2 Kings

1 After the death of Ahab, Moab rebelled
against Israel.

2 Now Ahaziah had fallen through the lattice
of his upper room in Samaria and injured
himself. So he sent messengers and instructed
them: “Go inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of
Ekron, whether I will recover from this injury.”

3 But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the
Tishbite, “Go up to meet the messengers of the
king of Samaria and ask them, ‘Is it because
there is no God in Israel that you are on your
way to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?’
4 Therefore this is what the LORD says: ‘You
will not get up from the bed on which you are
lying. You will surely die.’ ”

So Elijah departed.

5 When the messengers returned to the king,
he asked them, “Why have you returned?”

6 They replied, “A man came up to meet us and
said, ‘Go back to the king who sent you and tell
him that this is what the LORD says: Is it
because there is no God in Israel that you are
sending these men to inquire of Baal-zebub, the
god of Ekron? Therefore you will not get up
from the bed on which you are lying. You will
surely die.’ ”

7 The king asked them, “What sort of man
came up to meet you and spoke these words to
you?”
8 “He was a hairy man,*” they answered, “with
a leather belt around his waist.”
“It was Elijah the Tishbite,” said the king.
9 Then King Ahaziah sent to Elijah a captain
with his company of fifty men. So the captain
went up to Elijah, who was sitting on top of a
hill, and said to him, “Man of God, the king
declares, ‘Come down!’ ”
10 Elijah answered the captain, “If I am a man
of God, may fire come down from heaven and
consume you and your fifty men.”
And fire came down from heaven and
consumed the captain and his fifty men.
11 So the king sent to Elijah another captain
with his fifty men. And the captain said to
Elijah, “Man of God, the king declares, ‘Come
down at once!’ ”
12 Again Elijah replied, “If I am a man of God,
may fire come down from heaven and consume
you and your fifty men.”
And the fire of God came down from heaven
and consumed the captain and his fifty men.
13 So the king sent a third captain with his fifty
men. And the third captain went up, fell on his
knees before Elijah, and begged him, “Man of
God, may my life and the lives of these fifty
servants of yours please be precious in your
sight.

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* **1:8 1:8** Or *he had a garment of hair*

14 Behold, fire has come down from heaven
and consumed the first two captains of fifty,
with all their men. But now may my life be
precious in your sight."
15 Then the angel of the LORD said to Elijah,
"Go down with him. Do not be afraid of him."
So Elijah got up and went down with him to
the king.
16 And Elijah said to King Ahaziah, "This is
what the LORD says: Is there really no God in
Israel for you to inquire of his word? Is that why
you have sent messengers to inquire of
Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you
will not get up from the bed on which you are
lying. You will surely die."
17 So Ahaziah died according to the word of
the LORD that Elijah had spoken. And since he
had no son, Jehoram† succeeded him in the
second year of the reign of Jehoram son of
Jehoshaphat over Judah.
18 As for the rest of the acts of Ahaziah, along
with his accomplishments, are they not written
in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of
Israel?

2

1 Shortly before the LORD took Elijah up to
heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were
on their way from Gilgal,
2 and Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here,
for the LORD has sent me on to Bethel."

† **1:17 1:17** *Jehoram* is a variant spelling of *Joram*.

But Elisha replied, “As surely as the LORD lives
and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.”
So they went down to Bethel.
3 Then the sons of the prophets at Bethel came
out to Elisha and said, “Do you know that the
LORD will take your master away from you
today?”
“Yes, I know,” he replied. “Do not speak of it.”
4 And Elijah said to Elisha, “Please stay here,
for the LORD has sent me on to Jericho.”
But Elisha replied, “As surely as the LORD lives
and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.”
So they went to Jericho.
5 Then the sons of the prophets at Jericho
came up to Elisha and said, “Do you know that
the LORD will take your master away from you
today?”
“Yes, I know,” he replied. “Do not speak of it.”
6 And Elijah said to Elisha, “Please stay here,
for the LORD has sent me on to the Jordan.”
But Elisha replied, “As surely as the LORD lives
and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.”
So the two of them went on.
7 Then a company of fifty of the sons of the
prophets went and stood at a distance, facing
Elijah and Elisha as the two of them stood by the
Jordan.
8 And Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up, and
struck the waters, which parted to the right and
to the left, so that the two of them crossed over
on dry ground.

9 After they had crossed over, Elijah said to
Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I
am taken away from you?”
“Please, let me inherit a double portion of your
spirit,” Elisha replied.
10 “You have requested a difficult thing,” said
Elijah. “Nevertheless, if you see me as I am taken
from you, it will be yours. But if not, then it will
not be so.”
11 As they were walking along and talking
together, suddenly a chariot of fire with horses
of fire appeared and separated the two of them,
and Elijah went up into heaven in a whirlwind.
12 As Elisha watched, he cried out, “My father,
my father, the chariots and horsemen of Israel!”
And he saw Elijah no more. So taking hold of his
own clothes, he tore them in two.
13 Elisha also picked up the cloak that had
fallen from Elijah, and he went back and stood
on the bank of the Jordan.
14 Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had
fallen from him and struck the waters. “Where
now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” he asked.
And when he had struck the waters, they
parted to the right and to the left, and Elisha
crossed over.
15 When the sons of the prophets who were
watching him from Jericho saw what had
happened, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on
Elisha.” And they went to meet him and bowed
down to the ground before him.
16 “Look now,” they said to Elisha, “we your
servants have fifty valiant men. Please let them

go and search for your master. Perhaps the spirit
of the LORD has taken him up and put him on
one of the mountains or in one of the valleys."
"Do not send them," Elisha replied.
17 But when they pressed him to the point of
embarrassment, he said, "Send them."
And they sent fifty men, who searched for
three days but did not find Elijah.
18 When they returned to Elisha, who was
staying in Jericho, he said to them, "Didn't I tell
you not to go?"
19 Then the men of the city said to Elisha,
"Please note, our lord, that the city's location is
good, as you can see. But the water is bad and
the land is unfruitful."
20 "Bring me a new bowl," he replied, "and put
some salt in it."
So they brought it to him,
21 and Elisha went out to the spring, cast the
salt into it, and said, "This is what the LORD
says: 'I have healed this water. No longer will it
cause death or unfruitfulness.*' "
22 And the waters there have been healthy to
this day, according to the word spoken by Elisha.
23 From there, Elisha went up to Bethel, and as
he was walking up the road, some small youths†
came out of the city and jeered at him, chanting,
"Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!"
24 Then he turned around, looked at them, and
called down a curse on them in the name of the
LORD.

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* **2:21 2:21** Or *barrenness* † **2:23 2:23** Or *a group of boys* or *some insignificant young men*; similarly in verse 24

Suddenly two female bears came out of the
woods and mauled forty-two of the youths.
25 And Elisha went on to Mount Carmel, and
from there he returned to Samaria.

3

1 In the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat's reign
over Judah, Jehoram* son of Ahab became king
of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria twelve
years.
2 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, but
not as his father and mother had done. He
removed the sacred pillar of Baal that his father
had made.
3 Nevertheless, he clung to the sins that
Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to
commit; he did not turn away from them.
4 Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheep
breeder,† and he would render to the king of
Israel a hundred thousand lambs and the wool
of a hundred thousand rams.
5 But after the death of Ahab, the king of Moab
rebelled against the king of Israel.
6 So at that time King Jehoram set out from
Samaria and mobilized all Israel.
7 And he sent a message to Jehoshaphat king
of Judah: "The king of Moab has rebelled against
me. Will you go with me to fight against Moab?"
"I will go," replied Jehoshaphat. "I am as you
are, my people are your people, and my horses
are your horses."
8 Then he asked, "Which way shall we go up?"

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* **3:1 3:1** *Jehoram* is a variant spelling of *Joram*; also in verse 6.
† **3:4 3:4** Or *sheepherder*

"By way of the Desert of Edom," replied Joram.
9 So the king of Israel, the king of Judah, and
the king of Edom set out, and after they had
traveled a roundabout route for seven days, they
had no water for their army or for their animals.
10 "Alas," said the king of Israel, "for the LORD
has summoned these three kings to deliver them
into the hand of Moab!"
11 But Jehoshaphat asked, "Is there no prophet
of the LORD here? Let us inquire of the LORD
through him."
And one of the servants of the king of Israel
answered, "Elisha son of Shaphat is here. He
used to pour water on the hands of Elijah.‡"
12 Jehoshaphat affirmed, "The word of the
LORD is with him." So the king of Israel and
Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to
him.
13 Elisha, however, said to the king of Israel,
"What have we to do with each other? Go to the
prophets of your father and of your mother!"
"No," replied the king of Israel, "for it is the
LORD who has summoned these three kings to
deliver them into the hand of Moab."
14 Then Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD of
Hosts lives, before whom I stand, were it not for
my regard for the presence of Jehoshaphat king
of Judah, I would not look at you or
acknowledge you.
15 But now, bring me a musician.§"

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‡ **3:11 3:11** Or *he was Elijah's personal assistant* § **3:15 3:15** Or *a harpist*; twice in this verse

And while the musician played, the hand of
the LORD came upon Elisha
16 and he said, “This is what the LORD says:
‘Dig this valley full of ditches.’
17 For the LORD says, ‘You will not see wind or
rain, but the valley will be filled with water, and
you will drink—you and your cattle and your
animals.’
18 This is a simple matter in the sight of the
LORD, and he will also deliver the Moabites into
your hand.
19 And you shall attack every fortified city and
every city of importance. You shall cut down
every good tree, stop up every spring, and ruin
every good field with stones.”

20 The next morning, at the time of the
morning sacrifice, water suddenly flowed from
the direction of Edom and filled the land.

21 Now all the Moabites had heard that the
kings had come up to fight against them. So all
who could bear arms, young and old, were
summoned and stationed at the border.
22 When they got up early in the morning, the
sun was shining on the water, and it looked as
red as blood to the Moabites across the way.

23 “This is blood!” they exclaimed. “The kings
have clashed swords and slaughtered one
another. Now to the plunder, Moab!”

24 But when the Moabites came to the camp of
Israel, the Israelites rose up and attacked them,
and they fled before them. So the Israelites

invaded their land* and struck down the Moabites.
25 They destroyed the cities, and each man
threw stones on every good field until it was
covered. They stopped up every spring and cut
down every good tree. Only Kir-haraseth was
left with stones in place, but men with slings
surrounded it and attacked it as well.
26 When the king of Moab saw that the battle
was too fierce for him, he took with him seven
hundred swordsmen to break through to the
king of Edom, but they could not prevail.
27 So he took his firstborn son, who was to
succeed him, and offered him as a burnt
offering on the city wall.

And there was great fury against the Israelites,† so they withdrew and returned to their own land.

4

1 Now the wife of one of the sons of the
prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant, my
husband, is dead, and you know that your
servant feared the LORD. And now his creditor
is coming to take my two children as his slaves!"
2 "How can I help you?" asked Elisha. "Tell me,
what do you have in the house?"

She answered, "Your servant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil."

3 "Go," said Elisha, "borrow empty jars from all
your neighbors. Do not gather just a few.

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* **3:24 3:24** Ketiv; Qere *struck it* † **3:27 3:27** Or *And Israel's fury was great*

4 Then go inside, shut the door behind you and
your sons, and pour oil into all these jars, setting
the full ones aside."
5 So she left him, and after she had shut the
door behind her and her sons, they kept
bringing jars to her, and she kept pouring.
6 When all the jars were full, she said to her
son, "Bring me another."
But he replied, "There are no more jars." Then
the oil stopped flowing.
7 She went and told the man of God, and he
said, "Go, sell the oil, and pay your debt. Then
you and your sons can live on the remainder."
8 One day Elisha went to Shunem, and a
prominent woman who lived there persuaded
him to have a meal. So whenever he would pass
by, he would stop there to eat.
9 Then the woman said to her husband,
"Behold, now I know that the one who often
comes our way is a holy man of God.
10 Please let us make a small room upstairs
and put in it a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp
for him. Then when he comes to us, he can stay
there."
11 One day Elisha came to visit and went to his
upper room to lie down.
12 And he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call the
Shunammite woman."
And when he had called her, she stood before
him,
13 and Elisha said to Gehazi, "Now tell her,
'Look, you have gone to all this trouble for us.
What can we do for you? Can we speak on your

behalf to the king or the commander of the army?' "

"I have a home among my own people," she replied.

14 So he asked, "Then what should be done for her?"

"Well, she has no son," Gehazi replied, "and her husband is old."

15 "Call her," said Elisha.

So Gehazi called her, and she stood in the doorway.

16 And Elisha declared, "At this time next year, you will hold a son in your arms."

"No, my lord," she said. "Do not lie to your maidservant, O man of God."

17 But the woman did conceive, and at that time the next year she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her.

18 And the child grew, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the harvesters.

19 "My head! My head!" he complained to his father.

So his father told a servant, "Carry him to his mother."

20 After the servant had picked him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died.

21 And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God. Then she shut the door and went out.

22 And the woman called her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, that I may go quickly to the man of God and return."

