1 Kings

1 Now King David was old and well along in
years, and though they covered him with
blankets, he could not keep warm.
2 So his servants said to him, “Let us search for
a young virgin for our lord the king, to attend to
him and care for him and lie by his side to keep
him warm.”
3 Then they searched throughout Israel for a
beautiful girl, and they found Abishag the
Shunammite and brought her to the king.
4 The girl was unsurpassed in beauty; she
cared for the king and served him, but he had
no relations with her.
5 At that time Adonijah, David’s son by
Haggith, began to exalt himself, saying, “I will be
king!” And he acquired chariots and horsemen
and fifty men to run ahead of him.
6 (his father had never once reprimanded him
by saying, “Why do you act this way?” Adonijah
was also very handsome, born next after
Absalom.)
7 So Adonijah conferred with Joab son of
Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest, who
supported him.
8 But Zadok the priest, Benaiah son of
Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei, Rei, and
David’s mighty men would not join Adonijah.

9 And Adonijah sacrificed sheep, oxen, and
fattened calves near the stone of Zoheleth,*
which is next to En-rogel. He invited all his royal
brothers and all the men of Judah who were
servants of the king.
10 But he did not invite Nathan the prophet,
Benaiah, the mighty men, or his brother
Solomon.
11 Then Nathan said to Bathsheba the mother
of Solomon, “Have you not heard that Adonijah
son of Haggith has become king, and our lord
David does not know it?
12 Now please, come and let me advise you.
Save your own life and the life of your son
Solomon.
13 Go at once to King David and say, ‘My lord
the king, did you not swear to your maidservant,
“Surely your son Solomon will reign after me,
and he will sit on my throne”? Why then has
Adonijah become king?’
14 Then, while you are still there speaking
with the king, I will come in after you and
confirm your words.”
15 So Bathsheba went to see the king in his
bedroom. Since the king was very old, Abishag
the Shunammite was serving him.
16 And Bathsheba bowed down in homage to
the king, who asked, “What is your desire?”
17 “My lord,” she replied, “you yourself swore
to your maidservant by the LORD your God:
‘Surely your son Solomon will reign after me,
and he will sit on my throne.’

* **1:9 1:9** Or *the Serpent’s Stone*

18 But now, behold, Adonijah has become king,
and now, my lord the king, you do not know it.†
19 And he has sacrificed an abundance of
oxen, fattened calves, and sheep, and has invited
all the other sons of the king, as well as Abiathar
the priest and Joab the commander of the army.
But he has not invited your servant Solomon.
20 And as for you, my lord the king, the eyes of
all Israel are upon you to tell them who will sit
on the throne of my lord the king after him.
21 Otherwise, when my lord the king rests with
his fathers, I and my son Solomon will be
counted as criminals."
22 And just then, while Bathsheba was still
speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet
arrived.
23 So the king was told, "Nathan the prophet is
here." And Nathan went in and bowed facedown
before the king.
24 "My lord the king," said Nathan, "did you say,
'Adonijah will reign after me, and he will sit on
my throne'?
25 For today he has gone down and sacrificed
an abundance of oxen, fattened calves, and
sheep, and has invited all the sons of the king,
the commanders‡ of the army, and Abiathar the
priest. And behold, they are eating and drinking
before him, saying, 'Long live King Adonijah!'
26 But me your servant he has not invited, nor
Zadok the priest, nor Benaiah son of Jehoiada,

† **1:18 1:18** Leningrad Codex and most manuscripts; many manuscripts and ancient versions *and you, my lord the king*
‡ **1:25 1:25** LXX *Joab the commander*

nor your servant Solomon.
27 Has my lord the king let this happen
without informing your servant§ who should sit
on the throne after my lord the king?"
28 Then King David said, "Call in Bathsheba for
me." So she came into the king's presence and
stood before him.
29 And the king swore an oath, saying, "As
surely as the LORD lives, who has redeemed my
life from all distress,
30 I will carry out this very day exactly what I
swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel:
Surely your son Solomon will reign after me,
and he will sit on my throne in my place."
31 Bathsheba bowed facedown in homage to
the king and said, "May my lord King David live
forever!"
32 Then King David said, "Call in for me Zadok
the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah son
of Jehoiada." So they came before the king.
33 "Take my servants with you," said the king.
"Set my son Solomon on my own mule and take
him down to Gihon.
34 There Zadok the priest and Nathan the
prophet are to anoint him king over Israel. You
are to blow the ram's horn and declare, 'Long
live King Solomon!'
35 Then you shall go up with him, and he is to
come and sit on my throne and reign in my
place. For I have appointed him ruler over Israel
and Judah."

§ **1:27 1:27** Qere; Ketiv *your servants*

36 “Amen,” replied Benaiah son of Jehoiada.
“May the LORD, the God of my lord the king, so
declare it.
37 Just as the LORD was with my lord the king,
so may he be with Solomon and make his throne
even greater than that of my lord King David.”
38 Then Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet,
and Benaiah son of Jehoiada, along with the
Cherethites and Pelethites, went down and set
Solomon on King David’s mule, and they
escorted him to Gihon.
39 Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from
the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. Then
they blew the ram’s horn, and all the people
proclaimed, “Long live King Solomon!”
40 All the people followed him, playing flutes
and rejoicing with such a great joy that the earth
was split by the sound.
41 Now Adonijah and all his guests were
finishing their feast when they heard the sound
of the ram’s horn. “Why is the city in such a loud
uproar?” asked Joab.
42 As he was speaking, suddenly Jonathan the
son of Abiathar the priest arrived. “Come in,”
said Adonijah, “for you are a man of valor. You
must be bringing good news.”
43 “Not at all,” Jonathan replied. “Our lord King
David has made Solomon king.
44 And with Solomon, the king has sent Zadok
the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah son
of Jehoiada, along with the Cherethites and
Pelethites, and they have set him on the king’s
mule.

45 Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet
have anointed him king at Gihon, and they have
gone up from there with rejoicing that rings out
in the city. That is the noise you hear.
46 Moreover, Solomon has taken his seat on the
royal throne.
47 The king's servants have also gone to
congratulate our lord King David, saying, 'May
God* make the name of Solomon more famous
than your own name, and may he make his
throne greater than your throne.'
And the king has bowed in worship on his bed,
48 saying, 'Blessed be the LORD, the God of
Israel! Today he has provided one† to sit on my
throne, and my eyes have seen it.' "
49 At this, all the guests of Adonijah arose in
terror and scattered.
50 But Adonijah, in fear of Solomon, got up and
went to take hold of the horns of the altar.
51 It was reported to Solomon: "Behold,
Adonijah fears King Solomon, and he has taken
hold of the horns of the altar, saying, 'Let King
Solomon first swear to me not to put his servant
to the sword.' "
52 And Solomon replied, "If he is a man of
character, not a single hair of his will fall to the
ground. But if evil is found in him, he will die."
53 So King Solomon summoned Adonijah down
from the altar, and he came and bowed down
before King Solomon, who said to him, "Go to
your home."

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* **1:47 1:47** Qere; Ketiv *your God* † **1:48 1:48** LXX *one of my offspring*

2

1 As the time drew near for David to die, he
charged his son Solomon,
2 "I am about to go the way of all the earth. So
be strong and prove yourself a man.
3 And keep the charge of the LORD your God
to walk in his ways and to keep his statutes,
commandments, ordinances, and decrees, as
written in the Teaching of Moses, so that you
may prosper in all you do and wherever you
turn,
4 and so that the LORD may fulfill his promise
to me: 'If your descendants take heed to walk
faithfully before me with all their heart and
soul, you will never fail to have a man on the
throne of Israel.'
5 Moreover, you know what Joab son of
Zeruiah did to me—what he did to Abner son of
Ner and Amasa son of Jether,* the two
commanders of the armies of Israel. He killed
them in peacetime to avenge the blood of war.
He stained with the blood of war the belt around
his waist and the sandals on his feet.†
6 So act according to your wisdom, and do not
let his gray head go down to Sheol in peace.
7 But show loving devotion‡ to the sons of
Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among

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* **2:5 2:5** *Jether* is a variant of *Ithra*; also in verse 32; see 2 Samuel 17:25. † **2:5 2:5** LXX *he stained with innocent blood the belt around my waist and the sandals on my feet.* ‡ **2:7 2:7** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.

those who eat at your table, because they stood
by me when I fled from your brother Absalom.
8 Keep an eye on Shimei the son of Gera, the
Benjamite from Bahurim who is with you. He
called down bitter curses against me on the day
I went to Mahanaim, but when he came down to
meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the
LORD: 'I will never put you to the sword.'
9 Now therefore, do not hold him guiltless, for
you are a wise man. You know what you ought
to do to him to bring his gray head down to
Sheol in blood."
10 Then David rested with his fathers and was
buried in the City of David.
11 The length of David's reign over Israel was
forty years—seven years in Hebron and
thirty-three years in Jerusalem.
12 So Solomon sat on the throne of his father
David, and his kingdom was firmly established.
13 Now Adonijah son of Haggith went to
Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, and she
asked, "Do you come in peace?"
"Yes, in peace," he replied.
14 Then he said, "I have something to tell you."
"Say it," she answered.
15 "You know that the kingship was mine," he
said. "All Israel expected that I should reign, but
the kingship has turned to my brother, for it has
come to him from the LORD.
16 So now I have just one request of you; do
not deny me."
"State your request," she told him.

17 Adonijah replied, “Please speak to King
Solomon, since he will not turn you down. Let
him give me Abishag the Shunammite as my
wife.”
18 “Very well,” Bathsheba replied. “I will speak
to the king for you.”
19 So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to
speak to him for Adonijah. The king stood up to
greet her, bowed to her, and sat down on his
throne. Then the king had a throne brought for
his mother, who sat down at his right hand.
20 “I have just one small request of you,” she
said. “Do not deny me.”
“Make your request, my mother,” the king
replied, “for I will not deny you.”
21 So Bathsheba said, “Let Abishag the
Shunammite be given to your brother Adonijah
as his wife.”
22 King Solomon answered his mother, “Why
do you request Abishag the Shunammite for
Adonijah? Since he is my older brother, you
might as well request the kingdom for him and
for Abiathar the priest and for Joab son of
Zeruiah!”
23 Then King Solomon swore by the LORD:
“May God punish me, and ever so severely, if
Adonijah has not made this request at the
expense of his life.
24 And now, as surely as the LORD lives—the
One who established me, who set me on the
throne of my father David, and who founded for
me a dynasty as he promised—surely Adonijah
shall be put to death today!”

25 So King Solomon gave orders to Benaiah son
of Jehoiada, and he struck down Adonijah and
he died.
26 Then the king said to Abiathar the priest,
"Go back to your fields in Anathoth. Even
though you deserve to die, I will not put you to
death at this time, since you carried the ark of
the Lord GOD before my father David, and you
suffered through all that my father suffered."
27 So Solomon banished Abiathar from the
priesthood of the LORD and thus fulfilled the
word that the LORD had spoken at Shiloh
against the house of Eli.
28 When the news reached Joab, who had
conspired with Adonijah but not with Absalom,
he fled to the tent of the LORD and took hold of
the horns of the altar.
29 It was reported to King Solomon: "Joab has
fled to the tent of the LORD and is now beside
the altar."
So Solomon sent Benaiah son of Jehoiada,
saying, "Go, strike him down!"
30 And Benaiah entered the tent of the LORD
and said to Joab, "The king says, 'Come out!' "
But Joab replied, "No, I will die here."
So Benaiah relayed the message to the king,
saying, "This is how Joab answered me."
31 And the king replied, "Do just as he says.
Strike him down and bury him, and so remove
from me and from the house of my father the
innocent blood that Joab shed.
32 The LORD will bring his bloodshed back
upon his own head, for without the knowledge
of my father David he struck down two men

more righteous and better than he when he put
to the sword Abner son of Ner, commander of
Israel's army, and Amasa son of Jether,
commander of Judah's army.
33 Their blood will come back upon the heads
of Joab and his descendants forever; but for
David, his descendants, his house, and his
throne, there shall be peace from the LORD
forever."
34 So Benaiah son of Jehoiada went up, struck
down Joab, and killed him. He was buried at his
own home in the wilderness.
35 And the king appointed Benaiah son of
Jehoiada in Joab's place over the army, and he
appointed Zadok the priest in Abiathar's place.
36 Then the king summoned Shimei and said
to him, "Build a house for yourself in Jerusalem
and live there, but do not go anywhere else.
37 On the day you go out and cross the Kidron
Valley, know for sure that you will die; your
blood will be on your own head."
38 "The sentence is fair," Shimei replied. "Your
servant will do as my lord the king has spoken."
And Shimei lived in Jerusalem for a long time.
39 After three years, however, two of Shimei's
slaves ran away to Achish son of Maacah,§ king
of Gath. And Shimei was told, "Look, your slaves
are in Gath."
40 So Shimei saddled his donkey and set out to
Achish at Gath in search of his slaves, and he
brought them back from Gath.

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§ **2:39 2:39** *Maacah* is a variant of *Maoch*; see 1 Samuel 27:2.

41 When Solomon was told that Shimei had
gone from Jerusalem to Gath and had returned,
42 the king summoned Shimei and said to him,
“Did I not make you swear by the LORD and
warn you, ‘On the day you leave and go
elsewhere, know for sure that you will die’? And
you told me, ‘The sentence is fair; I will comply.’
43 So why have you not kept your oath to the
LORD and the command that I gave you?”
44 The king also said, “You know in your heart
all the evil that you did to my father David.
Therefore the LORD will bring your evil back
upon your head.
45 But King Solomon will be blessed and
David’s throne will remain secure before the
LORD forever.”
46 Then the king commanded Benaiah son of
Jehoiada, and he went out and struck Shimei
down, and he died. Thus the kingdom was
firmly established in the hand of Solomon.

