

## ARTICLE II.

## THE BOOK OF JUBILEES.

TRANSLATED FROM THE ETHIOPIC BY PROFESSOR GEO. H. SCHODDE, PH. D.,  
CAPITAL UNIVERSITY, COLUMBUS, O.

[*Continued from Vol. xlv. p. 745.*]

CHAP. XLVI. 1. And it happened after the death of Jacob that the children of Israel increased in the land of Egypt. 2. And they became a great people, and they were all united in their hearts, so that each loved his brother and every man assisted his brother, and they increased and multiplied and increased very much. 3. And ten weeks of years were all the days of the life of Joseph which he lived after his father, and he was no enemy or anything wicked in all the days of the life of Joseph which he lived after his father Jacob, for all the Egyptians honored the sons of Jacob during all the days of the life of Joseph. 4. And Joseph died when he was one hundred and ten years old: seventeen years he lived in the land of Canaan and ten years he was a servant, and three years he was in prison, and eighty years he was under the king ruling all the land of Egypt. 5. And all his brothers died, and all that generation. 6. And he commanded the children of Israel, before he died, that they should carry up his bones when they would go out of the land of Egypt. 7. And he made them swear concerning his bones, for he knew that the Egyptians would not again bring out his bones and bury them in the land of Canaan, for Memkerôn, the king of Canaan, while he was dwelling in the land of Asur, was fighting in the valley with the king of Egypt and killed him there and pursued the Egyptians to the gates of Êrômôn. 8. But he was unable to enter, for a second new king ruled over Egypt,

and he was more powerful than he; and he returned to the land of Canaan, and the gates of Egypt were locked and no one entered Egypt. 9. And Joseph died in the forty-sixth jubilee, in the sixth week, in the second year; and they buried him in the land of Egypt, and all his brothers died after him. 10. And the king of Egypt went out to fight with the king of Canaan in the forty-seventh jubilee, in the second week, in the second year thereof; and the children of Israel brought out the bones of all the sons of Jacob except the bones of Joseph, and buried them in the fields, in the double caves in the mountains. 11. And the most returned to Egypt, and a few of them remained behind in the mountains of Hebron, and thy father Anbaram [Amram] remained with them. 12. And the king of Canaan overcame the king of Egypt and locked the portals of Egypt. 13. And he devised an evil plan against the children of Israel that he would torment them, and he said to the men of Egypt: "Behold, the people of the children have increased and multiplied more than we; behold, we will plot against them before they become too many, and will torment them with slavery, before a murder comes over us and before these become our enemies; if not, these will unite with the enemy and will depart out of our land, for their faces and hearts are toward the land of Canaan." 14. And he set over them work-overseers that they should torment them with slave work. 15. And they commanded them, and they built strong cities for Pharaoh, Pithom and Ramses, and they built all the walls and sides which had fallen in in the cities of Egypt. 16. And they oppressed them with service, but as much as they abused them so much they increased and so much they multiplied. 17. And the men of Egypt considered the children of Israel unclean.

CHAP. XLVII. 1. And in the seventh week, in the seventh year, in the forty-seventh jubilee, thy father came from the land of Canaan, and thou wast born in the fourth week, in the sixth year, in the forty-eighth jubilee, which are the days of the persecution over the sons of Israel. 2. And King Pharaoh, of Egypt, issued a command concerning them, that

