2 Kings

1 Moab rebelled against Israel after Ahab's
death.
2 Ahaziah fell through the lattice of his
upstairs room in Samaria and became ill. He
sent messengers, telling them, "Go, inquire of
Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I will
recover from this illness."
3 But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the
Tishbite, "Get up, go to meet the messengers of
the king of Samaria, and tell them, 'Is there no
God in Israel, that you are going to inquire of
Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?
4 Therefore this is what the LORD says: You
will not come down from the bed you have
climbed onto, for you will surely die.' " Then
Elijah went away.
5 The messengers returned to the king, and he
asked them, "Why have you returned?"
6 They answered, "A man came up to meet us
and told us, 'Go back to the king who sent you
and tell him: This is what the LORD says: Is
there no God in Israel, that you are sending to
inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?
Therefore you will not come down from the bed
you have climbed onto, for you will surely die.' "
7 He asked them, "What did the man look like
who came to meet you and told you these
things?"

8 They answered, “He was a hairy man, with a
leather belt around his waist.” He said, “It is
Elijah the Tishbite.”
9 The king sent a captain of fifty with his fifty
men to him. The captain went up to Elijah, who
was sitting on top of the hill, and said, “Man of
God, the king says, ‘Come down.’ ”
10 Elijah answered the captain of fifty, “If I am
a man of God, let fire come down from heaven
and consume you and your fifty men.” Fire
came down from heaven and consumed him
and his fifty men.
11 The king sent another captain of fifty with
his fifty men. He said to him, “Man of God, this is
what the king says: ‘Come down at once.’ ”
12 Elijah answered them, “If I am a man of
God, let fire come down from heaven and
consume you and your fifty men.” The fire of
God came down from heaven and consumed
him and his fifty men.
13 The king sent a third captain of fifty with his
fifty men. The third captain went up,
approached Elijah, and knelt before him. He
pleaded with him, “Man of God, please let my
life and the lives of these fifty servants of yours
be precious in your sight.
14 Fire has come down from heaven and
consumed the first two captains of fifty with
their fifty men. Now let my life be precious in
your sight.”

15 The angel of the LORD said to Elijah, “Go
down with him. Do not be afraid of him.” So he
got up and went down with him to the king.

16 He told him, “This is what the LORD says:
Because you sent messengers to inquire of
Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron—is there no God in
Israel to inquire for his word?—you will not
come down from the bed you have climbed
onto, for you will surely die.”
17 He died according to the word the LORD
had spoken through Elijah. Jehoram reigned in
his place in the second year of Jehoram son of
Jehoshaphat king of Judah, because Ahaziah had
no son.
18 The rest of Ahaziah’s acts, what he did—are
they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of
the Kings of Israel?

2

1 When the LORD was about to take Elijah up
to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha left
Gilgal.
2 Elijah said to Elisha, “Please stay here, for the
LORD has sent me to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As
the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave
you.” So they went down to Bethel.
3 The company of prophets at Bethel came out
to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that the
LORD will take your master away from you
today?” He said, “I know it too. Be silent.”
4 Elijah said to him, “Elisha, please stay here,
for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he
said, “As the LORD lives and as you live, I will
not leave you.” So they came to Jericho.
5 The company of prophets at Jericho
approached Elisha and said to him, “Do you

know that the LORD will take your master away
from you today?" He said, "I know it too. Be
silent."
6 Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the
LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said,
"As the LORD lives and as you live, I will not
leave you." So the two of them went on.
7 Fifty men from the company of prophets
went and stood opposite them at a distance,
while the two of them stood by the Jordan.
8 Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up, and struck
the water. The water parted to one side and the
other, and the two of them crossed on dry
ground.
9 After they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha,
"Ask what I may do for you before I am taken
from you." Elisha said, "Please let a double
portion of your spirit be mine."
10 He said, "You have asked a difficult thing. If
you see me when I am taken from you, it will be
yours; but if not, it will not."
11 As they continued walking and talking, a
chariot of fire and horses of fire suddenly
separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to
heaven in a whirlwind.
12 Elisha saw it and cried out, "My father, my
father! The chariot of Israel and its horsemen!"
When he saw him no more, he took hold of his
own clothes and tore them in two.
13 He picked up Elijah's cloak, which had
fallen from him, went back, and stood on the
bank of the Jordan.
14 He took Elijah's cloak, which had fallen

from him, struck the water, and said, “Where is
the LORD, the God of Elijah?” He too struck the
water, and it parted to one side and the other,
and Elisha crossed.
15 When the company of prophets from Jericho
saw him from the opposite side, they said,
“Elijah’s spirit rests on Elisha.” They came to
meet him and bowed to the ground before him.
16 They said to him, “Look, there are fifty
strong men here among your servants. Please
let them go and search for your master. Perhaps
the Spirit of the LORD has lifted him up and
thrown him onto a mountain or into a valley.”
He said, “Do not send them.”
17 But they kept pressing him until he was
embarrassed, and he said, “Send them.” So they
sent fifty men, who searched for three days but
did not find him.
18 They returned to him while he was staying
in Jericho, and he said to them, “Did I not tell
you not to go?”
19 The men of the city said to Elisha, “As my
lord can see, the city is well situated, but the
water is bad and the land is barren.”
20 He said, “Bring me a new bowl and put salt
in it.” So they brought it to him.
21 He went out to the spring, threw the salt
into it, and said, “This is what the LORD says: I
have healed this water. It will no longer cause
death or barrenness.”
22 And the water has remained healed to this
day, according to the word Elisha spoke.
23 From there he went up to Bethel. As he was
going up the road, some young boys came out of

the city and mocked him, saying, “Go up,
baldhead! Go up, baldhead!”
24 He turned around, looked at them, and
cursed them in the name of the LORD. Then two
female bears came out of the woods and mauled
forty-two of the boys.
25 From there he went to Mount Carmel, and
from there he returned to Samaria.

3

1 Jehoram son of Ahab became king over Israel
in Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat
king of Judah, and he reigned twelve years.
2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, though
not like his father and mother, for he removed
the sacred pillar of Baal that his father had
made.
3 Nevertheless, he clung to the sins of
Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to
sin; he did not turn away from them.
4 Mesha king of Moab was a sheep breeder. He
paid the king of Israel a hundred thousand
lambs and the wool of a hundred thousand
rams.
5 But when Ahab died, the king of Moab
rebelled against the king of Israel.
6 So King Jehoram left Samaria at that time
and mustered all Israel.
7 He went and sent this message to
Jehoshaphat king of Judah: “The king of Moab
has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to
fight against Moab?” He said, “I will go up. I am
as you are, my people as your people, and my
horses as your horses.”

8 He asked, “Which route shall we take?” He
answered, “The route through the wilderness of
Edom.”
9 So the king of Israel, the king of Judah, and
the king of Edom set out. After taking a
roundabout route for seven days, there was no
water for the army or for the animals following
them.
10 The king of Israel said, “Alas! The LORD has
called these three kings together to deliver them
into the hand of Moab!”
11 But Jehoshaphat said, “Is there no prophet
of the LORD here, through whom we may
inquire of the LORD?” One of the king of Israel’s
servants answered, “Elisha son of Shaphat is
here. He used to pour water on Elijah’s hands.”
12 Jehoshaphat said, “The word of the LORD is
with him.” So the king of Israel, Jehoshaphat,
and the king of Edom went down to him.
13 Elisha said to the king of Israel, “What have
I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your
father and the prophets of your mother.” But the
king of Israel said to him, “No, for the LORD has
called these three kings together to deliver them
into the hand of Moab.”
14 Elisha said, “As the LORD of hosts lives,
before whom I stand, if I did not have regard for
Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at
you or even notice you.
15 But now bring me a musician.” As the
musician played, the hand of the LORD came
upon Elisha.
16 He said, “This is what the LORD says: Make

this valley full of trenches.
17 For this is what the LORD says: You will see
neither wind nor rain, yet this valley will be
filled with water, and you, your livestock, and
your animals will drink.
18 This is a small thing in the sight of the
LORD. He will also deliver Moab into your hand.
19 You will strike every fortified city and every
choice city, cut down every good tree, stop up
every spring, and ruin every good field with
stones."
20 In the morning, at the time of the grain
offering, water suddenly came from the
direction of Edom, and the land was filled with
water.
21 All the Moabites heard that the kings had
come up to fight against them. Everyone old
enough to bear arms, and all who were older,
was called out, and they took their stand at the
border.
22 They rose early in the morning, and the sun
was shining on the water. From the opposite
side, the Moabites saw the water as red as blood.
23 They said, "This is blood! The kings must
have destroyed one another, striking each other
down. Now, Moab, to the plunder!"
24 But when they came to Israel's camp, the
Israelites rose up and struck the Moabites, who
fled before them. They continued striking Moab
in its own land.
25 They demolished the cities. Each man threw
a stone into every good field until they had filled
it. They stopped up every spring and cut down

every good tree. Only the stones of Kir-hareseth
were left, but the slingers surrounded it and
attacked it.
26 When the king of Moab saw that the battle
was too much for him, he took seven hundred
swordsmen with him to break through to the
king of Edom, but they could not.
27 Then he took his firstborn son, who was to
reign in his place, and offered him as a burnt
offering on the wall. There was great wrath
against Israel, so they withdrew from him and
returned to their own land.

4

1 The wife of one of the company of prophets
cried out to Elisha, “Your servant, my husband,
is dead. You know that your servant feared the
LORD, but the creditor has come to take my two
children as his slaves.”
2 Elisha said to her, “What can I do for you?
Tell me, what do you have in the house?” She
said, “Your servant has nothing at all in the
house except a jar of oil.”
3 He said, “Go and borrow containers from all
your neighbors—empty containers, and not just
a few.
4 Then go inside and shut the door behind you
and your sons. Pour oil into all these containers,
setting each one aside when it is full.”
5 She left him and shut the door behind her
and her sons. They brought the containers to
her, and she poured.
6 When the containers were full, she said to
her son, “Bring me another container.” He said

to her, “There are no more.” Then the oil stopped
flowing.
7 She went and told the man of God. He said,
“Go, sell the oil and pay your debt. You and your
sons can live on what is left.”
8 One day Elisha went to Shunem, where there
was a woman of means who urged him to stay
for a meal. After that, whenever he passed
through, he would stop there to eat.
9 She said to her husband, “Look, I know that
this man who regularly passes our way is a holy
man of God.
10 Let us make a small upstairs room with
walls and put a bed, a table, a chair, and a
lampstand there for him. Then he can stay there
when he comes to us.”
11 One day he came there, went up to the
room, and lay down.
12 He said to his servant Gehazi, “Call this
Shunammite woman.” He called her, and she
stood before him.
13 He said to Gehazi, “Please tell her, ‘You have
taken all this trouble for us. What can be done
for you? Would you like us to speak to the king
or the commander of the army on your behalf?’ ”
She said, “I live among my own people.”
14 He said, “What, then, can be done for her?”
Gehazi said, “Well, she has no son, and her
husband is old.”
15 He said, “Call her.” He called her, and she
stood in the doorway.
16 He said, “At this time next year, you will be
holding a son in your arms.” She said, “No, my
lord, man of God! Do not deceive your servant.”