23 “Why would you go to him today?” he
replied. “It is not a New Moon or a Sabbath.”
“Everything is all right,” she said.
24 Then she saddled the donkey and told her
servant, “Drive onward; do not slow the pace for
me unless I tell you.”
25 So she set out and went to the man of God at
Mount Carmel.
When the man of God saw her at a distance,
he said to his servant Gehazi, “Look, there is the
Shunammite woman.
26 Please run out now to meet her and ask,
‘Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is
your child all right?’ ”
And she answered, “Everything is all right.”
27 When she reached the man of God at the
mountain, she clung to his feet. Gehazi came
over to push her away, but the man of God said,
“Leave her alone, for her soul is in deep distress,
and the LORD has hidden it from me and has
not told me.”
28 Then she said, “Did I ask you for a son, my
lord? Didn’t I say, ‘Do not deceive me?’ ”
29 So Elisha said to Gehazi, “Tie up your
garment,* take my staff in your hand, and go! If
you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if
anyone greets you, do not answer him. Then lay
my staff on the boy’s face.”
30 And the mother of the boy said, “As surely
as the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will
not leave you.” So he got up and followed her.

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* **4:29 4:29** Literally *Gird up your loins*

31 Gehazi went on ahead of them and laid the
staff on the boy's face, but there was no sound
or response. So he went back to meet Elisha and
told him, "The boy has not awakened."
32 When Elisha reached the house, there was
the boy lying dead on his bed.
33 So he went in, closed the door behind the
two of them, and prayed to the LORD.
34 Then Elisha got on the bed and lay on the
boy, mouth to mouth, eye to eye, and hand to
hand. As he stretched himself out over him, the
boy's body became warm.
35 Elisha turned away and paced back and
forth across the room. Then he got on the bed
and stretched himself out over the boy again,
and the boy sneezed seven times and opened his
eyes.
36 Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the
Shunammite woman." So he called her and she
came.
Then Elisha said, "Pick up your son."
37 She came in, fell at his feet, and bowed to
the ground. Then she picked up her son and
went out.
38 When Elisha returned to Gilgal, there was a
famine in the land. As the sons of the prophets
were sitting at his feet, he said to his attendant,
"Put on the large pot and boil some stew for the
sons of the prophets."
39 One of them went out to the field to gather
herbs, and he found a wild vine from which he
gathered as many wild gourds as his garment
could hold. Then he came back and cut them up

into the pot of stew, though no one knew what
they were.
40 And they poured it out for the men to eat,
but when they tasted the stew they cried out,
"There is death in the pot, O man of God!" And
they could not eat it.
41 Then Elisha said, "Get some flour." He threw
it into the pot and said, "Pour it out for the
people to eat." And there was nothing harmful
in the pot.
42 Now a man from Baal-shalishah came to the
man of God with bread from the first ripe
grain—twenty loaves of barley bread—and
fresh grain in his sack.
"Give it to the people to eat," said Elisha.
43 But his servant asked, "How am I to set
twenty loaves before a hundred men?"
"Give it to the people to eat," said Elisha, "for
this is what the LORD says: 'They will eat and
have some left over.' "
44 So he set it before them, and they ate and
had some left over, according to the word of the
LORD.

5

1 Now Naaman, the commander of the army of
the king of Aram, was a great man in his
master's sight and highly regarded, for through
him the LORD had given victory to Aram. And
he was a mighty man of valor, but he was a
leper.*

* **5:1 5:1** A *leper*, or one with *leprosy*, was one afflicted with a skin disease; here and throughout this chapter; see Leviticus 13.

2 At this time the Arameans had gone out in
bands and had taken a young girl from the land
of Israel, and she was serving Naaman's wife.
3 She said to her mistress, "If only my master
would go to the prophet who is in Samaria, he
would cure him of his leprosy."
4 And Naaman went and told his master what
the girl from the land of Israel had said.
5 "Go now," said the king of Aram, "and I will
send you with a letter to the king of Israel."
So Naaman departed, taking with him ten
talents of silver,† six thousand shekels of gold,‡
and ten sets of clothing.
6 And the letter that he took to the king of
Israel stated: "With this letter I am sending my
servant Naaman, so that you may cure him of
his leprosy."
7 When the king of Israel read the letter, he
tore his clothes and asked, "Am I God, killing and
giving life, that this man expects me to cure a
leper? Surely you can see that he is seeking a
quarrel with me!"
8 Now when Elisha the man of God heard that
the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a
message to the king: "Why have you torn your
clothes? Please let the man come to me, and he
will know that there is a prophet in Israel."
9 So Naaman came with his horses§ and
chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house.

† **5:5 5:5** *10 talents* is approximately 754 pounds or 342 kilograms of silver. ‡ **5:5 5:5** *6,000 shekels* is approximately 150.8 pounds or 68.4 kilograms of gold. § **5:9 5:9** Qere; Ketiv *horse*

10 Then Elisha sent him a messenger, who said,
“Go and wash yourself seven times in the
Jordan, and your flesh will be restored, and you
will be clean.”
11 But Naaman went away angry, saying, “I
thought that he would surely come out, stand
and call on the name of the LORD his God, and
wave his hand over the spot to cure my leprosy.
12 Are not the Amanah* and Pharpar, the
rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of
Israel? Could I not have washed in them and
been cleansed?” So he turned and went away in
a rage.
13 Naaman’s servants, however, approached
him and said, “My father, if the prophet had told
you to do some great thing, would you not have
done it? How much more, then, when he tells
you, ‘Wash and be cleansed’?”
14 So Naaman went down and dipped himself
in the Jordan seven times, according to the word
of the man of God, and his flesh was restored
and became like that of a little child, and he was
clean.
15 Then Naaman and all his attendants went
back to the man of God, stood before him, and
declared, “Now I know for sure that there is no
God in all the earth except in Israel. So please
accept a gift from your servant.”
16 But Elisha replied, “As surely as the LORD
lives, before whom I stand, I will not accept it.”
And although Naaman urged him to accept it, he
refused.

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* **5:12 5:12** Qere; Ketiv *Abanah*

17 “If you will not,” said Naaman, “please let
me, your servant, be given as much soil as a pair
of mules can carry. For your servant will never
again make a burnt offering or a sacrifice to any
other god but the LORD.
18 Yet may the LORD forgive your servant this
one thing: When my master goes into the temple
of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on
my arm, and I bow down in the temple of
Rimmon, may the LORD forgive† your servant in
this matter.”
19 “Go in peace,” said Elisha.
But after Naaman had traveled a short
distance,
20 Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of
God, said, “Look, my master has spared this
Aramean, Naaman, by not accepting what he
brought. As surely as the LORD lives, I will run
after him and get something from him.”
21 So Gehazi pursued Naaman. And when
Naaman saw him running toward him, he got
down from the chariot to meet him and asked,
“Is everything all right?”
22 “Everything is all right,” Gehazi replied. “My
master has sent me to say, ‘Look, two young men
from the sons of the prophets have just now
come to me from the hill country of Ephraim.
Please give them a talent of silver‡ and two sets
of clothing.’ ”
23 But Naaman insisted, “Please, take two
talents.” And he urged Gehazi to accept them.

† **5:18 5:18** Ketiv adds *please*, not read ‡ **5:22 5:22** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of silver.

Then he tied up two talents of silver in two bags
along with two sets of clothing and gave them to
two of his servants, who carried them ahead of
Gehazi.
24 When Gehazi came to the hill, he took the
gifts from the servants and stored them in the
house. Then he dismissed the men, and they
departed.
25 When Gehazi went in and stood before his
master, Elisha asked him, “Gehazi, where have
you been?”
“Your servant did not go anywhere,” he
replied.
26 But Elisha questioned him, “Did not my
spirit go with you when the man got down from
his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to
accept money and clothing, olive groves and
vineyards, sheep and oxen, menservants and
maidservants?
27 Therefore, the leprosy of Naaman will cling
to you and your descendants forever!”
And as Gehazi left his presence, he was
leprous—as white as snow.

6

1 Now the sons of the prophets said to Elisha,
“Please take note that the place where we meet
with you is too small for us.
2 Please let us go to the Jordan, where each of
us can get a log so we can build ourselves a
place to live there.”
“Go,” said Elisha.
3 Then one of them said, “Please come with
your servants.”

"I will come," he replied.

4 So Elisha went with them, and when they
came to the Jordan, they began to cut down
some trees.

5 As one of them was cutting down a tree, the
iron axe head fell into the water. "Oh, my
master," he cried out, "it was borrowed!"

6 "Where did it fall?" asked the man of God.
And when he showed him the place, the man
of God cut a stick, threw it there, and made the
iron float.

7 "Lift it out," he said, and the man reached out
his hand and took it.

8 Now the king of Aram was at war against
Israel. After consulting with his servants, he
said, "My camp will be in such and such a place."

9 Then the man of God sent word to the king of
Israel: "Be careful not to pass by this place, for
the Arameans are going down there."

10 So the king of Israel sent word to the place
the man of God had pointed out. Time and
again* Elisha warned the king, so that he was on
his guard in such places.

11 For this reason the king of Aram became
enraged and called his servants to demand of
them, "Tell me, which one of us is on the side of
the king of Israel?"

12 But one of his servants replied, "No one, my
lord the king. For Elisha, the prophet in Israel,
tells the king of Israel the very words you speak
in your bedroom."

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* **6:10 6:10** Literally *Not once and not twice*

13 So the king said, “Go and see where he is,
that I may send men to capture him.”
On receiving the report, “Elisha is in Dothan,”
14 the king of Aram sent horses, chariots, and a
great army. They went there by night and
surrounded the city.
15 When the servant of the man of God got up
and went out early in the morning, behold, an
army with horses and chariots had surrounded
the city. So he asked Elisha, “Oh, my master,
what are we to do?”
16 “Do not be afraid,” Elisha answered, “for
those who are with us are more than those who
are with them.”
17 Then Elisha prayed, “O LORD, please open
his eyes that he may see.”
And the LORD opened the eyes of the young
man, and he saw that the hills were full of
horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.
18 As the Arameans came down against him,
Elisha prayed to the LORD, “Please strike these
people with blindness.” So he struck them with
blindness, according to the word of Elisha.
19 And Elisha told them, “This is not the way,
and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will
take you to the man you are seeking.” And he
led them to Samaria.
20 When they had entered Samaria, Elisha
said, “O LORD, open the eyes of these men that
they may see.”
Then the LORD opened their eyes, and they
looked around and discovered that they were in
Samaria.

21 And when the king of Israel saw them, he
asked Elisha, “My father, shall I kill them? Shall I
kill them?”
22 “Do not kill them,” he replied. “Would you
kill those you have captured with your own
sword or bow? Set food and water before them,
that they may eat and drink and then return to
their master.”
23 So the king prepared a great feast for them,
and after they had finished eating and drinking,
he sent them away, and they returned to their
master. And the Aramean raiders did not come
into the land of Israel again.
24 Some time later, Ben-hadad king of Aram
assembled his entire army and marched up to
besiege Samaria.
25 So there was a great famine in Samaria.
Indeed, they besieged the city so long that a
donkey’s head sold for eighty shekels of silver,†
and a quarter cab of dove’s dung‡ sold for five
shekels of silver.§
26 As the king of Israel was passing by on the
wall, a woman cried out to him, “Help me, my
lord the king!”
27 He answered, “If the LORD does not help
you, where can I find help for you? From the
threshing floor or the winepress?”
28 Then the king asked her, “What is the
matter?”

† **6:25 6:25** *80 shekels* is approximately 2 pounds or 907.2 grams of silver. ‡ **6:25 6:25** Or *a quarter cab of seed pods*; that is, approximately 0.28 dry quarts or 0.31 liters § **6:25 6:25** *5 shekels* is approximately 2 ounces or 57 grams of silver.

And she answered, “This woman said to me,
‘Give up your son, that we may eat him, and
tomorrow we will eat my son.’
29 So we boiled my son and ate him, and the
next day I said to her, ‘Give up your son, that we
may eat him.’ But she had hidden her son.”

30 When the king heard the words of the
woman, he tore his clothes. And as he passed by
on the wall, the people saw the sackcloth under
his clothes next to his skin.
31 He announced, “May God punish me, and
ever so severely, if the head of Elisha son of
Shaphat remains on his shoulders through this
day!”

32 Now Elisha was sitting in his house, and the
elders were sitting with him. The king sent a
messenger ahead, but before he arrived, Elisha
said to the elders, “Do you see how this
murderer has sent someone to cut off my head?
Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door
to keep him out. Is not the sound of his master’s
footsteps behind him?”

33 While Elisha was still speaking with them,
the messenger came down to him. And the king
said, “This calamity is from the LORD. Why
should I wait for the LORD any longer?”

7

1 Then Elisha said, “Hear the word of the
LORD! This is what the LORD says: ‘About this
time tomorrow at the gate of Samaria, a seah of

fine flour* will sell for a shekel,† and two seahs
of barley‡ will sell for a shekel.' "
2 But the officer on whose arm the king leaned
answered the man of God, "Look, even if the
LORD were to make windows in heaven, could
this really happen?"
"You will see it with your own eyes," replied
Elisha, "but you will not eat any of it."
3 Now there were four men with leprosy§ at
the entrance of the city gate, and they said to
one another, "Why just sit here until we die?
4 If we say, 'Let us go into the city,' we will die
there from the famine in the city; but if we sit
here, we will also die. So come now, let us go
over to the camp of the Arameans. If they let us
live, we will live; if they kill us, we will die."
5 So they arose at twilight and went to the
camp of the Arameans. But when they came to
the outskirts of the camp, there was not a man
to be found.
6 For the Lord had caused the Arameans to
hear the sound of chariots, horses, and a great
army, so that they said to one another, "Look, the
king of Israel must have hired the kings of the
Hittites and Egyptians to attack us."

