

## 2 Kings

After the death of Ahab, Moab rebelled against Israel. Ahaziah had fallen through the lattice in his upper chamber in Samaria, and lay injured; so he sent messengers, telling them, "Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this injury." But the angel of the LORD said to

5 Elijah the Tishbite, "Get up, go to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?' Now therefore thus says the LORD, 'You shall not leave the bed to which you have gone, but you shall surely die.'" So Elijah went. The messengers returned to the king,

10 who said to them, "Why have you returned?" They answered him, "There came a man to meet us, who said to us, 'Go back to the king who sent you, and say to him: Thus says the LORD: Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you shall not leave the bed to which you have gone, but shall

15 surely die.'" He said to them, "What sort of man was he who came to meet you and told you these things?" They answered him, "A hairy man, with a leather belt around his waist." He said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite." Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty men. He went up to Elijah, who was sitting on the top of a hill, and said to him, "O man of God, the

20 king says, 'Come down.'" But Elijah answered the captain of fifty, "If I am a

man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your  
fifty." Then fire came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.  
Again the king sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty. He went  
up and said to him, "O man of God, this is the king's order: Come down  
5 quickly!" But Elijah answered them, "If I am a man of God, let fire come  
down from heaven and consume you and your fifty." Then the fire of God  
came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. Again the king  
sent the captain of a third fifty with his fifty. So the third captain of fifty  
went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and entreated him,  
10 "O man of God, please let my life, and the life of these fifty servants of  
yours, be precious in your sight. Look, fire came down from heaven and  
consumed the two former captains of fifty men with their fifties; but now let  
my life be precious in your sight." Then the angel of the LORD said to  
Elijah, "Go down with him; do not be afraid of him." So he set out and  
15 went down with him to the king, and said to him, "Thus says the LORD:  
Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of  
Ekron, --is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of his word? --  
therefore you shall not leave the bed to which you have gone, but you shall  
surely die." So he died according to the word of the LORD that Elijah had  
20 spoken. His brother, Jehoram succeeded him as king in the second year of

King Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat of Judah, because Ahaziah had no son.

Now the rest of the acts of Ahaziah that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Israel? Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their

5 way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from  
10 you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your  
15 master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing  
20 by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the

water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you."

Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He

5 responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its

10 horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" When he had struck the

15 water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over. When the company of prophets who were at Jericho saw him at a distance, they declared, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." They came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him. They said to him, "See now, we have fifty strong men among your servants; please let them go and seek

20 your master; it may be that the spirit of the LORD has caught him up and

thrown him down on some mountain or into some valley." He responded,  
"No, do not send them." But when they urged him until he was ashamed, he  
said, "Send them." So they sent fifty men who searched for three days but  
did not find him. When they came back to him (he had remained at  
5 Jericho), he said to them, "Did I not say to you, Do not go?" Now the  
people of the city said to Elisha, "The location of this city is good, as my  
lord sees; but the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful." He said, "Bring  
me a new bowl, and put salt in it." So they brought it to him. Then he  
went to the spring of water and threw the salt into it, and said, "Thus says  
10 the LORD, I have made this water wholesome; from now on neither death  
nor miscarriage shall come from it." So the water has been wholesome to  
this day, according to the word that Elisha spoke. He went up from there to  
Bethel; and while he was going up on the way, some small boys came out  
of the city and jeered at him, saying, "Go away, baldhead! Go away,  
15 baldhead!" When he turned around and saw them, he cursed them in the  
name of the LORD. Then two she-bears came out of the woods and mauled  
forty-two of the boys. From there he went on to Mount Carmel, and then  
returned to Samaria. In the eighteenth year of King Jehoshaphat of Judah,  
Jehoram son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria; he reigned twelve  
20 years. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, though not like his

father and mother, for he removed the pillar of Baal that his father had made. Nevertheless he clung to the sin of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he caused Israel to commit; he did not depart from it. Now King Mesha of Moab was a sheep breeder, who used to deliver to the king of Israel one  
5 hundred thousand lambs, and the wool of one hundred thousand rams. But when Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel. So King Jehoram marched out of Samaria at that time and mustered all Israel. As he went he sent word to King Jehoshaphat of Judah, "The king of Moab has rebelled against me; will you go with me to battle against Moab?" He  
10 answered, "I will; I am with you, my people are your people, my horses are your horses." Then he asked, "By which way shall we march?" Jehoram answered, "By the way of the wilderness of Edom." So the king of Israel, the king of Judah, and the king of Edom set out; and when they had made a roundabout march of seven days, there was no water for the army or for  
15 the animals that were with them. Then the king of Israel said, "Alas! The LORD has summoned us, three kings, only to be handed over to Moab." But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there no prophet of the LORD here, through whom we may inquire of the LORD?" Then one of the servants of the king of Israel answered, "Elisha son of Shaphat, who used to pour water on the hands of  
20 Elijah, is here." Jehoshaphat said, "The word of the LORD is with him." So

the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.

