2 Chronicles

1 Solomon son of David established himself
firmly in his kingdom. The LORD his God was
with him and made him exceedingly great.
2 Solomon spoke to all Israel—to the
commanders of thousands and hundreds, to the
judges, and to every leader in all Israel, the
heads of the ancestral families.
3 Then Solomon and the whole assembly with
him went to the high place at Gibeon, for God's
tent of meeting was there, which Moses the
servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness.
4 But David had brought the ark of God up
from Kiriath-jearim to the place he had
prepared for it, for he had pitched a tent for it in
Jerusalem.
5 The bronze altar that Bezalel son of Uri, son
of Hur, had made had been placed before the
tabernacle of the LORD. Solomon and the
assembly sought him there.
6 Solomon went up there to the bronze altar
before the LORD at the tent of meeting and
offered a thousand burnt offerings on it.
7 That night God appeared to Solomon and
said to him, “Ask what I should give you.”
8 Solomon said to God, “You have shown great
faithful love to my father David and have made
me king in his place.
9 Now, LORD God, let your promise to my
father David be confirmed, for you have made

me king over a people as numerous as the dust
of the earth.
10 Now give me wisdom and knowledge, so I
may go out and come in before this people. For
who can govern this great people of yours?"

11 God said to Solomon, "Because this was in
your heart, and you have not asked for riches,
possessions, or honor, or for the lives of those
who hate you, nor have you asked for a long life,
but have asked for wisdom and knowledge to
govern my people, over whom I have made you
king,
12 wisdom and knowledge are granted to you.
I will also give you riches, possessions, and
honor such as no king before you has had, and
none after you will have."
13 Then Solomon came to Jerusalem from the
high place at Gibeon, from before the tent of
meeting, and he reigned over Israel.

14 Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen.
He had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve
thousand horsemen. He stationed them in the
chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.
15 The king made silver and gold as plentiful
in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars as plentiful as
sycamore trees in the lowlands.
16 Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt
and Kue. The king's merchants bought them in
Kue at a price.
17 They imported a chariot from Egypt for six
hundred pieces of silver, and a horse for a
hundred and fifty. Through them these were

also exported to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Aram.

2

1 Solomon resolved to build a house for the name of the LORD and a palace for his kingdom.
2 He assigned seventy thousand men to carry loads, eighty thousand to quarry stone in the hill country, and thirty-six hundred to oversee them.

3 Solomon sent this message to Huram king of Tyre: “Deal with me as you did with my father David, when you sent him cedar to build a house to live in.
4 I am about to build a house for the name of the LORD my God and dedicate it to him, to burn fragrant incense before him, to set out the bread continually, and to offer burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, at the new moons, and at the appointed festivals of the LORD our God. This is Israel's duty forever.
5 The house I am building will be great, for our God is greater than all gods.
6 But who is able to build a house for him, since heaven, even the highest heaven, cannot contain him? Who am I to build him a house, except as a place to burn incense before him?
7 Now send me a man skilled in working with gold, silver, bronze, iron, and purple, crimson, and blue cloth, who knows how to engrave. He will work with the skilled craftsmen here with me in Judah and Jerusalem, whom my father David provided.

8 Also send me cedar, cypress, and algum
timber from Lebanon, for I know your servants
are skilled at cutting timber in Lebanon. My
servants will work with yours
9 to prepare an abundance of timber for me,
for the house I am building will be great and
magnificent.
10 I will give your servants, the woodcutters
who cut the timber, about a hundred thousand
bushels of crushed wheat, about a hundred
thousand bushels of barley, about a hundred
and ten thousand gallons of wine, and about a
hundred and ten thousand gallons of oil."

11 Huram king of Tyre replied in a letter he
sent to Solomon: "Because the LORD loves his
people, he has made you king over them."
12 Huram also said, "Blessed be the LORD, the
God of Israel, who made heaven and earth! He
has given King David a wise son, endowed with
insight and understanding, who will build a
house for the LORD and a palace for his
kingdom.
13 Now I am sending Huram-abi, a skilled man
endowed with understanding.
14 He is the son of a woman from the
daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of
Tyre. He knows how to work with gold, silver,
bronze, iron, stone, wood, purple and blue cloth,
fine linen, and crimson cloth. He can make
every kind of engraving and work out any
design assigned to him, working with your
skilled craftsmen and those of my lord David
your father.

15 Now let my lord send his servants the
wheat, barley, oil, and wine he promised.
16 We will cut as much timber from Lebanon
as you need and bring it to you in rafts by sea to
Joppa. You will take it up to Jerusalem."
17 Solomon counted all the foreign men
residing in the land of Israel, after the census his
father David had taken of them. There were a
hundred and fifty-three thousand six hundred.
18 Of these he assigned seventy thousand to
carry loads, eighty thousand to quarry stone in
the hill country, and thirty-six hundred as
supervisors to direct the people's work.

3

1 Solomon began to build the house of the
LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the
LORD had appeared to his father David, at the
place David had prepared on the threshing floor
of Ornan the Jebusite.
2 He began building on the second day of the
second month, in the fourth year of his reign.
3 These were the foundation dimensions
Solomon used to build the house of God,
according to the old standard of measurement:
about ninety feet long and thirty feet wide.
4 The porch at the front extended across the
width of the house, about thirty feet long, and
was about a hundred and eighty feet high. He
overlaid its interior with pure gold.
5 He paneled the main hall with cypress wood
and overlaid it with fine gold, decorating it with
palm trees and chains.

6 He adorned the house with precious stones
for beauty. The gold was gold from Parvaim.
7 He overlaid the house—its beams,
thresholds, walls, and doors—with gold, and
carved cherubim on the walls.
8 He made the Most Holy Place about thirty
feet long, corresponding to the width of the
house, and thirty feet wide. He overlaid it with
about twenty-three tons of fine gold.
9 The gold used for the nails weighed about
twenty ounces. He also overlaid the upper
rooms with gold.
10 In the Most Holy Place he made two sculpted
cherubim, and they overlaid them with gold.
11 The wings of the cherubim spanned about
thirty feet in all. One wing of the first cherub
was about seven and a half feet long and
touched the wall of the house; its other wing
was about seven and a half feet long and
touched the wing of the other cherub.
12 One wing of the other cherub was about
seven and a half feet long and touched the wall
of the house; its other wing was about seven and
a half feet long and joined the wing of the first
cherub.
13 The outstretched wings of these cherubim
spanned about thirty feet. They stood on their
feet, facing the house.
14 He made the curtain of blue, purple, and
crimson cloth and fine linen, and decorated it
with cherubim.
15 In front of the house he made two pillars,
about fifty-two and a half feet high, with a

capital on top about seven and a half feet high.
16 He made chains in the inner sanctuary and
put them on the tops of the pillars. He made a
hundred pomegranates and put them on the
chains.
17 He set up the pillars in front of the temple,
one on the right and one on the left. He named
the one on the right Jachin and the one on the
left Boaz.

4

1 He made a bronze altar about thirty feet
long, thirty feet wide, and fifteen feet high.
2 He made the cast-metal Sea, circular in
shape, about fifteen feet from rim to rim and
seven and a half feet high. A line about
forty-five feet long encircled it.
3 Figures resembling oxen encircled it
underneath, about six to a foot, all around the
Sea. The oxen were in two rows, cast along with
it.
4 It stood on twelve oxen: three facing north,
three west, three south, and three east. The Sea
rested on top of them, and all their hindquarters
faced inward.
5 It was about three inches thick, and its rim
was shaped like the rim of a cup, like a lily
blossom. It could hold about sixteen thousand
five hundred gallons.
6 He made ten basins and set five on the right
and five on the left for washing. In them they
rinsed what was prepared for the burnt
offerings, while the Sea was for the priests to
wash in.

7 He made ten gold lampstands according to
their prescribed design and placed them in the
temple, five on the right and five on the left.
8 He made ten tables and placed them in the
temple, five on the right and five on the left. He
also made a hundred gold bowls.
9 He made the court of the priests, the great
court, and the doors for the court, and overlaid
their doors with bronze.
10 He placed the Sea on the right side, toward
the southeast.
11 Huram made the pots, shovels, and bowls.
Hiram finished the work he was doing for King
Solomon for the house of God:
12 the two pillars, the two bowl-shaped
capitals on top of the pillars, and the two
networks covering the two bowls of the capitals
on top of the pillars;
13 and the four hundred pomegranates for the
two networks, two rows of pomegranates for
each network, to cover the two bowls of the
capitals on the pillars.
14 He made the stands and the basins on the
stands,
15 the one Sea and the twelve oxen beneath it.
16 The pots, shovels, forks, and all their
utensils were made by Huram, his master
craftsman, of polished bronze for King Solomon,
for the house of the LORD.
17 The king cast them in the clay ground of the
Jordan plain, between Succoth and Zeredathah.
18 Solomon made all these utensils in such
great abundance that the weight of the bronze
was not determined.

19 Solomon made all the furnishings for the
house of God: the gold altar and the tables with
the bread of the Presence on them;
20 the lampstands and their lamps of pure
gold, to burn before the inner sanctuary as
prescribed;
21 the flowers, lamps, and tongs of gold, the
purest gold;
22 and the wick trimmers, bowls, ladles, and
censers of pure gold. As for the entrance to the
house, its inner doors to the Most Holy Place and
the doors of the house leading to the main hall
were of gold.

5

1 All the work Solomon had done for the house
of the LORD was completed. Solomon brought in
the things his father David had dedicated, and
placed the silver, gold, and all the utensils in the
treasuries of the house of God.
2 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel
and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the
ancestral families of the Israelites, in Jerusalem,
to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD
from the City of David, which is Zion.
3 All the men of Israel gathered before the
king at the festival in the seventh month.
4 All the elders of Israel came, and the Levites
took up the ark.
5 They brought up the ark, the tent of meeting,
and all the sacred utensils in the tent. The
Levitical priests brought them up.
6 King Solomon and the whole congregation of
Israel who had gathered with him before the ark

were sacrificing sheep and cattle, so many that they could not be counted or numbered.
7 The priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the house, the Most Holy Place, beneath the wings of the cherubim.
8 The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and covered the ark and its poles from above.
9 The poles extended so far that their ends could be seen projecting from the ark in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from outside. It remains there to this day.
10 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets Moses had placed there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites when they came out of Egypt.
11 The priests came out of the holy place. All the priests present had consecrated themselves, without regard to their divisions.
12 All the Levitical singers—Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun, their sons, and their brothers—stood east of the altar, dressed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps, and lyres. With them were a hundred and twenty priests sounding trumpets.
13 The trumpeters and singers joined as one, making one sound to praise and thank the LORD. As they raised their voices with the trumpets, cymbals, and musical instruments, praising the LORD, “For he is good; for his faithful love endures forever,” the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud.
14 The priests could not stand to minister

because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD
had filled the house of God.

6

1 Then Solomon said,
“The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick
darkness.
2 I have built you a lofty house, a place for you to
dwell forever.”
3 The king turned and blessed the whole
assembly of Israel, while the whole assembly of
Israel stood.
4 He said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of
Israel, who has fulfilled with his hands what he
spoke with his mouth to my father David, saying,
5 ‘From the day I brought my people out of the
land of Egypt, I chose no city among all the
tribes of Israel in which to build a house for my
name to be there, nor did I choose anyone to be
ruler over my people Israel.
6 But I have chosen Jerusalem for my name to
be there, and I have chosen David to be over my
people Israel.’
7 My father David had it in his heart to build a
house for the name of the LORD, the God of
Israel.
8 But the LORD said to my father David, ‘You
did well to have it in your heart to build a house
for my name.
9 Nevertheless, you will not build the house.
Your son, who will come from your own body,
will build the house for my name.’
10 The LORD has fulfilled the word he spoke. I
have risen in place of my father David and have

sat on the throne of Israel, as the LORD said, and
I have built the house for the name of the LORD,
the God of Israel.
11 There I have placed the ark, in which is the
covenant of the LORD that he made with the
Israelites."
12 Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD
in front of the whole assembly of Israel and
spread out his hands.
13 For Solomon had made a bronze platform
about seven and a half feet long, seven and a
half feet wide, and four and a half feet high, and
placed it in the middle of the court. He stood on
it, then knelt on his knees before the whole
assembly of Israel and spread out his hands
toward heaven.
14 He said, "LORD, God of Israel, there is no
God like you in heaven or on earth, keeping
covenant and faithful love with your servants
who walk before you with all their hearts.
15 You have kept what you promised your
servant David my father. You spoke with your
mouth and have fulfilled it with your hand, as it
is today.
16 Now, LORD, God of Israel, keep what you
promised your servant David my father, saying,
'You will never lack a man before me to sit on
the throne of Israel, provided your sons guard
their ways and walk in my law as you have
walked before me.'
17 Now, LORD, God of Israel, let the word you
spoke to your servant David be confirmed.
18 But will God truly dwell with human beings
on earth? Heaven, even the highest heaven,

cannot contain you—how much less this house I
have built!
19 Yet attend to your servant's prayer and plea,
LORD my God. Listen to the cry and the prayer
your servant offers before you.
20 May your eyes be open toward this house
day and night, toward the place where you said
you would put your name, to hear the prayer
your servant offers toward this place.
21 Hear the pleas of your servant and your
people Israel when they pray toward this place.
Hear from your dwelling place, from heaven;
hear and forgive.
22 If a man sins against his neighbor and is
required to take an oath, and comes to swear
before your altar in this house,
23 then hear from heaven, act, and judge your
servants. Repay the wicked by bringing his
conduct back on his own head, and vindicate the
righteous by giving him according to his
righteousness.
24 If your people Israel are defeated by an
enemy because they have sinned against you,
and they turn back, acknowledge your name,
and pray and plead before you in this house,
25 then hear from heaven, forgive the sin of
your people Israel, and bring them back to the
land you gave them and their fathers.
26 When the heavens are shut and there is no
rain because they have sinned against you, if
they pray toward this place, acknowledge your
name, and turn from their sin because you have
afflicted them,

27 then hear from heaven and forgive the sin
of your servants and your people Israel, as you
teach them the good way they should walk in.
Send rain on your land, which you gave your
people as an inheritance.

