2 Chronicles

1 Now Solomon son of David established
himself securely over his kingdom, and the
LORD his God was with him and highly exalted
him.
2 Then Solomon spoke to all Israel, to the
commanders of thousands and of hundreds, to
the judges, and to every leader in all Israel—the
heads of the families.
3 And Solomon and the whole assembly went
to the high place at Gibeon because it was the
location of God's Tent of Meeting, which Moses
the servant of the LORD had made in the
wilderness.
4 Now David had brought the ark of God from
Kiriath-jearim to the place he had prepared for
it, because he had pitched a tent for it in
Jerusalem.
5 But the bronze altar made by Bezalel son of
Uri, the son of Hur, he had placed before* the
tabernacle of the LORD. So Solomon and the
assembly inquired of him there.
6 Solomon offered sacrifices there before the
LORD on the bronze altar at the Tent of Meeting,
where he offered a thousand burnt offerings.
7 That night God appeared to Solomon and
said, "Ask, and I will give it to you!"

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* **1:5 1:5** LXX, Vulgate, and some Hebrew manuscripts *was there before*

8 Solomon replied to God: “You have shown
much loving devotion† to my father David, and
you have made me king in his place.
9 Now, O LORD God, let your promise to my
father David be fulfilled. For you have made me
king over a people as numerous as the dust of
the earth.
10 Now grant me wisdom and knowledge, so
that I may lead this people.‡ For who is able to
govern this great people of yours?”

11 God said to Solomon, “Since this was in your
heart instead of requesting riches or wealth or
honor for yourself or death for your
enemies—and since you have not even
requested long life but have asked for wisdom
and knowledge to govern my people over whom
I have made you king—
12 therefore wisdom and knowledge have
been granted to you. And I will also give you
riches and wealth and honor unlike anything
given to the kings before you or after you.”

13 So Solomon came to the high place in
Gibeon, to Jerusalem, from before the Tent of
Meeting,§ and he reigned over Israel.

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† **1:8 1:8** 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*. ‡ **1:10 1:10** Literally *so that I may go out before this people and come in* § **1:13 1:13** The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain; LXX and Vulgate *So Solomon went to Jerusalem from the high place in Gibeon*

14 Solomon accumulated* 1,400 chariots and
12,000 horses,† which he stationed in the chariot
cities and also with him in Jerusalem.
15 The king made silver and gold as common
in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar as abundant
as sycamore in the foothills.‡
16 Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt
and Kue;§ the royal merchants purchased them
from Kue.
17 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.
18 Now Solomon purposed to build a house for
the Name of the LORD and a royal palace for
himself.

2

1 So he conscripted 70,000 porters, 80,000
stonecutters in the mountains, and 3,600
supervisors.
2 Then Solomon sent word to Hiram* king of
Tyre:

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* **1:14 1:14** Literally *Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had* † **1:14 1:14** Or *horsemen* or *charioteers* ‡ **1:15 1:15** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea § **1:16 1:16** Probably an area in Cilicia, a province in the southeast of Asia Minor * **1:17 1:17** *600 shekels* is approximately 15.1 pounds or 6.8 kilograms of silver. † **1:17 1:17** *150 shekels* is approximately 3.8 pounds or 1.7 kilograms of silver. * **2:2 2:2** Hebrew *Huram*, a variant of *Hiram*; also in verses 10 and 11

“Do for me as you did for my father David
when you sent him cedars to build himself a
house to live in.
3 Behold, I am about to build a house for the
Name of the LORD my God to dedicate to him for
burning fragrant incense before him, for
displaying the showbread continuously, and for
making burnt offerings every morning and
evening as well as on the Sabbaths, New Moons,
and appointed feasts of the LORD our God. This
is ordained for Israel forever.
4 The house that I am building will be great,
for our God is greater than all gods.
5 But who is able to build a house for him,
since the heavens, even the highest heavens,
cannot contain him? Who then am I, that I
should build a house for him, except as a place
to burn sacrifices before him?
6 Send me, therefore, a craftsman skilled in
engraving to work with gold and silver, with
bronze and iron, and with purple, crimson, and
blue yarn. He will work with my craftsmen in
Judah and Jerusalem, whom my father David
provided.
7 Send me also cedar, cypress,† and algum‡
logs from Lebanon, for I know that your
servants have skill to cut timber there. And
indeed, my servants will work with yours
8 to prepare for me timber in abundance,
because the temple I am building will be great
and wonderful.

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† **2:7 2:7** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir* ‡ **2:7 2:7** *Algum* is probably a variant of *almug*; see 1 Kings 10:11.

9 I will pay your servants, the woodcutters,
20,000 cors of ground wheat,§ 20,000 cors of
barley,* 20,000 baths of wine,† and 20,000 baths
of olive oil.‡”
10 Then Hiram king of Tyre wrote a letter in
reply to Solomon:
“Because the LORD loves his people, he has set
you over them as king.”
11 And Hiram added:
“Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who
made the heavens and the earth! He has given
King David a wise son with insight and
understanding, who will build a temple for the
LORD and a royal palace for himself.
12 So now I am sending you Huram-abi, a
skillful man endowed with understanding.§
13 He is the son of a woman from the
daughters of Dan, and his father is a man of
Tyre. He is skilled in work with gold and silver,
bronze and iron, stone and wood, purple, blue,
and crimson yarn, and fine linen. He is
experienced in every kind of engraving and can
execute any design that is given him. He will
work with your craftsmen and with those of my
lord, your father David.

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§ **2:9 2:9** *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). * **2:9 2:9** *20,000 cors* is approximately 124,800 bushels or 4.4 million liters (probably about 2,910 tons or 2,700 metric tons of barley). † **2:9 2:9** *20,000 baths* is approximately 116,000 gallons or 440,000 liters of wine. ‡ **2:9 2:9** Or *20,000 baths of oil*; that is, approximately 116,000 gallons or 440,000 liters § **2:12 2:12** Or *creativity*

14 Now let my lord send to his servants the
wheat, barley, olive oil, and wine he promised.
15 We will cut logs from Lebanon, as many as
you need, and we will float them to you as rafts
by sea down to Joppa. Then you can take them
up to Jerusalem."

16 Solomon numbered all the foreign men in
the land of Israel following the census his father
David had conducted, and there were found to
be 153,600 in all.
17 Solomon made 70,000 of them porters,
80,000 stonecutters in the mountains, and 3,600
supervisors.

3

1 Then Solomon began to build the house of
the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where
he had appeared* to his father David. This was
the place that David had prepared on the
threshing floor of Ornan† the Jebusite.
2 Solomon began construction on the second
day of the second month in the fourth year of
his reign.

3 The foundation that Solomon laid for the
house of God was sixty cubits long and twenty

* **3:1 3:1** LXX *where the LORD had appeared* † **3:1 3:1** *Ornan* is a variant of *Araunah*; see 2 Samuel 24:16.

cubits wide,‡ according to the old standard.§
4 The portico at the front, extending across the
width of the temple, was twenty cubits long*
and a hundred and twenty cubits high.† He
overlaid the inside with pure gold.
5 He paneled the main room with cypress,‡
which he overlaid with fine gold and decorated
with palm trees and chains.
6 He adorned the temple with precious stones
for beauty, and its gold was from Parvaim.
7 He overlaid its beams, thresholds, walls, and
doors with gold, and he carved cherubim on the
walls.
8 Then he made the Holy of Holies;§ its length
corresponded to the width of the
temple—twenty cubits long and twenty cubits
wide. And he overlaid the inside with six
hundred talents of fine gold.*
9 The weight of the nails was fifty shekels of
gold.† He also overlaid the upper rooms with
gold.

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‡ **3:3 3:3** The foundation was approximately 90 feet long and 30 feet wide (27.4 meters long and 9.1 meters wide). § **3:3 3:3** The old standard of measurement was a cubit equal to 18 inches or 45.7 centimeters. The new standard, a cubit of approximately 21 inches or 53.3 centimeters (the long cubit) is the basic unit of length throughout Ezekiel 40 to 48. * **3:4 3:4** *20 cubits* is approximately 30 feet or 9.1 meters; also in verses 8, 11, and 13. † **3:4 3:4** Some LXX and Syriac manuscripts *twenty cubits high*; *120 cubits* is approximately 180 feet or 54.9 meters. ‡ **3:5 3:5** Or *pine* or *juniper* or *fir* § **3:8 3:8** Or *the Most Holy Place*; also in verse 10 * **3:8 3:8** *600 talents* is approximately 22.6 tons or 20.5 metric tons of gold. † **3:9 3:9** *50 shekels* is approximately 1.26 pounds or 569.8 grams of gold.

10 In the Holy of Holies he made two cherubim
of sculptured work, and he overlaid them with
gold.
11 The total wingspan of the cherubim was
twenty cubits. One wing of the first cherub was
five cubits long‡ and touched the wall of the
temple, and its other wing was five cubits long
and touched the wing of the other cherub.
12 The wing of the second cherub also
measured five cubits and touched the wall of the
temple, while its other wing measured five
cubits and touched the wing of the first cherub.
13 So the total wingspan of these cherubim
was twenty cubits. They stood on their feet,
facing the main room.

14 He made the veil of blue, purple, and
crimson yarn and fine linen, with cherubim
woven into it.

15 In front of the temple he made two pillars,
which together were thirty-five cubits high,§
each with a capital on top measuring five cubits.

16 He made chains in the inner sanctuary* and
put them on top of the pillars. He made a
hundred pomegranates and fastened them into
the chainwork.
17 Then he set up the pillars in front of the
temple, one on the south and one on the north.

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‡ **3:11 3:11** *5 cubits* is approximately 7.5 feet or 2.3 meters; also in verse 15. § **3:15 3:15** *35 cubits* is approximately 52.5 feet or 16 meters. * **3:16 3:16** By emendation *he made interwoven chains*

The pillar on the south he named Jachin,† and
the pillar on the north he named Boaz.‡

4

1 He made a bronze altar twenty cubits long,
twenty cubits wide, and ten cubits high.*
2 He also made the Sea of cast metal. It was
circular in shape, measuring ten cubits from rim
to rim, five cubits in height, and thirty cubits in
circumference.†
3 Below the rim, figures of oxen encircled it,
ten per cubit all the way around the Sea, cast in
two rows as a part of the Sea.
4 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.
5 It was a handbreadth thick,‡ and its rim was
fashioned like the brim of a cup, like a lily
blossom. It could hold three thousand baths.§
6 He also made ten basins for washing and
placed five on the south side and five on the
north. The parts of the burnt offering were

† **3:17 3:17** *Jachin* probably means *he establishes.* ‡ **3:17 3:17** *Boaz* probably means *in him is strength.* * **4:1 4:1** The altar was approximately 30 feet in length and width and 15 feet high (9.1 meters in length and width and 4.6 meters high). † **4:2 4:2** 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). ‡ **4:5 4:5** *A handbreadth* is approximately 2.9 inches or 7.4 centimeters. § **4:5 4:5** *3,000 baths* is approximately 17,400 gallons or 66,000 liters.

rinsed in them, but the priests used the Sea for washing.

7 He made ten gold lampstands according to their specifications and placed them in the temple, five on the south side and five on the north.

8 Additionally, he made ten tables and placed them in the temple, five on the south side and five on the north. He also made a hundred gold bowls.

9 He made the courtyard of the priests and the large court with its doors, and he overlaid the doors with bronze.

10 He put the Sea on the south side, at the southeast corner.

11 Additionally, Huram made the pots, shovels, and sprinkling bowls.

So Huram finished the work that he had undertaken for King Solomon in the house of God:

12 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;
13 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);
14 the stands;
the basins on the stands;
15 the Sea;
the twelve oxen underneath the Sea;

16 and the pots, shovels, meat forks, and all the
other articles.
All these objects that Huram-abi made for
King Solomon for the house of the LORD were of
polished bronze.
17 The king had them cast in clay molds in the
plain of the Jordan between Succoth and
Zeredah.*
18 Solomon made all these articles in such
great abundance that the weight of the bronze
could not be determined.
19 Solomon also made all the furnishings for
the house of God:

the golden altar;
the tables on which was placed the Bread of
the Presence;
20 the lampstands of pure gold and their
lamps, to burn in front of the inner
sanctuary as prescribed;
21 the flowers, lamps, and tongs of gold—of
purest gold;
22 the wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, ladles,
and censers of pure gold;
and the gold doors of the temple: the inner
doors to the Holy of Holies† as well as the
doors of the main hall.

5

1 So all the work that Solomon had performed
for the house of the LORD was completed.

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* **4:17 4:17** *Zeredah* is a variant of *Zarethan*; see 1 Kings 7:46.
† **4:22 4:22** Or *the Most Holy Place*

Then Solomon brought in the items his father
David had dedicated—the silver, the gold, and all
the furnishings—and he placed them in the
treasuries of the house of God.
2 At that time Solomon assembled in
Jerusalem the elders of Israel—all the tribal
heads and family leaders of the Israelites—to
bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD
from Zion, the City of David.
3 So all the men of Israel came together to the
king at the feast in the seventh month.*
4 When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the
Levites took up the ark,
5 and they brought up the ark and the Tent of
Meeting with all its sacred furnishings. The
Levitical priests carried them up.
6 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.
7 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.
8 For the cherubim spread their wings over
the place of the ark and overshadowed the ark
and its poles.
9 The poles of the ark extended far enough
that their ends were visible from in front of the

* **5:3 5:3** That is, the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths or Shelters); see Leviticus 23:33–36. † **5:7 5:7** Or *the Most Holy Place*

inner sanctuary,‡ but not from outside;§ and
they are there to this day.
10 There was nothing in the ark except the two
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 Egypt.
11 Now all the priests who were present had
consecrated themselves regardless of their
divisions. And when the priests came out of the
Holy Place,
12 all the Levitical singers—Asaph, Heman,
Jeduthun, and their sons and relatives—stood on
the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linen
and playing cymbals, harps, and lyres,
accompanied by 120 priests sounding trumpets.
13 The trumpeters and singers joined together
to praise and thank the LORD with one voice.
They lifted up their voices, accompanied by
trumpets, cymbals, and musical instruments, in
praise to the LORD:

"For he is good;
his loving devotion endures forever."
And the temple, the house of the LORD, was
filled with a cloud
14 so that the priests could not stand there to
minister because of the cloud. For the glory of
the LORD filled the house of God.

‡ **5:9 5:9** Some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *The poles extended far enough that their ends were visible from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary*; see 1 Kings 8:8. § **5:9 5:9** Or *but not from outside the Holy Place* * **5:10 5:10** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai

6

1 Then Solomon declared:

“The LORD has said that he would dwell
in the thick cloud.
2 But I have built you an exalted house,
a place for you to dwell forever.”

3 And as the whole assembly of Israel stood there, the king turned around and blessed them all
4 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,
5 ‘Since the day I brought my people out of the land 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, nor have I chosen anyone to be ruler over my people Israel.
6 But now I have chosen Jerusalem for my Name to be there, and I have chosen David to be over my people Israel.’
7 Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel.
8 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.
9 Nevertheless, you are not the one to build it; but your son, your own offspring, will build the house for my Name.’
10 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.
11 And there I have placed the ark, which
contains the covenant of the LORD that he made
with the children of Israel."
12 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the
LORD in front of the whole assembly of Israel
and spread out his hands.
13 Now Solomon had made a bronze platform
five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three
cubits high* and had placed it in the middle of
the courtyard. He stood on it, knelt down before
the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his
hands toward heaven,
14 and said:
"O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like
you in heaven or on earth, keeping your
covenant of loving devotion with your servants
who walk before you with all their hearts.
15 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.
16 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 in my law as you have walked before
me.'