Elisha said to the king of Israel, "What have I to do with you? Go to your father's prophets or to your mother's." But the king of Israel said to him,

"No; it is the LORD who has summoned us, three kings, only to be handed

5 over to Moab." Elisha said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, whom I serve, were it not that I have regard for King Jehoshaphat of Judah, I would give you neither a look nor a glance. But get me a musician." And then, while the musician was playing, the power of the LORD came on him. And he said, "Thus says the LORD, 'I will make this wadi full of pools.' For thus

10 says the LORD, 'You shall see neither wind nor rain, but the wadi shall be filled with water, so that you shall drink, you, your cattle, and your animals.' This is only a trifle in the sight of the LORD, for he will also hand Moab over to you. You shall conquer every fortified city and every choice city; every good tree you shall fell, all springs of water you shall stop up, and

15 every good piece of land you shall ruin with stones." The next day, about the time of the morning offering, suddenly water began to flow from the direction of Edom, until the country was filled with water. When all the Moabites heard that the kings had come up to fight against them, all who were able to put on armor, from the youngest to the oldest, were called out

20 and were drawn up at the frontier. When they rose early in the morning, and

the sun shone upon the water, the Moabites saw the water opposite them as red as blood. They said, "This is blood; the kings must have fought together, and killed one another. Now then, Moab, to the spoil!" But when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites rose up and attacked the Moabites, who  
5 fled before them; as they entered Moab they continued the attack. The cities they overturned, and on every good piece of land everyone threw a stone, until it was covered; every spring of water they stopped up, and every good tree they felled. Only at Kir-hareseth did the stone walls remain, until the slingers surrounded and attacked it. When the king of Moab saw that the  
10 battle was going against him, he took with him seven hundred swordsmen to break through, opposite the king of Edom; but they could not. Then he took his firstborn son who was to succeed him, and offered him as a burnt offering on the wall. And great wrath came upon Israel, so they withdrew from him and returned to their own land. Now the wife of a member of the  
15 company of prophets cried to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead; and you know that your servant feared the LORD, but a creditor has come to take my two children as slaves." Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" She answered, "Your servant has nothing in the house, except a jar of oil." He said, "Go outside, borrow  
20 vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not just a few. Then go



in, and shut the door behind you and your children, and start pouring into all these vessels; when each is full, set it aside." So she left him and shut the door behind her and her children; they kept bringing vessels to her, and she kept pouring. When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me  
5 another vessel." But he said to her, "There are no more." Then the oil stopped flowing. She came and told the man of God, and he said, "Go sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your children can live on the rest." One day Elisha was passing through Shunem, where a wealthy woman lived, who urged him to have a meal. So whenever he passed that way, he would  
10 stop there for a meal. She said to her husband, "Look, I am sure that this man who regularly passes our way is a holy man of God. Let us make a small roof chamber with walls, and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp, so that he can stay there whenever he comes to us." One day when he came there, he went up to the chamber and lay down there. He  
15 said to his servant Gehazi, "Call the Shunammite woman." When he had called her, she stood before him. He said to him, "Say to her, Since you have taken all this trouble for us, what may be done for you? Would you have a word spoken on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?" She answered, "I live among my own people." He said, "What then  
20 may be done for her?" Gehazi answered, "Well, she has no son, and her

husband is old." He said, "Call her." When he had called her, she stood at the door. He said, "At this season, in due time, you shall embrace a son." She replied, "No, my lord, O man of God; do not deceive your servant." The woman conceived and bore a son at that season, in due time, as Elisha

5 had declared to her. When the child was older, he went out one day to his father among the reapers. He complained to his father, "Oh, my head, my head!" The father said to his servant, "Carry him to his mother." He carried him and brought him to his mother; the child sat on her lap until noon, and he died. She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, closed

10 the door on him, and left. Then she called to her husband, and said, "Send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, so that I may quickly go to the man of God and come back again." He said, "Why go to him today? It is neither new moon nor sabbath." She said, "It will be all right." Then she saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Urge the animal on; do not

15 hold back for me unless I tell you." So she set out, and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. When the man of God saw her coming, he said to Gehazi his servant, "Look, there is the Shunammite woman; run at once to meet her, and say to her, Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is the child all right?" She answered, "It is all right." When she came to the

20 man of God at the mountain, she caught hold of his feet. Gehazi approached

to push her away. But the man of God said, "Let her alone, for she is in bitter distress; the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me." Then she said, "Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not say, Do not mislead me?" He said to Gehazi, "Gird up your loins, and take my staff in your hand, and

5 go. If you meet anyone, give no greeting, and if anyone greets you, do not answer; and lay my staff on the face of the child." Then the mother of the child said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave without you." So he rose up and followed her. Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the face of the child, but there was no sound or sign of

10 life. He came back to meet him and told him, "The child has not awakened." When Elisha came into the house, he saw the child lying dead on his bed. So he went in and closed the door on the two of them, and prayed to the LORD. Then he got up on the bed and lay upon the child, putting his mouth upon his mouth, his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands

15 upon his hands; and while he lay bent over him, the flesh of the child became warm. He got down, walked once to and fro in the room, then got up again and bent over him; the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite woman." So he called her. When she came to him, he said, "Take your son."