28 If there is famine in the land, or plague,
blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers, or if
their enemies besiege them in the cities of their
land—whatever affliction or disease there may
be—
29 whatever prayer or plea is offered by
anyone or by all your people Israel, each
knowing their own affliction and pain and
spreading out their hands toward this house,
30 then hear from heaven, your dwelling place,
and forgive. Give to each according to all their
ways, for you know their hearts—you alone
know the hearts of human beings—
31 so that they may fear you and walk in your
ways all the days they live in the land you gave
our fathers.

32 Also, as for the foreigner who does not
belong to your people Israel but comes from a
distant land because of your great name, your
mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when
they come and pray toward this house,
33 then hear from heaven, from your dwelling
place, and do all the foreigner calls on you to do,
so that all the peoples of the earth may know
your name and fear you, as your people Israel
do, and know that this house I have built bears
your name.

34 When your people go out to war against
their enemies by the way you send them, and
they pray to you toward this city you have
chosen and the house I have built for your name,
35 then hear their prayer and plea from
heaven and uphold their cause.
36 When they sin against you—for there is no
one who does not sin—and you are angry with
them and give them over to an enemy, and their
captors take them captive to a land far away or
near,
37 if they take it to heart in the land where
they have been taken captive, and turn back and
plead with you in the land of their captivity,
saying, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong,
and we have acted wickedly,'
38 and they return to you with all their heart
and all their soul in the land of their captivity,
where they were taken captive, and pray toward
their land, which you gave their fathers, toward
the city you have chosen, and toward the house
I have built for your name,
39 then hear their prayer and pleas from
heaven, from your dwelling place, uphold their
cause, and forgive your people who have sinned
against you.
40 Now, my God, please let your eyes be open
and your ears attentive to the prayer offered in
this place.
41 Now arise, LORD God, to your resting place,
you and the ark of your strength. May your
priests, LORD God, be clothed with salvation,
and may your faithful ones rejoice in what is

good.
42 LORD God, do not turn away your anointed
one. Remember the faithful love shown to David
your servant."

7

1 When Solomon finished praying, fire came
down from heaven and consumed the burnt
offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the
LORD filled the house.
2 The priests could not enter the house of the
LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled
the house of the LORD.
3 All the Israelites saw the fire come down and
the glory of the LORD over the house. They
bowed with their faces to the ground on the
pavement, worshiped, and gave thanks to the
LORD: "For he is good; for his faithful love
endures forever."
4 The king and all the people offered sacrifices
before the LORD.
5 King Solomon offered a sacrifice of
twenty-two thousand cattle and a hundred and
twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the
people dedicated the house of God.
6 The priests stood at their posts, and the
Levites with the musical instruments of the
LORD that King David had made to give thanks
to the LORD—"For his faithful love endures
forever"—as David praised through them. The
priests sounded trumpets opposite them, and all
Israel stood.
7 Solomon consecrated the middle of the court
in front of the house of the LORD, for there he
offered the burnt offerings and the fat of the

peace offerings, because the bronze altar
Solomon had made could not hold the burnt
offering, the grain offering, and the fat.
8 At that time Solomon kept the festival for
seven days, with all Israel, a very great assembly,
from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of Egypt.
9 On the eighth day they held a solemn
assembly, for they had celebrated the dedication
of the altar for seven days and the festival for
seven days.
10 On the twenty-third day of the seventh
month, he sent the people to their tents, joyful
and glad in heart for the goodness the LORD had
shown to David, to Solomon, and to his people
Israel.
11 Solomon finished the house of the LORD and
the king's palace. He successfully accomplished
all that had come into his heart to do in the
house of the LORD and in his own house.
12 The LORD appeared to Solomon at night
and said to him, “I have heard your prayer and
have chosen this place for myself as a house of
sacrifice.
13 If I shut the heavens so there is no rain, or
command locusts to devour the land, or send a
plague among my people,
14 and my people, who are called by my name,
humble themselves and pray and seek my face
and turn from their wicked ways, then I will
hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal
their land.
15 Now my eyes will be open and my ears
attentive to the prayer offered in this place.
16 I have now chosen and consecrated this

house for my name to be there forever. My eyes
and my heart will be there always.
17 As for you, if you walk before me as David
your father walked, doing all I have commanded
you and keeping my statutes and ordinances,
18 then I will establish the throne of your
kingdom, as I covenanted with David your
father, saying, 'You will never lack a man to rule
in Israel.'
19 But if you turn away and abandon my
statutes and commandments that I have set
before you, and go and serve other gods and
worship them,
20 then I will uproot them from my land,
which I gave them, and this house I have
consecrated for my name I will cast out of my
presence. I will make it a proverb and a byword
among all peoples.
21 Everyone who passes by this house, which
was so exalted, will be appalled and ask, 'Why
has the LORD done this to this land and this
house?'
22 They will answer, 'Because they abandoned
the LORD, the God of their fathers, who brought
them out of the land of Egypt, and clung to other
gods, worshiped them, and served them. That is
why he has brought all this calamity on them.' "

8

1 At the end of the twenty years in which
Solomon had built the house of the LORD and
his own house,
2 Solomon built up the cities Huram had given
him and settled Israelites there.

3 Solomon went to Hamath-zobah and took
control of it.
4 He built Tadmor in the wilderness, as well as
all the storage cities in Hamath.
5 He built Upper Beth-horon and Lower
Beth-horon as fortified cities with walls, gates,
and bars,
6 as well as Baalath, all Solomon's storage
cities, all the chariot cities and the cities for the
horsemen, and everything Solomon desired to
build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon, and throughout
the land he ruled.
7 As for all the people who remained of the
Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and
Jebusites, who were not Israelites—
8 their descendants who remained after them
in the land, whom the Israelites had not
destroyed—Solomon subjected them to forced
labor, as they are to this day.
9 But Solomon did not make Israelites slaves
for his work. They were his fighting men, his
chief officers, and the commanders of his
chariots and horsemen.
10 These were King Solomon's chief
supervisors: two hundred and fifty who directed
the people.
11 Solomon brought Pharaoh's daughter up
from the City of David to the house he had built
for her, for he said, “My wife must not live in the
house of David king of Israel, because the places
where the ark of the LORD has come are holy.”
12 Then Solomon offered burnt offerings to the
LORD on the altar of the LORD he had built in
front of the porch,

13 as each day required, offering according to
Moses' command on the Sabbaths, at the new
moons, and at the appointed festivals three
times a year: the Festival of Unleavened Bread,
the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Booths.
14 Following the order of his father David, he
appointed the divisions of the priests to their
service, the Levites to their duties of praising
and ministering before the priests as each day
required, and the gatekeepers in their divisions
at each gate. For this was the command of
David, the man of God.
15 They did not depart from the king's
command to the priests and Levites in any
matter, including the treasuries.
16 All Solomon's work was well ordered, from
the day the foundation of the house of the LORD
was laid until its completion. The house of the
LORD was complete.

17 Then Solomon went to Ezion-geber and
Eloth on the seashore in the land of Edom.
18 Through his servants Huram sent him ships
and servants experienced at sea. They went
with Solomon's servants to Ophir and took from
there nearly seventeen tons of gold, which they
brought to King Solomon.

9

1 When the queen of Sheba heard of Solomon's
fame, she came to Jerusalem to test him with
riddles. She came with a very great retinue and
camels carrying spices, abundant gold, and

precious stones. She came to Solomon and spoke
with him about all that was in her heart.
2 Solomon answered all her questions.
Nothing was hidden from Solomon that he could
not explain to her.
3 When the queen of Sheba saw Solomon's
wisdom, the house he had built,
4 the food on his table, the seating of his
servants, the attendance of his ministers and
their clothing, his cupbearers and their clothing,
and the ascent by which he went up to the house
of the LORD, she was left breathless.
5 She said to the king, “The report I heard in
my own land about your affairs and your
wisdom was true.
6 But I did not believe their words until I came
and saw with my own eyes. Not even half the
greatness of your wisdom was told to me! You
surpass the report I heard.
7 Happy are your men, and happy are these
servants of yours who stand before you
continually and hear your wisdom!
8 Blessed be the LORD your God, who has
delighted in you and placed you on his throne as
king for the LORD your God! Because your God
loves Israel and would establish it forever, he
has made you king over them to carry out
justice and righteousness.”
9 She gave the king about nine thousand
pounds of gold, a very great abundance of
spices, and precious stones. There had never
been spices like those the queen of Sheba gave
King Solomon.

10 The servants of Hiram and the servants of
Solomon who brought gold from Ophir also
brought algum timber and precious stones.
11 The king used the algum timber to make
walkways for the house of the LORD and the
king's palace, and lyres and harps for the
singers. Nothing like them had been seen before
in the land of Judah.
12 King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all
she desired and asked for, apart from what she
had brought to the king. Then she turned and
went back to her own land with her servants.
13 The weight of gold that came to Solomon in
one year was about twenty-five tons,
14 besides what the traders and merchants
brought. All the kings of Arabia and the
governors of the land brought gold and silver to
Solomon.
15 King Solomon made two hundred large
shields of hammered gold, using a little over
fifteen pounds of hammered gold for each
shield.
16 He also made three hundred smaller shields
of hammered gold, using a little over seven and
a half pounds of gold for each shield. The king
placed them in the House of the Forest of
Lebanon.
17 The king made a great ivory throne and
overlaid it with pure gold.
18 The throne had six steps and a gold
footstool, which were attached to it. There were
armrests on either side of the seat, with two
lions standing beside the armrests.

19 Twelve lions stood on the six steps, on
either side. Nothing like it had been made in any
kingdom.
20 All King Solomon's drinking vessels were
gold, and all the utensils of the House of the
Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Silver was
considered of no value in Solomon's days.
21 For the king had ships that went to Tarshish
with Huram's servants. Once every three years
the ships of Tarshish came, carrying gold, silver,
ivory, monkeys, and peacocks.
22 King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the
earth in riches and wisdom.
23 All the kings of the earth sought Solomon's
presence to hear the wisdom God had put in his
heart.
24 Each brought his gift: objects of silver and
gold, clothing, weapons, spices, horses, and
mules, year after year.
25 Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses
and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen.
He stationed them in the chariot cities and with
the king in Jerusalem.
26 He ruled over all the kings from the River to
the land of the Philistines and to the border of
Egypt.
27 The king made silver as plentiful in
Jerusalem as stones, and cedars as plentiful as
sycamore trees in the lowlands.
28 Horses were imported for Solomon from
Egypt and from all lands.
29 The rest of Solomon's acts, from first to last,
are they not written in the records of Nathan the

prophet, in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite,
and in the visions of Iddo the seer concerning
Jeroboam son of Nebat?
30 Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel
for forty years.
31 Then Solomon lay down with his fathers
and was buried in the City of David his father.
His son Rehoboam reigned in his place.

10

1 Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel
had come to Shechem to make him king.
2 When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard of it, he
was in Egypt, where he had fled from King
Solomon. Jeroboam returned from Egypt.
3 They sent for him, and Jeroboam and all
Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying,
4 "Your father made our yoke harsh. Now
lighten the hard service your father imposed
and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will
serve you."
5 He said to them, "Come back to me in three
days." So the people left.
6 King Rehoboam consulted the elders who
had served before his father Solomon while he
was alive. He asked, "How do you advise me to
answer these people?"
7 They told him, "If you are kind to these
people, please them, and speak good words to
them, they will be your servants always."
8 But he rejected the counsel the elders had
given him and consulted the young men who
had grown up with him and served before him.

9 He asked them, “What do you advise us to
answer these people who have said to me,
‘Lighten the yoke your father put on us’?”
10 The young men who had grown up with
him said, “This is what you should say to the
people who told you, ‘Your father made our yoke
heavy, but you lighten it for us.’ Tell them, ‘My
little finger is thicker than my father's waist.
11 My father loaded a heavy yoke on you, but I
will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you
with whips, but I will discipline you with
scorpions.’ ”

12 Jeroboam and all the people came to
Rehoboam on the third day, as the king had said,
“Come back to me on the third day.”
13 The king answered them harshly. King
Rehoboam rejected the elders' counsel
14 and spoke to them according to the young
men's counsel: “I will make your yoke heavy, and
I will add to it. My father disciplined you with
whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.”
15 The king did not listen to the people, for this
turn of events came from God, so that the LORD
might fulfill the word he had spoken through
Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam son of Nebat.
16 Because the king would not listen to all
Israel, the people answered the king: “What
share do we have in David? We have no
inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents,
every one of you, Israel! Now look after your
own house, David!” So all Israel went to their
tents.