they should throw all their children, every male, into the river. 3. And they threw them in seven months, until the day when thou wast born : but thy mother hid thee three months ; and they told about her. 4. And she made for thee an ark, and covered it with pitch and asphalt, and laid it in the grass, on the bank of the river, and placed thee into it seven days ; and thy mother came in the night and nursed thee, and during the days thy sister Miriam protected thee from the wild animals. 5. And in those days Tarmûth, the daughter of Pharaoh, came to bathe in the river, and she heard thy voice crying, and she told her Hebrew maidens that they should bring thee out ; and they brought thee to them. 6. And they took thee out of the ark, and she pitied thee. 7. And thy sister said : " Shall I go and call for thee one of the Hebrew women, who shall raise and nurse this child for thee ? " 8. And she said : " Go. " 9. And she went and called thy mother Jokabed, and she gave her wages, and she raised thee. 10. And when thou didst grow, they brought thee to the house of Pharaoh, and thou becamest his son ; and Anbaram, thy father, taught thee writing. 11. And when thou didst complete three weeks, he brought thee to the royal court. 12. And thou wast in the court three weeks of years, until the day when thou didst go out of the royal court, and didst see the Egyptian as he was beating thy friend from among the children of Israel. 13. And thou slewest him and hid him in the sand, and on the following day thou foundest two of the children of Israel quarrelling, and didst say to the more powerful : " Why dost thou beat thy brother ? " 14. And he became angry and wroth, and said : " Who has set thee a ruler and prince over us ? 15. Dost thou desire to kill me, as thou didst kill the Egyptian yesterday ? " 16. And thou didst fear and flee on account of these words.

CHAP. XLVIII. 1. And in the sixth year of the third week of the forty-ninth jubilee, thou didst go and dwell here five weeks and one year, and didst return to Egypt in the second week, in the second year, in the fiftieth jubilee. 2. And thou knowest what he spoke to thee at Mt. Sinai,

and what the prince Mastema desired to do with thee, as thou returnest to Egypt, on the way, at the feast of tabernacles. 3. Did he not with all his power seek to kill thee, and to save the Egyptians out of thy hand, when thou sawest that thou wert sent to deliver judgments and vengeance over the Egyptians? 4. And I delivered thee out of his hands, and thou didst the signs and wonders for which I had sent thee to do in Egypt over Pharaoh and over all his house and over his servants and over his people. 5. And the Lord inflicted a great vengeance upon them for Israel's sake, and beat them and killed them through blood and frogs and flies and dog flies and breaking-out skin-diseases, and also their animals by death, and through hail, by which he destroyed everything that grew for them; and through grasshoppers, who ate the rest that had been left by the hail, and through darkness; and also the first-born of man and animals; and on all their idols the Lord took vengeance and burned them with fire. 6. And everything was sent through thy hand, that thou shouldst do it before it was done, and thou didst tell it to the king of Egypt and before all of his servants and before his people. 7. And everything took place according to thy words: ten great and terrible judgments came over the land of Egypt, that they might take vengeance for Israel. And all the deeds of the Lord concerning Israel and according to his ordinance which he covenanted with Abraham, that he would take vengeance upon them, according as they had served the Egyptians in oppression. 8. And the prince Mastema placed himself against thee, and endeavored to throw thee into the hand of Pharaoh and aided the sorcerers of the Egyptians, and stood by them, and they performed them before thee: the evils, however, we permitted them to perform, but their remedies we did not suffer them to perform by their hands. 9. And the Lord struck them with a dire pox, and they were not able to withstand, for we destroyed them so that they could not do a single sign. 10. And amid all the signs and wonders, the prince Mastema was not ashamed, until he became powerful and cried to the

Egyptians that they should pursue after thee with all the power of the Egyptians, with their wagons and with their horses and with all the masses of the people of Egypt. 11. And I stood between the Egyptians and thee, and between them and Israel, and I saved the Israelites out of their hands and out of the hands of the Egyptians. 12. And the Lord led them through the middle of the sea, as if it were dry land. 13. And all the people he caused to come out to pursue Israel, the Lord our God cast into the midst of the sea, into the depths of the abysses, instead of the children of Israel, because the people of Egypt had thrown their children by the hundreds into the river: vengeance was taken upon them and one thousand powerful men, and those that were strong, perished on account of one suckling babe which they had cast into the river from amongst thy people. 14. And on the fourteenth day, and on the fifteenth day, and on the sixteenth day, and on the seventeenth day, and on the eighteenth day, the prince Mastema was bound and chained behind the children of Israel, so that he could not accuse the children of Israel. 15. But on the nineteenth day we let him loose, so that he could help the Egyptians, and that they could pursue the children of Israel; and he made hard their hearts and strengthened them and he became powerful according to the Lord our God, so that he could smite the Egyptians and hurl them into the sea. 16. And on the fifteenth day we bound him, so that he could not accuse the children of Israel on the day when they asked for the utensils and clothing from the men of Egypt, utensils of silver and utensils of gold and utensils of iron, in order to despoil the Egyptians for having served him a service in oppression: and we did not cause the children of Israel to go out of Egypt empty handed.