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* **7:1 7:1** *A seah* is approximately 6.6 dry quarts or 7.3 liters (probably about 8.2 pounds or 3.7 kilograms of flour); here and in verses 16 and 18. † **7:1 7:1** *A shekel* is approximately 0.4 ounces or 11.4 grams, probably of silver; here and in verses 16 and 18. ‡ **7:1 7:1** *2 seahs* is approximately 13.2 dry quarts or 14.6 liters (probably about 19.3 pounds or 8.8 kilograms of barley); here and in verses 16 and 18. § **7:3 7:3** *Leprosy* was a term used for various skin diseases; here and in verse 8; see Leviticus 13.

7 Thus the Arameans had arisen and fled at
twilight, abandoning their tents and horses and
donkeys. The camp was intact, and they had run
for their lives.
8 When the lepers reached the edge of the
camp, they went into a tent to eat and drink.
Then they carried off the silver, gold, and
clothing, and went and hid them. On returning,
they entered another tent, carried off some
items from there, and hid them.
9 Finally, they said to one another, “We are not
doing what is right. Today is a day of good news.
If we are silent and wait until morning light, our
sin will overtake us. Now, therefore, let us go
and tell the king’s household.”
10 So they went and called out to the
gatekeepers of the city, saying, “We went to the
Aramean camp and no one was there—not a
trace—only tethered horses and donkeys, and
the tents were intact.”
11 The gatekeepers shouted the news, and it
was reported to the king’s household.
12 So the king got up in the night and said to
his servants, “Let me tell you what the Arameans
have done to us. They know we are starving, so
they have left the camp to hide in the field,
thinking, ‘When they come out of the city, we
will take them alive and enter the city.’ ”
13 But one of his servants replied, “Please, have
scouts take five of the horses that remain in the
city. Their plight will be no worse than all the
Israelites who are left here. You can see that all
the Israelites here are doomed. So let us send
them and find out.”

14 Then the scouts took two chariots with
horses, and the king sent them after the
Aramean army, saying, “Go and see.”
15 And they tracked them as far as the Jordan,
and indeed, the whole way was littered with the
clothing and equipment the Arameans had
thrown off in haste. So the scouts returned and
told the king.

16 Then the people went out and plundered
the camp of the Arameans. It was then that a
seah of fine flour sold for a shekel, and two
seahs of barley sold for a shekel, according to
the word of the LORD.

17 Now the king had appointed the officer on
whose arm he leaned to be in charge of the gate,
but the people trampled him in the gateway, and
he died, just as the man of God had foretold
when the king had come to him.
18 It happened just as the man of God had told
the king: “About this time tomorrow at the gate
of Samaria, two seahs of barley will sell for a
shekel, and a seah of fine flour will sell for a
shekel.”

19 And the officer had answered the man of
God, “Look, even if the LORD were to make
windows in heaven, could this really happen?”

So Elisha had replied, “You will see it with
your own eyes, but you will not eat any of it!”

20 And that is just what happened to him. The
people trampled him in the gateway, and he
died.

8

1 Now Elisha had said to the woman whose
son he had restored to life, “Arise, you and your
household; go and live as a foreigner wherever
you can. For the LORD has decreed that a
seven-year famine will come to the land.”
2 So the woman had proceeded to do as the
man of God had instructed. And she and her
household lived as foreigners for seven years in
the land of the Philistines.
3 At the end of seven years, when the woman
returned from the land of the Philistines, she
went to the king to appeal for her house and her
land.
4 Now the king had been speaking to Gehazi,
the servant of the man of God, saying, “Please
relate to me all the great things Elisha has done.”
5 And Gehazi was telling the king how Elisha
had brought the dead back to life. Just then the
woman whose son Elisha had revived came to
appeal to the king for her house and her land.
So Gehazi said, “My lord the king, this is the
woman, and this is the son Elisha restored to
life.”
6 When the king asked the woman, she
confirmed it. So the king appointed for her an
officer, saying, “Restore all that was hers, along
with all the proceeds of the field from the day
that she left the country until now.”
7 Then Elisha came to Damascus while
Ben-hadad king of Aram was sick, and the king
was told, “The man of God has come here.”
8 So the king said to Hazael, “Take a gift in
your hand, go to meet the man of God, and

inquire of the LORD through him, 'Will I recover from this illness?' "
9 So Hazael went to meet Elisha, taking with him a gift of forty camel loads of every good thing from Damascus. And he went in and stood before him and said, "Your son Ben-hadad king of Aram has sent me to ask, 'Will I recover from this illness?' "
10 Elisha answered, "Go and tell him, 'You will surely recover.' But the LORD* has shown me that in fact he will die."
11 Elisha fixed his gaze steadily on him until Hazael became uncomfortable. Then the man of God began to weep.
12 "Why is my lord weeping?" asked Hazael.
"Because I know the evil you will do to the Israelites," Elisha replied. "You will set fire to their fortresses, kill their young men with the sword, dash their little ones to pieces, and rip open their pregnant women."
13 "But how could your servant, a mere dog, do such a monstrous thing?" said Hazael.
And Elisha answered, "The LORD has shown me that you will be king over Aram."
14 So Hazael left Elisha and went to his master, who asked him, "What did Elisha say to you?"
And he replied, "He told me that you would surely recover."
15 But the next day Hazael took a thick cloth, dipped it in water, and spread it over the king's face.

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* **8:10 8:10** Qere; Ketiv *"Go and say, 'You will surely not recover.' And the LORD*

So Ben-hadad died, and Hazael reigned in his
place.

16 In the fifth year of the reign of Joram son of
Ahab over Israel, while Jehoshaphat was king of
Judah,† Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat became
king of Judah.
17 Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he
became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight
years.

18 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.

19 Yet for the sake of his servant David, the
LORD was unwilling to destroy Judah, since he
had promised to maintain a lamp for him, for
his descendants, forever.‡

20 In the days of Jehoram,§ Edom rebelled
against the hand of Judah and appointed their
own king.

21 So Jehoram* crossed over to Zair with all his
chariots. When the Edomites surrounded him
and his chariot commanders, he rose up and
attacked by night. His troops, however, fled to
their homes.

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† **8:16 8:16** Some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac do not include *while Jehoshaphat was king of Judah.* ‡ **8:19 8:19** Some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Vulgate *for him and for his descendants*; compare 2 Chronicles 21:7. § **8:20 8:20** Literally *In his days* * **8:21 8:21** Hebrew *Joram*, a variant of *Jehoram* (the son of Jehoshaphat), as in verse 16; also in verses 23 and 24

22 So to this day Edom has been in rebellion
against the hand of Judah. Likewise, Libnah
rebelled at the same time.
23 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoram, along
with all his accomplishments, are they not
written in the book of the Chronicles of the
Kings of Judah?
24 And Jehoram rested with his fathers and
was buried with them in the City of David. And
his son Ahaziah reigned in his place.
25 In the twelfth year of the reign of Joram son
of Ahab over Israel, Ahaziah son of Jehoram
became king of Judah.
26 Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he
became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem one
year. His mother's name was Athaliah, the
granddaughter of Omri king of Israel.
27 And Ahaziah walked in the ways of the
house of Ahab and did evil in the sight of the
LORD like the house of Ahab, for he was a
son-in-law of the house of Ahab.
28 Then Ahaziah went with Joram son of Ahab
to fight against Hazael king of Aram at
Ramoth-gilead, and the Arameans wounded
Joram.
29 So King Joram returned to Jezreel to recover
from the wounds that the Arameans had
inflicted on him at Ramah† when he fought
against Hazael king of Aram. Then Ahaziah son
of Jehoram king of Judah went down to Jezreel
to visit Joram son of Ahab, because Joram had
been wounded.

† **8:29 8:29** *Ramah* is a variant of *Ramoth*; see verse 28.

9

1 Now Elisha the prophet summoned one of
the sons of the prophets and said to him, “Tuck
your cloak under your belt,* take this flask of
oil, and go to Ramoth-gilead.
2 When you arrive, look for Jehu son of
Jehoshaphat, the son of Nimshi. Go in, get him
away from his companions, and take him to an
inner room.
3 Then take the flask of oil, pour it on his head,
and declare, ‘This is what the LORD says: I
anoint you king over Israel.’ Then open the door
and run. Do not delay!”
4 So the young prophet went to Ramoth-gilead,
5 and when he arrived, the army commanders
were sitting there. “I have a message for you,
commander,” he said.
“For which of us?” asked Jehu.
“For you, commander,” he replied.
6 So Jehu got up and went into the house,
where the young prophet poured the oil on his
head and declared, “This is what the LORD, the
God of Israel, says: ‘I anoint you king over the
LORD’s people Israel.
7 And you are to strike down the house of your
master Ahab, so that I may avenge the blood of
my servants the prophets and the blood of all
the servants of the LORD shed by the hand of
Jezebel.
8 The whole house of Ahab will perish, and I
will cut off from Ahab every male,† both slave

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* **9:1 9:1** Literally *Gird up your loins* † **9:8 9:8** Literally *(all) those who urinate against a wall*

and free, in Israel.
9 I will make the house of Ahab like the houses
of Jeroboam son of Nebat and Baasha son of
Ahijah.
10 And on the plot of ground at Jezreel the
dogs will devour Jezebel, and there will be no
one to bury her.' "

Then the young prophet opened the door and ran.
11 When Jehu went out to the servants of his master, they asked, "Is everything all right? Why did this madman come to you?"

"You know his kind and their babble," he replied.
12 "That is a lie!" they said. "Tell us now!"

So Jehu answered, "He talked to me about this and that, saying, 'This is what the LORD says: I anoint you king over Israel.' "

13 Quickly, each man took his garment and put it under Jehu on the bare steps. Then they blew the ram's horn and proclaimed, "Jehu is king!"

14 Thus Jehu son of Jehoshaphat, the son of Nimshi, conspired against Joram.

(Now Joram and all Israel had been defending Ramoth-gilead against Hazael king of Aram,
15 but King Joram‡ had returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds he had suffered at the hands of the Arameans in the battle against Hazael their king.)

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‡ **9:15 9:15** Or *Jehoram*, a variant of *Joram*; also in verses 17, 21, 22, 23, and 24

So Jehu said, “If you commanders wish to
make me king, then do not let anyone escape
from the city to go and tell it in Jezreel.”
16 Then Jehu got into his chariot and went to
Jezreel, because Joram was laid up there. And
Ahaziah king of Judah had gone down to see
him.
17 Now the watchman standing on the tower
in Jezreel saw Jehu’s troops approaching, and he
called out, “I see a company of troops!”
“Choose a rider,” Joram commanded. “Send
him out to meet them and ask, ‘Have you come
in peace?’ ”
18 So a horseman rode off to meet Jehu and
said, “This is what the king asks: ‘Have you come
in peace?’ ”
“What do you know about peace?” Jehu
replied. “Fall in behind me.”
And the watchman reported, “The messenger
reached them, but he is not coming back.”
19 So the king sent out a second horseman,
who went to them and said, “This is what the
king asks: ‘Have you come in peace?’ ”
“What do you know about peace?” Jehu
replied. “Fall in behind me.”
20 Again the watchman reported, “He reached
them, but he is not coming back. And the
charioteer is driving like Jehu son of
Nimshi§—he is driving like a madman!”
21 “Harness!” Joram shouted, and they
harnessed his chariot.

§ **9:20 9:20** Or *grandson of Nimshi*; see verse 14.

Then Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of
Judah set out, each in his own chariot, and met
Jehu on the property of Naboth the Jezreelite.

22 When Joram saw Jehu, he asked, “Have you
come in peace, Jehu?”

“How can there be peace,” he replied, “as long
as the idolatry* and witchcraft of your mother
Jezebel abound?”

23 Joram turned around† and fled, calling out
to Ahaziah, “Treachery, Ahaziah!”

24 Then Jehu drew his bow and shot Joram
between the shoulders. The arrow pierced his
heart, and he slumped down in his chariot.

25 And Jehu said to Bidkar his officer, “Pick him
up and throw him into the field of Naboth the
Jezreelite. For remember that when you and I
were riding together behind his father Ahab, the
LORD lifted up this burden against him:
26 ‘As surely as I saw the blood of Naboth and
the blood of his sons yesterday, declares the
LORD, so will I repay you on this plot of ground,
declares the LORD.’ Now then, according to the
word of the LORD, pick him up and throw him
on the plot of ground.”

27 When King Ahaziah of Judah saw this, he
fled up the road toward Beth-haggan.

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* **9:22 9:22** Hebrew *adultery* or *prostitution*, here a metaphor for idolatry † **9:23 9:23** Literally *turned his hands*

And Jehu pursued him, shouting, “Shoot him too, in his chariot!” They did so on the Ascent of Gur,‡

near Ibleam, and he fled to Megiddo and died there.
28 Then his servants carried him by chariot to Jerusalem and buried him with his fathers in his tomb in the City of David.

29 (In the eleventh year of Joram son of Ahab, Ahaziah had become king over Judah.)

30 Now when Jehu arrived in Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it. So she painted her eyes, adorned her head, and looked down from a window.
31 And as Jehu entered the gate, she asked, “Have you come in peace, O Zimri, murderer of your master?”§

32 He looked up at the window and called out, “Who is on my side? Who?”

And two or three eunuchs looked down at him.
33 “Throw her down!” yelled Jehu.

So they threw her down, and her blood splattered on the wall and on the horses as they trampled her underfoot.

34 Then Jehu went in and ate and drank. “Take care of this cursed woman,” he said, “and bury her, for she was the daughter of a king.”

