

the building. He would say, well, they have made a few inscriptions and that's all those people did, so probably hardly anybody there knew how to read or write. Our paper is such poor quality that most of it would probably entirely disintegrate within fifty years. The ancient Egyptians used a far better grade of paper. Their ~~paper~~ papyrus would last for a few centuries, but it would not last until this date unless it was buried or preserved in some special way. The ninety-nine per cent of it at least would completely disappear. However, ~~the~~ some of the kings of Egypt prepared very fine statements of all the things they had done for certain Egyptian gods, and these statements they caused to be buried with them. There in the tomb these papyrus were preserved, and we have opened them up and found in certain cases <sup>rather</sup> ~~whether~~ full accounts of certain features of the events of the reigns of these kings put down in order to show the great things they ~~have~~ done for one of the Egyptian gods in order that he may show mercy to them in paradise. That is practically all we have of the detailed account of the history of the kings, but it is clearly just an extract from the full records that were preserved. Here in Israel we have certain extracts taken out to show the relation of these kings, the history of the religion of Israel, to show their relation to God's prophets and to the declaration of God's will; and the other which doubtless was carefully annotated has not been preserved. Now the historian here in writing his account at verse 20 has ceased his account of the twenty-two years of the reign of Jeroboam, and instead of continuing with this reign, he starts a new section describing Judah for a distance, going back to the beginning of Jeroboam's reign and describing Judah. ~~It~~ There certainly ought to be a chapter division here at verse 21 where it tells us what Rehoboam did. Now we have an account from here to the end of the chapter which we have put under number "3", the first two kings of Judah, small "a" the reign of Rehoboam. We have an account here in these few verses here in Kings of the events in the reign of Rehoboam. From the account here you do not get an impression of anything good in Rehoboam's reign. You learn that he did evil. He reigned seventeen years,

24- 3/4  
3