3

1 Later, Solomon formed an alliance with
Pharaoh king of Egypt by marrying his daughter.
Solomon brought her to the City of David until
he had finished building his palace and the
house of the LORD, as well as the wall around
Jerusalem.
2 The people, however, were still sacrificing on
the high places because a house for the Name of
the LORD had not yet been built.
3 And Solomon loved the LORD and walked in
the statutes of his father David, except that he

sacrificed and burned incense on the high
places.
4 Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice
there, for it was the great high place. Solomon
offered a thousand burnt offerings on the altar
there.
5 One night at Gibeon the LORD appeared to
Solomon in a dream, and God said, “Ask, and I
will give it to you!”
6 Solomon replied, “You have shown much
loving devotion to your servant, my father
David, because he walked before you in
faithfulness, righteousness, and uprightness of
heart. And you have maintained this loving
devotion by giving him a son to sit on his throne
this very day.
7 And now, O LORD my God, you have made
your servant king in my father David’s place.
But I am only a little child, not knowing how to
go out or come in.
8 Your servant is here among the people you
have chosen, a people too numerous to count or
number.
9 Therefore give your servant an
understanding heart to judge your people and to
discern between good and evil. For who is able
to govern this great people of yours?”
10 Now it pleased the Lord* that Solomon had
made this request.
11 So God said to him, “Since you have asked
for this instead of requesting long life or wealth

* **3:10 3:10** Hebrew *Adonai*; also in verse 15

for yourself or death for your enemies—but you
have asked for discernment to administer
justice—
12 behold, I will do what you have asked. I will
give you a wise and discerning heart, so that
there will never have been another like you, nor
will there ever be.
13 Moreover, I will give you what you did not
request—both riches and honor—so that during
all your days no man in any kingdom will be
your equal.
14 So if you walk in my ways and keep my
statutes and commandments, just as your father
David did, I will prolong your days."

15 Then Solomon awoke, and indeed it had
been a dream. So he returned to Jerusalem,
stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord,
and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.
Then he held a feast for all his servants.

16 At that time two prostitutes came to the king
and stood before him.
17 One woman said, "Please, my lord, this
woman and I live in the same house, and I gave
birth while she was in the house.
18 On the third day after I gave birth, this
woman also had a baby. We were alone, with no
one in the house but the two of us.
19 During the night this woman's son died
because she rolled over on him.
20 So she got up in the middle of the night and
took my son from my side while I was asleep.
She laid him in her bosom and put her dead son
at my bosom.

21 The next morning, when I got up to nurse
my son, I discovered he was dead. But when I
examined him, I realized that he was not the son
I had borne."
22 "No," said the other woman, "the living one
is my son and the dead one is your son."
But the first woman insisted, "No, the dead
one is yours and the living one is mine." So they
argued before the king.
23 Then the king replied, "This woman says,
'My son is alive and yours is dead,' but that
woman says, 'No, your son is dead and mine is
alive.' "
24 The king continued, "Bring me a sword." So
they brought him a sword,
25 and the king declared, "Cut the living child
in two and give half to one and half to the other."
26 Then the woman whose son was alive spoke
to the king because she yearned with
compassion for her son. "Please, my lord," she
said, "give her the living baby. Do not kill him!"
But the other woman said, "He will be neither
mine nor yours. Cut him in two!"
27 Then the king gave his ruling: "Give the
living baby to the first woman. By no means
should you kill him; she is his mother."
28 When all Israel heard of the judgment the
king had given, they stood in awe of him, for
they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to
administer justice.

4

1 So King Solomon ruled over Israel,

2 and these were his chief officials:

Azariah son of Zadok was the priest;
3 Elihoreph and Ahijah, the sons of Shisha,*
were secretaries;
Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was the recorder;
4 Benaiah son of Jehoiada was in charge of the
army;
Zadok and Abiathar were priests;
5 Azariah son of Nathan was in charge of the
governors;
Zabud son of Nathan was a priest and adviser
to the king;
6 Ahishar was in charge of the palace;
and Adoniram† son of Abda was in charge of
the forced labor.
7 Solomon had twelve governors over all Israel
to provide food for the king and his household.
Each one would arrange provisions for one
month of the year,
8 and these were their names:

Ben-hur in the hill country of Ephraim;
9 Ben-deker in Makaz, in Shaalbim, in
Beth-shemesh, and in Elon-beth-hanan;
10 Ben-hesed in Arubboth (Socoh and all the
land of Hepher belonged to him);
11 Ben-abinadab in Naphath-dor‡ (Taphath, a

* **4:3** **4:3** *Shisha* is also called *Seraiah*, *Sheva*, and *Shavsha*; see 2 Samuel 8:17, 2 Samuel 20:25, and 1 Chronicles 18:16. † **4:6** **4:6** *Adoniram* is a variant of *Adoram* and *Hadoram*; see 2 Samuel 20:24 and 2 Chronicles 10:18. ‡ **4:11** **4:11** Or *in all the heights of Dor*; *Naphath-dor* is a variant of *Naphoth-dor*; see Joshua 11:2.

daughter of Solomon, was his wife);
12 Baana son of Ahilud in Taanach, in
Megiddo, and in all of Beth-shean next to
Zarethan below Jezreel, from Beth-shean to
Abel-meholah and on past Jokmeam;
13 Ben-geber in Ramoth-gilead (the villages of
Jair son of Manasseh in Gilead belonged to
him, as well as the region of Argob in
Bashan with its sixty great cities with walls
and bronze bars);
14 Ahinadab son of Iddo in Mahanaim;
15 Ahimaaz in Naphtali (he had married
Basemath, a daughter of Solomon);
16 Baana son of Hushai in Asher and in Aloth;
17 Jehoshaphat son of Paruah in Issachar;
18 Shimei son of Ela in Benjamin;
19 Geber son of Uri in the land of Gilead,
including the territories of Sihon king of the
Amorites and of Og king of Bashan.
And he was the one governor in the land.§
20 The people of Judah and Israel were as
numerous as the sand on the seashore, and they
were eating and drinking and rejoicing.

5

1 And Solomon reigned over all the kingdoms
from the Euphrates* to the land of the
Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. These
kingdoms offered tribute and served Solomon
all the days of his life.

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§ **4:19 4:19** Some LXX manuscripts *There was also one governor in the land of Judah* * **5:1 5:1** Hebrew *the River*; also in verse 4

2 Solomon's provisions for a single day were
thirty cors of fine flour,† sixty cors of meal,‡
3 ten fat oxen, twenty range oxen, and a
hundred sheep, as well as deer, gazelles,
roebucks, and fattened poultry.
4 For Solomon had dominion over everything
west of the Euphrates§—over all the kingdoms
from Tiphsah to Gaza—and he had peace on all
sides.
5 Throughout the days of Solomon, Judah and
Israel dwelt securely from Dan to Beersheba,
each man under his own vine and his own fig
tree.
6 Solomon had 40,000* stalls for his chariot
horses and 12,000 horsemen.†
7 Each month the governors in turn provided
food for King Solomon and all who came to his
table. They saw to it that nothing was lacking.
8 Each one also brought to the required place
their quotas of barley and straw for the chariot
horses and other horses.
9 And God gave Solomon wisdom, exceedingly
deep insight, and understanding beyond
measure, like the sand on the seashore.
10 Solomon's wisdom was greater than that of
all the men of the East, greater than all the
wisdom of Egypt.

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† **5:2 5:2** *30 cors* is approximately 187 bushels or 6,600 liters (probably about 5.5 tons or 5 metric tons of flour). ‡ **5:2 5:2** *60 cors* is approximately 375 bushels or 13,200 liters (probably about 11 tons or 10 metric tons of meal). § **5:4 5:4** Or *beyond the River*
* **5:6 5:6** Some LXX manuscripts (see also 2 Chronicles 9:25) *4,000*
† **5:6 5:6** Or *horses* or *charioteers*

11 He was wiser than all men—wiser than
Ethan the Ezrahite, and wiser than Heman,
Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his
fame spread throughout the surrounding
nations.
12 Solomon composed three thousand
proverbs, and his songs numbered a thousand
and five.
13 He spoke of trees, from the cedar in
Lebanon to the hyssop growing in the wall, and
he taught about animals, birds, reptiles, and fish.
14 So men of all nations came to listen to
Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the
earth, who had heard of his wisdom.
15 Now when Hiram king of Tyre heard that
Solomon had been anointed king in his father's
place, he sent envoys to Solomon; for Hiram had
always been a friend of David.
16 And Solomon relayed this message to
Hiram:
17 "As you are well aware, due to the wars
waged on all sides against my father David, he
could not build a house for the Name of the
LORD his God until the LORD had put his
enemies under his feet.‡
18 But now the LORD my God has given me
rest on every side, and there is no adversary or
crisis.
19 So behold, I plan to build a house for the
Name of the LORD my God, according to what
the LORD said to my father David: 'I will put
your son on your throne in your place, and he
will build the house for my Name.'

‡ **5:17 5:17** Ketiv; Qere *under my feet*

20 Now therefore, order that cedars of
Lebanon be cut down for me. My servants will
be with your servants, and I will pay your
servants whatever wages you set, for you know
that there are none among us as skilled in
logging as the Sidonians."
21 When Hiram received Solomon's message,
he rejoiced greatly and said, "Blessed be the
LORD this day! He has given David a wise son
over this great people!"
22 Then Hiram sent a reply to Solomon, saying:
"I have received your message; I will do all you
desire regarding the cedar and cypress§ timber.
23 My servants will haul the logs from
Lebanon to the Sea,* and I will float them as
rafts by sea to the place you specify. There I will
separate the logs, and you can take them away.
And in exchange, you can meet my needs by
providing my household with food."
24 So Hiram provided Solomon with all the
cedar and cypress timber he wanted,
25 and year after year Solomon would provide
Hiram with 20,000 cors of wheat† as food for his
household, as well as twenty cors of pure oil.‡
26 And the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he
had promised him. There was peace between

§ **5:22 5:22** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*; also in verse 24 * **5:23 5:23** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea † **5:25 5:25** *20,000 cors* is approximately 124,800 bushels or 4.4 million liters (probably about 3,800 tons or 3,400 metric tons of wheat). ‡ **5:25 5:25** MT (or *twenty cors of pressed oil*); LXX (see also 2 Chronicles 2:9) *20,000 baths of pure olive oil*

Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made
a treaty.§
27 Then King Solomon conscripted a labor
force of 30,000 men from all Israel.
28 He sent them to Lebanon in monthly shifts
of 10,000 men, so that they would spend one
month in Lebanon and two months at home.
And Adoniram was in charge of the forced labor.
29 Solomon had 70,000 porters and 80,000
stonecutters in the mountains,
30 not including his 3,300* foremen who
supervised the workers.
31 And the king commanded them to quarry
large, costly stones to lay the foundation of the
temple with dressed stones.
32 So Solomon's and Hiram's builders, along
with the Gebalites, quarried the stone and
prepared the timber and stone for the
construction of the temple.

6

1 In the four hundred and eightieth* year after
the Israelites had come out of the land of Egypt,
in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel,
in the month of Ziv,† the second month, he
began to build the house of the LORD.

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§ **5:26 5:26** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*. * **5:30 5:30** Some LXX manuscripts *3,600*; see 2 Chronicles 2:17. * **6:1 6:1** LXX *four hundred and fortieth*
† **6:1 6:1** *Ziv* was the second month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of April and May; also in verse 37.

2 The house that King Solomon built for the
LORD was sixty cubits long, twenty cubits wide,
and thirty cubits high.‡
3 The portico at the front of the main hall of
the temple was twenty cubits§ long, extending
across the width of the temple and projecting
out ten cubits* in front of the temple.
4 He also had narrow windows framed high in
the temple.
5 Against the walls of the temple and the inner
sanctuary, Solomon built a chambered structure
around the temple, in which he constructed the
side rooms.
6 The bottom floor was five cubits wide,† the
middle floor six cubits,‡ and the third floor
seven cubits.§ He also placed offset ledges
around the outside of the temple, so that
nothing would be inserted into its walls.
7 The temple was constructed using finished
stones cut at the quarry, so that no hammer or
chisel or any other iron tool was heard in the
temple while it was being built.
8 The entrance to the middle* floor was on the
south side of the temple. A stairway led up to the

‡ **6:2 6:2** The house was approximately 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high (27.4 meters long, 9.1 meters wide, and 13.7 meters high). § **6:3 6:3** *20 cubits* is approximately 30 feet or 9.1 meters; also in verses 16 and 20. * **6:3 6:3** *10 cubits* is approximately 15 feet or 4.6 meters; also in verses 23–26. † **6:6 6:6** *5 cubits* is approximately 7.5 feet or 2.3 meters; also in verses 10 and 24. ‡ **6:6 6:6** *6 cubits* is approximately 9 feet or 2.7 meters. § **6:6 6:6** *7 cubits* is approximately 10.5 feet or 3.2 meters. * **6:8 6:8** LXX and Targum *bottom*

middle level, and from there to the third floor.
9 So Solomon built the temple and finished it,
roofing it with beams and planks of cedar.
10 He built chambers all along the temple,
each five cubits high and attached to the temple
with beams of cedar.
11 Then the word of the LORD came to
Solomon, saying:
12 "As for this temple you are building, if you
walk in my statutes, carry out my ordinances,
and keep all my commandments by walking in
them, I will fulfill through you the promise I
made to your father David.
13 And I will dwell among the Israelites and
will not abandon my people Israel."
14 So Solomon built the temple and finished it.
15 He lined the interior walls with cedar
paneling from the floor of the temple to the
ceiling, and he covered the floor with cypress†
boards.
16 He partitioned off the twenty cubits at the
rear of the temple with cedar boards from the
floor to the walls‡ to form within the temple an
inner sanctuary, the Holy of Holies.§
17 And the main hall in front of this room was
forty cubits long.*
18 The cedar paneling inside the temple was
carved with gourds and open flowers.
Everything was cedar; not a stone could be seen.

† **6:15 6:15** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*; also in verse 34 ‡ **6:16 6:16** That is, to the top of the walls; LXX *to the rafters* § **6:16 6:16** Or *the Most Holy Place* * **6:17 6:17** *40 cubits* is approximately 60 feet or 18.3 meters.

19 Solomon also prepared the inner sanctuary
within the temple to set the ark of the covenant
of the LORD there.
20 The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long,
twenty cubits wide, and twenty cubits high. He
overlaid the inside with pure gold, and he also
overlaid the altar of cedar.†
21 So Solomon overlaid the inside of the
temple with pure gold, and he extended gold
chains‡ across the front of the inner sanctuary,
which was overlaid with gold.
22 So he overlaid with gold the whole interior
of the temple, until everything was completely
finished. He also overlaid with gold the entire
altar that belonged to the inner sanctuary.
23 In the inner sanctuary he made two
cherubim, each ten cubits high, out of olive
wood.
24 One wing of the first cherub was five cubits
long, and the other wing was five cubits long as
well. So the full wingspan was ten cubits.
25 The second cherub also measured ten
cubits; both cherubim had the same size and
shape,
26 and the height of each cherub was ten
cubits.
27 And he placed the cherubim inside the
innermost room of the temple. Since their wings
were spread out, the wing of the first cherub
touched one wall, while the wing of the second
cherub touched the other wall, and in the
middle of the room their wingtips touched.

