

## *The Conquest*

*A conquest there surely was, but recent archaeology has agreed with Alt, who long ago saw that the record suggests a gradual, not a sudden, conquest. Traces of the slow version are visible in Joshua, the preferred Biblical account, with its magical massacres of entire populations.*

(39) Khirbet el-Mastarah. This site near Jericho was occupied by a band of Hebrews who much later became strong enough to overcome Jericho itself.

(40) Joshua. There was no sudden Conquest, but these two accounts of the distribution of land show a faint memory of the more gradual process.

(41) The Song of Deborah. Its claim to be the oldest thing in the Bible is here considered separately, lest it unduly interrupt our reading of Judges.

(42) Judges. Hereditary kings are oppressive. Judges gathers twelve heroes to argue that there could be a *non-hereditary* rotating leadership.

(43) The Need for a King. This addendum gives the opposite answer to the Judges question: a king will be necessary to control the sins of the times.

(44) The Philistines. Pressure from this warlike coastal people may have been the reason why the priestly faction finally accepted a king.



*In the next section, the Kingship will finally happen, and the majority of the priestly party will commit themselves to a national form of government*

*It is here that the "House of David" becomes the basic definition of the Hebrew state. The long transition from sacred to secular is complete.*