CHAP. XLIX. 1. Remember the command which the Lord commanded thee concerning the Paschah, that thou shalt keep it in its time, on the fourteenth of the first month, that thou shalt kill it before the evening come, and that they shall eat it during the night, on the evening of the fifteenth, from the

time of the setting of the sun, for this is the first day of the festival and the first Pascah. 2. But ye were engaged in eating the Pascah in Egypt while all the powers of Mastema were sent forth in Egypt to destroy all the first-born in the land of Egypt, from the first-born of Pharaoh to the first-born of the captive servant maid in the mill, and down to the the animals. 3. And this is the sign which the Lord gave them: In every house at whose portals they had thrown the blood of a year old sheep, into this house they did not enter to kill those that were locked in it, so that all who were in the house were saved, because the sign of blood was upon the portals. 4. And the powers of the Lord did everything as the Lord commanded them, and they passed by all the sons of Israel, and no plague came over them to destroy any soul from their midst, neither of beast nor of man, not even a dog. And the plague was in Egypt exceedingly great, and there was no house in Egypt in which there was no dead body and weeping and lamentation. 4. And all Israel was engaged in eating the meat of the Pascah and drinking wine, and they lauded and thanked and blessed the Lord God of their fathers, and were prepared to go out from under the yoke of Egypt and from under its slavery. 5. But thou, remember this day all the days of thy life, once in the year, on its day, according to all the law thereof, and thou shalt not change the day for another day, or the month for another month. 6. For it is an ordinance of eternity, which is engraven on the tablets of heaven concerning the children of Israel, that they shall observe each year by year the festivals; once a year, in all their generations, and it has no limit of days, for it is ordained for eternity. 7. And a man, if he is pure and does not come to observe in its time the day, to bring an offering which is acceptable before the Lord on the day of the festival, and to eat and to drink before the Lord, on the day of his festival, that man shall be rooted out, if he is pure and near, because he has not brought the offering to the Lord in its time, and that man places a sin upon himself. Let the children of Israel, who will yet come, observe the Pascah on the day of its time, on

the fourteenth of the first month, between the evenings, in the third part of the day to the third part of the night; for two parts of the day are given to the light and the third to the evening; this it is that the Lord has commanded that thou shalt observe it between the evenings. 8. And it shall not take place in the morning, at any time of daylight, but only at the limits of the evenings; and they shall eat it in the time of evening until the third night, and whatever is left of all the meat on the third night, they shall again burn in the fire. 9. And they shall not cook it in water and shall not eat it raw, but carefully roasted on the fire and broiled on the fire; its head together with the intestines they shall roast, and its feet, and shall not break any bone within it, for none of the children of Israel shall have any bone broken. 10. On this account the Lord has commanded the children of Israel to observe the Pascah on the day of its time, and that no bone in it shall be broken, for it is a festival and a day commanded, and there must be no change from it from one day to another, or from one month to another, but on the day shall its festival be observed. 11. But thou, command the children of Israel that they should observe the Pascah on its days in all the years, once each year, on the day of its fixed time, and that it shall become a memorial before the Lord which is acceptable, and that no plague come over them to kill them and to scourge them in that year. 12. If they observe the Pascah in its time in everything as they have been commanded, then it is not allowed them to eat it outside of the sanctuary of the Lord, and all the people of the assembly of Israel shall observe it in its time. 13. Every man who is twenty years and above who comes on that day shall eat it in the sanctuary of your God before the Lord, for thus it is written and ordained that they shall eat it in the sanctuary of the Lord. 14. And when the children of Israel come into the land which they shall possess, into the land of Canaan, and plant the tent of the Lord in the midst of the land, within one of their hosts, until the time when the sanctuary of the Lord shall have been built in the land, then they shall come and observe the Pascah

