseh, 20 <sup>21, 21<sup>1b</sup>, 2-6, 10-13, 16a, 18, 19b, 20, 23, 24</sup> . . . . .  | 274 |

## THE LAST THREE DECADES OF JUDAH'S HISTORY

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 124. The Discovery and Promulgation of the Laws in Deuteronomy, 22 <sup>1a, 3-16, 18, 19a, c, 20c, 23<sup>1-3a, c</sup></sup> . . . . . | 276 |
| 125. Josiah's Drastic Reformation, 23 <sup>4-8, 10, 11a, c, 12, 15a, c, 21-25</sup> . . . . .   | 278 |

# CONTENTS

XV

| SECTION  | PAGE |
|--|------|
| 126. The Rapid Decline of the Southern State, 23 <sup>29, 30,</sup><br>31b, 33-35a, 24 <sup>1a, 7, 1b, 2a, 6, 8b, 10-12a, 13-17, 18b</sup> . . . . . | 279  |
| 127. The Final Destruction of Jerusalem, 24 <sup>20b,</sup> 25 <sup>1-12,</sup><br>27-30 . . . . .   | 281  |

## DANIEL

### THE STEADFASTNESS AND THE DIVINE PROTECTION OF THE EXILES

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 128. The Courage of Four Jewish Captives, Dan. 1 . . .  | 283 |
| 129. Daniel's Interpretation of Nebuchadrezzar's<br>Dream, 2 <sup>1-28, 31-48</sup> . . . . . | 284 |
| 130. The Deliverance of Daniel's Faithful Friends, 3 . . .                                    | 289 |
| 131. The Handwriting on the Wall, 5 <sup>1-11a, 12b-31a</sup> . . .                           | 292 |
| 132. Daniel's Escape from the Lions, 6 <sup>1-18a, 19-24</sup> . . .                          | 294 |

## ESTHER

### A WOMAN'S LOYALTY TO HER RACE

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 133. The Follies of a Despot, Esther, 1 <sup>3-10a, c, 12, 13a, 15-22a</sup> . . .  | 297 |
| 134. The Choice of a Queen, 2 <sup>1-11, 15a, c, 17, 18</sup> . . . . .   | 298 |
| 135. Hatred That Knew No Pity, 2 <sup>21-23, 31-6, 8-11, 13, 15b</sup> . . .  | 300 |
| 136. A Queen's Efforts to Save Her People, 4, 5 . . . . .   | 301 |
| 137. The Downfall of An Unscrupulous Conspirator,<br>6, 7 . . . . .   | 304 |
| 138. The Deliverance of the Persecuted Race, 8 <sup>1-8, 10, 11,</sup><br>14-17, 9 <sup>2, 3, 17b, 19, 18b, 27, 24, 26a</sup> . . . . . | 307 |

## EZRA

### THE RESTORATION OF THE TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 139. Cyrus's Decree Regarding the Temple, Ezra 1 <sup>1-8, 11</sup> . . .       | 310 |
| 140. The Rebuilding of the Temple, 5 <sup>1-5, 6<sup>1-15</sup></sup> . . . . . | 311 |

## NEHEMLIAH

## NEHEMLIAH'S SERVICES TO HIS RACE

| SECTION  | PAGE |
|--|------|
| 141. The Public Reading and Acceptance of the Ceremonial Law, 7 <sup>13b</sup> , 8 <sup>1</sup> , 3, 9 <sup>1</sup> , 3, 9, 20a, 23, 25b, 29b-33, 36-38, 10 <sup>29b</sup> , 30-33, 35, 36, 37b, 40b . . . . . | 313  |
| 142. Nehemiah's Response to the Call to Service, Neh. 1 <sup>1-28</sup> . . . . .  | 316  |
| 143. The Arrival at Jerusalem, 2 <sup>9-18</sup> . . . . .   | 318  |
| 144. Courage in the Face of Opposition, 4 <sup>1-3</sup> , 6-23 . . . . .  | 319  |
| 145. His Social Reforms, 5 . . . . .   | 321  |
| 146. His Tact in Avoiding Pitfalls, 6 <sup>1-16</sup> . . . . .  | 323  |
| 147. The Dedication of the Walls of Jerusalem, 7 <sup>1-5a</sup> , 11 <sup>1</sup> , 12 <sup>31</sup> , 32, 37-40, 42b, 43 . . . . .   | 324  |