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‡ **9:27 9:27** Syriac, Vulgate, and LXX *“Shoot him too!” So they shot Ahaziah in his chariot on the Ascent of Gur* § **9:31 9:31** Or *“Is there peace for Zimri, the murderer of his master?”* See 1 Kings 16:10.

35 But when they went out to bury her, they
found nothing but her skull, her feet, and the
palms of her hands.
36 So they went back and told Jehu, who
replied, “This is the word of the LORD, which he
spoke through his servant Elijah the Tishbite:
‘On the plot of ground at Jezreel the dogs will
devour the flesh of Jezebel.
37 And Jezebel’s body will lie like dung in the
field on the plot of ground at Jezreel, so that no
one can say: This is Jezebel.’*”

10

1 Now Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. So
Jehu wrote letters and sent them to Samaria to
the officials of Jezreel,* to the elders, and to the
guardians of Ahab,† saying:
2 “When this letter arrives, since your master’s
sons are with you and you have chariots and
horses, a fortified city and weaponry,
3 select the best and most worthy son of your
master, set him on his father’s throne, and fight
for your master’s house.”
4 But they were terrified and reasoned, “If two
kings could not stand against him, how can we?”
5 So the palace administrator, the overseer of
the city, the elders, and the guardians sent a
message to Jehu: “We are your servants, and we

* **9:37 9:37** See verse 10 and 1 Kings 21:23. * **10:1 10:1** LXX and Vulgate *officials of the city* † **10:1 10:1** That is, the guardians of Ahab’s sons

will do whatever you say. We will not make
anyone king. Do whatever is good in your sight."
6 Then Jehu wrote them a second letter and
said: "If you are on my side, and if you will obey
me, then bring the heads of your master's sons
to me at Jezreel by this time tomorrow."
Now the sons of the king, seventy in all, were
being brought up by the leading men of the city.
7 And when the letter arrived, they took the
sons of the king and slaughtered all seventy of
them. They put their heads in baskets and sent
them to Jehu at Jezreel.
8 When the messenger arrived, he told Jehu,
"They have brought the heads of the sons of the
king."
And Jehu ordered, "Pile them in two heaps at
the entrance of the gate until morning."
9 The next morning, Jehu went out and stood
before all the people and said, "You are
innocent. It was I who conspired against my
master and killed him. But who killed all these?
10 Know, then, that not a word the LORD has
spoken against the house of Ahab will fail, for
the LORD has done what he promised through
his servant Elijah."
11 So Jehu killed everyone in Jezreel who
remained of the house of Ahab, as well as all his
great men and close friends and priests, leaving
him without a single survivor.
12 Then Jehu set out toward Samaria. On the
way, at Beth-eked of the Shepherds,
13 Jehu met some relatives of Ahaziah king of
Judah and asked, "Who are you?"

"We are relatives of Ahaziah," they answered, "and we have come down to greet the sons of the king and of the queen mother."

14 Then Jehu ordered, "Take them alive." So his men took them alive, then slaughtered them at the well of Beth-eked—forty-two men. He spared none of them.

15 When he left there, he found Jehonadab son of Rechab, who was coming to meet him. Jehu greeted him and asked, "Is your heart as true to mine as my heart is to yours?"

"It is!" Jehonadab replied.

"If it is," said Jehu, "give me your hand."

So he gave him his hand, and Jehu helped him into his chariot,

16 saying, "Come with me and see my zeal for the LORD!" So they had him ride‡ in his chariot.

17 When Jehu came to Samaria, he struck down everyone belonging to Ahab who remained there, until he had destroyed them, according to the word that the LORD had spoken to Elijah.

18 Then Jehu brought all the people together and said, "Ahab served Baal a little, but Jehu will serve him a lot.

19 Now, therefore, summon to me all the prophets of Baal, all his servants, and all his priests. See that no one is missing, for I have a great sacrifice for Baal. Whoever is missing will not live."

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‡ **10:16 10:16** LXX, Syriac, and Targum Yonaton *he had him ride*

But Jehu was acting deceptively in order to destroy the servants of Baal.

20 And Jehu commanded, “Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal.” So they announced it.

21 Then Jehu sent word throughout Israel, and all the servants of Baal came; there was not a man who failed to show. They entered the temple of Baal, and it was filled from end to end.

22 And Jehu said to the keeper of the wardrobe, “Bring out garments for all the servants of Baal.” So he brought out garments for them.

23 Next, Jehu and Jehonadab son of Rechab entered the temple of Baal, and Jehu said to the servants of Baal, “Look around to see that there are no servants of the LORD here among you—only servants of Baal.”

24 And they went in§ to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings. Now Jehu had stationed eighty men outside and warned them, “If anyone allows one of the men I am delivering into your hands to escape, he will forfeit his life for theirs.”

25 When he had finished making the burnt offering, Jehu said to the guards and officers, “Go in and kill them. Do not let anyone out.”

So the guards and officers put them to the sword, threw the bodies out, and went into the inner room of the temple of Baal.

26 They brought out the sacred pillars* of the temple of Baal and burned them.†

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§ **10:24 10:24** LXX *he went in*; see also verse 25. * **10:26 10:26** LXX and Vulgate *pillar* † **10:26 10:26** Hebrew *it*

27 They also demolished the sacred pillar of
Baal. Then they tore down the temple of Baal
and made it into a latrine, which it is to this day.
28 Thus Jehu eradicated Baal from Israel,
29 but he did not turn away from the sins that
Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to
commit—the worship of the golden calves at
Bethel and Dan.
30 Nevertheless, the LORD said to Jehu,
"Because you have done well in carrying out
what is right in my sight and have done to the
house of Ahab all that was in my heart, four
generations of your sons will sit on the throne of
Israel."
31 Yet Jehu was not careful to follow the
instruction of the LORD, the God of Israel, with
all his heart. He did not turn away from the sins
that Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit.
32 In those days the LORD began to reduce the
size of Israel. Hazael defeated the Israelites
throughout their territory
33 from the Jordan eastward through all the
land of Gilead (the region of Gad, Reuben, and
Manasseh), and from Aroer by the Arnon Valley
through Gilead to Bashan.
34 As for the rest of the acts of Jehu, along with
all his accomplishments and all his might, are
they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of
the Kings of Israel?
35 And Jehu rested with his fathers and was
buried in Samaria, and his son Jehoahaz reigned
in his place.

36 So the duration of Jehu's reign over Israel in
Samaria was twenty-eight years.

11

1 When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw
that her son was dead, she proceeded to
annihilate all the royal heirs.
2 But Jehosheba* daughter of King Joram,† the
sister of Ahaziah, took Joash son of Ahaziah and
stole him away from among the sons of the king
who were being murdered. She put him and his
nurse in a bedroom to hide him from Athaliah,
and he was not killed.
3 And Joash remained hidden with his nurse
in the house of the LORD for six years while
Athaliah ruled the land.
4 Then in the seventh year, Jehoiada sent for
the commanders of hundreds, the Carites,‡ and
the guards, and had them brought into the
house of the LORD. There he made a covenant
with them and put them under oath.
He showed them the king's son
5 and commanded them, "This is what you are
to do: A third of you who come on duty on the
Sabbath shall guard the royal palace,
6 a third shall be at the gate of Sur, and a third
at the gate behind the guards. You are to take
turns guarding the temple—

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* **11:2 11:2** *Jehosheba* is a variant of *Jehoshabeath*; see 2 Chronicles 22:11. † **11:2 11:2** *Joram* is a variant spelling of *Jehoram*.
‡ **11:4 11:4** Or *the mercenaries* or *the executioners*; also in verse 19

7 the two divisions that would go off duty on
the Sabbath are to guard the house of the LORD
for the king.
8 You must surround the king with weapons in
hand, and anyone who approaches the ranks
must be put to death. You must stay close to the
king wherever he goes."

9 So the commanders of hundreds 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—and came to Jehoiada the priest.
10 Then the priest gave to the commanders of
hundreds the spears and shields of King David
from the house of the LORD.
11 And the guards stood with weapons in hand
surrounding the king by the altar and the
temple, from the south side to the north side of
the temple.

12 Then Jehoiada brought out the king's son,
put the crown on him, presented him with the
Testimony, and proclaimed him king. They
anointed him, and the people clapped their
hands and declared, "Long live the king!"

13 When Athaliah heard the noise from the
guards and the people, she went out to the
people in the house of the LORD.
14 And she looked out and saw the king
standing by the pillar, according to the custom.
The officers and trumpeters were beside the
king, and all the people of the land were
rejoicing and blowing trumpets.

Then Athaliah tore her clothes and screamed,
“Treason! Treason!”
15 And Jehoiada the priest ordered the
commanders of hundreds in charge of the army,
“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.”
16 So they seized Athaliah as she reached the
horses’ entrance to the palace grounds, and
there she was put to death.
17 Then Jehoiada made a covenant between
the LORD and the king and the people that they
would be the LORD’s people. He also made a
covenant between the king and the people.
18 So all the people of the land went to the
temple of Baal and tore it down. They smashed
the altars and idols to pieces, and they killed
Mattan the priest of Baal in front of the altars.
And Jehoiada the priest posted guards for the
house of the LORD.
19 He took with him the commanders of
hundreds, the Carites, the guards, and all the
people of the land, and they brought the king
down from the house of the LORD and entered
the royal palace by way of the Gate of the
Guards.
Then Joash took his seat on the royal throne,
20 and all the people of the land rejoiced. And
the city was quiet, because Athaliah had been
put to the sword at the royal palace.

§ **11:15 11:15** Or *out from the precincts*

12

1 Joash* was seven years old when he became
king.
2 In the seventh year of Jehu, Joash† became
king, and he reigned in Jerusalem forty years.
His mother's name was Zibiah; she was from
Beersheba.
3 And Joash did what was right in the eyes of
the LORD all the days he was instructed by
Jehoiada the priest.
4 Nevertheless, the high places were not
removed; the people continued sacrificing and
burning incense there.
5 Then Joash said to the priests, "Collect all the
money brought as sacred gifts into the house of
the LORD—the census money, the money from
vows, and the money brought voluntarily into
the house of the LORD.
6 Let every priest receive it from his
constituency, and let it be used to repair any
damage found in the temple."
7 By the twenty-third year of the reign of
Joash, however, the priests had not yet repaired
the damage to the temple.
8 So King Joash called Jehoiada and the other
priests and said, "Why have you not repaired the
damage to the temple? Now, therefore, take no
more money from your constituency, but hand it
over for the repair of the temple."

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* **12:1 12:1** Hebrew *Jehoash*, a variant of *Joash* (son of Ahaziah) as in 11:2 † **12:2 12:2** Hebrew *Jehoash*, a variant of *Joash* (son of Ahaziah); also in verses 3, 5, 7, 8, and 19; see 2 Kings 11:2.

9 So the priests agreed that they would not
receive money from the people and that they
would not repair the temple themselves.
10 Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest, bored
a hole in its lid, and set it beside the altar on the
right side as one enters the house of the LORD.
There the priests who guarded the threshold put
all the money brought into the house of the
LORD.
11 Whenever they saw that there was a large
amount of money in the chest, the royal scribe
and the high priest would go up, count the
money brought into the house of the LORD, and
tie it up in bags.
12 Then they would put the counted money
into the hands of those who supervised the work
on the house of the LORD, who in turn would
pay those doing the work—the carpenters,
builders,
13 masons, and stonecutters. They also
purchased timber and dressed stone to repair
the damage to the house of the LORD, and they
paid the other expenses of the temple repairs.
14 However, the money brought into the house
of the LORD was not used for making silver
basins, wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls,
trumpets, or any articles of gold or silver for the
house of the LORD.
15 Instead, it was paid to those doing the work,
and with it they repaired the house of the LORD.
16 No accounting was required from the men
who received the money to pay the workmen,
because they acted with integrity.

17 The money from the guilt offerings and
purification offerings was not brought into the
house of the LORD; it belonged to the priests.
18 At that time Hazael king of Aram marched
up and fought against Gath and captured it.
Then he decided to attack Jerusalem.
19 So King Joash of Judah took all the sacred
objects dedicated by his fathers—Jehoshaphat,
Jehoram, and Ahaziah, the kings of
Judah—along with his own consecrated items
and all the gold found in the treasuries of the
house of the LORD and the royal palace, and he
sent them to Hazael king of Aram. So Hazael
withdrew from Jerusalem.
20 As for the rest of the acts of Joash, along
with all his accomplishments, are they not
written in the Book of the Chronicles of the
Kings of Judah?
21 And the servants of Joash rose up and
formed a conspiracy and killed him at
Beth-millo, on the road down to Silla.
22 His servants Jozabad‡ son of Shimeath and
Jehozabad son of Shomer§ struck him down,
and he died. And they buried him with his
fathers in the City of David, and his son Amaziah
reigned in his place.

