

1 Chronicles

¹ Adam, Seth, Enosh,* ² Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, ³ Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah.

⁴ The sons of Noah:† Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

⁵ The sons‡ of Japheth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

⁶ The sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, Riphath,§ and Togarmah.

⁷ The sons of Javan: Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, Rodanim.

⁸ The sons of Ham: Cush,* Mizraim,† Put, and Canaan.

⁹ The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabta, Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan.

¹⁰ Cush was the father of Nimrod, who became the world's first tyrant.

¹¹ Mizraim was the father of the Ludites, Anamites, Lehabites, Naphtuhites, ¹² Pathrusites, Casluhites, and Caphtorites (ancestors of the Philistines),.

* **1:1** The book begins with the list of names, that may seem odd to a modern reader, but in giving this genealogical line the writer of Chronicles is summarizing history. Instead of trying to provide information as to who all these individuals were, it is recommended that the relevant information is found in the historical books of the Bible from Genesis onwards. † **1:4** Septuagint reading: this line is absent in the Hebrew text. ‡ **1:5** As has been noted elsewhere, "sons" can mean "descendants." § **1:6** Or Diphath. * **1:8** Or "Sudan/Ethiopia." † **1:8** Or "Egypt."

¹³ Canaan was the father of his firstborn son, Sidon, and of the Hittites, ¹⁴ Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites, ¹⁵ Hivites, Arkites, Sinites, ¹⁶ Arvadites, Zemarites, and Hamathites.

¹⁷ The sons of Shem: Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram. The sons of Aram: ‡ Uz, Hul, Gether, and Meshech.

¹⁸ Arphaxad was the father of Shelah, and Shelah the father of Eber.

¹⁹ Eber had two sons. One was named Peleg, § because in his time the earth was divided; the name of his brother was Joktan.

²⁰ Joktan was the father of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, ²¹ Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, ²² Obal,* Abimael, Sheba, ²³ Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. These were all Joktan's sons.

²⁴ Shem, Arphaxad, † Shelah, ²⁵ Eber, Peleg, Reu, ²⁶ Serug, Nahor, Terah, ²⁷ and Abram (also called Abraham).

²⁸ The sons of Abraham: Isaac and Ishmael.

²⁹ These were their descendants: Nebaioth was the firstborn son of Ishmael, Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, ³⁰ Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema, ³¹ Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. These were Ishmael's sons.

³² The sons born to Keturah, Abraham's concubine. She gave birth to: Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. The sons of Jokshan: Sheba and Dedan.

‡ **1:17** Some Septuagint manuscripts: this line is absent in most Hebrew manuscripts. See Genesis 10:23. § **1:19** The word

means "divided." * **1:22** Most manuscripts have Ebal, but see Genesis 10:28. † **1:24** Some Septuagint manuscripts add

"Cainan" here.

³³ The sons of Midian: Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. These were all descendants of Keturah.

³⁴ Abraham was the father of Isaac. The sons of Isaac: Esau and Israel.

³⁵ The sons of Esau: Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam and Korah.

³⁶ The sons of Eliphaz: Teman, Omar, Zepho,‡ Gatam and Kenaz; and Amalek through Timna.§

³⁷ The sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah and Mizzah.

³⁸ The sons of Seir: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer and Dishan.

³⁹ The sons of Lotan: Hori and Homam. Lotan's sister was Timna.

⁴⁰ The sons of Shobal: Alvan,* Manahath, Ebal, Shepho and Onam. The sons of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah.

⁴¹ The son of Anah: Dishon. The sons of Dishon: Hemdan,† Eshban, Ithran and Keran.

⁴² The sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan and Akan.‡ The sons of Dishan:§ Uz and Aran.

⁴³ These were the kings who reigned over Edom before any Israelite king reigned over them: Bela son of Beor, the name of whose

‡ **1:36** Most Hebrew manuscripts have "Zephi" but see Genesis 36:11. § **1:36** Some Septuagint manuscripts. Timna was

Eliphaz's concubine (see Genesis 36:12). * **1:40** In most

Hebrew manuscripts "Alian," but some Hebrew and Septuagint manuscripts have "Alvan." See Genesis 36:23. † **1:41** In

most Hebrew manuscripts "Hamran," but some Hebrew and Septuagint manuscripts have "Hemdan." See Genesis 36:26.

‡ **1:42** In most Hebrew manuscripts "Zaavan" or "Jaakan," but some Hebrew and Septuagint manuscripts have "Akan." See

Genesis 36:27. § **1:42** Or "Dishon."

city was Dinhabah. ⁴⁴ When Bela died, Jobab son of Zerah from Bozrah took over as king. ⁴⁵ When Jobab died, Husham from the land of the Temanites took over as king.

⁴⁶ When Husham died, Hadad son of Bedad, took over as king. He was the one who defeated Midian in the country of Moab. The name of his city was Avith. ⁴⁷ When Hadad died, Samlah from Masrekah took over as king. ⁴⁸ When Samlah died, Shaul from Rehoboth on the River* took over as king. ⁴⁹ When Shaul died, Baal-Hanan, son of Achbor, took over as king. ⁵⁰ When Baal-Hanan died, Hadad took over as king. The name of his city was Pau.† The name of his wife was Mehetabel, daughter of Matred, the daughter of Me-Zahab. ⁵¹ Then Hadad died. The chiefs of Edom‡ were: Timna, Alvah, Jetheth, ⁵² Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon, ⁵³ Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar, ⁵⁴ Magdiel, and Iram. These were Edom's chiefs.

2

¹ These were the sons of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, ² Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. ³ The sons of Judah: Er, Onan, and Shelah—these three the daughter of Shua, a Canaanite woman,

* **1:48** Probably the Euphrates River. See Genesis 10:11. † **1:50** In most Hebrew manuscripts “Pai,” but some Hebrew and Septuagint manuscripts have “Pau.” See Genesis 36:39. ‡ **1:51** The name listing changes from kings to chiefs since after this time Edom was under the rule of Israel and so did not have its own king.

bore to him. Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the Lord, so he put him to death. ⁴ Tamar was Judah's daughter-in-law, and she bore him Perez and Zerah. Judah had a total of five sons.

⁵ The sons of Perez: Hezron and Hamul.

⁶ The sons of Zerah: Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Calcol and Darda*—a total of five.

⁷ The son of Carmi: Achar,[†] who caused trouble for Israel by being unfaithful in taking what was consecrated to the Lord.

⁸ The son of Ethan: Azariah.

⁹ The sons that were born to Hezron: Jerahmeel, Ram and Caleb.[‡]

¹⁰ Ram was the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab was the father of Nahshon, a leader of Judah's descendants. ¹¹ Nahshon was the father of Salmon,[§] Salmon was the father of Boaz, ¹² Boaz was the father of Obed, and Obed was the father of Jesse.

¹³ Jesse was the father of his firstborn son Eliab; the second son was Abinadab, the third Shimea, ¹⁴ the fourth Nethanel, the fifth Raddai, ¹⁵ the sixth Ozem, and the seventh David. ¹⁶ Their sisters were Zeruiah and Abigail. The sons of Zeruiah's were Abishai, Joab, and Asahel, three in total. ¹⁷ Abigail gave birth to Amasa, and the father of Amasa was Jether the Ishmaelite.

* **2:6** In most Hebrew manuscripts "Dara," but some Septuagint manuscripts have "Darda." See 1 Kings 4:31. † **2:7** In the book of Joshua he is referred to as Achan. See Joshua 7. ‡ **2:9** Literally, "Kelubai." § **2:11** Septuagint reading. Hebrew is "Salma," but see Ruth 4:21.

¹⁸ Caleb son of Hezron had children by his wife Azubah, and also by Jerioth. These were her sons: Jeshur, Shobab, and Ardon. ¹⁹ When Azubah died, Caleb took Ephrath* to be his wife, and she bore him Hur. ²⁰ Hur was the father of Uri, and Uri the father of Bezalel.

²¹ Later on Hezron slept with the daughter of Makir the father of Gilead, whom he married when he was sixty years old, and she bore him Segub. ²² Segub was the father of Jair, who had twenty-three towns in Gilead. ²³ But Geshur and Aram took from them Havvoth Jair, along with Kenath and its towns, a total of sixty towns. These were all descendants of Makir the father of Gilead.

²⁴ After Hezron died in Caleb Ephrathah, his wife Abijah bore him Ashhur the father of Tekoa.

²⁵ The sons of Jerahmeel the firstborn of Hezron: Ram (firstborn), Bunah, Oren, Ozem, and Ahijah. ²⁶ Jerahmeel had another wife called Atarah. She was the mother of Onam.

²⁷ The sons of Ram the firstborn of Jerahmeel: Maaz, Jamin and Eker.

²⁸ The sons of Onam: Shammai and Jada.

The sons of Shammai: Nadab and Abishur. ²⁹ Abishur's wife was called Abihail, who bore him Ahban and Molid.

³⁰ The sons of Nadab: Seled and Appaim. Seled died without having children.

³¹ The son of Appaim: Ishi, the father of Sheshan. Sheshan was the father of Ahlai.

* **2:19** Otherwise called Ephrathah in 2:50, 4:4.

³² The sons of Jada, the brother of Shammai: Jether and Jonathan. Jether died without having children.

³³ The sons of Jonathan: Peleth and Zaza. These are all the descendants of Jerahmeel.

³⁴ Sheshan had no sons, he only had daughters, but he did have an Egyptian servant named Jarha. ³⁵ So Sheshan gave his daughter in marriage to his servant Jarha, and she bore him Attai.

³⁶ Attai was the father of Nathan. Nathan was the father of Zabad, ³⁷ Zabad was the father of Ephlal, Ephlal was the father of Obed, ³⁸ Obed was the father of Jehu, Jehu was the father of Azariah, ³⁹ Azariah was the father of Helez, Helez was the father of Eleasah, ⁴⁰ Eleasah was the father of Sismai, Sismai was the father of Shallum, ⁴¹ Shallum was the father of Jekamiah, and Jekamiah was the father of Elishama.

⁴² The sons of Caleb, the brother of Jerahmeel: Mesha his firstborn, who was the father of Ziph, and his son Mareshah, who was the father of Hebron.

⁴³ The sons of Hebron: Korah, Tappuah, Rekem, and Shema. ⁴⁴ Shema was the father of Raham, and Raham the father of Jorkeam. Rekem was the father of Shammai. ⁴⁵ Shammai's son was Maon, and Maon was the father of Beth Zur.

⁴⁶ Ephah, Caleb's concubine, was the mother of Haran, Moza, and Gazez. Haran was the father of Gazez.

⁴⁷ The sons of Jahdai: Regem, Jotham, Geshan, Pelet, Ephah, and Shaaph.

⁴⁸ Maacah, Caleb's concubine, was the mother of Sheber and Tirhanah. ⁴⁹ She was also the mother of Shaaph, the father of Madmannah, and of Sheva, the father of Macbenah and Gibeon. Caleb's daughter was Acsah. ⁵⁰ These are all the descendants of Caleb.

The sons of Hur the firstborn of Ephrathah: Shobal, the father of Kiriath Jearim, ⁵¹ Salma, the father of Bethlehem, and Hareph, the father of Beth Gader.

⁵² The descendants of Shobal the father of Kiriath Jearim were: Haroeh, half the Manahathites, ⁵³ and the families of Kiriath Jearim: the Ithrites, Puthites, Shumathites, and Mishraitites. From these descended the Zorathites and Eshtaolites.

⁵⁴ The descendants of Salma: Bethlehem, the Netophathites, Atroth Beth Joab, half the Manahathites, the Zorites, ⁵⁵ and the families of scribes who lived at Jabez: the Tirathites, Shimeathites, and Sucathites. These are the Kenites who descended from Hammath, the father of the house of Recab.

3

¹ These were the sons of David born to him in Hebron: The firstborn was Amnon, whose mother was Ahinoam of Jezreel. The second was Daniel, whose mother was Abigail of Carmel.

² The third was Absalom, whose mother was Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur. The fourth was Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith. ³ The fifth was Shephatiah, whose mother was Abital. The sixth was Ithream, whose mother was his wife Eglah.

⁴ These were the six sons born to David in Hebron, where he reigned seven years and six months. David reigned in Jerusalem thirty-three more years, ⁵ and these were the children born to him there:

Shammua,* Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon. Their mother was Bathsheba,† daughter of Ammiel. ⁶ In addition there were also Ibhah, Elishua,‡ Eliphelet, ⁷ Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, ⁸ Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet, a total of nine. ⁹ These were all the sons of David, apart from his sons by his concubines. Their sister was Tamar.

¹⁰ The male lineage§ from Solomon was: Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, ¹¹ Jehoram,* Ahaziah, Joash, ¹² Amaziah, Azariah, Jotham, ¹³ Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, ¹⁴ Amon, Josiah.

¹⁵ The sons of Josiah: Johanan (firstborn), Jehoiakim (second), Zedekiah (third), Shallum (fourth).

¹⁶ The sons of Jehoiakim: Jehoiachin† and Zedekiah.

¹⁷ The sons of Jehoiachin who was taken into captivity: Shealtiel, ¹⁸ Malkiram, Pedaiah, Shenazzar, Jekamiah, Hoshama, and Nedabiah.

¹⁹ The sons of Pedaiah: Zerubbabel and Shimei.

* **3:5** Actually Shimea, a different spelling of Shammu. † **3:5** Actually Bathshua, a different spelling of Bathsheba. ‡ **3:6** Actually Elishama, a different spelling of Elishua. § **3:10** “Male lineage”: this term is used instead of repetitively stating “his son.” * **3:11** Actually Joram, a different spelling of Jehoram. † **3:16** Actually Jeconiah, a different spelling of Jehoiachin.

The sons of Zerubbabel: Meshullam and Hananiah. Their sister was Shelomith. ²⁰ Five additional sons were: Hashubah, Ohel, Berekiah, Hasadiah, and Jushab-Hesed.

²¹ The sons of Hananiah: Pelatiah and Jeshai-ah, and the sons of Rephaiah, the sons of Arnan, the sons of Obadiah, and the sons of Shecaniah.‡

²² The sons of Shecaniah: Shemaiah and his sons: Hattush, Igal, Bariah, Neariah, and Shaphat—a total of six.