† **6:20 6:20** Or *with cedar*

‡ **6:21 6:21** Or *made gold chains to draw (the curtains)*

28 He also overlaid the cherubim with gold.
29 Then he carved the walls all around the
temple, in both the inner and outer sanctuaries,
with carved engravings of cherubim, palm trees,
and open flowers.
30 And he overlaid the temple floor with gold
in both the inner and outer sanctuaries.
31 For the entrance to the inner sanctuary,
Solomon constructed doors of olive wood with
five-sided doorposts.
32 The double doors were made of olive wood,
and he carved into them cherubim, palm trees,
and open flowers and overlaid the cherubim
and palm trees with hammered gold.
33 In the same way he made four-sided
doorposts of olive wood for the sanctuary
entrance.
34 The two doors were made of cypress wood,
and each had two folding panels.
35 He carved into them cherubim, palm trees,
and open flowers, and he overlaid them with
gold hammered evenly over the carvings.
36 Solomon built the inner courtyard with
three rows of dressed stone and one row of
trimmed cedar beams.
37 The foundation of the house of the LORD
was laid in the fourth year of Solomon's reign, in
the month of Ziv.
38 In the eleventh year, in the month of Bul,§
the eighth month, the temple was finished in
every detail and according to every

§ **6:38 6:38** *Bul* was the eighth month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of October and November.

specification. So he built the temple in seven years.

7

1 Solomon, however, took thirteen years to complete the construction of his entire palace.

2 He built the House of the Forest of Lebanon a hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high,* with four rows of cedar pillars supporting the cedar beams.

3 The house was roofed with cedar above the beams that rested on the pillars—forty-five beams, fifteen per row.

4 There were three rows of high windows facing one another in three tiers.

5 All the doorways and doorposts had rectangular frames, with the openings facing one another in three tiers.

6 Solomon made his colonnade fifty cubits long and thirty cubits wide,† with a portico in front of it and a canopy with pillars in front of the portico.

7 In addition, he built a hall for the throne, the Hall of Justice, where he was to judge. It was paneled with cedar from floor to floor.‡

8 And the palace where Solomon would live, set further back, was of similar construction. He

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* **7:2 7:2** The house was approximately 150 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high (45.7 meters long, 22.9 meters wide, and 13.7 meters high). † **7:6 7:6** The colonnade was approximately 75 feet long and 45 feet wide (22.9 meters long and 13.7 meters wide). ‡ **7:7 7:7** Syriac and Vulgate *from floor to ceiling*

also made a palace like this hall for Pharaoh's
daughter, whom he had married.
9 All these buildings were constructed with
costly stones, cut to size and trimmed with saws
inside and out from the foundation to the eaves,
and from the outside to the great courtyard.
10 The foundations were laid with large, costly
stones, some ten cubits long§ and some eight
cubits long.*
11 Above these were costly stones, cut to size,
and cedar beams.
12 The great courtyard was surrounded by
three rows of dressed stone and a row of
trimmed cedar beams, as were the inner
courtyard and portico of the house of the LORD.
13 Now King Solomon sent to bring Huram†
from Tyre.
14 He was the son of a widow from the tribe of
Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a
craftsman in bronze. Huram had great skill,
understanding, and knowledge for every kind of
bronze work. So he came to King Solomon and
carried out all his work.
15 He cast two pillars of bronze, each eighteen
cubits high and twelve cubits in circumference.‡

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§ **7:10 7:10** *10 cubits* is approximately 15 feet or 4.6 meters.
* **7:10 7:10** *8 cubits* is approximately 12 feet or 3.7 meters.
† **7:13 7:13** Hebrew *Hiram*, a variant of *Huram*; also in verses 40 and 45; see 2 Chronicles 4:11. Note that this is not Hiram king of Tyre mentioned in 1 Kings 5:15. ‡ **7:15 7:15** Each pillar was approximately 27 feet high and 18 feet in circumference (8.2 meters high and 5.5 meters in circumference).

16 He also made two capitals of cast bronze to
set on top of the pillars, each capital five cubits
high.§
17 For the capitals on top of the pillars he
made a network of lattice, with wreaths of
chainwork, seven for each capital.*

18 He made the pillars, and two rows around
the one grating to cover the capitals atop the
pomegranates;† and he did the same for the
second capital.
19 And the capitals atop the pillars in the
portico were shaped like lilies, four cubits high.‡
20 On the capitals of both pillars, just above
the rounded projection next to the network,
were the two hundred pomegranates in rows
encircling each capital.

21 Thus he set up the pillars at the portico of
the temple. The pillar to the south he named
Jachin,§ and the pillar to the north he named
Boaz.*
22 And the tops of the pillars were shaped like
lilies. So the work of the pillars was completed.

23 He also made the Sea of cast metal. It was
circular in shape, measuring ten cubits from rim

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§ **7:16 7:16** *5 cubits* is approximately 7.5 feet or 2.3 meters.
* **7:17 7:17** LXX *one for each capital* † **7:18 7:18** Some Hebrew manuscripts *he made the pomegranates … atop the pillars* ‡ **7:19 7:19** *4 cubits* is approximately 6 feet or 1.8 meters; also in verse 38. § **7:21 7:21** *Jachin* probably means *he establishes.* * **7:21 7:21** *Boaz* probably means *in him is strength.*

to rim, five cubits in height, and thirty cubits in
circumference.†
24 Below the rim, ornamental buds encircled
it, ten per cubit all the way around the Sea, cast
in two rows as a part of the Sea.
25 The Sea stood on twelve oxen, three facing
north, three facing west, three facing south, and
three facing east. The Sea rested on them, with
all their hindquarters toward the center.
26 It was a handbreadth thick,‡ and its rim was
fashioned like the brim of a cup, like a lily
blossom. It could hold two thousand baths.§
27 In addition, he made ten movable stands of
bronze, each four cubits long, four cubits wide,
and three cubits high.*
28 This was the design of the stands: They had
side panels attached to uprights,
29 and on the panels between the uprights
were lions, oxen, and cherubim. On the uprights
was a pedestal above, and below the lions and
oxen were wreaths of beveled work.
30 Each stand had four bronze wheels with
bronze axles and a basin resting on four cast
supports, with wreaths at each side.

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† **7:23 7:23** The Sea was approximately 15 feet from rim to rim, 7.5 feet in height, and 45 feet in circumference (4.6 meters from rim to rim, 2.3 meters in height, and 13.7 meters in circumference).
‡ **7:26 7:26** *A handbreadth* is approximately 2.9 inches or 7.4 centimeters.
§ **7:26 7:26** *2,000 baths* is approximately 11,600 gallons or 44,000 liters; LXX does not include this sentence.
* **7:27 7:27** The stands were approximately 6 feet in length and width, and 4.5 feet high (1.8 meters in length and width, and 1.4 meters high).

31 The opening to each stand inside the crown
at the top was one cubit deep,† with a round
opening like the design of a pedestal, a cubit and
a half wide.‡ And around its opening were
engravings, but the panels of the stands were
square, not round.
32 There were four wheels under the panels,
and the axles of the wheels were attached to the
stand; each wheel was a cubit and a half in
diameter.
33 The wheels were made like chariot wheels;
their axles, rims, spokes, and hubs were all of
cast metal.
34 Each stand had four handles, one for each
corner, projecting from the stand.
35 At the top of each stand was a circular band
half a cubit high.§ The supports and panels
were cast as a unit with the top of the stand.
36 He engraved cherubim, lions, and palm
trees on the surfaces of the supports and panels,
wherever each had space, with wreaths all
around.
37 In this way he made the ten stands, each
with the same casting, dimensions, and shape.
38 He also made ten bronze basins, each
holding forty baths* and measuring four cubits
across, one basin for each of the ten stands.

† **7:31 7:31** *One cubit* is approximately 18 inches or 45.7 centimeters. ‡ **7:31 7:31** *A cubit and a half* is approximately 2.25 feet or 68.6 centimeters wide; similarly in verse 32. § **7:35 7:35** *Half a cubit* is approximately 9 inches or 22.9 centimeters high. * **7:38 7:38** *40 baths* is approximately 232 gallons or 880 liters.

39 He set five stands on the south side of the
temple and five on the north, and he put the Sea
on the south side, at the southeast corner of the
temple.
40 Additionally, Huram made the basins,†
shovels, and sprinkling bowls.
So Huram finished all the work that he had
undertaken for King Solomon in the house of
the LORD:

41 the two pillars;
the two bowl-shaped capitals atop the pillars;
the two sets of network covering both bowls
of the capitals atop the pillars;
42 the four hundred pomegranates for the two
sets of network (two rows of pomegranates
for each network covering both the
bowl-shaped capitals atop the pillars);
43 the ten stands;
the ten basins on the stands;
44 the Sea;
the twelve oxen underneath the Sea;
45 and the pots, shovels, and sprinkling bowls.
All these articles‡ that Huram made for King
Solomon in the house of the LORD were made of
burnished bronze.
46 The king had them cast in clay molds in the
plain of the Jordan between Succoth and
Zarethan.§

† **7:40** **7:40** Leningrad Codex and many other Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate (see also verse 45 and 2 Chronicles 4:11) *pots* ‡ **7:45** **7:45** Qere; Ketiv *the articles of the tent* § **7:46** **7:46** *Zarethan* is a variant of *Zeredah*; see 2 Chronicles 4:17.

47 Solomon left all these articles unweighed,
because there were so many. The weight of the
bronze could not be determined.
48 Solomon also made all the furnishings for
the house of the LORD:

the golden altar;
the golden table on which was placed the
Bread of the Presence;
49 the lampstands of pure gold in front of the
inner sanctuary, five on the right side and
five on the left;
the gold flowers, lamps, and tongs;
50 the pure gold basins, wick trimmers,
sprinkling bowls, ladles, and censers;
and the gold hinges for the doors of the inner
temple (that is, the Holy of Holies*) as well
as for the doors of the main hall of the
temple.
51 So all the work that King Solomon had
performed for the house of the LORD was
completed.

Then Solomon brought in the items his father
David had dedicated—the silver, the gold, and
the furnishings—and he placed them in the
treasuries of the house of the LORD.

8

1 At that time Solomon assembled before him
in Jerusalem the elders of Israel—all the tribal
heads and family leaders of the Israelites—to

* **7:50 7:50** Or *the Most Holy Place*

bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD
from Zion, the City of David.
2 And all the men of Israel came together to
King Solomon at the feast in the seventh
month,* the month of Ethanim.†
3 When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the
priests took up the ark,
4 and they brought up the ark of the LORD and
the Tent of Meeting with all its sacred
furnishings. So the priests and Levites carried
them up.
5 There, before the ark, King Solomon and the
whole congregation of Israel who had assembled
with him sacrificed so many sheep and oxen
that they could not be counted or numbered.
6 Then the priests brought the ark of the
covenant of the LORD to its place in the inner
sanctuary of the temple, the Holy of Holies,‡
beneath the wings of the cherubim.
7 For the cherubim spread their wings over
the place of the ark and overshadowed the ark
and its poles.
8 The poles extended far enough that their
ends were visible from the Holy Place in front of
the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the
Holy Place;§ and they are there to this day.

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* **8:2 8:2** That is, the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths or Shelters); similarly in verse 65; see Leviticus 23:33–36. † **8:2 8:2** *Ethanim* was the seventh month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of September and October.
‡ **8:6 8:6** Or *the Most Holy Place* § **8:8 8:8** Literally *not from outside*

9 There was nothing in the ark except the two
stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at
Horeb,* where the LORD had made a covenant
with the Israelites after they had come out of the
land of Egypt.
10 And when the priests came out of the Holy
Place, the cloud filled the house of the LORD
11 so that the priests could not stand there to
minister because of the cloud. For the glory of
the LORD filled the house of the LORD.
12 Then Solomon declared:

"The LORD† has said that he would dwell
in the thick cloud.
13 I have indeed built you an exalted house,
a place for you to dwell forever."

14 And as the whole assembly of Israel stood
there, the king turned around and blessed them
all
15 and said:
"Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who
has fulfilled with his own hand what he spoke
with his mouth to my father David, saying,
16 'Since the day I brought my people Israel
out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city from any
tribe of Israel in which to build a house so that
my Name would be there. But I have chosen
David to be over my people Israel.'
17 Now it was in the heart of my father David
to build a house for the Name of the LORD, the
God of Israel.

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* **8:9 8:9** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai † **8:12 8:12** Some LXX manuscripts *The Lord has set the sun in the heavens, but*

18 But the LORD said to my father David, ‘Since
it was in your heart to build a house for my
Name, you have done well to have this in your
heart.
19 Nevertheless, you are not the one to build it;
but your son, your own offspring, will build the
house for my Name.’

20 Now the LORD has fulfilled the word that he
spoke. I have succeeded my father David, and I
sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD
promised. I have built the house for the Name of
the LORD, the God of Israel.
21 And there I have provided a place for the
ark, which contains the covenant of the LORD
that he made with our fathers when he brought
them out of the land of Egypt.”

22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the
LORD in front of the whole assembly of Israel,
spread out his hands toward heaven,
23 and said:

“O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like
you in heaven above or on earth below, keeping
your covenant of loving devotion with your
servants who walk before you with all their
hearts.
24 You have kept your promise to your servant,
my father David. What you spoke with your
mouth you have fulfilled with your hand this
day.

25 Therefore now, O LORD, God of Israel, keep
for your servant, my father David, what you
promised when you said: ‘You will never fail to
have a man to sit before me on the throne of

Israel, if only your descendants guard their way
to walk before me as you have done.'
26 And now, O God of Israel, please confirm
what you promised to your servant, my father
David.
27 But will God indeed dwell upon the earth?
The heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot
contain you, much less this temple I have built.
28 Yet regard the prayer and plea of your
servant, O LORD my God, so that you may hear
the cry and the prayer that your servant is
praying before you today.
29 May your eyes be open toward this temple
night and day, toward the place of which you
said, 'My Name shall be there,' so that you may
hear the prayer that your servant prays toward
this place.
30 Hear the plea of your servant and of your
people Israel when they pray toward this place.
May you hear from heaven, your dwelling place.
May you hear and forgive.
31 When a man sins against his neighbor and
is required to take an oath, and he comes to take
an oath before your altar in this temple,
32 then may you hear from heaven and act.
May you judge your servants, condemning the
wicked man by bringing down on his own head
what he has done, and justifying the righteous
man by rewarding him according to his
righteousness.
33 When your people Israel are defeated
before an enemy because they have sinned
against you, and they return to you and confess

your name, praying and pleading with you in
this temple,
34 then may you hear from heaven and forgive
the sin of your people Israel. May you restore
them to the land you gave to their fathers.
35 When the skies are shut and there is no rain
because your people have sinned against you,
and they pray toward this place and confess
your name, and they turn from their sins
because you have afflicted them,
36 then may you hear from heaven and forgive
the sin of your servants, your people Israel, so
that you may teach them the good way in which
they should walk. May you send rain on the land
that you gave your people as an inheritance.
37 When famine or plague comes upon the
land, or blight or mildew or locusts or
grasshoppers, or when their enemy besieges
them in their cities, whatever plague or sickness
may come,
38 then may whatever prayer or petition is
made by anyone among all your people
Israel—each knowing his own afflictions and
spreading out his hands toward this temple—
39 be heard by you from heaven, your
dwelling place. And may you forgive and act,
and repay each man according to all his ways,
since you know his heart—for you alone know
the hearts of all men—
40 so that they may fear you all the days they
live in the land that you gave to our fathers.
41 And as for the foreigner who is not of your
people Israel but has come from a distant land

because of your name—
42 for they will hear of your great name and
mighty hand and outstretched arm—when he
comes and prays toward this temple,
43 then may you hear from heaven, your
dwelling place, and do according to all for which
the foreigner calls to you. Then all the peoples
of the earth will know your name and fear you,
as do your people Israel, and they will know that
this house I have built is called by your Name.

