

**STORY OF THE KINGS
OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL,
WRITTEN FOR CHILDREN**

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Story of the Kings of Judah and Israel, Written for Children by A. O. B.

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OF THE
KINGS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL.

Written for Children.

BY
A. O. B.

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1868.

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PREFACE TO PARENTS.

THIS book is written for Children, and, as far as possible, in just such simple language as a Mother or Nurse would employ.

In the first instance, it was drawn up for the benefit of my own little ones : they found it interesting ; and certainly do now understand the intertwined histories of Judah and of Israel better than they did before I read it to them. I therefore hope that it may prove useful to other children, perhaps even to some parents.

Throughout, two objects have been kept steadily in view :

I. To make the little ones understand and remember the various relations which existed between the kingdoms of Judah and Israel ; together with the leading events of each reign, and their dates.

II. To lead them to compare one part of Scripture with another, and so, practically to learn how wonderfully the Bible explains itself.

To get out of this book the intended good, gather the little ones round the table; one, with a copy of Nelson's excellent Map of Palestine, each of the others with a Bible, open at some Book likely to be referred to. As the reading goes on, let each child be called upon to read some passage of Scripture noted in the margin, and proving what is stated in the text; or, to point out on the map this or that place which is mentioned.

The children will soon look upon the occupation as a sort of "Bible game," and will, without labour or weariness, gain a more life-like and accurate knowledge of those old times than many of their seniors possess.

I make no apology for the constant use and reiteration of various familiar phrases, which every one is in the habit of employing when "telling stories" *viva voce* to children; still less, if possible, for repeating over and over again particular expressions and epithets, which, by this very repetition, tend to impress certain important facts upon the memories of the young hearers.

A more detailed account of the objects sought to be attained, and of the manner in which the book ought to be read, will be found in the "Preface to Children," and in the introductory part of the work.

We all are, especially in reading the Old Testament, too apt to forget that Bible Characters were really men and women like ourselves—too apt to read chapter after chapter, even Book after Book, without tracing out the connections between them. It is my desire to assist in providing against this evil tendency. If I succeed, even to a very moderate extent, I shall feel quite satisfied, my labour will have been well bestowed.



PREFACE TO CHILDREN.

MY DEAR CHILDREN,—

This book is written for you, only for you; and I hope that it will please you, and do you much good.

What I have tried to do, is to talk with you about the Kings of Judah and Israel, who lived long, long ago; just as your Mamma or Old Nurse would talk of them, on some fine summer afternoon, or, almost nicer, long winter evening, when you are all sitting in front of the bright fire.

Now and then you will come to a long word, because I could not think of a shorter one which meant exactly what I had to say; however, I think that you will quite easily understand even these long words if you read carefully what goes before and what comes after them; and if you cannot even then make them out, why, ask Mamma to tell you the meaning.