in the midst of the tent of the Lord, and shall sacrifice it before the Lord from year to year. 15. And in the days when a house shall have been built in the name of the Lord in the land of their inheritance, they shall go there and slay the Pascah in the evening, as the sun goes down, in the third part of the day. 16. And they shall place the blood on the foundation of the altar, and the fat they shall lay upon the fire upon the altar, and shall eat flesh thereof that has been roasted at the fire, in the court of the sanctuary in the name of the Lord. 17. And they must not observe the Pascah in their cities and in all their districts, but only before the tent of the Lord or before his house, where his name dwells, so that ye do not trespass against the Lord. 18. But thou, Moses, command the children of Israel, that they shall observe the ordinance of the Pascah as it has been commanded to thee, that they shall observe the day year by year, and its day and the festival of the unleavened bread, that they shall eat unleavened bread seven days, so that they observe its festival, that they bring an offering day by day in these seven days of the Pascah before the Lord on the altar of your God. 19. For this festival ye observed with trembling when ye went out of Egypt until ye had gone through the sea into the desert of Sur, for on the shore of the sea ye completed it.

CHAP. L. 1. And after this law I made known to thee the days of Sabbaths in the desert Sinai, which is between Elam and Sinai. 2. And I told you concerning the Sabbaths of the earth on Mt. Sinai, and concerning the years of jubilees with the Sabbaths; and also the year I mentioned to you; but the year thereof we did not tell you, until thou comest into the land which ye shall possess; and ye shall make the land also observe the Sabbaths for those dwelling in it, and the years of jubilees shall learn. 3. Concerning this I have ordained for thee the weeks of years and the jubilees, from the days of Adam to this day: forty-nine [jubilees] and one week and two years; and yet forty years are before for learning the commandments of the Lord, until ye cross the border of the land of Canaan, crossing the Jordan on the western side, and

jubilees will pass by until Israel shall be cleansed from all fornication and guilt and uncleanness and contamination and sin and transgression, and shall dwell in all the land in safety, and no Satan and no evil one will injure him, and the land will be cleansed from that time on and to eternity. 4. And, behold, the command of the Sabbaths I have written down for thee, and all the judgments of its laws. 5. Six days thou shalt do work, and on the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, your God; ye shall not do any work on it, neither ye, nor your children, nor your male servants, nor your maid servants, nor any of your beasts, nor your stranger who is with you. 6. The man that does any work on it shall die, and every man who desecrates this day, who lies with a wife, and who says that he will do something on it, that he will make a trip on it, or concerning all buying and selling, and who draws water on it which he did not prepare for himself on the sixth day, and whoever takes up a burden to carry it out of his tent or out of his house, he shall die. 7. Ye shall not do any work on the Sabbath which ye have not prepared for yourselves on the sixth day, to eat or to drink or to rest or to keep Sabbath from all your work on that day, and to bless the Lord your God, who has given it to you as a festival day; and a holy day it shall be, and a day of the holy kingdom, for all Israel this day, among your days, in all the days. 8. For great is the honor which the Lord has given to Israel to eat and to drink and to be satisfied on this festival day, after resting on this day from all the work of the children of men, except burning frankincense and bringing offerings and sacrifices before the Lord on the days and the Sabbaths. 9. This work alone shall be done on the Sabbath days, in the sanctuary of the Lord your God, so that these shall appear over Israel as a constant atonement, day by day, as a memorial, which is acceptable before the Lord and received forever, day by day, as I have commanded thee. 10. And every man who does any work on this day, or makes a journey, or works his land, be it in the house or at any other place, and whoever lights a fire or rides upon any beast, or travels by ship upon the sea, and

everyone that strikes or kills anything, or kills an animal or a bird, and who catches an animal and bird and fish, and who fasts or engages in war on the Sabbath day, the man that does any of these things on the Sabbath day, shall die, so that the children of Israel shall observe the Sabbaths, according to the command of the Sabbath of the land, as it is written on the tablets of heaven, which he gave into my hands, that I should write for thee the laws of the times, and the different times in the division of their days.