17 Rehoboam reigned over the Israelites living
in the cities of Judah.
18 King Rehoboam sent Hadoram, who was in
charge of forced labor, but the Israelites stoned
him to death. King Rehoboam hastened to get
into his chariot to flee to Jerusalem.
19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the
house of David to this day.

11

1 When Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he
assembled the house of Judah and Benjamin, a
hundred and eighty thousand chosen warriors,
to fight against Israel and restore the kingdom to
Rehoboam.
2 But the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah
the man of God:
3 "Say to Rehoboam son of Solomon, king of
Judah, and to all Israel in Judah and Benjamin,
4 'This is what the LORD says: You must not go
up and fight against your brothers. Return, each
of you, to your own house, for this has come
from me.' " They obeyed the words of the LORD
and turned back from marching against
Jeroboam.
5 Rehoboam lived in Jerusalem and built
fortified cities in Judah.
6 He built Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa,
7 Beth-zur, Socoh, Adullam,
8 Gath, Mareshah, Ziph,
9 Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah,
10 Zorah, Aijalon, and Hebron, fortified cities
in Judah and Benjamin.

11 He strengthened the fortresses and put
commanders in them, with stores of food, oil,
and wine.
12 He put shields and spears in every city and
made them very strong. Judah and Benjamin
were under his rule.
13 The priests and Levites throughout Israel
joined him from all their territories.
14 For the Levites left their pasturelands and
possessions and came to Judah and Jerusalem,
because Jeroboam and his sons had excluded
them from serving as priests to the LORD.
15 He appointed priests for himself for the
high places, the goat demons, and the calves he
had made.
16 After them, people from all the tribes of
Israel who had set their hearts on seeking the
LORD, the God of Israel, came to Jerusalem to
sacrifice to the LORD, the God of their fathers.
17 They strengthened the kingdom of Judah
and supported Rehoboam son of Solomon for
three years, for they walked in the way of David
and Solomon for three years.
18 Rehoboam took as his wife Mahalath,
daughter of Jerimoth son of David and of Abihail
daughter of Eliab son of Jesse.
19 She bore him sons: Jeush, Shemariah, and
Zaham.
20 After her he married Maacah daughter of
Absalom, who bore him Abijah, Attai, Ziza, and
Shelomith.
21 Rehoboam loved Maacah daughter of
Absalom more than all his wives and
concubines. He had eighteen wives and sixty

concubines, and fathered twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters.
22 Rehoboam appointed Abijah son of Maacah as chief, a leader among his brothers, for he intended to make him king.
23 He acted wisely and distributed some of his sons throughout all the territories of Judah and Benjamin, to all the fortified cities. He gave them abundant provisions and sought many wives.

12

1 When Rehoboam's kingdom was established and he had become strong, he abandoned the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him.
2 In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had been unfaithful to the LORD.
3 He came with twelve hundred chariots and sixty thousand horsemen. The troops who came with him from Egypt were beyond counting: Libyans, Sukkiim, and Cushites.
4 He captured Judah's fortified cities and came as far as Jerusalem.
5 Shemaiah the prophet came to Rehoboam and the leaders of Judah who had gathered in Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said to them, “This is what the LORD says: ‘You have abandoned me, so I too have abandoned you to Shishak's hand.’ ”
6 The leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, “The LORD is righteous.”
7 When the LORD saw that they had humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to

Shemaiah: “They have humbled themselves. I
will not destroy them, but will grant them some
deliverance. My wrath will not be poured out on
Jerusalem through Shishak.
8 Nevertheless, they will become his servants,
so that they may know what it is to serve me
and to serve the kingdoms of the earth.”

9 Shishak king of Egypt came up against
Jerusalem and took the treasures of the house of
the LORD and the treasures of the king's palace.
He took everything. He also took the gold
shields Solomon had made.
10 King Rehoboam made bronze shields in
their place and entrusted them to the
commanders of the guards who kept watch at
the entrance of the king's palace.
11 Whenever the king went to the house of the
LORD, the guards came and carried the shields,
then returned them to the guardroom.
12 When Rehoboam humbled himself, the
LORD's anger turned away from him, so as not
to destroy him completely. There were also good
things in Judah.

13 King Rehoboam established himself firmly
in Jerusalem and reigned. Rehoboam was
forty-one years old when he became king, and
he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the
city the LORD had chosen from all the tribes of
Israel to put his name there. His mother's name
was Naamah the Ammonite.
14 He did evil because he did not set his heart
on seeking the LORD.

15 The acts of Rehoboam, from first to last, are
they not written in the genealogical records of
Shemaiah the prophet and Iddo the seer? There
were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam
continually.
16 Rehoboam lay down with his fathers and
was buried in the City of David. His son Abijah
reigned in his place.

13

1 In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam,
Abijah began to reign over Judah.
2 He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His
mother's name was Micaiah daughter of Uriel of
Gibeah. There was war between Abijah and
Jeroboam.
3 Abijah went into battle with an army of four
hundred thousand chosen men, mighty
warriors. Jeroboam drew up his battle line
against him with eight hundred thousand
chosen men, mighty men of valor.
4 Abijah stood on Mount Zemaraim in the hill
country of Ephraim and said, “Listen to me,
Jeroboam and all Israel!
5 Ought you not to know that the LORD, the
God of Israel, gave David the kingdom over
Israel forever, to him and his sons, by a
covenant of salt?
6 Yet Jeroboam son of Nebat, a servant of
Solomon son of David, rose up and rebelled
against his master.
7 Worthless men, scoundrels, gathered around
him and prevailed against Rehoboam son of

Solomon, when Rehoboam was young and
fainthearted and could not stand against them.
8 Now you intend to stand against the kingdom
of the LORD in the hands of David's sons. You
are a great multitude, and with you are the gold
calves Jeroboam made for you as gods.
9 Have you not driven out the priests of the
LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and
made priests for yourselves like the peoples of
other lands? Anyone who comes to consecrate
himself with a young bull and seven rams
becomes a priest of those that are no gods.
10 But as for us, the LORD is our God, and we
have not abandoned him. The priests who
minister to the LORD are the sons of Aaron, and
the Levites attend to their work.
11 They burn burnt offerings and fragrant
incense to the LORD every morning and every
evening, arrange the bread on the pure table,
and tend the gold lampstand with its lamps to
burn every evening. We keep the charge of the
LORD our God, but you have abandoned him.
12 Look, God is with us at our head, and his
priests have the alarm trumpets to sound against
you. Israelites, do not fight against the LORD, the
God of your fathers, for you will not succeed!"
13 But Jeroboam sent the ambush around to
come behind them. His forces were in front of
Judah, with the ambush behind them.
14 When Judah turned, the battle was before
them and behind them. They cried out to the
LORD, and the priests sounded the trumpets.
15 The men of Judah gave a shout. As the men

of Judah shouted, God defeated Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.
16 The Israelites fled before Judah, and God gave them into their hands.
17 Abijah and his people struck them a great blow, and five hundred thousand chosen men of Israel fell slain.
18 The Israelites were subdued at that time, and the people of Judah prevailed, because they relied on the LORD, the God of their fathers.
19 Abijah pursued Jeroboam and captured cities from him: Bethel and its villages, Jeshanah and its villages, and Ephron and its villages.
20 Jeroboam did not regain strength in the days of Abijah. The LORD struck him, and he died.
21 But Abijah grew strong. He took fourteen wives and fathered twenty-two sons and sixteen daughters.
22 The rest of Abijah's acts, his ways, and his words are written in the account of the prophet Iddo.

14

1 Abijah lay down with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. His son Asa reigned in his place. In his days the land was quiet for ten years.
2 Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God.
3 He removed the foreign altars and high places, shattered the sacred pillars, and cut down the Asherah poles.

4 He commanded Judah to seek the LORD, the
God of their fathers, and to obey the law and the
commandment.
5 He removed the high places and incense
altars from all the cities of Judah, and the
kingdom was quiet under him.
6 He built fortified cities in Judah, for the land
was quiet and he had no war in those years,
because the LORD had given him rest.
7 He said to Judah, “Let us build these cities
and surround them with walls, towers, gates,
and bars while the land still lies open before us.
For we have sought the LORD our God; we have
sought him, and he has given us rest on every
side.” So they built and prospered.

8 Asa had an army of three hundred thousand
men from Judah carrying large shields and
spears, and two hundred and eighty thousand
from Benjamin carrying smaller shields and
drawing bows. All these were mighty men of
valor.

9 Zerah the Cushite came out against them
with an army of a million men and three
hundred chariots, and came as far as Mareshah.
10 Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up
their battle lines in the Valley of Zephathah near
Mareshah.
11 Asa cried out to the LORD his God, “LORD, it
is nothing for you to help, whether with many
or with those who have no strength. Help us,
LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your
name we have come against this multitude.

LORD, you are our God; do not let a mortal
prevail against you."

12 The LORD defeated the Cushites before Asa
and Judah, and the Cushites fled.
13 Asa and the people with him pursued them
as far as Gerar. So many Cushites fell that they
could not recover, for they were shattered
before the LORD and his army. Asa and his
people carried off a great deal of plunder.
14 They struck all the cities around Gerar, for
the terror of the LORD was on them. They
plundered all the cities, for there was much
spoil in them.
15 They also attacked the livestock camps and
took great numbers of sheep and camels. Then
they returned to Jerusalem.

15

1 The Spirit of God came upon Azariah son of
Oded.
2 He went out to meet Asa and said to him,
"Listen to me, Asa and all Judah and Benjamin.
The LORD is with you while you are with him. If
you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you
abandon him, he will abandon you.

3 For a long time Israel was without the true
God, without a teaching priest, and without the
law.
4 But in their distress they turned to the LORD,
the God of Israel, and sought him, and he was
found by them.

5 In those times there was no peace for anyone
going out or coming in, for great turmoil
troubled all the inhabitants of the lands.
6 Nation was crushed by nation, and city by
city, for God troubled them with every kind of
distress.
7 But you, be strong and do not let your hands
grow weak, for there is a reward for your work."

8 When Asa heard these words and the
prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage
and removed the detestable idols from all the
land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities
he had captured in the hill country of Ephraim.
He restored the altar of the LORD in front of the
porch of the LORD.
9 He gathered all Judah and Benjamin, along
with those from Ephraim, Manasseh, and
Simeon who were residing among them, for
many from Israel had come over to him when
they saw that the LORD his God was with him.

10 They gathered in Jerusalem in the third
month of the fifteenth year of Asa's reign.
11 That day they sacrificed to the LORD seven
hundred cattle and seven thousand sheep from
the plunder they had brought.
12 They entered into a covenant to seek the
LORD, the God of their fathers, with all their
heart and all their soul.
13 Anyone who would not seek the LORD, the
God of Israel, was to be put to death, small or
great, man or woman.
14 They swore to the LORD with a loud voice
and shouting, with trumpets and horns.

15 All Judah rejoiced over the oath, for they
had sworn with all their heart and sought him
with all their desire. He was found by them, and
the LORD gave them rest on every side.
16 King Asa also removed his mother Maacah
from her position as queen mother, because she
had made a repulsive image for Asherah. Asa
cut down her repulsive image, crushed it, and
burned it at the Brook Kidron.
17 But the high places were not removed from
Israel. Nevertheless, Asa's heart was undivided
all his days.
18 He brought into the house of God the things
his father had dedicated and the things he
himself had dedicated: silver, gold, and utensils.
19 There was no war until the thirty-fifth year
of Asa's reign.

16

1 In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign, Baasha
king of Israel came up against Judah and
fortified Ramah to prevent anyone from going
out or coming in to Asa king of Judah.
2 Asa took silver and gold from the treasuries
of the house of the LORD and the king's palace,
and sent them to Ben-hadad king of Aram, who
lived in Damascus, saying,
3 “There is a treaty between me and you, as
there was between my father and your father. I
have sent you silver and gold. Go, break your
treaty with Baasha king of Israel, so he will
withdraw from me.”

4 Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent his
army commanders against the cities of Israel.
They attacked Ijon, Dan, Abel-maim, and all the
storehouses of the cities of Naphtali.
5 When Baasha heard of it, he stopped
fortifying Ramah and ceased his work.
6 King Asa mobilized all Judah, and they
carried away the stones and timber of Ramah
that Baasha had been using to build. With them
he built Geba and Mizpah.
7 At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa
king of Judah and said to him, “Because you
relied on the king of Aram and did not rely on
the LORD your God, the army of the king of
Aram has escaped from your hand.
8 Were not the Cushites and Libyans a vast
army, with a great many chariots and
horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD,
he gave them into your hand.
9 For the eyes of the LORD range throughout
the whole earth, so he may show himself strong
on behalf of those whose hearts are fully
devoted to him. You have acted foolishly in this.
From now on you will have wars.”
10 Asa was angry with the seer and put him in
prison, for he was furious with him over this. At
that time Asa also oppressed some of the people.
11 The acts of Asa, from first to last, are written
in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.
12 In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa
developed a disease in his feet, and his illness
became very severe. Yet even in his illness he
did not seek the LORD, but the physicians.

13 Asa lay down with his fathers and died in
the forty-first year of his reign.
14 They buried him in the tombs he had dug
for himself in the City of David. They laid him
on a bier filled with spices and various mixtures
prepared by the perfumer's art, and made a
very great fire in his honor.