20 She came and fell at his feet, bowing to the ground; then she took her son

and left. When Elisha returned to Gilgal, there was a famine in the land. As the company of prophets was sitting before him, he said to his servant, "Put the large pot on, and make some stew for the company of prophets." One of them went out into the field to gather herbs; he found a wild vine and

5 gathered from it a lapful of wild gourds, and came and cut them up into the pot of stew, not knowing what they were. They served some for the men to eat. But while they were eating the stew, they cried out, "O man of God, there is death in the pot!" They could not eat it. He said, "Then bring some flour." He threw it into the pot, and said, "Serve the people and let them

10 eat." And there was nothing harmful in the pot. A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let

15 them eat, for thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and have some left.'" He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD. Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy.

20 Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive

from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said,

5 "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read,

"When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." When the king of Israel

10 read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me." But 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? Let him come to

15 me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman

became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely

20 come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would

wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and  
Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I  
not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But  
his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had  
5 commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How  
much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went  
down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word  
of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy,  
and he was clean. Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his  
10 company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there  
is no God in all the earth except in Israel; please accept a present from your  
servant." But he said, "As the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will accept  
nothing!" He urged him to accept, but he refused. Then Naaman said, "If  
not, please let two mule-loads of earth be given to your servant; for your  
15 servant will no longer offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god except the  
LORD. But may the LORD pardon your servant on one count: when my  
master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, leaning on my arm,  
and I bow down in the house of Rimmon, when I do bow down in the  
house of Rimmon, may the LORD pardon your servant on this one count."  
20 He said to him, "Go in peace." But when Naaman had gone from him a

short distance, Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, thought, "My master has let that Aramean Naaman off too lightly by not accepting from him what he offered. As the LORD lives, I will run after him and get something out of him." So Gehazi went after Naaman. When Naaman saw

5 someone running after him, he jumped down from the chariot to meet him and said, "Is everything all right?" He replied, "Yes, but my master has sent me to say, 'Two members of a company of prophets have just come to me from the hill country of Ephraim; please give them a talent of silver and two changes of clothing.'" Naaman said, "Please accept two talents." He urged

10 him, and tied up two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of clothing, and gave them to two of his servants, who carried them in front of Gehazi. When he came to the citadel, he took the bags from them, and stored them inside; he dismissed the men, and they left. He went in and stood before his master; and Elisha said to him, "Where have you been,

15 Gehazi?" He answered, "Your servant has not gone anywhere at all." But he said to him, "Did I not go with you in spirit when someone left his chariot to meet you? Is this a time to accept money and to accept clothing, olive orchards and vineyards, sheep and oxen, and male and female slaves? Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you, and to your descendants

20 forever." So he left his presence leprous, as white as snow. Now the

company of prophets said to Elisha, "As you see, the place where we live under your charge is too small for us. Let us go to the Jordan, and let us collect logs there, one for each of us, and build a place there for us to live."

He answered, "Do so." Then one of them said, "Please come with your

5 servants." And he answered, "I will." So he went with them. When they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees. But as one was felling a log, his ax head fell into the water; he cried out, "Alas, master! It was borrowed."

Then the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" When he showed him the place, he cut off a stick, and threw it in there, and made the iron float. He

10 said, "Pick it up." So he reached out his hand and took it. Once when the king of Aram was at war with Israel, he took counsel with his officers. He said, "At such and such a place shall be my camp." But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel, "Take care not to pass this place, because the Arameans are going down there." The king of Israel sent word to the

15 place of which the man of God spoke. More than once or twice he warned such a place so that it was on the alert. The mind of the king of Aram was greatly perturbed because of this; he called his officers and said to them, "Now tell me who among us sides with the king of Israel?" Then one of his officers said, "No one, my lord king. It is Elisha, the prophet in Israel, who