17 The woman conceived and bore a son at
that time the following year, just as Elisha had
told her.
18 The child grew, and one day he went out to
his father among the reapers.
19 He said to his father, “My head! My head!”
His father said to a servant, “Carry him to his
mother.”
20 He carried him and brought him to his
mother. The child sat on her lap until noon, and
then he died.
21 She went up and laid him on the bed of the
man of God, shut the door behind him, and went
out.
22 She called to her husband and said, “Please
send me one of the servants and one of the
female donkeys, so I can hurry to the man of
God and return.”
23 He said, “Why are you going to him today? It
is neither the new moon nor the Sabbath.” She
said, “All is well.”
24 She saddled the donkey and said to her
servant, “Drive on. Do not slow down for me
unless I tell you.”
25 So she went to the man of God at Mount
Carmel. When the man of God saw her in the
distance, he said to his servant Gehazi, “Look,
there is the Shunammite woman.
26 Please run to meet her and ask her, ‘Are you
well? Is your husband well? Is the child well?’ ”
She said, “All is well.”
27 When she reached the man of God at the
mountain, she took hold of his feet. Gehazi came
forward to push her away, but the man of God
said, “Leave her alone. She is in bitter distress,

and the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me."
28 She said, "Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me'?"
29 He said to Gehazi, "Tuck up your robe, take my staff in your hand, and go. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff on the child's face."
30 But the child's mother said, "As the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So he got up and followed her.
31 Gehazi went ahead of them and laid the staff on the child's face, but there was no sound or response. He went back to meet Elisha and told him, "The child has not awakened."
32 When Elisha entered the house, there was the child, dead and lying on his bed.
33 He went in, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD.
34 Then he went up and lay on the child, placing his mouth on the child's mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands. He stretched himself over him, and the child's body grew warm.
35 He got up and walked back and forth in the house, then went up and stretched himself over him again. The child sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.
36 Elisha called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite woman." He called her, and she came to him. He said, "Pick up your son."
37 She came in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground. Then she picked up her son and

went out.
38 Elisha returned to Gilgal while there was a
famine in the land. The company of prophets
was sitting before him, and he said to his
servant, “Put the large pot on the fire and cook a
stew for the company of prophets.”
39 One of them went out into the field to
gather herbs. He found a wild vine and gathered
a cloakful of wild gourds from it. He came back
and sliced them into the stew pot, though they
did not know what they were.
40 They served it to the men to eat, but as they
tasted the stew, they cried out, “Man of God,
there is death in the pot!” They could not eat it.
41 He said, “Bring some flour.” He threw it into
the pot and said, “Serve it to the people so they
can eat.” And there was nothing harmful in the
pot.
42 A man came from Baal-shalisha and brought
the man of God bread from the firstfruits:
twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in his sack.
Elisha said, “Give it to the people to eat.”
43 His attendant said, “How can I set this
before a hundred men?” But he said, “Give it to
the people to eat, for this is what the LORD says:
They will eat and have some left over.”
44 So he set it before them, and they ate and
had some left over, according to the word of the
LORD.

5

1 Naaman, commander of the army of the king
of Aram, was a great man in his master’s sight
and highly honored, because through him the

LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a
mighty warrior, but he had leprosy.
2 Aramean raiding parties had gone out and
taken a young girl captive from the land of
Israel. She served Naaman's wife.
3 She said to her mistress, "If only my master
were with the prophet in Samaria! He would
cure him of his leprosy."
4 Naaman went in and told his master, "This is
what the girl from the land of Israel said."
5 The king of Aram said, "Go, and I will send a
letter to the king of Israel." So he went, taking
with him about 750 pounds of silver, about 150
pounds of gold, and ten changes of clothing.
6 He brought the letter to the king of Israel. It
said, "When this letter reaches you, know that I
have sent my servant Naaman to you so that you
may cure him of his leprosy."
7 When the king of Israel read the letter, he
tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to put to
death and give life, that this man sends someone
to me to be cured of his leprosy? Just consider
and see how he is looking for a quarrel with
me!"
8 When Elisha the man of God heard that the
king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent word
to the king: "Why have you torn your clothes?
Let him come to me, and he will know that there
is a prophet in Israel."
9 So Naaman came with his horses and chariot
and stopped at the door of Elisha's house.
10 Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go
and wash seven times in the Jordan. Your flesh

will be restored, and you will be clean."
11 But Naaman became angry and went away,
saying, "I thought he would surely come out to
me, stand and call on the name of the LORD his
God, wave his hand over the affected place, and
cure the leprosy.
12 Are not Amana and Pharpar, the rivers of
Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel?
Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he
turned and went away in a rage.
13 His servants approached and said to him,
"My father, if the prophet had told you to do
some great thing, would you not have done it?
How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash
and be clean'!"
14 So he went down and dipped himself in the
Jordan seven times, according to the word of the
man of God. His flesh was restored like the flesh
of a young boy, and he was clean.
15 Then he returned to the man of God with all
his company. He came and stood before him and
said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the
earth except in Israel. So please accept a gift
from your servant."
16 But he said, "As the LORD lives, before
whom I stand, I will not accept it." Naaman
urged him to accept it, but he refused.
17 Naaman said, "If not, then please let your
servant be given as much earth as a pair of
mules can carry. For your servant will no longer
offer burnt offerings or sacrifices to other gods,
but only to the LORD.
18 May the LORD forgive your servant in this

matter: When my master enters the temple of
Rimmon to bow down there, and he is leaning
on my arm, I bow down in the temple of
Rimmon. When I bow down in the temple of
Rimmon, may the LORD please forgive your
servant in this matter."
19 He said to him, "Go in peace." After Naaman
had gone some distance from him,

20 Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of
God, said to himself, "My master has let this
Naaman the Aramean go without accepting
what he brought. As the LORD lives, I will run
after him and get something from him."
21 So Gehazi hurried after Naaman. When
Naaman saw him running after him, he got
down from his chariot to meet him and said, "Is
all well?"
22 He said, "All is well. My master has sent me
to say, 'Two young men from the company of
prophets have just come to me from the hill
country of Ephraim. Please give them about 75
pounds of silver and two changes of clothing.' "
23 Naaman said, "Please, take about 150
pounds." He urged him, tied up about 150
pounds of silver in two bags, along with two
changes of clothing, and gave them to two of his
servants, who carried them ahead of Gehazi.
24 When he reached the hill, he took the things
from their hands and put them in the house.
Then he sent the men away, and they left.
25 He went in and stood before his master.
Elisha said to him, "Where have you been,
Gehazi?" He said, "Your servant has not gone

anywhere."
26 But he said to him, "Did not my heart go
with you when the man got down from his
chariot to meet you? Is this the time to accept
silver and clothing, olive groves and vineyards,
sheep and cattle, male and female servants?
27 Therefore Naaman's leprosy will cling to
you and your descendants forever." And Gehazi
went out from his presence with leprosy, white
as snow.

6

1 The company of prophets said to Elisha,
"Look, the place where we sit before you is too
small for us.
2 Please let us go to the Jordan. Each of us can
take a beam from there, and we can make a
place there for us to live." He said, "Go."
3 One of them said, "Please be willing to come
with your servants." He said, "I will come."
4 So he went with them. When they came to
the Jordan, they began cutting down trees.
5 As one of them was felling a tree, the iron
axe head fell into the water. He cried out, "Alas,
my master! It was borrowed!"
6 The man of God said, "Where did it fall?" He
showed him the place. Then Elisha cut a stick,
threw it in there, and made the iron float.
7 He said, "Pick it up." So the man reached out
his hand and took it.
8 The king of Aram was at war with Israel. He
consulted his servants and said, "I will set up my
camp at such and such a place."

9 But the man of God sent word to the king of
Israel: “Be careful not to pass that place, for the
Arameans are coming down there.”
10 So the king of Israel sent men to the place
the man of God had told him about. Warned by
him, he kept on his guard there. This happened
more than once or twice.
11 The king of Aram was deeply troubled by
this. He called his servants and said to them,
“Will you not tell me which of us is on the side of
the king of Israel?”
12 One of his servants said, “None of us, my
lord the king. It is Elisha, the prophet in Israel,
who tells the king of Israel the words you speak
in your bedroom.”
13 He said, “Go and find out where he is, so I
can send men to capture him.” He was told, “He
is in Dothan.”
14 So he sent horses, chariots, and a large army
there. They came by night and surrounded the
city.
15 When the attendant of the man of God rose
early and went out, he saw an army with horses
and chariots surrounding the city. His servant
said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we
do?”
16 He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are
with us are more than those who are with them.”
17 Then Elisha prayed, “LORD, please open his
eyes so he may see.” The LORD opened the
servant's eyes, and he saw that the mountain
was full of horses and chariots of fire all around
Elisha.
18 When the Arameans came down toward

him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, “Please strike this people with blindness.” And he struck them with blindness according to Elisha’s word.

19 Elisha said to them, “This is not the road, and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are seeking.” And he led them to Samaria.

20 When they entered Samaria, Elisha said, “LORD, open these men’s eyes so they may see.” The LORD opened their eyes, and they saw that they were in the middle of Samaria.

21 When the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, “Shall I strike them down? Shall I strike them down, my father?”

22 He said, “Do not strike them down. Would you strike down those you have taken captive with your sword and bow? Set bread and water before them so they may eat and drink and return to their master.”

23 So he prepared a great feast for them. They ate and drank, and he sent them away. They returned to their master, and the Aramean raiding parties no longer came into the land of Israel.

24 Afterward, Ben-hadad king of Aram gathered his entire army, went up, and besieged Samaria.

25 There was a great famine in Samaria. The siege continued until a donkey's head sold for about two pounds of silver, and about a cup of dove’s dung for about two ounces of silver.

26 As the king of Israel was passing along the wall, a woman cried out to him, “Help me, my lord the king!”

27 He said, “If the LORD does not help you,
where can I get help for you? From the
threshing floor or the winepress?”
28 The king asked her, “What is wrong?” She
said, “This woman said to me, ‘Give up your son
so we can eat him today, and we will eat my son
tomorrow.’
29 So we boiled my son and ate him. The next
day I said to her, ‘Give up your son so we can eat
him,’ but she has hidden her son.”
30 When the king heard the woman’s words,
he tore his clothes. As he passed along the wall,
the people saw that he was wearing sackcloth
against his skin beneath his clothes.
31 He said, “May God do so to me, and more
also, if the head of Elisha son of Shaphat
remains on his shoulders today!”
32 Elisha was sitting in his house, and the
elders were sitting with him. The king sent a
man ahead of him, but before the messenger
reached him, Elisha said to the elders, “Do you
see how this son of a murderer has sent
someone to cut off my head? When the
messenger comes, shut the door and hold it
closed against him. Is not the sound of his
master’s footsteps behind him?”
33 While he was still speaking with them, the
messenger came down to him. He said, “This
disaster is from the LORD. Why should I wait for
the LORD any longer?”

7

1 Elisha said, “Hear the word of the LORD. This

is what the LORD says: About this time
tomorrow, about six and a half quarts of fine
flour will sell for one piece of silver, and about
thirteen quarts of barley for one piece of silver,
at the gate of Samaria."
2 The officer on whose arm the king leaned
answered the man of God, "Even if the LORD
made windows in heaven, could this happen?"
He said, "You will see it with your own eyes, but
you will not eat any of it."
3 Now four men with leprosy were at the
entrance of the gate. They said to one another,
"Why should we sit here until we die?
4 If we decide to enter the city, the famine is
there, and we will die there. If we stay here, we
will die too. So come, let us surrender to the
Aramean camp. If they spare our lives, we will
live; if they kill us, we will die."
5 So they got up at dusk to go to the Aramean
camp. When they reached the edge of the camp,
there was no one there.
6 For the Lord had caused the Aramean camp
to hear the sound of chariots, the sound of
horses, and the sound of a great army. They said
to one another, "The king of Israel has hired the
kings of the Hittites and the kings of Egypt to
attack us!"
7 So they got up and fled at dusk, abandoning
their tents, horses, and donkeys, leaving the
camp just as it was. They fled for their lives.
8 When these men with leprosy reached the
edge of the camp, they entered one tent and ate
and drank. They carried away silver, gold, and

clothing and went and hid them. Then they returned, entered another tent, carried things away, and went and hid them.