17

1 His son Jehoshaphat reigned in his place and
strengthened himself against Israel.
2 He stationed troops in all the fortified cities
of Judah and placed garrisons in the land of
Judah and in the cities of Ephraim that his
father Asa had captured.
3 The LORD was with Jehoshaphat because he
walked in the earlier ways of his father David
and did not seek the Baals.
4 Instead, he sought the God of his father and
walked in his commandments, rather than
following the practices of Israel.
5 The LORD established the kingdom in his
hand. All Judah brought gifts to Jehoshaphat,
and he had riches and honor in abundance.
6 His heart was lifted up in the ways of the
LORD. He also removed the high places and
Asherah poles from Judah.
7 In the third year of his reign he sent his
officials Ben-hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel,
and Micaiah to teach in the cities of Judah.
8 With them were the Levites Shemaiah,
Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth,
Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and

Tob-adonijah, and with them the priests
Elishama and Jehoram.
9 They taught in Judah, taking with them the
Book of the Law of the LORD. They went
throughout all the cities of Judah and taught the
people.
10 The terror of the LORD fell on all the
kingdoms of the lands surrounding Judah, and
they did not wage war against Jehoshaphat.
11 Some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat
gifts and silver as tribute. The Arabs also
brought him flocks: seven thousand seven
hundred rams and seven thousand seven
hundred male goats.

12 Jehoshaphat grew exceedingly great. He
built fortresses and storage cities in Judah.
13 He had many undertakings in the cities of
Judah, and fighting men, mighty men of valor, in
Jerusalem.
14 This was their enrollment by ancestral
families. From Judah, among the commanders
of thousands: Adnah the commander, with three
hundred thousand mighty men of valor;

15 next to him, Jehohanan the commander,
with two hundred and eighty thousand;

16 next to him, Amasiah son of Zichri, who had
willingly offered himself to the LORD, with two
hundred thousand mighty men of valor.

17 From Benjamin: Eliada, a mighty man of
valor, with two hundred thousand men armed
with bow and shield;

18 next to him, Jehozabad, with a hundred and
eighty thousand men equipped for military
service.
19 These served the king, besides those the
king had stationed in the fortified cities
throughout Judah.

18

1 Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in
abundance, and he allied himself with Ahab by
marriage.
2 After some years he went down to Ahab in
Samaria. Ahab slaughtered many sheep and
cattle for him and the people with him, and
urged him to go up to Ramoth-gilead.
3 Ahab king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat king
of Judah, “Will you go with me to
Ramoth-gilead?” He replied, “I am as you are,
and my people as your people. I will be with you
in the battle.”
4 Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, “Please
inquire today for the word of the LORD.”
5 The king of Israel gathered the prophets,
four hundred men, and asked them, “Shall we go
to war against Ramoth-gilead, or should I
refrain?” They said, “Go up, and God will give it
into the king's hand.”
6 But Jehoshaphat asked, “Is there not another
prophet of the LORD here through whom we
can inquire?”
7 The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “There
is still one man through whom we can inquire of
the LORD, but I hate him, because he never

prophesies anything good about me, but always
disaster. He is Micaiah son of Imla." Jehoshaphat
said, "The king should not say that."
8 Then the king of Israel called an official and
said, "Bring Micaiah son of Imla quickly."
9 The king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of
Judah were sitting, each on his throne, dressed
in their robes, on the threshing floor at the
entrance to the gate of Samaria. All the prophets
were prophesying before them.
10 Zedekiah son of Chenaanah made iron
horns for himself and said, "This is what the
LORD says: 'With these you will gore Aram until
you destroy them.' "
11 All the prophets prophesied the same way,
saying, "Go up to Ramoth-gilead and succeed!
The LORD will give it into the king's hand."
12 The messenger who had gone to summon
Micaiah said to him, "Look, the prophets' words
are favorable to the king with one voice. Please
let your message be like one of theirs, and speak
favorably."
13 Micaiah said, "As the LORD lives, I will
speak whatever my God says."
14 When he came to the king, the king asked
him, "Micaiah, shall we go to war against
Ramoth-gilead, or should I refrain?" He replied,
"Go up and succeed; they will be given into your
hand."
15 The king said to him, "How many times
must I make you swear to tell me nothing but
the truth in the name of the LORD?"
16 He said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the

mountains like sheep without a shepherd. The
LORD said, ‘These have no master. Let each
return to his own house in peace.’ ”
17 The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “Did I
not tell you that he would prophesy nothing
good about me, but only disaster?”
18 Micaiah said, “Therefore hear the word of
the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne,
with all the host of heaven standing at his right
and his left.
19 The LORD said, ‘Who will entice Ahab king
of Israel to go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?’ One
said one thing, and another said another.
20 Then the spirit came forward, stood before
the LORD, and said, ‘I will entice him.’ The LORD
asked him, ‘How?’
21 He said, ‘I will go out and be a lying spirit in
the mouths of all his prophets.’ The LORD said,
‘You will entice him and will succeed. Go out
and do so.’
22 Now the LORD has put a lying spirit in the
mouths of these prophets of yours, and the
LORD has pronounced disaster against you.”
23 Zedekiah son of Chenaanah came forward
and struck Micaiah on the cheek. He said,
“Which way did the Spirit of the LORD pass from
me to speak to you?”
24 Micaiah said, “You will see on the day you go
into an inner room to hide.”
25 The king of Israel said, “Take Micaiah and
return him to Amon the governor of the city and
to Joash the king's son.
26 Tell them, ‘This is what the king says: Put
this man in prison and give him a little bread

and a little water until I return in peace.' "
27 Micaiah said, "If you do return in peace, the
LORD has not spoken through me." Then he
said, "Listen, all you peoples!"
28 The king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of
Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead.
29 The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "I will
disguise myself and enter the battle, but you
wear your robes." So the king of Israel disguised
himself, and they entered the battle.
30 The king of Aram had commanded his
chariot commanders, "Fight neither small nor
great, but only the king of Israel."
31 When the chariot commanders saw
Jehoshaphat, they said, "He is the king of Israel!"
They surrounded him to fight, but Jehoshaphat
cried out, and the LORD helped him. God drew
them away from him.
32 When the chariot commanders saw that he
was not the king of Israel, they turned back
from pursuing him.
33 But a man drew his bow at random and
struck the king of Israel between the joints and
the breastplate. The king said to his chariot
driver, "Turn around and take me out of the
battle, for I am wounded."
34 The battle grew fierce that day, and the king
of Israel kept himself upright in his chariot
facing Aram until evening. At sunset he died.

19

1 Jehoshaphat king of Judah returned in peace
to his house in Jerusalem.

2 Jehu the seer, son of Hanani, went out to
meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, “Should
you help the wicked and love those who hate the
LORD? Because of this, wrath from the LORD is
upon you.
3 Nevertheless, good things have been found
in you, for you removed the Asherah poles from
the land and set your heart on seeking God.”
4 Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem. He went out
again among the people, from Beersheba to the
hill country of Ephraim, and brought them back
to the LORD, the God of their fathers.
5 He appointed judges in the land, in all the
fortified cities of Judah, city by city.
6 He said to the judges, “Consider what you are
doing, for you judge for the LORD, not for
human beings. He is with you when you render
judgment.
7 Now let the fear of the LORD be upon you.
Be careful in what you do, for with the LORD
our God there is no injustice, partiality, or taking
of bribes.”
8 In Jerusalem Jehoshaphat also appointed
some of the Levites, priests, and heads of Israel's
ancestral families to administer the judgment of
the LORD and settle disputes. They returned to
Jerusalem.
9 He charged them, saying, “This is how you
must act: in the fear of the LORD, faithfully and
with an undivided heart.
10 Whenever a dispute comes before you from
your brothers living in their cities, whether
concerning bloodshed or law, commandment,

statutes, and ordinances, warn them so they do
not incur guilt before the LORD, and wrath does
not come upon you and your brothers. Do this,
and you will not incur guilt.
11 Amariah the chief priest is over you in
every matter of the LORD, and Zebadiah son of
Ishmael, the leader of the house of Judah, in
every matter of the king. The Levites will serve
before you as officers. Be strong and act, and
may the LORD be with those who do good."

20

1 After this, the Moabites and Ammonites, with
others of the Ammonites, came against
Jehoshaphat for battle.
2 Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A
great multitude is coming against you from
beyond the sea, from Aram. They are already at
Hazazon-tamar, that is, En-gedi."
3 Jehoshaphat was afraid and set himself to
seek the LORD. He proclaimed a fast throughout
Judah.
4 Judah gathered to seek help from the LORD.
They came from all the cities of Judah to seek
the LORD.
5 Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah
and Jerusalem at the house of the LORD, before
the new court,
6 and said, "LORD, God of our fathers, are you
not God in heaven? You rule over all the
kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are
in your hand, and no one can stand against you.

7 Are you not our God, who drove out the
inhabitants of this land before your people
Israel and gave it forever to the descendants of
Abraham your friend?
8 They lived in it and built you a sanctuary in
it for your name, saying,
9 ‘If disaster comes upon us—the sword of
judgment, plague, or famine—we will stand
before this house and before you, for your name
is in this house. We will cry out to you in our
distress, and you will hear and save.’
10 Now here are the Ammonites, Moab, and
Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel
invade when they came from the land of Egypt,
so they turned away from them and did not
destroy them.
11 This is how they repay us: they come to
drive us out of your possession, which you gave
us to inherit.
12 Our God, will you not judge them? For we
have no strength against this great multitude
coming against us. We do not know what to do,
but our eyes are on you.”
13 All Judah stood before the LORD, with their
little ones, their wives, and their sons.

14 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon
Jahaziel son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of
Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of
Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.
15 He said, “Listen, all Judah, inhabitants of
Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat! This is what
the LORD says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or

dismayed because of this great multitude, for
the battle is not yours, but God's.
16 Tomorrow go down against them. They are
coming up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find
them at the end of the ravine, facing the
wilderness of Jeruel.
17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Take
your positions, stand firm, and see the LORD's
salvation on your behalf, Judah and Jerusalem.
Do not be afraid or dismayed. Tomorrow go out
to meet them, and the LORD will be with you.' "
18 Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the
ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of
Jerusalem fell before the LORD to worship the
LORD.
19 The Levites of the Kohathites and Korahites
stood up to praise the LORD, the God of Israel,
with a very loud voice.
20 They rose early in the morning and went
out to the wilderness of Tekoa. As they went out,
Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah
and inhabitants of Jerusalem. Trust in the LORD
your God, and you will stand firm. Trust in his
prophets, and you will succeed."
21 After consulting the people, he appointed
singers to the LORD and those who praised the
splendor of holiness, going out before the armed
men and saying, "Give thanks to the LORD, for
his faithful love endures forever."
22 When they began to sing and praise, the
LORD set ambushes against the Ammonites,
Moab, and Mount Seir, who were coming against
Judah, and they were defeated.

23 The Ammonites and Moab rose against the
inhabitants of Mount Seir to devote them to
destruction and wipe them out. When they had
finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped
destroy one another.
24 When Judah came to the lookout over the
wilderness, they looked toward the multitude
and saw dead bodies lying on the ground. No
one had escaped.
25 Jehoshaphat and his people came to take
their plunder. They found abundant possessions
and valuable articles among the dead bodies,
and stripped off more than they could carry.
They spent three days gathering the plunder, for
there was so much.
26 On the fourth day they gathered in the
Valley of Beracah, for there they blessed the
LORD. That is why they called that place the
Valley of Beracah, as it is to this day.
27 Then all the men of Judah and Jerusalem,
with Jehoshaphat at their head, returned to
Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made
them rejoice over their enemies.
28 They came to Jerusalem with harps, lyres,
and trumpets, to the house of the LORD.
29 The terror of God fell on all the kingdoms of
the lands when they heard that the LORD had
fought against Israel's enemies.
30 Jehoshaphat's kingdom was quiet, for his
God gave him rest on every side.

31 Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah. He was
thirty-five years old when he became king, and

he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Azubah daughter of Shilhi.
32 He walked in the way of his father Asa and did not turn aside from it, doing what was right in the eyes of the LORD.
33 But the high places were not removed, and the people had still not set their hearts toward the God of their fathers.
34 The rest of Jehoshaphat's acts, from first to last, are written in the records of Jehu son of Hanani, entered in the Book of the Kings of Israel.
35 After this, Jehoshaphat king of Judah allied himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who acted wickedly.
36 He joined him in building ships to go to Tarshish, and they built the ships at Ezion-geber.
37 Eliezer son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, “Because you have allied yourself with Ahaziah, the LORD has destroyed your work.” The ships were wrecked and could not go to Tarshish.

21

1 Jehoshaphat lay down with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. His son Jehoram reigned in his place.
2 He had brothers, sons of Jehoshaphat: Azariah, Jehiel, Zechariah, Azariah, Michael, and Shephatiah. All these were sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel.
3 Their father gave them many gifts of silver, gold, and precious things, along with fortified

cities in Judah. But he gave the kingdom to
Jehoram because he was the firstborn.

4 When Jehoram took over his father's
kingdom and established himself firmly, he
killed all his brothers with the sword, as well as
some of the leaders of Israel.
5 Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he
became king, and he reigned eight years in
Jerusalem.
6 He walked in the way of the kings of Israel,
as the house of Ahab had done, for a daughter of
Ahab was his wife. He did evil in the eyes of the
LORD.
7 Yet the LORD was unwilling to destroy the
house of David, because of the covenant he had
made with David and his promise to give a lamp
to him and his sons always.
8 In his days Edom rebelled against Judah's
rule and set a king over themselves.
9 Jehoram crossed over with his commanders
and all his chariots. During the night he rose
and struck the Edomites who surrounded him,
as well as the chariot commanders.
10 So Edom has been in rebellion against
Judah's rule to this day. At that time Libnah also
rebelled against his rule, because he had
abandoned the LORD, the God of his fathers.
11 He also made high places in the mountains
of Judah, caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to
prostitute themselves, and led Judah astray.