* **6:13 6:13** The platform was approximately 7.5 feet in length and width, and 4.5 feet high (2.3 meters in length and width, and 1.4 meters high).

17 And now, O LORD, God of Israel, please
confirm what you promised to your servant
David.
18 But will God indeed dwell with man upon
the earth? The heavens, even the highest
heavens, cannot contain you, much less this
temple I have built.
19 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.
20 May your eyes be open toward this temple
day and night, toward the place where you said
you would put your Name, so that you may hear
the prayer that your servant prays toward this
place.
21 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.
22 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,
23 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.
24 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 before you in this temple,
25 then may you hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel. May you restore them to the land you gave to them and their fathers.

26 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,
27 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.

28 When famine or plague comes upon the land, or blight or mildew or locusts or grasshoppers, or when their enemies besiege them in their cities, whatever plague or sickness may come,
29 then may whatever prayer or plea is made by any man or by all your people Israel—each knowing his own afflictions and spreading out his hands toward this temple—
30 be heard by you from heaven, your dwelling place. And may you forgive and repay each man according to all his ways, since you know his heart—for you alone know the hearts of men—
31 so that they may fear you and walk in your ways all the days they live in the land that you gave to our fathers.

32 And as for the foreigner who is not of your
people Israel but has come from a distant land
because of your great name and your mighty
hand and outstretched arm—when he comes
and prays toward this temple,
33 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.
34 When your people go to war against their
enemies, wherever you send them, and when
they pray to you in the direction of this city you
have chosen and the house I have built for your
Name,
35 then may you hear from heaven their
prayer and their plea, and may you uphold their
cause.
36 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 a land far or near,
37 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,'
38 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 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,
39 then may you hear from heaven, your
dwelling place, their prayer and pleas, and may
you uphold their cause. May you forgive your
people who sinned against you.
40 Now, my God, may your eyes be open and
your ears attentive to the prayer offered in this
place.

41 Now therefore, arise, O LORD God, and enter
your resting place,
you and the ark of your might.
May your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with
victory,
and may your godly ones rejoice in
goodness.
42 O LORD God, do not reject your anointed one.
Remember your loving devotion to your
servant David."

7

1 When Solomon had finished praying, fire
came down from heaven and consumed the
burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory
of the LORD filled the temple.
2 The priests were unable to enter the house of
the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had
filled it.
3 When all the Israelites saw the fire coming
down and the glory of the LORD above the
temple, they bowed down on the pavement with
their faces to the ground, and they worshiped
and gave thanks to the LORD:

“For he is good;
his loving devotion endures forever.”
4 Then the king and all the people offered
sacrifices before the LORD.
5 And King Solomon offered a sacrifice of
22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and
all the people dedicated the house of God.
6 The priests stood at their posts, as did the
Levites with the musical instruments of the
LORD, which King David had made for giving
thanks to the LORD and with which David had
offered praise through them, saying, “For his
loving devotion endures forever.” Across from
the Levites, the priests sounded trumpets, and
all the Israelites were standing.
7 Then Solomon consecrated the middle of the
courtyard in front of the house of the LORD, and
there he offered the burnt offerings and the fat
of the peace offerings, since the bronze altar he
had made could not hold the burnt offerings, the
grain offerings, and the fat.
8 So at that time Solomon and all Israel with
him—a very great assembly of people from
Lebo-hamath to the Brook of Egypt—kept the
feast* for seven days.
9 On the eighth day they held a solemn
assembly, for the dedication of the altar had
lasted seven days, and the feast seven days
more.
10 On the twenty-third day of the seventh
month, Solomon sent the people away to their

* **7:8 7:8** That is, the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths or Shelters); see Leviticus 23:33–36.

homes, joyful and glad of heart for the good
things that the LORD had done for David, for
Solomon, and for his people Israel.
11 When Solomon had finished the house of
the LORD and the royal palace, successfully
carrying out all that was in his heart to do for
the house of the LORD and for his own palace,
12 the LORD appeared to him at night and said
to him:
"I have heard your prayer and have chosen
this place for myself as a house of sacrifice.
13 If I close the sky so there is no rain, or if I
command the locust to devour the land, or if I
send a plague among my people,
14 and if my people who are called by my
name humble themselves and pray and seek my
face and turn from their wicked ways, then I
will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and
heal their land.
15 Now my eyes will be open and my ears
attentive to the prayers offered in this place.
16 For I have now chosen and consecrated this
temple so that my Name may be there forever.
My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.
17 And as for you, if you walk before me as
your father David walked, doing all I have
commanded you, and if you keep my statutes
and ordinances,
18 then I will establish your royal throne, as I
covenanted with your father David when I said,
'You will never fail to have a man to rule over
Israel.'
19 But if you turn away and forsake the
statutes and commandments I have set before

you, and if you go off to serve and worship other gods,
20 then I will uproot Israel from the soil I have given them, and I will banish from my presence this temple I have sanctified for my Name. I will make it an object of scorn and ridicule among all the peoples.
21 And though this temple is now exalted,† all who pass by it will be appalled and say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this temple?'
22 And others will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them—because of this, he has brought all this disaster upon them.' "

8

1 Now at the end of the twenty years during which Solomon had built the house of the LORD and his own palace,
2 Solomon rebuilt the cities Hiram* had given him and settled Israelites there.
3 Then Solomon went to Hamath-zobah and captured it.
4 He built Tadmor in the wilderness, in addition to all the store cities that he had built in Hamath.

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† **7:21 7:21** Some LXX manuscripts, Syriac, and Arabic *And when this temple has become a heap of rubble*; see also 1 Kings 9:8.
* **8:2 8:2** Hebrew *Huram*, a variant of *Hiram*; also in verse 18

5 He rebuilt Upper and Lower Beth-horon as
fortified cities with walls, gates, and bars,
6 as well as Baalath, all the store cities that
belonged to Solomon, and all the cities for his
chariots and horsemen†—whatever he desired
to build in Jerusalem, Lebanon, and throughout
the land of his dominion.
7 As for all the people who remained of the
Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and
Jebusites (these people were not Israelites)—
8 their descendants who remained in the land,
those whom the Israelites had not
destroyed—Solomon conscripted these people to
be forced laborers, as they are to this day.
9 But Solomon did not consign any of the
Israelites to slave labor, because they were his
men of war, the leaders of his captains, and the
commanders of his chariots and cavalry.
10 They were also the chief officers for King
Solomon: 250 supervisors.
11 Solomon brought the daughter of Pharaoh
up from the City of David to the palace he had
built for her. For he said, “My wife must not live
in the house of David king of Israel, because the
places the ark of the LORD has entered are holy.”
12 At that time Solomon offered burnt
offerings to the LORD on the altar of the LORD
he had built in front of the portico.
13 He observed the daily requirement for
offerings according to the commandment of
Moses for Sabbaths, New Moons, and the three
annual appointed feasts—the Feast of

† **8:6 8:6** Or *horses* or *charioteers*

Unleavened Bread,‡ the Feast of Weeks,§ and the Feast of Booths.*

14 In keeping with the ordinances of his father David, Solomon appointed the divisions of the priests over their service, and the Levites for their duties to offer praise and to minister before the priests according to the daily requirement. He also appointed gatekeepers by their divisions at each gate, for this had been the command of David, the man of God.

15 They did not turn aside from the king's command regarding the priests or the Levites in any matter, including that of the treasuries.

16 Thus all the work of Solomon was carried out, from the day the foundation was laid for the house of the LORD until it was finished. So the house of the LORD was completed.

17 Then Solomon went to Ezion-geber and to Eloth† on the coast of Edom.‡

18 So Hiram sent him ships captained by his servants, along with crews of experienced sailors. They went with Solomon's servants to

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‡ **8:13 8:13** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20. § **8:13 8:13** That is, Shavuot, the late spring feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; it is also known as *the Feast of Harvest* (see Exodus 23:16) or *the Feast of Pentecost*. * **8:13 8:13** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; also translated as *the Feast of Tabernacles* or *the Feast of Shelters* and originally called *the Feast of Ingathering* (see Exodus 23:16 and Exodus 34:22). † **8:17 8:17** *Eloth* is a variant of *Elath*; see LXX, 2 Kings 14:22, and 2 Kings 16:6. ‡ **8:17 8:17** That is, along the shore of the Red Sea in the land of Edom

Ophir and acquired from there 450 talents of gold,§ which they delivered to King Solomon.

9

1 Now when the queen of Sheba heard about
the fame of Solomon, she came to test him with
difficult questions. She arrived in Jerusalem
with a very large caravan—with camels bearing
spices, gold in abundance, and precious stones.

And she came to Solomon and spoke with him
about all that was on her mind.
2 And Solomon answered all her questions;
nothing was too difficult for him to explain.

3 When the queen of Sheba saw the wisdom of
Solomon, the palace he had built,
4 the food at his table, the seating of his
servants, the service and attire of his attendants,
the attire of his cupbearers, and his stairway by
which he went up* to the house of the LORD, it
took her breath away.

5 She said to the king, "The report I heard in
my own country about your words† and wisdom
is true.
6 But I did not believe the reports until I came
and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not half of
the greatness of your wisdom was told to me.
You have far exceeded the report I heard.

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§ **8:18 8:18** *450 talents* is approximately 17 tons or 15.4 metric tons of gold. * **9:4 9:4** LXX and Syriac (see also 1 Kings 10:5) *and the burnt offerings he presented* † **9:5 9:5** Or *your achievements*

7 How blessed are your men! How blessed are
these servants of yours who stand continually
before you and hear your wisdom!
8 Blessed be the LORD your God, who has
delighted in you to set you on his throne to be
king for the LORD your God. Because your God
loved Israel enough to establish them forever, he
has made you king over them to carry out
justice and righteousness."
9 Then she gave the king 120 talents of gold,‡ a
great quantity of spices, and precious stones.
There had never been such spices as those the
queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.
10 (The servants of Hiram and of Solomon who
brought gold from Ophir also brought algum§
wood and precious stones.
11 The king made the algum 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 anything like them been seen
in the land of Judah.)
12 King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all
she desired—whatever she asked—far more
than she had brought the king. Then she left and
returned to her own country, along with her
servants.
13 The weight of gold that came to Solomon
each year was 666 talents,†

‡ **9:9 9:9** *120 talents* is approximately 4.52 tons or 4.1 metric tons of gold. § **9:10 9:10** *Algum* is probably a variant of *almug*; also in verse 11; see 1 Kings 10:11. * **9:11 9:11** Or *gateways* † **9:13 9:13** *666 talents* is approximately 25.1 tons or 22.8 metric tons of gold.

14 not including the revenue from the
merchants and traders. And all the Arabian
kings and governors of the land also brought
gold and silver to Solomon.

15 King Solomon made two hundred large
shields of hammered gold; six hundred shekels
of hammered gold‡ went into each shield.

16 He also made three hundred small shields
of hammered gold; three hundred shekels of
gold§ went into each shield. And the king put
them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.

17 Additionally, the king made a great throne
of ivory and overlaid it with pure gold.

18 The throne had six steps, and a footstool of
gold was attached to it. There were armrests on
both sides of the seat, with a lion standing
beside each armrest.

19 Twelve lions stood on the six steps, one at
either end of each step. Nothing like this had
ever been made for any kingdom.

20 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.

21 For the king had the ships of Tarshish* that
went with Hiram's† servants, and once every

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‡ **9:15 9:15** *600 shekels* is approximately 15.1 pounds or 6.8 kilograms of gold. § **9:16 9:16** *300 shekels* is approximately 7.5 pounds or 3.4 kilograms of gold. * **9:21 9:21** Or *a fleet of trading ships*; twice in this verse † **9:21 9:21** Hebrew *Huram's*, a variant of *Hiram's*

three years the ships of Tarshish would arrive
bearing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.‡
22 So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of
the earth in riches and wisdom.
23 All the kings of the earth sought an
audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom that
God had put in his heart.
24 Year after year, each visitor would bring his
tribute: articles of silver and gold, clothing,
weapons, spices, horses, and mules.
25 Solomon had 4,000 stalls for horses and
chariots, and 12,000 horsemen,§ which he
stationed in the chariot cities and also with him
in Jerusalem.
26 He reigned over all the kings from the
Euphrates* to the land of the Philistines, as far
as the border of Egypt.
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 from all the lands.
29 As for the rest of the acts of Solomon, from
beginning to end, are they not written in the
Records of Nathan the Prophet, in the Prophecy
of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the Visions of
Jedo‡ the Seer concerning Jeroboam son of
Nebat?
30 Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel
forty years.

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‡ **9:21 9:21** Or *baboons* § **9:25 9:25** Or *horses* or *charioteers*
* **9:26 9:26** Hebrew *the River* † **9:27 9:27** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea ‡ **9:29 9:29** Qere; Ketiv *Jedi*

31 And Solomon rested with his fathers and
was buried in the city of his father David. And
his son Rehoboam reigned in his place.

10

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 returned from Egypt, where he had fled
from King Solomon.
3 So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and all
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, “Come back to me in
three days.” 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 kind to these
people and please them 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
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 them harshly. King
Rehoboam rejected the advice of the elders
14 and spoke to them as the young men had
advised, saying, “I will make your yoke heavy,*
and I will add to it. 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 God, in
order that the LORD might fulfill the word that
he had spoken through Ahijah the Shilonite to
Jeroboam son of Nebat.

16 And all Israel—since the king had refused to
listen to them—answered† the king:

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* **10:14** **10:14** LXX and many Hebrew manuscripts (see also 1 Kings 12:14) *Whereas my father made your yoke heavy* † **10:16** **10:16** Syriac, Vulgate, and many Hebrew manuscripts *When all Israel saw that the king had refused to listen to them, they answered*

“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 all the Israelites went home,
17 but Rehoboam still reigned over the
Israelites living in the cities of Judah.
18 Then King Rehoboam sent out Hadoram,‡
who was in charge of the forced labor, but the
Israelites 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.

11

1 When Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem, he
mobilized the house of Judah and
Benjamin—180,000 chosen warriors—to fight
against Israel and restore the kingdom to
Rehoboam.
2 But the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah
the man of God:
3 “Tell Rehoboam son of Solomon king of Judah
and all the Israelites in Judah and Benjamin
4 that this is what the LORD says: ‘You are not
to go up and fight against your brothers. Each of
you must return home, for this is my doing.’ ”
So they listened to the words of the LORD and
turned back from going against Jeroboam.

‡ **10:18 10:18** *Hadoram* is a variant of *Adoram* and *Adoniram*; see 2 Samuel 20:24 and 1 Kings 4:6.

5 Rehoboam lived in Jerusalem, and he built
up cities for defense in Judah.
6 He built up Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa,
7 Beth-zur, Soco, Adullam,
8 Gath, Mareshah, Ziph,
9 Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah,
10 Zorah, Aijalon, and Hebron, the fortified
cities in Judah and Benjamin.
11 He strengthened their fortifications and put
officers in them, with supplies of food, oil, and
wine.
12 He also put shields and spears in all the
cities and strengthened them greatly. So Judah
and Benjamin belonged to him.