13

1 In the twenty-third year of the reign of Joash
son of Ahaziah over Judah, Jehoahaz son of Jehu

‡ **12:22 12:22** Leningrad Codex; Aleppo Codex, LXX, and Syriac *Jozacar* § **12:22 12:22** *Shomer* is a variant of *Shimrith*; see 2 Chronicles 24:26.

became king of Israel, and he reigned in
Samaria seventeen years.
2 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD and
followed the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat
had caused Israel to commit; he did not turn
away from them.
3 So the anger of the LORD burned against
Israel, and he delivered them continually into
the hands of Hazael king of Aram and his son
Ben-hadad.
4 Then Jehoahaz sought the favor of the LORD,
and the LORD listened to him because he saw
the oppression that the king of Aram had
inflicted on Israel.
5 So the LORD gave Israel a deliverer, and they
escaped the power of the Arameans. Then the
people of Israel lived in their own homes as they
had before.
6 Nevertheless, they did not turn away from
the sins that the house of Jeroboam had caused
Israel to commit, but he continued to walk in
them.* The Asherah pole even remained
standing in Samaria.
7 Jehoahaz had no army left, except fifty
horsemen, ten chariots, and ten thousand foot
soldiers, because the king of Aram had
destroyed them and made them like the dust at
threshing.
8 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz, along
with all his accomplishments and his might, are

* **13:6 13:6** LXX, Syriac, Targum Yonaton, and Vulgate *they continued to walk in them*

they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
9 And Jehoahaz rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria. And his son Jehoash† reigned in his place.
10 In the thirty-seventh year of the reign of Joash over Judah, Jehoash son of Jehoahaz became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned sixteen years.
11 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD and did not turn away from all the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit, but he walked in them.
12 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoash, along with all his accomplishments and his might, including his war against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
13 And Jehoash rested with his fathers, and Jeroboam succeeded him on the throne. Jehoash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.
14 When Elisha had fallen sick with the illness from which he would die, Jehoash king of Israel came down to him and wept over him, saying, "My father, my father, the chariots and horsemen of Israel!"
15 Elisha told him, "Take a bow and some arrows."
So Jehoash took a bow and some arrows.
16 Then Elisha said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow."

† **13:9 13:9** Hebrew *Joash*, a variant of *Jehoash*; also in verses 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 25

So the king put his hand on the bow, and
Elisha put his hands on the king's hands.
17 "Open the east window," said Elisha.
So he opened it and Elisha said, "Shoot!" So he
shot.
And Elisha declared:

"This is the LORD's arrow of victory,
the arrow of victory over Aram,
for you shall strike the Arameans in Aphek
until you have put an end to them."
18 Then Elisha said, "Take the arrows!"
So he took them, and Elisha said to the king of
Israel, "Strike the ground!"
So he struck the ground three times and
stopped.
19 But the man of God was angry with him and
said, "You should have struck the ground five or
six times. Then you would have struck down
Aram until you had put an end to it. But now
you will strike down Aram only three times."
20 And Elisha died and was buried.
Now the Moabite raiders used to come into
the land every spring.‡
21 Once, as the Israelites were burying a man,
suddenly they saw a band of raiders, so they
threw the man's body into Elisha's tomb. And as
soon as his body touched the bones of Elisha, the
man was revived and stood up on his feet.
22 And Hazael king of Aram oppressed Israel
throughout the reign of Jehoahaz.

‡ **13:20 13:20** Literally *into the land at the coming in of the year*

23 But the LORD was gracious to Israel and had
compassion on them, and he turned toward
them because of his covenant with Abraham,
Isaac, and Jacob. And to this day, the LORD has
been unwilling to destroy them or cast them
from his presence.
24 When Hazael king of Aram died, his son
Ben-hadad reigned in his place.
25 Then Jehoash son of Jehoahaz took back
from Ben-hadad son of Hazael the cities that
Hazael had taken in battle from his father
Jehoahaz. Jehoash defeated Ben-hadad three
times, and so recovered the cities of Israel.

14

1 In the second year of the reign of Jehoash*
son of Jehoahaz over Israel, Amaziah son of
Joash became king of Judah.
2 He 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.
3 And he did what was right in the eyes of the
LORD, but not as his father David had done. He
did everything as his father Joash had done.
4 Nevertheless, the high places were not taken
away, and the people continued sacrificing and
burning incense on the high places.
5 As soon as the kingdom was firmly in his
grasp, Amaziah executed the servants who had
murdered his father the king.

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* **14:1 14:1** Hebrew *Joash*, a variant of *Jehoash*; also in verses 13, 23, and 27 † **14:2 14:2** Qere; Ketiv *Jehoaddin*

6 Yet he did not put the sons of the murderers
to death, but acted according to what is written
in the Book of the Teaching 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.”‡
7 Amaziah struck down 10,000 Edomites in the
Valley of Salt. He took Sela in battle and called it
Joktheel, which is its name to this very day.
8 Then Amaziah sent messengers to the king of
Israel Jehoash son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu.
“Come, let us meet face to face,” he said.
9 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.’ Then a
wild beast in Lebanon came along and trampled
the thistle.
10 You have indeed defeated Edom, and your
heart has become proud. Glory in that and stay
at home. Why should you stir up trouble so that
you fall—you and Judah with you?”
11 But Amaziah would not listen, so Jehoash
king of Israel advanced. He and King Amaziah
of Judah faced each other at Beth-shemesh in
Judah.
12 And Judah was routed before Israel, and
every man fled to his home.
13 There at Beth-shemesh, Jehoash king of
Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son
of Joash, the son of Ahaziah.

‡ **14:6 14:6** Deuteronomy 24:16

Then Jehoash went§ to Jerusalem and broke
down the wall of Jerusalem from the Ephraim
Gate to the Corner Gate—a section of four
hundred cubits.*
14 He took all the gold and silver and all the
articles found in the house of the LORD and in
the treasuries of the royal palace, as well as
some hostages. Then he returned to Samaria.

15 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoash, along
with his accomplishments, his might, and how
he waged war against Amaziah king of Judah,
are they not written in the Book of the
Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

16 And Jehoash rested with his fathers and was
buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. And
his son Jeroboam reigned in his place.

17 Amaziah son of Joash king of Judah lived for
fifteen years after the death of Jehoash son of
Jehoahaz king of Israel.
18 As for the rest of the acts of Amaziah, are
they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of
the Kings of Judah?

19 And conspirators plotted against Amaziah
in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish. But men
were sent after him to Lachish, and they killed
him there.
20 They carried him back on horses and buried
him in Jerusalem with his fathers in the City of
David.

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§ **14:13 14:13** Qere; Ketiv *they went* * **14:13 14:13** *400 cubits* is approximately 600 feet or 182.9 meters.

21 Then all the people of Judah took Azariah,† who was sixteen years old, and made him king in place of his father Amaziah.
22 Azariah was the one who rebuilt Elath‡ and restored it to Judah after King Amaziah rested with his fathers.
23 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Amaziah son of Joash over Judah, Jeroboam son of Jehoash became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria forty-one years.
24 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD and did not turn away from all the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit.
25 This Jeroboam restored the boundary of Israel from Lebo-hamath to the Sea of the Arabah,§ according to the word that the LORD, the God of Israel, had spoken through his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath-hepher.
26 For the LORD saw that the affliction of the Israelites was very bitter. There was no one left, slave or free, and no one to help Israel,
27 and since the LORD had said that he would not blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam son of Jehoash.
28 As for the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, along with all his accomplishments and might, and how he waged war and recovered both

† **14:21 14:21** *Azariah* is also called *Uzziah*; see 2 Chronicles 26:1.
‡ **14:22 14:22** *Elath* is a variant of *Eloth*; see 1 Kings 9:26. § **14:25 14:25** That is, the Dead Sea

Damascus and Hamath for Israel from Judah,
are they not written in the Book of the
Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
29 And Jeroboam rested with his fathers,* the
kings of Israel. And his son Zechariah reigned in
his place.

15

1 In the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam's
reign over Israel, Azariah* son of Amaziah
became king of Judah.
2 He 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.
3 And he did what was right in the eyes of the
LORD, just as his father Amaziah had done.
4 Nevertheless, the high places were not taken
away; the people continued sacrificing and
burning incense there.
5 And the LORD afflicted the king with
leprosy† until the day he died, so that he lived in
a separate house while his son Jotham had
charge of the palace and governed the people of
the land.
6 As for the rest of the acts of Azariah, along
with all his accomplishments, are they not

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* **14:29 14:29** Some LXX manuscripts include *and he was buried in Samaria with* * **15:1 15:1** *Azariah* is also called *Uzziah*; also in verses 6, 7, 8, 17, 23, and 27; see 2 Chronicles 26:1. † **15:5 15:5** *Leprosy* was a term used for various skin diseases; see Leviticus 13.

written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
7 And Azariah rested with his fathers and was buried near them‡ in the City of David. And his son Jotham reigned in his place.
8 In the thirty-eighth year of Azariah's reign over Judah, Zechariah son of Jeroboam became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria six months.
9 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his fathers had done. He did not turn away from the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit.
10 Then Shallum son of Jabesh conspired against Zechariah, struck him down and killed him in front of the people,§ and reigned in his place.
11 As for the rest of the acts of Zechariah, they are indeed written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.
12 So the word of the LORD spoken to Jehu was fulfilled: "Four generations of your sons will sit on the throne of Israel."
13 In the thirty-ninth year of Uzziah's* reign over Judah, Shallum son of Jabesh became king, and he reigned in Samaria one full month.
14 Then Menahem son of Gadi went up from Tirzah to Samaria, struck down and killed Shallum son of Jabesh, and reigned in his place.

‡ **15:7 15:7** Literally *with his fathers*; see 2 Chronicles 26:23.
§ **15:10 15:10** Some LXX manuscripts *in Ibleam* * **15:13 15:13** *Uzziah* is also called *Azariah*; also in verses 32 and 34; see verse 1.

15 As for the rest of the acts of Shallum, along
with the conspiracy he led, they are indeed
written in the Book of the Chronicles of the
Kings of Israel.
16 At that time Menahem, starting from Tirzah,
attacked Tiphsah and everyone in its vicinity,
because they would not open their gates. So he
attacked Tiphsah and ripped open all the
pregnant women.
17 In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah's reign
over Judah, Menahem son of Gadi became king
of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria ten years.
18 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and
throughout his reign he did not turn away from
the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused
Israel to commit.
19 Then Pul† king of Assyria invaded the land,
and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of
silver‡ in order to gain his support and
strengthen his own grip on the kingdom.
20 Menahem exacted this money from each of
the wealthy men of Israel—fifty shekels of
silver§ from each man—to give to the king of
Assyria. So the king of Assyria withdrew and did
not remain in the land.
21 As for the rest of the acts of Menahem,
along with all his accomplishments, are they not
written in the Book of the Chronicles of the
Kings of Israel?

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† **15:19 15:19** *Pul* is another name for *Tiglath-pileser*; see verse 29. ‡ **15:19 15:19** *1,000 talents* is approximately 37.7 tons or 34.2 metric tons of silver. § **15:20 15:20** *50 shekels* is approximately 1.26 pounds or 569.8 grams of silver.

22 And Menahem rested with his fathers, and
his son Pekahiah reigned in his place.

23 In the fiftieth year of Azariah's reign over
Judah, Pekahiah son of Menahem became king
of Israel and reigned in Samaria two years.
24 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD and
did not turn away from the sins that Jeroboam
son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit.
25 Then his officer, Pekah son of Remaliah,
conspired against him along with Argob, Arieh,
and fifty men of Gilead. And at the citadel of the
king's palace in Samaria, Pekah struck down
and killed Pekahiah and reigned in his place.

26 As for the rest of the acts of Pekahiah, along
with all his accomplishments, they are indeed
written in the Book of the Chronicles of the
Kings of Israel.

27 In the fifty-second year of Azariah's reign
over Judah, Pekah son of Remaliah became king
of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria twenty
years.
28 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD and
did not turn away from the sins that Jeroboam
son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit.
29 In the days of Pekah king of Israel,
Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came and
captured Ijon, Abel-beth-maacah, Janoah,
Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, including all
the land of Naphtali, and he took the people as
captives to Assyria.

30 Then Hoshea son of Elah led a conspiracy
against Pekah son of Remaliah. In the twentieth

year of Jotham son of Uzziah, Hoshea attacked
Pekah, killed him, and reigned in his place.
31 As for the rest of the acts of Pekah, along
with all his accomplishments, they are indeed
written in the Book of the Chronicles of the
Kings of Israel.
32 In the second year of the reign of Pekah son
of Remaliah over Israel, Jotham son of Uzziah
became king of Judah.
33 He was twenty-five years old when he
became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem
sixteen years. His mother's name was Jerusha*
daughter of Zadok.
34 And he did what was right in the eyes of the
LORD, just as his father Uzziah had done.
35 Nevertheless, the high places were not
taken away; the people continued sacrificing
and burning incense there.
Jotham rebuilt the Upper Gate of the house of
the LORD.
36 As for the rest of the acts of Jotham, along
with his accomplishments, are they not written
in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of
Judah?
37 (In those days the LORD began to send Rezin
king of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah against
Judah.)
38 And Jotham rested with his fathers and was
buried with them in the City of David his father.
And his son Ahaz reigned in his place.

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* **15:33 15:33** *Jerusha* is a variant of *Jerushah*; see 2 Chronicles 27:1.

16

1 In the seventeenth year of Pekah son of
Remaliah, Ahaz son of Jotham became king of
Judah.
2 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 his God.
3 Instead, he walked in the ways of the kings of
Israel and even sacrificed his son 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 Then Rezin king of Aram and Pekah son of
Remaliah king of Israel came up to wage war
against Jerusalem. They besieged Ahaz but
could not overcome him.
6 At that time Rezin king of Aram recovered
Elath† for Aram,‡ drove out the men of Judah,
and sent the Edomites§ into Elath, where they
live to this day.
7 So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser
king of Assyria, saying, “I am your servant and
your son. Come up and save me from the hands
of the kings of Aram and Israel, who are rising
up against me.”