12 A letter came to him from Elijah the
prophet, saying, “This is what the LORD, the God
of your father David, says: ‘Because you have

not walked in the ways of your father
Jehoshaphat or in the ways of Asa king of Judah,
13 but have walked in the way of the kings of
Israel and caused Judah and the inhabitants of
Jerusalem to prostitute themselves as the house
of Ahab did, and have also killed your brothers
of your father's house, who were better than
you,
14 the LORD is about to strike your people,
your sons, your wives, and all your possessions
with a great plague.
15 You yourself will suffer greatly from a
disease of your intestines, day after day, until
your intestines come out because of the
disease.' "
16 The LORD stirred up against Jehoram the
spirit of the Philistines and the Arabs who lived
near the Cushites.
17 They came up against Judah, broke into it,
and carried away all the possessions found in
the king's palace, as well as his sons and wives.
No son was left to him except Jehoahaz, the
youngest of his sons.
18 After all this, the LORD struck him in his
intestines with an incurable disease.
19 As time passed, at the end of two years, his
intestines came out because of his disease, and
he died in severe suffering. His people did not
make a fire in his honor like the fires for his
fathers.
20 He was thirty-two years old when he
became king, and he reigned eight years in
Jerusalem. He departed unmourned. They
buried him in the City of David, but not in the

tombs of the kings.

22

1 The inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah,
Jehoram's youngest son, king in his place, for the
raiding band that had come with the Arabs to
the camp had killed all the older sons. So
Ahaziah son of Jehoram reigned as king of
Judah.

2 Ahaziah was forty-two years old when he
became king, and he reigned one year in
Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athaliah
daughter of Omri.

3 He too walked in the ways of the house of
Ahab, for his mother counseled him to act
wickedly.

4 He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, like the
house of Ahab, for after his father's death they
became his counselors, to his ruin.

5 He also followed their counsel and went with
Jehoram son of Ahab, king of Israel, to war
against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth-gilead.
The Arameans wounded Joram,

6 and he returned to Jezreel to recover from
the wounds they had inflicted on him at Ramah
when he fought Hazael king of Aram. Azariah
son of Jehoram, king of Judah, went down to
visit Jehoram son of Ahab at Jezreel because he
was ill.

7 Ahaziah's downfall came from God through
his visit to Joram. When he arrived, he went out
with Jehoram to meet Jehu son of Nimshi, whom

the LORD had anointed to cut off the house of Ahab.
8 When Jehu was executing judgment on the house of Ahab, he found the leaders of Judah and the sons of Ahaziah's brothers who were serving Ahaziah, and killed them.
9 He searched for Ahaziah, and they captured him while he was hiding in Samaria. They brought him to Jehu, put him to death, and buried him, for they said, “He is a son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart.” The house of Ahaziah had no strength to hold the kingdom.
10 When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she rose and destroyed all the royal offspring of the house of Judah.
11 But Jehoshabeath the king's daughter took Joash son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being put to death. She put him and his wet nurse in a bedroom. Jehoshabeath, daughter of King Jehoram and wife of Jehoiada the priest, was Ahaziah's sister. She hid him from Athaliah, so Athaliah did not put him to death.
12 He remained hidden with them in the house of God for six years, while Athaliah ruled over the land.

23

1 In the seventh year Jehoiada took courage and brought the commanders of hundreds into a covenant with him: Azariah son of Jeroham, Ishmael son of Jehohanan, Azariah son of Obed,

Maaseiah son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat son of Zichri.
2 They went throughout Judah and gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah and the heads of Israel's ancestral families, and came to Jerusalem.
3 The whole assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of God. Jehoiada said to them, “The king's son will reign, as the LORD has spoken concerning David's sons.
4 This is what you must do: a third of you priests and Levites coming on duty on the Sabbath will guard the thresholds,
5 a third will be at the king's palace, and a third at the Foundation Gate. All the people will be in the courts of the house of the LORD.
6 Let no one enter the house of the LORD except the priests and the Levites who are ministering. They may enter because they are holy, but all the people must keep the charge of the LORD.
7 The Levites must surround the king on every side, each with his weapons in his hand. Anyone who enters the house is to be put to death. Stay with the king when he comes in and when he goes out.”
8 The Levites and all Judah did everything Jehoiada the priest commanded. Each took his men, both those coming on duty on the Sabbath and those going off duty, for Jehoiada the priest had not dismissed the divisions.
9 Jehoiada the priest gave the commanders of hundreds the spears, shields, and bucklers that had belonged to King David and were in the

house of God.
10 He stationed all the people, each with his
weapon in his hand, from the right side of the
house to the left side, by the altar and the house,
all around the king.
11 They brought out the king's son, put the
crown on him, gave him the Testimony, and
made him king. Jehoiada and his sons anointed
him and said, “Long live the king!”

12 When Athaliah heard the noise of the
people running and praising the king, she came
to the people at the house of the LORD.
13 She looked and saw the king standing by his
pillar at the entrance, with the commanders and
trumpeters beside him. All the people of the
land were rejoicing and sounding trumpets, and
the singers with their musical instruments were
leading the praise. Athaliah tore her clothes and
cried, “Treason! Treason!”

14 Jehoiada the priest brought out the
commanders of hundreds who were in charge
of the army and said to them, “Bring her out
between the ranks, and put anyone who follows
her to death with the sword.” For the priest had
said, “Do not put her to death in the house of the
LORD.”
15 They laid hands on her, and she came to the
entrance of the Horse Gate at the king's palace.
There they put her to death.

16 Jehoiada made a covenant between himself,
all the people, and the king, that they would be
the LORD's people.

17 All the people went to the house of Baal and
tore it down. They smashed its altars and
images and killed Mattan the priest of Baal
before the altars.
18 Jehoiada placed the oversight of the house
of the LORD in the hands of the Levitical priests,
whom David had assigned to the house of the
LORD, to offer the burnt offerings of the LORD
as written in the law of Moses, with joy and
singing according to David's directions.
19 He stationed gatekeepers at the gates of the
house of the LORD so that no one unclean for
any reason would enter.
20 He took the commanders of hundreds, the
nobles, the rulers of the people, and all the
people of the land, and brought the king down
from the house of the LORD. They entered the
king's palace through the Upper Gate and seated
the king on the royal throne.
21 All the people of the land rejoiced, and the
city was quiet. They had put Athaliah to death
with the sword.

24

1 Joash was seven years old when he became
king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem.
His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba.
2 Joash did what was right in the eyes of the
LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.
3 Jehoiada obtained two wives for him, and
Joash fathered sons and daughters.
4 After this, Joash had it in his heart to restore
the house of the LORD.

5 He gathered the priests and Levites and said
to them, “Go out to the cities of Judah and collect
money from all Israel to repair the house of
your God year after year. See that you do it
quickly.” But the Levites did not hurry.
6 The king called Jehoiada the chief priest and
said to him, “Why have you not required the
Levites to bring from Judah and Jerusalem the
levy of Moses, the servant of the LORD, and of
the assembly of Israel, for the tent of the
Testimony?”
7 For the sons of wicked Athaliah had broken
into the house of God and had also used all the
dedicated things of the house of the LORD for
the Baals.
8 At the king's command they made a chest
and placed it outside at the gate of the house of
the LORD.
9 They proclaimed throughout Judah and
Jerusalem that the people should bring to the
LORD the levy Moses the servant of God had
imposed on Israel in the wilderness.
10 All the leaders and all the people rejoiced.
They brought their contributions and put them
in the chest until they had finished.
11 Whenever the Levites brought the chest to
the king's officials and they saw that there was
much money, the king's scribe and the chief
priest's officer came, emptied the chest, and
carried it back to its place. They did this day
after day and collected money in abundance.
12 The king and Jehoiada gave it to those in
charge of the work on the house of the LORD.

They hired stonemasons and carpenters to
restore the house of the LORD, and workers in
iron and bronze to repair the house of the LORD.
13 The workers labored, and the restoration
progressed through their hands. They restored
the house of God to its proper design and
strengthened it.
14 When they finished, they brought the
remaining money before the king and Jehoiada.
It was made into utensils for the house of the
LORD: utensils for service and for offerings,
ladles, and objects of gold and silver. Burnt
offerings were offered continually in the house
of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada.
15 Jehoiada grew old and died full of days. He
was a hundred and thirty years old when he
died.
16 They buried him in the City of David among
the kings, because he had done good in Israel,
toward God and his house.
17 After Jehoiada's death, the leaders of Judah
came and bowed down to the king, and the king
listened to them.
18 They abandoned the house of the LORD, the
God of their fathers, and served the Asherah
poles and idols. Wrath came upon Judah and
Jerusalem because of this guilt of theirs.
19 God sent prophets among them to bring
them back to the LORD. They testified against
them, but the people would not listen.
20 The Spirit of God clothed himself with
Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood
above the people and said to them, “This is what

God says: ‘Why do you transgress the
commandments of the LORD? You will not
prosper. Because you have abandoned the
LORD, he has abandoned you.’ ”
21 They conspired against him and stoned him
at the king's command in the court of the house
of the LORD.
22 King Joash did not remember the kindness
Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, had shown him, but
killed Jehoiada's son. As he died, Zechariah said,
“May the LORD see and call to account!”

23 At the turn of the year, the army of Aram
came up against Joash. They entered Judah and
Jerusalem, destroyed all the leaders from among
the people, and sent all their plunder to the king
of Damascus.
24 Though the army of Aram came with few
men, the LORD gave a very great army into their
hands, because the people had abandoned the
LORD, the God of their fathers. So they executed
judgment on Joash.
25 When they withdrew, leaving him gravely
ill, his servants conspired against him because
of the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest.
They killed him on his bed, and he died. They
buried him in the City of David, but did not bury
him in the tombs of the kings.

26 These were the men who conspired against
him: Zabad son of Shimeath the Ammonite
woman, and Jehozabad son of Shimrith the
Moabite woman.
27 As for his sons, the many oracles against
him, and the restoration of the house of God,

they are written in the account of the Book of the Kings. His son Amaziah reigned in his place.

25

1 Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem.
2 He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, but not with an undivided heart.
3 When his kingdom was firmly established, he killed the servants who had killed his father the king.
4 But he did not put their sons to death, according to what is written in the law, in the Book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, “Fathers must not die for their sons, nor sons for their fathers; each must die for his own sin.”

5 Amaziah gathered Judah and organized them by ancestral families under commanders of thousands and hundreds, throughout Judah and Benjamin. He counted those twenty years old and above and found three hundred thousand chosen men fit for military service, able to handle spear and large shield.
6 He also hired a hundred thousand mighty men of valor from Israel for about seven thousand five hundred pounds of silver.
7 But a man of God came to him and said, “King, do not let the army of Israel go with you, for the LORD is not with Israel, with all the people of Ephraim.

8 But if you go with them, act and be strong for
battle—God will make you fall before the enemy,
for God has power to help and to bring down."
9 Amaziah said to the man of God, "But what
shall I do about the silver I gave the troops of
Israel—about seven thousand five hundred
pounds?" The man of God replied, "The LORD is
able to give you much more than that."
10 So Amaziah dismissed the troops who had
come to him from Ephraim to return to their
own place. Their anger burned fiercely against
Judah, and they returned to their own place in
great anger.

11 Amaziah took courage, led his people out,
and went to the Valley of Salt. He struck down
ten thousand men of Seir.
12 The men of Judah captured another ten
thousand alive, brought them to the top of the
cliff, and threw them from the top of the cliff.
They were all dashed to pieces.

13 But the troops Amaziah had sent back from
going with him to battle raided the cities of
Judah from Samaria to Beth-horon. They struck
down three thousand of their people and took
much plunder.

14 After Amaziah returned from striking down
the Edomites, he brought the gods of the people
of Seir and set them up as his own gods. He
bowed before them and burned incense to them.
15 The LORD's anger burned against Amaziah,
and he sent him a prophet who said to him,
"Why have you sought this people's gods, which

did not deliver their own people from your hand?"
16 While he was speaking, the king said to him,
"Have we appointed you a counselor to the king?
Stop! Why should they strike you?" The prophet
stopped, but said, "I know that God has
determined to destroy you, because you have
done this and have not listened to my counsel."
17 Then Amaziah king of Judah took counsel
and sent to Joash son of Jehoahaz, son of Jehu,
king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us meet face to
face."
18 Joash king of Israel sent this reply to
Amaziah king of Judah: "The thistle in Lebanon
sent to the cedar in Lebanon, saying, 'Give your
daughter to my son as his wife.' But a wild beast
in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thistle.
19 You say you have defeated Edom, and your
heart has lifted you up to boast. Now stay at
home. Why provoke disaster, so that you fall,
you and Judah with you?"
20 But Amaziah would not listen, for this came
from God, to hand them over, because they had
sought the gods of Edom.
21 So Joash king of Israel went up, and he and
Amaziah king of Judah met face to face at
Beth-shemesh, which belongs to Judah.
22 Judah was defeated before Israel, and each
man fled to his tent.
23 Joash king of Israel captured Amaziah king
of Judah, son of Joash, son of Jehoahaz, at
Beth-shemesh and brought him to Jerusalem. He
broke down about six hundred feet of

Jerusalem's wall, from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate.
24 He took all the gold, silver, and utensils found in the house of God in the care of Obed-edom, the treasures of the king's palace, and hostages, and returned to Samaria.
25 Amaziah son of Joash, king of Judah, lived fifteen years after the death of Joash son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel.
26 The rest of Amaziah's acts, from first to last, are they not written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel?
27 From the time Amaziah turned away from following the LORD, they plotted a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem. He fled to Lachish, but they sent after him to Lachish and put him to death there.
28 They brought him back on horses and buried him with his fathers in the city of Judah.