13 Moreover, the priests and Levites from all
their districts throughout Israel stood with
Rehoboam.
14 For the Levites left their pasturelands and
their possessions and went to Judah and
Jerusalem, because Jeroboam and his sons had
rejected them as priests of the LORD.
15 And Jeroboam appointed his own priests for
the high places and for the goat demons and calf
idols he had made.

16 Those from every tribe of Israel who had set
their hearts to seek the LORD, the God of Israel,
followed the Levites to Jerusalem to sacrifice to
the LORD, the God of their fathers.
17 So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah
and supported Rehoboam son of Solomon for
three years, because they walked for three years
in the way of David and Solomon.

18 And Rehoboam married Mahalath, who was
the daughter* of David's son Jerimoth and of
Abihail, the daughter of Jesse's son Eliab.
19 She bore sons to him: Jeush, Shemariah,
and Zaham.
20 After her, he married Maacah daughter of
Absalom, and she bore to him Abijah, Attai, Ziza,
and Shelomith.
21 Rehoboam loved Maacah daughter of
Absalom more than all his wives and
concubines. In all, he had eighteen wives and
sixty concubines, and he was the father of
twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters.
22 Rehoboam appointed Abijah son of Maacah
as chief prince among his brothers, intending to
make him king.
23 Rehoboam also acted wisely by dispersing
some of his sons throughout the districts of
Judah and Benjamin, and to all the fortified
cities. He gave them abundant provisions and
sought many wives for them.

12

1 After Rehoboam had established his
sovereignty and royal power, he and all Israel*
with him forsook the Teaching of the LORD.
2 In the fifth year of Rehoboam's reign,
because they had been unfaithful to the LORD,
Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem

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* **11:18 11:18** Qere; Ketiv *son* * **12:1 12:1** That is, Judah; in 2 Chronicles, Judah is occasionally called Israel, as representative of the true Israel.

3 with 1,200 chariots, 60,000 horsemen,† and
countless troops who came with him out of
Egypt—Libyans, Sukkites, and Cushites.‡
4 He captured the fortified cities of Judah and
came as far as Jerusalem.
5 Then Shemaiah the prophet came to
Rehoboam and the leaders of Judah who had
gathered at Jerusalem because of Shishak, and
he said to them, “This is what the LORD says:
‘You have forsaken me; therefore, I have
forsaken you into the hand of Shishak.’ ”
6 So the leaders of Israel and the king humbled
themselves and said, “The LORD is righteous.”
7 When the LORD saw that they had humbled
themselves, the word of the LORD came to
Shemaiah, saying, “They have humbled
themselves; I will not destroy them, but will
soon grant them deliverance. My wrath will not
be poured out on Jerusalem through Shishak.
8 Nevertheless, they will become his servants,
so that they may learn the difference between
serving me and serving the kings of other lands.”
9 So King Shishak of Egypt attacked Jerusalem
and seized the treasures of the house of the
LORD and of the royal palace. He took
everything, including the gold shields that
Solomon had made.
10 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.

† **12:3 12:3** Or *charioteers* ‡ **12:3 12:3** That is, people from the upper Nile region

11 And whenever the king entered the house of
the LORD, the guards would go with him,
bearing the shields, and later they would return
them to the guardroom.

12 Because Rehoboam humbled himself, the
anger of the LORD turned away from him, and
he did not destroy him completely. Indeed,
conditions were good in Judah.

13 Thus King Rehoboam established himself in
Jerusalem and reigned. 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.
14 And Rehoboam did evil because he did not
set his heart to seek the LORD.
15 Now the acts of Rehoboam, from first to last,
are they not written in the records of Shemaiah
the Prophet and of Iddo the Seer concerning the
genealogies? There was war between Rehoboam
and Jeroboam throughout their days.
16 And Rehoboam rested with his fathers and
was buried in the City of David. And his son
Abijah§ reigned in his place.

13

1 In the eighteenth year of Jeroboam's reign,
Abijah* became king of Judah,

§ **12:16 12:16** *Abijah* is a variant of *Abijam*; see 1 Kings 14:31.

* **13:1 13:1** *Abijah* is a variant of *Abijam*; see 1 Kings 14:31.

2 and he reigned in Jerusalem three years. His
mother's name was Micaiah† daughter‡ of Uriel;
she was from Gibeah.
And there was war between Abijah and
Jeroboam.
3 Abijah went into battle with an army of
400,000 chosen men, while Jeroboam drew up in
formation against him with 800,000 chosen and
mighty men of valor.
4 Then Abijah stood on Mount Zemaraim in
the hill country of Ephraim and said, "Hear me,
O Jeroboam and all Israel!
5 Do you not know that the LORD, the God of
Israel, has given the kingship of Israel to David
and his descendants forever by a covenant of
salt§?
6 Yet Jeroboam son of Nebat, a servant of
Solomon son of David, rose up and rebelled
against his master.
7 Then worthless and wicked men gathered
around him to resist Rehoboam son of Solomon
when he was young, inexperienced, and unable
to resist them.
8 And now you think you can resist the
kingdom of the LORD, which is in the hands of
David's descendants. You are indeed a vast
army, and you have with you the golden calves
that Jeroboam made for you as gods.
9 But did you not drive out the priests of the
LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites? And

† **13:2** **13:2** Most LXX manuscripts and Syriac *Maacah*; see 2 Chronicles 11:20 and 1 Kings 15:2. ‡ **13:2** **13:2** Or *granddaughter*
§ **13:5** **13:5** That is, a perpetual covenant

did you not make priests for yourselves as do
the peoples of other lands? Now whoever comes
to consecrate himself with a young bull and
seven rams can become a priest of things that
are not gods.

10 But as for us, the LORD is our God. We have
not forsaken him; the priests who minister to
the LORD are sons of Aaron, and the Levites
attend to their duties.
11 Every morning and every evening they
present burnt offerings and fragrant incense to
the LORD. They set out the rows of showbread
on the ceremonially clean table, and every
evening they light the lamps of the gold
lampstand. We are carrying out the
requirements of the LORD our God, while you
have forsaken him.

12 Now behold, God himself is with us as our
head, and his priests with their trumpets sound
the battle call against you. O children of Israel,
do not fight against the LORD, the God of your
fathers, for you will not succeed."

13 Now Jeroboam had sent troops around to
ambush from the rear, so that while he was in
front of Judah, the ambush was behind them.
14 When Judah turned and discovered that the
battle was both before and behind them, they
cried out to the LORD. Then the priests blew the
trumpets,
15 and the men of Judah raised the battle cry.
And when they raised the cry, God routed
Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.

16 So the Israelites fled before Judah, and God
delivered them into their hands.
17 Then Abijah and his people struck them
with a mighty blow, and 500,000 chosen men of
Israel fell slain.
18 Thus the Israelites were subdued at that
time, and the men of Judah prevailed because
they relied on the LORD, the God of their fathers.
19 Abijah pursued Jeroboam and captured
some cities from him: Bethel, Jeshanah, and
Ephrain,* along with their villages.
20 Jeroboam did not again recover his power
during the days of Abijah, and the LORD struck
him down and he died.
21 But Abijah grew strong, married fourteen
wives, and became the father of twenty-two
sons and sixteen daughters.
22 Now the rest of the acts of Abijah, along
with his ways and his words, are written in the
Treatise† of the Prophet Iddo.
23 Then Abijah rested with his fathers and was
buried in the City of David. And his son Asa
reigned in his place, and in his days the land
was at peace for ten years.

14

1 And Asa did what was good and right in the
eyes of the LORD his God.
2 He removed the foreign altars and high
places, shattered the sacred pillars, and chopped
down the Asherah poles.

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* **13:19 13:19** Qere; Ketiv *Ephron* † **13:22 13:22** Or *Exposition* or *Study*

3 He commanded the people of Judah to seek
the LORD, the God of their fathers, and to
observe the law and the commandments.
4 He also removed the high places and incense
altars from all the cities of Judah, and under him
the kingdom was at peace.
5 Because the land was at peace, Asa built
fortified cities in Judah. In those days no one
made war with him, because the LORD had
given him rest.
6 So he said to the people of Judah, “Let us
build these cities and surround them with walls
and towers, with doors and bars. The land is
still ours because we have sought the LORD our
God. We have sought him, and he has given us
rest on every side.” So they built and prospered.
7 Asa had an army of 300,000 men from Judah
bearing large shields and spears, and 280,000
men from Benjamin bearing small shields and
drawing the bow. All these were mighty men of
valor.
8 Then Zerah the Cushite came against them
with an army of 1,000,000 men* and 300
chariots, and they advanced as far as Mareshah.
9 So Asa marched out against him and lined up
in battle formation in the Valley of Zephathah
near Mareshah.†
10 Then Asa cried out to the LORD his God: “O
LORD, there is no one besides you to help the
powerless against the mighty. Help us, O LORD
our God, for we rely on you, and in your name

* **14:8 14:8** Or *an army of thousands and thousands*; Hebrew *an army of a thousand thousands* † **14:9 14:9** Or *the valley north of Mareshah*

we have come against this multitude. O LORD,
you are our God. Do not let a mere mortal
prevail against you."

11 So the LORD struck down the Cushites
before Asa and Judah, and the Cushites fled.
12 Then Asa and his army pursued them as far
as Gerar. The Cushites fell and could not recover,
for they were crushed before the LORD and his
army. So the people of Judah carried off a great
amount of plunder
13 and attacked all the cities around Gerar,
because the terror of the LORD had fallen upon
them. They plundered all the cities, since there
was much plunder there.
14 They also attacked the tents of the
herdsmen and carried off many sheep and
camels. Then they returned to Jerusalem.

15

1 Now the spirit of God came upon Azariah
son of Oded.
2 So he went out to meet Asa and said to him,
"Listen to me, Asa and all Judah and Benjamin.
The LORD is with you when you are with him. If
you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you
forsake him, he will forsake you.
3 For many years Israel has been without the
true God, without a priest to instruct them, and
without the law.
4 But in their distress they turned to the LORD,
the God of Israel, and sought him, and he was
found by them.

5 In those days there was no safety for
travelers, because the residents of the lands had
many conflicts.
6 Nation was crushed by nation, and city by
city, for God afflicted them with all kinds of
adversity.
7 But as for you, be strong; do not be
discouraged, for your work will be rewarded."
8 When Asa heard these words and the
prophecy of Oded* the prophet, he took courage
and removed the detestable idols from the
whole land of Judah and Benjamin and from the
cities he had captured in the hill country of
Ephraim. He then restored the altar of the LORD
that was in front of the portico of the LORD's
temple.
9 And he assembled all Judah and Benjamin,
along with those from the tribes of Ephraim,
Manasseh, and Simeon who had settled among
them, for great numbers had come over to him
from Israel when they saw that the LORD his
God was with him.
10 So they gathered together in Jerusalem in
the third month of the fifteenth year of Asa's
reign.
11 At that time they sacrificed to the LORD
seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep
from all the plunder they had brought back.
12 Then they entered into a covenant to seek
the LORD, the God of their fathers, with all their
heart and soul.

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* **15:8 15:8** Vulgate and Syriac (see also verse 1 and LXX) add *Azariah son of*

13 And whoever would not seek the LORD, the
God of Israel, would be put to death, whether
young or old, man or woman.
14 They took an oath to the LORD with a loud
voice, with shouting, trumpets, and rams' horns.
15 And all Judah rejoiced over the oath, for
they had sworn it with all their heart. They had
sought him earnestly, and he was found by
them. So the LORD gave them rest on every side.
16 King Asa also removed his grandmother†
Maacah from her position as queen mother
because she had made a detestable Asherah
pole. Asa chopped down the pole, crushed it,
and burned it in the Kidron Valley.
17 The high places were not removed from
Israel, but Asa's heart was fully devoted all his
days.
18 And he brought into the house of God the
silver and gold and the articles that he and his
father had dedicated.
19 And there was no war until the thirty-fifth
year of Asa's reign.

16

1 In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign, Baasha
king of Israel went up against Judah and
fortified Ramah to prevent anyone from leaving
or entering the territory of Asa king of Judah.
2 So Asa withdrew the silver and gold from the
treasuries of the house of the LORD and the
royal palace, and he sent it with this message to

† **15:16 15:16** Hebrew *his mother*

Ben-hadad king of Aram, who was ruling in
Damascus:
3 “Let there be a treaty* between me and you
as there was between my father and your father.
See, I have sent you silver and gold. Now go and
break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel, so
that he will withdraw from me.”
4 And Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent
the commanders of his armies against the cities
of Israel, conquering Ijon, Dan, Abel-maim,† and
all the store cities of Naphtali.
5 When Baasha learned of this, he stopped
fortifying Ramah and abandoned his work.
6 Then King Asa brought all the men of Judah,
and they carried away the stones of Ramah and
the timbers Baasha had used for building. And
with these materials he built up Geba and
Mizpah.
7 At that time Hanani the seer came to King
Asa of Judah and told him, “Because you have
relied on the king of Aram and not on the LORD
your God, the army of the king of Aram has
escaped from your hand.
8 Were not the Cushites‡ and Libyans a vast
army with many chariots and horsemen? Yet
because you relied on the LORD, he delivered
them into your hand.
9 For the eyes of the LORD roam to and fro
over all the earth, to show himself strong on

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* **16:3 16:3** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*; twice in this verse. † **16:4 16:4** *Abel-maim* was also known as *Abel-beth-maacah*; see 1 Kings 15:20. ‡ **16:8 16:8** That is, people from the upper Nile region

behalf of those whose hearts are fully devoted to
him. You have acted foolishly in this matter.
From now on, therefore, you will be at war."

10 Asa was angry with the seer and became so
enraged over this matter that he put the man in
prison. And at the same time Asa oppressed
some of the people.

11 Now the acts of Asa, from beginning to end,
are indeed written in the Book of the Kings of
Judah and Israel.
12 In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa
became diseased in his feet, and his disease
became increasingly severe. Yet even in his
illness he did not seek the LORD, but only the
physicians.

13 So in the forty-first year of his reign, Asa
died and rested with his fathers.
14 And he was buried in the tomb that he had
cut out for himself in the City of David. They
laid him on a bier that was full of spices and
various blended perfumes; then they made a
great fire in his honor.

17

1 Asa's son Jehoshaphat reigned in his place,
and he strengthened himself against Israel.
2 He stationed troops in every fortified city of
Judah and put garrisons in the land of Judah
and in the cities of Ephraim that his father Asa
had captured.