²³ The sons of Neariah: Elioenai, Hizkiah and Azrikam—a total of three.

²⁴ The sons of Elioenai: Hodaviah, Eliashib, Pelai-ah, Akkub, Johanan, Delaiah, and Anani—a total of seven.

4

¹ The sons of Judah: Perez, Hezron, Carmi, Hur, and Shobal. ² Reaiah, son of Shobal, was the father of Jahath. Jahath was the father of Ahumai and Lahad. These were the families of the Zorathites.

³ These were the sons* of Etam: Jezreel, Ishma, and Idbash. Their sister was called Hazzelelponi.

⁴ Penuel was the father of Gedor, and Ezer was the father of Hushah. These were the descendants of Hur, Ephrathah's firstborn and father† of Bethlehem.

⁵ Ashhur was the father of Tekoa and had two wives, Helah and Naarah.

‡ **3:21** The text has difficulties in interpretation. * **4:3** "Sons": the Hebrew text reads "father," but some Septuagint manuscripts and the Vulgate read "sons." † **4:4** "Father": probably in the sense of "founder."

⁶ Naarah was the mother of Ahuzzam, Hopher, Temeni, and Haahashtari. These were the sons of Naarah.

⁷ The sons of Helah: Zereth, Zohar, Ethnan, ⁸ and Koz, who was the father of Anub and Hazzobebah and of the families of Aharhel, son of Harum.

⁹ Jabez was more faithful to God[‡] than his brothers. His mother had given him the name Jabez, saying, "I gave birth to him in pain."

¹⁰ Jabez begged the God of Israel, "Please bless me and expand my borders![§] Be with me and keep me safe from harm so I won't have pain."^{*} And God gave him what he asked for.

¹¹ Kelub, Shuhah's brother, was the father of Mehir, who in turn was the father of Eshton. ¹² Eshton was the father of Beth Rapha, Paseah, and Tehinnah, the father[†] of Ir Nahash. These were the men of Recah.[‡]

¹³ The sons of Kenaz: Othniel and Seraiah.

[‡] **4:9** "More faithful to God": literally, "more honorable," but this does not carry the meaning of a better relationship to God.

§ 4:10 "Expand my borders": or, "enlarge my territory." While this may be seen as simply a request for greater land ownership, it is perhaps better to understand this request that God would expand all that Jabez had, including spiritual aspects. ^{*} **4:10**

"Pain": part of the prayer is a desire that despite the name his mother gave him that he would not thereby be cursed to suffer pain. [†] **4:12** "Father": probably in the sense of "founder."

Ir Nahash means "city of the serpent." [‡] **4:12** "Recah." Some manuscripts read "Recab," in which case this would refer to those mentioned in 2:55.

The sons of Othniel: Hathath and Meonothai. §
 14 Meonothai was the father of Ophrah. Seraiah was the father of Joab, the father* of Ge Harashim, so called because craftsmen lived there.

15 The sons of Caleb son of Jephunneh: Iru, Elah, and Naam.

The son of Elah: Kenaz.

16 The sons of Jehallelel: Ziph, Ziphah, Tiria, and Asarel.

17 The sons of Ezra: Jether, Mered, Ephraim, and Jalon. One wife of Mered† was the mother of Miriam, Shammai and Ishbah the father of Eshtemoa.‡ 18 (Another wife who came from Judah was the mother of Jered the father of Gedor, Heber the father of Soco, and Jekuthiel the father of Zanoah. §) These were the sons of Bithiah, Pharaoh's daughter, whom Mered had married.*

19 The sons of Hodia's wife, Nathan's sister: one son was the father of Keilah the Garmite, and another the father of Eshtemoa the Maacathite.

20 The sons of Shimon: Amnon, Rinnah, Ben-Hanan, and Tilon.

The sons of Ishi: Zoheth and Ben-Zoheth.

§ 4:13 "Meonothai": some Septuagint manuscripts and the Vulgate. The current Hebrew text does not have the word, probably lost because it occurs as the first word of the next verse. * 4:14 "Father": probably in the sense of "founder."

Ge Harashim means "valley of craftsmen." † 4:17 "Mered": assumed from the context of the following verse. ‡ 4:17 "Father": in the sense of "founder" of the town of that name.

§ 4:18 "Father": each refers to the "founder" of the respective towns. See Joshua 15. * 4:18 Presumably referring back to the sons mentioned in the preceding verse.

²¹ The sons of Shelah son of Judah: Er, who was the father of Lecah, Laadah, who was the father of Mareshah, the families of the linen workers at Beth Ashbea, ²² Jokim, the men of Cozeba, and Joash and Saraph, who ruled over Moab and Jashubi Lehem. (These are old records.) ²³ They were potters, inhabitants of Netaim and Gederah, who lived there and worked for the king.

²⁴ The sons of Simeon: Nemuel, Jamin, Jarib, Zerah, and Shaul. ²⁵ Shallum was the son of Shaul, Mibsam his son, and Mishma his son.

²⁶ The sons of Mishma: Hammuel his son, Zaccur his son, and Shimei his son.

²⁷ Shimei had sixteen sons and six daughters, but his brothers did not have many children; so their tribe was not as large as that of Judah. ²⁸ They lived in Beersheba, Moladah, Hazar Shual, ²⁹ Bilhah, Ezem, Tolad, ³⁰ Bethuel, Hormah, Ziklag, ³¹ Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susim, Beth Biri, and Shaaraim. These were their towns until David became king. ³² They also lived in Etam, Ain, Rimmon, Token, and Ashan—a total of five towns, ³³ along with all the surrounding villages as far as Baal.† These were the places where they lived and they recorded their genealogy.

³⁴ Meshobab, Jamlech, Joshah, son of Amaziah, ³⁵ Joel, Jehu, son of Joshibiah, son of Seraiah, son of Asiel, ³⁶ Elioenai, Jaakobah, Jeshohaiah, Asaiah, Adiel, Jesimiel, Benaiah, ³⁷ and Ziza, son

† **4:33** See Joshua 19:8.

of Shiphi, son of Allon, son of Jedaiah, son of Shimri, son of Shemaiah.

³⁸ These were the names of the leaders of their families whose lineage increased significantly.

³⁹ They went far as the border of Gedor on the east side of the valley to look for pasture for their flocks. ⁴⁰ They found good pastureland there, and the area was open, quiet, and peaceful, for those who used to live there were Ham's descendants.‡

⁴¹ In the time of Hezekiah, king of Judah, the leaders listed above by name came and attacked these descendants of Ham where they lived, along with the Meunites there and totally destroyed them, as is clear to this very day. Then they settled there, because there was pastureland for their flocks. ⁴² Some of these Simeonites invaded Mount Seir—five hundred men led by Pelatiah, Neariah, Rephiah, and Uzziel, the sons of Ishi. ⁴³ They destroyed the rest of the Amalekites who had escaped. They have lived there to this very day.

5

¹ The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel. (Though he was the firstborn, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph son of Israel because he had defiled his father's bed.* That is why Reuben is not listed in the genealogy according to birthright, ² and even though Judah became

‡ **4:40** “Ham's descendants”: in other words, the former Canaanite inhabitants. * **5:1** Reuben had slept with Bilhah, Jacob's concubine. Genesis 35:22, Genesis 49:4.

the strongest of his brothers and a ruler came from him, the birthright belonged to Joseph.)

³ The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.

⁴ The sons of Joel: Shemaiah his son, Gog his son, Shimei his son, ⁵ Micah his son, Reaiah his son, Baal his son, ⁶ and Beerah his son, the one whom Tiglath-Pileser the king of Assyria took into exile. He (Beerah) was a leader of the Reubenites.

⁷ Beerah's relatives are, listed in their genealogical records by family: Jeiel (chief), Zechariah, ⁸ and Bela of Azaz, son of Shema, son of Joel. They lived from Aroer to Nebo and Baal Meon. ⁹ On the eastern side they expanded into the land right up to the edge of the desert that continues to the Euphrates River, because their flocks had grown so big in Gilead.

¹⁰ In the time of Saul they went to war against the Hagrites, defeating them. They took over the places where the Hagrites had lived in all the regions east of Gilead.

¹¹ Next to them the descendants of Gad lived in Basha, all the way to Salecah. ¹² Joel (chief), Shapham (second), and Janai and Shaphat, in Bashan.

¹³ Their relatives, according to family, were: Michael, Meshullam, Sheba, Jorai, Jacan, Zia, and Eber—a total of seven.

¹⁴ These were the sons of Abihail, son of Huri, son of Jaroah, son of Gilead, son of Michael, son of Jeshishai, son of Jahdo, son of Buz.

¹⁵ Ahi son of Abdiel, son of Guni, was their family chief.

¹⁶ They lived in Gilead, in Bashan and its towns, and throughout the pasturelands of Sharon all the way to their borders. ¹⁷ They were all were recorded in the genealogy during the time of Jotham king of Judah and Jeroboam king of Israel.

¹⁸ The tribe of Reuben, the tribe of Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh had 44,760 battle-ready strong warriors capable of using shields and swords and bows. ¹⁹ They went to war against the Hagrites, Jetur, Naphish, and Nodab. ²⁰ They received help in fighting these enemies because they called out to God during the battles. In this way they were able to defeat the Hagrites and all who were with them. God answered their prayers because they trusted in him. ²¹ They captured their enemies' livestock—fifty thousand camels, two hundred fifty thousand sheep, and two thousand donkeys. They also captured one hundred thousand people, ²² and many others were killed because the battle belonged to God. They took over the land and lived there until the exile.

²³ The half-tribe of Manasseh had grown very large. They lived in the land from Bashan to Baal Hermon, (otherwise known as Senir and Mount Hermon).

²⁴ These were the family heads: Epher, Ishi, Eliel, Azriel, Jeremiah, Hodaviah, and Jahdiel. They were strong warriors, famous men, heads of their families. ²⁵ But they were unfaithful to the God of their forefathers. They prostituted themselves by following the gods of the peoples

of the land, those that God had destroyed before them. ²⁶ So the God of Israel encouraged of Pul, king of Assyria, (otherwise known as Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria), to invade the land. He took into exile the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh. He brought them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and the river of Gozan, where they remain to this very day.

6

¹ The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

² The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

³ The children of Amram: Aaron, Moses, and Miriam.

The sons of Aaron: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

⁴ Eleazar was the father of Phinehas, Phinehas was the father of Abishua, ⁵ Abishua was the father of Bukki, Bukki was the father of Uzzi,

⁶ Uzzi was the father of Zerahiah, Zerahiah was the father of Meraioth, ⁷ Meraioth was the father of Amariah, Amariah was the father of Ahitub, ⁸ Ahitub was the father of Zadok, Zadok was the father of Ahimaaz, ⁹ Ahimaaz was the father of Azariah, Azariah was the father of Johanan, ¹⁰ Johanan was the father of Azariah (he was the one who was serving as priest when Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem),

¹¹ Azariah was the father of Amariah, Amariah was the father of Ahitub, ¹² Ahitub was the father of Zadok, Zadok was the father of Shallum, ¹³ Shallum was the father of Hilkiah, Hilkiah was the father of Azariah, ¹⁴ Azariah was the

father of Seraiah, and Seraiah was the father of Jehozadak. ¹⁵ Jehozadak was taken into captivity when the Lord used Nebuchadnezzar to send Judah and Jerusalem into exile.

¹⁶ The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

¹⁷ These are the names of the sons of Gershon: Libni and Shimei.

¹⁸ The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

¹⁹ The sons of Merari: Mahli, and Mushi.

These are the families of the Levites listed in order according to their fathers:

²⁰ The descendants of Gershon: Libni his son, Jehath his son, Zimmah his son, ²¹ Joah his son, Iddo his son, Zerah his son, and Jeatherai his son.

²² The descendants of Kohath: Amminadab his son, Korah his son, Assir his son, ²³ Elkanah his son, Ebiasaph his son, Assir his son, ²⁴ Tahath his son, Uriel his son, Uziah his son and Shaul his son.

²⁵ The descendants of Elkanah: Amasai, Ahimoth, ²⁶ Elkanah his son, Zophai his son, Nahath his son, ²⁷ Eliab his son, Jeroham his son, Elkanah his son, and Samuel his son.*

²⁸ The sons of Samuel: Joel† (firstborn) and Abijah (second).

²⁹ The descendants of Merari: Mahli, Libni his son, Shimei his son, Uzzah his son, ³⁰ Shimea his son, Haggiah his son, and Asaiah his son.

* **6:27** "And Samuel his son": according to some Septuagint manuscripts. The Hebrew text omits these words. See 1 Samuel 1:19-20 and 1 Chronicles 6:33-34. † **6:28** "Joel": according to some Septuagint manuscripts. The Hebrew text omits this word. See 1 Samuel 8:2 and 1 Chron. 6:33.

³¹ These are the musicians David appointed to direct the music in the house of the Lord once the Ark had been placed there. ³² They led out in the music and singing before the Tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, until Solomon built the Lord's Temple in Jerusalem. They served following the regulations they had been given.

³³ Here are the men who served, together with their sons: From the Kohathites: Heman, the singer, the son of Joel, the son of Samuel, ³⁴ the son of Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Eliel, the son of Toah, ³⁵ the son of Zuph, the son of Elkanah, the son of Mahath, the son of Amasai, ³⁶ the son of Elkanah, the son of Joel, the son of Azariah, the son of Zephaniah, ³⁷ the son of Tahath, the son of Assir, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah, ³⁸ the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, the son of Israel. ³⁹ Asaph, Heman's relative, who served beside him on the right: Asaph son of Berekiah, the son of Shimea, ⁴⁰ the son of Michael, the son of Baaseiah, the son of Malkijah, ⁴¹ the son of Ethni, the son of Zerah, the son of Adaiah, ⁴² the son of Ethan, the son of Zimmah, the son of Shimei, ⁴³ the son of Jahath, the son of Gershon, the son of Levi. ⁴⁴ To Heman's left served sons of Merari: Ethan son of Kishi, the son of Abdi,

the son of Malluch, ⁴⁵ the son of Hashabiah, the son of Amaziah, the son of Hilkiyah, ⁴⁶ the son of Amzi, the son of Bani, the son of Shemer, ⁴⁷ the son of Mahli, the son of Mushi, the son of Merari, the son of Levi.