26

1 All the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in place of his father Amaziah.
2 He built Eloth and restored it to Judah after the king lay down with his fathers.
3 Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecoliah of Jerusalem.
4 He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all his father Amaziah had done.

5 He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who
had understanding in the visions of God. As long
as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.
6 He went out and fought the Philistines,
breaking down the walls of Gath, Jabneh, and
Ashdod. He built cities in the region of Ashdod
and among the Philistines.
7 God helped him against the Philistines,
against the Arabs living in Gur-baal, and against
the Meunites.
8 The Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah,
and his fame spread as far as the entrance to
Egypt, for he had become exceedingly strong.
9 Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the
Corner Gate, the Valley Gate, and the angle of
the wall, and fortified them.
10 He built towers in the wilderness and dug
many cisterns, for he had much livestock in the
lowlands and on the plain. He had farmers and
vinedressers in the hills and fertile fields, for he
loved the soil.
11 Uzziah had an army of fighting men who
went out in divisions, according to the
enrollment made by Jeuel the scribe and
Maaseiah the officer, under the direction of
Hananiah, one of the king's commanders.
12 The total number of ancestral family heads
among the mighty men of valor was two
thousand six hundred.
13 Under their command was an army of three
hundred and seven thousand five hundred, who
waged war with great strength to help the king
against the enemy.

14 Uzziah supplied the whole army with
shields, spears, helmets, body armor, bows, and
slingstones.
15 In Jerusalem he made devices designed by a
skilled craftsman to be placed on the towers and
corners, to shoot arrows and large stones. His
fame spread far, for he was marvelously helped
until he became strong.
16 But when he became strong, his heart was
lifted up to his ruin. He was unfaithful to the
LORD his God and entered the temple of the
LORD to burn incense on the incense altar.
17 Azariah the priest went in after him, with
eighty priests of the LORD, men of courage.
18 They confronted King Uzziah and said to
him, “It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to
the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron,
who are consecrated to burn incense. Leave the
sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful. This
will bring you no honor from the LORD God.”
19 Uzziah became furious, with a censer in his
hand to burn incense. While he was furious
with the priests, a skin disease broke out on his
forehead before the priests in the house of the
LORD, beside the incense altar.
20 Azariah the chief priest and all the priests
looked at him and saw the skin disease on his
forehead. They hurried him out of there, and he
himself hastened to leave, for the LORD had
struck him.
21 King Uzziah had the skin disease until the
day of his death. He lived in a separate house,
afflicted with the skin disease, for he had been
cut off from the house of the LORD. His son

Jotham was over the king's palace, judging the
people of the land.
22 The rest of Uzziah's acts, from first to last,
were written by Isaiah the prophet, son of Amoz.
23 Uzziah lay down with his fathers, and they
buried him with his fathers in the royal burial
field, for they said, “He has a skin disease.” His
son Jotham reigned in his place.

27

1 Jotham was twenty-five years old when he
became king, and he reigned sixteen years in
Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jerushah
daughter of Zadok.
2 He did what was right in the eyes of the
LORD, according to all his father Uzziah had
done, except that he did not enter the temple of
the LORD. But the people continued to act
corruptly.
3 He built the Upper Gate of the house of the
LORD and did extensive building on the wall of
Ophel.
4 He built cities in the hill country of Judah,
and fortresses and towers in the forests.
5 He fought the king of the Ammonites and
prevailed against them. That year the
Ammonites gave him about seven thousand five
hundred pounds of silver, about fifty thousand
bushels of wheat, and about fifty thousand
bushels of barley. The Ammonites paid him the
same in the second and third years.
6 Jotham became strong because he ordered
his ways before the LORD his God.

7 The rest of Jotham's acts, all his wars, and his
ways are written in the Book of the Kings of
Israel and Judah.
8 He was twenty-five years old when he
became king, and he reigned sixteen years in
Jerusalem.
9 Jotham lay down with his fathers, and they
buried him in the City of David. His son Ahaz
reigned in his place.

28

1 Ahaz was twenty years old when he became
king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem.
He did not do what was right in the eyes of the
LORD, as his father David had done.
2 He walked in the ways of the kings of Israel
and even made cast images for the Baals.
3 He burned incense in the Valley of
Ben-hinnom and burned his sons in the fire,
according to the abominable practices of the
nations the LORD had driven out before the
Israelites.
4 He sacrificed and burned incense at the high
places, on the hills, and under every leafy tree.
5 The LORD his God gave him into the hand of
the king of Aram. They defeated him, took a
great number of his people captive, and brought
them to Damascus. He was also given into the
hand of the king of Israel, who struck him a
great blow.
6 Pekah son of Remaliah killed a hundred and
twenty thousand in Judah in one day, all men of

valor, because they had abandoned the LORD,
the God of their fathers.
7 Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, killed
Maaseiah the king's son, Azrikam the ruler of
the palace, and Elkanah, who was second to the
king.

8 The Israelites took two hundred thousand
captives from among their own kin—women,
sons, and daughters. They also took much
plunder from them and brought the plunder to
Samaria.

9 A prophet of the LORD named Oded was
there. He went out to meet the army coming to
Samaria and said to them, “Because the LORD,
the God of your fathers, was angry with Judah,
he gave them into your hand. But you have
killed them in a rage that has reached heaven.
10 Now you intend to subjugate the people of
Judah and Jerusalem as your male and female
slaves. Do you not yourselves have guilt before
the LORD your God?
11 Now listen to me and return the captives
you have taken from among your brothers, for
the fierce anger of the LORD is upon you.”

12 Then some of the leaders of
Ephraim—Azariah son of Jehohanan, Berechiah
son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah son of Shallum,
and Amasa son of Hadlai—stood against those
returning from the campaign.
13 They said to them, “You must not bring the
captives here. You intend to add to our sins and
guilt, bringing guilt upon us before the LORD.

Our guilt is already great, and fierce anger is upon Israel."

14 So the armed men left the captives and the plunder before the leaders and the whole assembly.

15 The men designated by name rose and took charge of the captives. With the plunder they clothed all the naked among them. They dressed them, gave them shoes, food, and drink, and anointed them. They carried all who were weak on donkeys and brought them to their brothers at Jericho, the City of Palms. Then they returned to Samaria.

16 At that time King Ahaz sent to the kings of Assyria for help.

17 The Edomites had again come and struck Judah and taken captives.

18 The Philistines had raided the cities of Judah's lowlands and Negev. They captured Beth-shemesh, Aijalon, Gederoth, Socoh and its villages, Timnah and its villages, and Gimzo and its villages, and settled there.

19 For the LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had let Judah run wild and had been deeply unfaithful to the LORD.

20 Tilgath-pilneser king of Assyria came against him and distressed him rather than strengthening him.

21 Ahaz had taken a portion from the house of the LORD, from the king's palace, and from the leaders, and given it to the king of Assyria, but it did not help him.

22 In the time of his distress he became still
more unfaithful to the LORD—this same King
Ahaz.
23 He sacrificed to the gods of Damascus,
which had defeated him, and said, “Because the
gods of the kings of Aram help them, I will
sacrifice to them so they will help me.” But they
became his downfall and that of all Israel.
24 Ahaz gathered the utensils of the house of
God and cut the utensils of the house of God to
pieces. He shut the doors of the house of the
LORD and made altars for himself at every
corner in Jerusalem.
25 In every city of Judah he made high places
to burn incense to other gods, provoking the
LORD, the God of his fathers, to anger.
26 The rest of his acts and all his ways, from
first to last, are written in the Book of the Kings
of Judah and Israel.
27 Ahaz lay down with his fathers, and they
buried him in the city, in Jerusalem, but did not
bring him into the tombs of the kings of Israel.
His son Hezekiah reigned in his place.

29

1 Hezekiah became king at twenty-five years
of age, and he reigned twenty-nine years in
Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abijah
daughter of Zechariah.
2 He did what was right in the eyes of the
LORD, according to all his father David had
done.

3 In the first year of his reign, in the first
month, he opened the doors of the house of the
LORD and repaired them.
4 He brought in the priests and Levites and
gathered them in the eastern square.
5 He said to them, “Listen to me, Levites. Now
consecrate yourselves and consecrate the house
of the LORD, the God of your fathers. Remove
the uncleanness from the sanctuary.
6 For our fathers were unfaithful and did evil
in the eyes of the LORD our God. They
abandoned him, turned their faces away from
the dwelling of the LORD, and turned their
backs.
7 They also shut the doors of the porch and
extinguished the lamps. They did not burn
incense or offer burnt offerings in the sanctuary
to the God of Israel.
8 So the wrath of the LORD came upon Judah
and Jerusalem, and he made them an object of
terror, horror, and hissing, as you see with your
own eyes.
9 Because of this, our fathers have fallen by
the sword, and our sons, daughters, and wives
are in captivity.
10 Now it is in my heart to make a covenant
with the LORD, the God of Israel, so that his
fierce anger may turn away from us.
11 My sons, do not be negligent now, for the
LORD has chosen you to stand before him, to
serve him, and to be his ministers and burn
incense.”
12 Then the Levites arose: from the Kohathites,
Mahath son of Amasai and Joel son of Azariah;

from the sons of Merari, Kish son of Abdi and
Azariah son of Jehallelel; from the Gershonites,
Joah son of Zimmah and Eden son of Joah;
13 from the sons of Elizaphan, Shimri and
Jeuel; from the sons of Asaph, Zechariah and
Mattaniah;
14 from the sons of Heman, Jehuel and Shimei;
and from the sons of Jeduthun, Shemaiah and
Uzziel.
15 They gathered their brothers, consecrated
themselves, and came to cleanse the house of
the LORD according to the king's command, in
keeping with the words of the LORD.
16 The priests entered the inner part of the
house of the LORD to cleanse it. They brought
out into the court of the house of the LORD all
the uncleanness they found in the temple of the
LORD. The Levites received it to carry it outside
to the Brook Kidron.
17 They began the consecration on the first day
of the first month. On the eighth day of the
month they reached the porch of the LORD.
They consecrated the house of the LORD in eight
days and finished on the sixteenth day of the
first month.
18 They went in to King Hezekiah and said,
“We have cleansed the whole house of the LORD,
the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils,
and the table of the bread of the Presence with
all its utensils.
19 We have also prepared and consecrated all
the utensils King Ahaz discarded during his
reign in his unfaithfulness. They are now before
the altar of the LORD.”

20 King Hezekiah rose early, gathered the
leaders of the city, and went up to the house of
the LORD.
21 They brought seven bulls, seven rams,
seven lambs, and seven male goats for a sin
offering for the kingdom, the sanctuary, and
Judah. He commanded the priests, the sons of
Aaron, to offer them on the altar of the LORD.
22 They slaughtered the bulls, and the priests
received the blood and dashed it against the
altar. They slaughtered the rams and dashed the
blood against the altar. They slaughtered the
lambs and dashed the blood against the altar.
23 They brought the male goats for the sin
offering before the king and the assembly, who
laid their hands on them.
24 The priests slaughtered them and offered
their blood on the altar as a sin offering, to make
atonement for all Israel. For the king had
commanded that the burnt offering and sin
offering be for all Israel.
25 He stationed the Levites in the house of the
LORD with cymbals, harps, and lyres, according
to the command of David, Gad the king's seer,
and Nathan the prophet, for the command came
from the LORD through his prophets.
26 The Levites stood with David's instruments,
and the priests with the trumpets.
27 Hezekiah commanded that the burnt
offering be offered on the altar. When the burnt
offering began, the song of the LORD began,
with the trumpets and the accompaniment of
the instruments of David king of Israel.

28 The whole assembly worshiped, the singers
sang, and the trumpets sounded. All this
continued until the burnt offering was finished.
29 When they finished offering, the king and
all who were present with him knelt and
worshiped.
30 King Hezekiah and the leaders commanded
the Levites to praise the LORD with the words of
David and Asaph the seer. They praised with
gladness, bowed down, and worshiped.

31 Then Hezekiah said, “Now you have
consecrated yourselves to the LORD. Come near
and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the
house of the LORD.” The assembly brought
sacrifices and thank offerings, and all who were
willing in heart brought burnt offerings.
32 The number of burnt offerings the assembly
brought was seventy bulls, a hundred rams, and
two hundred lambs. All these were for a burnt
offering to the LORD.
33 The consecrated offerings were six hundred
cattle and three thousand sheep and goats.
34 But the priests were too few to skin all the
burnt offerings, so their brothers the Levites
helped them until the work was finished and the
priests had consecrated themselves. For the
Levites were more upright in heart than the
priests in consecrating themselves.
35 There were also abundant burnt offerings,
with the fat of the peace offerings and the drink
offerings for the burnt offerings. So the service
of the house of the LORD was set in order.