20 tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedchamber." He



said, "Go and find where he is; I will send and seize him." He was told,  
"He is in Dothan." So he sent horses and chariots there and a great army;  
they came by night, and surrounded the city. When an attendant of the man  
of God rose early in the morning and went out, an army with horses and  
5 chariots was all around the city. His servant said, "Alas, master! What shall  
we do?" He replied, "Do not be afraid, for there are more with us than there  
are with them." Then Elisha prayed: "O LORD, please open his eyes that he  
may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the servant, and he saw; the  
mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. When the  
10 Arameans came down against him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said,  
"Strike this people, please, with blindness." So he struck them with blindness  
as Elisha had asked. Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, and this is  
not the city; follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek."  
And he led them to Samaria. As soon as they entered Samaria, Elisha said,  
15 "O LORD, open the eyes of these men so that they may see." The LORD  
opened their eyes, and they saw that they were inside Samaria. When the  
king of Israel saw them he said to Elisha, "Father, shall I kill them? Shall I  
kill them?" He answered, "No! Did you capture with your sword and your  
bow those whom you want to kill? Set food and water before them so that  
20 they may eat and drink; and let them go to their master." So he prepared for

them a great feast; after they ate and drank, he sent them on their way, and they went to their master. And the Arameans no longer came raiding into the land of Israel. Some time later King Ben-hadad of Aram mustered his entire army; he marched against Samaria and laid siege to it. As the siege

5 continued, famine in Samaria became so great that a donkey's head was sold for eighty shekels of silver, and one-fourth of a kab of dove's dung for five shekels of silver. Now as the king of Israel was walking on the city wall, a woman cried out to him, "Help, my lord king!" He said, "No! Let the LORD help you. How can I help you? From the threshing floor or from the

10 wine press?" But then the king asked her, "What is your complaint?" She answered, "This woman said to me, 'Give up your son; we will eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.' So we cooked my son and ate him. The next day I said to her, 'Give up your son and we will eat him.' But she has hidden her son." When the king heard the words of the woman

15 he tore his clothes--now since he was walking on the city wall, the people could see that he had sackcloth on his body underneath-- and he said, "So may God do to me, and more, if the head of Elisha son of Shaphat stays on his shoulders today." So he dispatched a man from his presence. Now Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him. Before the

20 messenger arrived, Elisha said to the elders, "Are you aware that this

murderer has sent someone to take off my head? When the messenger comes, see that you shut the door and hold it closed against him. Is not the sound of his master's feet behind him?" While he was still speaking with them, the king came down to him and said, "This trouble is from the LORD! Why

5 should I hope in the LORD any longer?" But Elisha said, "Hear the word of the LORD: thus says the LORD, Tomorrow about this time a measure of choice meal shall be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria." Then the captain on whose hand the king

10 leaned said to the man of God, "Even if the LORD were to make windows in the sky, could such a thing happen?" But he said, "You shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat from it." Now there were four leprous men outside the city gate, who said to one another, "Why should we sit here until we die? If we say, 'Let us enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there; but if we sit here, we shall also die. Therefore, let us

15 desert to the Aramean camp; if they spare our lives, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die." So they arose at twilight to go to the Aramean camp; but when they came to the edge of the Aramean camp, there was no one there at all. For the Lord had caused the Aramean army to hear the sound of chariots, and of horses, the sound of a great army, so that they

20 said to one another, "The king of Israel has hired the kings of the Hittites

and the kings of Egypt to fight against us." So they fled away in the twilight and abandoned their tents, their horses, and their donkeys leaving the camp just as it was, and fled for their lives. When these leprous men had come to the edge of the camp, they went into a tent, ate and drank, carried  
5 off silver, gold, and clothing, and went and hid them. Then they came back, entered another tent, carried off things from it, and went and hid them. Then they said to one another, "What we are doing is wrong. This is a day of good news; if we are silent and wait until the morning light, we will be found guilty; therefore let us go and tell the king's household." So they came  
10 and called to the gatekeepers of the city, and told them, "We went to the Aramean camp, but there was no one to be seen or heard there, nothing but the horses tied, the donkeys tied, and the tents as they were." Then the gatekeepers called out and proclaimed it to the king's household. The king got up in the night, and said to his servants, "I will tell you what the  
15 Arameans have prepared against us. They know that we are starving; so they have left the camp to hide themselves in the open country, thinking, 'When they come out of the city, we shall take them alive and get into the city.'" One of his servants said, "Let some men take five of the remaining horses, since those left here will suffer the fate of the whole multitude of Israel that  
20 have perished already; let us send and find out." So they took two mounted

men, and the king sent them after the Aramean army, saying, "Go and find out." So they went after them as far as the Jordan; the whole way was littered with garments and equipment that the Arameans had thrown away in their haste. So the messengers returned, and told the king. Then the people

5 went out, and plundered the camp of the Arameans. So a measure of choice meal was sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD. Now the king had appointed the captain on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate; the people trampled him to death in the gate, just as the man of God had said when the king

10 came down to him. For when the man of God had said to the king, "Two measures of barley shall be sold for a shekel, and a measure of choice meal for a shekel, about this time tomorrow in the gate of Samaria," the captain had answered the man of God, "Even if the LORD were to make windows in the sky, could such a thing happen?" And he had answered, "You shall