⁴⁸ The other Levites carried out all the other functions in the Tabernacle, the house of God.

⁴⁹ However, it was Aaron and his descendants who were the ones who gave offerings on the altar of burnt offering and on the altar of incense and did all the work in the Most Holy Place, making atonement for Israel according to everything Moses the servant of God had commanded.

⁵⁰ The descendants of Aaron were: Eleazar his son, Phinehas his son, Abishua his son, ⁵¹ Bukki his son,

Uzzi his son, Zerahiah his son, ⁵² Meraioth his son, Amariah his son, Ahitub his son, ⁵³ Zadok his son,

and Ahimaaz his son.

⁵⁴ These were the places they were given to live as their territory allotted to descendants of Aaron, beginning with the Kohathite clan, because theirs was the first lot:

⁵⁵ They received Hebron in Judah together with its surrounding pasturelands. ⁵⁶ But the fields and villages near the town were given to Caleb son of Jephunneh.

⁵⁷ So the descendants of Aaron received Hebron, a town of refuge, Libnah, Jattir, Eshtemoa, ⁵⁸ Hilen, Debir, ⁵⁹ Ashan, Juttah[‡] and Beth Shemesh, together with their pasturelands.

⁶⁰ From the tribe of Benjamin they received Gibeon,[§] Geba, Alemeth, and Anathoth, together with their pasturelands.

They had a total of thirteen towns among their families.

[‡] **6:59** This town is missing from the list here, but is included in Joshua 21:16. [§] **6:60** This town is missing from the list here, but is included in Joshua 21:17.

⁶¹ The rest of Kohath's descendants received by lot ten towns from the half tribe of Manasseh.

⁶² The descendants of Gershon, by family, received thirteen towns from the tribes of Issachar, Asher, and Naphtali, and from the partial tribe of Manasseh in Bashan.

⁶³ The descendants of Merari, by family, received twelve towns from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun.

⁶⁴ So the people of Israel gave the Levites these towns and their pasturelands. ⁶⁵ They allotted the towns already mentioned by name from the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin.

⁶⁶ Some of the Kohathite families received as their territory towns from the tribe of Ephraim.

⁶⁷ They were given Shechem, a town of refuge, in the hill country of Ephraim, Gezer,* ⁶⁸ Jokmeam, Beth Horon, ⁶⁹ Aijalon, and Gath Rimmon, together with their pasturelands.

⁷⁰ From half the tribe of Manasseh the people of Israel gave Aner and Bileam, together with their pasturelands, to the rest of the Kohathite families.

⁷¹ The descendants of Gershon received the following. From the family of the half-tribe of Manasseh: Golan in Bashan, and Ashtaroth, together with their pasturelands;

⁷² from the tribe of Issachar: Kedesh, Daberath, ⁷³ Ramoth, and Anem, together with their pasturelands;

* **6:67** Here Gezer is also included as a town of refuge, but see Joshua 21:21.

⁷⁴ from the tribe of Asher: Mashal, Abdon,
⁷⁵ Hukok, and Rehob, together with their pasture-lands;

⁷⁶ and from the tribe of Naphtali: Kedesh in Galilee, Hammon, and Kiriathaim, together with their pasturelands.

⁷⁷ The rest of the descendants of Merari received the following. From the tribe of Zebulun: Jokneam, Kartah,[†] Rimmono, and Tabor, together with their pasturelands;

⁷⁸ from the tribe of Reuben on the east side of the Jordan opposite Jericho: Bezer (in the desert), Jahzah, ⁷⁹ Kedemoth, and Mephaath, together with their pasturelands;

⁸⁰ and from the tribe of Gad: Ramoth in Gilead, Mahanaim, ⁸¹ Heshbon, and Jazer, together with their pasturelands.

7

¹ The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puah, Jashub and Shimron—a total of four.

² The sons of Tola: Uzzi, Rephaiah, Jeriel, Jahmai, Ibsam, and Samuel—leaders of their families. In the time of David, the descendants of Tola listed in their genealogy a total of 22,600 warriors.

³ The son of Uzzi: Izrahiah.

The sons of Izrahiah: Michael, Obadiah, Joel, and Isshiah. All five were family heads. ⁴ They had many wives and sons and so in their genealogy they list 36,000 battle-ready fighting men.

⁵ The relatives who were warriors belonging to

[†] **6:77** Jokneah and Kartah are not included in the list here, but see Joshua 21:34.

all the families of Issachar, according to their genealogy, were 87,000 in total.

⁶ Three sons of Benjamin: Bela, Beker, and Jediael.

⁷ The sons of Bela: Ezbon, Uzzi, Uzziel, Jerimoth, and Iri, leaders of their families—a total of five. They had 22,034 fighting men according to their genealogy.

⁸ The sons of Beker: Zemirah, Joash, Eliezer, Elioenai, Omri, Jeremoth, Abijah, Anathoth, and Alemeth. These were all the sons of Beker.
⁹ Their genealogy included the family heads and 20,200 fighting men.

¹⁰ The son of Jediael: Bilhan.

The sons of Bilhan: Jeush, Benjamin, Ehud, Kenaanah, Zethan, Tarshish, and Ahishahar.
¹¹ All these sons of Jediael were family heads. They had 17,200 battle-ready warriors.

¹² Shuppim and Huppim were sons of Ir, and Hushim was the son of Aher.

¹³ The sons of Naphtali: Jahziel, Guni, Jezer, and Shallum*—the descendants of Bilhah.

¹⁴ The sons of Manasseh: Asriel whose mother was his Aramean concubine. She was also the mother of Makir, the father of Gilead. ¹⁵ Makir found a wife for Huppim and a wife for Shuppim. His sister's name was Maacah. The second was called Zelophehad. She only had daughters.†

¹⁶ Maacah, Makir's wife, had a son and called him Peresh. His brother was called Sheresh, and his sons were Ulam and Rakem.

¹⁷ The son of Ulam: Bedan.

* **7:13** “Shallum”: or “Shillem.” † **7:15** The Hebrew text of this verse is very unclear.

These were all the sons of Gilead, son of Makir, son of Manasseh. ¹⁸ His sister Hammoleketh was the mother of Ishhod, Abiezer, and Mahlah.

¹⁹ The sons of Shemida were: Ahian, Shechem, Likhi, and Aniam.

²⁰ The descendants of Ephraim: Shuthelah, Bered his son, Tahath his son, Eleadah his son, Tahath his son, ²¹ Zabad his son, and Shuthelah his son. Ezer and Elead were killed by the men who were living in Gath when they went there to try and steal their livestock. ²² Their father Ephraim mourned for them a long time, and his relatives came to comfort him. ²³ Then he slept with his wife again. She became pregnant and gave birth to a son, whom he named him Beriah because of this family tragedy. ²⁴ Sheerah, his daughter, founded Lower and Upper Beth Horon together with Uzzen Sheerah.

²⁵ Rephah was his son, Resheph his son,[‡] Telah his son, Tahan his son, ²⁶ Ladan his son, Ammihud his son, Elishama his son, ²⁷ Nun his son and Joshua his son. ²⁸ The land they owned and the places they lived included Bethel and nearby towns, from Naaran to the east to Gezer and its towns to the west, and Shechem and its towns up to Ayyah and its towns. ²⁹ On the border with Manasseh were Beth Shan, Taanach, Megiddo, and Dor, along with their towns. These were the towns where the descendants of Joseph son of Israel lived.

³⁰ The sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, and Beriah. Their sister was Serah.

[‡] **7:25** "His son": Septuagint reading. It is missing from the Hebrew text.

³¹ The sons of Beriah: Heber and Malkiel, the father of Birzaith.

³² Heber was the father of Japhlet, Shomer, and Hotham, and of their sister Shua.

³³ The sons of Japhlet: Pasach, Bimhal, and Ashvath. These were all the sons of Japhlet.

³⁴ The sons of Shomer: Ahi,[§] Rohgah, Hubbah, and Aram.

³⁵ The sons of his brother Helem: Zophah, Imna, Shelesh, and Amal.

³⁶ The sons of Zophah: Suah, Harnepher, Shual, Beri, Imrah, ³⁷ Bezer, Hod, Shamma, Shilshah, Ithran, and Beera.

³⁸ The sons of Jether: Jephunneh, Pispah, and Ara.

³⁹ The sons of Ulla: Arah, Hanniel, and Rizia.

⁴⁰ These were all descendants of Asher—family heads, proven men, strong warriors, and great leaders. According to their genealogy, they had 26,000 battle-ready warriors.

8

¹ Benjamin was the father of Bela (firstborn son), Ashbel (second), Aharah (third), ² Nohah (fourth), and Rapha (fifth).

³ The sons of Bela were: Addar, Gera, Abihud, ⁴ Abishua, Naaman, Ahoah, ⁵ Gera, Shephuphan, and Huram.

⁶ These were the sons of Ehud, family heads living in Geba, and were exiled to Manahath: ⁷ Naaman, Ahijah, and Gera. Gera was the one

[§] **7:34** “The sons of Shomer: Ahi,” or “The sons of Shomer, his brother:”

who exiled them. He was the father of Uzza and Ahihud.

⁸ Shazaraim had sons in Moab after he divorced his wives Hushim and Baara. ⁹ He married Hodesh and had Jobab, Zibia, Mesha, Malcam, ¹⁰ Jeuz, Sakia, and Mirmah. These were all his sons, family heads. ¹¹ He also had sons with Hushim: Abitub and Elpaal.

¹² The sons of Elpaal: Eber, Misham, Shemed (he built Ono and Lod with its nearby towns), ¹³ and Beriah and Shema, who were family heads living in Aijalon and who drove away the people who lived in Gath.

¹⁴ Ahio, Shashak, Jeremoth, ¹⁵ Zebadiah, Arad, Eder, ¹⁶ Michael, Ishpah, and Joha were the sons of Beriah.

¹⁷ Zebadiah, Meshullam, Hizki, Heber, ¹⁸ Ishmerai, Izliah, and Jobab were the sons of Elpaal.

¹⁹ Jakim, Zicri, Zabdi, ²⁰ Elienai, Zillethai, Eliel, ²¹ Adaiah, Beraiah, and Shimrath were the sons of Shimei.

²² Ishpan, Eber, Eliel, ²³ Abdon, Zicri, Hanan, ²⁴ Hananiah, Elam, Anthothijah, ²⁵ Iphdeiah, and Penuel were the sons of Shashak.

²⁶ Shamsherai, Shehariah, Athaliah, ²⁷ Jaareshiah, Elijah, and Zicri were the sons of Jeroham. ²⁸ All these were family heads, according to their genealogy. They lived in Jerusalem.

29 Jeiel* founded Gibeon and lived there. His wife was called Maacah. 30 His firstborn son was Abdon, then Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner,† Nadab, 31 Gedor, Ahio, Zeker, 32 and Mikloth. Mikloth was the father of Shimeah. They also lived near their relatives in Jerusalem.

33 Ner was the father of Kish, Kish was the father of Saul, and Saul was the father of Jonathan, Malki-Shua, Abinadab and Esh-Baal.‡

34 The son of Jonathan: Merib-Baal,§ who was the father of Micah.

35 The sons of Micah: Pithon, Melech, Tarea, and Ahaz.

36 Ahaz was the father of Jehoaddah, Jehoaddah was the father of Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri, and Zimri was the father of Moza. 37 Moza was the father of Binea. Raphah was his son, Eleasah his son, and Azel his son.

38 Azel had six sons. These were their names: Azrikam, Bokeru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah and Hanan. These were all the sons of Azel.

39 The sons of his brother Eshek: Ulam (firstborn), Jeush (second), and Eliphelet (third).

40 The sons of Ulam were strong warriors and skilled archers. They had many sons and grandsons—a total of 150. All of them were the sons of Benjamin.

* **8:29** Following some Septuagint manuscripts and also 1 Chronicles 9:35. His name is missing in the Hebrew text. † **8:30** Following some Septuagint manuscripts and also 1 Chronicles 9:36. His name is missing in the Hebrew text. ‡ **8:33** Elsewhere he is known as “Ish-bosheth,” to avoid including in his name the pagan god Baal. “Bosheth” means “shame.” § **8:34** Similarly, he is also known as Mephi-bosheth.

9

¹ All of the people of Israel were recorded in the genealogies written down in the book of the kings of Israel.

The people of Judah were taken away to captivity in Babylon because they had been unfaithful.*

² The first to return and reclaim their property and live in their towns were some Israelites, priests, Levities, and Temple servants. ³ Some from the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh returned to live in Jerusalem. They included:

⁴ Uthai son of Ammihud, son of Omri, son of Imri, son of Bani, a descendant of Perez, son of Judah.

⁵ From the Shilonites: Asaiah (firstborn) and his sons.

⁶ From the Zerahites: Jeuel and relatives totaled 690.

⁷ From the Benjamites: Sallu son of Meshullam, son of Hodaviah, son of Hassenuah; ⁸ Ibneiah son of Jeroham; Elah son of Uzzi, son of Micri; and Meshullam son of Shephatiah, son of Reuel, son of Ibnijah.

⁹ All of them were family heads as recorded in their genealogies, and they totaled 956.

¹⁰ From the priests: Jedaiah, Jehoiarib, Jakin, ¹¹ Azariah son of Hilkiah, son of Meshullam, son of Zadok, son of Meraioth, son of Ahitub. (Azariah was the head official in charge of the house of God.)

* **9:1** Clearly the author of Chronicles is writing after the Captivity, and attributes this event to the nation's failure to follow the true God.

¹² Also Aadaiah son of Jeroham, son of Pashhur, son of Malkijah, and Maasai son of Adiel, son of Jahzerah, son of Meshullam, son of Meshillemith, son of Immer. ¹³ The priests, who were family heads, totaled 1,760. They were strong and capable men who served in the house of God.