36 Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced over
what God had prepared for the people, for it had
happened suddenly.

30

1 Hezekiah sent word throughout Israel and
Judah and also wrote letters to Ephraim and
Manasseh, inviting them to come to the house of
the LORD in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover
to the LORD, the God of Israel.
2 The king, his officials, and the whole
assembly in Jerusalem agreed to celebrate the
Passover in the second month.
3 They had been unable to celebrate it at the
appointed time because not enough priests had
consecrated themselves and the people had not
gathered in Jerusalem.
4 The plan seemed right to the king and the
whole assembly.
5 They decreed that a proclamation should go
throughout Israel, from Beersheba to Dan,
calling the people to come to Jerusalem to
celebrate the Passover to the LORD, the God of
Israel, for they had not celebrated it in large
numbers as prescribed.
6 The couriers went throughout Israel and
Judah with letters from the king and his
officials, proclaiming the king's command:
“Israelites, return to the LORD, the God of
Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, so that he may
return to the remnant of you who have escaped
from the hands of the kings of Assyria.

7 Do not be like your fathers and your
brothers, who were unfaithful to the LORD, the
God of their fathers, so that he made them an
object of horror, as you can see.
8 Now do not stiffen your necks as your
fathers did. Yield yourselves to the LORD and
come to his sanctuary, which he has consecrated
forever. Serve the LORD your God so that his
fierce anger may turn away from you.
9 For if you return to the LORD, your brothers
and your children will find compassion with
their captors and return to this land. The LORD
your God is gracious and merciful; he will not
turn his face away from you if you return to
him."
10 The couriers went from city to city through
the lands of Ephraim and Manasseh as far as
Zebulun, but the people laughed at them and
mocked them.
11 Nevertheless, some from Asher, Manasseh,
and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to
Jerusalem.
12 The hand of God was also at work in Judah,
giving them one heart to carry out the command
of the king and the officials according to the
word of the LORD.
13 A large crowd gathered in Jerusalem to
celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread in
the second month—a very great assembly.
14 They set about removing the altars in
Jerusalem. They also removed all the incense
altars and threw them into the Kidron Brook.
15 They slaughtered the Passover sacrifices on
the fourteenth day of the second month. The

priests and the Levites were ashamed, so they consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings to the house of the LORD.

16 They took their positions according to the regulations in the law of Moses, the man of God. The priests dashed the blood handed to them by the Levites.

17 For many in the assembly had not consecrated themselves, so the Levites were responsible for slaughtering the Passover sacrifices for everyone who was unclean, so that the offerings could be consecrated to the LORD.

18 For a large number of the people, many from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not purified themselves, yet they ate the Passover contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, “May the good LORD pardon

19 everyone who has set his heart to seek God, the LORD, the God of his fathers, even if he does not meet the sanctuary's requirements for purity.”

20 The LORD listened to Hezekiah and healed the people.

21 The Israelites who were present in Jerusalem celebrated the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days with great joy. Day after day the Levites and the priests praised the LORD with resounding instruments in his honor.

22 Hezekiah spoke encouragingly to all the Levites who showed good understanding in the service of the LORD. They feasted for the seven

days, offering peace offerings and giving thanks
to the LORD, the God of their fathers.
23 The whole assembly agreed to celebrate
another seven days, so they celebrated joyfully
for seven more days.
24 For Hezekiah king of Judah provided the
assembly with 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep and
goats, and the officials provided the assembly
with 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep and goats. A
great many priests consecrated themselves.
25 The whole assembly of Judah rejoiced, along
with the priests and the Levites, the whole
assembly that had come from Israel, and the
foreigners who had come from the land of Israel
and those living in Judah.
26 There was great joy in Jerusalem, for
nothing like this had happened in Jerusalem
since the days of Solomon son of David, king of
Israel.
27 The Levitical priests stood and blessed the
people. Their voice was heard, and their prayer
reached his holy dwelling place, heaven.

31

1 When all this was finished, all the Israelites
who were present went out to the cities of Judah.
They shattered the sacred pillars, cut down the
Asherah poles, and demolished the high places
and altars throughout Judah and Benjamin and
in Ephraim and Manasseh, until they had
destroyed them all. Then all the Israelites
returned to their cities, each to his own property.

2 Hezekiah appointed the divisions of the
priests and the Levites, each according to his
service in his division. Priests and Levites were
assigned to burnt offerings and peace offerings,
to minister, give thanks, and offer praise at the
gates of the LORD's camps.

3 The king contributed from his own
possessions for the burnt offerings: the morning
and evening burnt offerings and those for the
Sabbaths, the new moons, and the appointed
festivals, as written in the law of the LORD.
4 He commanded the people living in
Jerusalem to give the portion due to the priests
and the Levites, so that they could devote
themselves to the law of the LORD.
5 As soon as the command spread, the
Israelites brought abundant firstfruits of grain,
new wine, oil, honey, and all the produce of the
fields. They also brought a tithe of everything in
abundance.
6 The people of Israel and Judah living in the
cities of Judah also brought a tithe of their cattle,
sheep, and goats, and a tithe of the holy things
consecrated to the LORD their God. They laid
them in heap after heap.

7 They began laying out the heaps in the third
month and finished in the seventh month.

8 When Hezekiah and the officials came and
saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD and his
people Israel.

9 Hezekiah questioned the priests and the
Levites about the heaps.

10 Azariah the chief priest, of the house of
Zadok, answered him, “Since the contributions
began coming to the house of the LORD, we have
eaten our fill and had plenty left over. The LORD
has blessed his people, and this great abundance
is what remains.”

11 Hezekiah ordered storerooms to be
prepared in the house of the LORD, and they
prepared them.

12 They faithfully brought in the contributions,
the tithes, and the consecrated things. Cononiah
the Levite was in charge of them, and his
brother Shimei was second in command.

13 Jehiel, Azaziah, Nahath, Asahel, Jerimoth,
Jozabad, Eliel, Ismachiah, Mahath, and Benaiah
were overseers under Cononiah and his brother
Shimei, by appointment of King Hezekiah and
Azariah, the official in charge of the house of
God.

14 Kore son of Imnah, the Levite gatekeeper on
the east side, was in charge of the freewill
offerings to God, distributing the contributions
for the LORD and the most holy things.

15 Under him were Eden, Miniamin, Jeshua,
Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah. In the cities
of the priests, they faithfully distributed
portions to their brothers according to their
divisions, to great and small alike.

16 This was apart from the males recorded by
genealogy, three years old and upward, all who
entered the house of the LORD for their daily
duties, serving in their assignments according to
their divisions.

17 The priests were registered by their
ancestral houses, and the Levites twenty years
old and upward by their responsibilities and
divisions.
18 The registration included all their little
ones, their wives, their sons, and their
daughters—the whole assembly—for they were
faithful in keeping themselves holy.
19 For the sons of Aaron, the priests living in
the pasturelands of their cities, there were men
designated by name in each city to distribute
portions to every male among the priests and to
everyone recorded by genealogy among the
Levites.
20 This is what Hezekiah did throughout
Judah. He did what was good, right, and faithful
before the LORD his God.
21 In every work he undertook in the service
of the house of God and in the law and the
commandments, seeking his God, he acted with
all his heart and prospered.

32

1 After these deeds and this faithfulness,
Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded
Judah. He encamped against the fortified cities,
intending to capture them for himself.
2 When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had
come and intended to wage war against
Jerusalem,
3 he consulted his officials and his warriors
about blocking the springs outside the city, and
they helped him.

4 A large number of people gathered and
blocked all the springs and the stream flowing
through the land. They said, “Why should the
kings of Assyria come and find so much water?”
5 Hezekiah took courage and rebuilt the entire
broken wall, raising it up to the towers, and
built another wall outside it. He strengthened
the Millo in the City of David and made weapons
and shields in abundance.
6 He appointed military commanders over the
people and gathered them to him in the square
at the city gate. He encouraged them, saying,
7 “Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid
or dismayed before the king of Assyria or the
whole multitude with him, for we have more
with us than he has with him.
8 With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is
the LORD our God, to help us and fight our
battles.” The people took confidence in the
words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

9 After this, Sennacherib king of Assyria sent
his servants to Jerusalem with a message for
Hezekiah king of Judah and all the people of
Judah in Jerusalem. Sennacherib himself was at
Lachish with all his forces.
10 “This is what Sennacherib king of Assyria
says: What are you trusting in, that you remain
in Jerusalem under siege?
11 Isn't Hezekiah misleading you, handing you
over to die of hunger and thirst when he says,
‘The LORD our God will rescue us from the hand
of the king of Assyria’?
12 Wasn't it Hezekiah who removed his high

places and altars and told Judah and Jerusalem,
‘You must bow down before one altar and burn
offerings on it’?
13 Don't you know what I and my fathers have
done to all the peoples of the lands? Were the
gods of the nations in those lands able to rescue
their lands from my hand?
14 Which of all the gods of those nations my
fathers utterly destroyed was able to rescue his
people from my hand? How, then, can your God
rescue you from my hand?
15 Now do not let Hezekiah deceive you or
mislead you like this. Do not believe him, for no
god of any nation or kingdom has been able to
rescue his people from my hand or the hand of
my fathers. How much less will your God rescue
you from my hand!”
16 His servants said still more against the
LORD God and against his servant Hezekiah.
17 Sennacherib also wrote letters insulting the
LORD, the God of Israel, and speaking against
him: “Just as the gods of the nations of the lands
did not rescue their people from my hand,
neither will Hezekiah's God rescue his people
from my hand.”
18 They called out loudly in the language of
Judah to the people of Jerusalem who were on
the wall, to frighten and terrify them so that
they could capture the city.
19 They spoke of the God of Jerusalem as they
spoke of the gods of the peoples of the earth, the
work of human hands.
20 Because of this, King Hezekiah and the

prophet Isaiah son of Amoz prayed and cried
out to heaven.
21 The LORD sent an angel who destroyed
every mighty warrior, leader, and commander in
the camp of the king of Assyria. So the king
returned to his land in shame. When he entered
the house of his god, his own offspring struck
him down there with the sword.
22 So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the
inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of
Sennacherib king of Assyria and from the hand
of everyone else, and he guided them on every
side.
23 Many brought offerings to the LORD in
Jerusalem and precious gifts to Hezekiah king of
Judah. From then on he was exalted in the eyes
of all the nations.
24 In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill.
He prayed to the LORD, who spoke to him and
gave him a sign.
25 But Hezekiah did not respond in keeping
with the good done to him, for his heart grew
proud. So wrath came upon him and upon
Judah and Jerusalem.
26 Then Hezekiah humbled himself for the
pride of his heart, as did the inhabitants of
Jerusalem, and the LORD's wrath did not come
upon them in Hezekiah's days.
27 Hezekiah had very great riches and honor.
He made treasuries for silver, gold, precious
stones, spices, shields, and every kind of
valuable article.
28 He also made storehouses for the harvest of
grain, new wine, and oil, stalls for every kind of

livestock, and pens for flocks.
29 He built cities for himself and acquired
flocks and herds in abundance, for God had
given him very great possessions.
30 It was Hezekiah who blocked the upper
outlet of the waters of Gihon and directed them
down to the west side of the City of David.
Hezekiah prospered in all he did.
31 But when the envoys of the rulers of
Babylon were sent to him to inquire about the
wonder that had occurred in the land, God left
him to test him, to know everything in his heart.
32 The rest of Hezekiah's deeds and his acts of
faithful love are written in the vision of the
prophet Isaiah son of Amoz, in the Book of the
Kings of Judah and Israel.
33 Hezekiah rested with his fathers, and they
buried him on the ascent to the tombs of David's
sons. All Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem
honored him at his death. His son Manasseh
reigned in his place.

33

1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he
began to reign, and he reigned fifty-five years in
Jerusalem.
2 He did what was evil in the eyes of the LORD,
following the detestable practices of the nations
the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.
3 He rebuilt the high places his father
Hezekiah had demolished. He set up altars to the
Baals and made Asherah poles, and he bowed
down to all the host of heaven and served them.

4 He built altars in the house of the LORD, of
which the LORD had said, “My name will be in
Jerusalem forever.”
5 He built altars to all the host of heaven in the
two courts of the house of the LORD.
6 He made his sons pass through the fire in the
Valley of Ben-hinnom. He practiced divination,
read omens, practiced sorcery, and consulted
mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the
eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger.
7 He placed the carved idol he had made in the
house of God, of which God had said to David
and his son Solomon, “In this house and in
Jerusalem, which I have chosen from all the
tribes of Israel, I will put my name forever.
8 I will no longer remove Israel's foot from the
land I assigned to your fathers, if only they are
careful to do all I have commanded them,
according to the whole law, the statutes, and the
ordinances given through Moses.”
9 But Manasseh led Judah and the inhabitants
of Jerusalem astray, so that they did more evil
than the nations the LORD had destroyed before
the Israelites.
10 The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his
people, but they did not listen.
11 So the LORD brought against them the
commanders of the army of the king of Assyria.
They captured Manasseh with hooks, bound him
with bronze shackles, and took him to Babylon.
12 In his distress he sought the favor of the
LORD his God and humbled himself deeply
before the God of his fathers.

