

has completely backed up books of these
servants of His to the full

Design and Development
of
The Holy Scriptures

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sung on the 15 steps leading up to the Holy Place. The idea being that the first degree Psalm was read as the priest stood on the first step; the second Psalm on the second step, and so forth until the 15th step was reached - this put the priest at the threshold of the Holy Place. It has been suggested that this step-reading of the "Degree Psalms" started with the first day of the seventh month (The Day of Trumpets) and continued for 14 more days until the 15th of Tishri, which, of course, is the first day of Tabernacles. Thus, the readings direct us toward the opening of God's great Millennial Age when all on earth are ready to approach "the Holy Place" as did the priests in the Temple services. This may be, but it must be understood that the Bible nowhere gives solid foundation to this solution. What the Bible does emphatically prove is that Hezekiah wrote some Psalms that found a place in the regular readings in the Temple services. This may indicate that some of his Psalms appear in our Bible. They probably do.

Another Necessity for Canonization
in Hezekiah's Time

Perhaps one of the important reasons for Hezekiah during his time to canonize certain works as authorized of God, was for astronomical reasons. It has already been mentioned about Ahaz's sundial going backward 10 degrees. This variation in the sun's movement is the last we read of in the history of the ancient world. Not since the sun reversed its motion by these 10 degrees has there been any

irregular movements in the motions of the heavenly bodies - at least, none that we have record of. All of this is a very important matter to anyone studying the science of astronomy and especially chronology. The reason for this event being of major importance is plain. It was at this time that, all of a sudden around the world, the records and traditions of the various nations begin to speak of $5\frac{1}{2}$ days being added to the year's length and also that the moon's orbit around the earth became shorter by about $\frac{1}{2}$ day. (For a full discussion on this matter, the student can refer to Velikovsky's Worlds in Collision, Chapter Eight).

That a calendar change was necessary in the days of Hezekiah is made very plain from the abundance of records. Even the Jews have retained traditions that at the time of Hezekiah a change became necessary in the slight re-arranging of the Holy Day observances because an astronomical change in the movements of the heavenly bodies had occurred (Morgenstern, The Three Calendars of Ancient Israel, Hebrew Union College Annual, vol, I, p. 13-78). In other words, the ancient year of 360 days length and the month's length being an exact 30 day period, became, in the days of Hezekiah, our present $365\frac{1}{2}$ day year and $29\frac{1}{2}$ day month.

This astronomical change meant, virtually, the necessity for a new calendar for Judah! In fact, the situation absolutely demanded a new type of calendar to cope with the heavenly movements. For example, if no change in the length's of years were to be made, the Feast of Tabernacles

would occur $5\frac{1}{2}$ days earlier each year, and within a short 34 year period that particular Autumn festival would be kept at our present Passover season in the Spring. Likewise, Passover time would have gradually gone backwards in the solar year, gone through the whole winter season, and found itself being kept at Tabernacles time in only 34 short years. By this process of the solar year being $5\frac{1}{2}$ days earlier each year for every festival, it would take about 68 years to find Tabernacles back in its proper place in the Autumn and Passover in its ordained season of early Spring. You can imagine what this permanent change in the heavens (when Ahaz's sundial went backwards) meant to the righteous King Hezekiah and the Prophet Isaiah. Something had to be done about the matter and the action had to come from official sources. This matter was of extreme seriousness - the whole festival system as ordained of God was in danger become completely chaotic. So, something was done! A new calendar was constructed. The Jews have mentioned that our present Lunar-Solar calendar (which takes into account the $365\frac{1}{4}$ day year and the $29\frac{1}{2}$ day month) came from the hands of Hezekiah (ibid.). Without doubt, the Sacred Calendar which guides us today in the correct observance of God's Holy Days was authorized by King Hezekiah and the Prophet Isaiah - of course, the new calendar was constructed by the influence of God's Holy Spirit.

The fact of this calendar change explains a lot of things. For one, David and Solomon had ordered certain Ps-

aims and other books to be read at specified times in the Temple services. But now, with 5½ days extra in each year, all of these assigned readings had to be re-arranged or they likewise would have been read six months earlier in the solar year within the period of 34 years. So, the whole of the Temple services had to be re-arranged. It is no wonder that we find King Hezekiah re-ordering and arranging the 24 priestly and Levitical courses with their regularly assigned readings. The calendar change necessitated an authoritative reshaping of the whole religious society. And this is what Hezekiah and Isaiah did. That is why we find Hezekiah's sign-manual being placed as an imprimatur on the official works. That is why the "men of Hezekiah" (Prov. 25:1) began copying out new material for Judah's religious teaching. That is why Hezekiah wrote and added Psalms to the regularly assigned ones by David. After all, he and Isaiah had authority to make these changes and additions - they had to make the re-arrangements or else have the whole religious system established by Moses and David to revert to absolute chaos. And, may it be said in closing this section on the calendar-change, that it can be taken for granted that any one who had authority to bring in a new calendar - our present sacred one - certainly had authority to canonize material to accompany that calendar change. No one need question the official capacity of Hezekiah and Isaiah to do what they did, for God, by subsequent history and the witness of the New Testament, has completely backed up both of these servants of His to the full.