15 see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat from it." It did indeed happen to him; the people trampled him to death in the gate. Now Elisha had said to the woman whose son he had restored to life, "Get up and go with your household, and settle wherever you can; for the LORD has called for a famine, and it will come on the land for seven years." So the woman

20 got up and did according to the word of the man of God; she went with her

household and settled in the land of the Philistines seven years. At the end of the seven years, when the woman returned from the land of the Philistines, she set out to appeal to the king for her house and her land. Now the king was talking with Gehazi the servant of the man of God,

5 saying, "Tell me all the great things that Elisha has done." While he was telling the king how Elisha had restored a dead person to life, the woman whose son he had restored to life appealed to the king for her house and her land. Gehazi said, "My lord king, here is the woman, and here is her son whom Elisha restored to life." When the king questioned the woman, she told

10 him. So the king appointed an official for her, saying, "Restore all that was hers, together with all the revenue of the fields from the day that she left the land until now." Elisha went to Damascus while King Ben-hadad of Aram was ill. When it was told him, "The man of God has come here," the king said to Hazael, "Take a present with you and go to meet the man of

15 God. Inquire of the LORD through him, whether I shall recover from this illness." So Hazael went to meet him, taking a present with him, all kinds of goods of Damascus, forty camel loads. When he entered and stood before him, he said, "Your son King Ben-hadad of Aram has sent me to you, saying, 'Shall I recover from this illness?'" Elisha said to him, "Go, say to

20 him, 'You shall certainly recover'; but the LORD has shown me that he shall

certainly die." He fixed his gaze and stared at him, until he was ashamed.

Then the man of God wept. Hazael asked, "Why does my lord weep?" He answered, "Because I know the evil that you will do to the people of Israel; you will set their fortresses on fire, you will kill their young men with the sword, dash in pieces their little ones, and rip up their pregnant women."

5 Hazael said, "What is your servant, who is a mere dog, that he should do this great thing?" Elisha answered, "The LORD has shown me that you are to be king over Aram." Then he left Elisha, and went to his master Ben-hadad, who said to him, "What did Elisha say to you?" And he answered,

10 "He told me that you would certainly recover." But the next day he took the bed-cover and dipped it in water and spread it over the king's face, until he died. And Hazael succeeded him. In the fifth year of King Joram son of Ahab of Israel, Jehoram son of King Jehoshaphat of Judah began to reign. He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight

15 years in Jerusalem. He walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. Yet the LORD would not destroy Judah, for the sake of his servant David, since he had promised to give a lamp to him and to his descendants forever. In his days Edom revolted

20 against the rule of Judah, and set up a king of their own. Then Joram

crossed over to Zair with all his chariots. He set out by night and attacked the Edomites and their chariot commanders who had surrounded him; but his army fled home. So Edom has been in revolt against the rule of Judah to this day. Libnah also revolted at the same time. Now the rest of the acts of

5 Joram, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Judah? So Joram slept with his ancestors, and was buried with them in the city of David; his son Ahaziah succeeded him. In the twelfth year of King Joram son of Ahab of Israel, Ahaziah son of King Jehoram of Judah began to reign. Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he

10 began to reign; he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athaliah, a granddaughter of King Omri of Israel. He also walked in the way of the house of Ahab, doing what was evil in the sight of the LORD, as the house of Ahab had done, for he was son-in-law to the house of Ahab. He went with Joram son of Ahab to wage war against King Hazael of Aram at

15 Ramoth-gilead, where the Arameans wounded Joram. King Joram returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds that the Arameans had inflicted on him at Ramah, when he fought against King Hazael of Aram. King Ahaziah son of Jehoram of Judah went down to see Joram son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was wounded. Then the prophet Elisha called a member of the

20 company of prophets and said to him, "Gird up your loins; take this flask of



oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth-gilead. When you arrive, look there for Jehu son of Jehoshaphat, son of Nimshi; go in and get him to leave his companions, and take him into an inner chamber. Then take the flask of oil, pour it on his head, and say, 'Thus says the LORD: I anoint you king over

5 Israel.' Then open the door and flee; do not linger." So the young man, the young prophet, went to Ramoth-gilead. He arrived while the commanders of the army were in council, and he announced, "I have a message for you, commander." "For which one of us?" asked Jehu. "For you, commander." So Jehu got up and went inside; the young man poured the oil on his head,

10 saying to him, "Thus says the LORD the God of Israel: I anoint you king over the people of the LORD, over Israel. You shall strike down the house of your master Ahab, so that I may avenge on Jezebel the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD. For the whole house of Ahab shall perish; I will cut off from Ahab every male,

15 bond or free, in Israel. I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha son of Ahijah. The dogs shall eat Jezebel in the territory of Jezreel, and no one shall bury her."