9 Then they said to one another, “What we are doing is not right. This is a day of good news, yet we are keeping silent. If we wait until morning light, punishment will overtake us. Come, let us go and tell the king’s household.”

10 So they went and called to the city gatekeeper and reported, “We came to the Aramean camp, and no one was there, not even the sound of a human voice. There were only horses tied up, donkeys tied up, and the tents just as they were.”

11 He called the gatekeepers, and they reported it inside the king’s house.

12 The king got up in the night and said to his servants, “Let me tell you what the Arameans have done to us. They know that we are hungry, so they have left the camp to hide in the open country, saying, ‘When they come out of the city, we will capture them alive and enter the city.’ ”

13 One of his servants answered, “Please let some men take five of the horses that are left in the city. Their fate is like that of all the people of Israel who remain here, like that of all the people of Israel who have perished. Let us send them and find out.”

14 So they took two chariots with horses, and the king sent them after the Aramean army, saying, “Go and see.”

15 They followed them as far as the Jordan. The whole road was full of clothing and

equipment the Arameans had thrown away in
their haste. The messengers returned and
reported to the king.
16 Then the people went out and plundered
the Aramean camp. About six and a half quarts
of fine flour sold for one piece of silver, and
about thirteen quarts of barley for one piece of
silver, according to the word of the LORD.
17 The king had put the officer on whose arm
he leaned in charge of the gate. The people
trampled him at the gate, and he died, just as the
man of God had said when the king came down
to him.
18 It happened just as the man of God had told
the king: “About thirteen quarts of barley for
one piece of silver, and about six and a half
quarts of fine flour for one piece of silver, will be
sold about this time tomorrow at the gate of
Samaria.”
19 The officer had answered the man of God,
“Even if the LORD made windows in heaven,
could such a thing happen?” And he had said,
“You will see it with your own eyes, but you will
not eat any of it.”
20 And so it happened to him: the people
trampled him at the gate, and he died.

8

1 Elisha had said to the woman whose son he
had restored to life, “Get up and go, you and
your household, and stay wherever you can. For
the LORD has called for a famine, and it will
come on the land for seven years.”

2 So the woman got up and did as the man of
God had said. She and her household went and
stayed in the land of the Philistines for seven
years.
3 At the end of the seven years, the woman
returned from the land of the Philistines and
went to appeal to the king for her house and her
field.
4 Now the king was speaking with Gehazi, the
servant of the man of God, saying, “Please tell
me all the great things Elisha has done.”
5 While he was telling the king how Elisha had
restored the dead to life, the woman whose son
he had restored to life came to appeal to the
king for her house and her field. Gehazi said,
“My lord the king, this is the woman, and this is
her son whom Elisha restored to life.”
6 The king questioned the woman, and she
told him. Then the king assigned an official to
her, saying, “Restore everything that belongs to
her, and all the produce of the field from the day
she left the land until now.”
7 Elisha came to Damascus while Ben-hadad
king of Aram was sick. The king was told, “The
man of God has come here.”
8 The king said to Hazael, “Take a gift with you
and go to meet the man of God. Inquire of the
LORD through him, asking, ‘Will I recover from
this illness?’ ”
9 So Hazael went to meet him, taking a gift of
every good thing of Damascus, as much as forty
camels could carry. He came and stood before
him and said, “Your son Ben-hadad king of Aram
has sent me to ask you, ‘Will I recover from this

illness?' "
10 Elisha said to him, "Go and tell him, 'You will
surely recover.' But the LORD has shown me
that he will surely die."
11 He fixed his gaze on him until he was
embarrassed. Then the man of God wept.
12 Hazael said, "Why is my lord weeping?" He
said, "Because I know the evil you will do to the
people of Israel. You will set their fortresses on
fire, kill their young men with the sword, dash
their little ones to pieces, and rip open their
pregnant women."
13 Hazael said, "What is your servant, a mere
dog, that he could do such a great thing?" Elisha
said, "The LORD has shown me that you will be
king over Aram."
14 Then he left Elisha and came to his master,
who asked him, "What did Elisha say to you?" He
said, "He told me that you will surely recover."
15 The next day Hazael took a thick cloth,
dipped it in water, and spread it over the king's
face, and he died. Hazael reigned in his place.
16 In the fifth year of Joram son of Ahab king
of Israel, while Jehoshaphat was king of Judah,
Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah
became king.
17 He was thirty-two years old when he
became king, and he reigned eight years in
Jerusalem.
18 He walked in the way of the kings of Israel,
as the house of Ahab had done, for Ahab's
daughter was his wife. He did evil in the sight of
the LORD.

19 Yet the LORD was not willing to destroy
Judah for the sake of his servant David, as he
had promised to give him a lamp for his sons
forever.
20 In his days Edom rebelled against Judah's
rule and set up a king over themselves.
21 Joram crossed over to Zair with all his
chariots. He rose at night and struck the
Edomites who had surrounded him, as well as
the chariot commanders. But the troops fled to
their tents.
22 So Edom has remained in rebellion against
Judah's rule to this day. Libnah also rebelled at
that time.
23 As for the rest of the acts of Joram and all
that he did, are they not written in the Book of
the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
24 Joram rested with his ancestors and was
buried with his ancestors in the City of David.
His son Ahaziah reigned in his place.

25 In the twelfth year of Joram son of Ahab
king of Israel, Ahaziah son of Jehoram king of
Judah became king.
26 Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he
became king, and he reigned one year in
Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athaliah,
daughter of Omri king of Israel.
27 He walked in the way of the house of Ahab
and did evil in the sight of the LORD, as the
house of Ahab had done, for he was a son-in-law
of Ahab's house.
28 He went with Joram son of Ahab to war
against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth-gilead,

and the Arameans wounded Joram.
29 King Joram returned to Jezreel to recover
from the wounds the Arameans had inflicted on
him at Ramah when he fought against Hazael
king of Aram. Ahaziah son of Jehoram king of
Judah went down to visit Joram son of Ahab in
Jezreel, because he was sick.

9

1 Elisha the prophet called one of the company
of prophets and said to him, “Tuck up your robe,
take this flask of oil in your hand, and go to
Ramoth-gilead.
2 When you arrive there, look for Jehu son of
Jehoshaphat, son of Nimshi. Go in, have him rise
from among his companions, and take him into
an inner room.
3 Then take the flask of oil, pour it on his head,
and say, ‘This is what the LORD says: I have
anointed you king over Israel.’ Then open the
door and flee. Do not wait.”
4 So the young man, the young prophet, went
to Ramoth-gilead.
5 When he arrived, the army commanders
were sitting together. He said, “I have a message
for you, commander.” Jehu said, “For which of
us?” He said, “For you, commander.”
6 Jehu got up and went into the house. The
young man poured the oil on his head and said
to him, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel,
says: I have anointed you king over the LORD’s
people, over Israel.

7 You are to strike down the house of Ahab
your master, and I will avenge on Jezebel the
blood of my servants the prophets and the blood
of all the LORD's servants.
8 The whole house of Ahab will perish. I will
cut off from Ahab every male in Israel, slave or
free.
9 I will make the house of Ahab like the house
of Jeroboam son of Nebat and like the house of
Baasha son of Ahijah.
10 The dogs will eat Jezebel in the territory of
Jezreel, and no one will bury her." Then he
opened the door and fled.
11 When Jehu came out to his master's
servants, one of them asked him, "Is all well?
Why did this madman come to you?" He said to
them, "You know the man and his way of
talking."
12 They said, "That is not true! Please tell us."
He said, "He told me this and that, saying, 'This is
what the LORD says: I have anointed you king
over Israel.' "
13 They quickly took their cloaks, each man his
own, and spread them under him on the steps
themselves. They blew the ram's horn and
proclaimed, "Jehu is king!"
14 So Jehu son of Jehoshaphat, son of Nimshi,
conspired against Joram. Now Joram and all
Israel had been defending Ramoth-gilead
against Hazael king of Aram.
15 But King Jehoram had returned to Jezreel to
recover from the wounds the Arameans had
inflicted on him when he fought against Hazael
king of Aram. Jehu said, "If you agree, let no one

escape from the city to go and report it in
Jezreel."
16 Then Jehu mounted his chariot and went to
Jezreel, for Joram was lying there. Ahaziah king
of Judah had also gone down to visit Joram.
17 The watchman standing on the tower in
Jezreel saw Jehu's company approaching and
said, "I see a company of men." Jehoram said,
"Take a horseman and send him to meet them.
Have him ask, 'Is it peace?' "
18 The horseman went to meet him and said,
"This is what the king asks: 'Is it peace?' " Jehu
said, "What have you to do with peace? Fall in
behind me." The watchman reported, "The
messenger has reached them, but he is not
returning."
19 Then he sent a second horseman, who came
to them and said, "This is what the king asks: 'Is
it peace?' " Jehu said, "What have you to do with
peace? Fall in behind me."
20 The watchman reported, "He has reached
them, but he is not returning. The driving is like
that of Jehu son of Nimshi, for he drives like a
madman."
21 Jehoram said, "Harness my chariot!" So they
harnessed his chariot, and Jehoram king of
Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah went out, each
in his own chariot, to meet Jehu. They met him
on the plot of Naboth the Jezreelite.
22 When Jehoram saw Jehu, he said, "Is it
peace, Jehu?" He said, "What peace can there be
as long as the acts of prostitution of your mother
Jezebel and her many sorceries continue?"

23 Jehoram turned his chariot around and fled,
saying to Ahaziah, “Treachery, Ahaziah!”
24 Jehu drew his bow with all his strength and
struck Jehoram between the shoulders. The
arrow went through his heart, and he slumped
down in his chariot.
25 Jehu said to his officer Bidkar, “Pick him up
and throw him onto the plot of Naboth the
Jezreelite’s field. Remember how you and I rode
together behind his father Ahab when the LORD
pronounced this oracle against him:
26 ‘I surely saw the blood of Naboth and the
blood of his sons yesterday, declares the LORD,
and I will repay you on this very plot, declares
the LORD.’ So now pick him up and throw him
onto the plot, according to the word of the
LORD.”
27 When Ahaziah king of Judah saw this, he
fled by the road to Beth-haggan. Jehu pursued
him and said, “Strike him too in his chariot, on
the ascent of Gur near Ibleam!” Ahaziah fled to
Megiddo and died there.
28 His servants carried him in a chariot to
Jerusalem and buried him in his tomb with his
ancestors in the City of David.

29 Ahaziah had become king over Judah in the
eleventh year of Joram son of Ahab.
30 When Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard
about it. She painted her eyes, arranged her
hair, and looked out of the window.
31 As Jehu entered the gate, she said, “Is it
peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?”
32 He looked up toward the window and said,

“Who is on my side? Who?” Two or three
eunuchs looked down at him.
33 He said, “Throw her down!” So they threw
her down, and some of her blood splashed on
the wall and on the horses. He trampled her
underfoot.
34 Then he went in and ate and drank. He said,
“Please see to this cursed woman and bury her,
for she is a king’s daughter.”
35 But when they went to bury her, they found
nothing of her except the skull, the feet, and the
palms of her hands.
36 They returned and told him. He said, “This is
the word of the LORD, which he spoke through
his servant Elijah the Tishbite: ‘In the territory
of Jezreel, the dogs will eat Jezebel’s flesh.
37 Jezebel’s body will be like dung on the
surface of the field in the territory of Jezreel, so
that no one will say, “This is Jezebel.” ’ ”

10

1 Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. Jehu
wrote letters and sent them to Samaria, to the
rulers of Jezreel, the elders, and those who were
raising Ahab’s sons, saying,
2 “When this letter reaches you, since your
master’s sons are with you, and you have
chariots, horses, a fortified city, and weapons,
3 choose the best and most suitable of your
master’s sons, place him on his father’s throne,
and fight for your master’s house.”