¹⁴ From the Levites: Shemaiah, son of Hasshub, son of Azrikam, son of Hashabiah, a descendant of Merari; ¹⁵ Bakbakkar, Heresh, Galal, and Mattaniah, son of Mica, son of Zicri, son of Asaph; ¹⁶ Obadiah son of Shemaiah, son of Galal, son of Jeduthun; and Berekiah son of Asa, son of Elkanah, who used to live in the villages of the Netophathites.

¹⁷ The gatekeepers of the Temple:[†] Shallum, Akkub, Talmon, Ahiman and their relatives. Shallum was the chief gatekeeper. ¹⁸ They had the responsibility up until now of looking after the King's Gate on the east side. They were the gatekeepers of the camps of the Levites. ¹⁹ Shallum was the son of Kore, son of Ebiasaph, son of Korah. He and his relatives, the Korahites, were responsible for guarding the entrances to the sanctuary[‡] in the same way their fathers had been responsible for guarding the entrance to the tented house[§] of the Lord. ²⁰ Previously Phinehas son of Eleazar had been the leader of the gatekeepers. The Lord was with him. ²¹ Zechariah son of Meshelemiah was the gatekeeper at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

[†] **9:17** "Of the Temple": implied. [‡] **9:19** "Sanctuary": literally, "tent," even though this now referred to the Temple building.

[§] **9:19** "Tented house," or "Tabernacle."

²² In total there were 212 chosen to be gatekeepers at the entrances. They recorded their genealogies in their home towns. David and Samuel the prophet had selected their forefathers for their faithfulness. ²³ They and their descendants were responsible for guarding the entrance to the house of the Lord, also when it was a tent.

²⁴ The gatekeepers were placed on four sides: east, west, north, and south. ²⁵ Their relatives in their towns came every seven days at certain times to help them. ²⁶ The four chief gatekeepers, who were Levites, were given the responsibility of looking after the rooms and treasuries in the house of God. ²⁷ They spent the night around the house of God because they had to guard it and they had the key to unlock it in the morning. ²⁸ Some of the gatekeepers were responsible for the articles that were used in worship services. They counted what was brought in and what was taken out. ²⁹ Others were given the job of looking after the furniture and equipment used in the sanctuary, as well as the special flour, wine, olive oil, incense, and spices. ³⁰ (However, some of the priests were in charge of mixing the spices.) ³¹ Mattithiah, a Levite, who was the firstborn son of Shallum the Korahite, was given the responsibility of baking the bread used in offerings. ³² Other Kohathites were in charge of preparing the bread set out on the table every Sabbath. ³³ The musicians, heads of Levite families, lived in the rooms in the Temple and were not required to carry out other

duties because they were on duty day and night.
³⁴ These were all heads of Levite families, leaders as recorded in their genealogies, and they lived in Jerusalem.

³⁵ Jeiel* was the father of Gibeon and he lived in Gibeon. His wife's name was Maacah.
³⁶ His firstborn son was Abdon, then Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner, Nadab, ³⁷ Gedor, Ahio, Zechariah, and Mikloth. ³⁸ Mikloth was the father of Shimeam. They also lived near their relatives in Jerusalem.

³⁹ Ner was the father of Kish, Kish was the father of Saul, and Saul was the father of Jonathan, Malki-Shua, Abinadab, and Esh-Baal.†

⁴⁰ The son of Jonathan: Merib-Baal,‡ who was the father of Micah.

⁴¹ The sons of Micah: Pithon, Melech, Tahrea, and Ahaz.§

⁴² Ahaz was the father of Jadah,* Jadah was the father of Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri, and Zimri was the father of Moza. ⁴³ Moza was the father of Binea; Rephaiah was his son, Eleasah his son, and Azel his son.

⁴⁴ Azel had six sons. Their names were: Azrikam, Bokeru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. These were the sons of Azel.

10

¹ The Philistines attacked Israel and all the Israelites soldiers ran away from them. Many Israelites were cut down on Mount Gilboa.

* **9:35** See 8:29. † **9:39** See footnote to 8:33. ‡ **9:40** See footnote to 8:34. § **9:41** "And Ahaz": Septuagint and 8:35. The name is missing in the Hebrew text here. * **9:42** Following the Septuagint and 8:36. Here spelled "Jarah."

² The Philistines chased down Saul and his sons. The killed Saul's sons Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua. ³ The battle raged intensely around Saul. The enemy archers saw where he was, and they wounded him. ⁴ Saul told his armor bearer, "Take out your sword and kill me before these heathen come and torment me." But his armor bearer refused—he was too afraid to do it. So Saul took his own sword and fell on it. ⁵ When his armor bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword and died. ⁶ So Saul and three of his sons died there, along with his royal line.*

⁷ When all the Israelites in the valley saw that their army had run away, and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their towns and they also ran away. The Philistines came and occupied them.

⁸ The following day, when the Philistines came to strip the dead, they discovered the bodies of Saul and his sons on Mount Gilboa. ⁹ They stripped him, cut off his head, and took his armor. Then they sent the news throughout the land of Philistia, to their idols and their people.

¹⁰ They put Saul's armor in the temple of their idols and fixed his head to the temple of Dagon.

¹¹ However, when everyone in Jabesh-gilead heard everything the Philistines had done to Saul, ¹² all their fighting men went and recovered the bodies of Saul and his sons. They brought them back and buried them under the large tree

* **10:6** Literally, "all of his house died together," however this must be taken in the context that none of his sons succeeded him, for his son Ishbosheth did survive.

in Jabesh. Then they fasted for seven days.

¹³ Saul died because he was unfaithful to the Lord. He did not keep the Lord's commands, and he also went to consult a medium. ¹⁴ He did not consult the Lord, so the Lord put him to death and he handed over the kingship to David, son of Jesse.

11

¹ All the Israelites gathered to meet with David in Hebron. They told him, "We are your flesh and blood.* ² In recent times, even though Saul was king, you were the real leader of Israel.† The Lord your God told you, 'You will be the shepherd of my people, and you will be the leader of my people Israel.' " ³ All the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a solemn agreement‡ with them before the Lord. There they anointed David as king of Israel, as the Lord had promised through Samuel. ⁴ Then David and all the Israelites went to Jerusalem (formerly known as Jebus) where the Jebusites lived. ⁵ The Jebusites told David, "You will not enter here!" But David did capture the fortress of Zion, now known as the City of David. ⁶ David had said, "Whoever is first to attack the Jebusites will be my commander-in-chief." Since Joab, son of Zeruiah, was the first, he became commander-in-chief.

* **11:1** "Flesh and blood": literally, "bones and flesh." † **11:2** "Real leader of Israel": literally, "You led out and your brought in Israel." ‡ **11:3** "Solemn agreement": or, "covenant."

⁷ David decided to love in the fortress, which is why they named it after him the City of David.

⁸ He built up the city all around it, from the Millo[§] in a circuit all around, while Joab repaired the rest of the city. ⁹ David became more and more powerful,* for the Lord Almighty was with him.

¹⁰ These were the leaders of David's powerful warriors who, along with all the Israelites, gave him strong support in becoming king, just as the Lord had promised would happen to Israel.

¹¹ This is the list of the leading warriors who supported David: Jashobeam, son of Hachmoni, leader of the Three. Using his spear, he once killed 300 men in a single battle. ¹² After him came Eleazar, son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the Three leading warriors. ¹³ He was with David at Pas-dammin when the Philistines gathered for battle that took place in a field full of barley. The Israelite army ran away when the Philistines attacked, ¹⁴ but David and Eleazar took a stand in the middle of the field, defending their ground and killing the Philistines. The Lord saved them by giving them a great victory.

¹⁵ Another time,† the Three, who were part of the Thirty leading warriors, went down to meet David when he was at the cave of Adullam. The Philistine army was camped in the valley of Rephaim. ¹⁶ At the time David was in the stronghold, and the Philistine garrison was in

[§] **11:8** The meaning of this word is uncertain. * **11:9**

“More and more powerful”: literally, “increased and increased.”

† **11:15** Implied.

Bethlehem. ¹⁷ David was feeling really thirsty, and he said, “If only someone could bring me a drink of water from the well beside the entrance gate to Bethlehem!” ¹⁸ The Three broke through the Philistine defenses, took some water from the well at Bethlehem's gate, and brought it back to David. But David refused to drink it, and poured it out as an offering to the Lord. ¹⁹ “God forbid that I should do this!” he said. “It would be like drinking the blood of these men who risked their lives! They risked their lives to bring me a drink.” So he did not drink it. This is just some of the things the Three leading warriors did.

²⁰ Abishai, Joab's brother, was leader of the second Three.‡ Using his spear, he once killed 300 men, and became famous among the Three. ²¹ He was the most highly regarded of the Three and was their commander, though he was not one of the first Three.§

²² Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, a strong warrior from Kabzeel, did many amazing things. He killed two sons of Ariel of Moab.* He also went after a lion into a pit in the snow and killed it.

²³ Another time he killed an Egyptian—a huge

‡ **11:20** However, Jashobeam has already been mentioned as leader of the Three (11:11), and the killing of 300 by his spear has also been mentioned. Some suggest a confusion of names or alternate spelling, or that this refers to another person altogether as leader not of the Three but the Thirty, or that there was another “Three.” § **11:21** Identifying a first and second Three seems to be the simplest solution to what are confusing verses.

* **11:22** Septuagint understanding; it may refer to two fighting champions of Moab.

man who stood seven foot six inches tall.[†] The Egyptian had a spear whose shaft was as thick as a weaver's rod. Benaiah attacked him with just a club, but he was able to grab the spear from the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear. ²⁴ These were the kind of things Benaiah did that made him as famous as the Three leading warriors. ²⁵ He was the most highly regarded of the Thirty, though he was not one of the Three. David put him in charge of his personal bodyguard.

²⁶ Other leading warriors were: Asahel, Joab's brother; Elhanan, son of Dodo, from Bethlehem; ²⁷ Shammoth the Harorite; Helez the Pelonite; ²⁸ Ira, son of Ikkesh from Tekoa; Abiezer from Anathoth; ²⁹ Sibbecai the Hushathite; Ilai the Ahohite; ³⁰ Maharai of Netophah; Heled, son of Baanah of Netophah; ³¹ Ithai, son of Ribai from Gibeah of the Benjamites; Benaiah the Pirathonite; ³² Hurai from the valleys of Gaash; Abiel the Arbathite; ³³ Azmaveth the Baharumite; Eliahba the Shaalbonite; ³⁴ the sons of Hashem the Gizonite; Jonathan, son of Shagee the Hararite; ³⁵ Ahiam, son of Sachar the Hararite; Eliphai, son of Ur; ³⁶ Hopher the Mecherathite; Ahijah the Pelonite; ³⁷ Hezro the Carmelite; Naarai, son of Ezbai; ³⁸ Joel the Nathan's brother; Mibhar, son of Hagri; ³⁹ Zelek the Ammonite; Naharai the Beerothite; Joab's armor-bearer, son of Zeruah; ⁴⁰ Ira the Ithrite; Gareb the Ithrite; ⁴¹ Uriah the Hittite; Zabad son of Ahlai; ⁴² Adina, son of Shiza

[†] **11:23** Literally "five cubits."

the Reubenite, leader of the Reubenites, and the thirty who were with him; ⁴³ Hanan, son of Maacah; Joshaphat the Mithnite; ⁴⁴ Uzzia the Ashterathite; Shama and Jeiel, the sons of Hotham the Aroerite; ⁴⁵ Jediael, son of Shimri, and his brother, Joha the Tizite; ⁴⁶ Eliel the Mahavite; Jeribai and Joshaviah, the sons of Elnaam; Ithmah the Moabite; ⁴⁷ Eliel; Obed; and Jaasiel the Mezobaite.

12

¹ The following is a list of the men who joined David when he was at Ziklag, still hiding from Saul, son of Kish. They were some of the leading warriors who fought on David's side. ² They were all skilled archers, and could shoot arrows or slingshots with their right or their left hands. They were relatives of Saul from the tribe of Benjamin. ³ Ahiezer was their leader, then Joash; the sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite; Jeziel and Pelet the sons of Azmaveth; Beracah; Jehu the Anathothite; ⁴ Ishmaiah the Gibeonite, (a strong warrior among the Thirty, and leader over the Thirty); Jeremiah; Jahaziel; Johanan; Jozabad the Gederathite; ⁵ Eluzai; Jerimoth; Bealiah; Shemariah; Shephatiah the Haruphite; ⁶ Elkanah, Isshiah, Azarel, Joezer, and Jashobeam (they were Korahites); ⁷ and Joelah and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham from Gedor.

⁸ Some warriors from the tribe of Gad went over to David's side when he was at the stronghold in the desert. They were strong

and experienced warriors, battle-hardened, experts in the use of shields and spears. Their faces looked as fierce as lions, and they ran as fast as gazelles in the mountains. ⁹ Ezer the was the leader, Obadiah (second), Eliab (third), ¹⁰ Mishmannah (fourth), Jeremiah (fifth), ¹¹ Attai (sixth), Eliel (seventh), ¹² Johanan (eighth), Elzabad (ninth), ¹³ Jeremiah (tenth), Machbannai (eleventh). ¹⁴ These warriors from Gad were army officers. The least able of them was in charge of 100 men; the best was in charge of 1,000. ¹⁵ These were ones who crossed the Jordan River in the first month of the year when it overflows its banks. They chased out all the people living in the valley, both to the east and to the west.

¹⁶ Some others from the tribes of Benjamin and Judah also came to join David at the stronghold. ¹⁷ David went out to meet them and told them, "If you've come in peace to help me, we can be friends.* But if you've come to betray me to my enemies, even though I've done no wrong, then may the God of our fathers see what you're doing and condemn you."

¹⁸ Then the Spirit came upon† Amasai, the leader of the Thirty. "We are yours, David, and we are with you, son of Jesse! May peace, prosperity, and success‡ be yours and those who help you, for God is the one who is helping you."

* **12:17** "We can be friends": literally, "my heart will be together with you." † **12:18** "Came upon": literally, "clothed." ‡ **12:18** "Peace, prosperity, and success": literally, "Shalom, shalom to you, and shalom whoever helps you."