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* **16:3 16:3** Literally *made his son pass through the fire* † **16:6 16:6** *Elath* is a variant of *Eloth*; see 1 Kings 9:26. ‡ **16:6 16:6** Or *Syria* § **16:6 16:6** Qere; Ketiv *Arameans*

8 Ahaz also took the silver and gold found in
the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of
the king's palace, and he sent it as a gift to the
king of Assyria.
9 So the king of Assyria responded to him,
marched up to Damascus, and captured it. He
took its people to Kir as captives and put Rezin
to death.
10 Then King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet
Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria. On seeing the
altar in Damascus, King Ahaz sent Uriah the
priest a model of the altar and complete plans
for its construction.
11 And Uriah the priest built the altar
according to all the instructions King Ahaz had
sent from Damascus, and he completed it before
King Ahaz returned.
12 When the king came back from Damascus
and saw the altar, he approached it and
presented offerings on it.
13 He offered his burnt offering and his grain
offering, poured out his drink offering, and
splattered the blood of his peace offerings on the
altar.
14 He also took the bronze altar that stood
before the LORD from the front of the temple
(between the new altar and the house of the
LORD) and he put it on the north side of the new
altar.
15 Then King Ahaz commanded Uriah the
priest, "Offer on the great altar the morning
burnt offering, the evening grain offering, and
the king's burnt offering and grain offering, as
well as the burnt offerings, grain offerings, and

drink offerings of all the people of the land.
Splatter on the altar all the blood of the burnt
offerings and sacrifices. But I will use the
bronze altar to seek guidance."
16 So Uriah the priest did just as King Ahaz had
commanded.
17 King Ahaz also cut off the frames of the
movable stands and removed the bronze basin
from each of them. He took down the Sea from
the bronze oxen that were under it and put it on
a stone base.
18 And on account of the king of Assyria, he
removed the Sabbath canopy* they had built in
the temple and closed the royal entryway
outside the house of the LORD.
19 As for the rest of the acts of Ahaz, along with
his accomplishments, are they not written in the
Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
20 And Ahaz rested with his fathers and was
buried with them in the City of David, and his
son Hezekiah reigned in his place.

17

1 In the twelfth year of the reign of Ahaz over
Judah, Hoshea son of Elah became king of Israel,
and he reigned in Samaria nine years.
2 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, but
not like the kings of Israel who preceded him.
3 Shalmaneser king of Assyria attacked him,
and Hoshea became his vassal and paid him
tribute.

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* **16:18 16:18** Or *the base of his throne*; see also LXX.

4 But the king of Assyria discovered that
Hoshea had conspired to send envoys to King
So* of Egypt, and that he had not paid tribute to
the king of Assyria as in previous years.
Therefore the king of Assyria arrested Hoshea
and put him in prison.

5 Then the king of Assyria invaded the whole
land, marched up to Samaria, and besieged it for
three years.

6 In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of
Assyria captured Samaria and carried away the
Israelites to Assyria, where he settled them in
Halah, in Gozan by the Habor River, and in the
cities of the Medes.

7 All this happened because the people of
Israel had sinned against the LORD their God,
who had brought them out of the land of Egypt
from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.
They had worshiped other gods
8 and walked in the customs of the nations
that the LORD had driven out before the
Israelites, as well as in the practices introduced
by the kings of Israel.

9 The Israelites secretly did things against the
LORD their God that were not right. From
watchtower to fortified city, they built high
places in all their cities.

10 They set up for themselves sacred pillars
and Asherah poles on every high hill and under
every green tree.

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* **17:4 17:4** *So* is likely an abbreviation for *Osorkon.*

11 They burned incense on all the high places
like the nations that the LORD had driven out
before them. They did wicked things, provoking
the LORD to anger.
12 They served idols, although the LORD had
told them, “You shall not do this thing.”†
13 Yet through every prophet and every seer,‡
the LORD warned Israel and Judah, saying,
“Turn from your wicked ways and keep my
commandments and statutes, according to the
entire Teaching that I commanded your fathers
and delivered to you through my servants the
prophets.”
14 But they would not listen, and they stiffened
their necks like their fathers, who did not
believe the LORD their God.
15 They rejected his statutes and the covenant
he had made with their fathers, as well as the
decrees he had given them. They pursued
worthless idols and became worthless
themselves, going after the surrounding nations
that the LORD had commanded them not to
imitate.
16 They abandoned all the commandments of
the LORD their God and made for themselves
two cast idols of calves and an Asherah pole.
They bowed down to all the host of heaven and
served Baal.
17 They sacrificed their sons and daughters in
the fire§ and practiced divination and

† **17:12 17:12** Exodus 20:4–6; Deuteronomy 5:8–10 ‡ **17:13 17:13** Qere; Ketiv *all his prophets, every seer* § **17:17 17:17** Literally *made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire*

soothsaying. They devoted themselves to doing
evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to
anger.
18 So the LORD was very angry with Israel,
and he removed them from his presence. Only
the tribe of Judah remained,
19 and even Judah did not keep the
commandments of the LORD their God, but lived
according to the customs Israel had introduced.
20 So the LORD rejected all the descendants of
Israel. He afflicted them and delivered them into
the hands of plunderers, until he had banished
them from his presence.
21 When the LORD had torn Israel away from
the house of David, they made Jeroboam son of
Nebat king, and Jeroboam led Israel away from
following the LORD and caused them to commit
a great sin.
22 The Israelites persisted in all the sins that
Jeroboam had committed and did not turn away
from them.
23 Finally, the LORD removed Israel from his
presence, as he had declared through all his
servants the prophets. So Israel was exiled from
their homeland into Assyria, where they are to
this day.
24 Then the king of Assyria brought people
from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and
Sepharvaim and settled them in the towns of
Samaria to replace the Israelites. They took
possession of Samaria and lived in its towns.
25 Now when the settlers first lived there, they
did not worship the LORD, so he sent lions

among them, which killed some of them.
26 So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying,
“The peoples that you have removed and placed
in the cities of Samaria do not know the
requirements of the God of the land. Because of
this, he has sent lions among them, which are
indeed killing them off.”
27 Then the king of Assyria commanded: “Send
back one of the priests you carried off from
Samaria, and have him go back to live there and
teach the requirements of the God of the land.”
28 Thus one of the priests they had carried
away came and lived in Bethel, and he began to
teach them how they should worship the LORD.
29 Nevertheless, the people of each nation
continued to make their own gods in the cities
where they had settled, and they set them up in
the shrines that the people of Samaria had made
on the high places.
30 The men of Babylon made Succoth-benoth,
the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of
Hamath made Ashima,
31 the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and
the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire
to Adrammelech and Anammelech the gods of
Sepharvaim.
32 So the new residents worshiped the LORD,
but they also appointed for themselves priests of
all sorts to serve in the shrines of the high
places.
33 They worshiped the LORD, but they also
served their own gods according to the customs

of the nations from which they had been carried
away.
34 To this day they are still practicing their
former customs. None of them worship the
LORD or observe the statutes, ordinances, laws,
and commandments that the LORD gave the
descendants of Jacob, whom he named Israel.
35 For the LORD had made a covenant with the
Israelites and commanded them, “Do not
worship other gods or bow down to them; do
not serve them or sacrifice to them.
36 Instead, worship the LORD, who brought
you out of the land of Egypt with great power
and an outstretched arm. You are to bow down
to him and offer sacrifices to him.
37 And you must always be careful to observe
the statutes, ordinances, laws, and
commandments he wrote for you. Do not
worship other gods.
38 Do not forget the covenant I have made
with you. Do not worship other gods,
39 but worship the LORD your God, and he will
deliver you from the hands of all your enemies.”
40 But they would not listen, and they
persisted in their former customs.
41 So these nations worshiped the LORD but
also served their idols, and to this day their
children and grandchildren continue to do as
their fathers did.

18

1 In the third year of the reign of Hoshea son
of Elah over Israel, Hezekiah son of Ahaz
became king of Judah.

2 He was twenty-five years old when he
became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem
twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abi,*
the daughter of Zechariah.
3 And he did what was right in the eyes of the
LORD, just as his father David had done.
4 He removed the high places, shattered the
sacred pillars, and cut down the Asherah poles.
He also demolished the bronze snake called
Nehushtan† that Moses had made, for up to that
time the Israelites had burned incense to it.
5 Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of
Israel. No king of Judah was like him, either
before him or after him.
6 He remained faithful to the LORD and did
not turn from following him; he kept the
commandments that the LORD had given Moses.
7 And the LORD was with Hezekiah, and he
prospered wherever he went. He rebelled
against the king of Assyria and refused to serve
him.
8 He defeated the Philistines as far as Gaza and
its borders, from watchtower to fortified city.
9 In the fourth year of Hezekiah's reign, which
was the seventh year of the reign of Hoshea son
of Elah over Israel, Shalmaneser king of Assyria
marched against Samaria and besieged it.
10 And at the end of three years, the Assyrians
captured it.

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* **18:2** **18:2** *Abi* is a variant of *Abijah*; see 2 Chronicles 29:1.
† **18:4** **18:4** *Nehushtan* sounds like the Hebrew for *bronze* and also for *snake*.

So Samaria was captured in the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel.
11 The king of Assyria exiled the Israelites to Assyria and settled them in Halah, in Gozan by the Habor River, and in the cities of the Medes.
12 This happened because they did not listen to the voice of the LORD their God, but violated his covenant—all that Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded—and would neither listen nor obey.

13 In the fourteenth year of Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked and captured all the fortified cities of Judah.
14 So Hezekiah king of Judah sent word to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I have done wrong; withdraw from me, and I will pay whatever you demand from me."

And the king of Assyria exacted from Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver‡ and thirty talents of gold.§
15 Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the royal palace.

16 At that time Hezekiah stripped the gold with which he had plated the doors and doorposts of the temple of the LORD, and he gave it to the king of Assyria.

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‡ **18:14 18:14** *300 talents* is approximately 11.3 tons or 10.3 metric tons of silver. § **18:14 18:14** *30 talents* is approximately 1.13 tons or 1.03 metric tons of gold.

17 Nevertheless, the king of Assyria sent the
Tartan,* the Rabsaris,† and the Rabshakeh,‡
along with a great army, from Lachish to King
Hezekiah at Jerusalem. They advanced up to
Jerusalem and stationed themselves by the
aqueduct of the upper pool, on the road to the
Launderer's Field.
18 Then they called for the king. And Eliakim
son of Hilkiah the palace administrator, Shebnah
the scribe, and Joah son of Asaph the recorder,
went out to them.
19 The Rabshakeh said to them, "Tell Hezekiah
that this is what the great king, the king of
Assyria, says: What is the basis of this
confidence of yours?
20 You claim to have a strategy and strength
for war, but these are empty words. In whom
are you now trusting, that you have rebelled
against me?
21 Look now, you are trusting in Egypt, that
splintered reed of a staff that will pierce the
hand of anyone who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh
king of Egypt to all who trust in him.
22 But if you say to me, 'We trust in the LORD
our God,' is he not the One whose high places
and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to

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* **18:17** **18:17** Hebrew *Tartan* is the title of a field marshal, general, or commander in the Assyrian military. † **18:17** **18:17** Hebrew *Rabsaris* is the title of the chief eunuch in the Assyrian military. ‡ **18:17** **18:17** Hebrew *Rabshakeh* is the title of a high-ranking Assyrian military officer; here and throughout chapters 18 and 19, as well as Isaiah 36 and 37.

Judah and Jerusalem: ‘You must worship before
this altar in Jerusalem’?
23 Now, therefore, make a bargain with my
master, the king of Assyria. I will give you two
thousand horses—if you can put riders on them!
24 For how can you repel a single officer
among the least of my master's servants when
you depend on Egypt for chariots and
horsemen?
25 So now, was it apart from the LORD that I
have come up against this place to destroy it?
The LORD himself said to me, ‘Go up against this
land and destroy it.’ ”
26 Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah, along with
Shebnah and Joah, said to the Rabshakeh,
“Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, since
we understand it. Do not speak with us in the
dialect of Judah§ in the hearing of the people on
the wall.”
27 But the Rabshakeh replied, “Has my master
sent me to speak these words only to you and
your master, and not to the men sitting on the
wall, who are destined with you to eat their own
dung and drink their own urine?”
28 Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out
loudly in the dialect of Judah: “Hear the word of
the great king, the king of Assyria!
29 This is what the king says: Do not let
Hezekiah deceive you; he cannot deliver you
from his hand.*

§ **18:26 18:26** Or *in Hebrew*; also in verse 28 * **18:29 18:29** Leningrad Codex and most manuscripts; several manuscripts and ancient versions *my hand*

30 Do not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in
the LORD when he says, 'The LORD will surely
deliver us; this city will not be given into the
hand of the king of Assyria.'
31 Do not listen to Hezekiah, for this is what
the king of Assyria says: Make peace with me†
and come out to me. Then every one of you will
eat from his own vine and his own fig tree and
drink water from his own cistern,
32 until I come and take you away to a land like
your own—a land of grain and new wine, a land
of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and
honey—so that you may live and not die. But do
not listen to Hezekiah, for he misleads you when
he says, 'The LORD will deliver us.'
33 Has the god of any nation ever delivered his
land from the hand of the king of Assyria?
34 Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad?
Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and
Ivvah? Have they delivered Samaria from my
hand?
35 Who among all the gods of these lands has
delivered his land from my hand? How then can
the LORD deliver Jerusalem from my hand?"
36 But the people remained silent and did not
answer a word, for Hezekiah had commanded,
"Do not answer him."
37 Then Hilkiah's son Eliakim the palace
administrator, Shebna the scribe, and Asaph's
son Joah the recorder came to Hezekiah with
their clothes torn, and they relayed to him the
words of the Rabshakeh.