Then he opened the door and fled. When Jehu came back to his master's officers, they said to him, "Is everything all right? Why did that madman

20 come to you?" He answered them, "You know the sort and how they

babble." They said, "Liar! Come on, tell us!" So he said, "This is just what he said to me: 'Thus says the LORD, I anoint you king over Israel.'" Then hurriedly they all took their cloaks and spread them for him on the bare steps; and they blew the trumpet, and proclaimed, "Jehu is king." Thus Jehu

5 son of Jehoshaphat son of Nimshi conspired against Joram. Joram with all Israel had been on guard at Ramoth-gilead against King Hazael of Aram; but King Joram had returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds that the Arameans had inflicted on him, when he fought against King Hazael of Aram. So Jehu said, "If this is your wish, then let no one slip out of the

10 city to go and tell the news in Jezreel." Then Jehu mounted his chariot and went to Jezreel, where Joram was lying ill. King Ahaziah of Judah had come down to visit Joram. In Jezreel, the sentinel standing on the tower spied the company of Jehu arriving, and said, "I see a company." Joram said, "Take a horseman; send him to meet them, and let him say, 'Is it peace?'" So the

15 horseman went to meet him; he said, "Thus says the king, 'Is it peace?'" Jehu responded, "What have you to do with peace? Fall in behind me." The sentinel reported, saying, "The messenger reached them, but he is not coming back." Then he sent out a second horseman, who came to them and said, "Thus says the king, 'Is it peace?'" Jehu answered, "What have you to do

20 with peace? Fall in behind me." Again the sentinel reported, "He reached

them, but he is not coming back. It looks like the driving of Jehu son of Nimshi; for he drives like a maniac." Joram said, "Get ready." And they got his chariot ready. Then King Joram of Israel and King Ahaziah of Judah set out, each in his chariot, and went to meet Jehu; they met him at the

5 property of Naboth the Jezreelite. When Joram saw Jehu, he said, "Is it peace, Jehu?" He answered, "What peace can there be, so long as the many whoredoms and sorceries of your mother Jezebel continue?" Then Joram reined about and fled, saying to Ahaziah, "Treason, Ahaziah!" Jehu drew his bow with all his strength, and shot Joram between the shoulders, so that the

10 arrow pierced his heart; and he sank in his chariot. Jehu said to his aide Bidkar, "Lift him out, and throw him on the plot of ground belonging to Naboth the Jezreelite; for remember, when you and I rode side by side behind his father Ahab how the LORD uttered this oracle against him: 'For the blood of Naboth and for the blood of his children that I saw yesterday,

15 says the LORD, I swear I will repay you on this very plot of ground.' Now therefore lift him out and throw him on the plot of ground, in accordance with the word of the LORD." When King Ahaziah of Judah saw this, he fled in the direction of Beth-haggan. Jehu pursued him, saying, "Shoot him also!" And they shot him in the chariot at the ascent to Gur, which is by

20 Ibleam. Then he fled to Megiddo, and died there. His officers carried him in

a chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him in his tomb with his ancestors in the city of David. In the eleventh year of Joram son of Ahab, Ahaziah began to reign over Judah. When Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; she painted her eyes, and adorned her head, and looked out of the window. As

5 Jehu entered the gate, she said, "Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?" He looked up to the window and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" Two or three eunuchs looked out at him. He said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down; some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses, which trampled on her. Then he went in and ate and drank; he

10 said, "See to that cursed woman and bury her; for she is a king's daughter." But when they went to bury her, they found no more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands. When they came back and told him, he said, "This is the word of the LORD, which he spoke by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, 'In the territory of Jezreel the dogs shall eat the

15 flesh of Jezebel; the corpse of Jezebel shall be like dung on the field in the territory of Jezreel, so that no one can say, This is Jezebel.'" Now Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. So Jehu wrote letters and sent them to Samaria, to the rulers of Jezreel, to the elders, and to the guardians of the sons of Ahab, saying, "Since your master's sons are with you and you have at your disposal

20 chariots and horses, a fortified city, and weapons, select the son of your

master who is the best qualified, set him on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house." But they were utterly terrified and said, "Look, two kings could not withstand him; how then can we stand?" So the steward of the palace, and the governor of the city, along with the elders and the

5 guardians, sent word to Jehu: "We are your servants; we will do anything you say. We will not make anyone king; do whatever you think right." Then he wrote them a second letter, saying, "If you are on my side, and if you are ready to obey me, take the heads of your master's sons and come to me at Jezreel tomorrow at this time." Now the king's sons, seventy persons, were

10 with the leaders of the city, who were charged with their upbringing. When the letter reached them, they took the king's sons and killed them, seventy persons; they put their heads in baskets and sent them to him at Jezreel.