44 When your people go to war against their
enemies, wherever you send them, and when
they pray to the LORD in the direction of the city
you have chosen and the house I have built for
your Name,
45 then may you hear from heaven their
prayer and their plea, and may you uphold their
cause.

46 When they sin against you—for there is no
one who does not sin—and you become angry
with them and deliver them to an enemy who
takes them as captives to his own land, whether
far or near,
47 and when they come to their senses in the
land to which they were taken, and they repent
and plead with you in the land of their captors,
saying, 'We have sinned and done wrong; we
have acted wickedly,'
48 and when they return to you with all their
heart and soul in the land of the enemies who
took them captive, and when they pray to you in
the direction of the land that you gave to their

fathers, the city you have chosen, and the house
I have built‡ for your Name,
49 then may you hear from heaven, your
dwelling place, their prayer and petition, and
may you uphold their cause.
50 May you forgive your people who have
sinned against you and all the transgressions
they have committed against you, and may you
grant them compassion in the eyes of their
captors to show them mercy.
51 For they are your people and your
inheritance; you brought them out of Egypt, out
of the furnace for iron.
52 May your eyes be open to the pleas of your
servant and of your people Israel, and may you
listen to them whenever they call to you.
53 For you, O Lord GOD, have set them apart
from all the peoples of the earth as your
inheritance, as you spoke through your servant
Moses when you brought our fathers out of
Egypt."
54 Now when Solomon had finished praying
this entire prayer and petition to the LORD, he
got up before the altar of the LORD, where he
had been kneeling with his hands spread out
toward heaven.
55 And he stood and blessed the whole
assembly of Israel in a loud voice, saying:
56 "Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to
his people Israel according to all that he
promised. Not one word has failed of all the

‡ **8:48 8:48** Qere; Ketiv *you have built*

good promises he made through his servant
Moses.
57 May the LORD our God be with us, as he
was with our fathers. May he never leave us or
forsake us.
58 May he incline our hearts to himself, to
walk in all his ways and to keep the
commandments and statutes and ordinances he
commanded our fathers.
59 And may these words with which I have
made my petition before the LORD be near to
the LORD our God day and night, so that he may
uphold the cause of his servant and of his
people Israel as each day requires,
60 so that all the peoples of the earth may
know that the LORD is God. There is no other!
61 So let your heart be fully devoted to the
LORD our God, as it is this day, to walk in his
statutes and to keep his commandments."
62 Then the king and all Israel with him
offered sacrifices before the LORD.
63 And Solomon offered as peace offerings to
the LORD 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the
king and all the Israelites dedicated the house of
the LORD.
64 On that same day the king consecrated the
middle of the courtyard in front of the house of
the LORD, and there he offered the burnt
offerings, the grain offerings, and the fat of the
peace offerings, since the bronze altar before
the LORD was too small to contain all these
offerings.
65 So at that time Solomon and all Israel with
him—a great assembly of people from

Lebo-hamath to the Brook of Egypt—kept the
feast before the LORD our God for seven days
and seven more days—fourteen days in all.
66 On the eighth day§ Solomon sent the people
away. So they blessed the king and went home,
joyful and glad in heart for all the good things
that the LORD had done for his servant David
and for his people Israel.

9

1 Now when Solomon had finished building
the house of the LORD and the royal palace, and
had achieved all that he had desired to do,
2 the LORD appeared to him a second time, as
he had appeared to him at Gibeon.
3 And the LORD said to him:
"I have heard your prayer and petition before
me. I have consecrated this temple, which you
have built, by putting my Name there forever;
my eyes and my heart will be there for all time.
4 And as for you, if you walk before me as your
father David walked, with a heart of integrity
and uprightness, doing all I have commanded
you, and if you keep my statutes and ordinances,
5 then I will establish your royal throne over
Israel forever, as I promised your father David
when I said, 'You will never fail to have a man
on the throne of Israel.'
6 But if indeed you or your sons turn away
from following me and do not keep the
commandments and statutes I have set before

§ **8:66 8:66** Probably the day following the seven-day feast; compare 2 Chronicles 7:9–10.

you, and if you go off to serve and worship other
gods,
7 then I will cut off Israel from the land that I
have given them, and I will banish from my
presence this temple I have sanctified for my
Name. Then Israel will become an object of
scorn and ridicule among all peoples.
8 And though this temple is now exalted,* all
who pass by it will be appalled and will hiss and
say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this
land and to this temple?'
9 And others will answer, 'Because they have
forsaken the LORD their God who brought their
fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have
embraced other gods, worshiping and serving
them—because of this, the LORD has brought all
this disaster upon them.' "
10 Now at the end of the twenty years during
which Solomon built these two houses, the
house of the LORD and the royal palace,
11 King Solomon gave twenty towns in the
land of Galilee to Hiram king of Tyre, who had
supplied him with cedar and cypress† logs and
gold for his every desire.
12 So Hiram went out from Tyre to inspect the
towns that Solomon had given him, but he was
not pleased with them.
13 "What are these towns you have given me,
my brother?" asked Hiram, and he called them

* **9:8 9:8** Some LXX manuscripts, Syriac, and Arabic *And when this temple has become a heap of rubble* † **9:11 9:11** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir*

the Land of Cabul,‡ as they are called to this day.
14 And Hiram had sent the king 120 talents of
gold.§
15 This is the account of the forced labor that
King Solomon imposed to build the house of the
LORD, his own palace, the supporting terraces,*
and the wall of Jerusalem, as well as Hazor,
Megiddo, and Gezer.
16 Pharaoh king of Egypt had attacked and
captured Gezer. He had set it on fire, killed the
Canaanites who lived in the city, and given it as
a dowry to his daughter, Solomon's wife.
17 So Solomon rebuilt Gezer, Lower
Beth-horon,
18 Baalath, and Tadmor† in the wilderness, in
the land,‡
19 as well as all the store cities that Solomon
had, the cities for his chariots, and the cities for
his horsemen§—whatever he desired to build in
Jerusalem, Lebanon, and throughout the land of
his dominion.
20 As for all the people who remained of the
Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and
Jebusites (the people who were not Israelites)—
21 their descendants who remained in the
land, those whom the Israelites were unable to

‡ **9:13 9:13** *Cabul* sounds like the Hebrew for *good-for-nothing*.
§ **9:14 9:14** *120 talents* is approximately 4.52 tons or 4.1 metric tons of gold. * **9:15 9:15** Hebrew *the Millo*; also in verse 24
† **9:18 9:18** Qere; Ketiv *Tamar* ‡ **9:18 9:18** The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain; some translations *in the Wilderness of Judah*
§ **9:19 9:19** Or *horses* or *charioteers*

devote to destruction*—Solomon conscripted these people to be forced laborers, as they are to this day.
22 But Solomon did not consign any of the Israelites to slavery, because they were his men of war, his servants, his officers, his captains, and the commanders of his chariots and cavalry.
23 They were also the chief officers over Solomon's projects: 550 supervisors over the people who did the work.
24 As soon as Pharaoh's daughter had come up from the City of David to the palace that Solomon had built for her, he built the supporting terraces.
25 Three times a year Solomon offered burnt offerings and peace offerings on the altar he had built for the LORD, burning incense with them before the LORD. So he completed the temple.
26 King Solomon also assembled a fleet of ships at Ezion-geber, which is near Eloth† in Edom, on the shore of the Sea of Reeds.‡
27 And Hiram sent his servants, sailors who knew the sea, to serve in the fleet with Solomon's servants.
28 They sailed to Ophir and imported gold from there—420 talents§—and delivered it to Solomon.

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* **9:21 9:21** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering. † **9:26 9:26** *Eloth* is a variant of *Elath*; see LXX, 2 Kings 14:22, and 2 Kings 16:6. ‡ **9:26 9:26** Or *the Red Sea* § **9:28 9:28** *420 talents* is approximately 15.8 tons or 14.4 metric tons of gold.

10

1 Now when the queen of Sheba heard about
the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the
LORD, she came to test him with difficult
questions.
2 She arrived in Jerusalem with a very large
caravan—with camels bearing spices, gold in
great abundance, and precious stones.
And she came to Solomon and spoke to him all
that was on her mind.
3 And Solomon answered all her questions;
nothing was too difficult for the king to explain.
4 When the queen of Sheba saw all the
wisdom of Solomon, the palace he had built,
5 the food at his table, the seating of his
servants, the service and attire of his
attendants,* his cupbearers, and the burnt
offerings he presented at the house of the LORD,
it took her breath away.
6 She said to the king, "The report I heard in
my own country about your words and wisdom
is true.
7 But I did not believe these things until I came
and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even
half was told to me. Your wisdom and
prosperity have far exceeded the report I heard.
8 How blessed are your men!† How blessed
are these servants of yours who stand
continually before you and hear your wisdom!
9 Blessed be the LORD your God, who has
delighted in you to set you on the throne of

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* **10:5 10:5** Qere; Ketiv *attendant* † **10:8 10:8** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *your wives*

Israel. Because of the LORD's eternal love for
Israel, he has made you king to carry out justice
and righteousness."

10 Then she gave the king 120 talents of gold,‡
a great quantity of spices, and precious stones.
Never again were spices in such abundance
brought in as those the queen of Sheba gave to
King Solomon.

11 (The fleet of Hiram that brought gold from
Ophir also brought from Ophir a great cargo of
almug§ wood and precious stones.
12 The king made the almug wood into steps
for the house of the LORD and for the king's
palace, and into lyres and harps for the singers.
Never before had such almug wood been
brought in, nor has such been seen again to this
day.)

13 King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all
she desired—whatever she asked—besides what
he had given her out of his royal bounty. Then
she left and returned to her own country, along
with her servants.

14 The weight of gold that came to Solomon
each year was 666 talents,*
15 not including the revenue from the
merchants, traders, and all the Arabian kings
and governors of the land.

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‡ **10:10 10:10** *120 talents* is approximately 4.52 tons or 4.1 metric tons of gold. § **10:11 10:11** *Almug* is probably a variant of *algum*; also in verse 12; see 2 Chronicles 2:7. * **10:14 10:14** *666 talents* is approximately 25.1 tons or 22.8 metric tons of gold.

16 King Solomon made two hundred large
shields of hammered gold; six hundred shekels
of gold† went into each shield.
17 He also made three hundred small shields
of hammered gold; three minas of gold‡ went
into each shield. And the king put them in the
House of the Forest of Lebanon.
18 Additionally, the king made a great throne
of ivory and overlaid it with pure gold.
19 The throne had six steps, and its back had a
rounded top. There were armrests on both sides
of the seat, with a lion standing beside each
armrest.
20 Twelve lions stood on the six steps, one at
either end of each step. Nothing like this had
ever been made for any kingdom.
21 All King Solomon's drinking cups were gold,
and all the utensils of the House of the Forest of
Lebanon were pure gold. There was no silver,
because it was accounted as nothing in the days
of Solomon.
22 For the king had the ships of Tarshish§ at
sea with Hiram's fleet, and once every three
years the ships of Tarshish would arrive bearing
gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.*
23 So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of
the earth in riches and wisdom.

† **10:16 10:16** *600 shekels* is approximately 15.1 pounds or 6.8 kilograms of gold. ‡ **10:17 10:17** *3 minas* is approximately 3.77 pounds or 1.71 kilograms of gold; possibly a reference to double minas, that is, approximately 7.54 pounds or 3.42 kilograms.
§ **10:22 10:22** Or *a fleet of trading ships*; twice in this verse
* **10:22 10:22** Or *baboons*

24 The whole world sought an audience with
Solomon to hear the wisdom that God had put in
his heart.
25 Year after year, each visitor would bring his
tribute: articles of silver and gold, clothing,
weapons, spices, horses, and mules.
26 Solomon accumulated† 1,400 chariots and
12,000 horses,‡ which he stationed in the chariot
cities and also with him in Jerusalem.
27 The king made silver as common in
Jerusalem as stones, and cedar as abundant as
sycamore in the foothills.§
28 Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt
and Kue;* the royal merchants purchased them
from Kue.
29 A chariot could be imported from Egypt for
six hundred shekels of silver,† and a horse for a
hundred and fifty.‡ Likewise, they exported
them to all the kings of the Hittites and to the
kings of Aram.

11

1 King Solomon, however, loved many foreign
women along with the daughter of
Pharaoh—women of Moab, Ammon, Edom, and
Sidon, as well as Hittite women.

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† **10:26 10:26** Literally *Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had* ‡ **10:26 10:26** Or *horsemen* or *charioteers* § **10:27 10:27** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea * **10:28 10:28** Probably an area in Cilicia, a province in the southeast of Asia Minor † **10:29 10:29** *600 shekels* is approximately 15.1 pounds or 6.8 kilograms of silver. ‡ **10:29 10:29** *150 shekels* is approximately 3.8 pounds or 1.7 kilograms of silver.

2 These women were from the nations about
which the LORD had told the Israelites, “You
must not intermarry with them, for surely they
will turn your hearts after their gods.” Yet
Solomon clung to these women in love.
3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth
and three hundred concubines—and his wives
turned his heart away.
4 For when Solomon grew old, his wives
turned his heart after other gods, and he was
not wholeheartedly devoted to the LORD his
God, as his father David had been.
5 Solomon followed Ashtoreth the goddess of
the Sidonians and Milcom* the abomination of
the Ammonites.
6 So Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD;
unlike his father David, he did not follow the
LORD completely.
7 At that time on a hill east of Jerusalem,
Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the
abomination of Moab and for Molech the
abomination of the Ammonites.
8 He did the same for all his foreign wives,
who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.
9 Now the LORD grew angry with Solomon,
because his heart had turned away from the
LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to
him twice.
10 Although he had warned Solomon explicitly
not to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep
the LORD’s command.

