

APPENDIX II.



THE GEZER CALENDAR.

IN 1908 a tablet was discovered by Mr. Macalister at Gezer, containing a list of months in an archaic alphabet similar to that of the Moabite and Siloam inscriptions, but more closely resembling the former. The terms used for the months are probably descriptive rather than proper names; and the inscription is probably the work of a private individual, and is not official. There are various opinions as to the date; but it is not likely to be later than 600 B.C., and may be considerably earlier. Full accounts of the tablet will be found in the Quarterly Statements of the Palestine Exploration Fund, Oct. 1908, p. 271, Jan. 1909, p. 26.

THE GEZER CALENDAR

For the following transcription and translation I am indebted to the Rev. Prof. G. Buchanan Gray, D.D., of Mansfield College, Oxford.

TRANSCRIPTION IN SQUARE HEBREW.

The letters marked with dots are doubtful.

יִרְחַ וְאֶסְפָּ | יִרְחַ וְנָ (1)

יִרְחַ וְלִקְשׁ | מַעַ (2)

יִרְחַ עֲצָד פֶּשֶׁת (3)

יִרְחַ קֶצֶר שְׁעָרִים¹ (4)

יִרְחַ קֶצֶר וְנָל (5)

יִרְחַ זֹמֶר (6)

יִרְחַ קֶץ (7)

אֲבִי²

TRANSLATION.

(1) A month and ingathering | A month
and pl

¹ The final ן is written in the original below the line, at right angles to the other letters.

² These three letters are written in the original at right angles to the rest.

THE MOABITE STONE

- (2) anting¹ | A month and the spring-gathering
- (3) The month of the pulling up (?)² of flax
- (4) The month of the reaping of barley
- (5) The month of the reaping | and (?) all (?)³
- (6) A month and pruning
- (7) The month of summer fruits

Abi⁴

¹ The letters represented by "planting" are indistinct and uncertain. Others decipher ורע, "sowing."

² The original word 'çd is not found in OT., and its meaning is doubtful.

³ Here the original cannot be deciphered with certainty.

⁴ Possibly part of a name such as Abiram or Abijah. Cf. note² to transcription.