4 But they were greatly afraid and said, “Two
kings could not stand against him. How can we
stand?”
5 So the palace administrator, the city
governor, the elders, and the guardians sent
word to Jehu: “We are your servants and will do
everything you tell us. We will not make anyone
king. Do whatever seems good to you.”
6 He wrote them a second letter, saying, “If you
are on my side and will obey me, take the heads
of your master’s sons and come to me in Jezreel
about this time tomorrow.” Now the king’s
seventy sons were with the leading men of the
city, who were raising them.
7 When the letter reached them, they took the
king’s sons and slaughtered all seventy. They
put their heads in baskets and sent them to him
in Jezreel.
8 A messenger came and told him, “They have
brought the heads of the king’s sons.” He said,
“Put them in two heaps at the entrance of the
gate until morning.”
9 In the morning he went out, stood before all
the people, and said, “You are innocent. I
conspired against my master and killed him, but
who struck down all these?
10 Know, then, that nothing of the word of the
LORD, which the LORD spoke against the house
of Ahab, will fall to the ground. The LORD has
done what he spoke through his servant Elijah.”
11 Then Jehu struck down all who remained of
the house of Ahab in Jezreel, all his leading men,
his close associates, and his priests, until he left

him no survivor.
12 He set out and went toward Samaria. On
the way, at Beth-eked of the Shepherds,
13 Jehu met the brothers of Ahaziah king of
Judah and asked, “Who are you?” They said, “We
are Ahaziah’s brothers, and we have come down
to greet the sons of the king and the sons of the
queen mother.”
14 He said, “Take them alive!” So they took
them alive and slaughtered them at the cistern
of Beth-eked, forty-two men. He left none of
them alive.
15 When he left there, he met Jehonadab son of
Rechab coming to meet him. He greeted him and
said, “Is your heart true to mine, as my heart is
to yours?” Jehonadab said, “It is.” “If it is, give me
your hand.” So he gave him his hand, and Jehu
brought him up into the chariot with him.
16 He said, “Come with me and see my zeal for
the LORD.” So they had him ride in his chariot.
17 When he came to Samaria, he struck down
all who remained of Ahab in Samaria until he
had destroyed them, according to the word the
LORD had spoken to Elijah.
18 Then Jehu gathered all the people and said
to them, “Ahab served Baal a little; Jehu will
serve him much.
19 Now summon all the prophets of Baal, all
his worshipers, and all his priests to me. Let no
one be missing, for I have a great sacrifice to
offer to Baal. Anyone who is missing will not
live.” But Jehu was acting deceitfully to destroy
Baal’s worshipers.

20 Jehu said, “Consecrate a solemn assembly
for Baal.” So they proclaimed it.
21 Jehu sent word throughout Israel, and all
Baal’s worshipers came. Not one failed to come.
They entered the temple of Baal, and the temple
was filled from end to end.
22 He said to the keeper of the wardrobe,
“Bring out robes for all Baal’s worshipers.” So he
brought out robes for them.
23 Jehu and Jehonadab son of Rechab entered
the temple of Baal. He said to Baal’s worshipers,
“Search and make sure that no servants of the
LORD are here among you, but only worshipers
of Baal.”
24 Then they went in to offer sacrifices and
burnt offerings. Jehu had stationed eighty men
outside and said, “If any of the men I am placing
in your hands escapes, the one who lets him
escape will pay with his own life.”
25 When he had finished offering the burnt
offering, Jehu said to the guards and officers, “Go
in and strike them down. Let no one come out!”
So they struck them down with the edge of the
sword. The guards and officers threw the bodies
out and went on to the stronghold of Baal’s
temple.
26 They brought out the sacred pillars from the
temple of Baal and burned them.
27 They tore down Baal’s sacred pillar,
demolished the temple of Baal, and turned it
into latrines, as it remains to this day.
28 So Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel.
29 Nevertheless, Jehu did not turn away from

the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had
caused Israel to sin: the golden calves at Bethel
and Dan.
30 The LORD said to Jehu, “Because you have
done well in doing what is right in my sight, and
have done to the house of Ahab all that was in
my heart, your sons will sit on the throne of
Israel to the fourth generation.”
31 But Jehu was not careful to walk in the law
of the LORD, the God of Israel, with all his heart.
He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam,
who had caused Israel to sin.
32 In those days the LORD began to cut off
parts of Israel. Hazael struck them throughout
the territory of Israel:
33 east of the Jordan, all the land of Gilead, the
land of the Gadites, Reubenites, and Manassites,
from Aroer by the Arnon Valley, both Gilead and
Bashan.
34 As for the rest of the acts of Jehu, all that he
did, and all his might, are they not written in the
Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
35 Jehu rested with his ancestors, and they
buried him in Samaria. His son Jehoahaz
reigned in his place.
36 Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria for
twenty-eight years.

11

1 When Athaliah, Ahaziah’s mother, saw that
her son was dead, she rose up and destroyed all
the royal offspring.
2 But Jehosheba, daughter of King Joram and
sister of Ahaziah, took Joash son of Ahaziah and

stole him away from among the king's sons who
were being killed. She put him and his nurse in
a bedroom. They hid him from Athaliah, and he
was not killed.
3 He remained hidden with her in the house of
the LORD for six years, while Athaliah reigned
over the land.

4 In the seventh year, Jehoiada sent for the
commanders of hundreds of the Carians and the
guards and brought them to him in the house of
the LORD. He made a covenant with them, put
them under oath in the house of the LORD, and
showed them the king's son.
5 He commanded them, "This is what you are
to do: A third of you who come on duty on the
Sabbath are to keep watch over the king's
palace,
6 a third at the Sur Gate, and a third at the gate
behind the guards. Thus you will keep watch
over the palace for its defense.
7 The other two divisions of you, all who go off
duty on the Sabbath, are to keep watch over the
house of the LORD around the king.
8 Surround the king on every side, each man
with his weapons in his hand. Anyone who
enters the ranks is to be put to death. Stay with
the king when he goes out and when he comes
in."
9 The commanders of hundreds did everything
Jehoiada the priest commanded. Each took his
men, those coming on duty on the Sabbath along
with those going off duty, and came to Jehoiada
the priest.

10 The priest gave the commanders of
hundreds the spear and shields that had
belonged to King David and were in the house of
the LORD.
11 The guards stood, each man with his
weapons in his hand, from the right side of the
house to the left side, by the altar and the house,
all around the king.
12 Then Jehoiada brought out the king's son,
put the crown on him, and gave him the
Testimony. They made him king and anointed
him. They clapped their hands and said, "Long
live the king!"
13 When Athaliah heard the noise of the
guards and the people, she came to the people at
the house of the LORD.
14 She looked and saw the king standing by the
pillar, as was the custom, with the commanders
and trumpeters beside him. All the people of the
land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets.
Athaliah tore her clothes and cried out,
"Treason! Treason!"
15 Jehoiada the priest commanded the
commanders of hundreds who were in charge
of the army, "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."
16 So they seized her, and she went by the
horses' entrance to the king's palace. There she
was put to death.
17 Jehoiada made a covenant between the
LORD and the king and the people, that they

would be the LORD's people, and also between the king and the people.

18 Then all the people of the land went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They thoroughly smashed its altars and images and killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. The priest appointed overseers for the house of the LORD.

19 He took the commanders of hundreds, the Carians, the guards, and all the people of the land, and they brought the king down from the house of the LORD. They entered the king's palace through the Gate of the Guards, and he sat on the throne of the kings.

20 All the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet, for they had put Athaliah to death with the sword at the king's palace.

21 Jehoash was seven years old when he became king.

12

1 In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba.

2 Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days that Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

3 Yet the high places were not removed. The people still sacrificed and burned incense at the high places.

4 Jehoash said to the priests, "All the money from the consecrated offerings brought into the house of the LORD—the census money, the

money from each person's assessed value, and
all the money anyone is moved in his heart to
bring to the house of the LORD—
5 the priests are to receive, each from his own
acquaintances. They are to repair the damage to
the house wherever damage is found."

6 But by the twenty-third year of King Jehoash,
the priests had not repaired the damage to the
house.
7 So King Jehoash summoned Jehoiada the
priest and the other priests and said to them,
"Why are you not repairing the damage to the
house? Now stop taking money from your
acquaintances, but hand it over for repairing
the house."
8 The priests agreed that they would no longer
take money from the people and would no
longer be responsible for repairing the damage
to the house.
9 Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest, bored
a hole in its lid, and placed it beside the altar, on
the right as one enters the house of the LORD.
The priests who guarded the threshold put into
it all the money brought into the house of the
LORD.
10 Whenever they saw that there was a large
amount of money in the chest, the king's
secretary and the high priest came up, bagged it,
and counted the money found in the house of
the LORD.
11 They handed over the weighed money to the
men appointed to oversee the work on the house
of the LORD. These paid it out to the carpenters

and builders working on the house of the LORD,
12 to the masons and stonecutters, and to buy
timber and cut stone to repair the damage to the
house of the LORD, and for every expense of
repairing the house.
13 But the money brought into the house of the
LORD was not used to make silver bowls, wick
trimmers, basins, trumpets, or any gold or silver
articles for the house of the LORD.
14 Instead, they gave it to the workers, who
used it to repair the house of the LORD.
15 They did not require an accounting from
the men into whose hands they put the money
to pay the workers, for they dealt faithfully.
16 The money from guilt offerings and sin
offerings was not brought into the house of the
LORD. It belonged to the priests.
17 At that time Hazael king of Aram went up,
fought against Gath, and captured it. Then
Hazael set his face to go up against Jerusalem.
18 Jehoash king of Judah took all the things
that his ancestors Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, and
Ahaziah, kings of Judah, had consecrated, along
with his own consecrated things and all the gold
found in the treasuries of the house of the LORD
and the king's palace. He sent them to Hazael
king of Aram, who withdrew from Jerusalem.
19 As for the rest of the acts of Joash and all
that he did, are they not written in the Book of
the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
20 His servants rose up, formed a conspiracy,
and struck Joash down at Beth-millo, on the
descent to Silla.

21 His servants Jozabad son of Shimeath and
Jehozabad son of Shomer struck him, and he
died. They buried him with his ancestors in the
City of David, and his son Amaziah reigned in
his place.

13

1 In the twenty-third year of Joash son of
Ahaziah king of Judah, Jehoahaz son of Jehu
became king over Israel in Samaria, and he
reigned seventeen years.
2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD and
followed the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, who
had caused Israel to sin. He did not turn away
from them.
3 So the anger of the LORD burned against
Israel, and he delivered them into the hand of
Hazael king of Aram and into the hand of
Ben-hadad son of Hazael throughout that time.
4 But Jehoahaz pleaded with the LORD, and
the LORD listened to him, for he saw Israel's
oppression, how the king of Aram was
oppressing them.
5 The LORD gave Israel a deliverer, and they
escaped from Aram's rule. The people of Israel
lived in their tents as before.
6 Nevertheless, they did not turn away from
the sins of the house of Jeroboam, who had
caused Israel to sin, but continued in them. The
Asherah pole also remained standing in
Samaria.
7 No more than fifty horsemen, ten chariots,
and ten thousand foot soldiers were left to

Jehoahaz, for the king of Aram had destroyed
them and made them like dust at threshing.
8 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz, all that
he did, and his might, are they not written in the
Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
9 Jehoahaz rested with his ancestors, and they
buried him in Samaria. His son Joash reigned in
his place.

10 In the thirty-seventh year of Joash king of
Judah, Jehoash son of Jehoahaz became king
over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned sixteen
years.
11 He did evil in the sight of the LORD. He did
not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam
son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to sin, but
continued in them.
12 As for the rest of the acts of Joash, all that he
did, and the might with which he fought against
Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in
the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
13 Joash rested with his ancestors, and
Jeroboam sat on his throne. Joash was buried in
Samaria with the kings of Israel.

