

B. The charismatic age of Israel: Judges.

210-214

I. The Conquest of Canaan.

- a. Some Hebrews remained in continuous nomadism in hill country from Patriarchal times.
 - 1. Canaanite cities were in the plains.
 - 2. Khapiru-~~A~~piru of Amarna Tablets.
 - 3. Conquest story omits certain regions.
 - 4. These Hebrews joined conquering Israelites.
- b. Excavation shows sites of destruction and of new settlement.
- c. Population consisted of
 - 1. Pre-Israelite Hebrews and Israelites, fused;
 - 2. Canaanites, conquered or absorbed.
 - A'. Conquests proceeded by devotion to death,
I'. Which Albright defends as a policy of the day.
 - B'. Such conquest preserved Israelite monotheism and purity of life.

II. The period of the Judges.

214-220

- a. Tribal organization, with central sanctuary at Shiloh.
 - 1. Levitical priesthood exerted little lay leadership.
 - 2. Tribal heads had little power beyond tribe.
- b. "Judges" were recognized for all of Israel, through
 - 1. Some outstanding ability, and
 - 2. Direct outpouring of divine grace (charisma).
- c. Israelite culture not adaptation of Canaanite.
 - 1. Abrupt break in architecture.
 - 2. Feudal system disappeared.
 - 3. Canaanite law transmitted through the Judges.
 - 4. Some fusion of Canaanite Baal and Israelite Yahweh.
- d. Wars against Canaanites, Philistines, etc., welded tribes into national unity.
- e. Israel maintained monotheism through the period.

C. The United Monarchy.

221-225

I. Eleventh century contrast between Israel and neighbors.

- a. Israelites loosely organized in tribes under Judges;
- b. Neighbors tightly organized in states under kings, etc.
- c. Philistine superiority forced Israel to unite under king.

II. Kingship advanced from Saul's confederacy to Solomon's commercial empire.

- a. Solomon's ambitions reorganized state, with corvée and provincial officers.
- b. Architectural and cultural advances great.
 - 1. Under Solomon, Hebrew prose took classical form.
- c. Religion Canaanized under Solomon.
 - 1. Temple constructed on Phoenician models,
 - 2. To be seat of Yahweh, under royal protection.
 - 3. Sacrificial ritual similar to Canaanite.
 - 4. Concept of heavenly beings changed:
 - A'. Earlier, astral beings, "the sons of God";
 - B'. Later, angels, messengers of God.

225-228

D. The Divided Monarchy.

228-233

I. Reaction against centralized government applied also to religion.

- a. Shrines of Yahweh set up at Bethel and Dan.
 - 1. Yahweh, invisible, enthroned on young bull.
 - A'. "Golden calf" concept.
 - B'. Dangerously close to Canaanite taurine aspects of Baal.
- b. Prophetic movement prevented trend toward idolatry.