So David allowed them to join him, and put them in charge of his bands of raiders.

¹⁹ Others came over to David's side from the tribe of Manasseh and joined him when he went with Philistines to attack Saul. However, the Philistine rulers eventually decided to send them away, saying to themselves, "It will cost us our heads if he deserts us and goes over to his master Saul."

²⁰ The following is a list of the men from Manasseh who went over to David's side as he returned to Ziklag: Adnah, Jozabad, Jediael, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai, leaders of thousands in Manasseh. ²¹ They helped David against raiders for they were all strong and experienced warriors and commanders in the army. ²² Men arrived daily to help David until he had a large army, like the army of God.

²³ This is a list of the numbers of armed warriors who came and joined David in Hebron to turn over Saul's kingdom to him, as the Lord had said. ²⁴ From the tribe of Judah, 6,800 warriors carrying shields and spears. ²⁵ From the tribe of Simeon, 7,100 strong warriors. ²⁶ From the tribe of Levi, 4,600, ²⁷ including Jehoiada, leader of the family of Aaron, and with him 3,700, ²⁸ and Zadok, a strong young warrior, with 22 members of his family, all officers. ²⁹ From the tribe of Benjamin, from among Saul's relatives, 3,000, most of whom had remained loyal to Saul up until this time. ³⁰ From the tribe of Ephraim, 20,800 strong warriors, each highly regarded in his own clan. ³¹ From the half-tribe of Manasseh,

18,000 men were designated by name to come and make David king. ³² From the tribe of Issachar came leaders who knew and could understand the signs of the times and what Israel should do—a total of 200 leaders of the tribe together with their relatives. ³³ From the tribe of Zebulun, 50,000 warriors. They were fully armed and battle-ready, and totally dedicated. ³⁴ From the tribe of Naphtali, 1,000 officers and 37,000 warriors carrying shields and spears. ³⁵ From the tribe of Dan, 28,600 warriors, all battle-ready. ³⁶ From the tribe of Asher, 40,000 experienced warriors, all battle-ready. ³⁷ From the east side of the Jordan River, from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, 120,000 warriors carrying all kinds of weapons.

³⁸ All these men came to Hebron dressed for battle, completely committed to making David king. All of Israel agreed that David should become king. ³⁹ They stayed three days there, eating and drinking together, for their relatives had provided them with supplies. ⁴⁰ Their neighbors, even as far away as Issachar, Zebulun, and Naphtali, arrived bringing food on donkeys, camels, mules, and oxen. They had plenty of flour, fig cakes, bunches of raisins, wine, olive oil, cattle, and sheep, for Israel was so happy.

13

¹ David had discussions with all his leaders, including the army commanders of thousands

and hundreds.* ² Then he addressed the whole assembly of Israel, saying, “If you agree, and if God approves, let us send an invitation to every Israelite in the land, including the priests and Levites in their towns and pastures, to come and join us. ³ Let us bring the Ark of our God back† to us, because we forgot about it during the time of Saul.”

⁴ The whole assembly was pleased with the proposal, agreeing that this would be a good thing to do. ⁵ So David summoned all of Israel, from the Shihor River of Egypt up to Lebohamath, to help bring the Ark from Kiriath-jearim. ⁶ So David and all of Israel went to Baalah (otherwise called Kiriath-jearim) in Judah to bring back the Ark of God the Lord, whose throne is between the cherubim and who is called by the Name. ⁷ They loaded the Ark of God onto a brand new cart and brought it from Adinadab's house, with Uzzah and Ahio directing it. ⁸ David and all of Israel were celebrating before the Lord as loudly as possible, singing songs and playing music on lyres, harps, tambourines, cymbals, and trumpets.

⁹ But when they came to the threshing floor of Chidon, the oxen stumbled and Uzzah stretched out his hand to stop the Ark falling. ¹⁰ The Lord was angry with Uzzah for daring to touch the Ark

* **13:1** “Thousands and hundreds”: referring to the way the army was structured, with some being in charge of 1000 men, and others in charge of 100. † **13:3** “Bring... back”: interestingly the verb root has the basic meaning of “surround.”

like this so he struck him down, and Uzzah died there before the Lord.

¹¹ David became angry with the Lord for his violent outburst against Uzzah. He named the place Perez-uzzah,[‡] and it is still called that today.

¹² David became afraid of God that day. "How can I ever bring back the Ark of God home to me?" he asked. ¹³ So David did not move the Ark of God to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he had it taken to the home of Obed-edom the Gittite. ¹⁴ The Ark of God remained in Obed-edom's home for three months, and the Lord blessed Obed-edom's household and all that he had.

14

¹ Then Hiram, king of Tyre, sent messengers to David along with cedar timber, stonemasons, and carpenters to build him a palace. ² In this way David realized that the Lord had placed him on the throne as king of Israel and had blessed by supporting his kingdom for the sake of the Lord's people Israel. ³ David married more wives in Jerusalem, and had more sons and daughters. ⁴ This is a list of the names of the children he had in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, ⁵ Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet, ⁶ Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, ⁷ Elishama, Beeliada, and Eliphelet.

⁸ When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all of Israel, they gathered their whole army to go after him. But

[‡] **13:11** Perez-uzzah means "outburst against Uzzah."

David heard they were coming and went out to confront them. ⁹ The Philistines arrived and raided the valley of Rephaim.

¹⁰ David consulted God, asking “Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you make me victorious over them?”

“Go ahead,” the Lord told him, “I will make you victorious over them.”

¹¹ So David attacked and defeated them there at Baal-perazim. “God used me to defeat my enemies like a torrent of water that bursts out,” he declared. That’s why the place was named Baal-perazim.* ¹² The Philistines had left their gods behind, so David gave orders that they should be burned.

¹³ However, the Philistines returned and made another raid on the valley. ¹⁴ David consulted God again. “Don’t make a frontal attack,” God told him. “Instead go around behind them and attack them in front of the balsam trees. ¹⁵ As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, go and attack for the Lord has gone before you to strike down the Philistine army.” ¹⁶ So David did what God told him, striking down the Philistine army all the way from Gibeon to Gezer.

¹⁷ As a result David’s reputation was spread everywhere, and the Lord made all the nations afraid of David.

* **14:11** Baal-perazim means “the Lord bursts through.”

15

¹ Once David had finished building houses for himself in the City of David, he made a place for the Ark of God and set up a tent there. ² Then he gave orders: “Nobody is to carry the Ark of God except the Levites, for the Lord himself chose them to carry the Ark of the Lord and to serve him forever.”

³ David summoned all of Israel to Jerusalem to bring the Ark of the Lord to the place he'd prepared for it. ⁴ This is the list of the Levites, the sons of Aaron, that David called to attend: ⁵ From the sons of Kohath, Uriel (chief), and 120 of his relatives; ⁶ from the sons of Merari, Asaiah (chief), with 220 of his relatives; ⁷ from the sons of Gershon, Joel (chief), with 130 of his relatives; ⁸ from the sons of Elizaphan, Shemaiah (chief), with 200 of his relatives; ⁹ from the sons of Hebron, Eliel (chief), with 80 of his relatives; ¹⁰ from the sons of Uzziel, Amminadab (chief), with 112 of his relatives.

¹¹ Then David summoned the priests Zadok and Abiathar, and the Levites Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab. ¹² He told them, “You are the heads of the Levite families. You must make yourselves and your relatives ceremonially clean and pure* before you bring back the Ark of God, the Lord of Israel to the place I have made for it. ¹³ Because you weren't there the first time to carry the Ark the Lord our God burst out in violence against us. We didn't

* **15:12** “Ceremonially clean and pure”: following the religious rules and requirements.

treat it in accordance with his instructions.” ¹⁴ So the priests and the Levites purified themselves so that they could bring back the Ark of the Lord, the God of Israel. ¹⁵ Then the Levites carried the Ark of God in the way that Moses had ordered, according to what God had said—on their shoulders using the special carrying poles.

¹⁶ David also instructed the leaders of the Levites to assign from their relatives singers who would sing loudly for joy, accompanied by musicians playing lyres, and harps, and cymbals.

¹⁷ So the Levites assigned Heman the son of Joel; and from his relatives Asaph the son of Berechiah; and from the sons of Merari, their relatives, Ethan the son of Kushaiah. ¹⁸ The second group of Levites consisted of Zechariah, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, and Mikneiah; and the gatekeepers Obed-edom and Jeiel.

¹⁹ The musicians Heman, Asaph, and Ethan were to strike the bronze cymbals; ²⁰ Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah were to play harps “according to alamothe,” ²¹ while Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah were to lead the music with lyres “according to sheminith.” ²² Kenaniah, the leader of the Levites in singing, was chosen to lead the music because of his ability. ²³ Berechiah and Elkanah were appointed to guard the Ark. ²⁴ Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer the priests were to blow the

trumpets in front of the Ark of God. Obed-edom and Jehiah were also appointed to guard the Ark.

²⁵ Then David, the elders of Israel, and the senior army commanders,[†] went with great celebration to bring back the Ark of the Lord's Agreement from the home of Obed-Edom. ²⁶ Because God helped the Levites who carried the Ark of the Lord's Agreement, they sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams.

²⁷ David wore a robe of fine linen like all the Levites who were carrying the Ark, and the singers and Kenaniah the leader of the music and singers. David also wore a linen ephod.[‡] ²⁸ So all of Israel brought back the Ark of the Lord's Agreement with a lot of shouting, accompanied by horns, trumpets, and cymbals, and music played on harps and lyres.

²⁹ But as Ark of the Lord's Agreement entered the City of David, Saul's daughter Michal looked down from a window. Seeing David the king jumping and dancing for joy, she was full of contempt for him.

16

¹ They brought the Ark of God and placed it in the tent that David had prepared for it. They presented burnt offerings and friendship offerings to God. ² Once David had finished presenting the burnt offerings and friendship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of

[†] **15:25** "Senior army commanders": literally, "commanders of thousands." [‡] **15:27** "Ephod": special clothing worn by priests.

the Lord. ³ Then he shared out to every Israelite, to every man and woman, a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake.

⁴ David assigned some of the Levites to serve as ministers before the Ark of the Lord, to remember, to thank, and to praise the Lord, the God of Israel. ⁵ Asaph was the one in charge, Zechariah was second, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-edom, and Jeiel. They played harps and lyres, and Asaph struck the cymbals, ⁶ and the priests Benaiah and Jahaziel blew the trumpets continually in front of the Ark of God's Agreement. ⁷ This was the day that David first instructed Asaph and his relatives to express thanks to the Lord in this way:*

⁸ Give the Lord thanks, worship his wonderful nature, let people know what he's done!

⁹ Sing to him, sing his praises; tell everyone the great things he's done!

¹⁰ Be proud of his holy character; be happy, all who come to the Lord!

¹¹ Look for the Lord, and his strength; always look to be with him.

¹² Remember all the wonderful things he's done, the miracles he's performed, and the judgments he's carried out,

¹³ descendants of Israel, children of Jacob, his chosen people.

* **16:7** "In this way": implied. What follows is a selection from Psalms 105, Psalms 96, Psalms 107, and Psalms 106.

¹⁴ He is the Lord, our God, his judgments cover the whole earth.

¹⁵ He remembers his agreement forever, the promise he made lasts for a thousand generations;

¹⁶ the agreement he made with Abraham, the vow he gave to Isaac.

¹⁷ The Lord legally confirmed it with Jacob, he made this everlasting agreement with Israel:

¹⁸ saying, "I will give the land of Canaan to you for you to possess."

¹⁹ He said this when there were only a few of you, just a small group of foreigners in the land.

²⁰ They wandered from country to country, from one kingdom to the next.

²¹ He didn't let anyone one treat them badly; warning kings to leave them alone:

²² "Don't touch my chosen people; don't harm my prophets!"

²³ Sing to the Lord, all the earth, sing to the Lord! Each day let everyone know of his salvation!

²⁴ Declare his glorious acts among the nations, the wonderful things he does among all peoples.

²⁵ For the Lord is great, and deserves the best praise! He is to be respected with awe above all gods.

²⁶ For all the gods of other nations are idols; but the Lord made the heavens!

²⁷ Splendor and majesty are his; power and glory are in his sanctuary.

²⁸ Give the Lord credit, nations of the world, credit him with glory and strength.

²⁹ Give the Lord the glory he deserves; bring an offering and come before him. Worship the Lord in his magnificent holiness.

³⁰ Let everyone on earth tremble in his presence. The world is held together firmly—it cannot be broken apart.

³¹ Let the heavens sing for joy, let the earth be happy. Tell the nations, “The Lord is in charge!”

³² Let the sea and everything in it shout with praise! Let the fields and everything there celebrate;

³³ Let all the trees in the forest sing for joy, for he is coming to judge the earth.

³⁴ Say thank you to the Lord, for he is good! His trustworthy love continues forever!

³⁵ Shout out, “Save us, Lord, our God! Bring us back together from among the nations, rescue us, so we can thank you and praise how magnificent and holy you are.”

³⁶ How wonderful is the Lord, the God of Israel, who lives forever and ever! Then all the people said, “Amen!” and “Praise the Lord!”

³⁷ Then David made sure Asaph and his brothers would minister continually before the Ark of the Lord's Agreement, performing whatever services were needed every day, ³⁸ as well as Obed-edom and his sixty-eight relatives. Obed-edom, son of Jeduthun, and Hosah, were gatekeepers. ³⁹ David put Zadok the priest and his fellow priests in charge of the Ark of the Lord at the high place in Gibeon ⁴⁰ to present burnt offerings to the Lord on the altar of burnt offerings, morning and evening, according to

all that was written in the law of the Lord which he had ordered Israel to follow. ⁴¹ They were accompanied by Heman, Jeduthun, and the rest of those chosen and identified by name to give thanks to the Lord, for “His trustworthy love lasts forever.” ⁴² Heman and Jeduthun used their trumpets and cymbals to make music to accompany the songs of God. The sons of Jeduthun guarded the gate. ⁴³ Then all the people went home, and David went to bless his family.