14 Now Elisha had become sick with the illness
from which he would die. Joash king of Israel
came down to him and wept over him, saying,
“My father, my father! The chariot of Israel and
its horsemen!”
15 Elisha said to him, “Take a bow and arrows.”
So he took a bow and arrows.
16 Then he said to the king of Israel, “Put your
hand on the bow.” So he put his hand on it, and
Elisha placed his hands over the king’s hands.

17 He said, “Open the window toward the east.”
So he opened it. Elisha said, “Shoot!” And he
shot. Then he said, “The LORD’s arrow of victory,
an arrow of victory over Aram! You will strike
Aram at Aphek until you have destroyed them.”
18 Then he said, “Take the arrows.” So he took
them. He said to the king of Israel, “Strike the
ground.” He struck it three times and stopped.
19 The man of God was angry with him and
said, “You should have struck five or six times.
Then you would have struck Aram until you had
destroyed them. But now you will strike Aram
only three times.”
20 Elisha died, and they buried him. Moabite
raiding parties used to enter the land at the turn
of the year.
21 Once, while some men were burying a man,
they saw a raiding party. They threw the man
into Elisha’s tomb. When the man came into
contact with Elisha’s bones, he came to life and
stood on his feet.
22 Now Hazael king of Aram had oppressed
Israel all the days of Jehoahaz.
23 But the LORD was gracious to them, had
compassion on them, and turned toward them
because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac,
and Jacob. He was not willing to destroy them,
and he had not cast them out of his presence up
to that time.
24 Hazael king of Aram died, and his son
Ben-hadad reigned in his place.
25 Jehoash son of Jehoahaz recovered from
Ben-hadad son of Hazael the cities that had been

taken in war from his father Jehoahaz. Joash
defeated him three times and recovered the
cities of Israel.

14

1 In the second year of Joash son of Joahaz
king of Israel, Amaziah son of Joash king of
Judah became king.
2 He 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.
3 He did what was right in the sight of the
LORD, though not like his ancestor David. He
did everything as his father Joash had done.
4 Yet the high places were not removed. The
people still sacrificed and burned incense at the
high places.
5 When the kingdom was firmly in his hand,
he struck down the servants who had killed his
father the king.
6 But he did not put the murderers' sons to
death, according to what is written in the Book
of the Law of Moses, where the LORD
commanded: "Fathers shall not be put to death
for their children, and children shall not be put
to death for their fathers. Each person shall be
put to death for his own sin."
7 He struck down ten thousand Edomites in
the Valley of Salt and captured Sela in battle. He
called it Joktheel, its name to this day.

8 Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash
son of Jehoahaz, son of Jehu, king of Israel,
saying, “Come, let us face one another.”
9 Jehoash king of Israel sent word to Amaziah
king of Judah: “The thistle in Lebanon sent word
to the cedar in Lebanon, saying, ‘Give your
daughter to my son as a wife.’ But a wild animal
in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thistle.
10 You have indeed struck down Edom, and
your heart has lifted you up. Enjoy your glory
and stay at home. Why stir up trouble and fall,
you and Judah with you?”
11 But Amaziah would not listen. So Jehoash
king of Israel went up, and he and Amaziah king
of Judah faced one another at Beth-shemesh in
Judah.
12 Judah was defeated by Israel, and each man
fled to his tents.
13 Jehoash king of Israel captured Amaziah
king of Judah, son of Jehoash, son of Ahaziah, at
Beth-shemesh. He came to Jerusalem and broke
down about 600 feet of Jerusalem’s wall, from
the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate.
14 He took all the gold and silver and all the
articles found in the house of the LORD and in
the treasuries of the king’s palace, along with
hostages, and returned to Samaria.
15 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoash, what
he did, his might, and how he fought against
Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in
the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
16 Jehoash rested with his ancestors and was
buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. His

son Jeroboam reigned in his place.

17 Amaziah son of Joash king of Judah lived
fifteen years after the death of Jehoash son of
Jehoahaz king of Israel.

18 As for the rest of the acts of Amaziah, are
they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of
the Kings of Judah?

19 They formed a conspiracy against him in
Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish. But they sent
men after him to Lachish and put him to death
there.

20 They brought him back on horses, and he
was buried in Jerusalem with his ancestors in
the City of David.

21 Then all the people of Judah took Azariah,
who was sixteen years old, and made him king
in place of his father Amaziah.

22 He rebuilt Elath and restored it to Judah
after the king had rested with his ancestors.

23 In the fifteenth year of Amaziah son of
Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam son of Joash king
of Israel became king in Samaria, and he
reigned forty-one years.

24 He did evil in the sight of the LORD. He did
not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam
son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to sin.

25 He restored Israel's border from the
entrance to Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah,
according to the word of the LORD, the God of
Israel, which he spoke through his servant Jonah
son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath-hepher.

26 For the LORD saw that Israel's affliction was
very bitter. There was no one left, slave or free,

and no one to help Israel.
27 The LORD had not said that he would blot
out Israel's name from under heaven, so he
saved them through Jeroboam son of Joash.
28 As for the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, all
that he did, his might in war, and how he
recovered for Israel Damascus and Hamath,
which had belonged to Judah, are they not
written in the Book of the Chronicles of the
Kings of Israel?
29 Jeroboam rested with his ancestors, the
kings of Israel, and his son Zechariah reigned in
his place.

15

1 In the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam king
of Israel, Azariah son of Amaziah king of Judah
became king.
2 He was sixteen years old when he became
king, and he reigned fifty-two years in
Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecoliah of
Jerusalem.
3 He did what was right in the sight of the
LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah
had done.
4 Yet the high places were not removed. The
people still sacrificed and burned incense at the
high places.
5 The LORD struck the king, and he had
leprosy until the day of his death. He lived in a
separate house, while Jotham the king's son was
in charge of the palace and governed the people
of the land.

6 As for the rest of the acts of Azariah and all
that he did, are they not written in the Book of
the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
7 Azariah rested with his ancestors, and they
buried him with his ancestors in the City of
David. His son Jotham reigned in his place.

8 In the thirty-eighth year of Azariah king of
Judah, Zechariah son of Jeroboam became king
over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned six
months.
9 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his
ancestors had done. He did not turn away from
the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had
caused Israel to sin.
10 Shallum son of Jabesh conspired against
him, struck him down before the people, killed
him, and reigned in his place.
11 As for the rest of the acts of Zechariah, they
are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the
Kings of Israel.
12 This was the word the LORD had spoken to
Jehu: “Your sons will sit on the throne of Israel
to the fourth generation.” And so it happened.

13 Shallum son of Jabesh became king in the
thirty-ninth year of Uzziah king of Judah, and he
reigned a full month in Samaria.
14 Menahem son of Gadi came up from Tirzah
and entered Samaria. He struck down Shallum
son of Jabesh in Samaria, killed him, and
reigned in his place.
15 As for the rest of the acts of Shallum and the
conspiracy he formed, they are written in the
Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

16 At that time Menahem attacked Tiphsah, all
who were in it, and its territory from Tirzah. He
attacked it because they had not opened its gates
to him, and he ripped open all its pregnant
women.
17 In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah king of
Judah, Menahem son of Gadi became king over
Israel in Samaria, and he reigned ten years.
18 He did evil in the sight of the LORD. All his
days he did not turn away from the sins of
Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to
sin.
19 Pul king of Assyria invaded the land, and
Menahem gave Pul about thirty-seven tons of
silver to gain his support and strengthen his
hold on the kingdom.
20 Menahem exacted the silver from Israel,
from all the wealthy men, to give to the king of
Assyria: about twenty ounces of silver from
each man. So the king of Assyria withdrew and
did not remain in the land.
21 As for the rest of the acts of Menahem and
all that he did, are they not written in the Book
of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
22 Menahem rested with his ancestors, and his
son Pekahiah reigned in his place.
23 In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah,
Pekahiah son of Menahem became king over
Israel in Samaria, and he reigned two years.
24 He did evil in the sight of the LORD. He did
not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of
Nebat, who had caused Israel to sin.
25 His officer Pekah son of Remaliah conspired
against him and struck him down in Samaria, in

the citadel of the king's palace, along with Argob
and Arieh. Fifty men of Gilead were with Pekah.
He killed Pekahiah and reigned in his place.
26 As for the rest of the acts of Pekahiah and
all that he did, they are written in the Book of
the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

27 In the fifty-second year of Azariah king of
Judah, Pekah son of Remaliah became king over
Israel in Samaria, and he reigned twenty years.
28 He did evil in the sight of the LORD. He did
not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of
Nebat, who had caused Israel to sin.
29 In the days of Pekah king of Israel,
Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came and
captured Ijon, Abel-beth-maacah, Janoah,
Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land
of Naphtali. He carried the people into exile to
Assyria.
30 Hoshea son of Elah formed a conspiracy
against Pekah son of Remaliah, struck him
down, killed him, and reigned in his place, in
the twentieth year of Jotham son of Uzziah.
31 As for the rest of the acts of Pekah and all
that he did, they are written in the Book of the
Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

32 In the second year of Pekah son of Remaliah
king of Israel, Jotham son of Uzziah king of
Judah became king.
33 He was twenty-five years old when he
became king, and he reigned sixteen years in
Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jerusha,
daughter of Zadok.

34 He did what was right in the sight of the
LORD. He did everything as his father Uzziah
had done.
35 Yet the high places were not removed. The
people still sacrificed and burned incense at the
high places. He built the Upper Gate of the
house of the LORD.
36 As for the rest of the acts of Jotham and
what he did, are they not written in the Book of
the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
37 In those days the LORD began to send Rezin
king of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah against
Judah.
38 Jotham rested with his ancestors and was
buried with his ancestors in the city of his
ancestor David. His son Ahaz reigned in his
place.

16

1 In the seventeenth year of Pekah son of
Remaliah, Ahaz son of Jotham king of Judah
became king.
2 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 sight of the
LORD his God, as his ancestor David had done.
3 He walked in the way of the kings of Israel
and even made his son pass through the fire,
following the detestable practices of the nations
the LORD had driven out before the people of
Israel.
4 He sacrificed and burned incense at the high
places, on the hills, and under every green tree.

5 Then Rezin king of Aram and Pekah son of
Remaliah king of Israel went up to Jerusalem for
war. They besieged Ahaz but could not
overcome him.
6 At that time Rezin king of Aram recovered
Elath for Aram and drove the Judeans out of
Elath. Edomites came to Elath and have lived
there to this day.

7 Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser king
of Assyria, saying, “I am your servant and your
son. Come up and save me from the hand of the
king of Aram and the hand of the king of Israel,
who are rising against me.”
8 Ahaz took the silver and gold found in the
house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the
king's palace and sent them as a bribe to the
king of Assyria.
9 The king of Assyria listened to him. He went
up against Damascus, captured it, carried its
people into exile to Kir, and put Rezin to death.
10 King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet
Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria. When he saw the
altar in Damascus, King Ahaz sent Uriah the
priest a likeness of the altar and a plan with all
the details of its construction.
11 Uriah the priest built the altar according to
everything King Ahaz had sent from Damascus.
He completed it before King Ahaz returned from
Damascus.
12 When the king returned from Damascus, he
saw the altar, approached it, and went up on it.
13 He burned his burnt offering and his grain
offering, poured out his drink offering, and

splashed the blood of his peace offerings against
the altar.
14 He moved the bronze altar that stood before
the LORD from the front of the house, from
between the new altar and the house of the
LORD, and placed it on the north side of the new
altar.
15 King Ahaz commanded Uriah the priest, “On
the great altar burn the morning burnt offering,
the evening grain offering, the king's burnt
offering and grain offering, and the burnt
offerings of all the people of the land with their
grain offerings and drink offerings. Splash all
the blood of the burnt offerings and sacrifices
against it. I will use the bronze altar for inquiry.”
16 Uriah the priest did everything King Ahaz
commanded.
17 King Ahaz cut off the panels of the stands
and removed the basins from them. He also
took down the Sea from the bronze oxen
beneath it and placed it on a stone pavement.
18 Because of the king of Assyria, he altered
the covered Sabbath structure they had built at
the house, along with the king's outer entrance
at the house of the LORD.
19 As for the rest of the acts of Ahaz and what
he did, are they not written in the Book of the
Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
20 Ahaz rested with his ancestors and was
buried with his ancestors in the City of David.
His son Hezekiah reigned in his place.