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* **11:5 11:5** *Milcom* is a variant of *Molech*; also in verse 33; see verse 7 and Leviticus 18:21.

11 Then the LORD said to Solomon, “Because
you have done this and have not kept my
covenant and my statutes, which I have
commanded you, I will tear the kingdom away
from you and give it to your servant.
12 Nevertheless, for the sake of your father
David, I will not do it during your lifetime; I will
tear it out of the hand of your son.
13 Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom away
from him. I will give one tribe to your son for
the sake of my servant David and for the sake of
Jerusalem, which I have chosen.”
14 Then the LORD raised up against Solomon
an adversary, Hadad the Edomite, from the
royal line of Edom.
15 Earlier, when David was in Edom, Joab the
commander of the army had gone to bury the
dead and had struck down every male in Edom.
16 Joab and all Israel had stayed there six
months, until he had killed every male in Edom.
17 But Hadad, still just a young boy, had fled to
Egypt, along with some Edomites who were
servants of his father.
18 Hadad and his men set out from Midian and
went to Paran. They took men from Paran with
them and went to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of
Egypt, who gave Hadad a house and land and
provided him with food.
19 There Hadad found such great favor in the
sight of Pharaoh that he gave to him in marriage
the sister of Queen Tahpenes, his own wife.
20 And the sister of Tahpenes bore Hadad a
son named Genubath. Tahpenes herself weaned

him in Pharaoh's palace, and Genubath lived there among the sons of Pharaoh.
21 When Hadad heard in Egypt that David had rested with his fathers and that Joab, the commander of the army, was dead, he said to Pharaoh, "Let me go, that I may return to my own country."
22 But Pharaoh asked him, "What have you lacked here with me that you suddenly want to go back to your own country?"
"Nothing," Hadad replied, "but please let me go."
23 And God raised up against Solomon another adversary, Rezon the son of Eliada, who had fled from his master, Hadadezer king of Zobah,
24 and had gathered men to himself. When David killed the Zobaites, Rezon captained a band of raiders and went to Damascus, where they settled and gained control.
25 Rezon was Israel's enemy throughout the days of Solomon, adding to the trouble caused by Hadad. So Rezon ruled over Aram with hostility toward Israel.
26 Now Jeroboam son of Nebat was an Ephraimite from Zeredah whose mother was a widow named Zeruah. Jeroboam was a servant of Solomon, but he rebelled against the king,
27 and this is the account of his rebellion against the king.
Solomon had built the supporting terraces† and repaired the gap in the wall of the city of his father David.

† **11:27 11:27** Hebrew *the Millo*

28 Now Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor.
So when Solomon noticed that the young man
was industrious, he put him in charge of the
whole labor force of the house of Joseph.
29 During that time, the prophet Ahijah the
Shilonite met Jeroboam on the road as he was
going out of Jerusalem. Now Ahijah had
wrapped himself in a new cloak, and the two of
them were alone in the open field.
30 And Ahijah took hold of the new cloak he
was wearing, tore it into twelve pieces,
31 and said to Jeroboam, “Take ten pieces for
yourself, for this is what the LORD, the God of
Israel, says: ‘Behold, I will tear the kingdom out
of the hand of Solomon, and I will give you ten
tribes.
32 But one tribe will remain for the sake of my
servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the
city I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel.
33 For they have‡ forsaken me to worship
Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians,
Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom
the god of the Ammonites. They have not
walked in my ways, nor done what is right in my
eyes, nor kept my statutes and judgments, as
Solomon’s father David did.
34 Nevertheless, I will not take the whole
kingdom out of Solomon’s hand, because I have
made him ruler all the days of his life for the
sake of David my servant, whom I chose because
he kept my commandments and statutes.

‡ **11:33 11:33** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *he has*; twice in this verse

35 But I will take ten tribes of the kingdom
from the hand of his son and give them to you.
36 I will give one tribe to his son, so that my
servant David will always have a lamp before
me in Jerusalem, the city where I chose to put
my Name.
37 But as for you, I will take you, and you shall
reign over all that your heart desires, and you
will be king over Israel.
38 If you listen to all that I command you, walk
in my ways, and do what is right in my sight in
order to keep my statutes and commandments
as my servant David did, then I will be with you.
I will build you a lasting dynasty just as I built
for David, and I will give Israel to you.
39 Because of this, I will humble David's
descendants—but not forever.' "
40 Solomon therefore sought to kill Jeroboam.
But Jeroboam arose and fled to Egypt, to Shishak
king of Egypt, where he remained until the
death of Solomon.
41 As for the rest of the acts of Solomon—all
that he did, as well as his wisdom—are they not
written in the Book of the Acts of Solomon?
42 Thus the time that Solomon reigned in
Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years.
43 And Solomon rested with his fathers and
was buried in the city of his father David. And
his son Rehoboam reigned in his place.

12

1 Then Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all
Israel had gone there to make him king.

2 When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard about
this, he was still* in Egypt where he had fled
from King Solomon and had been living ever
since.
3 So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and the
whole assembly of Israel came to Rehoboam and
said,
4 "Your father put a heavy yoke on us. But now
you must lighten the burden of your father's
service and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we
will serve you."
5 Rehoboam answered, "Go away for three
days and then return to me." So the people
departed.
6 Then King Rehoboam consulted with the
elders who had served his father Solomon
during his lifetime. "How do you advise me to
respond to these people?" he asked.
7 They replied,† "If you will be a servant to
these people and serve them this day, and if you
will respond by speaking kind words to them,
they will be your servants forever."
8 But Rehoboam rejected the advice of the
elders; instead, he consulted the young men who
had grown up with him and served him.
9 He asked them, "What message do you advise
that we send back to these people who have
spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke your
father put on us'?"
10 The young men who had grown up with
him replied, "This is how you should answer

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* **12:2 12:2** Or *he remained* † **12:7 12:7** Qere; Ketiv *he replied*

these people who said to you, ‘Your father made
our yoke heavy, but you must make it lighter.’
This is what you should tell them: ‘My little
finger is thicker than my father’s waist!
11 Whereas my father burdened you with a
heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. Whereas my
father scourged you with whips, I will scourge
you with scorpions.’ ”
12 After three days, Jeroboam and all the
people returned to Rehoboam, since the king
had said, “Come back to me on the third day.”
13 And the king answered the people harshly.
He rejected the advice of the elders
14 and spoke to them as the young men had
advised, saying, “Whereas my father made your
yoke heavy, I will add to your yoke. Whereas my
father scourged you with whips, I will scourge
you with scorpions.”
15 So the king did not listen to the people, and
indeed this turn of events was from the LORD, to
fulfill the word he had spoken to Jeroboam son
of Nebat through Ahijah the Shilonite.
16 When all Israel saw that the king had
refused to listen to them, they answered the
king:

“What portion do we have in David,
and what inheritance in the son of Jesse?
To your tents, O Israel!
Look now to your own house, O David!”
So the Israelites went home,
17 but Rehoboam still reigned over the
Israelites living in the cities of Judah.

18 Then King Rehoboam sent out Adoram,‡
who was in charge of the forced labor, but all
Israel stoned him to death. And King Rehoboam
mounted his chariot in haste and escaped to
Jerusalem.
19 So to this day Israel has been in rebellion
against the house of David.
20 When all Israel heard that Jeroboam had
returned, they summoned him to the assembly
and made him king over all Israel. Only the
tribe of Judah followed the house of David.
21 And when Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem,§
he mobilized the whole house of Judah and the
tribe of Benjamin—180,000 chosen warriors—to
fight against the house of Israel and restore the
kingdom to Rehoboam son of Solomon.
22 But the word of God came to Shemaiah the
man of God:
23 "Tell Rehoboam son of Solomon king of
Judah, all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and
the rest of the people
24 that this is what the LORD says: 'You are not
to go up and fight against your brothers, the
Israelites. Each of you must return home, for
this is my doing.' "
So they listened to the word of the LORD and
turned back according to the word of the LORD.
25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill
country of Ephraim and lived there. And from

‡ **12:18 12:18** Some LXX manuscripts and Syriac *Adoniram*; see 1 Kings 4:6 and 1 Kings 5:28. § **12:21 12:21** Qere; Ketiv *they arrived*

there he went out and built Penuel.*
26 Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the
kingdom might revert to the house of David.
27 If these people go up to offer sacrifices in
the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, their hearts
will return to their lord, Rehoboam king of
Judah; then they will kill me and return to
Rehoboam king of Judah.”
28 After seeking advice, the king made two
golden calves and said to the people,† “Going up
to Jerusalem is too much for you. Here, O Israel,
are your gods, who brought you up out of the
land of Egypt.”
29 One calf he set up in Bethel, and the other in
Dan.
30 And this thing became a sin; the people
walked before the one as far as Dan.‡
31 Jeroboam also built shrines on the high
places and appointed from every class of people
priests who were not Levites.
32 And Jeroboam ordained a feast on the
fifteenth day of the eighth month,§ like the feast
that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices on
the altar; he made this offering in Bethel to
sacrifice to the calves he had set up, and he

* **12:25 12:25** *Penuel* is a variant of *Peniel*; see Genesis 32:31. † **12:28 12:28** Hebrew *to them* ‡ **12:30 12:30** A proposed emendation reads *the people walked as far as Dan to worship before one of the calves*; LXX *the people went to the one at Bethel and to the other as far as Dan* § **12:32 12:32** This feast was exactly one month after the annual Feast of Tabernacles in Judah; see Leviticus 23:34.

installed priests in Bethel for the high places he had set up.

33 On the fifteenth day of the eighth month, a month of his own choosing,* Jeroboam offered sacrifices on the altar he had set up in Bethel. So he ordained a feast for the Israelites, offered sacrifices on the altar, and burned incense.

13

1 Suddenly, as Jeroboam was standing beside the altar to burn incense, there came a man of God from Judah to Bethel by the word of the LORD.

2 And he cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD, "O altar, O altar, this is what the LORD says: 'A son named Josiah will be born to the house of David, and upon you he will sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense upon you, and human bones will be burned upon you.' "*

3 That day the man of God gave a sign, saying, "The LORD has spoken this sign: 'Surely the altar will be split apart, and the ashes upon it will be poured out.' "

4 Now when King Jeroboam, who was at the altar in Bethel, heard the word that the man of God had cried out against it, he stretched out his hand and said, "Seize him!" But the hand he stretched out toward him withered, so that he could not pull it back.

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* **12:33 12:33** Qere; Ketiv *by himself* * **13:2 13:2** See 2 Kings 23:16.

5 And the altar was split apart, and the ashes
poured out, according to the sign that the man
of God had given by the word of the LORD.
6 Then the king responded to the man of God,
“Intercede with the LORD your God and pray for
me that my hand may be restored.”
So the man of God interceded with the LORD,
and the king’s hand was restored to him as it
was before.
7 Then the king said to the man of God, “Come
home with me and refresh yourself, and I will
give you a reward.”
8 But the man of God replied, “If you were to
give me half your possessions, I still would not
go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink
water in this place.
9 For this is what I was commanded by the
word of the LORD: ‘You must not eat bread or
drink water or return by the way you came.’ ”
10 So the man of God went another way and
did not return by the way he had come to Bethel.
11 Now a certain old prophet was living in
Bethel, and his son† came and told him all the
deeds that the man of God had done that day in
Bethel. They also told their father the words that
the man had spoken to the king.
12 “Which way did he go?” their father asked.
And his sons had seen‡ the way taken by the
man of God, who had come from Judah.
13 So the prophet said to his sons, “Saddle the
donkey for me.”

† **13:11 13:11** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *sons* ‡ **13:12 13:12** LXX *showed him*

Then they saddled the donkey for him, and he mounted it
14 and went after the man of God. He found him sitting under a terebinth§ and asked, “Are you the man of God who came from Judah?”

“I am,” he replied.

15 So the prophet said to the man of God, “Come home with me and eat some bread.”
16 But the man replied, “I cannot go home with you, and I will not eat bread or drink water with you in this place.
17 For I have been told by the word of the LORD: ‘You must not eat bread or drink water there or return by the way you came.’ ”

18 Then the prophet replied, “I too am a prophet like you, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, ‘Bring him back with you to your house, so that he may eat bread and drink water.’ ”

The old prophet was lying to him,
19 but the man of God went back with him, ate bread in his house, and drank water.
20 While they were sitting at the table, the word of the LORD came to the prophet who had brought him back,
21 and the prophet cried out to the man of God who had come from Judah, “This is what the LORD says: ‘Because you have defied the word of the LORD and have not kept the commandment that the LORD your God gave you,

§ **13:14 13:14** Or *an oak tree* or *a great tree*

22 but you went back and ate bread and drank
water in the place where he told you not to do
so, your body shall never reach the tomb of your
fathers.' "
23 And after the man of God had finished
eating and drinking, the old prophet who had
brought him back saddled the donkey for him.
24 As he went on his way, a lion met him on
the road and killed him, and his body was left
lying in the road, with the donkey and the lion
standing beside it.
25 And there were men passing by who saw
the body lying in the road with the lion standing
beside it, and they went and reported this in the
city where the old prophet lived.
26 When the prophet who had brought him
back from his journey heard this, he said, "It is
the man of God who disobeyed the command of
the LORD. Therefore the LORD has delivered
him to the lion, and it has mauled him and killed
him, according to the word that the LORD had
spoken to him."
27 Then the old prophet instructed his sons,
"Saddle the donkey for me." So they saddled it,
28 and he went and found the body lying in the
road, with the donkey and the lion standing
beside it. The lion had not eaten the body or
mauled the donkey.
29 So the old prophet lifted up the body of the
man of God, laid it on the donkey, and brought it
back to his own city to mourn for him and bury
him.

30 Then he laid the body in his own tomb, and
they lamented over him, “Oh, my brother!”
31 After he had buried him, the prophet said to
his sons, “When I die, you must bury me in the
tomb where the man of God is buried. Lay my
bones beside his bones,
32 for the message that he cried out by the
word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel and
against all the shrines on the high places in the
cities of Samaria will surely come to pass.”
33 Even after these events, Jeroboam did not
repent of his evil ways, but again he appointed
priests for the high places from every class of
people. He ordained* anyone who desired to be
a priest of the high places.
34 And this was the sin of the house of
Jeroboam that led to its extermination and
destruction from the face of the earth.