3 Now the LORD was with Jehoshaphat
because he walked in the earlier ways* of his
father David. He did not seek the Baals,
4 but he sought the God of his father and
walked by his commandments rather than the
practices of Israel.
5 So the LORD established the kingdom in his
hand, and all Judah brought him tribute, so that
he had an abundance of riches and honor.
6 And his heart was exalted† in the ways of the
LORD; furthermore, he removed the high places
and Asherah poles from Judah.
7 In the third year of his reign, Jehoshaphat
sent his officials Ben-hail, Obadiah, Zechariah,
Nethanel, and Micaiah to teach in the cities of
Judah,
8 accompanied by certain Levites—Shemaiah,
Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth,
Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and
Tob-adonijah—along with the priests Elishama
and Jehoram.
9 They taught throughout Judah, taking with
them the Book of the Teaching of the LORD.
They went throughout the towns of Judah and
taught the people.
10 And the dread of the LORD fell upon all the
kingdoms of the lands that surrounded Judah, so
that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat.
11 Some Philistines also brought gifts and
silver as tribute to Jehoshaphat, and the Arabs

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* **17:3 17:3** Or *in his early years he walked in the ways* † **17:6 17:6** Or *took delight* or *was courageous*

brought him 7,700 rams and 7,700 goats from
their flocks.
12 Jehoshaphat grew stronger and stronger,
and he built fortresses and store cities in Judah
13 and kept vast supplies in the cities of Judah.
He also had warriors in Jerusalem who were
mighty men of valor.
14 These are their numbers according to the
houses of their fathers:

From Judah, the commanders of thousands:
Adnah the commander, and with him
300,000 mighty men of valor;
15 next to him, Jehohanan the commander,
and with him 280,000;
16 and next to him, Amasiah son of Zichri,
the volunteer for the LORD, and with him
200,000 mighty men of valor.

17 From Benjamin:
Eliada, a mighty man of valor, and with him
200,000 armed with bows and shields;
18 and next to him, Jehozabad, and with him
180,000 armed for battle.
19 These were the men who served the king,
besides those he stationed in the fortified cities
throughout Judah.

18

1 Now Jehoshaphat had an abundance of
riches and honor, and he allied himself with
Ahab by marriage.
2 And some years later he went down to visit
Ahab in Samaria, where Ahab sacrificed many

sheep and cattle for him and the people with
him and urged him to march up to
Ramoth-gilead.
3 Ahab king of Israel asked Jehoshaphat king
of Judah, “Will you go with me against
Ramoth-gilead?”
And Jehoshaphat replied, “I am as you are,
and my people are your people; we will join you
in the war.”
4 But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of
Israel, “Please inquire first for the word of the
LORD.”
5 So the king of Israel assembled the prophets,
four hundred men, and asked them, “Should we
go to war against Ramoth-gilead, or should we
refrain?”
“Go up,” they replied, “and God will deliver it
into the hand of the king.”
6 But Jehoshaphat asked, “Is there not still a
prophet of the LORD here of whom we can
inquire?”
7 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.
8 So the king of Israel called one of his officials
and said, “Bring Micaiah son of Imlah at once.”
9 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.

10 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.’ ”

11 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.”

12 Then the messenger who had gone to call
Micaiah instructed him, “Behold, with one
accord the words of the prophets are favorable
to the king. So please let your words be like
theirs, and speak favorably.”

13 But Micaiah said, “As surely as the LORD
lives, I will speak whatever my God tells me.”

14 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
they will be delivered into your hand.”

15 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?”

16 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.’ ”

17 Then the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat,
“Did I not tell you that he never prophesies good
for me, but only bad?”
18 Micaiah continued, “Therefore hear the
word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his
throne, and all the host of heaven standing on
his right and on his left.
19 And the LORD said, ‘Who will entice Ahab
king of Israel to march up and fall at
Ramoth-gilead?’
And one suggested this, and another that.
20 Then a spirit came forward, stood before
the LORD, and said, ‘I will entice him.’
‘By what means?’ asked the LORD.
21 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.’
22 So you see, the LORD has put a lying spirit
in the mouths of these prophets of yours, and
the LORD has pronounced disaster against you.”
23 Then Zedekiah son of Chenaanah went up,
struck Micaiah in the face, and demanded,
“Which way did the spirit of the LORD go when
it departed from me to speak with you?”
24 Micaiah replied, “You will soon see, on that
day when you go and hide in an inner room.”
25 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,
26 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.’ ”

27 But Micaiah replied, “If you ever return
safely, the LORD has not spoken through me.”
Then he added, “Take heed, all you people!”
28 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king
of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead.
29 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.
30 Now the king of Aram had ordered his
chariot commanders, “Do not fight with anyone,
small or great, except the king of Israel.”
31 When the chariot commanders saw
Jehoshaphat, they said, “This is the king of
Israel!” So they turned to fight against him, but
Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped
him. God drew them away from him.
32 And when the chariot commanders saw that
he was not the king of Israel, they turned back
from pursuing him.
33 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!”
34 The battle raged throughout that day, and
the king of Israel propped himself up in his
chariot facing the Arameans until evening. And
at sunset he died.

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* **18:33 18:33** Literally *Turn your hand* (Qere); Ketiv *Turn your hands*

19

1 When Jehoshaphat king of Judah had
returned safely to his home in Jerusalem,
2 Jehu son of Hanani the seer went out to
confront him and said to King Jehoshaphat,
“Should you help the wicked and love those who
hate the LORD? Because of this, the wrath of the
LORD is upon you.
3 However, some good is found in you, for you
have removed the Asherah poles from the land
and have set your heart on seeking God.”
4 Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem, and once
again he went out among the people from
Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim and
turned them back to the LORD, the God of their
fathers.
5 He appointed judges in the land, in each of
the fortified cities of Judah.
6 Then he said to the judges, “Consider
carefully what you do, for you are not judging
for man, but for the LORD, who is with you
when you render judgment.
7 And now, may the fear of the LORD be upon
you. Be careful what you do, for with the LORD
our God there is no injustice or partiality or
bribery.”
8 Moreover, Jehoshaphat appointed in
Jerusalem some of the Levites, priests, and
heads of the Israelite families to judge on behalf
of the LORD and to settle disputes. And they
returned to Jerusalem.*

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* **19:8 19:8** LXX and Vulgate *And they lived in Jerusalem*

9 He commanded them, saying, “You must
serve faithfully and wholeheartedly in the fear
of the LORD.
10 For every dispute that comes before you
from your brothers who dwell in their
cities—whether it regards bloodshed or some
other violation of law, commandments, statutes,
or ordinances—you are to warn them, so that
they will not incur guilt before the LORD and
wrath will not come upon you and your
brothers. Do this, and you will not incur guilt.
11 Note that Amariah, the chief priest, will be
over you in all that pertains to the LORD, and
Zebadiah son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house
of Judah, in all that pertains to the king. And the
Levites will serve as officers before you. Act
resolutely; may the LORD be with the upright!”

20

1 After this, the Moabites and Ammonites,
together with some other Ammonites,* came to
make war against Jehoshaphat.
2 Then some men came and told Jehoshaphat,
“A vast army is coming against you from Aram,†
from beyond the Sea;‡ they are already in
Hazazon-tamar” (that is, En-gedi).
3 Jehoshaphat was alarmed and set his face to
seek the LORD. And he proclaimed a fast
throughout Judah.

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* **20:1 20:1** Some LXX manuscripts (see also 2 Chronicles 26:7) *together with some of the Meunites* † **20:2 20:2** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; one Hebrew manuscript *Edom*
‡ **20:2 20:2** That is, the Dead Sea

4 So the people of Judah gathered to seek the
LORD, and indeed, they came from all the cities
of Judah to seek him.

5 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of
Judah and Jerusalem in the house of the LORD
in front of the new courtyard
6 and said, "O LORD, God of our fathers, are
you not the God who is in heaven, and do you
not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations?
Power and might are in your hand, and no one
can stand against you.

7 Our God, did you not drive out the
inhabitants of this land before your people
Israel and give it forever to the descendants of
Abraham your friend?
8 They have lived in the land and have built in
it a sanctuary for your Name, saying,
9 'If disaster comes upon us—the sword of
judgment,§ plague, or famine—we will stand
before this temple and before you, for your
Name is in this temple. We will cry out to you in
our distress, and you will hear us and save us.'

10 And now, here are the men of Ammon,
Moab, and Mount Seir, whom you did not let
Israel invade when they came out of the land of
Egypt. So Israel turned away from them and did
not destroy them.
11 See how they are repaying us by coming to
drive us out of the possession that you gave us
as an inheritance.

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§ **20:9 20:9** Or *whether sword or judgment*

12 Our God, will you not judge them? For we
are powerless before this vast army that comes
against us. We do not know what to do, but our
eyes are upon you."
13 Meanwhile all the men of Judah, with their
wives and children and little ones, were
standing before the LORD.
14 Then the spirit of the LORD came upon
Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah,
the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite
from Asaph's descendants, as he stood in the
midst of the assembly.
15 And he said, "Listen, all you people of Judah
and Jerusalem! Listen, King Jehoshaphat! This is
what the LORD says: 'Do not be afraid or
discouraged because of this vast army, for the
battle does not belong to you, but to God.
16 Tomorrow you are to march down against
them. You will see them coming up the Ascent of
Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the
valley facing the Wilderness of Jeruel.
17 You need not fight this battle. Take up your
positions, stand firm, and see the deliverance of
the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and
Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Go
out and face them tomorrow, for the LORD is
with you.' "
18 Then Jehoshaphat bowed facedown, and all
the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down
before the LORD to worship him.
19 And the Levites from the Kohathites and
Korahites stood up to praise the LORD, the God
of Israel, shouting in a very loud voice.

20 Early in the morning they got up and left for
the Wilderness of Tekoa. As they set out,
Jehoshaphat stood up and said, “Hear me, O
people of Judah and Jerusalem. Believe in the
LORD your God, and you will be upheld; believe
in his prophets, and you will succeed.”
21 Then Jehoshaphat consulted with the people
and appointed those who would sing to the
LORD and praise the splendor of his holiness. As
they went out before the army, they were
singing:

“Give thanks to the LORD,
for his loving devotion endures forever.”
22 The moment they began their shouts and
praises, the LORD set ambushes against the men
of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir who had
come against Judah, and they were defeated.
23 The Ammonites and Moabites rose up
against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting
them to destruction.* And when they had
finished off the inhabitants of Seir, they helped
to destroy one another.
24 When the men of Judah came to a place
overlooking the wilderness, they looked for the
vast army, but there were only corpses lying on
the ground; no one had escaped.
25 Then Jehoshaphat and his people went to
carry off the plunder, and they found on the

* **20:23 20:23** 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.

bodies an abundance of goods and
valuables†—they stripped off for themselves
more than they could carry away. They were
gathering the plunder for three days because
there was so much.

26 On the fourth day they assembled in the
Valley of Beracah,‡ where they blessed the
LORD. Therefore that place is called the Valley of
Beracah to this day.

27 Then all the men of Judah and Jerusalem,
with Jehoshaphat at their head, returned
joyfully to Jerusalem, for the LORD had made
them rejoice over their enemies.

28 So they entered Jerusalem and went into the
house of the LORD with harps, lyres, and
trumpets.

29 And the fear of God came upon all the
kingdoms of the lands when they heard that the
LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.

30 Then Jehoshaphat's kingdom was at peace,
for his God had given him rest on every side.

31 So Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah. He 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.

32 And Jehoshaphat walked in the way of his
father Asa and did not turn away from it; he did
what was right in the eyes of the LORD.

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† **20:25 20:25** Some Hebrew manuscripts and Vulgate *they found among them an abundance of goods and clothing and valuables*

‡ **20:26 20:26** *Beracah* means *blessing.*

33 The high places, however, were not
removed; the people had not yet set their hearts
on the God of their fathers.
34 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat,
from beginning to end, they are indeed written
in the Chronicles of Jehu son of Hanani, which
are recorded in the Book of the Kings of Israel.
35 Later, Jehoshaphat king of Judah made an
alliance with Ahaziah king of Israel, by which he
acted wickedly.§
36 They agreed to make ships to go to
Tarshish,* and these were built in Ezion-geber.
37 Then Eliezer son of Dodavahu of Mareshah
prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying,
"Because you have allied yourself with Ahaziah,
the LORD has destroyed your works."
So the ships were wrecked and were unable to
sail to Tarshish.†

21

1 And Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers and
was buried with them in the City of David. And
his son Jehoram reigned in his place.
2 Jehoram's brothers, the sons of Jehoshaphat,
were Azariah, Jehiel, Zechariah, Azariah,
Michael, and Shephatiah; these were all sons of
Jehoshaphat king of Israel.*

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§ **20:35 20:35** Or *who acted wickedly* or *who made him act wickedly* * **20:36 20:36** Or *a fleet of trading ships* † **20:37 20:37** Or *set sail to trade* * **21:2 21:2** That is, Judah; in 2 Chronicles, Judah is occasionally called Israel, as representative of the true Israel.

3 Their father had given them many gifts of
silver and gold and precious things, as well as
the fortified cities in Judah; but he gave the
kingdom to Jehoram because he was the
firstborn.
4 When Jehoram had established himself over
his father's kingdom, he strengthened himself
by putting to the sword all his brothers along
with some of the princes of Israel.
5 Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he
became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight
years.
6 And Jehoram walked in the ways of the kings
of Israel, just as the house of Ahab had done. For
he married a daughter of Ahab and did evil in
the sight of the LORD.
7 Yet the LORD was unwilling to destroy the
house of David, because of the covenant he had
made with David, and since he had promised to
maintain a lamp for David and his descendants
forever.
8 In the days of Jehoram, Edom rebelled
against the hand of Judah and appointed their
own king.
9 So Jehoram crossed into Edom with his
officers and all his chariots. When the Edomites
surrounded him and his chariot commanders,
he rose up and attacked† by night.
10 So to this day Edom has been in rebellion
against the hand of Judah. Likewise, Libnah
rebelled against his hand at the same time,

† **21:9 21:9** Or *he went out and escaped*

because Jehoram had forsaken the LORD, the
God of his fathers.

11 Jehoram had also built high places on the
hills of Judah; he had caused the people of
Jerusalem to prostitute themselves and had led
Judah astray.

12 Then a letter came to Jehoram from Elijah
the prophet, which stated:

"This is what the LORD, the God of your father
David, says:

'You have not walked in the ways of your
father Jehoshaphat or of Asa king of Judah,
13 but you have walked in the ways of the
kings of Israel and have caused Judah and the
people of Jerusalem to prostitute themselves,
just as the house of Ahab prostituted itself. You
have also killed your brothers, your father's
family, who were better than you.