17

1 In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah,

Hoshea son of Elah became king over Israel in
Samaria, and he reigned nine years.
2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, though
not like the kings of Israel who had been before
him.
3 Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against
him, and Hoshea became his servant and paid
him tribute.
4 But the king of Assyria discovered a
conspiracy by Hoshea, for he had sent
messengers to So king of Egypt and had stopped
bringing tribute to the king of Assyria as he had
done year after year. So the king of Assyria
arrested him and bound him in prison.
5 The king of Assyria invaded the whole land,
came up against Samaria, and besieged it for
three years.
6 In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of
Assyria captured Samaria and carried Israel into
exile to Assyria. He settled them in Halah, along
the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of
the Medes.
7 This happened because the people of Israel
had sinned against the LORD their God, who had
brought them up from the land of Egypt, from
under the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They
had feared other gods
8 and followed the customs of the nations the
LORD had driven out before the people of Israel,
and the customs the kings of Israel had
established.
9 The people of Israel secretly did things that
were not right against the LORD their God. They

built high places for themselves in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city.
10 They set up sacred pillars and Asherah poles for themselves on every high hill and under every green tree.
11 There they burned incense at all the high places, like the nations the LORD had driven out before them. They did evil things, provoking the LORD to anger.
12 They served idols, though the LORD had told them, “You must not do this.”
13 The LORD warned Israel and Judah through every prophet and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and statutes, according to all the law I commanded your ancestors and sent to you through my servants the prophets.”
14 But they would not listen. They stiffened their necks like their ancestors, who did not trust in the LORD their God.
15 They rejected his statutes, the covenant he had made with their ancestors, and the warnings he had given them. They went after what was worthless and became worthless. They followed the nations around them, whom the LORD had commanded them not to imitate.
16 They abandoned all the commandments of the LORD their God and made cast-metal images for themselves, two calves, and an Asherah pole. They bowed down to all the host of heaven and served Baal.
17 They made their sons and daughters pass through the fire, practiced divination and

sought omens, and sold themselves to do evil in
the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger.
18 So the LORD was very angry with Israel and
removed them from his presence. Only the tribe
of Judah remained.
19 Yet Judah also did not keep the
commandments of the LORD their God, but
followed the customs Israel had established.
20 The LORD rejected all the descendants of
Israel, afflicted them, and delivered them into
the hands of plunderers until he cast them out
of his presence.
21 For he had torn Israel away from the house
of David, and they had made Jeroboam son of
Nebat king. Jeroboam drove Israel away from
following the LORD and made them commit a
great sin.
22 The people of Israel continued in all the sins
Jeroboam had committed and did not turn away
from them,
23 until the LORD removed Israel from his
presence, as he had spoken through all his
servants the prophets. So Israel was carried into
exile from its own land to Assyria, where they
remain to this day.
24 The king of Assyria brought people from
Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and
Sepharvaim and settled them in the cities of
Samaria in place of the people of Israel. They
took possession of Samaria and lived in its cities.
25 When they first settled there, they did not
fear the LORD. So the LORD sent lions among
them, which killed some of them.

26 The king of Assyria was told, “The nations
you deported and settled in the cities of Samaria
do not know the requirements of the God of the
land. He has sent lions among them, and they
are killing them because they do not know the
requirements of the God of the land.”
27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, “Take
back there one of the priests you exiled from
there. Let them go and settle there, and let him
teach them the requirements of the God of the
land.”
28 So one of the priests who had been exiled
from Samaria came and settled in Bethel. He
taught them how to fear the LORD.
29 But each nation made its own gods and put
them in the shrines of the high places the
Samaritans had built, each nation in the cities
where it lived.
30 The people of Babylon made
Succoth-benoth, the people of Cuth made Nergal,
and the people of Hamath made Ashima.
31 The Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and
the Sepharvites burned their sons in the fire to
Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of
Sepharvaim.
32 They also feared the LORD and appointed
from among themselves priests of the high
places, who officiated for them in the shrines of
the high places.
33 They feared the LORD, but served their own
gods according to the customs of the nations
from which they had been deported.
34 To this day they continue their former

customs. They do not fear the LORD, nor do they
act according to their statutes and ordinances, or
the law and commandment the LORD gave the
descendants of Jacob, whom he named Israel.
35 The LORD had made a covenant with them
and commanded them, “You shall not fear other
gods, bow down to them, serve them, or
sacrifice to them.
36 But the LORD, who brought you up from the
land of Egypt with great power and an
outstretched arm—him you shall fear, to him
you shall bow down, and to him you shall
sacrifice.
37 You must always be careful to carry out the
statutes, ordinances, law, and commandment he
wrote for you. You shall not fear other gods.
38 You shall not forget the covenant I made
with you, and you shall not fear other gods.
39 But you shall fear the LORD your God, and
he will deliver you from the hand of all your
enemies.”
40 But they would not listen and continued to
practice their former customs.
41 So these nations feared the LORD and also
served their carved images. Their children and
their children’s children continue to do as their
ancestors did, to this day.

18

1 In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king
of Israel, Hezekiah son of Ahaz king of Judah
became king.
2 He was twenty-five years old when he
became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years

in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi,
daughter of Zechariah.
3 He did what was right in the sight of the
LORD, according to all that his ancestor David
had done.
4 He removed the high places, smashed the
sacred pillars, and cut down the Asherah pole.
He broke in pieces the bronze serpent Moses
had made, for until that time the people of Israel
had been burning incense to it. He called it
Nehushtan.
5 He trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel.
There was no one like him among all the kings
of Judah, either after him or before him.
6 He held fast to the LORD and did not turn
away from following him. He kept the
commandments the LORD had commanded
Moses.
7 The LORD was with him, and he succeeded
wherever he went. He rebelled against the king
of Assyria and did not serve him.
8 He struck the Philistines as far as Gaza and
its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.

9 In the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which
was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king
of Israel, Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up
against Samaria and besieged it.
10 They captured it at the end of three years.
Samaria was captured in the sixth year of
Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of Hoshea
king of Israel.
11 The king of Assyria carried Israel into exile
to Assyria and settled them in Halah, along the

Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.
12 This was because they had not obeyed the
voice of the LORD their God, but had broken his
covenant, all that Moses the servant of the LORD
had commanded. They neither listened nor
obeyed.

13 In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah,
Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all
the fortified cities of Judah and captured them.
14 Hezekiah king of Judah sent word to the
king of Assyria at Lachish: “I have done wrong.
Withdraw from me, and I will bear whatever
you impose on me.” The king of Assyria imposed
on Hezekiah king of Judah about eleven tons of
silver and about one ton of gold.
15 Hezekiah gave him all the silver found in
the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of
the king’s palace.
16 At that time Hezekiah stripped the gold
from the doors of the LORD’s temple and from
the doorposts that Hezekiah king of Judah had
overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.

17 The king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the
Rab-saris, and the Rab-shakeh from Lachish
with a large army to King Hezekiah at
Jerusalem. They went up and came to
Jerusalem. When they had gone up and arrived,
they stood by the conduit of the Upper Pool, on
the road to the Washer’s Field.
18 They called for the king, and Eliakim son of
Hilkiah, who was in charge of the palace, came
out to them, along with Shebna the secretary

and Joah son of Asaph the recorder.
19 The Rab-shakeh said to them, “Please tell
Hezekiah: This is what the great king, the king
of Assyria, says: What is this confidence on
which you rely?
20 You say you have strategy and strength for
war, but these are only words. On whom do you
now rely, that you have rebelled against me?
21 Look, you are relying on Egypt, that
splintered reed of a staff. If a man leans on it, it
goes into his hand and pierces it. So is Pharaoh
king of Egypt to all who rely on him.
22 But if you say to me, ‘We trust in the LORD
our God,’ is he not the one whose high places
and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to
Judah and Jerusalem, ‘You shall bow down
before this altar in Jerusalem’?
23 Now make a wager with my master, the king
of Assyria. I will give you two thousand horses if
you can find riders for them.
24 How, then, can you turn back a single
governor among the least of my master’s
servants, when you rely on Egypt for chariots
and horsemen?
25 Have I now come up against this place to
destroy it without the LORD? The LORD said to
me, ‘Go up against this land and destroy it.’ ”
26 Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah, Shebna, and
Joah said to the Rab-shakeh, “Please speak to
your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it.
Do not speak to us in the language of Judah
within the hearing of the people on the wall.”
27 But the Rab-shakeh said to them, “Has my

master sent me to speak these words only to your master and to you? Has he not sent me to the men sitting on the wall, who will have to eat their own excrement and drink their own urine with you?"

28 Then the Rab-shakeh stood and called out loudly in the language of Judah, saying, "Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria!

29 This is what the king says: Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he cannot deliver you from his hand.

30 Do not let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, 'The LORD will surely deliver us, and this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.'

31 Do not listen to Hezekiah, for this is what the king of Assyria says: Make peace with me and come out to me. Then each of you may eat from his own vine and fig tree and drink water from his own cistern,

32 until I come and take you to a land like your own, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive oil and honey, so that you may live and not die. Do not listen to Hezekiah when he misleads you by saying, 'The LORD will deliver us.'

33 Has any of the gods of the nations delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria?

34 Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah? Have they delivered Samaria from my hand?

35 Who among all the gods of these lands has

delivered his land from my hand, that the LORD
should deliver Jerusalem from my hand?"
36 But the people kept silent and did not
answer him a word, for the king had
commanded, "Do not answer him."
37 Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah, who was in
charge of the palace, Shebna the secretary, and
Joah son of Asaph the recorder came to
Hezekiah with their clothes torn and reported to
him the words of the Rab-shakeh.

19

1 When King Hezekiah heard this, he tore his
clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and
went into the house of the LORD.
2 He sent Eliakim, who was in charge of the
palace, Shebna the secretary, and the senior
priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet
Isaiah son of Amoz.
3 They said to him, "This is what Hezekiah
says: This day is a day of distress, rebuke, and
disgrace. Children have reached the moment of
birth, but there is no strength to deliver them.
4 Perhaps the LORD your God will hear all the
words of the Rab-shakeh, whom his master, the
king of Assyria, has sent to insult the living God,
and will rebuke him for the words the LORD
your God has heard. So lift up a prayer for the
remnant that is left."
5 When the servants of King Hezekiah came to
Isaiah,
6 Isaiah said to them, "Tell your master: This is
what the LORD says: Do not be afraid of the

words you have heard, with which the servants
of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me.
7 Look, I will put a spirit within him, and he
will hear a report and return to his own land. I
will make him fall by the sword in his own land."
8 The Rab-shakeh returned and found the king
of Assyria fighting against Libnah, for he had
heard that the king had left Lachish.
9 The king heard this about Tirhakah king of
Cush: "He has come out to fight against you." So
he again sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,
10 "Tell Hezekiah king of Judah: Do not let your
God, in whom you trust, deceive you by saying,
'Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the
king of Assyria.'
11 You have heard what the kings of Assyria
have done to all the lands, devoting them to
destruction. And will you be delivered?
12 Did the gods of the nations my ancestors
destroyed deliver them—Gozan, Haran, Rezeph,
and the people of Eden who were in Telassar?
13 Where are the king of Hamath, the king of
Arpad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, of
Hena and Ivvah?"
14 Hezekiah received the letters from the
messengers and read them. Then Hezekiah
went up to the house of the LORD and spread
them out before the LORD.
15 Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said,
"LORD, God of Israel, enthroned above the
cherubim, you alone are God over all the
kingdoms of the earth. You made the heavens
and the earth.