14

1 At that time Abijah son of Jeroboam became
ill,
2 and Jeroboam said to his wife, “Now get up,
disguise yourself so they will not recognize you
as my wife, and go to Shiloh. For Ahijah the
prophet is there; it was he who spoke about my
kingship over this people.
3 Take with you ten loaves of bread, some
cakes, and a jar of honey, and go to him. He will
tell you what will become of the boy.”
4 Jeroboam’s wife did as instructed; she arose
and went to Shiloh and arrived at Ahijah’s

* **13:33 13:33** Hebrew *filled the hand of*

house. Now Ahijah could not see, for his eyes
were dim because of his age.
5 But the LORD had said to Ahijah, “Behold, the
wife of Jeroboam is coming to ask you about her
son, for he is ill. You are to say such and such to
her, because when she arrives, she will be
disguised.”
6 So when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet
entering the door, he said, “Come in, wife of
Jeroboam! Why are you disguised? For I have
been sent to you with bad news.
7 Go, tell Jeroboam that this is what the LORD,
the God of Israel, says: ‘I raised you up from
among the people and appointed you ruler over
my people Israel.
8 I tore the kingdom away from the house of
David and gave it to you. But you have not been
like my servant David, who kept my
commandments and followed me with all his
heart, doing only what was right in my eyes.
9 You have done more evil than all who came
before you. You have proceeded to make for
yourself other gods and molten images to
provoke me, and you have flung me behind your
back.
10 Because of all this, behold, I am bringing
disaster on the house of Jeroboam:

I will cut off from Jeroboam every male,*
both slave and free,
in Israel;

* **14:10 14:10** Literally *(all) those who urinate against a wall*

I will burn up the house of Jeroboam
as one burns up dung until it is gone!
11 Anyone belonging to Jeroboam who dies in
the city
will be eaten by dogs,
and anyone who dies in the field
will be eaten by the birds of the air.'
For the LORD has spoken.
12 As for you, get up and go home. When your
feet enter the city, the child will die.
13 All Israel will mourn for him and bury him.
For this is the only one belonging to Jeroboam
who will receive a proper burial,† because only
in him has the LORD, the God of Israel, found
any good in the house of Jeroboam.
14 Moreover, the LORD will raise up for himself
a king over Israel who will cut off the house of
Jeroboam. This is the day—yes, even today!
15 For the LORD will strike Israel as a reed is
shaken in the water. He will uproot Israel from
this good land that he gave their fathers, and he
will scatter them beyond the Euphrates,‡
because they have made their Asherah poles,
provoking the LORD to anger.
16 So he will give Israel over on account of the
sins Jeroboam has committed and has caused
Israel to commit."
17 Then Jeroboam's wife got up and departed
for Tirzah, and as soon as she stepped over the
threshold of the house, the boy died.

† **14:13 14:13** Literally *who will come to the grave* ‡ **14:15 14:15** Hebrew *the River*

18 And they buried him, and all Israel
mourned for him, according to the word that the
LORD had spoken through his servant Ahijah
the prophet.
19 As for the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how
he waged war and how he reigned, they are
indeed written in the Book of the Chronicles of
the Kings of Israel.
20 And the length of Jeroboam's reign was
twenty-two years, and he rested with his fathers,
and his son Nadab reigned in his place.
21 Meanwhile, Rehoboam son of Solomon
reigned in Judah. He was forty-one years old
when he became king, and he reigned seventeen
years in Jerusalem, the city the LORD had
chosen from all the tribes of Israel in which to
put his Name. His mother's name was Naamah
the Ammonite.
22 And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD,
and by the sins they committed they provoked
him to jealous anger more than all their fathers
had done.
23 They also built for themselves high places,
sacred pillars, and Asherah poles on every high
hill and under every green tree.
24 There were even male shrine prostitutes in
the land. They imitated all the abominations of
the nations the LORD had driven out before the
Israelites.
25 In the fifth year of Rehoboam's reign,
Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem.
26 He seized the treasures of the house of the
LORD and of the royal palace. He took

everything, including all the gold shields that Solomon had made.
27 Then King Rehoboam made bronze shields
in their place and committed them to the care of
the captains of the guard on duty at the entrance
to the royal palace.
28 And whenever the king entered the house of
the LORD, the guards would bear the shields,
and later they would return them to the
guardroom.
29 As for the rest of the acts of Rehoboam,
along with all that he did, are they not written in
the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
30 There was war between Rehoboam and
Jeroboam throughout their days.
31 And Rehoboam rested with his fathers and
was buried with them in the City of David; his
mother's name was Naamah the Ammonite. And
his son Abijam§ reigned in his place.

15

1 In the eighteenth year of the reign of
Jeroboam son of Nebat, Abijam* became king of
Judah,
2 and he reigned in Jerusalem three years. His
mother's name was Maacah daughter of
Abishalom.†

§ **14:31** **14:31** *Abijam* is a variant of *Abijah*; some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *Abijah*; see 2 Chronicles 12:16. * **15:1** **15:1** *Abijam* is a variant of *Abijah*; some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *Abijah*; also in verses 3, 6, 7, and 8; see 2 Chronicles 12:16. † **15:2** **15:2** *Abishalom* is a variant of *Absalom*; also in verse 10; see 2 Chronicles 11:20.

3 And Abijam walked in all the sins that his
father before him had committed, and his heart
was not as fully devoted to the LORD his God as
the heart of David his forefather had been.
4 Nevertheless, for the sake of David, the LORD
his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem by raising
up a son to succeed him and to make Jerusalem
strong.
5 For David had done what was right in the
eyes of the LORD and had not turned aside from
anything the LORD commanded all the days of
his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.
6 And there was war between the houses of
Rehoboam‡ and Jeroboam all the days of his
life.§
7 As for the rest of the acts of Abijam, along
with all his accomplishments, are they not
written in the Book of the Chronicles of the
Kings of Judah? And there was war between
Abijam and Jeroboam.
8 And Abijam rested with his fathers and was
buried in the City of David, and his son Asa
reigned in his place.
9 In the twentieth year of Jeroboam's reign
over Israel, Asa became king of Judah,
10 and he reigned in Jerusalem forty-one
years. His mother's* name was Maacah
daughter of Abishalom.

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‡ **15:6 15:6** Literally *war between Rehoboam* (most Hebrew manuscripts); some Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac *war between Abijam* (that is, Abijah); most LXX texts do not contain this verse. § **15:6 15:6** Or *of Abijam's life* * **15:10 15:10** Or *his grandmother's* or *The queen mother's*; see verses 2 and 13.

11 And Asa did what was right in the eyes of
the LORD, as his father David had done.
12 He banished the male shrine prostitutes
from the land and removed all the idols that his
fathers had made.
13 He also removed his grandmother Maacah
from her position as queen mother because she
had made a detestable Asherah pole. Asa
chopped down the pole and burned it in the
Kidron Valley.
14 The high places were not removed, but Asa's
heart was fully devoted to the LORD all his days.
15 And he brought into the house of the LORD
the silver and gold and the articles that he and
his father had dedicated.†
16 Now there was war between Asa and
Baasha king of Israel throughout their days.
17 Baasha king of Israel went to war against
Judah and fortified Ramah to prevent anyone
from leaving or entering the territory of Asa
king of Judah.
18 So Asa withdrew all the silver and gold that
remained in the treasuries of the house of the
LORD and the royal palace. He entrusted it to
his servants and sent them with this message to
Ben-hadad son of Tabrimmon, the son of Hezion,
the king of Aram, who was ruling in Damascus:
19 "Let there be a treaty‡ between me and you
as there was between my father and your father.
See, I have sent you a gift of silver and gold.

† **15:15 15:15** Ketiv; Qere *the things his father had dedicated and the dedicated things of the house of the LORD* ‡ **15:19 15:19** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*; twice in this verse.

Now go and break your treaty with Baasha king
of Israel, so that he will withdraw from me."
20 And Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and
sent the commanders of his armies against the
cities of Israel, conquering Ijon, Dan,
Abel-beth-maacah, and the whole land of
Naphtali, including the region of Chinnereth.
21 When Baasha learned of this, he stopped
fortifying Ramah and withdrew to Tirzah.
22 Then King Asa summoned all the men of
Judah,§ with no exceptions, and they carried
away the stones of Ramah and the timbers
Baasha had used for building. And with these
materials King Asa built up Geba of Benjamin,
as well as Mizpah.
23 Now the rest of the acts of Asa, along with
all his might, all his accomplishments, and the
cities he built, are they not written in the Book
of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? In his
old age, however, he became diseased in his feet.
24 And Asa rested with his fathers and was
buried with them in the city of his father David,
and his son Jehoshaphat reigned in his place.
25 In the second year of Asa's reign over Judah,
Nadab son of Jeroboam became king of Israel,
and he reigned two years.
26 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD and
walked in the way of his father and in his sin,
which he had caused Israel to commit.
27 Then Baasha son of Ahijah of the house of
Issachar conspired against Nadab, and Baasha

§ **15:22 15:22** Or *Then King Asa made a proclamation throughout all Judah*

struck him down at Gibbethon of the Philistines
while Nadab and all Israel were besieging the
city.
28 In the third year of Asa's reign over Judah,
Baasha killed Nadab and reigned in his place.
29 As soon as Baasha became king, he struck
down the entire household of Jeroboam. He did
not leave to Jeroboam anyone who breathed,
but destroyed them all according to the word
that the LORD had spoken through his servant
Ahijah the Shilonite,
30 because of the sins Jeroboam had
committed and had caused Israel to commit, and
because he had provoked the LORD, the God of
Israel, to anger.
31 As for the rest of the acts of Nadab, along
with all his accomplishments, are they not
written in the Book of the Chronicles of the
Kings of Israel?
32 And there was war between Asa and Baasha
king of Israel throughout their days.
33 In the third year of Asa's reign over Judah,
Baasha son of Ahijah became king of all Israel,
and he reigned in Tirzah twenty-four years.
34 And Baasha did evil in the sight of the LORD
and walked in the way of Jeroboam and in his
sin, which he had caused Israel to commit.

16

1 Then the word of the LORD came to Jehu son
of Hanani against Baasha, saying:
2 "Even though I lifted you out of the dust and
made you ruler over my people Israel, you have

walked in the way of Jeroboam and have caused
my people Israel to sin and to provoke me to
anger by their sins.
3 So now I will consume Baasha and his house,
and I will make your house like that of
Jeroboam son of Nebat:

4 Anyone belonging to Baasha who dies in the
city
will be eaten by dogs,
and anyone who dies in the field
will be eaten by the birds of the air."
5 As for the rest of the acts of Baasha, along
with his accomplishments and might, are they
not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the
Kings of Israel?
6 And Baasha rested with his fathers and was
buried in Tirzah, and his son Elah reigned in his
place.
7 Moreover, the word of the LORD came
through the prophet Jehu son of Hanani against
Baasha and his house, because of all the evil he
had done in the sight of the LORD, provoking
him to anger with the work of his hands and
becoming like the house of Jeroboam, and also
because Baasha had struck down the house of
Jeroboam.
8 In the twenty-sixth year of Asa's reign over
Judah, Elah son of Baasha became king of Israel,
and he reigned in Tirzah two years.
9 However, while Elah was in Tirzah getting
drunk in the house of Arza the steward of his
household there, Elah's servant Zimri, the

commander of half his chariots, conspired
against him.
10 So in the twenty-seventh year of Asa's reign
over Judah, Zimri went in, struck Elah down,
and killed him. And Zimri reigned in his place.
11 As soon as Zimri began to reign and was
seated on the throne, he struck down the entire
household of Baasha. He did not leave a single
male, whether a kinsman or friend.
12 So Zimri destroyed the entire household of
Baasha, according to the word that the LORD
had spoken against Baasha through Jehu the
prophet.
13 This happened because of all the sins
Baasha and his son Elah had committed and had
caused Israel to commit, provoking the LORD,
the God of Israel, to anger with their worthless
idols.
14 As for the rest of the acts of Elah, along with
all his accomplishments, are they not written in
the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
15 In the twenty-seventh year of Asa's reign
over Judah, Zimri reigned in Tirzah for seven
days. Now the troops were encamped against
Gibbethon of the Philistines,
16 and the people in the camp heard that Zimri
had conspired against the king and struck him
down. So there in the camp that very day, all
Israel proclaimed Omri, the commander of the
army, king over Israel.
17 Then Omri and all the Israelites marched up
from Gibbethon and besieged Tirzah.

18 When Zimri saw that the city was captured,
he entered the citadel of the royal palace and
burned it down upon himself. So he died
19 because of the sins* he had committed,
doing evil in the sight of the LORD and following
the example of Jeroboam and the sin he had
committed and had caused Israel to commit.
20 As for the rest of the acts of Zimri and the
treason he committed, are they not written in
the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
21 At that time the people of Israel were
divided: Half of the people supported Tibni son
of Ginath as king, and half supported Omri.
22 But the followers of Omri proved stronger
than those of Tibni son of Ginath. So Tibni died
and Omri became king.
23 In the thirty-first year of Asa's reign over
Judah, Omri became king of Israel, and he
reigned twelve years, six of them in Tirzah.
24 He bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer
for two talents of silver† and built a city there,
calling it Samaria after the name of Shemer, who
had owned the hill.
25 But Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD
and acted more wickedly than all who were
before him.
26 For he walked in all the ways of Jeroboam
son of Nebat and in his sins,‡ which he caused
Israel to commit, provoking the LORD, the God
of Israel, to anger with their worthless idols.

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* **16:19** **16:19** Qere; Ketiv *sin* † **16:24** **16:24** *2 talents* is approximately 151 pounds or 68.4 kilograms of silver. ‡ **16:26** **16:26** Ketiv; Qere *his sin*

27 As for the rest of the acts of Omri, along
with his accomplishments and the might he
exercised, are they not written in the Book of
the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

28 And Omri rested with his fathers and was
buried in Samaria, and his son Ahab reigned in
his place.

29 In the thirty-eighth year of Asa's reign over
Judah, Ahab son of Omri became king of Israel,
and he reigned in Samaria twenty-two years.

30 However, Ahab son of Omri did evil in the
sight of the LORD, more than all who were
before him.
31 And as if it were not enough for him to walk
in the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, he even
married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of
the Sidonians, and he then proceeded to serve
and worship Baal.

32 First, Ahab set up an altar for Baal in the
temple of Baal that he had built in Samaria.
33 Then he set up an Asherah pole. Thus Ahab
did more to provoke the LORD, the God of Israel,
to anger than all the kings of Israel before him.

34 In Ahab's days, Hiel the Bethelite rebuilt
Jericho. At the cost of Abiram his firstborn he
laid its foundation, and at the cost of Segub his
youngest he set up its gates, according to the
word that the LORD had spoken through Joshua
son of Nun.§

§ **16:34 16:34** See Joshua 6:26.

