

THE
HOLY BIBLE

ACCORDING TO THE AUTHORIZED VERSION (A.D. 1611)

WITH AN EXPLANATORY AND CRITICAL

Commentary

AND

A Revision of the Translation,

BY BISHOPS AND OTHER CLERGY

OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH.

EDITED

By F. C. COOK, M.A., CANON OF EXETER.

VOL. II.

JOSHUA—I. KINGS.

NEW YORK:
SCRIBNER, ARMSTRONG & CO.,
654 BROADWAY.
1873.

v. 18—4.]

I. KINGS. V. VI.

509

stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house.

¹ Or, Giblites: as Ezek. 27. 9.
18 And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew them, and the stone-squarers: so they prepared timber and stones to build the house.

CHAPTER VI.

¹ The building of Solomon's temple. ⁵ The chambers thereof. ¹¹ God's promise unto it. ¹⁵ The ceiling and adorning of it. ²³ The cherubims. ³¹ The doors. ³⁶ The court. ³⁷ The time of building it.

^a 2 Chr. 3. 1.
AND ^a it came to pass [in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt], in the

fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he [†] began to [†] Heb. built build the house of the LORD.

2 And the house which king Solomon built for the LORD, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits.

3 And the porch before the temple of the house, twenty cubits was the length thereof, according to the breadth of the house; and ten cubits ¹ Or, windows broad within, and narrow without: or, skewed and closed was the breadth thereof before the house.

4 And for the house he made ¹ windows of narrow lights.

CHAP. VI. 1. In the four hundred and eightieth year. (See note A at the end of the chapter.)

ADDITIONAL NOTE on v. 1.

In the four hundred and eightieth year.] It is upon this statement that all the earlier portion of what is called the "received chronology" depends. The year of the foundation of the temple can be approximately fixed by adding the remaining years of Solomon's reign, the years of the kings of Judah, and the seventy years of the captivity, to the received date for the accession of Cyrus to the throne of Babylon. The chronology thus obtained is checked and (in a general way) confirmed by the ancient document called the 'Canon of Ptolemy,' by the recently-discovered 'Assyrian Canon,' and again by the chronology of Egypt. Amid minor

differences there is a general agreement, which justifies us in placing the accession of Solomon about B.C. 1000. But great difficulties meet us in determining the sacred chronology anterior to this. Apart from the present statement, the chronological data of the Old Testament are insufficient to fix the interval between Solomon's accession and the Exodus, since several of the periods which make it up are unestimated. The duration of Joshua's judgeship, the interval between his death and the servitude of Chushan-Rishathaim, and the duration of the judgeships of Shamgar and Samuel, are not mentioned in Scripture. Again, the frequent occurrence of round

2 L 2

The Doubtful Nature of
I Kings VI:1

516

I. KINGS. VII.

[v. 1—2.

numbers (twenty, forty, and eighty) in this portion of the chronology seems to indicate an inexact reckoning, which would preclude us from fixing the dates with any accuracy. Under these circumstances chronologists have found in the present verse their sole means of extrication from the difficulties which beset this portion of the inquiry; and the "received chronology," in its earlier portion, is (as has been already observed) based entirely upon it. But the text itself is not free from suspicion. 1. It is the sole passage in the Old Testament which contains the idea of dating events from an era—an idea which did not occur to the Greeks till the time of Thucydides. 2. It is quoted by Origen *without the words*, "in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt" ('Comment. in S. Johann.' ii. 20). 3. It seems to have been known only in this shape to Josephus, to Theophilus of Antioch, and to Clement of Alexandria, who would all naturally have referred to the date, had it formed a portion of the passage in their day. 4. It is, to say the least, hard to reconcile with other chronological statements in the Old and New Testament.

Though the Books of Joshua, Judges, and Samuel furnish us with no exact chronology, they still supply important chronological data—data which seem to indicate for the interval between the Exodus and Solomon, a period considerably exceeding 480 years. For the years actually set down amount to at least 580, or, according to another computation, to 600; and though a certain deduction might be made from this sum on account of the round numbers, this deduction would scarcely do more than balance the addition required on account of the four unestimated periods. Again, in the New Testament, St. Paul (according to the received text) reckons the period from the division of Canaan among the tribes in the sixth year of Joshua (Josh. xiv.), to Samuel the prophet, at 450 years, which would make the interval between the Exodus and the commencement of the temple to be 579 years. On the whole, therefore, it seems probable that the words "in the four hundred and eightieth year, &c.," are an interpolation into the sacred text, which did not prevail generally before the third century of our era. (Compare 'Introduction to Judges,' p. 120.)