16 Incline your ear, LORD, and hear. Open your
eyes, LORD, and see. Hear the words
Sennacherib has sent to insult the living God.
17 It is true, LORD, that the kings of Assyria
have laid waste the nations and their lands
18 and thrown their gods into the fire. For they
were not gods, but the work of human hands,
wood and stone. So they destroyed them.
19 Now, LORD our God, please save us from his
hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may
know that you alone, LORD, are God."
20 Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent word to
Hezekiah: "This is what the LORD, the God of
Israel, says: I have heard your prayer to me
concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria.
21 This is the word the LORD has spoken
against him:

The virgin daughter of Zion despises you and
mocks you.
The daughter of Jerusalem shakes her head
behind you.
22 Whom have you insulted and blasphemed?
Against whom have you raised your voice
and lifted your eyes in pride?
Against the Holy One of Israel!
23 Through your messengers you have insulted
the Lord and said, 'With my many
chariots I have climbed the heights of the
mountains, the farthest reaches of
Lebanon.
I will cut down its tallest cedars and its
choicest cypresses.
I will enter its farthest retreat, its lush forest.

24 I have dug wells and drunk foreign waters.
With the soles of my feet I have dried up all
the streams of Egypt.'

25 Have you not heard?
Long ago I did it;
in days of old I planned it.
Now I have brought it about, that you should
turn fortified cities into heaps of ruins.

26 Their inhabitants were powerless, dismayed
and ashamed.
They were like grass in the field, like tender
green plants, like grass on rooftops, like
grain scorched before it grows up.

27 But I know your sitting down, your going out
and your coming in, and your raging
against me.

28 Because your raging against me and your
arrogance have reached my ears, I will
put my hook in your nose and my bit in
your lips, and I will turn you back by the
way you came.

29 This will be the sign for you: This year you will eat what grows on its own, and in the second year what springs from that. In the third year, sow and reap, plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
30 The surviving remnant of the house of Judah will again take root below and bear fruit above.
31 For a remnant will go out from Jerusalem, and survivors from Mount Zion. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

32 Therefore this is what the LORD says
concerning the king of Assyria: He will not enter
this city or shoot an arrow there. He will not
approach it with a shield or build up a siege
ramp against it.
33 He will return by the way he came, and he
will not enter this city, declares the LORD.
34 I will defend this city to save it, for my own
sake and for the sake of my servant David."
35 That night the angel of the LORD went out
and struck down 185,000 in the Assyrian camp.
When people rose early in the morning, there
they were—all dead bodies.
36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp,
departed, and returned to Nineveh, where he
stayed.
37 While he was bowing down in the temple of
his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and
Sharezer struck him down with the sword. They
escaped to the land of Ararat, and his son
Esarhaddon reigned in his place.

20

1 In those days Hezekiah became sick and was
near death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz
came to him and said, "This is what the LORD
says: Set your house in order, for you will die;
you will not live."
2 Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall
and prayed to the LORD, saying,
3 "Please, LORD, remember how I have walked
before you faithfully and with a whole heart,

and have done what is good in your sight." And
Hezekiah wept bitterly.

4 Before Isaiah had left the middle court, the
word of the LORD came to him, saying,
5 "Go back and tell Hezekiah, the ruler of my
people: This is what the LORD, the God of your
ancestor David, says: I have heard your prayer; I
have seen your tears. Look, I will heal you. On
the third day you will go up to the house of the
LORD.
6 I will add fifteen years to your life. I will
deliver you and this city from the hand of the
king of Assyria, and I will defend this city for my
own sake and for the sake of my servant David."
7 Isaiah said, "Take a cake of pressed figs."
They took it and laid it on the boil, and he
recovered.
8 Hezekiah had asked Isaiah, "What will be the
sign that the LORD will heal me and that I will go
up to the house of the LORD on the third day?"
9 Isaiah said, "This will be the sign for you
from the LORD that the LORD will do what he
has said: Shall the shadow advance ten steps or
go back ten steps?"
10 Hezekiah said, "It is easy for the shadow to
go forward ten steps. No, let the shadow go
backward ten steps."
11 Then Isaiah the prophet called to the LORD,
and he made the shadow go backward ten steps
on the steps of Ahaz, where it had gone down.

12 At that time Berodach-baladan son of
Baladan king of Babylon sent letters and a gift to

Hezekiah, for he had heard that Hezekiah had
been sick.
13 Hezekiah listened to them and showed them
his entire treasury: the silver, the gold, the
spices, the fine oil, his armory, and everything
found in his storehouses. There was nothing in
his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah
did not show them.
14 Then Isaiah the prophet came to King
Hezekiah and asked him, “What did these men
say, and where did they come from?” Hezekiah
said, “They came from a distant land, from
Babylon.”
15 He asked, “What did they see in your
house?” Hezekiah said, “They saw everything in
my house. There was nothing in my storehouses
that I did not show them.”
16 Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of
the LORD:
17 The days are coming when everything in
your house, and everything your ancestors have
stored up to this day, will be carried to Babylon.
Nothing will be left, says the LORD.
18 Some of your sons who will come from you,
whom you will father, will be taken away and
will be eunuchs in the palace of the king of
Babylon.”
19 Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “The word of the
LORD you have spoken is good.” Then he said,
“Is it not good if there is peace and security in
my days?”
20 As for the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, all his
might, and how he made the pool and the
conduit and brought water into the city, are they

not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
21 Hezekiah rested with his ancestors, and his son Manasseh reigned in his place.

21

1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hephzibah.
2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, following the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the people of Israel.
3 He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had destroyed. He raised altars for Baal and made an Asherah pole, as Ahab king of Israel had done. 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, "In Jerusalem I will put my name."
5 He built altars to all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.
6 He made his son pass through the fire, practiced sorcery and sought omens, and used mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger.
7 He placed the carved image of Asherah he had made in the house of which the LORD had said to David and his son Solomon, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my name forever.
8 I will no longer make Israel's feet wander from the land I gave their ancestors, if only they are careful to do everything I commanded them

and to follow all the law my servant Moses
commanded them."
9 But they did not listen. Manasseh led them
astray to do more evil than the nations the LORD
had destroyed before the people of Israel.
10 Then the LORD spoke through his servants
the prophets, saying,
11 "Because Manasseh king of Judah has done
these detestable things, has done worse than all
that the Amorites before him did, and has also
caused Judah to sin with his idols,
12 therefore this is what the LORD, the God of
Israel, says: I am bringing a disaster on
Jerusalem and Judah that will make both ears of
everyone who hears of it tingle.
13 I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring
line of Samaria and the plumb line of the house
of Ahab. I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a
dish, wiping it clean and turning it upside down.
14 I will forsake the remnant of my inheritance
and deliver them into the hand of their enemies.
They will become prey and plunder for all their
enemies,
15 because they have done evil in my sight and
have provoked me to anger from the day their
ancestors came out of Egypt to this day."
16 Moreover, Manasseh shed so much innocent
blood that he filled Jerusalem from end to end,
besides his sin of causing Judah to sin by doing
evil in the sight of the LORD.
17 As for the rest of the acts of Manasseh, all
that he did, and the sin he committed, are they
not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the

Kings of Judah?
18 Manasseh rested with his ancestors and was
buried in the garden of his house, in the garden
of Uzza. His son Amon reigned in his place.
19 Amon was twenty-two years old when he
became king, and he reigned two years in
Jerusalem. His mother's name was
Meshullemeth, daughter of Haruz, from Jotbah.
20 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his
father Manasseh had done.
21 He walked in all the ways his father had
walked, served the idols his father had served,
and bowed down to them.
22 He forsook the LORD, the God of his
ancestors, and did not walk in the way of the
LORD.
23 Amon's servants conspired against him and
put the king to death in his own house.
24 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.
25 As for the rest of the acts of Amon and what
he did, are they not written in the Book of the
Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
26 He was buried in his tomb in the garden of
Uzza, and his son Josiah reigned in his place.

22

1 Josiah was eight years old when he became
king, and he reigned thirty-one years in
Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah,
daughter of Adaiah, from Bozkath.

2 He did what was right in the sight of the
LORD and walked in all the way of his ancestor
David, turning aside neither to the right nor to
the left.
3 In the eighteenth year of King Josiah, the king
sent Shaphan the secretary, son of Azaliah, son
of Meshullam, to the house of the LORD, saying,
4 "Go up to Hilkiah the high priest and have
him count the money brought into the house of
the LORD, which the threshold guards have
collected from the people.
5 Let them put it into the hands of the men
appointed to oversee the work on the house of
the LORD. They are to give it to the workers in
the house of the LORD to repair the damage to
the house:
6 to the carpenters, builders, and masons, and
to buy timber and cut stone to repair the house.
7 But no accounting is to be required of them
for the money placed in their hands, for they
deal faithfully."
8 Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the
secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in
the house of the LORD." Hilkiah gave the book to
Shaphan, and he read it.
9 Shaphan the secretary came to the king and
reported, "Your servants have poured out the
money found in the house and put it into the
hands of the men appointed to oversee the work
on the house of the LORD."
10 Then Shaphan the secretary told the king,
"Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And
Shaphan read it before the king.

11 When the king heard the words of the Book
of the Law, he tore his clothes.
12 The king commanded Hilkiah the priest,
Ahikam son of Shaphan, Achbor son of Micaiah,
Shaphan the secretary, and Asaiah the king's
servant,
13 "Go and inquire of the LORD for me, for the
people, and for all Judah concerning the words
of this book that has been found. For great is the
wrath of the LORD that burns against us,
because our ancestors did not listen to the
words of this book and do all that is written
concerning us."
14 So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor,
Shaphan, and Asaiah went to the prophetess
Huldah, the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah, son
of Harhas, the keeper of the wardrobe. She lived
in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter. They spoke
with her.
15 She said to them, "This is what the LORD,
the God of Israel, says: Tell the man who sent
you to me:
16 This is what the LORD says: I am bringing
disaster on this place and its inhabitants, all the
words of the book the king of Judah has read.
17 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
burn against this place and will not be
quenched.
18 But to the king of Judah, who sent you to
inquire of the LORD, say this: This is what the
LORD, the God of Israel, says concerning the
words you heard:

19 Because your heart was tender and you
humbled yourself before the LORD when you
heard what I spoke against this place and its
inhabitants, that they would become a
desolation and a curse, and because you tore
your clothes and wept before me, I also have
heard you, declares the LORD.
20 Therefore I will gather you to your
ancestors, and you will be gathered to your
grave in peace. Your eyes will not see all the
disaster I am bringing on this place." So they
brought the king the answer.