17

1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was among the
settlers of Gilead,* said to Ahab, “As surely as the
LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I
stand, there will be neither dew nor rain in
these years except at my word!”
2 Then a revelation from the LORD came to
Elijah:
3 “Leave here, turn eastward, and hide
yourself by the Brook of Cherith, east of the
Jordan.†
4 And you are to drink from the brook, and I
have commanded the ravens to feed you there.”
5 So Elijah did what the LORD had told him,
and he went and lived by the Brook of Cherith,
east of the Jordan.
6 The ravens would bring him bread and meat
in the morning and evening, and he would drink
from the brook.
7 Some time later, however, the brook dried up
because there had been no rain in the land.
8 Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah:
9 “Get up and go to Zarephath of Sidon, and
stay there. Behold, I have commanded a widow
there to provide for you.”
10 So Elijah got up and went to Zarephath.
When he arrived at the city gate, there was a
widow gathering sticks. Elijah called to her and
said, “Please bring me a little water in a cup, so
that I may drink.”

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* **17:1** **17:1** LXX *who was from Tishbe in Gilead* † **17:3** **17:3** Or *the Cherith Ravine, near the Jordan*; also in verse 5

11 And as she was going to get it, he called to
her and said, “Please bring me a piece of bread
in your hand.”
12 But she replied, “As surely as the LORD your
God lives, I have no bread—only a handful of
flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. Look, I am
gathering a couple of sticks to take home and
prepare a meal for myself and my son, so that
we may eat it and die.”
13 “Do not be afraid,” Elijah said to her. “Go and
do as you have said. But first make me a small
cake of bread from what you have, and bring it
out to me. Afterward, make some for yourself
and your son,
14 for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel,
says: ‘The jar of flour will not be exhausted and
the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the
LORD sends rain upon the face of the earth.’ ”
15 So she went and did according to the word
of Elijah, and there was food every day for the
woman and Elijah‡ and her household.
16 The jar of flour was not exhausted and the
jug of oil did not run dry, according to the word
that the LORD had spoken through Elijah.
17 Later, the son of the woman who owned the
house became ill, and his sickness grew worse
and worse, until no breath remained in him.
18 “O man of God,” said the woman to Elijah,
“what have you done to me? Have you come to
remind me of my iniquity and cause the death
of my son?”

‡ **17:15 17:15** Qere; Ketiv *for Elijah and the woman*

19 But Elijah said to her, “Give me your son.”
So he took him from her arms, carried him to
the upper room where he was staying, and laid
him on his own bed.
20 Then he cried out to the LORD, “O LORD my
God, have you also brought tragedy on this
widow who has opened her home to me, by
causing her son to die?”
21 Then he stretched himself out over the child
three times and cried out to the LORD, “O LORD
my God, please let this boy’s life return to him!”
22 And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah,
and the child’s life returned to him, and he lived.
23 Then Elijah took the child, brought him
down from the upper room into the house, and
gave him to his mother. “Look, your son is alive,”
Elijah declared.
24 Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know
that you are a man of God and that the word of
the LORD from your mouth is truth.”

18

1 After a long time, in the third year of the
drought,* the word of the LORD came to Elijah:
“Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will
send rain upon the face of the earth.”
2 So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab.
The famine was severe in Samaria,
3 and Ahab summoned Obadiah, who was in
charge of the palace.
(Now Obadiah greatly feared the LORD,

* **18:1 18:1** Literally *And the days were many, and in the third year,*

4 for when Jezebel had slaughtered the
prophets of the LORD, Obadiah had taken a
hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty men
per cave, providing them with food and water.)
5 Then Ahab said to Obadiah, “Go throughout
the land to every spring and every valley.
Perhaps we will find grass to keep the horses
and mules alive so that we will not have to
destroy any livestock.”
6 So they divided the land to explore. Ahab
went one way by himself, and Obadiah went the
other way by himself.
7 Now as Obadiah went on his way, Elijah
suddenly met him. When Obadiah recognized
him, he fell facedown and said, “Is it you, my
lord Elijah?”
8 “It is I,” he answered. “Go tell your master,
‘Elijah is here!’ ”
9 But Obadiah replied, “How have I sinned,
that you are handing your servant over to Ahab
to put me to death?
10 As surely as the LORD your God lives, there
is no nation or kingdom where my lord has not
sent someone to search for you. When they said,
‘He is not here,’ he made that kingdom or nation
swear that they had not found you.
11 And now you say, ‘Go tell your master that
Elijah is here!’
12 I do not know where the spirit of the LORD
may carry you off when I leave you. Then when
I go and tell Ahab and he does not find you, he
will kill me. But I, your servant, have feared the
LORD from my youth.

13 Was it not reported to my lord what I did
when Jezebel slaughtered the prophets of the
LORD? I hid a hundred prophets of the LORD,
fifty men per cave, and I provided them with
food and water.
14 And now you say, 'Go tell your lord that
Elijah is here!' He will kill me!"

15 Then Elijah said, "As surely as the LORD of
Hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will present
myself to Ahab today."

16 So Obadiah went to inform Ahab, who went
to meet Elijah.
17 When Ahab saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is
that you, O troubler of Israel?"

18 "I have not troubled Israel," Elijah replied,
"but you and your father's house have, for you
have forsaken the commandments of the LORD
and have followed the Baals.
19 Now summon all Israel to meet me on
Mount Carmel, along with the four hundred and
fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred
prophets of Asherah who eat at Jezebel's table."

20 So Ahab summoned all the Israelites and
assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel.
21 Then Elijah approached all the people and
said, "How long will you waver between two
opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him. But if
Baal is God, follow him."

But the people did not answer a word.

22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I am the only
remaining prophet of the LORD, but Baal has
four hundred and fifty prophets.

23 Get two bulls for us. Let the prophets of
Baal choose one bull for themselves, cut it into
pieces, and place it on the wood but not light the
fire. And I will prepare the other bull and place
it on the wood but not light the fire.
24 Then you may call on the name of your god,
and I will call on the name of the LORD. The God
who answers by fire, he is God."

And all the people answered, "What you say is
good."

25 Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal,
"Since you are so numerous, choose for
yourselves one bull and prepare it first. Then
call on the name of your god, but do not light the
fire."
26 And they took the bull that was given them,
prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from
morning until noon, shouting, "O Baal, answer
us!"

But there was no sound, and no one answered
as they leaped around the altar they had made.

27 At noon Elijah began to taunt them, saying,
"Shout louder, for he is a god! Perhaps he is deep
in thought, or occupied, or on a journey.
Perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened!"
28 So they shouted louder and cut themselves
with knives and lances, as was their custom,
until the blood gushed over them.
29 Midday passed, and they kept on raving
until the time of the evening sacrifice. But there
was no response; no one answered, no one paid
attention.

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come
near to me.” So all the people approached him,
and he repaired the altar of the LORD that had
been torn down.
31 And Elijah took twelve stones, one for each
tribe of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of
the LORD had come and said, “Israel shall be
your name.”
32 And with the stones, Elijah built an altar in
the name of the LORD. Then he dug a trench
around the altar large enough to hold two seahs
of seed.†
33 Next, he arranged the wood, cut up the bull,
placed it on the wood.
34 Then he said, “Fill four waterpots and pour
the water on the offering and on the wood.”
“Do it a second time,” he said, and they did it a
second time.
“Do it a third time,” he said, and they did it a
third time.
35 So the water ran down around the altar and
even filled the trench.
36 At the time of the evening sacrifice, Elijah
the prophet approached the altar and said, “O
LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it
be known this day that you are God in Israel and
that I am your servant and have done all these
things at your command.
37 Answer me, O LORD! Answer me, so that
this people will know that you, the LORD, are

† **18:32 18:32** *2 seahs* is approximately 13.2 dry quarts or 14.6 liters (probably about 25.4 pounds or 11.5 kilograms of seed).

God, and that you have turned their hearts back again."

38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and it licked up the water in the trench.

39 When all the people saw this, they fell facedown and said, "The LORD, he is God! The LORD, he is God!"

40 Then Elijah ordered them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let a single one escape." So they seized them, and Elijah brought them down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered them there.

41 And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain."

42 So Ahab went up to eat and drink. But Elijah climbed to the summit of Carmel, bent down on the ground, and put his face between his knees.

43 "Go and look toward the sea," he said to his servant.

So the servant went and looked, and he said, "There is nothing there."

Seven times Elijah said, "Go back."

44 On the seventh time the servant reported, "There is a cloud as small as a man's hand rising from the sea."

And Elijah replied, "Go and tell Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.' "

45 Meanwhile, the sky grew dark with clouds and wind, and a heavy rain began to fall. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel.

46 And the hand of the LORD came upon
Elijah, and he tucked his cloak into his belt‡ and
ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel.

19

1 Now Ahab told Jezebel everything that Elijah
had done and how he had killed all the prophets
with the sword.
2 So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying,
"May the gods deal with me, and ever so
severely, if by this time tomorrow I have not
made your life like the lives of those you killed!"
3 When Elijah saw this, he ran for his life.*
When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his
servant there,
4 while he himself went a day's journey into
the wilderness. He sat down under a broom tree
and prayed that he might die. "I have had
enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life, for I am
no better than my fathers."
5 Then he lay down under the broom tree and
fell asleep.
Suddenly an angel touched him and said, "Get
up and eat."
6 And he looked around, and there by his head
was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a
jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down
again.
7 A second time the angel of the LORD
returned and touched him, saying, "Get up and
eat, or the journey will be too much for you."

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‡ **18:46 18:46** Hebrew *he girded up his loins* * **19:3 19:3** MT vowels; many Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *was afraid*

8 So he got up and ate and drank. And
strengthened by that food, he walked forty days
and forty nights until he reached Horeb,† the
mountain of God.
9 There Elijah entered a cave and spent the
night. And the word of the LORD came to him,
saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”
10 “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the
God of Hosts,” he replied, “but the Israelites have
forsaken your covenant, torn down your altars,
and killed your prophets with the sword. I am
the only one left, and they are seeking my life as
well.”
11 Then the LORD said, “Go out and stand on
the mountain before the LORD. Behold, the
LORD is about to pass by.”
And a great and mighty wind tore into the
mountains and shattered the rocks before the
LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind.
After the wind there was an earthquake, but
the LORD was not in the earthquake.
12 After the earthquake there was a fire, but
the LORD was not in the fire.
And after the fire came a still, small voice.
13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face
in his cloak and went out and stood at the
mouth of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to
him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”
14 “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the
God of Hosts,” he replied, “but the Israelites have
forsaken your covenant, torn down your altars,

† **19:8 19:8** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai

and killed your prophets with the sword. I am
the only one left, and they are seeking my life as
well."
15 Then the LORD said to him, "Go back by the
way you came, and go to the Desert of
Damascus. When you arrive, you are to anoint
Hazael as king over Aram.
16 You are also to anoint Jehu son‡ of Nimshi
as king over Israel and Elisha son of Shaphat
from Abel-meholah to succeed you as prophet.
17 Then Jehu will put to death whoever
escapes the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put
to death whoever escapes the sword of Jehu.
18 Nevertheless, I have reserved seven
thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not
bowed to Baal and whose mouths have not
kissed him."
19 So Elijah departed and found Elisha son of
Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve teams of
oxen, and he was with the twelfth team. Elijah
passed by him and threw his cloak around him.
20 So Elisha left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and
said, "Please let me kiss my father and mother
goodbye, and then I will follow you."
"Go on back," Elijah replied, "for what have I
done to you?"
21 So Elisha turned back from him, took his
pair of oxen, and slaughtered them. Using the
oxen's equipment for fuel, he cooked the meat
and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he
set out to follow and serve Elijah.

‡ **19:16 19:16** Or *grandson*; see 2 Kings 9:14.

20

1 Now Ben-hadad king of Aram assembled his
entire army. Accompanied by thirty-two kings
with their horses and chariots, he marched up,
besieged Samaria, and waged war against it.
2 Then he sent messengers into the city to
Ahab king of Israel.
3 And he said to him, “This is what Ben-hadad
says: ‘Your silver and gold are mine, and your
best wives and children are mine!’ ”
4 And the king of Israel replied, “Just as you
say, my lord the king: I am yours, along with all
that I have.”
5 The messengers came back and said, “This is
what Ben-hadad says: ‘I have sent to you to
demand your silver, your gold, your wives, and
your children.
6 But about this time tomorrow I will send my
servants to search your palace and the houses of
your servants. They will seize and carry away
all that is precious to you.’ ”
7 Then the king of Israel summoned all the
elders of the land and said, “Please take note and
see that this man is looking for trouble, for
when he demanded my wives, my children, my
silver, and my gold, I did not deny him.”
8 And the elders and the people all said, “Do
not listen to him or consent to his terms.”
9 So Ahab answered the messengers of
Ben-hadad, “Tell my lord the king, ‘All that you
demanded of your servant the first time I will
do, but this thing I cannot do.’ ”

So the messengers departed and relayed the message to Ben-hadad.

10 Then Ben-hadad sent another message to Ahab: “May the gods deal with me, and ever so severely, if enough dust remains of Samaria for each of my men to have a handful.”

11 And the king of Israel replied, “Tell him: ‘The one putting on his armor should not boast like one taking it off.’ ”

12 Ben-hadad received this message while he and the kings were drinking in Succoth,* and he said to his servants, “Take your positions.” So they stationed themselves against the city.

13 Meanwhile a prophet approached Ahab king of Israel and declared, “This is what the LORD says: ‘Do you see this entire great army? Behold, I will deliver it into your hand this very day, and you will know that I am the LORD.’ ”

14 “By whom?” Ahab asked.

And the prophet replied, “This is what the LORD says: ‘By the young officers of the district governors.’ ”

“Who will start the battle?” asked Ahab.

“You will,” answered the prophet.

15 So Ahab assembled the young officers of the district governors, and there were 232 men. And after them, he assembled the rest of the Israelite troops, 7,000 in all.

16 They marched out at noon while Ben-hadad and the 32 kings allied with him were in Succoth getting drunk.

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* **20:12 20:12** Or *in their tents*; also in verse 16

17 And the young officers of the district
governors marched out first.

Now Ben-hadad had sent out scouts, who
reported to him, “Men are marching out of
Samaria.”

18 “If they have marched out in peace,” he said,
“take them alive. Even if they have marched out
for war, take them alive.”

19 Meanwhile, these young officers of the
district governors marched out of the city, with
the army behind them,

20 and each one struck down his opponent. So
the Arameans fled, with the Israelites in pursuit.
But Ben-hadad king of Aram escaped on
horseback with the cavalry.

21 Then the king of Israel marched out and
attacked the horses and chariots, inflicting a
great slaughter on the Arameans.

22 Afterward, the prophet approached the king
of Israel and said, “Go and strengthen your
position, and take note what you must do, for at
the turn of the year† the king of Aram will come
up against you.”