17

¹ Once David had settled into his palace, he spoke to the prophet Nahum. “Look,” he said, “I’m living in a cedar palace while the Ark of the Lord’s Agreement is kept in a tent!”

² “Do what you think you should, for the God is with you,” Nathan replied.

³ But that night God told Nathan, ⁴ “Go and talk to my servant David. Tell him, this is what the Lord says, You are not to build a house for me to live in. ⁵ I have not lived in a house from the time I led Israel out of Egypt* until now. I have lived in tents, moving from place to place. ⁶ But in all those travels with all of Israel did I ever ask any Israelite leader I’d ordered to take care of my people, ‘Why haven’t you built a cedar house for me?’ ⁷ So then, go and tell my servant David this is what the Lord Almighty says. It was me who took you from the fields, from looking after sheep, to become a leader of my people

* **17:5** “Out of Egypt”: implied—these words are not in the Hebrew text.

Israel. ⁸ I have been with you wherever you've gone. I have struck down all your enemies right in front of you, and I will make your reputation as great as the most famous people on earth. ⁹ I will choose a place for my people Israel. I will settle them there and they won't be disturbed anymore. Evil people won't persecute them as they used to, ¹⁰ from the time I placed judges in charge of my people. I will defeat all of your enemies.

Also I want to make it clear that I the Lord will build a house for you.[†] ¹¹ For when you come to the end of your life and join your ancestors in death, I will bring to power one of your descendants, one of your sons, and make sure his kingdom is successful. ¹² He will be the one to build me a house, and I will make sure his kingdom lasts forever. ¹³ I will be a father to him, and he will be a son to me. I will never take away my kindness and love from him, as I did in the case of the one who ruled before you. ¹⁴ I will put him in charge of my house and my kingdom forever, and his dynasty will last forever.” ¹⁵ This is what Nathan explained to David—everything he was told in this divine revelation.

¹⁶ Then King David went and sat down in the presence of the Lord. He prayed, “Who am I, Lord God, and what is significant about my family, that you have brought me to this place? ¹⁷ God, you talk as if this was a small thing in

[†] **17:10** In other words, the Lord would build a “house” for David in the sense of establishing a royal dynasty.

your eyes, and you also have spoken about the future of my house, my family dynasty.[‡] You also see me as someone very important, Lord God.

¹⁸ What more can I, David, say to you for honoring me in this way? You know your servant all too well! ¹⁹ Lord, you're doing all this for me, your servant, and because it's what you want—doing all these amazing things and letting people know about them.

²⁰ Lord, there really is no-one like you; there is no other God, only you. We have never heard about anyone else. ²¹ Who else is as fortunate as your people Israel? Who else on earth did God go and redeem to make his own people? You gained a wonderful reputation for yourself by all the tremendous, amazing things you did in driving out other nations before your people as you redeemed them from Egypt. ²² You made your people Israel your own forever, and you, Lord, have become their God.

²³ So now, Lord, please ensure that what you have said about me and my house happens, and lasts forever. Please do as you have promised, ²⁴ and may your true nature be recognized and honored forever, with people declaring, 'The Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, is Israel's God!' May the house of your servant David continue to be there in your presence.

²⁵ You, my God, have explained to me, your servant, that you will build me a house. That's why your servant has had the courage to pray to

[‡] **17:17** "My family dynasty": explaining the meaning of "house" in this context.

you. ²⁶ For you, Lord, are God! You are the one who has promised all these good things to your servant. ²⁷ So now, please bless your servant's house that it may continue in your presence forever. For when you bless, Lord, it is blessed forever.”

18

¹ Some time later, David defeated the Philistines and subdued them, and he captured Gath and its nearby towns from the Philistines.

² David also defeated the Moabites, making them subject to him and requiring them to pay taxes.

³ David then defeated Hadadezer, king of Zobah, near Hamath, as he tried enforce his control along the Euphrates River. ⁴ David captured from him 1,000 chariots, 7,000 charioteers, and 20,000 foot soldiers. David hamstringed all the chariot horses—except he saved enough for 100 chariots.

⁵ When the Arameans from Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David killed 22,000 of them. ⁶ David placed forces* in the Aramean town of Damascus, and also made them subject to him and required them to pay taxes. The Lord gave David victories wherever he went.

⁷ David took the shields of gold that were carried by Hadadezer's officers and brought them to Jerusalem. ⁸ David also took a large

* **18:6** What David placed is not specified in the Hebrew text. From the text it appears to be army units or garrisons as the Septuagint and Vulgate translations suggest, and is confirmed in the parallel passage in 2 Samuel 8:6.

quantity of bronze from Tibhath and from Cun, towns that had belonged to Hadadezer. Solomon used that bronze to make the bronze sea, the columns, and the various bronze objects.†

9 When Tou, king of Hamath, learned that David had destroyed the entire army of Hadadezer, king of Zobah, 10 he sent his son Hadoram to David to make friends with him and to congratulate him on his victory in battle over Hadadezer. Tou and Hadadezer had often been at war. Hadoram brought gifts of gold, silver, and bronze. 11 King David dedicated these gifts to the Lord, along with the silver and gold he had taken from all the following nations: Edom, Moab, the Ammonites, the Philistines, and Amalekites.

12 Abishai,‡ son of Zeruiah, killed 18,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt. 13 He set up army posts in Edom, and all the Edomites became subject to David. The Lord gave David victories wherever he went. 14 David ruled over all Israel. He did what was fair and right for all his people. 15 Joab, son of Zeruiah,§ was the army commander, while Jehoshaphat, son of Ahilud, kept the official records. 16 Zadok, son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech, son of Abiathar, were the priests, while Shavsha was secretary. 17 Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, was in charge of the Kerethites and Pelethites;* and David's sons were at the king's

† 18:8 Objects used in the Temple. ‡ 18:12 In the parallel passage in 2 Samuel 8:13 David is credited with this victory.

§ 18:15 Zeruiah was David's sister (2:16). * 18:17 "The Kerethites and Pelethites": these were the king's bodyguard (2 Samuel 15:18).

side, serving as his chief officials.

19

¹ Some time later, Nahash, king of the Ammonites, died and his son succeeded him. ² David said, "I will be kind to Hanun, son of Nahash, for his father was kind to me." So David sent messengers to comfort him over his father's death. David's ambassadors arrived in the land of the Ammonites and went to comfort Hanun. ³ But the Ammonite princes said to Hanun, "Do you really think that David is honoring your father by sending comforters to you? Haven't these 'comforters' only come to spy out the land to find ways to conquer it?" ⁴ So Hanun detained David's ambassadors and had them shaved, and their robes cut off at the buttocks.* Then he sent them back.

⁵ A message was sent to David to explain what had happened to the men. David then sent messengers to the men to tell them, "Stay at Jericho until your beards grow, and then you can come back."

⁶ Then the Ammonites realized that they had really been offensive to David. So Hanun and the Ammonites sent a thousand talents of silver to hire chariots and charioteers from Aram-naharaim, Aram-maacah, and Zobah. ⁷ They also hired 32,000 chariots and the king of Maacah with his army. They came and set up camp near Medeba. The Ammonites were also called up from their towns and prepared for battle.

* **19:4** To humiliate and shame them, and to send a message of defiance back to David.

⁸ When David learned of this, he sent Joab and the entire army to confront them. ⁹ The Ammonites set up their battle lines near the town entrance, while the other kings who had joined them took up positions in the open fields.

¹⁰ Joab realized he would have to fight both in front of him and behind him, he chose some of Israel's best troops and he took charge of them to lead the attack the Arameans. ¹¹ He put the rest of the army under the command of Abishai, his brother. They were to attack the Ammonites. ¹² Joab told him, "If the Arameans are stronger than me, you come and help me. If the Ammonites are stronger than you, I'll come and help you. ¹³ Be brave, and fight your best for our people and the towns of our God. May the Lord do what he sees as good!"

¹⁴ Joab attacked the Arameans with his forces and they ran away from him. ¹⁵ When the Ammonites saw that the Arameans had run away, they also ran away from Abishai, Joab's brother, and retreated into the town. So Joab went back to Jerusalem.

¹⁶ As soon as the Arameans saw they had been defeated by the Israelites so they sent for reinforcements from the other side of the Euphrates River, under the leadership of Shobach, commander of Hadadezer's army.

¹⁷ When this was reported to David, he assembled all Israel together. He crossed the Jordan and approached the Aramean army, drawing up his forces in battle line against them. When David engaged in battle with them they fought

with him. ¹⁸ But the Aramean army ran away from the Israelites, and David killed 7,000 charioteers and 40,000 infantry, as well as Shobach, their army commander. ¹⁹ When Hadadezer's allies realized that they had been defeated by Israel, they made peace with David and became subject to him. As a result, the Arameans didn't want to help the Ammonites any more.

20

¹ In spring, at the time of year when kings go out to make war, Joab led the Israelite army in attacks against the country of the Ammonites, also besieging Rabbah. However, David remained behind in Jerusalem. Joab attacked Rabbah and destroyed it.

² David took the crown from the head of their idol Milcom.* It was made of gold, and was set with gems. It weighed a talent† and was placed on David's head. David also took a great deal of plunder from the city. ³ David made the people there work with saws, iron picks, and axes. He also did the same to all the Ammonite towns. Then David and all his army returned to Jerusalem.

⁴ Some time after this was broke out with the Philistines at Gezer. But then Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Sippai, a descendant of the Rephaim,‡ and the Philistines were forced to submit.

* **20:2** "Milcom": or "their king." † **20:2** A talent was equal to around 75 pounds. ‡ **20:4** "Rephaim": a race of giants. Similar word is used in 20:8.

⁵ In another battle with the Philistines, Elhanan, son of Jair, killed Lahmi, the brother of Goliath the Gittite. The shaft of his spear was as thick as a weaver's rod.

⁶ In yet another battle at Gath, there was a gigantic man, who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, making twenty-four all. He too was descended from the giants. ⁷ But when he insulted Israel, Jonathan, son of Shimea, David's brother, killed him. ⁸ These were the descendants of the giants in Gath, abut they were all killed by David and his men.

21

¹ Satan interfered to cause trouble for Israel. He provoked David to do a census of Israel. ² So David told Joab and the army commanders, "Go and count the Israelites from Beersheba to Dan. Then report back to me so I can have a total number."

³ But Joab replied, "May the Lord multiply his people a hundred times over. Your Majesty, aren't they all your subjects? Why do you want to do this? Why should you make Israel guilty?"

⁴ But the king was adamant so Joab left and went all over Israel. Eventually he returned to Jerusalem, ⁵ and he gave David the number of people censused. In Israel there were 1,100,000 fighting men who could handle a sword, and 470,000 in Judah. ⁶ However, Joab did not include Levi and Benjamin in the census total, because he disagreed with what the king had ordered.

⁷ The Lord considered the census a bad thing to do and he punished Israel for it.

⁸ Then David said to God, “I have committed a terrible sin by doing this. Please take away the guilt of your servant, for I have been very stupid.”

⁹ The Lord told Gad, David's seer, ¹⁰ “Go and tell David that this is what the Lord says: ‘I'm giving you three options. Choose one of them, and that's what I'll do to you.’ ”

¹¹ So Gad went and told David, “This is what the Lord says: ‘Make your choice: ¹² either three years of famine; or three months of devastation, running from the swords of your enemies; or three days of the Lord's sword—in other words three days of plague in the land, with an angel of the Lord causing destruction throughout the whole of Israel.’ Now you have to decide how I should reply to the one who sent me.”

¹³ David replied to Gad, “This is an awful situation for me! Please, let the Lord decide my punishment,* for he is so merciful. Don't let me be punished by people.”

¹⁴ So the Lord a plague on Israel, and 70,000 Israelites died. ¹⁵ God also sent an angel to destroy Jerusalem. But just as the angel was about to destroy it, the Lord saw it, and he relented from causing such a disaster. He told the destroying angel, “That's enough. You can

* **21:13** “Let the Lord decide my punishment”: literally, “let me fall into the hands of the Lord.” Also at the end of the verse, “Do not let me fall into human hands.”

stop now.” Right then the angel of the Lord was standing beside the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

¹⁶ When David looked up and saw the angel of the Lord standing between earth and heaven, holding his drawn sword extended over Jerusalem, David and the elders, wearing sackcloth, fell on their faces. ¹⁷ David said to God, “Wasn't it me who ordered the census of the people? I'm the one who has sinned and acted wickedly. But these sheep, what have they done? Lord my God, please punish me and my family, but don't punish your people with this plague.”

¹⁸ Then the angel of the Lord told Gad to tell David to go and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. ¹⁹ So David went and did what Gad had told him in the name of the Lord.

²⁰ Ornan was busy threshing wheat. He turned around and saw the angel; and his four sons who were with him went and hid. ²¹ When David arrived, Ornan looked out and saw David. He left the threshing floor and bowed down before David with his face to the ground.

²² David said to Ornan, “Please let me have the threshing floor. I'll buy it at its full price. Then I can build an altar to the Lord here so that the plague on the people may be stopped.”

²³ “Take it, and Your Majesty can do whatever you want with it,” Ornan told David. “You can have the oxen for burnt offerings, the threshing boards for firewood, and the wheat for a grain offering. I'll give it all to you.”

24 “No, I insist, I will pay the full price,” replied King David “I won't take for the Lord what is yours or present burnt offerings that didn't cost me anything.”

25 So David paid Ornan six hundred shekels of gold for the place.

26 David built an altar to the Lord there and presented burnt offerings and friendship offerings. He called on the Lord in prayer, and the Lord answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering. 27 Then the Lord told the angel to put his sword back into its sheath.

28 When David saw that the Lord had answered him at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he offered sacrifices there. 29 At that time the tent of the Lord that Moses had made in the wilderness, and the altar of burnt offering, were at the high place in Gibeon. 30 But David did not want to go there to ask God's will,[†] because he was afraid of the sword of the angel of the Lord.