23

1 The king sent word, and all the elders of
Judah and Jerusalem gathered to him.
2 The king went up to the house of the LORD
with all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants
of Jerusalem, the priests, the prophets, and all
the people, from the least to the greatest. He
read in their hearing all the words of the Book
of the Covenant found in the house of the LORD.
3 The king stood by the pillar and made a
covenant before the LORD to follow the LORD
and keep his commandments, testimonies, and
statutes with all his heart and all his soul,
fulfilling the words of this covenant written in
this book. All the people pledged themselves to
the covenant.
4 The king commanded Hilkiah the high priest,
the priests of the second rank, and the threshold
guards to bring out of the LORD's temple all the
articles made for Baal, Asherah, and all the host

of heaven. He burned them outside Jerusalem in
the fields of the Kidron and carried their ashes
to Bethel.
5 He removed the idolatrous priests whom the
kings of Judah had appointed to burn incense at
the high places in the cities of Judah and around
Jerusalem, and those who burned incense to
Baal, the sun, the moon, the constellations, and
all the host of heaven.
6 He brought the Asherah pole out of the
house of the LORD, outside Jerusalem to the
Kidron Valley. He burned it in the Kidron Valley,
ground it to dust, and threw its dust on the
graves of the common people.
7 He tore down the quarters of the male cult
prostitutes in the house of the LORD, where the
women wove shelters for Asherah.
8 He brought all the priests from the cities of
Judah and defiled the high places where the
priests had burned incense, from Geba to
Beersheba. He tore down the high places at the
gates, at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the
city governor, on the left as one enters the city
gate.
9 Yet the priests of the high places did not go
up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem, though
they ate unleavened bread among their
brothers.
10 He defiled Topheth in the Valley of the Son
of Hinnom, so that no one could make his son or
daughter pass through the fire to Molech.
11 He removed the horses the kings of Judah
had dedicated to the sun at the entrance of the
house of the LORD, near the room of

Nathan-melech the official in the outer precincts.
He burned the chariots of the sun with fire.
12 The king tore down the altars the kings of
Judah had made on the roof of Ahaz's upper
room and the altars Manasseh had made in the
two courts of the house of the LORD. He hurried
away from there and threw their dust into the
Kidron Valley.
13 The king defiled the high places opposite
Jerusalem, south of the Mount of Destruction,
which Solomon king of Israel had built for
Ashtoreth, the abomination of the Sidonians, for
Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, and for
Milcom, the abomination of the Ammonites.
14 He smashed the sacred pillars, cut down the
Asherah poles, and filled their sites with human
bones.
15 He also tore down the altar at Bethel and
the high place made by Jeroboam son of Nebat,
who had caused Israel to sin. He tore down that
altar and high place, burned the high place,
ground it to dust, and burned the Asherah pole.
16 When Josiah turned and saw the tombs
there on the hill, he sent men to take the bones
from the tombs. He burned them on the altar
and defiled it, according to the word of the
LORD proclaimed by the man of God who had
announced these things.
17 He asked, “What is that monument I see?”
The men of the city said to him, “It is the tomb of
the man of God who came from Judah and
proclaimed these things you have done against
the altar at Bethel.”
18 He said, “Leave him alone. Let no one

disturb his bones." So they spared his bones,
along with the bones of the prophet who had
come from Samaria.
19 Josiah also removed all the shrines of the
high places in the cities of Samaria that the
kings of Israel had made to provoke anger. He
did to them everything he had done at Bethel.
20 He slaughtered all the priests of the high
places on the altars there and burned human
bones on them. Then he returned to Jerusalem.
21 The king commanded all the people, “Keep
the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is
written in this Book of the Covenant.”
22 No Passover like this had been kept since
the days of the judges who judged Israel, or in
all the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of
Judah.
23 But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah,
this Passover was kept to the LORD in Jerusalem.
24 Josiah also removed the mediums, spiritists,
household gods, idols, and all the detestable
things seen in the land of Judah and in
Jerusalem, to fulfill the words of the law written
in the book Hilkiah the priest had found in the
house of the LORD.
25 Before him there was no king like him, who
turned to the LORD with all his heart, all his
soul, and all his might, according to all the Law
of Moses. Nor did one like him arise after him.
26 Nevertheless, the LORD did not turn from
the fierceness of his great anger that burned
against Judah because of all the provocations
with which Manasseh had provoked him.

27 The LORD said, “I will also remove Judah
from my presence, as I removed Israel. I will
reject this city I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the
house of which I said, ‘My name will be there.’ ”
28 As for the rest of the acts of Josiah and all
that he did, are they not written in the Book of
the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
29 In his days Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt went
up to the king of Assyria at the Euphrates River.
King Josiah went out to meet him, and Neco put
him to death at Megiddo when he saw him.
30 His servants carried him dead in a chariot
from Megiddo and brought him to Jerusalem,
where they buried him in his tomb. The people
of the land took Jehoahaz son of Josiah, anointed
him, and made him king in his father's place.
31 Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when
he became king, and he reigned three months in
Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal,
daughter of Jeremiah, from Libnah.
32 He did evil in the sight of the LORD,
according to all that his ancestors had done.
33 Pharaoh Neco imprisoned him at Riblah in
the land of Hamath, preventing him from
reigning in Jerusalem. He imposed on the land a
fine of about 7,500 pounds of silver and about 75
pounds of gold.
34 Pharaoh Neco made Eliakim son of Josiah
king in place of his father Josiah and changed
his name to Jehoiakim. He took Jehoahaz away,
and he went to Egypt and died there.
35 Jehoiakim gave the silver and gold to
Pharaoh, but he taxed the land to pay the money

Pharaoh demanded. He exacted the silver and
gold from the people of the land, from each man
according to his assessment, to give it to
Pharaoh Neco.

36 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when
he became king, and he reigned eleven years in
Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zebudah,
daughter of Pedaiah, from Rumah.

37 He did evil in the sight of the LORD,
according to all that his ancestors had done.

24

1 In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon
came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant for
three years. Then he turned and rebelled
against him.

2 The LORD sent Chaldean raiding parties
against him, along with Aramean, Moabite, and
Ammonite raiding parties. He sent them against
Judah to destroy it, according to the word the
LORD had spoken through his servants the
prophets.

3 Surely this came upon Judah at the LORD's
command, to remove them from his presence
because of the sins of Manasseh and all that he
had done,

4 and also because of the innocent blood he
had shed, filling Jerusalem with innocent blood.
The LORD was not willing to forgive.

5 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim and
all that he did, are they not written in the Book
of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?

6 Jehoiakim rested with his ancestors, and his
son Jehoiachin reigned in his place.
7 The king of Egypt did not again come out of
his own land, for the king of Babylon had taken
everything that belonged to the king of Egypt,
from the Brook of Egypt to the Euphrates River.
8 Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he
became king, and he reigned three months in
Jerusalem. His mother's name was Nehushta,
daughter of Elnathan, from Jerusalem.
9 He did evil in the sight of the LORD,
according to all that his father had done.
10 At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar
king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and
the city came under siege.
11 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came
against the city while his servants were
besieging it.
12 Jehoiachin king of Judah went out to the
king of Babylon, along with his mother, his
servants, his officials, and his court officers. The
king of Babylon took him prisoner in the eighth
year of his reign.
13 He carried away all the treasures of the
house of the LORD and the treasures of the
king's palace. He cut in pieces all the gold
articles Solomon king of Israel had made for the
LORD's temple, just as the LORD had said.
14 He carried all Jerusalem into exile, all the
officials and all the mighty warriors, ten
thousand exiles, along with all the craftsmen
and metalworkers. No one remained except the
poorest people of the land.

15 He carried Jehoiachin into exile to Babylon.
He also took the king's mother, the king's wives,
his court officers, and the leading men of the
land into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.
16 The king of Babylon took all the men of
valor, seven thousand, and the craftsmen and
metalworkers, one thousand, into exile to
Babylon. All were strong men fit for war.
17 The king of Babylon made Mattaniah,
Jehoiachin's uncle, king in his place and
changed his name to Zedekiah.
18 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he
became king, and he reigned eleven years in
Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal,
daughter of Jeremiah, from Libnah.
19 He did evil in the sight of the LORD,
according to all that Jehoiakim had done.
20 This happened in Jerusalem and Judah
because of the LORD's anger, until he cast them
out of his presence. Then Zedekiah rebelled
against the king of Babylon.

25

1 In the ninth year of his reign, on the tenth
day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of
Babylon came with all his army against
Jerusalem. He camped against it, and they built
siegeworks all around it.
2 The city remained under siege until the
eleventh year of King Zedekiah.
3 By the ninth day of the month, the famine in
the city had become severe, and there was no
food for the people of the land.

4 Then the city was breached, and all the
fighting men fled by night through the gate
between the two walls beside the king's garden.
The Chaldeans were surrounding the city, and
the king went by the road toward the Arabah.
5 The Chaldean army pursued the king and
overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his
army had scattered away from him.
6 They captured the king and brought him up
to the king of Babylon at Riblah, where they
pronounced judgment on him.
7 They slaughtered Zedekiah's sons before his
eyes. Then the king of Babylon put out
Zedekiah's eyes, bound him in bronze shackles,
and brought him to Babylon.

8 On the seventh day of the fifth month, in the
nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of
Babylon, Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard and
servant of the king of Babylon, came to
Jerusalem.
9 He burned the house of the LORD, the king's
palace, and all the houses of Jerusalem. He
burned every large house with fire.
10 All the Chaldean army with the captain of
the guard tore down the walls around
Jerusalem.
11 Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard
carried into exile the rest of the people who
remained in the city, the deserters who had gone
over to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the
population.
12 But the captain of the guard left some of the

poorest people of the land to tend the vineyards
and work the fields.
13 The Chaldeans broke in pieces the bronze
pillars of the house of the LORD, the stands, and
the bronze Sea in the house of the LORD, and
carried their bronze to Babylon.
14 They also took the pots, shovels, wick
trimmers, ladles, and all the bronze articles used
in the service.
15 The captain of the guard took the firepans
and basins, whatever was gold and whatever
was silver.
16 The two pillars, the one Sea, and the stands
Solomon had made for the house of the
LORD—the bronze of all these articles was
beyond weighing.
17 One pillar was about twenty-seven feet
high, with a bronze capital on it about four and
a half feet high. There was latticework and
pomegranates around the capital, all of bronze.
The second pillar had the same, including the
latticework.
18 The captain of the guard took Seraiah the
chief priest, Zephaniah the priest of the second
rank, and the three threshold guards.
19 From the city he took an official who was in
charge of the fighting men, five men who had
access to the king and were found in the city, the
chief military secretary who mustered the
people of the land, and sixty men of the people
of the land who were found in the city.
20 Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took
them and brought them to the king of Babylon
at Riblah.

21 The king of Babylon struck them down and
put them to death at Riblah in the land of
Hamath. So Judah was carried into exile from its
own land.
22 Over the people left in the land of Judah,
whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had
left, he appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam, son
of Shaphan.

23 When all the commanders of the forces and
their men heard that the king of Babylon had
appointed Gedaliah, they came to Gedaliah at
Mizpah: Ishmael son of Nethaniah, Johanan son
of Kareah, Seraiah son of Tanhumeth the
Netophathite, and Jaazaniah son of the
Maacathite, they and their men.
24 Gedaliah swore to them and their men,
saying, “Do not be afraid of the servants of the
Chaldeans. Settle in the land and serve the king
of Babylon, and it will go well with you.”

25 But in the seventh month, Ishmael son of
Nethaniah, son of Elishama, of the royal family,
came with ten men. They struck down Gedaliah,
and he died, along with the Judeans and
Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah.
26 Then all the people, from the least to the
greatest, and the commanders of the forces got
up and went to Egypt, for they were afraid of the
Chaldeans.

27 In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of
Jehoiachin king of Judah, on the twenty-seventh
day of the twelfth month, Evil-merodach king of
Babylon, in the year he became king, lifted up

the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah and released him from prison.
28 He spoke kindly to him and gave him a seat above the seats of the other kings who were with him in Babylon.
29 He changed Jehoiachin's prison clothes, and Jehoiachin ate regularly in his presence all the days of his life.
30 A regular allowance was given him by the king, his daily portion day by day, all the days of his life.

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