## LAWS

## EXODUS

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 148. Each Man's Obligation to Protect the Person and Property of Another, Ex. 21 <sup>28-31</sup> , 33, 34, 22 <sup>1</sup> , 3b-9, 14, 15 . . . . . | 326 |
| 149. Kindness to Men and Animals, 22 <sup>21-27a</sup> , 23 <sup>4</sup> , 5, 10-12 . . . . .  | 327 |
| 150. Responsibilities of Witnesses and Judges, 23 <sup>1-3</sup> , 6-8 . . . . .   | 328 |

## DEUTERONOMY

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 151. The Duty of Love and Loyalty to God, Deut. 6 <sup>4</sup> , 5, 10 <sup>14-18</sup> , 11 <sup>1</sup> . . . . .                                  | 330 |
| 152. Public Worship to be Joyous and Social, 16 <sup>16</sup> , 17, 1, 2, 6b, 4a, 8-11, 13-15 . . . . .  | 330 |
| 153. The Duty of Parents to Instruct Their Children, 6 <sup>6-9</sup> , 20-25 . . . . .  | 331 |
| 154. Consideration for the Dependent, 24 <sup>10</sup> , 11, 6, 14, 15, 23 <sup>15</sup> , 16, 15 <sup>12-15</sup> , 24 <sup>17</sup> , 18 . . . . . | 332 |

# CONTENTS

XVII

| SECTION   | PAGE |
|---|------|
| 155. Generosity to the Poor and Needy, 10 <sup>18b</sup> , 19, 24 <sup>19-22</sup> ,<br>23 <sup>19, 20</sup> , 15 <sup>7-11</sup> . . . . . | 333  |

## LEVITICUS

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 156. Upright Dealing in All Business Relations, Lev.<br>19 <sup>35, 36a</sup> , 6 <sup>2-5</sup> . . . . .      | 335 |
| 157. Man's Duties to His Neighbor, 19 <sup>11</sup> , 12a, 13a, 14a,<br>15b-16b, 17-18b, 32a, 33, 34a . . . . . | 335 |

## THE PROPHETS

### AMOS

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 158. The Inevitable Consequences of Cruelty and Social<br>Oppression, Amos 1 <sup>3-8</sup> , 13-15, 2 <sup>6-16</sup> . . . . . | 337 |
| 159. The Source of the Prophet's Authority, 3 <sup>1a</sup> , 2-8 . . . . .  | 339 |
| 160. The Crimes That Utterly Destroy a Nation, 3 <sup>9-43</sup> . . . . .   | 340 |
| 161. The Only Way to Win Divine Approval, 5 <sup>6-15</sup> , 18-24 . . . . .  | 341 |
| 162. The Betrayers of a Nation, 6 <sup>1</sup> , 4-7, 12-14 . . . . .  | 342 |
| 163. The Rejection of Amos's Message, 7 . . . . .  | 343 |
| 164. The Results of National Degeneracy, 8 <sup>1</sup> , 2, 4, 5, 7,<br>9c-12, 9 <sup>1-4</sup> , 7, 8a, b . . . . .            | 345 |

### HOSEA

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 165. Hosea's Undying Love for His Guilty Wife, Hos.<br>1 <sup>2b</sup> , 3b-6, 8, 9, 2 <sup>2a</sup> , b, 4, 5a, b, 3 <sup>1-3</sup> . . . . . | 348 |
| 166. Jehovah's Undying Love for Guilty Israel, 2 <sup>2</sup> , 3,<br>5c-7c, 8a-c, 9-11, 13-23 . . . . .                                       | 349 |
| 167. The Fatal Lack of Religious Education and True<br>Repentance, 4 <sup>1-5b</sup> , 6-12, 5 <sup>15</sup> , 6 <sup>8</sup> . . . . .        | 351 |
| 168. Sowing the Wind and Reaping the Whirlwind,<br>7 <sup>8</sup> , 11-14a, 8 <sup>4</sup> , 7, 8a, 9 <sup>6-7c</sup> . . . . .                | 352 |



| SECTION  | PAGE |
|--|------|
| 169. The Tenderness and Strength of God's Love, 11 <sup>1-9</sup>            | 353  |
| 170. The Prayer of True Penitence and the Divine Response, 14 <sup>1-9</sup> | 354  |