When the messenger came and told him, "They have brought the heads of the king's sons," he said, "Lay them in two heaps at the entrance of the gate

15 until the morning." Then in the morning when he went out, he stood and said to all the people, "You are innocent. It was I who conspired against my master and killed him; but who struck down all these? Know then that there shall fall to the earth nothing of the word of the LORD, which the LORD

20 spoke concerning the house of Ahab; for the LORD has done what he said through his servant Elijah." So Jehu killed all who were left of the house of

Ahab in Jezreel, all his leaders, close friends, and priests, until he left him no survivor. Then he set out and went to Samaria. On the way, when he was at Beth-eked of the Shepherds, Jehu met relatives of King Ahaziah of Judah and said, "Who are you?" They answered, "We are kin of Ahaziah; 5 we have come down to visit the royal princes and the sons of the queen mother." He said, "Take them alive." They took them alive, and slaughtered them at the pit of Beth-eked, forty-two in all; he spared none of them. When he left there, he met Jehonadab son of Rechab coming to meet him; he greeted him, and said to him, "Is your heart as true to mine as mine is to 10 yours?" Jehonadab answered, "It is." Jehu said, "If it is, give me your hand." So he gave him his hand. Jehu took him up with him into the chariot. He said, "Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD." So he had him ride in his chariot. When he came to Samaria, he killed all who were left to Ahab in Samaria, until he had wiped them out, according to the word of the 15 LORD that he spoke to Elijah. Then Jehu assembled all the people and said to them, "Ahab offered Baal small service; but Jehu will offer much more. Now therefore summon to me all the prophets of Baal, all his worshipers, and all his priests; let none be missing, for I have a great sacrifice to offer to Baal; whoever is missing shall not live." But Jehu was acting with 20 cunning in order to destroy the worshipers of Baal. Jehu decreed, "Sanctify a

solemn assembly for Baal." So they proclaimed it. Jehu sent word throughout all Israel; all the worshipers of Baal came, so that there was no one left who did not come. They entered the temple of Baal, until the temple of Baal was filled from wall to wall. He said to the keeper of the wardrobe, "Bring  
5 out the vestments for all the worshipers of Baal." So he brought out the vestments for them. Then Jehu entered the temple of Baal with Jehonadab son of Rechab; he said to the worshipers of Baal, "Search and see that there is no worshiper of the LORD here among you, but only worshipers of Baal." Then they proceeded to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings. Now Jehu had  
10 stationed eighty men outside, saying, "Whoever allows any of those to escape whom I deliver into your hands shall forfeit his life." As soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, Jehu said to the guards and to the officers, "Come in and kill them; let no one escape." So they put them to the sword. The guards and the officers threw them out, and then went into  
15 the citadel of the temple of Baal. They brought out the pillar that was in the temple of Baal, and burned it. Then they demolished the pillar of Baal, and destroyed the temple of Baal, and made it a latrine to this day. Thus Jehu wiped out Baal from Israel. But Jehu did not turn aside from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he caused Israel to commit--the golden calves  
20 that were in Bethel and in Dan. The LORD said to Jehu, "Because you have

done well in carrying out what I consider right, and in accordance with all that was in my heart have dealt with the house of Ahab, your sons of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel." But Jehu was not careful to follow the law of the LORD the God of Israel with all his heart; he did

5 not turn from the sins of Jeroboam, which he caused Israel to commit. In those days the LORD began to trim off parts of Israel. Hazael defeated them throughout the territory of Israel: from the Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, the Reubenites, and the Manassites, from Aroer, which is by the Wadi Arnon, that is, Gilead and Bashan. Now the rest of the acts of

10 Jehu, all that he did, and all his power, are they not written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Israel? So Jehu slept with his ancestors, and they buried him in Samaria. His son Jehoahaz succeeded him. The time that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was twenty-eight years. Now when Athaliah, Ahaziah's mother, saw that her son was dead, she set about to destroy all the

15 royal family. But Jehosheba, King Joram's daughter, Ahaziah's sister, took Joash son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's children who were about to be killed; she put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Thus she hid him from Athaliah, so that he was not killed; he remained with her six years, hidden in the house of the LORD, while Athaliah reigned over the

20 land. But in the seventh year Jehoiada summoned the captains of the Carites



and of the guards and had them come to him in the house of the LORD.