14 So behold, the LORD is about to strike your
people, your sons, your wives, and all your
possessions with a serious blow.
15 And day after day you yourself will suffer
from a severe illness, a disease of your bowels,
until it causes your bowels to come out.' "

16 Then the LORD stirred against Jehoram the
spirit of the Philistines and Arabs who lived
near the Cushites.
17 So they went to war against Judah, invaded
it, and carried off all the possessions found in
the king's palace, along with his sons and wives;

not a son was left to him except Jehoahaz,‡ his youngest.
18 After all this, the LORD afflicted Jehoram with an incurable disease of the bowels.
19 This continued day after day until two full years had passed. Finally, his intestines came out because of his disease, and he died in severe pain. And his people did not make a fire in his honor as they had done for his fathers.
20 Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years. He died, to no one's regret, and was buried in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

22

1 Then the people of Jerusalem made Ahaziah, the youngest son of Jehoram, king in his place, since the raiders who had come into the camp with the Arabs* had killed all the older sons. So Ahaziah son of Jehoram became king of Judah.
2 Ahaziah was forty-two† years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem one year. His mother's name was Athaliah, the granddaughter of Omri.
3 Ahaziah also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother was his counselor in wickedness.
4 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as the house of Ahab had done, for to his

‡ **21:17 21:17** *Jehoahaz* is a variant of *Ahaziah*; see 2 Chronicles 22:1. * **22:1 22:1** Or *since the marauding bands of Arabs* † **22:2 22:2** Some LXX manuscripts and Syriac (see also 2 Kings 8:26) *twenty-two*

destruction they were his counselors after the death of his father.
5 Ahaziah also followed their counsel and went
with Joram son of Ahab king of Israel to fight
against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth-gilead.
But the Arameans‡ wounded Joram.§
6 So he returned to Jezreel to recover from the
wounds they had inflicted on him at Ramah*
when he fought against Hazael king of Aram.
Then Azariah† son of Jehoram king of Judah
went down to Jezreel to visit Joram son of Ahab,
because Joram had been wounded.
7 Ahaziah's downfall came from God when he
went to visit Joram. When Ahaziah arrived, he
went out with Joram to meet Jehu son‡ of
Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to
destroy the house of Ahab.
8 So while Jehu was executing judgment on the
house of Ahab, he found the rulers of Judah and
the sons of Ahaziah's brothers who were serving
Ahaziah, and he killed them.
9 Then Jehu looked for Ahaziah, and Jehu's
soldiers captured him while he was hiding in
Samaria. So Ahaziah was brought to Jehu and
put to death. They buried him, for they said, "He
is the grandson of Jehoshaphat, who sought the
LORD with all his heart."

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‡ **22:5 22:5** Some LXX manuscripts *the archers* § **22:5 22:5** Hebrew *Jehoram*, a variant of *Joram*; also in verses 6 and 7 * **22:6 22:6** *Ramah* is a variant of *Ramoth*; see verse 5. † **22:6 22:6** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac (see also 2 Kings 8:29) *Ahaziah* ‡ **22:7 22:7** Or *grandson*; see 2 Kings 9:14.

So no one was left from the house of Ahaziah with the strength to rule the kingdom.

10 When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw
that her son was dead, she proceeded to
annihilate all the royal heirs of the house of
Judah.

11 But Jehoshabeath§ daughter of King
Jehoram took Joash son of Ahaziah and stole
him away from among the sons of the king who
were being murdered, and she put him and his
nurse in a bedroom. Because Jehoshabeath, the
daughter of King Jehoram and the wife of
Jehoiada the priest, was Ahaziah's sister, she hid
Joash from Athaliah so that she could not kill
him.

12 And Joash remained hidden with them in
the house of God for six years while Athaliah
ruled the land.

23

1 Then in the seventh year, Jehoiada
strengthened himself and made a covenant with
the commanders of hundreds—with Azariah son
of Jeroham, Ishmael son of Jehohanan, Azariah
son of Obed, Maaseiah son of Adaiah, and
Elishaphat son of Zichri.

2 So they went throughout Judah and gathered
the Levites from all the cities of Judah and the
heads of the families of Israel. And when they
came to Jerusalem,

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§ **22:11 22:11** *Jehoshabeath* is a variant of *Jehosheba*; twice in this verse; see 2 Kings 11:2.

3 the whole assembly made a covenant with
the king in the house of God.

"Behold, the king's son!" said Jehoiada. "He
must reign, just as the LORD promised
concerning the descendants of David.
4 This is what you are to do: A third of you
priests and Levites who come on duty on the
Sabbath shall keep watch at the doors,
5 a third shall be at the royal palace, and a
third at the Foundation Gate, while all the others
are to be in the courtyards of the house of the
LORD.
6 No one is to enter the house of the LORD
except the priests and those Levites who serve;
they may enter because they are consecrated,
but all the people are to obey the requirement of
the LORD.
7 The Levites must surround the king with
weapons in hand, and anyone who enters the
temple must be put to death. You must stay close
to the king wherever he goes."

8 So the Levites and all Judah did everything
that Jehoiada the priest had ordered. Each of
them took his men—those coming on duty on
the Sabbath and those going off duty—for
Jehoiada the priest had not released any of the
divisions.
9 Then Jehoiada the priest gave to the
commanders of hundreds the spears and the
large and small shields of King David that were
in the house of God.
10 He stationed all the troops, with their
weapons in hand, surrounding the king by the

altar and the temple, from the south side to the
north side of the temple.
11 Then Jehoiada and his sons brought out the
king's son, put the crown on him, presented him
with the Testimony, and proclaimed him king.
They anointed him and shouted, "Long live the
king!"
12 When Athaliah heard the noise of the
people running and cheering the king, she went
out to them in the house of the LORD.
13 And she looked and saw the king standing
by his pillar at the entrance. The officers and
trumpeters were beside the king, and all the
people of the land were rejoicing and blowing
trumpets, while the singers with musical
instruments were leading the praises.
Then Athaliah tore her clothes and screamed,
"Treason, treason!"
14 And Jehoiada the priest sent out the
commanders of hundreds in charge of the army,
saying, "Bring her out between the ranks,* and
put to the sword anyone who follows her." For
the priest had said, "She must not be put to
death in the house of the LORD."
15 So they seized Athaliah as she reached the
entrance of the Horse Gate on the palace
grounds, and there they put her to death.
16 Then Jehoiada made a covenant between
himself and the king and the people that they
would be the LORD's people.
17 So all the people went to the temple of Baal
and tore it down. They smashed the altars and

* **23:14 23:14** Or *out from the precincts*

idols to pieces and killed Mattan the priest of
Baal in front of the altars.
18 Moreover, Jehoiada put the oversight of the
house of the LORD into the hands of the Levitical
priests, whom David had appointed over the
house of the LORD, to offer burnt offerings to
the LORD as written in the Teaching of Moses,
with rejoicing and song, as ordained by David.
19 He stationed gatekeepers at the gates of the
house of the LORD, so that no one who was in
any way unclean could enter.
20 And he took with him the commanders of
hundreds, the nobles, the rulers of the people,
and all the people of the land, and they brought
the king down from the house of the LORD and
entered the royal palace through the Upper Gate.
They seated King Joash on the royal throne,
21 and all the people of the land rejoiced. And
the city was quiet, because Athaliah had been
put to the sword.

24

1 Joash was seven years old when he became
king, and he reigned in Jerusalem forty years.
His mother's name was Zibiah; she was from
Beersheba.
2 And Joash did what was right in the eyes of
the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.
3 Jehoiada took for him two wives, and he had
sons and daughters.
4 Some time later, Joash set his heart on
repairing the house of the LORD.

5 So he gathered the priests and Levites and
said, “Go out to the cities of Judah and collect the
money due annually from all Israel, to repair
the house of your God. Do it quickly.”

The Levites, however, did not make haste.
6 So the king called Jehoiada the high priest
and said, “Why have you not required the
Levites to bring from Judah and Jerusalem the
tax imposed by Moses the servant of the LORD
and by the assembly of Israel for the Tent of the
Testimony?”

7 For the sons of that wicked woman Athaliah
had broken into the house of God and had even
used the sacred objects of the house of the LORD
for the Baals.

8 At the king's command a chest was made and
placed outside, at the gate of the house of the
LORD.
9 And a proclamation was issued in Judah and
Jerusalem that they were to bring to the LORD
the tax imposed by Moses the servant of God on
Israel in the wilderness.
10 All the officers and all the people rejoiced
and brought their contributions, and they
dropped them in the chest until it was full.

11 Whenever the chest was brought by the
Levites to the king’s overseers and they saw that
there was a large amount of money, the royal
scribe and the officer of the high priest would
come and empty the chest and carry it back to
its place. They did this daily and gathered the
money in abundance.

12 Then the king and Jehoiada would give the
money to those who supervised the labor on the
house of the LORD to hire stonecutters and
carpenters to restore the house of the LORD, as
well as workers in iron and bronze to repair the
house of the LORD.
13 So the workmen labored, and in their hands
the repair work progressed. They restored the
house of God according to its specifications, and
they reinforced it.
14 When they were finished, they brought the
rest of the money to the king and Jehoiada, and
with it were made articles for the house of the
LORD—utensils for the service and for the burnt
offerings, dishes, and other objects of gold and
silver.
Throughout the days of Jehoiada, burnt
offerings were presented regularly in the house
of the LORD.
15 When Jehoiada was old and full of years, he
died at the age of 130.
16 And Jehoiada was buried with the kings in
the City of David, because he had done what was
good in Israel for God and his temple.
17 After the death of Jehoiada, however, the
officials of Judah came and paid homage to the
king, and he listened to them.
18 They abandoned the house of the LORD, the
God of their fathers, and served the Asherah
poles and idols. So wrath came upon Judah and
Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs.
19 Nevertheless, the LORD sent prophets to
bring the people back to him and to testify
against them, but they would not listen.

20 Then the spirit of God came upon Zechariah
son of Jehoiada the priest, who stood up before
the people and said to them, “This is what God
says: ‘Why do you transgress the
commandments of the LORD so that you cannot
prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD,
he has forsaken you.’ ”
21 But they conspired against Zechariah, and
by order of the king, they stoned him in the
courtyard of the house of the LORD.
22 Thus King Joash failed to remember the
kindness that Zechariah’s father Jehoiada had
extended to him. Instead, Joash killed Jehoiada’s
son. As he lay dying, Zechariah said, “May the
LORD see this and call you to account.”
23 At the turn of the year,* the army of Aram
went to war against Joash. They entered Judah
and Jerusalem and destroyed all the leaders of
the people, and they sent all the plunder to their
king in Damascus.
24 Although the Aramean army had come with
only a few men, the LORD delivered into their
hand a very great army. Because Judah had
forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers,
judgment was executed on Joash.
25 And when the Arameans had withdrawn,
they left Joash severely wounded. His own
servants conspired against him for shedding the
blood of the sons† of Jehoiada the priest, and
they killed him on his bed. So he died and was

* **24:23 24:23** Or *In the spring* † **24:25 24:25** LXX and Vulgate *of the son*

buried in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

26 Those who conspired against Joash were
Zabad‡ son of Shimeath the Ammonitess and
Jehozabad son of Shimrith§ the Moabitess.

27 The accounts of the sons of Joash and the
many pronouncements about him, and of the
restoration* of the house of God, are indeed
written in the Treatise† of the Book of the Kings.
And his son Amaziah reigned in his place.

25

1 Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he
became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem
twenty-nine years. His mother's name was
Jehoaddan; she was from Jerusalem.

2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the
LORD, but not wholeheartedly.

3 As soon as the kingdom was firmly in his
grasp, Amaziah executed the servants who had
murdered his father the king.

4 Yet he did not put their sons to death, but
acted according to what is written in the
Teaching, in the Book of Moses, where the LORD
commanded: "Fathers must not be put to death
for their children, and children must not be put
to death for their fathers; each is to die for his
own sin."*

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‡ **24:26 24:26** *Zabad* is a variant of *Jozabad*; see 2 Kings 12:22.

§ **24:26 24:26** *Shimrith* is a variant of *Shomer*; see 2 Kings 12:22.

* **24:27 24:27** Or *founding* † **24:27 24:27** Or *Exposition* or *Study*

* **25:4 25:4** Deuteronomy 24:16

5 Then Amaziah gathered the people of Judah
and assigned them according to their families to
commanders of thousands and of hundreds.
And he numbered those twenty years of age or
older throughout Judah and Benjamin and
found 300,000 chosen men able to serve in the
army, bearing the spear and shield.
6 He also hired 100,000 mighty men of valor
from Israel for a hundred talents of silver.†
7 But a man of God came to him and said, "O
king, do not let the army of Israel go with you,
for the LORD is not with Israel—not with any of
the Ephraimites.
8 Even if you go and fight bravely in battle,
God will overthrow you before the enemy, for
God has power to help and power to overthrow."
9 Amaziah asked the man of God, "What
should I do about the hundred talents I have
given to the troops of Israel?"
And the man of God replied, "The LORD is able
to give you much more than this."
10 So Amaziah dismissed the troops who had
come to him from Ephraim and sent them home.
And they were furious with Judah and returned
home in great anger.
11 Amaziah, however, summoned his strength
and led his troops to the Valley of Salt, where he
struck down 10,000 men of Seir,
12 and the army of Judah also captured 10,000
men alive. They took them to the top of a cliff

† **25:6 25:6** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of silver; also in verse 9.

and threw them down so that all were dashed to pieces.

13 Meanwhile the troops that Amaziah had
dismissed from battle raided the cities of Judah,
from Samaria to Beth-horon. They struck down
3,000 people and carried off a great deal of
plunder.

14 When Amaziah returned from the slaughter
of the Edomites, he brought back the gods of the
Seirites, set them up as his own gods, bowed
before them, and burned sacrifices to them.

15 Therefore the anger of the LORD burned
against Amaziah, and he sent him a prophet,
who said, "Why have you sought this people's
gods, which could not deliver them from your
hand?"

16 While he was still speaking, the king asked,
"Have we made you the counselor to the king?
Stop! Why be struck down?"

So the prophet stopped, but he said, "I know
that God has determined to destroy you, because
you have done this and have not heeded my
advice."

17 Then Amaziah king of Judah took counsel
and sent word to the king of Israel Jehoash‡ son
of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu. "Come, let us meet
face to face," he said.

18 But Jehoash king of Israel replied to
Amaziah king of Judah: "A thistle in Lebanon
sent a message to a cedar in Lebanon, saying,
'Give your daughter to my son in marriage.'

‡ **25:17 25:17** *Jehoash* is a variant of *Joash*; also in verses 18, 21, 23, and 25.

Then a wild beast in Lebanon came along and
trampled the thistle.
19 You have said, 'Look, I have defeated Edom,'
and your heart has become proud and boastful.
Now stay at home. Why should you stir up
trouble so that you fall—you and Judah with
you?"
20 But Amaziah would not listen, for this had
come from God in order to deliver them into the
hand of Jehoash, because they had sought the
gods of Edom.
21 So Jehoash king of Israel advanced, and he
and Amaziah king of Judah faced each other at
Beth-shemesh in Judah.
22 And Judah was routed before Israel, and
every man fled to his own home.
23 There at Beth-shemesh, Jehoash king of
Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son
of Joash, the son of Jehoahaz.§
Then Jehoash brought him to Jerusalem and
broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the
Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate—a section of
four hundred cubits.*
24 He took all the gold and silver and all the
articles found in the house of God with
Obed-edom and in the treasuries of the royal
palace, as well as some hostages. Then he
returned to Samaria.
25 Amaziah son of Joash king of Judah lived for
fifteen years after the death of Jehoash son of
Jehoahaz king of Israel.

§ **25:23 25:23** *Jehoahaz* is a variant of *Ahaziah*. * **25:23 25:23** *400 cubits* is approximately 600 feet or 182.9 meters.