### ISAIAH

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 171. The Call of the Young Isaiah, Isaiah, 6 <sup>1-11</sup>  | 356 |
| 172. The Unfruitful Vineyard, 5 <sup>1-7</sup>  | 357 |
| 173. The Destroyers of Society, 5 <sup>8-14</sup> , 17-24   | 358 |
| 174. The Penalty for Seeking Only Material Wealth and Pomp, 2 <sup>19</sup> , 6-8, 11, 10, 12-18, 3 <sup>16b</sup> , 17, 24b-26, 4 <sup>1</sup> | 360 |
| 175. The Fate of the Defiant Exploiters of the People, 9 <sup>8-21</sup> , 10 <sup>1-4</sup> , 5 <sup>26-39</sup>                               | 361 |
| 176. The Necessity of Holding Fast in a National Crisis, 7 <sup>2-8b</sup> , 9-17, 21-25, 8 <sup>1-8</sup> , 16-18                              | 364 |
| 177. A Patriot's Efforts to Avert a Disastrous Alliance, 20 <sup>1</sup> , 3-6  | 366 |
| 178. The Fate of Rulers Who Refuse to Listen to Good Counsel, 28 <sup>7-18</sup>  | 367 |
| 179. The Folly of Trusting in Heathen Alliances Rather Than God, 30 <sup>1-3</sup> , 8-11, 16-17, 21, 31 <sup>1-3</sup>                         | 368 |
| 180. The Result of Trusting in Men Rather Than in Jehovah, 1 <sup>2-8</sup>   | 370 |
| 181. The Remedy for Judah's Ills, 1 <sup>10-12</sup> , 14-26  | 371 |
| 182. The Doom of Arrogance, 10 <sup>5-9</sup> , 13-15, 24, 33, 34   | 372 |

### MICAH

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 183. A Countryman's Condemnation of the Crimes of the City, Micah 1 <sup>1a</sup> , c. 2-12   | 374 |
| 184. False and True Religion, 2 <sup>1-3</sup> , 6-10a, 3 <sup>1b-12</sup> , 6 <sup>6-8</sup> | 376 |
| 185. Universal Peace Based on Justice, 4 <sup>1-4</sup> , 5 <sup>2</sup> , 4                  | 378 |

# CONTENTS

xix

## ZEPHANIAH

| SECTION  | PAGE |
|--|------|
| 186. The Judgment Threatening Guilty Judah, Zeph.<br>1 <sup>2-7</sup> , 10b-13a, 14-18 . . . . . | 380  |

## NAHUM

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 187. The Fate of the Pitiless Destroyer of Nations,<br>Nahum 1 <sup>1a</sup> , 2 <sup>1</sup> , 3-6, 10-13, 3 <sup>1-3</sup> , 5-13, 18, 19 . . . . . | 382 |
|---|-----|

## JEREMIAH

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 188. The Beginning of a Heroic Life Work, Jer. 1 <sup>1</sup> , 2,<br>4-19 . . . . .   | 385 |
| 189. The Divine Appeal to a Guilty Nation, 2 <sup>2b-3</sup> , 5b-8,<br>11-13, 3 <sup>19</sup> , 20a, 4 <sup>11b</sup> , c, 12, 16-18, 5 <sup>1</sup> , 6 <sup>13</sup> , 14, 3 <sup>12b-13b</sup> . . . . . | 386 |
| 190. The Essentials of True Worship, 7 <sup>1-15</sup> . . . . .   | 388 |
| 191. Facing Martyrdom Undisturbed, 26 <sup>8-24</sup> . . . . .  | 389 |
| 192. The Bad Son of a Good Father, 22 <sup>13-19a</sup> . . . . .  | 391 |
| 193. The Fate of Jeremiah's Sermons, 36 <sup>1-10a</sup> , 11, 12a, b,<br>13-26, 32 . . . . .  | 392 |
| 194. A Prophet's Prayer for His People's Pardon, 8 <sup>18-20</sup> ,<br>14 <sup>7-9</sup> , 19-21 . . . . .   | 394 |
| 195. The Prophet's Doubts and Jehovah's Assurances,<br>12 <sup>1</sup> , 2, 5, 20 <sup>7-10</sup> , 15 <sup>15-21</sup> . . . . .  | 395 |
| 196. The Arraignment of a Nation's Faithless Religious<br>Leaders, 23 <sup>9b</sup> , c, 11, 17, 21-29 . . . . .   | 397 |
| 197. The Fidelity of the Rechabites, 35 <sup>1-4a</sup> , 5-8a, 11-13,<br>16-17c, 18b-19 . . . . .   | 398 |
| 198. A Letter to Homesick Exiles, 29 <sup>1</sup> , 3-14 . . . . .   | 399 |
| 199. Jehovah's Eagerness to Restore His Afflicted Peo-<br>ple, 31 <sup>2-6</sup> , 12, 13, 15b-20 . . . . .  | 400 |
| 200. The New Era That Is to Come, 31 <sup>27-34</sup> . . . . .  | 401 |