22

1 Then David said, “This is where the house of the Lord God will be, and this is the place for the altar of burnt offering for Israel.” 2 So David gave orders to summon the foreigners living in the land of Israel, and he assigned stonecutters to prepare dressed stones to build the house of God. 3 David provided plenty of iron to make the nails for the entrance doors and for the supports, as well as more bronze than could be weighed. 4 He provided more cedar logs than could be

[†] 21:30 “Ask God's will”: literally, “inquire of God.”

counted, because the people of Sidon and Tyre had brought a huge quantity of cedar logs to David.

⁵ David said to himself, “My son Solomon is still young and inexperienced, and the house that is to be built for the Lord must be truly magnificent, famous and glorious around the world. I need to start preparing for it.” So David made sure plenty of building materials were ready before he died.

⁶ Then he sent for his son Solomon and instructed him to build a house for the Lord, the God of Israel. ⁷ David told Solomon, “My son, I had always wanted to build a house to honor the Lord my God. ⁸ But the Lord told me, ‘You have shed a lot of blood and engaged in many wars. You are not to build a house to honor me because I have seen you shed so much blood on the earth. ⁹ But you will have a son who will be a man of peace. I will give him peace from all his enemies in the nations around. Solomon will be his name, and I will grant peace and quiet to Israel during his reign. ¹⁰ He is the one who will build a house to honor me. He will be my son, and I will be his father. And I will make sure the throne of his kingdom over Israel lasts forever.’

¹¹ Now, my son, may the Lord be with you so you may succeed in building the house of the Lord your God, just as he said you would. ¹² Only may the Lord give you insight and understanding when he puts you in command of Israel, so that you may keep the law of the Lord your God. ¹³ Then you will be successful, as long as you

are careful to follow the laws and regulations that the Lord through Moses instructed Israel to do. Be strong and be brave! Don't be afraid or discouraged!

¹⁴ Look, I've taken a lot of trouble to provide for the house of the Lord— 100,000 talents of gold, 1,000,000 talents of silver, and bronze and iron, more than can be weighed. ¹⁵ I have also provided timber and stone, but you will need to add more. ¹⁶ You have many workers such as stonecutters, masons, carpenters, and all kinds of craftsmen of gold, silver, bronze, and iron— without limit. So get started, and may the Lord be with you!”

¹⁷ David also ordered all the leaders in Israel to help his son Solomon. ¹⁸ “Isn't the Lord God with you? Hasn't he given you peace on all your borders?” he asked. “Why? Because he has placed the inhabitants of the land under my power, and they are now subject to the Lord and to his people. ¹⁹ Now, with your whole mind and heart, make a definite decision to always worship the Lord your God. Get started on building the sanctuary of the Lord God, Then you can bring the Ark of the Lord's Agreement and the holy things of God into the house that is to be built to honor the Lord.”

23

¹ When David was old, having lived a long life, he made his son Solomon king of Israel. ² He also summoned all the leaders of Israel, the priests, and the Levites. ³ The Levites over thirty years

old were counted, and there was 38,000 in total. ⁴ “Of these 24,000 will be in charge of the work of the house of the LORD, while 6,000 will be officers and judges,” David instructed. ⁵ “And 4,000 will be gatekeepers, while 4,000 will praise the Lord using the musical instruments I have provided for praise worship.”

⁶ David divided them into sections corresponding to the sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

⁷ The sons of Gershon: Ladan and Shimei. ⁸ The sons of Ladan: Jehiel (chief), and Zetham, and Joel, three in total. ⁹ The sons of Shimei: Shelomoth, Haziel, and Haran, three in total. These were the leaders of the families of Ladan. ¹⁰ The sons of Shimei: Jahath, Zizah,* Jeush, and Beriah—four in total. ¹¹ Jahath (chief), and Zizah (second); but because Jeush and Beriah did not have many sons they were counted as a single family.

¹² The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel—a total of four. ¹³ The sons of Amram: Aaron and Moses. Aaron was dedicated to service with the most holy things, that he and his sons should always present offerings to the Lord, and minister before him, and give blessings in his name forever. ¹⁴ As for Moses, the man of God, his sons were included with the tribe of Levi. ¹⁵ The sons of Moses: Gershom and Eliezer. ¹⁶ The sons of Gershom: Shebuel (chief). ¹⁷ The sons of Eliezer: Rehabiah (chief). Eliezer had no other sons, but Rehabiah had many sons.

* **23:10** “Zizah”: as per the Septuagint and Vulgate, Hebrew reads “Zina” (but note the following verse).

18 The sons of Izhar: Shelomith (chief). 19 The sons of Hebron: Jeriah (chief), Amariah (second), Jahaziel (third), and Jekameam (fourth). 20 The sons of Uzziel: Micah (chief) and Isshiah (second).

21 The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. The sons of Mahli: Eleazar and Kish. 22 Eleazar died without having sons, only daughters. Their cousins, the sons of Kish, married them. 23 The sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder, and Jeremoth—three in total.

24 These were the descendants of Levi by family, the heads of families chiefs listed individually by name—those twenty years of age or more who served in the house of the Lord. 25 For David said, “The Lord, the God of Israel, has given peace to his people, and he will live in Jerusalem forever. 26 So the Levites don't need to carry the Tent any longer, or anything needed for its service.” 27 In accordance with David's final instructions, Levites twenty years of age or more were counted. 28 Their assignment was to help the descendants of Aaron with the service of the house of the Lord. They were responsible for the courtyards and rooms, for cleansing all the holy things, and the work of the service of the house of God. 29 They were also responsible for the showbread that was placed on the table, the special flour for the grain offerings, the unleavened bread, the baking, the mixing, and dealing with all amounts and measurements. 30 They also had to stand every morning to give thanks and praise to the Lord, and do the same in the evening, 31 and whenever burnt

offerings were presented to the Lord whether on Sabbaths, new moons, and feast days. They were to serve regularly before the Lord according to the number required for them. ³² So the Levites were to carry out the responsibility of caring for the Tent of Meeting and the sanctuary, and with their brothers the descendants of Aaron, they served the house of the Lord.

24

¹ The sons of Aaron were placed in divisions as follows. The sons of Aaron were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ² But Nadab and Abihu died before their father did, and they had no sons. Only Eleazar and Ithamar carried on as priests.

³ With the help of Zadok, a descendant of Eleazar, and Ithamar, a descendant Ahimelech, David placed them in divisions according to their appointed duties. ⁴ Because Eleazar's descendants had more leaders than those of Ithamar, they were divided like this: sixteen family leaders from the descendants of Eleazar, and eight from the descendants of Ithamar.

⁵ They were divided by casting lots, without preference, for there were officers of the sanctuary and officers of God from both the sons of Eleazar and the sons of Ithamar. ⁶ Shemaiah son of Nethanel, a Levite, was the secretary. He wrote down the names and assignments in the presence of the king, the officials, Zadok the priest, Ahimelech son of Abiathar, and the family leaders of the priests and Levites. One family

from Eleazar and one from Ithamar were chosen in turn.

⁷ The first lot fell to Jehoiarib. The second to Jedaiah. ⁸ The third to Harim. The fourth to Seorim. ⁹ The fifth to Malkijah. The sixth to Mijamin. ¹⁰ The seventh to Hakkoz. The eighth to Abijah. ¹¹ The ninth to Jeshua. The tenth to Shecaniah. ¹² The eleventh to Eliashib. The twelfth to Jakim. ¹³ The thirteenth to Huppah. The fourteenth to Jeshebeab. ¹⁴ The fifteenth to Bilgah. The sixteenth to Immer. ¹⁵ The seventeenth to Hezir. The eighteenth to Happizzesz. ¹⁶ The nineteenth to Pethahiah. The twentieth to Jehezkel. ¹⁷ The twenty-first to Jakin. The twenty-second to Gamul. ¹⁸ The twenty-third to Delaiah. The twenty-fourth to Maaziah.

¹⁹ This was the order in which each group were to serve when they came into the house of the Lord, following the procedure defined for them by their forefather Aaron, as instructed by the Lord, the God of Israel. ²⁰ These were the rest of the sons of Levi: from the sons of Amram: Shubael; from the sons of Shubael: Jehdeiah. ²¹ For Rehabiah, from his sons: Isshiah (first). ²² From the Izharites: Shelomoth;

from the sons of Shelomoth: Jahath. ²³ The sons of Hebron: Jeriah (first), Amariah (second), Jahaziel (third), and Jekameam (fourth). ²⁴ The son of Uzziel: Micah; from the sons of Micah: Shamir. ²⁵ The brother of Micah: Isshiah; from the sons of Isshiah: Zechariah. ²⁶ The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. The son of Jaaziah: Beno. ²⁷ The sons of Merari: from Jaaziah: Beno,

Shoham, Zaccur and Ibri. ²⁸ From Mahli: Eleazar, who did not have any sons. ²⁹ From Kish: the son of Kish, Jerahmeel. ³⁰ The sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder, and Jerimoth.

These were the sons of the Levites, according to their families. ³¹ They also cast lots in the same way their relatives the descendants of Aaron did. They did this in the presence of King David, and of Zadok, Ahimelech, and the family leaders of the priests and of the Levites, the family leaders and their youngest brothers alike.

25

¹ David and the leaders of the Levites* chose men from the families of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun to serve by prophesying accompanied by lyres, harps, and cymbals. Here is the list of those who performed this service: ² From the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asarelah. These sons of Asaph were under the supervision of Asaph, who prophesied under the supervision of the king. ³ From the sons of Jeduthun: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six in total, under the supervision of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied accompanied by the harp, giving thanks and praise to the Lord. ⁴ From the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel,

* **25:1** "Leaders of the Levites": Many translations render this as "army commanders," which seems a strange kind of role for them here. However, the word is also used for leaders of a gathering of Levites (see for example Numbers 4:3; Numbers 8:24-25). See also 15:16 in this book for a similar description.

Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, Romamti-ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth. ⁵ All these sons of Heman, the king's seer, were given to him through the promises of God to honor him, for God gave Heman fourteen sons and three daughters. ⁶ All of them were under the supervision of their fathers for the music of the house of the LORD with cymbals, harps, and lyres, for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the supervision of the king. ⁷ Along with their relatives, all of them trained and skilled in singing to the LORD, they totaled 288.

⁸ They cast lots for whatever responsibility they had, the least important equal to the most important, the teacher to the student. ⁹ The first lot, which was for Asaph, fell to Joseph, his sons, and his brother, 12 in total. The second fell to Gedaliah, his sons, and his brothers, 12 in total. ¹⁰ The third fell to Zaccur, his sons, and his brothers, 12 in total. ¹¹ The fourth fell to Izri, his sons, and his brothers, 12 in total. ¹² The fifth to Nethaniah, his sons and his brothers, 12 in total. ¹³ The sixth fell to Bukkiah, his sons and his brothers, 12 in total. ¹⁴ The seventh fell to Jesarelah, his sons and his brothers, 12 in total. ¹⁵ The eighth fell to Jeshaiah, his sons and his brothers, 12 in total. ¹⁶ The ninth fell to Mattaniah, his sons and his brothers, 12 in total. ¹⁷ The tenth fell to Shimei, his sons and his brothers, 12 in total. ¹⁸ The eleventh fell to Azarel, his sons and his brothers, 12 in total. ¹⁹ The twelfth fell to Hashabiah, his sons and

his brothers, 12 in total. ²⁰ The thirteenth fell to Shubael, his sons and his brothers, 12 in total. ²¹ The fourteenth fell to Mattithiah, his sons and his brothers, 12 in total. ²² The fifteenth fell to Jerimoth, his sons and his brothers, 12 in total. ²³ The sixteenth fell to Hananiah, his sons and his brothers, 12 in total. ²⁴ The seventeenth fell to Joshbekashah, his sons and his brothers, 12 in total. ²⁵ The eighteenth fell to Hanani,

his sons and his brothers, 12 in total. ²⁶ The nineteenth fell to Mallothi, his sons and his brothers, 12 in total. ²⁷ The twentieth fell to Eliathah, his sons and his brothers, 12 in total. ²⁸ The twenty-first fell to Hothir, his sons and his brothers, 12 in total. ²⁹ The twenty-second fell to Giddalti, his sons and his brothers, 12 in total. ³⁰ The twenty-third fell to Mahazioth, his sons and his brothers, 12 in total. ³¹ The twenty-fourth fell to Romanti-Ezer, his sons and his brothers, 12 in total.

26

¹ This is a list of the divisions of the gatekeepers. From the Korahites: Meshelemiah son of Kore, one of the sons of Asaph. ² The sons of Meshelemiah: Zechariah (first), Jediael (second), Zebadiah (third), Jathniel (fourth), ³ Elam (fifth), Jehohanan (sixth), and Eliehoenai (seventh).

⁴ The sons of Obed-edom: Shemaiah (first), Jehozabad (second), Joah (third), Sacar (fourth), Nethanel (fifth), ⁵ Ammiel (sixth), Issachar (seventh), and Peullethai (eighth), for God had blessed Obed-edom.

⁶ Shemaiah, Obed-edom's son, had sons who were capable leaders and had great authority in their father's family ⁷ The sons of Shemaiah: Othni, Rephael, Obed, and Elzabad. His relatives, Elihu and Semakiah, were also capable men. ⁸ All these descendants of Obed-edom, plus their sons and grandsons, a total of sixty-two, were capable men, well qualified for their service.

⁹ Meshelemiah's eighteen sons and brothers were also capable men.

¹⁰ Hosah, one of the sons of Merari, made Shimri as leader among his sons, though he was not the firstborn. ¹¹ His other sons included Hilkiyah (second), Tebaliah (third), and Zechariah (fourth). The total of Hosah's sons and relatives was thirteen.

¹² These divisions of the gatekeepers, through their family leaders, served in the house of the Lord, just like their brothers. ¹³ Every gate was assigned by lot to different families, the least important equal to the most important.

¹⁴ The lot for the east gate fell to Meshelemiah.* Then they cast lots for his son Zechariah, a wise counselor with insight, and the lot for the north gate fell to him. ¹⁵ The lot for the south gate fell to Obed-edom, and the lot for the storehouse fell to his sons. ¹⁶ Shuppim and Hosah received the west gate and the gate of Shallecheth on the road that leads up. They were always guarded.† ¹⁷ There were six Levites on duty every day at

* **26:14** See 26:2. The Hebrew here reads "Shelemiah." † **26:16** Literally, "guard of like guard." The meaning is uncertain.

the east gate, four at the north gate, four at the south gate, and two at a time at the storehouse. ¹⁸ Six were on duty every day at the west gate, four at the main road, and two at the courtyard.