† **18:31 18:31** Or *Make a blessing with me*

19

1 On hearing this report, King Hezekiah tore
his clothes, put on sackcloth, and entered the
house of the LORD.
2 And he sent Eliakim the palace
administrator, Shebna the scribe, and the
leading priests, all wearing sackcloth, to the
prophet Isaiah son of Amoz
3 to tell him, “This is what Hezekiah says:
Today is a day of distress, rebuke, and disgrace;
for children have come to the point of birth, but
there is no strength to deliver them.
4 Perhaps the LORD your God will hear all the
words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the
king of Assyria has sent to defy the living God,
and he will rebuke him for the words that the
LORD your God has heard. Therefore lift up a
prayer for the remnant that still survives.”
5 So the servants of King Hezekiah went to
Isaiah,
6 who replied, “Tell your master that this is
what the LORD says: ‘Do not be afraid of the
words you have heard, with which the servants
of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me.
7 Behold, I will put a spirit in him so that he
will hear a rumor and return to his own land,
where I will cause him to fall by the sword.’ ”
8 When the Rabshakeh heard that the king of
Assyria had left Lachish, he withdrew and found
the king fighting against Libnah.
9 Now Sennacherib had been warned about
Tirhakah king of Cush:* “Look, he has set out to

* **19:9 19:9** That is, the upper Nile region

fight against you."

So Sennacherib again sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,

10 "Give this message to Hezekiah king of Judah:

'Do not let your God, in whom you trust, deceive you by saying that Jerusalem will not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.

11 Surely you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the other countries, devoting them to destruction.† Will you then be spared?

12 Did the gods of the nations destroyed by my fathers rescue those nations—the gods of Gozan, Haran, and Rezeph, and of the people of Eden in Telassar?

13 Where are the kings of Hamath, Arpad, Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah?' "

14 So Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers, read it, and went up to the house of the LORD and spread it out before the LORD.

15 And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD:

"O LORD, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You made the heavens and the earth.

16 Incline your ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see. Listen to the words that Sennacherib has sent to defy the living God.

† **19:11 19:11** 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.

17 Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have
laid waste these nations and their lands.
18 They have cast their gods into the fire and
destroyed them, for they were not gods, but only
wood and stone—the work of human hands.
19 And now, O LORD our God, please save us
from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the
earth may know that you alone, O LORD, are
God."
20 Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent a message to
Hezekiah: "This is what the LORD, the God of
Israel, says: I have heard your prayer
concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria.
21 This is the word that the LORD has spoken
against him:

'The Virgin Daughter of Zion
despises you and mocks you;
the Daughter of Jerusalem
shakes her head behind you.
22 Whom have you taunted and blasphemed?
Against whom have you raised your voice
and lifted your eyes in pride?
Against the Holy One of Israel!
23 Through your servants you have taunted the
Lord,
and you have said:

"With my many chariots
I have ascended
to the heights of the mountains,
to the remote peaks of Lebanon.
I have cut down its tallest cedars,

the finest of its cypresses.‡
I have reached its farthest outposts,
the densest of its forests.
24 I have dug wells
and drunk foreign waters.
With the soles of my feet
I have dried up all the streams of Egypt.”

25 Have you not heard?
Long ago I ordained it;
in days of old I planned it.
Now I have brought it to pass,
that you should crush fortified cities
into piles of rubble.
26 Therefore their inhabitants, devoid of power,
are dismayed and ashamed.
They are like plants in the field,
tender green shoots,
grass on the rooftops,
scorched before it is grown.

27 But I know your sitting down,
your going out and coming in,
and your raging against me.
28 Because your rage and arrogance against me
have reached my ears,
I will put my hook in your nose
and my bit in your mouth;
I will send you back
the way you came.’
29 And this will be a sign to you, O Hezekiah:

‡ **19:23 19:23** Or *pines* or *junipers* or *firs*

This year you will eat
what grows on its own,
and in the second year
what springs from the same.
But in the third year you will sow and reap;
you will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
30 And the surviving remnant of the house of
Judah
will again take root below
and bear fruit above.
31 For a remnant will go forth from Jerusalem,
and survivors from Mount Zion.
The zeal of the LORD of Hosts§
will accomplish this.
32 So this is what the LORD says about the king
of Assyria:

'He will not enter this
city or shoot an arrow
into it. He will not come before it with a shield
or build up a siege ramp against it.
33 He will go back the way he came,
and he will not enter this city,
declares the LORD.
34 I will defend this city
and save it
for my own sake
and for the sake of my servant David.' "
35 And that very night the angel of the LORD
went out and struck down 185,000 men in the
camp of the Assyrians. When the people got up

§ **19:31 19:31** Qere (see also LXX and many Hebrew manuscripts); Ketiv *The zeal of the LORD*

the next morning, there were all the dead bodies!
36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there.
37 One day, while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer* put him to the sword and escaped to the land of Ararat. And his son Esar-haddon reigned in his place.

20

1 In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz came to him and said, "This is what the LORD says: 'Put your house in order, for you are about to die; you will not recover.' "
2 Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, saying,
3 "Please, O LORD, remember how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion; I have done what is good in your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.
4 Before Isaiah had left the middle courtyard,* the word of the LORD came to him, saying,
5 "Go back and tell Hezekiah the leader of my people that this is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: 'I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. I will surely heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the house of the LORD.

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* **19:37 19:37** Qere (see also LXX and Isaiah 37:38); Ketiv lacks *his sons* * **20:4 20:4** Qere; Ketiv *the middle of the city*

6 I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will
deliver you and this city from the hand of the
king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my
sake and for the sake of my servant David.' "
7 Then Isaiah said, "Prepare a poultice of figs."
So they brought it and applied it to the boil, and
Hezekiah recovered.
8 Now Hezekiah had asked Isaiah, "What will
be the sign that the LORD will heal me and that I
will go up to the house of the LORD on the third
day?"
9 And Isaiah had replied, "This will be a sign to
you from the LORD that he will do what he has
promised: Would you like the shadow to go
forward ten steps, or back ten steps?"
10 "It is easy for the shadow to lengthen ten
steps," answered Hezekiah, "but not for it to go
back ten steps."
11 So Isaiah the prophet called out to the
LORD, and he brought the shadow back the ten
steps it had descended on the stairway of Ahaz.
12 At that time Berodach-baladan† son of
Baladan king of Babylon sent letters and a gift to
Hezekiah, for he had heard about Hezekiah's
illness.
13 And Hezekiah received the envoys and
showed them all that was in his treasure
house—the silver, the gold, the spices, and the
precious oil, as well as his armory—all that was
found in his storehouses. There was nothing in

† **20:12 20:12** Some Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, and Syriac (see also Isaiah 39:1) *Merodach-baladan*

his palace or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.
14 Then the prophet Isaiah went to King Hezekiah and asked, “Where did those men come from, and what did they say to you?”
“They came from a distant land,” Hezekiah replied, “from Babylon.”
15 “What have they seen in your palace?” Isaiah asked.
“They have seen everything in my palace,” answered Hezekiah. “There is nothing among my treasures that I did not show them.”
16 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the LORD:
17 The time will surely come when everything in your palace and all that your fathers have stored up until this day will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the LORD.
18 And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood, will be taken away to be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.”
19 But Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “The word of the LORD that you have spoken is good.” For he thought, “Will there not at least be peace and security in my lifetime?”
20 As for the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, along with all his might and how he constructed the pool and the tunnel‡ to bring water into the city, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
21 And Hezekiah rested with his fathers, and his son Manasseh reigned in his place.

‡ **20:20 20:20** Or *watercourse* or *conduit*

21

1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he
became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem
fifty-five years. His mother's name was
Hephzibah.
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 destroyed, and he raised up altars
for Baal. He made an Asherah pole, as King
Ahab of Israel had done, 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, "In
Jerusalem I will put my Name."
5 In both courtyards of the house of the LORD,
he built altars to all the host of heaven.
6 He sacrificed his own son in the fire,*
practiced sorcery and divination, 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 Asherah pole
he had made and set it up in the temple, of
which the LORD 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 wander from the land that I gave to
their fathers, if only they are careful to do all I

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* **21:6 21:6** Literally *made his son pass through the fire*

have commanded them—the whole Teaching
that my servant Moses commanded them."

9 But the people did not listen and Manasseh
led them astray, so that they did greater evil
than the nations that the LORD had destroyed
before the Israelites.

10 And the LORD spoke through his servants
the prophets, saying,

11 "Since Manasseh king of Judah has
committed all these abominations, acting more
wickedly than the Amorites who preceded him,
and with his idols has caused Judah to sin,

12 this is what the LORD, the God of Israel,
says: 'Behold, I am bringing such calamity upon
Jerusalem and Judah that the news will
reverberate in the ears of all who hear it.

13 I will stretch out over Jerusalem the
measuring line used against Samaria and the
plumb line used against the house of Ahab, and I
will wipe out Jerusalem as one wipes out a
bowl—wiping it and turning it upside down.

14 So I will forsake the remnant of my
inheritance and deliver them into the hands of
their enemies. And they will become plunder
and spoil to all their enemies,

15 because they have done evil in my sight and
have provoked me to anger from the day their
fathers came out of Egypt until this day.' "

16 Moreover, Manasseh shed so much innocent
blood that he filled Jerusalem from end to end,
in addition to the sin that he had caused Judah
to commit, doing evil in the sight of the LORD.

17 As for the rest of the acts of Manasseh, along
with all his accomplishments and the sin that he
committed, are they not written in the Book of
the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
18 And Manasseh rested with his fathers and
was buried in his palace garden, the garden of
Uzza. And his son Amon reigned in his place.
19 Amon was twenty-two years old when he
became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem two
years. His mother's name was Meshullemeth
daughter of Haruz; she was from Jotbah.
20 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as
his father Manasseh had done.
21 He walked in all the ways of his father, and
he served and worshiped the idols his father
had served.
22 He abandoned the LORD, the God of his
fathers, and did not walk in the way of the
LORD.
23 Then the servants of Amon conspired
against him and killed the king in his palace.
24 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.
25 As for the rest of the acts of Amon, along
with his accomplishments, are they not written
in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of
Judah?
26 And he was buried in his tomb in the garden
of Uzza, and his son Josiah reigned in his place.

22

1 Josiah was eight years old when he became

king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one
years. His mother's name was Jedidah daughter
of Adaiah; she was from Bozkath.
2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the
LORD and walked in all the ways of his father
David; he did not turn aside to the right or to the
left.
3 Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, King
Josiah sent the scribe, Shaphan son of Azaliah,
the son of Meshullam, to the house of the LORD,
saying,
4 "Go up to Hilkiah the high priest and have
him count the money that has been brought into
the house of the LORD, which the doorkeepers
have collected from the people.
5 And let them deliver it* into the hands of the
supervisors of those doing the work on the
house of the LORD, who in turn are to give it to
the workmen repairing the damages to the
house of the LORD—
6 to the carpenters, builders, and masons—to
buy timber and dressed stone to repair the
temple.
7 But they need not account for the money put
into their hands, since they work with integrity."
8 Then Hilkiah the high priest 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, who read it.
9 And Shaphan the scribe went to the king and
reported, "Your servants have paid out the
money that was found in the temple and have

* **22:5 22:5** Qere; Ketiv *let him deliver it*

put it into the hands of the workers and
supervisors of the house of the LORD."
10 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.
11 When the king heard the words of the Book
of the Teaching, he tore his clothes
12 and commanded Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam
son of Shaphan, Achbor† son of Micaiah,‡
Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the servant of
the king:
13 "Go and inquire of the LORD for me, for the
people, and for all Judah concerning the words
in this book that has been found. For great is the
wrath of the LORD that burns against us because
our fathers have not obeyed the words of this
book by doing all that is written about us."
14 So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor,
Shaphan, and Asaiah went and spoke to Huldah
the prophetess, the wife of Shallum son of
Tikvah,§ the son of Harhas,* the keeper of the
wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem, in the Second
District.†
15 And Huldah said to them, "This is what the
LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Tell the man who
sent you

† **22:12 22:12** *Achbor* is another name for *Abdon*; see 2 Chronicles 34:20. ‡ **22:12 22:12** *Micaiah* is a variant of *Micah*; see 2 Chronicles 34:20. § **22:14 22:14** *Tikvah* is a variant of *Tokhath*; see 2 Chronicles 34:22. * **22:14 22:14** *Harhas* is a variant of *Hasrah*; see 2 Chronicles 34:22. † **22:14 22:14** Or *the Second Quarter*, a newer section of Jerusalem; Hebrew *the Mishneh*

16 that this is what the LORD says: I am about
to bring calamity on this place and on its people,
according to all the words of the book that the
king of Judah has read,
17 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 kindled against this place and
will not be quenched.'
18 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,
19 because your heart was tender and you
humbled yourself before the LORD when you
heard what I spoke against this place and
against its people, that they would become a
desolation and a curse, and because you have
torn your clothes and wept before me, I have
heard you,' declares the LORD.
20 'Therefore 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.' "
So they brought her answer back to the king.