23 Meanwhile, the servants of the king of Aram
said to him, “Their gods are gods of the hills.
That is why they prevailed over us. Instead, we
should fight them on the plains; surely then we
will prevail.

24 So do this: Dismiss all the kings from their
positions and replace them with other officers.

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† **20:22 20:22** Or *in the spring*; similarly in verse 26

25 And you must raise an army like the one
you have lost—horse for horse and chariot for
chariot—so we can fight the Israelites on the
plain, where we will surely prevail."
And the king approved their plan and acted
accordingly.
26 In the spring, Ben-hadad mobilized the
Arameans and went up to Aphek to fight against
Israel.
27 The Israelites also mobilized, gathered
supplies, and marched out to meet them.
The Israelites camped before them like two
small flocks of goats, while the Arameans
covered the countryside.
28 Then the man of God approached the king
of Israel and said, "This is what the LORD says:
'Because the Arameans have said that the LORD
is a god of the hills and not of the valleys, I will
deliver all this great army into your hand. Then
you will know that I am the LORD.' "
29 For seven days the armies camped opposite
each other, and on the seventh day the battle
ensued, and the Israelites struck down the
Arameans—a hundred thousand foot soldiers in
one day.
30 The rest of them fled into the city of Aphek,
where the wall fell on twenty-seven thousand of
the remaining men. Ben-hadad also fled to the
city and hid in an inner room.
31 Then the servants of Ben-hadad said to him,
"Look now, we have heard that the kings of the
house of Israel are merciful. Let us go out to the
king of Israel with sackcloth around our waists

and ropes around our heads. Perhaps he will spare your life."
32 So with sackcloth around their waists and ropes around their heads, they went to the king of Israel and said, "Your servant Ben-hadad says, 'Please spare my life.' "
And the king answered, "Is he still alive? He is my brother."
33 Now the men were looking for a sign of hope, and they quickly grasped at this word and replied, "Yes, your brother Ben-hadad."
"Go and get him!" said the king.
Then Ben-hadad came out, and Ahab had him come up into his chariot.
34 Ben-hadad said to him, "I will restore the cities my father took from your father; you may set up your own marketplaces in Damascus, as my father did in Samaria."
"By this treaty‡ I release you," Ahab replied. So he made a treaty with him and sent him away.
35 Meanwhile, by the word of the LORD, one of the sons of the prophets said to his companion, "Strike me, please!"
But the man refused to strike him.
36 Then the prophet said to him, "Because you have not obeyed the voice of the LORD, as soon as you depart from me a lion will kill you."
And when he left, a lion found him and killed him.
37 Then the prophet found another man and said, "Strike me, please!"

‡ **20:34 20:34** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*; twice in this verse.

So the man struck him and wounded him,
38 and the prophet went and waited on the
road for the king, disguising himself with a
bandage over his eyes.

39 As the king passed by, he cried out to the
king: “Your servant had marched out into the
middle of the battle, when suddenly a man came
over with a captive and told me, ‘Guard this
man! If he goes missing for any reason, your life
will be exchanged for his life, or you will weigh
out a talent of silver.§’
40 But while your servant was busy here and
there, the man disappeared.”

And the king of Israel said to him, “So shall
your judgment be; you have pronounced it on
yourself.”

41 Then the prophet quickly removed the
bandage from his eyes, and the king of Israel
recognized him as one of the prophets.

42 And the prophet said to the king, “This is
what the LORD says: ‘Because you have let slip
from your hand the man I had devoted to
destruction,* your life will be exchanged for his
life, and your people for his people.’ ”

43 Sullen and angry, the king of Israel went
home to Samaria.

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§ **20:39 20:39** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of silver. * **20:42 20:42** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering.

21

1 Some time after these events, Naboth the
Jezreelite owned a vineyard in Jezreel next to
the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.
2 So Ahab said to Naboth, “Give me your
vineyard to use as a vegetable garden, since it is
next to my palace. I will give you a better
vineyard in its place—or if you prefer, I will give
you its value in silver.”
3 But Naboth replied, “The LORD forbid that I
should give you the inheritance of my fathers.”
4 So Ahab went to his palace, sullen and angry
because Naboth the Jezreelite had told him, “I
will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.”
He lay down on his bed, turned his face away,
and refused to eat.
5 Soon his wife Jezebel came in and asked,
“Why are you so sullen that you refuse to eat?”
6 Ahab answered, “Because I spoke to Naboth
the Jezreelite and told him, ‘Give me your
vineyard for silver, or if you wish, I will give you
another vineyard in its place.’ And he replied, ‘I
will not give you my vineyard!’ ”
7 But his wife Jezebel said to him, “Do you not
reign over Israel? Get up, eat some food, and be
cheerful, for I will get you the vineyard of
Naboth the Jezreelite.”
8 Then Jezebel wrote letters in Ahab’s name,
sealed them with his seal, and sent them to the
elders and nobles who lived with Naboth in his
city.
9 In the letters she wrote:

"Proclaim a fast and give Naboth a seat of
honor among the people.
10 But seat two scoundrels opposite him and
have them testify, 'You have cursed both God
and the king!' Then take him out and stone him
to death."
11 So the elders and nobles who lived in
Naboth's city did as Jezebel had instructed in the
letters she had written to them.
12 They proclaimed a fast and gave Naboth a
seat of honor among the people.
13 And the two scoundrels came in and sat
opposite Naboth, and these men testified against
him before the people, saying, "Naboth has
cursed both God and the king!"
So they took him outside the city and stoned
him to death.
14 Then they sent word to Jezebel: "Naboth has
been stoned to death."
15 When Jezebel heard that Naboth had been
stoned to death, she said to Ahab, "Get up and
take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the
Jezreelite, who refused to give it to you for
silver. For Naboth is no longer alive, but dead."
16 And when Ahab heard that Naboth was
dead, he got up and went down to take
possession of the vineyard of Naboth the
Jezreelite.
17 Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah
the Tishbite, saying,
18 "Get up and go down to meet Ahab king of
Israel, who is in Samaria. See, he is in the
vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to take
possession of it.

19 Tell him that this is what the LORD says:
‘Have you not murdered a man and seized his land?’
Then tell him that this is also what the LORD says: ‘In the place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth, there also the dogs will lick up your blood—yes, yours!’*”
20 When Elijah arrived, Ahab said to him, “So you have found me out, my enemy.”
He replied, “I have found you out because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the LORD.
21 ‘Behold,†

I will bring calamity on you
and consume your descendants;
I will cut off from Ahab every male‡ in Israel,
both slave and free.
22 I will make your house like that of Jeroboam
son of Nebat
and like that of Baasha son of Ahijah,
because you have provoked my anger
and caused Israel to sin.’
23 And the LORD also speaks concerning Jezebel:

‘The dogs will devour Jezebel
by the wall of Jezreel.’§

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* **21:19 21:19** See 1 Kings 22:38 † **21:21 21:21** LXX *This is what the LORD says*; the speaker is identified in verses 17 and 23 ‡ **21:21 21:21** Literally *(all) those who urinate against a wall* § **21:23 21:23** Most Hebrew manuscripts; a few Hebrew manuscripts, Vulgate, and Syriac (see also 2 Kings 9:36) *‘The dogs will devour Jezebel at the plot of ground at Jezreel.’*

24 Anyone belonging to Ahab who dies in the city
will be eaten by dogs,
and anyone who dies in the field
will be eaten by the birds of the air."
25 (Surely there was never one like Ahab, who
sold himself to do evil in the sight of the LORD,
incited by his wife Jezebel.
26 He committed the most detestable acts by
going after idols, just like the Amorites whom
the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.)
27 When Ahab heard these words, he tore his
clothes, put sackcloth on his flesh, and fasted.
He lay down in sackcloth and walked around
meekly.
28 Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah
the Tishbite, saying:
29 "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled
himself before me? Because he has humbled
himself before me, I will not bring the calamity
during his days, but I will bring it upon his
house in the days of his son."

22

1 Then three years passed without war
between Aram and Israel.
2 However, in the third year, Jehoshaphat king
of Judah went down to visit the king of Israel,
3 who said to his servants, "Do you not know
that Ramoth-gilead is ours, but we have failed to
take it from the hand of the king of Aram?"
4 So he asked Jehoshaphat, "Will you go with
me to fight against Ramoth-gilead?"

Jehoshaphat answered the king of Israel, “I am as you are, my people are your people, and my horses are your horses.”

5 But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, “Please inquire first for the word of the LORD.”

6 So the king of Israel assembled the prophets, about four hundred men, and asked them, “Should I go to war against Ramoth-gilead, or should I refrain?”

“Go up,” they replied, “and the Lord will deliver it into the hand of the king.”

7 But Jehoshaphat asked, “Is there not still a prophet of the LORD here of whom we can inquire?”

8 The king of Israel answered, “There is still one man through whom we can inquire of the LORD, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good for me, but only bad. He is Micaiah son of Imlah.”

“The king should not say that!” Jehoshaphat replied.

9 So the king of Israel called one of his officials and said, “Bring Micaiah son of Imlah at once.”

10 Dressed in royal attire, the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah were sitting on their thrones at the threshing floor by the entrance of the gate of Samaria, with all the prophets prophesying before them.

11 Now Zedekiah son of Chenaanah had made for himself iron horns and declared, “This is what the LORD says: ‘With these you shall gore the Arameans until they are finished off.’ ”

12 And all the prophets were prophesying the
same, saying, “Go up to Ramoth-gilead and
triumph, for the LORD will deliver it into the
hand of the king.”
13 Then the messenger who had gone to call
Micaiah instructed him, “Behold now, with one
accord the words of the prophets are favorable
to the king. So please let your word* be like
theirs, and speak favorably.”
14 But Micaiah said, “As surely as the LORD
lives, I will speak whatever the LORD tells me.”
15 When Micaiah arrived, the king asked him,
“Micaiah, should we go to war against
Ramoth-gilead, or should we refrain?”
“Go up and triumph,” Micaiah replied, “for the
LORD will deliver it into the hand of the king.”
16 But the king said to him, “How many times
must I make you swear not to tell me anything
but the truth in the name of the LORD?”
17 So Micaiah declared:

“I saw all Israel scattered on the hills
like sheep without a shepherd.
And the LORD said, ‘These people have no
master;
let each one return home in peace.’ ”
18 Then the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat,
“Did I not tell you that he never prophesies good
for me, but only bad?”
19 Micaiah continued, “Therefore hear the
word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his

* **22:13 22:13** Qere; Ketiv *your words*

throne, and all the host of heaven standing by
him on his right and on his left.
20 And the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab to
march up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?'
And one suggested this, and another that.
21 Then a spirit came forward, stood before
the LORD, and said, 'I will entice him.'
'By what means?' asked the LORD.
22 And he replied, 'I will go out and be a lying
spirit in the mouths of all his prophets.'
'You will surely entice him and prevail,' said
the LORD. 'Go and do it.'
23 So you see, the LORD has put a lying spirit
in the mouths of all these prophets of yours, and
the LORD has pronounced disaster against you."
24 Then Zedekiah son of Chenaanah went up,
struck Micaiah in the face, and demanded,
"Which way did the spirit of the LORD go when
he departed from me to speak with you?"
25 Micaiah replied, "You will soon see, on that
day when you go and hide in an inner room."
26 And the king of Israel declared, "Take
Micaiah and return him to Amon the governor
of the city and to Joash the king's son,
27 and tell them that this is what the king says:
'Put this man in prison and feed him only bread
and water until I return safely.' "
28 But Micaiah replied, "If you ever return
safely, the LORD has not spoken through me."
Then he added, "Take heed, all you people!"
29 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king
of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead.

30 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “I
will disguise myself and go into battle, but you
wear your royal robes.” So the king of Israel
disguised himself and went into battle.
31 Now the king of Aram had ordered his
thirty-two chariot commanders, “Do not fight
with anyone, small or great, except the king of
Israel.”
32 When the chariot commanders saw
Jehoshaphat, they said, “Surely this is the king of
Israel!” So they turned to fight against him, but
Jehoshaphat cried out.
33 And when the chariot commanders saw that
he was not the king of Israel, they turned back
from pursuing him.
34 However, a certain man drew his bow
without taking special aim, and he struck the
king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So
the king said to his charioteer, “Turn around†
and take me out of the battle, for I am badly
wounded!”
35 The battle raged throughout that day, and
the king was propped up in his chariot facing
the Arameans. And the blood from his wound
ran out onto the floor of the chariot, and that
evening he died.
36 As the sun was setting, the cry rang out in
the army:

“Every man to his own city,
and every man to his own land!”

† **22:34 22:34** Literally *Turn your hand*

37 So the king died and was brought to
Samaria, where they buried him.
38 And the chariot was washed at the pool of
Samaria where the prostitutes bathed,‡ and the
dogs licked up Ahab's blood, according to the
word that the LORD had spoken.§
39 As for the rest of the acts of Ahab, along with
all his accomplishments and the ivory palace
and all the cities he built, are they not written in
the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
40 And Ahab rested with his fathers, and his
son Ahaziah reigned in his place.
41 In the fourth year of Ahab's reign over
Israel, Jehoshaphat son of Asa became king of
Judah.
42 Jehoshaphat was thirty-five years old when
he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem
twenty-five years. His mother's name was
Azubah daughter of Shilhi.
43 And Jehoshaphat walked in all the ways of
his father Asa; he did not turn away from them,
but did what was right in the eyes of the LORD.
44 The high places, however, were not
removed; the people still sacrificed and burned
incense on the high places.
45 Jehoshaphat also made peace with the king
of Israel.
46 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat,
along with the might he exercised and how he

‡ **22:38 22:38** Or *the pool of Samaria, where they cleaned the weapons* § **22:38 22:38** See 1 Kings 21:19.

waged war, are they not written in the Book of
the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
47 He banished from the land the male shrine
prostitutes who remained from the days of his
father Asa.
48 And there was no king in Edom; a deputy
served as king.
49 Jehoshaphat built* ships of Tarshish† to go
to Ophir for gold, but they never set sail,
because they were wrecked at Ezion-geber.
50 At that time Ahaziah son of Ahab said to
Jehoshaphat, “Let my servants sail with your
servants,” but Jehoshaphat refused.
51 And Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers and
was buried with them in the city of his father
David. And his son Jehoram reigned in his place.
52 In the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat's
reign over Judah, Ahaziah son of Ahab became
king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria two
years.
53 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD and
walked in the ways of his father and mother and
of Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had caused Israel
to sin.
54 Ahaziah served and worshiped Baal,
provoking the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger,
just as his father had done.

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* **22:49 22:49** Qere; Ketiv *Jehoshaphat had ten* † **22:49 22:49** Or *a fleet of trading ships*

Masoretic English Tanakh

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