26 As for the rest of the acts of Amaziah, from
beginning to end, are they not written in the
Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel?
27 From the time that Amaziah turned from
following the LORD, a conspiracy was formed
against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish.
But men were sent after him to Lachish, and
they killed him there.
28 They carried him back on horses and buried
him with his fathers in the City of Judah.†

26

1 All the people of Judah took Uzziah,* who
was sixteen years old, and made him king in
place of his father Amaziah.
2 Uzziah was the one who rebuilt Eloth† and
restored it to Judah after King Amaziah‡ rested
with his fathers.
3 Uzziah was sixteen years old when he
became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem
fifty-two years. His mother's name was Jecoliah;
she was from Jerusalem.
4 And he did what was right in the eyes of the
LORD, just as his father Amaziah had done.
5 He sought God throughout the days of
Zechariah, who instructed him in the vision§ of

† **25:28 25:28** Most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac *City of David*; see 2 Kings 14:20. * **26:1 26:1** *Uzziah* is also called *Azariah*; throughout this chapter; see 2 Kings 14:21. † **26:2 26:2** *Eloth* is a variant of *Elath*; see LXX, 2 Kings 14:22, and 2 Kings 16:6. ‡ **26:2 26:2** Literally *after the king* § **26:5 26:5** Leningrad Codex and other Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac *in the fear*

God. And as long as he sought the LORD, God
gave him success.
6 Uzziah went out to wage war against the
Philistines, and he tore down the walls of Gath,
Jabneh, and Ashdod. Then he built cities near
Ashdod and among the Philistines.
7 God helped him against the Philistines,
against the Arabs living in Gur-baal, and against
the Meunites.
8 The Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah,
and his fame spread as far as the border of
Egypt, for he had become exceedingly powerful.
9 Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the
Corner Gate, the Valley Gate, and the angle in
the wall, and he fortified them.
10 Since he had much livestock in the foothills*
and in the plain, he built towers in the desert
and dug many cisterns. And since he was a lover
of the soil, he had farmers and vinedressers in
the hill country and in the fertile fields.
11 Uzziah had an army ready for battle that
went out to war by assigned divisions, as
recorded by Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the
officer under the direction of Hananiah, one of
the royal officers.
12 The total number of family leaders of the
mighty men of valor was 2,600.
13 Under their authority was an army of
307,500 trained for war, a powerful force to
support the king against his enemies.

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* **26:10 26:10** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

14 Uzziah supplied the entire army with
shields, spears, helmets, armor, bows, and
slingstones.
15 And in Jerusalem he made skillfully
designed devices to shoot† arrows and catapult
large stones from the towers and corners. So his
fame spread far and wide, for he was helped
tremendously until he became powerful.
16 But when Uzziah became powerful, his
arrogance led to his own destruction. He was
unfaithful to the LORD his God, for he entered
the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the
altar of incense.
17 Then Azariah the priest, along with eighty
brave priests of the LORD, went in after him.
18 They took their stand against King Uzziah
and said, “Uzziah, you have no right to offer
incense to the LORD. Only the priests, the
descendants of Aaron, are consecrated to burn
incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have acted
unfaithfully; you will not receive honor from
the LORD God.”
19 Uzziah, with a censer in his hand to offer
incense, was enraged. But while he raged
against the priests in their presence in the house
of the LORD before the altar of incense, leprosy‡
broke out on his forehead.
20 When Azariah the chief priest and all the
priests turned to him and saw his leprous
forehead, they rushed him out. Indeed, he

† **26:15 26:15** Or *to protect those who shoot* ‡ **26:19 26:19** *Leprosy* was a term used for various skin diseases; see Leviticus 13.

himself hurried to get out, because the LORD had afflicted him.
21 So King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He lived in isolation, leprous and cut off from the house of the LORD, while his son Jotham had charge of the royal palace and governed the people of the land.
22 As for the rest of the acts of Uzziah, from beginning to end, they are recorded by the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz.
23 And Uzziah rested with his fathers and was buried near them§ in a field of burial that belonged to the kings, for the people said, "He was a leper." And his son Jotham reigned in his place.

27

1 Jotham was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. His mother's name was Jerushah* daughter of Zadok.
2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Uzziah† had done. In addition, he did not enter the temple of the LORD. But the people still behaved corruptly.
3 Jotham rebuilt the Upper Gate of the house of the LORD, and he worked extensively on the wall at the hill of Ophel.
4 He also built cities in the hill country of Judah and fortresses and towers in the forests.

§ **26:23 26:23** Literally *with his fathers* * **27:1 27:1** *Jerushah* is a variant of *Jerusha*; see 2 Kings 15:33. † **27:2 27:2** *Uzziah* is also called *Azariah*; see 2 Kings 14:21.

5 Jotham waged war against the king of the
Ammonites and defeated them, and that year
they gave him a hundred talents of silver,‡ ten
thousand cors of wheat,§ and ten thousand cors
of barley.* They paid him the same in the
second and third years.
6 So Jotham grew powerful because he
ordered his ways before the LORD his God.
7 As for the rest of the acts of Jotham, along
with all his wars and his ways, they are indeed
written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and
Judah.
8 He was twenty-five years old when he
became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem
sixteen years.
9 And Jotham rested with his fathers and was
buried in the City of David. And his son Ahaz
reigned in his place.

28

1 Ahaz was twenty years old when he became
king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years.
And unlike David his father, he did not do what
was right in the eyes of the LORD.
2 Instead, he walked in the ways of the kings of
Israel and even made cast images of the Baals.

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‡ **27:5 27:5** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of silver. § **27:5 27:5** *10,000 cors* is approximately 62,400 bushels or 2.2 million liters (probably about 1,920 tons or 1,740 metric tons of wheat). * **27:5 27:5** *10,000 cors* is approximately 62,400 bushels or 2.2 million liters (probably about 1,450 tons or 1,315 metric tons of barley).

3 Moreover, Ahaz burned incense in the Valley
of Ben-hinnom and burned his sons in the fire,*
according to the abominations of the nations
that the LORD had driven out before the
Israelites.
4 And he sacrificed and burned incense on the
high places, on the hills, and under every green
tree.
5 So the LORD his God delivered Ahaz into the
hand of the king of Aram, who attacked him and
took many captives to Damascus.

Ahaz was also delivered into the hand of the
king of Israel, who struck him with great force.
6 For in one day Pekah son of Remaliah killed
120,000 valiant men in Judah. This happened
because they had forsaken the LORD, the God of
their fathers.
7 Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, killed
Maaseiah the son of the king, Azrikam the
governor of the palace, and Elkanah the second
to the king.
8 Then the Israelites took 200,000 captives
from their kinsmen—women, sons, and
daughters. They also carried off a great deal of
plunder and brought it to Samaria.
9 But a prophet of the LORD named Oded was
there, and he went out to meet the army that
returned to Samaria. “Look,” he said to them,
“because of his wrath against Judah, the LORD,
the God of your fathers, has delivered them into
your hand. But you have slaughtered them in a
rage that reaches up to heaven.

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* **28:3 28:3** LXX *passed his sons through the fire*; see 2 Kings 16:3.

10 And now you intend to reduce to slavery the
men and women of Judah and Jerusalem. But
are you not also guilty before the LORD your
God?
11 Now therefore, listen to me and return the
captives you took from your kinsmen, for the
fierce anger of the LORD is upon you."
12 Then some of the leaders of the
Ephraimites†—Azariah son of Jehohanan,
Berechiah son of Meshillemoth,‡ Jehizkiah son
of Shallum, and Amasa son of Hadlai—stood in
opposition to those arriving from the war.
13 "You must not bring the captives here," they
said, "for you are proposing to bring guilt upon
us from the LORD and to add to our sins and our
guilt. For our guilt is great, and fierce anger is
upon Israel."
14 So the armed men left the captives and the
plunder before the leaders and all the assembly.
15 Then the men who were designated by
name arose, took charge of the captives, and
provided from the plunder clothing for the
naked. They clothed them, gave them sandals
and food and drink, anointed their wounds, and
put all the feeble on donkeys. So they brought
them to Jericho, the City of Palms, to their
brothers. Then they returned to Samaria.
16 At that time King Ahaz sent for help from
the kings§ of Assyria.

† **28:12 28:12** That is, the leaders of the northern kingdom of Israel ‡ **28:12 28:12** *Meshillemoth* is a variant of *Meshillemith*; see 1 Chronicles 9:12. § **28:16 28:16** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate (see also 2 Kings 16:7) *the king*

17 The Edomites had again come and attacked
Judah and carried away captives.
18 The Philistines had also raided the cities of
the foothills* and the Negev of Judah, capturing
and occupying Beth-shemesh, Aijalon, and
Gederoth, as well as Soco, Timnah, and Gimzo
with their villages.
19 For the LORD humbled Judah because Ahaz
king of Israel† had thrown off restraint in Judah
and had been most unfaithful to the LORD.
20 Then Tiglath-pileser‡ king of Assyria came
to Ahaz but afflicted him rather than
strengthening him.
21 Although Ahaz had taken a portion from the
house of the LORD, from the royal palace, and
from the princes and had presented it to the
king of Assyria, it did not help him.
22 In the time of his distress, King Ahaz
became even more unfaithful to the LORD.
23 He sacrificed to the gods of Damascus, who
had defeated him, and he said, “Because the
gods of the kings of Aram have helped them, I
will sacrifice to them that they may help me.”
But these gods were the downfall of Ahaz and of
all Israel.
24 Then Ahaz gathered up the articles of the
house of God, cut them into pieces, shut the
doors of the house of the LORD, and set up altars
of his own on every street corner in Jerusalem.

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* **28:18 28:18** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea † **28:19 28:19** That is, Judah; in 2 Chronicles, Judah is occasionally called Israel, as representative of the true Israel. ‡ **28:20 28:20** Hebrew *Tilgath-pilneser*, a variant spelling of *Tiglath-pileser*

25 In every city of Judah he built high places to
offer incense to other gods, and so he provoked
the LORD, the God of his fathers.
26 As for the rest of the acts of Ahaz and all his
ways, from beginning to end, they are indeed
written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and
Israel.
27 And Ahaz rested with his fathers and was
buried in the city of Jerusalem, but he was not
placed in the tombs of the kings of Israel. And
his son Hezekiah reigned in his place.

29

1 Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he
became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem
twenty-nine years. His mother's name was
Abijah,* the daughter of Zechariah.
2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the
LORD, just as his father David had done.
3 In the first month of the first year of his
reign, Hezekiah opened and repaired the doors
of the house of the LORD.
4 Then he brought in the priests and Levites
and gathered them in the square on the east
side.
5 "Listen to me, O Levites," he said. "Consecrate
yourselves now and consecrate the house of the
LORD, the God of your fathers. Remove from the
Holy Place every impurity.
6 For our fathers were unfaithful and did evil
in the sight of the LORD our God. They
abandoned him, turned their faces away from

* **29:1 29:1** *Abijah* is a variant of *Abi*; see 2 Kings 18:2.

the dwelling place of the LORD, and turned their
backs on him.
7 They also shut the doors of the portico and
extinguished the lamps. They did not burn
incense or present burnt offerings in the Holy
Place of the God of Israel.
8 Therefore, the wrath of the LORD has fallen
upon Judah and Jerusalem, and he has made
them an object of terror, horror, and scorn, as
you can see with your own eyes.
9 For behold, this is why our fathers have
fallen by the sword, and our sons and daughters
and wives are in captivity.
10 Now it is in my heart to make a covenant
with the LORD, the God of Israel, so that his
fierce anger will turn away from us.
11 Now, my sons, do not be negligent, for the
LORD has chosen you to stand before him, to
serve him, to minister before him, and to burn
incense."
12 Then the Levites set to work:

Mahath son of Amasai and Joel son of Azariah
from the Kohathites;
Kish son of Abdi and Azariah son of Jehallelel
from the Merarites;
Joah son of Zimmah and Eden son of Joah
from the Gershonites;
13 Shimri and Jeuel from the Elizaphanites;
Zechariah and Mattaniah from the Asaphites;
14 Jehiel and Shimei from the Hemanites;
and Shemaiah and Uzziel from the
Jeduthunites.

15 When they had assembled their brothers
and consecrated themselves, they went in to
cleanse the house of the LORD, according to the
command of the king by the words of the LORD.

16 So the priests went inside the house of the
LORD to cleanse it, and they brought out to the
courtyard all the unclean things that they found
in the temple of the LORD. Then the Levites took
these things and carried them out to the Kidron
Valley.
17 They began the consecration on the first day
of the first month, and on the eighth day of the
month they reached the portico of the LORD. For
eight more days they consecrated the house of
the LORD itself, finishing on the sixteenth day of
the first month.

18 Then they went in to King Hezekiah and
reported, “We have cleansed the entire house of
the LORD, the altar of burnt offering with all its
utensils, and the table of the showbread with all
its utensils.
19 Moreover, we have prepared and
consecrated all the articles that King Ahaz in his
unfaithfulness cast aside during his reign. They
are now in front of the altar of the LORD.”

20 Early the next morning King Hezekiah
gathered the city officials and went up to the
house of the LORD.
21 They brought seven bulls, seven rams,
seven lambs, and seven male goats as a
purification offering for the kingdom, for the
sanctuary, and for Judah. And the king

commanded the priests, the descendants of
Aaron, to offer them on the altar of the LORD.

22 So they slaughtered the bulls, and the
priests took the blood and splattered it on the
altar. They slaughtered the rams and splattered
the blood on the altar. And they slaughtered the
lambs and splattered the blood on the altar.

23 Then they brought the goats for the
purification offering before the king and the
assembly, who laid their hands on them.
24 And the priests slaughtered the goats and
put their blood on the altar for a purification
offering, to make atonement for all Israel,
because the king had ordered the burnt offering
and the purification offering for all Israel.

25 Hezekiah stationed the Levites in the house
of the LORD with cymbals, harps, and lyres
according to the command of David, of Gad the
king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet. For the
command had come from the LORD through his
prophets.
26 The Levites stood with the instruments of
David, and the priests with the trumpets.

27 And Hezekiah ordered that the burnt
offering be sacrificed on the altar. When the
burnt offering began, the song of the LORD and
the trumpets began as well, accompanied by the
instruments of David king of Israel.
28 The whole assembly was worshiping, the
singers were singing, and the trumpeters were
playing. All this continued until the burnt
offering was completed.

29 When the offerings were completed, the
king and all those present with him bowed
down and worshiped.
30 Then King Hezekiah and his officials
ordered the Levites to sing praises to the LORD
in the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So
they sang praises with gladness and bowed
down and worshiped.
31 Then Hezekiah said, “Now that you have
consecrated yourselves to the LORD,† come near
and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the
house of the LORD.”
So the assembly brought sacrifices and thank
offerings, and all whose hearts were willing
brought burnt offerings.
32 The number of burnt offerings the assembly
brought was seventy bulls, a hundred rams, and
two hundred lambs; all these were for a burnt
offering to the LORD.
33 And the consecrated offerings were six
hundred bulls and three thousand sheep.
34 However, since there were not enough
priests to skin all the burnt offerings, their
Levite brothers helped them until the work was
finished and until the priests had consecrated
themselves. For the Levites had been more
diligent in consecrating themselves than the
priests had been.
35 Furthermore, the burnt offerings were
abundant, along with the fat of the peace
offerings and the drink offerings for the burnt

† **29:31 29:31** Or *filled your hand for the LORD*

offerings. So the service of the house of the
LORD was established.
36 Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced at
what God had prepared for the people, because
everything had been accomplished so quickly.