¹⁹ These were the divisions of the gatekeepers from the sons of Korah and the sons of Merari.

²⁰ Other Levites under Ahijah were in charge of the treasuries of the house of God and the treasuries of the what had been dedicated to God.

²¹ From the sons of Ladan, who were the descendants of the Gershonites through Ladan, and were the family leaders of Ladan the Gershonite: Jehieli. ²² The sons of Jehieli, Zetham and his brother Joel, were in charge of the treasuries of the house of the Lord.

²³ From the Amramites, the Izharites, the Hebronites, and the Uzzielites: ²⁴ Shebuel, a descendant of Gershom, son of Moses, who was the chief officer in charge of the treasuries. ²⁵ His relatives by Eliezer were Rehabiah, Jeshaiiah, Joram, Zicri, and Shelomoth.

²⁶ Shelomoth and his relatives were in charge of all the treasuries for all that had been dedicated by King David, by the family leaders who were the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and by the army commanders. ²⁷ They dedicated a part of the plunder they had won in battle to help maintain the house of the Lord. ²⁸ Shelomoth and his relatives also looked after the gifts dedicated to the Lord by Samuel the seer, Saul son of Kish, Abner son of Ner, and Joab son of Zeruiah. All the dedicated gifts were the responsibility of Shelomoth and his relatives.

²⁹ From the Izharites: Kenaniah and his sons were given outside duties as officials and judges over Israel.

³⁰ From the Hebronites: Hashabiah and his relatives, 1,700 capable men, were put in charge of the Israel west of the Jordan, responsible for everything involving the Lord's work and the king's service.

³¹ Also from the Hebronites came Jerijah, the leader of the Hebronites according to the family genealogies. In the fortieth year of David's reign the records were examined, and men of great ability were discovered at Jazer in Gilead.

³² Among the relatives of Jerijah were 2,700 capable men who were family leaders. King David put them in charge of the tribes of Reuben and Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh. They were responsible for everything involving the Lord's work and the king's service.

27

¹ This is a list of the Israelites, the family leaders, the commanders of thousands, and the commanders of hundreds, and their officers who served the king in everything related to the divisions that were on duty each month during the year. There were 24,000 men in each division.

² In command of the first division for the first month, was Jashobeam, son of Zabdiel. He had 24,000 men in his division. ³ He was a descendant of Perez, and was in charge of all the army officers for the first month.

⁴ In command of the division for the second month was Dodai the Ahohite. Mikloth was his division leader. He had 24,000 men in his division.

⁵ The third army commander for the third month was Benaiah, son of Jehoiada the priest. He was chief and there were 24,000 men in his division. ⁶ This was the same Benaiah who was a great warrior among the Thirty, and was in charge of the Thirty. His son Ammizabad was his division leader.

⁷ The fourth, for the fourth month, was Asahel, Joab's brother. His son Zebadiah was his successor. He had 24,000 men in his division.

⁸ The fifth, for the fifth month, was the army commander Shamhuth the Izrahite. He had 24,000 men in his division.

⁹ The sixth, for the sixth month, was Ira, son of Ikkesh the Tekoite. He had 24,000 men in his division.

¹⁰ The seventh, for the seventh month, was Helez the Pelonite of the tribe of Ephraim. He had 24,000 men in his division.

¹¹ The eighth, for the eighth month, was Sibbecai the Hushathite, a Zerahite. He had 24,000 men in his division.

¹² The ninth, for the ninth month, was Abiezer the Anathothite of the tribe of Benjamin. He had 24,000 men in his division.

¹³ The tenth, for the tenth month, was Maharai the Netophathite, a Zerahite. He had 24,000 men in his division.

¹⁴ The eleventh, for the eleventh month, was Benaiah the Pirathonite of the tribe of Ephraim. He had 24,000 men in his division.

¹⁵ The twelfth, for the twelfth month, was Heldai the Netophathite, from the family of Othniel. He had 24,000 men in his division.

¹⁶ This is a list of the leaders for the tribes of Israel: for the Reubenites: Eliezer, son of Zicri; for the Simeonites: Shephatiah, son of Maacah; ¹⁷ for Levi: Hashabiah, son of Kemuel; for Aaron: Zadok; ¹⁸ for Judah: Elihu, a brother of David; for Issachar: Omri, son of Michael; ¹⁹ for Zebulun: Ishmaiah, son of Obadiah; for Naphtali: Jerimoth, son of Azriel; ²⁰ for the Ephraimites: Hoshea, son of Azaziah; for the half the tribe of Manasseh: Joel, son of Pedaiiah; ²¹ for the half-tribe of Manasseh in Gilead: Iddo, son of Zechariah; for Benjamin: Jaasiel, son of Abner; ²² for Dan: Azarel, son of Jeroham. These were the officers for the tribes of Israel.

²³ David did not census the men under twenty because the Lord had said he would make Israel as numerous as the stars of heaven. ²⁴ Joab, son of Zeruah, had begun the census but did not finish it. Israel was punished because of this census, and the results were not recorded in the official account of King David.*

²⁵ Azmaveth, son of Adiel, was in charge of the king's storehouses, while Jonathan, son of Uzziah, was in charge of those in the country, towns, villages, and watchtowers. ²⁶ Ezri, son of Kelub, was in charge of the farm workers who worked the land. ²⁷ Shimei the Ramathite was in charge of the vineyards. Zabdi the Shiphmite was in charge of the produce of the vineyards for

* **27:24** They were however recorded in summary—see 21:5.

the wine cellars. ²⁸ Baal-Hanan the Gederite was in charge of the olive and sycamore-fig trees in the foothills. Joash was in charge of the stores of olive oil. ²⁹ Shitrai the Sharonite was in charge of the cattle in the Sharon pastures. Shaphat, son of Adlai, was in charge of the cattle in the valleys. ³⁰ Obil the Ishmaelite was in charge of the camels. Jehdeiah the Meronothite was in charge of the donkeys. ³¹ Jaziz the Hagrite was in charge of the sheep and goats. These were all officials in charge of what belonged to King David.

³² Jonathan, David's uncle, was an advisor, a man of insight, and a scribe. Jehiel, son of Hacmoni, looked after the king's sons. ³³ Ahithophel was the king's counselor and Hushai the Arkite was the king's friend. ³⁴ After Ahithophel came Jehoiada, son of Benaiah and Abiathar. Joab was the commander of the royal army.

28

¹ David summoned to Jerusalem all the leaders of Israel—the leaders of the tribes, the army division commanders in service to the king, the commanders of thousands and the commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of all the property and livestock of the king and his sons, along with the court officials, the warriors and all the best fighting men. ² King David got to his feet and said, “Listen to me, my brothers and my people! I really wanted to build a house as a resting place for the Ark of the Lord's Agreement, as a footstool for our God. So I made plans to

build it. ³ But God told me, 'You are not to build a house to honor me because you are a man of war who has spilled blood.'

⁴ However, the Lord, the God of Israel, chose me out of all my father's family to be king of Israel forever. For he chose Judah as the leading tribe, and from among the families of Judah he chose my father's family. From among my father's sons he was pleased to chose me as king over the whole of Israel. ⁵ From all my sons (for the Lord gave me many) the Lord has chosen Solomon my child to sit on the throne and to rule over the Lord's kingdom Israel. ⁶ He told me, 'Your son Solomon is the one who will build my house and my courts, because I have chosen him as my son, and I will be his father. ⁷ I will make sure his kingdom lasts forever if he single-mindedly keeps my commandments and regulations like he does today.

⁸ So now, in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the Lord, and as God listens, be sure to obey all the commandments of the Lord your God so that you may go on possessing this good land and be able to pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants forever.

⁹ Solomon my son, get to know the God of your father. Serve him with complete dedication and with a willing mind, for the Lord examines every motivation and understands the intention of every thought. If you look for him, you will find him; but if you abandon him, he will reject you forever. ¹⁰ Pay attention now, for the

Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary. Be strong, and take action!”

¹¹ Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the Temple porch, its buildings, storehouses, upper rooms, inner rooms, and the room for the “place of atonement.” ¹² He also gave him everything he had planned for the courts of the house of the Lord, for all the surrounding rooms, for the treasuries of the house of God and of those things that had been dedicated. ¹³ In addition he passed on instructions regarding the divisions of the priests and the Levites, for all the work of service of the house of the Lord, and for all that was used for worship in the house of the Lord.

¹⁴ He also laid down how much gold and silver was to be used in making the different objects used in every kind of service,* ¹⁵ the weight of the gold and silver lampstands and their lamps, depending on the use of each lampstand; ¹⁶ the weight of gold for each table of showbread, and the weight of silver for the silver tables, ¹⁷ the weight of pure gold for the forks, basins, and cups; the weight of each gold dish; the weight of each silver bowl; ¹⁸ the weight of the refined gold for the altar of incense; and lastly plans for a golden chariot of cherubim that spread their wings, covering the Ark of the Lord's Agreement. ¹⁹ “All this is in writing from the hand of the Lord, given to me as instructions—every detail

* **28:14** In the following verses there is much repetition so the translation has been simplified for clarity.

of this plan,” said David.

²⁰ Then David also told Solomon, “Be strong, be brave, and take action! Don't be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you! He will not let you down or leave you. He will make sure all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished. ²¹ The divisions of the priests and the Levites are prepared for all the service of the house of God. People will be willing to use their different skills to help you in all the work—the officials and all the people will do what you tell them.”

29

¹ Then King David said to everyone gathered there, “My son Solomon, chosen by God alone, is young and inexperienced, and the work to be done is great because this Temple* will not be for man, but for the Lord God. ² Using all my means I have provided for the house of my God—gold for the articles made of gold, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron, and wood for the wood; onyx stones and stones for settings: turquoise, different colored stones, every kind of precious stone; and plenty of marble.

³ More than this, because of my devotion to the house of my God, I'm now giving my personal fortune of gold and silver, in addition to everything that I have provided for this holy house. ⁴ 3,000 talents of gold—the gold of

* **29:1** “Temple”: the word can also be translated as “palace” or “fortress.”

Ophir—and 7,000 talents of refined silver will go to cover the walls of the buildings, ⁵ gold for the gold work, and silver for the silver work, and for all the work done by the craftsmen. Now who willingly wants to commit themselves to giving to the Lord today?”

⁶ They gave willingly—the family leaders, those in charge of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king's work. ⁷ They gave to the service of the house of God 5,000 talents and 10,000 darics[†] of gold, 10,000 talents of silver, 18,000 talents of bronze, and 100,000 talents of iron. ⁸ Those who had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the Lord, under the supervision of Jehiel the Gershonite. ⁹ The people celebrated because their leaders had been so willing to give to the Lord, freely and wholeheartedly. King David was also really delighted.

¹⁰ Then David praised the Lord before the whole assembly:

“Praise to you, Lord, the God of Israel our father, for ever and ever! ¹¹ Lord, yours is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendor, and the majesty, for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Lord, yours is the kingdom, and you are admired as ruler of all. ¹² Riches and honor come from you and you reign supreme. You possess power and might, and have the

[†] **29:7** A daric was a Persian coin.

ability to make people great and to give strength to all.

¹³ Now our God we thank you, and we praise you and your glorious character. ¹⁴ But who am I, and who are my people, that we are able to give as willingly as this? For everything we have comes from you—we are only giving back what you have given us. ¹⁵ In your eyes we are strangers and foreigners, just like our forefathers. Our time here on earth passes like a shadow, we have no hope of staying here long.

¹⁶ Lord our God, even all this wealth that we have provided to build you a house for your holy name comes from what you give, and it all belongs to you. ¹⁷ I know, my God, that you look on the inside and are happy when we live right. Everything I have given willingly and with an honest heart, and now I have seen your people here giving happily and willingly to you. ¹⁸ Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, Israel, and our forefathers, please keep these thoughts and commitments in the minds of your people forever, and make sure they stay loyal[‡] to you. ¹⁹ Please also give my son Solomon a desire to whole-heartedly keep your commandments, decrees, and statutes, and to do all he can to build your Temple that I have provided for.”

²⁰ Then David said to everyone there, “Praise the Lord your God!” So everyone praised the Lord, the God of their fathers. They bowed down in reverence to the Lord and to the king.

[‡] **29:18** “Make sure they stay loyal”: literally, “from their heart.”

²¹ The following day they presented sacrifices and burnt offerings to the Lord: one thousand bulls, one thousand rams, and one thousand lambs, with their drink offerings and plenty of sacrifices for all of Israel. ²² Then they ate and drank in the presence of the Lord with great happiness that day. They made Solomon, the son of David, king for a second time, and they anointed him as ruler for the Lord, and anointed Zadok as priest.

²³ So Solomon took the throne of the Lord as king in place of David, his father. He was successful, and all the Israelites obeyed him.

²⁴ All the officials and warriors, as well as all of King David's sons, gave a solemn promise of loyalty to King Solomon. ²⁵ The Lord made Solomon highly respected throughout Israel, and gave him greater royal majesty than had been given to any king of Israel before him.

²⁶ So David, son of Jesse, ruled over all of Israel. ²⁷ He ruled over Israel forty years—seven in Hebron, and thirty-three in Jerusalem.

²⁸ David died at a good old age, having lived a long life, blessed with wealth and honor. Then his son Solomon took over and ruled in his place. ²⁹ Everything that King David did, from beginning to end, is written down in the Records of Samuel the Seer, the Records of Nathan the Prophet, and the Records of Gad the Seer. ³⁰ These include all the details of his reign, his power, and what happened to him, and to Israel, and all to the kingdoms of the neighboring countries.

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The New Testament and Psalms in the Free Bible
Version translation in American English

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Note that in addition to the rules above, revising and adapting God's Word involves a great responsibility to be true to God's Word. See Revelation 22:18-19.

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