13 He prayed to him, and God responded to his
plea, heard his supplication, and brought him
back to Jerusalem to his kingdom. Then
Manasseh knew that the LORD is God.
14 After this he built an outer wall for the City
of David, west of Gihon in the valley, as far as
the entrance to the Fish Gate. It surrounded
Ophel, and he raised it very high. He also
stationed military commanders in all the
fortified cities of Judah.
15 He removed the foreign gods and the idol
from the house of the LORD, along with all the
altars he had built on the mountain of the house
of the LORD and in Jerusalem, and threw them
outside the city.
16 He restored the altar of the LORD and
offered peace offerings and thank offerings on
it. He commanded Judah to serve the LORD, the
God of Israel.
17 Nevertheless, the people still sacrificed at
the high places, though only to the LORD their
God.
18 The rest of Manasseh's deeds, his prayer to
his God, and the words of the seers who spoke to
him in the name of the LORD, the God of Israel,
are in the records of the kings of Israel.
19 His prayer and how God answered him, all
his sins and his unfaithfulness, and the places
where he built high places and set up Asherah
poles and carved images before he humbled
himself are written in the records of Hozai.
20 Manasseh rested with his fathers, and they
buried him at his house. His son Amon reigned
in his place.

21 Amon was twenty-two years old when he
began to reign, and he reigned two years in
Jerusalem.
22 He did what was evil in the eyes of the
LORD, as his father Manasseh had done. Amon
sacrificed to all the carved images his father
Manasseh had made and served them.
23 He did not humble himself before the LORD
as his father Manasseh had humbled himself.
Instead, Amon increased his guilt.
24 His servants conspired against him and
killed him in his house.
25 But the people of the land struck down all
who had conspired against King Amon, and the
people of the land made his son Josiah king in
his place.

34

1 Josiah was eight years old when he began to
reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in
Jerusalem.
2 He did what was right in the eyes of the
LORD and walked in the ways of his father
David, turning neither to the right nor to the left.
3 In the eighth year of his reign, while he was
still young, he began to seek the God of his
father David. In the twelfth year he began to
cleanse Judah and Jerusalem of the high places,
the Asherah poles, the carved images, and the
cast images.
4 They tore down the altars of the Baals in his
presence, and he cut down the incense altars
above them. He shattered the Asherah poles, the

carved images, and the cast images, ground
them to powder, and scattered it over the graves
of those who had sacrificed to them.
5 He burned the priests' bones on their altars
and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.
6 He did the same in the cities of Manasseh,
Ephraim, and Simeon, as far as Naphtali, and in
their surrounding ruins.
7 He tore down the altars and the Asherah
poles, crushed the carved images to powder, and
cut down all the incense altars throughout the
land of Israel. Then he returned to Jerusalem.
8 In the eighteenth year of his reign, as he
cleansed the land and the house, he sent
Shaphan son of Azaliah, Maaseiah the governor
of the city, and Joah son of Joahaz the recorder
to repair the house of the LORD his God.
9 They went to Hilkiah the high priest and
delivered the silver brought to the house of God.
The Levites who guarded the thresholds had
collected it from Manasseh, Ephraim, all the
remnant of Israel, all Judah and Benjamin, and
the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
10 They put it into the hands of the overseers
of the work in the house of the LORD, who gave
it to the workers in the house of the LORD to
repair and restore the house.
11 They gave it to the craftsmen and builders
to buy quarried stone and timber for framing
and to put beams in the buildings the kings of
Judah had ruined.
12 The men did the work faithfully. Their
overseers were Jahath and Obadiah, Levites

descended from Merari, and Zechariah and
Meshullam, from the Kohathites, who directed
the work. The Levites skilled in musical
instruments
13 were over the burden bearers and
supervised all the workers in every kind of
service. Some of the Levites were scribes,
officers, and gatekeepers.
14 As they were bringing out the silver that
had been brought to the house of the LORD,
Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of
the LORD given through Moses.
15 Hilkiah said to Shaphan the scribe, “I have
found the Book of the Law in the house of the
LORD.” Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan.
16 Shaphan brought the book to the king and
also reported to him, “Your servants are doing
everything entrusted to them.
17 They have poured out the silver found in
the house of the LORD and handed it over to the
overseers and the workers.”
18 Then Shaphan the scribe told the king,
“Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.”
Shaphan read from it before the king.
19 When the king heard the words of the law,
he tore his clothes.
20 The king commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam son
of Shaphan, Abdon son of Micah, Shaphan the
scribe, and Asaiah the king's servant,
21 “Go, inquire of the LORD for me and for
those remaining in Israel and Judah about the
words of the book that has been found. Great is
the LORD's wrath poured out on us, because our
fathers did not keep the word of the LORD by

doing everything written in this book."

22 Hilkiah and those the king had appointed
went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of
Shallum son of Tokhath, son of Hasrah, the
keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem
in the Second Quarter. They spoke to her about
this.

23 She said to them, "This is what the LORD,
the God of Israel, says: Tell the man who sent
you to me,

24 'This is what the LORD says: I am bringing
disaster on this place and its inhabitants—all the
curses written in the book that was read before
the king of Judah.
25 Because they have forsaken me and burned
incense to other gods, provoking me to anger
with all the work of their hands, my wrath will
be poured out on this place and will not be
quenched.'
26 But say to the king of Judah, who sent you to
inquire of the LORD, 'This is what the LORD, the
God of Israel, says about the words you have
heard:

27 Because your heart was tender and you
humbled yourself before God when you heard
his words against this place and its inhabitants,
and because you humbled yourself before me,
tore your clothes, and wept before me, I too
have heard you, declares the LORD.
28 I will gather you to your fathers, and you
will be gathered to your graves in peace. Your
eyes will not see all the disaster I am bringing

on this place and its inhabitants.' " They brought the answer back to the king.

29 Then the king sent for all the elders of Judah
and Jerusalem and gathered them together.
30 The king went up to the house of the LORD
with all the men of Judah, the inhabitants of
Jerusalem, the priests, the Levites, and all the
people, great and small. He read in their
hearing all the words of the Book of the
Covenant found in the house of the LORD.
31 The king stood in his place and made a
covenant before the LORD to follow the LORD
and keep his commandments, his testimonies,
and his statutes with all his heart and all his
soul, carrying out the words of the covenant
written in this book.
32 He had everyone present in Jerusalem and
Benjamin stand in commitment to it. The
inhabitants of Jerusalem acted according to the
covenant of God, the God of their fathers.
33 Josiah removed all the detestable things
from all the lands belonging to the Israelites and
made everyone present in Israel serve the LORD
their God. Throughout his days they did not turn
away from following the LORD, the God of their
fathers.

35

1 Josiah celebrated the Passover to the LORD
in Jerusalem. They slaughtered the Passover
sacrifices on the fourteenth day of the first
month.

2 He appointed the priests to their duties and
encouraged them in the service of the house of
the LORD.
3 He said to the Levites who instructed all
Israel and were holy to the LORD, “Place the holy
ark in the house that Solomon son of David, king
of Israel, built. You no longer have to carry it on
your shoulders. Now serve the LORD your God
and his people Israel.
4 Prepare yourselves by your ancestral houses
according to your divisions, following the
writings of David king of Israel and the writings
of his son Solomon.
5 Take your places in the sanctuary according
to the divisions of the ancestral houses of your
brothers among the people and according to the
division of the Levites' ancestral houses.
6 Slaughter the Passover sacrifices, consecrate
yourselves, and make preparations for your
brothers, carrying out the word of the LORD
given through Moses.”

7 Josiah contributed to the people 30,000
lambs and young goats, all for the Passover
sacrifices of everyone present, and 3,000 cattle.
These came from the king's possessions.

8 His officials made freewill contributions to
the people, the priests, and the Levites. Hilkiah,
Zechariah, and Jehiel, the officials in charge of
the house of God, gave the priests 2,600 animals
for the Passover sacrifices and 300 cattle.
9 Cononiah and his brothers Shemaiah and
Nethanel, along with Hashabiah, Jeiel, and
Jozabad, leaders of the Levites, contributed

5,000 animals for the Levites' Passover sacrifices
and 500 cattle.
10 So the service was prepared. The priests
took their positions, and the Levites stood
according to their divisions, as the king had
commanded.
11 They slaughtered the Passover sacrifices,
and the priests dashed the blood handed to
them, while the Levites skinned the animals.
12 They set aside the burnt offerings to give
them to the divisions of the people's ancestral
houses, to offer to the LORD as written in the
Book of Moses. They did the same with the
cattle.
13 They roasted the Passover sacrifices over
the fire as prescribed. They cooked the
consecrated offerings in pots, cauldrons, and
pans and quickly brought them to all the people.
14 Afterward they prepared portions for
themselves and for the priests, because the
priests, the sons of Aaron, were occupied with
offering the burnt offerings and the fat until
night. So the Levites prepared portions for
themselves and for the priests, the sons of
Aaron.
15 The singers, the sons of Asaph, were at their
posts according to the command of David,
Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer.
The gatekeepers were at every gate. They did
not have to leave their service, because their
brothers the Levites prepared portions for them.
16 So all the service of the LORD was prepared
that day to celebrate the Passover and offer
burnt offerings on the altar of the LORD, as King

Josiah had commanded.
17 The Israelites who were present celebrated
the Passover at that time and the Festival of
Unleavened Bread for seven days.
18 No Passover like it had been celebrated in
Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet.
None of the kings of Israel had celebrated a
Passover like the one celebrated by Josiah, the
priests, the Levites, all Judah and Israel who
were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
19 This Passover was celebrated in the
eighteenth year of Josiah's reign.
20 After all this, when Josiah had prepared the
house, Necho king of Egypt went up to fight at
Carchemish on the Euphrates, and Josiah went
out to confront him.
21 But Necho sent messengers to him, saying,
"What have I to do with you, king of Judah? I am
not coming against you today, but against the
house with which I am at war. God has told me
to hurry. Stop opposing God, who is with me, so
that he does not destroy you."
22 Josiah would not turn away from him but
disguised himself to fight him. He did not listen
to Necho's words from the mouth of God and
went to fight in the Valley of Megiddo.
23 The archers shot King Josiah, and the king
said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am
badly wounded."
24 His servants took him out of the chariot, put
him in his second chariot, and brought him to
Jerusalem. He died and was buried in the tombs
of his fathers. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned

for Josiah.

25 Jeremiah sang a lament for Josiah. To this
day all the male and female singers speak of
Josiah in their laments. They made these a
custom in Israel, and they are written in the
laments.
26 The rest of Josiah's deeds and his acts of
faithful love according to what is written in the
law of the LORD,
27 and his deeds, from first to last, are written
in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

36

1 The people of the land took Jehoahaz son of
Josiah and made him king in Jerusalem in place
of his father.
2 Joahaz was twenty-three years old when he
began to reign, and he reigned three months in
Jerusalem.
3 The king of Egypt deposed him in Jerusalem
and imposed a fine on the land of about 7,500
pounds of silver and about 75 pounds of gold.
4 The king of Egypt made Eliakim, Joahaz's
brother, king over Judah and Jerusalem and
changed his name to Jehoiakim. Necho took
Joahaz, Eliakim's brother, and brought him to
Egypt.

5 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he
began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in
Jerusalem. He did what was evil in the eyes of
the LORD his God.

6 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up
against him and bound him with bronze
shackles to take him to Babylon.
7 Nebuchadnezzar also took some of the
vessels of the house of the LORD to Babylon and
placed them in his temple in Babylon.
8 The rest of Jehoiakim's deeds, the detestable
things he did, and what was found against him
are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and
Judah. His son Jehoiachin reigned in his place.
9 Jehoiachin was eight years old when he
began to reign, and he reigned three months
and ten days in Jerusalem. He did what was evil
in the eyes of the LORD.
10 At the turn of the year, King
Nebuchadnezzar sent for him and brought him
to Babylon with the precious vessels of the house
of the LORD. He made Zedekiah, Jehoiachin's
brother, king over Judah and Jerusalem.
11 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he
began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in
Jerusalem.
12 He did what was evil in the eyes of the
LORD his God. He did not humble himself
before the prophet Jeremiah, who spoke from
the mouth of the LORD.
13 He also rebelled against King
Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear an
oath by God. He stiffened his neck and hardened
his heart against returning to the LORD, the God
of Israel.
14 All the leading priests and the people also
became increasingly unfaithful, following all the

detestable practices of the nations. They defiled
the house of the LORD, which he had
consecrated in Jerusalem.
15 The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent
word to them through his messengers again and
again, because he had compassion on his people
and his dwelling place.
16 But they mocked God's messengers,
despised his words, and scoffed at his prophets
until the LORD's wrath rose against his people
and there was no remedy.
17 So he brought against them the king of the
Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the
sword in their sanctuary. He had no compassion
on young man or young woman, on the old or
the frail. God gave them all into his hand.
18 He brought to Babylon all the vessels of the
house of God, great and small, the treasures of
the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the
king and his officials—everything.
19 They burned the house of God, tore down
the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces, and
destroyed all its precious articles.
20 He exiled to Babylon those who had escaped
the sword, and they became servants to him and
his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to
power.
21 This fulfilled the word of the LORD through
Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its
Sabbaths. Throughout its desolation it rested,
until seventy years were fulfilled.
22 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to
fulfill the word of the LORD through Jeremiah,

the LORD stirred the spirit of Cyrus king of
Persia. He issued a proclamation throughout his
kingdom and also put it in writing:
23 “This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: The
LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the
kingdoms of the earth and has charged me to
build him a house in Jerusalem in Judah.
Whoever among you belongs to his people, may
the LORD his God be with him, and let him go
up.”

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