30

1 Then Hezekiah sent word throughout all
Israel and Judah, and he also wrote letters to
Ephraim and Manasseh inviting them to come to
the house of the LORD in Jerusalem to keep the
Passover of the LORD, the God of Israel.
2 For the king and his officials and the whole
assembly in Jerusalem had decided to keep the
Passover in the second month,*
3 since they had been unable to keep it at the
regular time, because not enough priests had
consecrated themselves and the people had not
been gathered in Jerusalem.
4 This plan pleased the king and the whole
assembly.
5 So they established a decree to circulate a
proclamation throughout Israel, from Beersheba
to Dan, that the people should come to keep the
Passover of the LORD, the God of Israel, in
Jerusalem. For they had not observed it in great
numbers as prescribed.
6 At the command of the king, the couriers
went throughout Israel and Judah with letters
from the king and his officials, which read:
"Children of Israel, return to the LORD, the
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, so that he

* **30:2 30:2** See Numbers 9:9–12.

may return to those of you who remain, who
have escaped the grasp of the kings of Assyria.
7 Do not be like your fathers and brothers who
were unfaithful to the LORD, the God of their
fathers, so that he made them an object of
horror, as you can see.
8 Now do not stiffen your necks as your
fathers did. Submit to the LORD and come to his
sanctuary, which he has consecrated forever.
Serve the LORD your God, so that his fierce
anger will turn away from you.
9 For if you return to the LORD, your brothers
and sons will receive mercy in the presence of
their captors and will return to this land. For the
LORD your God is gracious and merciful; he will
not turn his face away from you if you return to
him."
10 And the couriers traveled from city to city
through the land of Ephraim and Manasseh as
far as Zebulun, but the people scorned and
mocked them.
11 Nevertheless, some from Asher, Manasseh,
and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to
Jerusalem.
12 Moreover, the power of God was on the
people in Judah to give them one heart to obey
the command of the king and his officials
according to the word of the LORD.
13 In the second month, a very great assembly
gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of
Unleavened Bread.†

† **30:13 30:13** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20.

14 They proceeded to remove the altars in
Jerusalem and to take away the incense altars
and throw them into the Kidron Valley.
15 And on the fourteenth day of the second
month they slaughtered the Passover lamb. The
priests and Levites were ashamed, and they
consecrated themselves and brought burnt
offerings to the house of the LORD.
16 They stood at their prescribed posts,
according to the Teaching of Moses the man of
God. The priests splattered the blood, which
they received from the hand of the Levites.
17 Since there were many in the assembly who
had not consecrated themselves, the Levites
were in charge of slaughtering the Passover
lambs for every unclean person to consecrate
the lambs to the LORD.
18 A large number of the people—many from
Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun—had
not purified themselves, yet they ate the
Passover, contrary to what was written. But
Hezekiah interceded for them, saying, “May the
LORD, who is good, provide atonement for
everyone
19 who sets his heart on seeking God—the
LORD, the God of his fathers—even if he is not
cleansed according to the purification rules of
the sanctuary.”
20 And the LORD heard Hezekiah and healed
the people.
21 The Israelites who were present in
Jerusalem celebrated the Feast of Unleavened
Bread for seven days with great joy, and the

Levites and priests praised the LORD day after
day, accompanied by loud instruments of praise
to the LORD.‡
22 And Hezekiah encouraged all the Levites
who performed skillfully before the LORD. For
seven days they ate their assigned portion,
sacrificing peace offerings and giving thanks to
the LORD, the God of their fathers.
23 The whole assembly agreed to observe
seven more days, so they observed seven days
with joy.
24 For Hezekiah king of Judah contributed a
thousand bulls and seven thousand sheep for
the assembly, and the officials contributed a
thousand bulls and ten thousand sheep for the
assembly, and a great number of priests
consecrated themselves.
25 Then the whole assembly of Judah rejoiced
along with the priests and Levites and the whole
assembly that had come from Israel, including
the foreigners who had come from Israel and
those who lived in Judah.
26 So there was great rejoicing in Jerusalem,
for nothing like this had happened there since
the days of Solomon son of David king of Israel.
27 Then the Levitical priests§ stood to bless the
people, and God heard their voice, and their
prayer came into his holy dwelling place in
heaven.

‡ **30:21 30:21** Or *day after day, with all their strength to the LORD.* Literally *day after day, with loud instruments to the LORD.*

§ **30:27 30:27** Some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac *the priests and the Levites*

31

1 When all this had ended, the Israelites in
attendance went out to the cities of Judah and
broke up the sacred pillars, chopped down the
Asherah poles, and tore down the high places
and altars throughout Judah and Benjamin, as
well as in Ephraim and Manasseh, until they had
utterly destroyed them all. Then all the Israelites
returned to their cities, each to his own property.

2 Hezekiah reestablished the divisions of the
priests and Levites—each of them according to
their duties as priests or Levites—for the burnt
offerings and peace offerings, for ministry, for
giving thanks, and for singing praises at the
gates of the LORD's dwelling.

3 The king contributed from his own
possessions for the regular morning and evening
burnt offerings and for the burnt offerings on
the Sabbaths, New Moons, and appointed feasts,
as written in the Teaching of the LORD.
4 Moreover, he commanded the people living
in Jerusalem to make a contribution for the
priests and Levites so that they could devote
themselves to the Teaching of the LORD.

5 As soon as the order went out, the Israelites
generously provided the firstfruits of the grain,
new wine, oil, and honey, and of all the produce
of the field, and they brought in an
abundance—a tithe of everything.
6 And the Israelites and Judahites who lived in
the cities of Judah also brought a tithe of their
herds and flocks and a tithe of the holy things

consecrated to the LORD their God, and they laid
them in large heaps.
7 In the third month they began building up
the heaps, and they finished in the seventh
month.
8 When Hezekiah and his officials came and
viewed the heaps, they blessed the LORD and his
people Israel.
9 Then Hezekiah questioned the priests and
Levites about the heaps,
10 and Azariah, the chief priest of the
household of Zadok, answered him, “Since the
people began to bring their contributions into
the house of the LORD, we have had enough to
eat, and there is plenty left over, because the
LORD has blessed his people; this great
abundance is what is left over.”
11 Then Hezekiah commanded them to
prepare storerooms in the house of the LORD,
and they did so.
12 And they faithfully brought in the
contributions, tithes, and dedicated gifts.
Conaniah the Levite was the officer in charge of
them, and his brother Shimei was second.
13 Jehiel, Azaziah, Nahath, Asahel, Jerimoth,
Jozabad, Eliel, Ismachiah, Mahath, and Benaiah
were overseers under the authority of Conaniah
and his brother Shimei, by appointment of King
Hezekiah and of Azariah the chief official of the
house of God.
14 Kore son of Imnah the Levite, the keeper of
the East Gate, was in charge of the freewill
offerings given to God, distributing the

contributions to the LORD and the consecrated gifts.
15 Under his authority, Eden, Miniamin,
Jeshua, Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah
faithfully distributed portions to their fellow
priests in their cities, according to their
divisions, old and young alike.*
16 In addition, they distributed portions to the
males registered by genealogy who were three
years of age or older—to all who would enter
the house of the LORD for their daily duties for
service in the responsibilities of their divisions—
17 and to the priests enrolled according to
their families in the genealogy, as well as to the
Levites twenty years of age or older, according
to their responsibilities and divisions.
18 The genealogy included all the little ones,
wives, sons, and daughters of the whole
assembly. For they had faithfully consecrated
themselves as holy.
19 As for the priests, the descendants of Aaron,
who lived on the farmlands around each of their
cities or in any other city, men were designated
by name to distribute a portion to every male
among the priests and to every Levite listed by
the genealogies.
20 So this is what Hezekiah did throughout
Judah. He did what was good and upright and
true before the LORD his God.
21 He acted with all his heart in every work
that he began in the service of the house of God,

* **31:15 31:15** Or *whether large or small*

and in the law and the commandments, in order
to seek his God. And so he prospered.

32

1 After all these acts of faithfulness,
Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded
Judah. He laid siege to the fortified cities,
intending to conquer them for himself.
2 When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had
come to make war against Jerusalem,
3 he consulted with his leaders and mighty
men about stopping up the waters of the springs
outside the city, and they helped him carry it out.
4 Many people assembled and stopped up all
the springs and the stream that flowed through
the land. “Why should the kings* of Assyria
come and find plenty of water?” they said.
5 Then Hezekiah worked resolutely to rebuild
all the broken sections of the wall and to raise
up towers on it. He also built an outer wall and
reinforced the supporting terraces† of the City of
David, and he produced an abundance of
weapons and shields.
6 Hezekiah appointed military commanders
over the people and gathered the people in the
square of the city gate. Then he encouraged
them, saying,
7 “Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid
or discouraged before the king of Assyria and
the vast army with him, for there is a greater
One with us than with him.

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* **32:4 32:4** LXX and Syriac *king* † **32:5 32:5** Hebrew *the Millo*

8 With him is only the arm of flesh,‡ but with
us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight
our battles."
So the people were strengthened by the words
of Hezekiah king of Judah.
9 Later, as Sennacherib king of Assyria and all
his forces besieged Lachish, he sent his servants
to Jerusalem with a message for King Hezekiah
of Judah and all the people of Judah who were
in Jerusalem:
10 "This is what Sennacherib king of Assyria
says: What is the basis of your confidence, that
you remain in Jerusalem under siege?
11 Is not Hezekiah misleading you to give you
over to death by famine and thirst when he says,
'The LORD our God will deliver us from the
hand of the king of Assyria?'
12 Did not Hezekiah himself remove his high
places and his altars and say to Judah and
Jerusalem, 'You must worship before one altar,
and on it you shall burn sacrifices'?
13 Do you not know what I and my fathers
have done to all the peoples of the lands? Have
the gods of these nations ever been able to
deliver their land from my hand?
14 Who among all the gods of these nations
that my fathers devoted to destruction§ has been
able to deliver his people from my hand? How
then can your God deliver you from my hand?

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‡ **32:8 32:8** Or *he has only the strength of his own flesh* § **32:14 32:14** 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.

15 So now, do not let Hezekiah deceive you,
and do not let him mislead you like this. Do not
believe him, for no god of any nation or
kingdom has been able to deliver his people
from my hand or from the hand of my fathers.
How much less will your God deliver you from
my hand!"
16 And the servants of Sennacherib spoke
further against the LORD God and against his
servant Hezekiah.
17 He also wrote letters mocking the LORD, the
God of Israel, and saying against him: "Just as
the gods of the nations did not deliver their
people from my hand, so the God of Hezekiah
will not deliver his people from my hand."
18 Then the Assyrians called out loudly in the
dialect of Judah* to the people of Jerusalem who
were on the wall, to frighten and terrify them in
order to capture the city.
19 They spoke against the God of Jerusalem as
they had spoken against the gods of the peoples
of the earth—the work of human hands.
20 In response, King Hezekiah and the prophet
Isaiah son of Amoz cried out to heaven in prayer,
21 and the LORD sent an angel who annihilated
every mighty man of valor and every leader and
commander in the camp of the king of Assyria.
So he withdrew to his own land in disgrace. And
when he entered the temple of his god, some of
his own sons struck him down with the sword.
22 So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the people
of Jerusalem from the hands of King

* **32:18 32:18** Or *in Hebrew*

Sennacherib of Assyria and all others, and he guided them on every side.†

23 Many brought offerings to Jerusalem for the LORD and valuable gifts for Hezekiah king of Judah, and from then on he was exalted in the eyes of all nations.

24 In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill. So he prayed to the LORD, who spoke to him and gave him a sign.

25 But because his heart was proud, Hezekiah did not repay the favor shown to him. Therefore wrath came upon him and upon Judah and Jerusalem.

26 Then Hezekiah humbled the pride of his heart—he and the people of Jerusalem—so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them during the days of Hezekiah.

27 Hezekiah had very great riches and honor, and he made treasuries for his silver, gold, precious stones, spices, shields, and all kinds of valuable articles.

28 He also made storehouses for the harvest of grain and new wine and oil, stalls for all kinds of livestock, and pens for the flocks.

29 He made cities for himself, and he acquired herds of sheep and cattle in abundance, for God gave him very great wealth.

30 It was Hezekiah who blocked the upper outlet of the Spring of Gihon and channeled it down to the west side of the City of David. And Hezekiah prospered in all that he did.

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† **32:22 32:22** LXX and Vulgate *he gave them rest on every side*

31 And so when ambassadors of the rulers of
Babylon were sent to him to inquire about the
wonder that had happened in the land, God left
him alone to test him, that he might know all
that was in Hezekiah's heart.
32 As for the rest of the acts of Hezekiah and
his deeds of loving devotion, they are indeed
written in the vision of the prophet Isaiah son of
Amoz in the Book of the Kings of Judah and
Israel.
33 And Hezekiah rested with his fathers and
was buried in the upper tombs of David's
descendants. All Judah and the people of
Jerusalem paid him honor at his death. And his
son Manasseh reigned in his place.

33

1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he
became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem
fifty-five years.
2 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD by
following the abominations of the nations that
the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.
3 For he rebuilt the high places that his father
Hezekiah had torn down, and he raised up altars
for the Baals and made Asherah poles. And he
worshiped and served all the host of heaven.
4 Manasseh also built altars in the house of the
LORD, of which the LORD had said, "My Name
will remain in Jerusalem forever."
5 In both courtyards of the house of the LORD,
he built altars to all the host of heaven.

6 He sacrificed his sons in the fire* in the
Valley of Ben-hinnom. He practiced sorcery,
divination, and witchcraft, and consulted
mediums and spiritists. He did great evil in the
sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger.
7 Manasseh even took the carved image he
had made and set it up in the house of God, of
which God had said to David and his son
Solomon, “In this temple and in Jerusalem,
which I have chosen out of all the tribes of
Israel, I will establish my Name forever.
8 I will never again cause the feet of the
Israelites to leave the land that I assigned to
your fathers, if only they are careful to do all
that I have commanded them through
Moses—all the laws, statutes, and judgments.”
9 So Manasseh led the people of Judah and
Jerusalem astray, so that they did greater evil
than the nations that the LORD had destroyed
before the Israelites.
10 And the LORD spoke to Manasseh and his
people, but they did not listen.
11 So the LORD brought against them the
military commanders of the king of Assyria,
who captured Manasseh, put a hook in his nose,
bound him with bronze shackles, and took him
to Babylon.
12 And in his distress, Manasseh sought the
favor of the LORD his God and earnestly
humbled himself before the God of his fathers.
13 And when he prayed to him, the LORD
received his plea and heard his petition. So he

* **33:6 33:6** Literally *made his sons pass through the fire*

brought him back to Jerusalem and to his
kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD is
God.
14 After this, Manasseh rebuilt the outer wall
of the City of David from west of Gihon in the
valley to the entrance of the Fish Gate, and he
brought it around the hill of Ophel and
heightened it considerably. He also stationed
military commanders in all the fortified cities of
Judah.
15 He removed the foreign gods and the idol
from the house of the LORD, along with all the
altars he had built on the mountain of the house
of the LORD† and in Jerusalem, and he dumped
them outside the city.
16 Then he rebuilt‡ the altar of the LORD and
sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on
it, and he told Judah to serve the LORD, the God
of Israel.
17 Nevertheless, the people still sacrificed at
the high places, but only to the LORD their God.
18 As for the rest of the acts of Manasseh, along
with his prayer to his God and the words of the
seers who spoke to him in the name of the
LORD, the God of Israel, they are indeed written
in the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.§
19 His prayer and how God received his plea,
as well as all his sin and unfaithfulness, and the
sites where he built high places and set up
Asherah poles and idols before he humbled

† **33:15 33:15** Or *the temple mount* ‡ **33:16 33:16** Qere; Ketiv *set up* § **33:18 33:18** That is, Judah; in 2 Chronicles, Judah is occasionally called Israel, as representative of the true Israel.

himself, they are indeed written in the Records
of Hozai.*
20 And Manasseh rested with his fathers and
was buried at his palace. And his son Amon
reigned in his place.
21 Amon was twenty-two years old when he
became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem two
years.
22 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as
his father Manasseh had done.
Amon served and sacrificed to all the idols
that his father Manasseh had made,
23 but he did not humble himself before the
LORD as his father Manasseh had done; instead,
Amon increased his guilt.
24 Then the servants of Amon conspired
against him and killed him in his palace.
25 But the people of the land killed all those
who had conspired against King Amon, and they
made his son Josiah king in his place.