23

1 Then the king summoned all the elders of
Judah and Jerusalem.
2 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 prophets—all the
people small and great—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.
3 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. And all the people entered
into the covenant.
4 Then the king commanded Hilkiah the high
priest, the priests second in rank, and the
doorkeepers to remove from the temple of the
LORD all the articles made for Baal, Asherah,
and all the host of heaven. And he burned them
outside Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron and
carried their ashes to Bethel.
5 Josiah also did away with the idolatrous
priests ordained by the kings of Judah to burn
incense on the high places of the cities of Judah
and in the places all around Jerusalem—those
who had burned incense to Baal, to the sun and
moon, to the constellations, and to all the host of
heaven.
6 He brought the Asherah pole from the house
of the LORD to the Kidron Valley outside
Jerusalem, and there he burned it, ground it to
powder, and threw its dust on the graves of the
common people.
7 He also tore down the quarters of the male
shrine prostitutes that were in the house of the
LORD, where the women had woven tapestries
for Asherah.
8 Then Josiah brought all the priests from the
cities of Judah and desecrated the high places,

from Geba to Beersheba, where the priests had burned incense. He tore down the high places of the gates at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which was to the left of the city gate.

9 Although the priests of the high places did not come up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem, they ate unleavened bread with their fellow priests.

10 He also desecrated Topheth in the Valley of Ben-hinnom* so that no one could sacrifice his son or daughter in the fire† to Molech.

11 And he removed from the entrance to the house of the LORD the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun. They were in the court‡ near the chamber of an official named Nathan-melech. And Josiah burned up the chariots of the sun.

12 He pulled down the altars that the kings of Judah had set up on the roof near the upper chamber of Ahaz, and the altars that Manasseh had set up in the two courtyards of the house of the LORD. The king quickly removed them from there§ and threw their dust into the Kidron Valley.

13 The king also desecrated the high places east of Jerusalem, to the south of the Mount of Corruption, which King Solomon of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the

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* **23:10 23:10** Qere, meaning *the Valley of the Son of Hinnom*; Ketiv *the Valley of the Sons of Hinnom* † **23:10 23:10** Literally *could pass his son or daughter through the fire* ‡ **23:11 23:11** Hebrew *parbarim* § **23:12 23:12** Or *pulverized them there*

Sidonians, for Chemosh the abomination of the
Moabites, and for Milcom* the abomination of
the Ammonites.
14 He smashed the sacred pillars to pieces, cut
down the Asherah poles, and covered the sites
with human bones.
15 He even pulled down the altar at Bethel, the
high place set up by Jeroboam son of Nebat, who
had caused Israel to sin. Then he burned† the
high place, ground it to powder, and burned the
Asherah pole.
16 And as Josiah turned, he saw the tombs
there on the hillside, and he sent someone to
take the bones out of the tombs, and he burned
them on the altar to defile it, according to the
word of the LORD proclaimed by the man of God
who had foretold these things.‡
17 Then the king asked, "What is this
monument I see?"
And the men of the city replied, "It is the tomb
of the man of God who came from Judah and
proclaimed these things that you have done to
the altar of Bethel."
18 "Let him rest," said Josiah. "Do not let
anyone disturb his bones."
So they left his bones undisturbed, along with
those of the prophet who had come from
Samaria.

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* **23:13 23:13** *Milcom* is a variant of *Molech*; see Leviticus 18:21 and 1 Kings 11:7. † **23:15 23:15** LXX *broke into pieces* ‡ **23:16 23:16** LXX adds *when Jeroboam stood by the altar at the feast. And he turned and lifted his eyes to the tomb of the man of God*; see 1 Kings 13:2.

19 Just as Josiah had done at Bethel, so also in
the cities of Samaria he removed all the shrines
of the high places set up by the kings of Israel
who had provoked the LORD to anger.
20 On the altars he slaughtered all the priests
of the high places, and he burned human bones
on them. Then he returned to Jerusalem.
21 The king commanded all the people, “Keep
the Passover of the LORD your God, as it is
written in this Book of the Covenant.”
22 No such Passover had been observed from
the days of the judges who had governed Israel
through all the days of the kings of Israel and
Judah.
23 But in the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign,
this Passover was observed to the LORD in
Jerusalem.
24 Furthermore, Josiah removed the mediums
and spiritists, the household gods and idols, and
all the abominations that were seen in the land
of Judah and in Jerusalem. He did this to carry
out the words of the law written in the book that
Hilkiah the priest had found in the house of the
LORD.
25 Neither before nor after Josiah was there
any king like him, who turned to the LORD with
all his heart and with all his soul and with all his
strength, according to all the Teaching of Moses.
26 Nevertheless, the LORD did not turn away
from the fury of his burning anger, which was
kindled against Judah because of all that
Manasseh had done to provoke him to anger.
27 For the LORD had said, “I will remove Judah
from my sight, just as I removed Israel. I will

reject this city Jerusalem, which I chose, and the
temple of which I said, 'My Name shall be
there.' "
28 As for the rest of the acts of Josiah and all
his accomplishments, are they not written in the
Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?
29 During Josiah's reign, Pharaoh Neco king of
Egypt marched up to help the king of Assyria at
the Euphrates River. King Josiah went out to
confront him, but Neco faced him and killed him
at Megiddo.
30 From Megiddo his servants carried his body
in a chariot, brought him to Jerusalem, and
buried him in his own tomb. Then the people of
the land took Jehoahaz son of Josiah, anointed
him, and made him king in place of his father.
31 Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when
he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem
three months. His mother's name was Hamutal
daughter of Jeremiah; she was from Libnah.
32 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, just
as his fathers had done.
33 And Pharaoh Neco imprisoned Jehoahaz at
Riblah in the land of Hamath so that he could
not reign in Jerusalem,§ and he imposed on
Judah a levy of a hundred talents of silver* and
a talent of gold.†
34 Then Pharaoh Neco made Eliakim son of
Josiah king in place of his father Josiah, and he

§ **23:33 23:33** Qere; Ketiv *while he reigned in Jerusalem* * **23:33 23:33** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of silver. † **23:33 23:33** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of gold.

changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim. But Neco took Jehoahaz and carried him off to Egypt, where he died.
35 So Jehoiakim paid the silver and gold to Pharaoh Neco, but to meet Pharaoh's demand he taxed the land and exacted the silver and the gold from the people, each according to his wealth.
36 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. His mother's name was Zebidah daughter of Pedaiah; she was from Rumah.
37 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, just as his fathers had done.

24

1 During Jehoiakim's reign, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon invaded. So Jehoiakim became his vassal for three years, until he turned and rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar.
2 And the LORD sent Chaldean,* Aramean, Moabite, and Ammonite raiders against Jehoiakim in order to destroy Judah, according to the word that the LORD had spoken through his servants the prophets.
3 Surely this happened to Judah at the LORD's command, to remove them from his presence because of the sins of Manasseh and all that he had done,
4 and also for the innocent blood he had shed. For he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the LORD was unwilling to forgive.

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* **24:2 24:2** Or *Babylonian*

5 As for the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, along
with all his accomplishments, are they not
written in the Book of the Chronicles of the
Kings of Judah?
6 And Jehoiakim rested with his fathers, and
his son Jehoiachin reigned in his place.
7 Now the king of Egypt did not march out of
his land again, because the king of Babylon had
taken all his territory, from the Brook of Egypt to
the Euphrates River.
8 Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he
became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three
months. His mother's name was Nehushta
daughter of Elnathan; she was from Jerusalem.
9 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, just
as his father had done.
10 At that time the servants of
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched up to
Jerusalem, and the city came under siege.
11 And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came
to the city while his servants were besieging it.
12 Jehoiachin king of Judah, his mother, his
servants, his commanders, and his officials all
surrendered to the king of Babylon.

So in the eighth year of his reign, the king of
Babylon took him captive.
13 As the LORD had declared, Nebuchadnezzar
also carried off all the treasures from the house
of the LORD and the royal palace, and he cut into
pieces all the gold articles that Solomon king of
Israel had made in the temple of the LORD.
14 He carried into exile all Jerusalem—all the
commanders and mighty men of valor, all the

craftsmen and metalsmiths—ten thousand
captives in all. Only the poorest people of the
land remained.
15 Nebuchadnezzar carried away Jehoiachin to
Babylon, as well as the king's mother, his wives,
his officials, and the leading men of the land. He
took them into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.
16 The king of Babylon also brought into exile
to Babylon all seven thousand men of valor and
a thousand craftsmen and metalsmiths—all
strong and fit for battle.
17 Then the king of Babylon made Mattaniah,
Jehoiachin's uncle, king in his place and
changed his name to Zedekiah.
18 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he
became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem
eleven years. His mother's name was Hamutal
daughter of Jeremiah; she was from Libnah.
19 And Zedekiah did evil in the sight of the
LORD, just as Jehoiakim had done.
20 For because of the anger of the LORD, all
this happened in Jerusalem and Judah, until he
finally banished them from his presence.

And Zedekiah also rebelled against the king of
Babylon.

25

1 So in the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, on
the tenth day of the tenth month,
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched
against Jerusalem with his entire army. They

encamped outside the city and built* a siege
wall all around it.
2 And the city was kept under siege until King
Zedekiah's eleventh year.
3 By the ninth day of the month,† the famine in
the city was so severe that the people of the land
had no food.
4 Then the city was breached; and though the
Chaldeans‡ had surrounded the city, all the men
of war fled by night by way of the gate between
the two walls near the king's garden.
And the king§ headed toward the Arabah,*
5 but the army of the Chaldeans pursued the
king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho,
and his whole army deserted him.
6 The Chaldeans seized the king and brought
him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, where
they pronounced judgment on him.
7 And they slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah
before his eyes. Then they put out his eyes,
bound him with bronze shackles, and took him
to Babylon.
8 On the seventh day of the fifth month, in the
nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign over
Babylon, Nebuzaradan captain of the guard, a
servant of the king of Babylon, entered
Jerusalem.

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* **25:1 25:1** Literally *he encamped outside it and they built* † **25:3 25:3** A proposed emendation (see Jeremiah 52:6) adds *fourth* ‡ **25:4 25:4** That is, the Babylonians; also in verses 5, 6, 10, 13, 24, 25, and 26 § **25:4 25:4** Hebrew *he*; compare Jeremiah 52:7, *they* * **25:4 25:4** Or *the Jordan Valley*

9 He burned down the house of the LORD, the
royal palace, and all the houses of
Jerusalem—every significant building.
10 And the whole army of the Chaldeans under
the captain of the guard broke down the walls
around Jerusalem.

11 Then Nebuzaradan captain of the guard
carried into exile the people who remained in
the city, along with the deserters who had
defected to the king of Babylon and the rest of
the population.
12 But the captain of the guard left behind
some of the poorest of the land to tend the
vineyards and fields.

13 Moreover, the Chaldeans broke up the
bronze pillars and stands and the bronze Sea in
the house of the LORD, and they carried the
bronze to Babylon.
14 They also took away the pots, shovels, wick
trimmers, dishes, and all the articles of bronze
used in the temple service.
15 The captain of the guard also took away the
censers and sprinkling bowls—anything made
of pure gold or fine silver.

16 As for the two pillars, the Sea, and the
movable stands that Solomon had made for the
house of the LORD, the weight of the bronze
from all these articles was beyond measure.
17 Each pillar was eighteen cubits tall.† The
bronze capital atop one pillar was three cubits

† **25:17 25:17** *18 cubits* is approximately 27 feet or 8.2 meters.

high,‡ with a network of bronze pomegranates
all around. The second pillar, with its network,
was similar.
18 The captain of the guard also took away
Seraiah the chief priest, Zephaniah the priest of
second rank, and the three doorkeepers.
19 Of those still in the city, he took a court
official who had been appointed over the men of
war, as well as five royal advisors. He also took
the scribe of the captain of the army, who had
enlisted the people of the land, and sixty men of
the people of the land who were found in the
city.
20 Nebuzaradan captain of the guard took
them and brought them to the king of Babylon
at Riblah.
21 There at Riblah in the land of Hamath, the
king of Babylon struck them down and put them
to death. So Judah was taken into exile, away
from its own land.
22 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon appointed
Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan,
over the people he had left behind in the land of
Judah.
23 When all the commanders of the armies
and their men heard that the king of Babylon
had appointed Gedaliah as governor, they came
to Gedaliah at Mizpah—Ishmael son of
Nethaniah, Johanan son of Kareah, Seraiah son
of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah§
son of the Maacathite, as well as their men.

‡ **25:17 25:17** *3 cubits* is approximately 4.5 feet or 1.4 meters.
§ **25:23 25:23** *Jaazaniah* is a variant of *Jezaniah*; see Jeremiah 40:8.

24 And Gedaliah took an oath before them and
their men, assuring them, “Do not be afraid of
the servants of the Chaldeans. Live in the land
and serve the king of Babylon, and it will be well
with you.”
25 In the seventh month, however, Ishmael son
of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, who was a
member of the royal family, came with ten men
and struck down and killed Gedaliah, along with
the Judeans and Chaldeans who were with him
at Mizpah.
26 Then all the people small and great,
together with the commanders of the army,
arose and fled to Egypt for fear of the Chaldeans.
27 On the twenty-seventh day of the twelfth
month of the thirty-seventh year of the exile of
Judah's King Jehoiachin, in the year
Evil-merodach became king of Babylon, he
released* King Jehoiachin of Judah from prison.
28 And he spoke kindly to Jehoiachin and set
his throne above the thrones of the other kings
who were with him in Babylon.
29 So Jehoiachin changed out of his prison
clothes, and he dined regularly at the king's
table for the rest of his life.
30 And the king provided Jehoiachin a daily
portion for the rest of his life.

* **25:27 25:27** Literally *lifted up the head of*

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