34

1 Josiah was eight years old when he became
king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one
years.
2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the
LORD and walked in the ways of his father
David; he did not turn aside to the right or to the
left.
3 In the eighth year of his reign, while he was
still young, Josiah began to seek the God of his
father David, and in the twelfth year he began to

* **33:19 33:19** Or *the Records of the Seers* or *the Annals of the Prophets*

cleanse Judah and Jerusalem of the high places,
the Asherah poles, the carved idols, and the cast
images.
4 Then in his presence the altars of the Baals
were torn down, and he cut to pieces the
incense altars that were above them. He
shattered the Asherah poles, the carved idols,
and the cast images, crushed them to dust, and
scattered them over the graves of those who had
sacrificed to them.
5 Then he burned the bones of the priests on
their altars. So he cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.
6 Josiah did the same in the cities of Manasseh,
Ephraim, and Simeon, as far as Naphtali, and in
the ruins*† around them.
7 He tore down the altars and Asherah poles,
crushed the idols to powder, and cut to pieces all
the incense altars throughout the land of Israel.
Then he returned to Jerusalem.
8 Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, in
order to cleanse the land and the temple, Josiah
sent Shaphan son of Azaliah, Maaseiah the
governor of the city, and Joah son of Joahaz, the
recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his
God.
9 So they went to Hilkiah the high priest and
gave him the money that had been brought into
the house of God, which the Levites who
guarded the doors had collected from the people
of Manasseh and Ephraim, from all the remnant

* **34:6 34:6** Qere; Ketiv *in the hill country, their houses* † **34:6 34:6** Or *in the regions*

of Israel, from all Judah and Benjamin, and from
the people of Jerusalem.‡
10 They put it into the hands of those
supervising the work in the house of the LORD,
who in turn gave it to the workmen restoring
and repairing the house of the LORD.
11 They also gave money to the carpenters and
builders to buy dressed stone, as well as timbers
for couplings and beams for the buildings that
the kings of Judah had allowed to deteriorate.
12 And the men did the work faithfully. The
Levites overseeing them were Jahath and
Obadiah, descendants of Merari, and Zechariah
and Meshullam, descendants of Kohath. Other
Levites, all skilled with musical instruments,
13 were over the laborers and supervised all
who did the work, task by task. Some of the
Levites were secretaries, officers, and
gatekeepers.
14 While they were bringing out the money
that had been taken into the house of the LORD,
Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the
Teaching of the LORD given by§ Moses.
15 And Hilkiah said to Shaphan the scribe, "I
have found the Book of the Teaching in the
house of the LORD!" And he gave it to Shaphan.
16 Then Shaphan brought the book to the king
and reported, "Your servants are doing all that
has been placed in their hands.

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‡ **34:9 34:9** Ketiv; Qere *and they returned to Jerusalem* § **34:14 34:14** Hebrew *the Teaching of the LORD by the hand of*

17 They have paid out the money that was
found in the house of the LORD and have put it
into the hands of the supervisors and workers."
18 Moreover, Shaphan the scribe told the king,
"Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And
Shaphan read it in the presence of the king.
19 When the king heard the words of the
Teaching, he tore his clothes
20 and commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam son of
Shaphan, Abdon* son of Micah,† Shaphan the
scribe, and Asaiah the servant of the king:
21 "Go and inquire of the LORD for me and for
those remaining in Israel and Judah concerning
the words in the book that has been found. For
great is the wrath of the LORD that has been
poured out on us because our fathers have not
kept the word of the LORD by doing all that is
written in this book."
22 So Hilkiah and those the king had told went
to Huldah‡ the prophetess, the wife of Shallum
son of Tokhath,§ the son of Hasrah,* the keeper
of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem, in the
Second District.† And they spoke to her to this
effect.

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* **34:20 34:20** *Abdon* is a variant of *Achbor*; see 2 Kings 22:12.
† **34:20 34:20** *Micah* is a variant of *Micaiah*; see 2 Kings 22:12.
‡ **34:22 34:22** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; one Hebrew manuscript, Vulgate, and Syriac *and those the king had designated went and spoke to Huldah* § **34:22 34:22** *Tokhath* is a variant of *Tikvah*; see 2 Kings 22:14. * **34:22 34:22** *Hasrah* is a variant of *Harhas*; see 2 Kings 22:14. † **34:22 34:22** Or *the Second Quarter*, a newer section of Jerusalem; Hebrew *the Mishneh*

23 And Huldah said to them, “This is what the
LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Tell the man who
sent you
24 that this is what the LORD says: I am about
to bring calamity on this place and on its people,
according to all the curses written in the book
that has been read in the presence of the king of
Judah,
25 because they have forsaken me and burned
incense to other gods, that they might provoke
me to anger with all the works of their hands.
My wrath will be poured out upon this place
and will not be quenched.’
26 But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to
inquire of the LORD, tell him that this is what
the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘As for the
words that you heard,
27 because your heart was tender and you
humbled yourself before God when you heard
his words against this place and against its
people, and because you have humbled yourself
before me and have torn your clothes and wept
before me, I have heard you,’ declares the LORD.
28 ‘Now I will indeed gather you to your
fathers, and you will be gathered to your grave
in peace. Your eyes will not see all the calamity
that I will bring on this place and on its people.’ ”
So they brought her answer back to the king.
29 Then the king summoned all the elders of
Judah and Jerusalem.
30 And he went up to the house of the LORD
with all the people of Judah and Jerusalem, as
well as the priests and the Levites—all the

people great and small—and in their hearing he
read all the words of the Book of the Covenant
that had been found in the house of the LORD.
31 So the king stood by the pillar and made a
covenant before the LORD to follow the LORD
and to keep his commandments, decrees, and
statutes with all his heart and all his soul, and to
carry out the words of the covenant that were
written in this book.
32 Then he had everyone in Jerusalem and
Benjamin take a stand in agreement to it. So all
the people of Jerusalem carried out the covenant
of God, the God of their fathers.
33 And Josiah removed all the abominations
from all the lands belonging to the Israelites,
and he required everyone in Israel to serve the
LORD their God. Throughout his reign they did
not turn aside from following the LORD, the God
of their fathers.

35

1 Then Josiah kept the Passover to the LORD in
Jerusalem, and the Passover lamb was
slaughtered on the fourteenth day of the first
month.
2 He appointed the priests to their duties and
encouraged them in the service of the house of
the LORD.
3 To the Levites who taught all Israel and were
holy to the LORD, Josiah said: “Put the holy ark
in the temple built by Solomon son of David king
of Israel. It is not to be carried around on your
shoulders. Now serve the LORD your God and
his people Israel.

4 Prepare yourselves by families in your
divisions, according to the instructions written
by David king of Israel and Solomon his son.
5 Moreover, stand in the Holy Place by the
divisions of the families of your kinsmen the lay
people, and by the divisions of the families of
the Levites.
6 Slaughter the Passover lambs, consecrate
yourselves, and make preparations for your
fellow countrymen to carry out the word of the
LORD given by* Moses."
7 From his own flocks and herds Josiah
contributed 30,000 lambs and goats plus 3,000
bulls for the Passover offerings for all the people
who were present.
8 His officials also contributed willingly to the
people and priests and Levites. Hilkiah,
Zechariah, and Jehiel, the chief officials of the
house of God, gave the priests 2,600 Passover
offerings and 300 bulls.
9 Additionally, Conaniah and his brothers
Shemaiah and Nethanel, as well as Hashabiah,
Jeiel, and Jozabad, officers of the Levites,
contributed to the Levites 5,000 Passover
offerings and 500 bulls.
10 So the service was prepared; the priests
stood in their places and the Levites in their
divisions according to the king's command.
11 And they slaughtered the Passover lambs,
while the priests splattered the blood handed to
them and the Levites skinned the animals.

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* **35:6 35:6** Hebrew *the word of the LORD by the hand of*

12 They set aside the burnt offerings to be
given to the divisions of the families of the
people to offer to the LORD, as it is written in the
Book of Moses. And they did the same with the
bulls.
13 They roasted the Passover animals on the
fire according to the regulation, and they boiled
the other holy offerings in pots, kettles, and
bowls and quickly brought them to all the
people.
14 Afterward, they made preparations for
themselves and for the priests, since the priests,
the descendants of Aaron, were offering up
burnt offerings and fat until nightfall. So the
Levites made preparations for themselves and
for the priests, the descendants of Aaron.

15 The singers, the descendants of Asaph, were
at their stations according to the command of
David, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun the king's
seer. And the gatekeepers at each gate did not
need to leave their posts, because their fellow
Levites made preparations for them.

16 So on that day the entire service of the LORD
was carried out for celebrating the Passover and
offering burnt offerings on the altar of the
LORD, according to the command of King Josiah.
17 The Israelites who were present also
observed the Passover at that time, as well as
the Feast of Unleavened Bread† for seven days.

† **35:17 35:17** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20.

18 No such Passover had been observed in
Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet.
None of the kings of Israel ever observed a
Passover like the one that Josiah observed with
the priests, the Levites, all Judah, the Israelites
who were present, and the people of Jerusalem.
19 In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, this
Passover was observed.
20 After all this, when Josiah had set the
temple in order, Neco king of Egypt marched up
to fight at Carchemish by the Euphrates, and
Josiah went out to confront him.
21 But Neco sent messengers to him, saying,
"What is the issue between you and me, O king
of Judah? I have not come against you today, but
I am fighting another dynasty, and God has told
me to hurry. So stop opposing God, who is with
me, or he will destroy you!"
22 Josiah, however, did not turn away from
him; instead, in order to engage him in battle, he
disguised himself. He did not listen to Neco's
words from the mouth of God, but went to fight
him on the Plain of Megiddo.
23 There the archers shot King Josiah, who said
to his servants, "Take me away, for I am badly
wounded!"
24 So his servants took him out of his chariot,
put him in his second chariot, and brought him
to Jerusalem, where he died. And Josiah was
buried in the tomb of his fathers, and all Judah
and Jerusalem mourned for him.
25 Then Jeremiah lamented over Josiah, and to
this day all the male and female singers recite

laments over Josiah. They established them as a
statute for Israel, and indeed they are written in
the Book of Laments.
26 As for the rest of the acts of Josiah and his
deeds of loving devotion according to what is
written in the Teaching of the LORD—
27 his acts from beginning to end—they are
indeed written in the Book of the Kings of Israel
and Judah.

36

1 Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz
son of Josiah and made him king in Jerusalem in
place of his father.
2 Jehoahaz* was twenty-three years old when
he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem
three months.
3 And the king of Egypt dethroned him in
Jerusalem and imposed on Judah a levy of a
hundred talents of silver† and a talent of gold.‡
4 Then Neco king of Egypt made Eliakim
brother of Jehoahaz king over Judah and
Jerusalem, and he changed Eliakim's name to
Jehoiakim. But Neco took Eliakim's brother
Jehoahaz and carried him off to Egypt.
5 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he
became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem
eleven years. And he did evil in the sight of the
LORD his God.

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* **36:2 36:2** Hebrew *Joahaz*, a variant of *Jehoahaz*; also in verse 4
† **36:3 36:3** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of silver. ‡ **36:3 36:3** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of gold.

6 Then Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came
up against Jehoiakim and bound him with
bronze shackles to take him to Babylon.
7 Nebuchadnezzar also took to Babylon some
of the articles from the house of the LORD, and
he put them in his palace§ in Babylon.
8 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, the
abominations he committed, and all that was
found against him, they are indeed written in
the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah. And
his son Jehoiachin reigned in his place.
9 Jehoiachin was eight* years old when he
became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three
months and ten days. And he did evil in the
sight of the LORD.
10 At the turn of the year,† King
Nebuchadnezzar summoned Jehoiachin and
brought him to Babylon, along with the articles
of value from the house of the LORD. And he
made Jehoiachin's brother‡ Zedekiah king over
Judah and Jerusalem.
11 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he
became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem
eleven years.
12 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD his
God and did not humble himself before
Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke for the LORD.

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§ **36:7** **36:7** Or *temple* * **36:9** **36:9** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; one Hebrew manuscript, some LXX manuscripts, and Syriac (see also 2 Kings 24:8) *eighteen* † **36:10** **36:10** Or *In the spring* ‡ **36:10** **36:10** Or *relative*; 2 Kings 24:17 *uncle*

13 He also rebelled against King
Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by
God. But Zedekiah stiffened his neck and
hardened§ his heart against turning to the
LORD, the God of Israel.
14 Furthermore, all the leaders of the priests
and the people multiplied their unfaithful deeds,
following all the abominations of the nations,
and they defiled the house of the LORD, which
he had consecrated in Jerusalem.
15 Again and again* the LORD, the God of their
fathers, sent word to his people through his
messengers because he had compassion on
them and on his dwelling place.
16 But they mocked the messengers of God,
despising his words and scoffing at his prophets,
until the wrath of the LORD against his people
was stirred up beyond remedy.
17 So he brought up against them the king of
the Chaldeans,† who put their young men to the
sword in the sanctuary, sparing neither young
men nor young women, neither elderly nor
infirm. God gave them all into the hand of
Nebuchadnezzar,
18 who carried off everything to Babylon—all
the articles of the house of God, both large and
small, and the treasures of the house of the
LORD and of the king and his officials.
19 Then the Chaldeans set fire to the house of
God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem.

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§ **36:13 36:13** Or *made strong* or *made courageous* * **36:15 36:15** Literally *Rising up early and sending (it),* † **36:17 36:17** That is, the Babylonians; also clarified in verse 19

They burned down all the palaces and destroyed
every article of value.
20 Those who escaped the sword were carried
by Nebuchadnezzar into exile in Babylon, and
they became servants to him and his sons until
the kingdom of Persia came to power.
21 So the land enjoyed its Sabbath rest all the
days of the desolation, until seventy years were
completed, in fulfillment of the word of the
LORD spoken through Jeremiah.‡
22 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to
fulfill the word of the LORD spoken through
Jeremiah, the LORD stirred the spirit of Cyrus
king of Persia to send a proclamation
throughout his kingdom and to put it in writing
as follows:
23 "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:
'The LORD, the God of heaven, who has given
me all the kingdoms of the earth, has appointed
me to build a house for him at Jerusalem in
Judah.
Whoever among you belongs to his people,
may the LORD his God be with him, and may he
go up.' "

‡ **36:21 36:21** See Jeremiah 25:12 and Jeremiah 29:10.

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