He made a covenant with them and put them under oath in the house of the LORD; then he showed them the king's son. He commanded them, "This is what you are to do: one-third of you, those who go off duty on the sabbath

5 and guard the king's house (another third being at the gate Sur and a third at the gate behind the guards), shall guard the palace; and your two divisions that come on duty in force on the sabbath and guard the house of the LORD shall surround the king, each with weapons in hand; and whoever approaches the ranks is to be killed. Be with the king in his comings and

10 goings." The captains did according to all that the priest Jehoiada commanded; each brought his men who were to go off duty on the sabbath, with those who were to come on duty on the sabbath, and came to the priest Jehoiada. The priest delivered to the captains the spears and shields that had been King David's, which were in the house of the LORD; the

15 guards stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, from the south side of the house to the north side of the house, around the altar and the house, to guard the king on every side. Then he brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, and gave him the covenant; they proclaimed him king, and anointed him; they clapped their hands and shouted, "Long live the king!"

20 When Athaliah heard the noise of the guard and of the people, she went into

the house of the LORD to the people; when she looked, there was the king standing by the pillar, according to custom, with the captains and the trumpeters beside the king, and all the people of the land rejoicing and blowing trumpets. Athaliah tore her clothes and cried, "Treason! Treason!"

5 Then the priest Jehoiada commanded the captains who were set over the army, "Bring her out between the ranks, and kill with the sword anyone who follows her." For the priest said, "Let her not be killed in the house of the LORD." So they laid hands on her; she went through the horses' entrance to the king's house, and there she was put to death. Jehoiada made a covenant

10 between the LORD and the king and people, that they should be the Lord's people; also between the king and the people. Then all the people of the land went to the house of Baal, and tore it down; his altars and his images they broke in pieces, and they killed Mattan, the priest of Baal, before the altars. The priest posted guards over the house of the LORD. He took the

15 captains, the Carites, the guards, and all the people of the land; then they brought the king down from the house of the LORD, marching through the gate of the guards to the king's house. He took his seat on the throne of the kings. So all the people of the land rejoiced; and the city was quiet after Athaliah had been killed with the sword at the king's house. Jehoash was

20 seven years old when he began to reign. In the seventh year of Jehu,

Jehoash began to reign; he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beer-sheba. Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all his days, because the priest Jehoiada instructed him.

Nevertheless the high places were not taken away; the people continued to

5 sacrifice and make offerings on the high places. Jehoash said to the priests, "All the money offered as sacred donations that is brought into the house of the LORD, the money for which each person is assessed--the money from the assessment of persons--and the money from the voluntary offerings brought into the house of the LORD, let the priests receive from each of the

10 donors; and let them repair the house wherever any need of repairs is discovered." But by the twenty-third year of King Jehoash the priests had made no repairs on the house. Therefore King Jehoash summoned the priest Jehoiada with the other priests and said to them, "Why are you not repairing the house? Now therefore do not accept any more money from your donors

15 but hand it over for the repair of the house." So the priests agreed that they would neither accept more money from the people nor repair the house. Then the priest Jehoiada took a chest, made a hole in its lid, and set it beside the altar on the right side as one entered the house of the LORD; the priests who guarded the threshold put in it all the money that was brought into the

20 house of the LORD. Whenever they saw that there was a great deal of

money in the chest, the king's secretary and the high priest went up, counted the money that was found in the house of the LORD, and tied it up in bags. They would give the money that was weighed out into the hands of the workers who had the oversight of the house of the LORD; then they

5 paid it out to the carpenters and the builders who worked on the house of the LORD, to the masons and the stonecutters, as well as to buy timber and quarried stone for making repairs on the house of the LORD, as well as for any outlay for repairs of the house. But for the house of the LORD no basins of silver, snuffers, bowls, trumpets, or any vessels of gold, or of

10 silver, were made from the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, for that was given to the workers who were repairing the house of the LORD with it. They did not ask an accounting from those into whose hand they delivered the money to pay out to the workers, for they dealt honestly. The money from the guilt offerings and the money from the sin

15 offerings was not brought into the house of the LORD; it belonged to the priests. At that time King Hazael of Aram went up, fought against Gath, and took it. But when Hazael set his face to go up against Jerusalem, King Jehoash of Judah took all the votive gifts that Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, and Ahaziah, his ancestors, the kings of Judah, had dedicated, as well as his own

20 votive gifts, all the gold that was found in the treasuries of the house of the

LORD and of the king's house, and sent these to King Hazael of Aram.

Then Hazael withdrew from Jerusalem. Now the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Judah? His servants arose, devised a conspiracy, and killed Joash in

5 the house of Millo, on the way that goes down to Silla. It was Jozacar son of Shimeath and Jehozabad son of Shomer, his servants, who struck him down, so that he died. He was buried with his ancestors in the city of David; then his son Amaziah succeeded him. In the twenty-third year of King Joash son of Ahaziah of Judah, Jehoahaz son of Jehu began to reign

10 over Israel in Samaria; he reigned seventeen years. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and followed the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he caused Israel to sin; he did not depart from them. The anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, so that he gave them repeatedly into the hand of King Hazael of Aram, then into the hand of Ben-hadad son of

15 Hazael. But Jehoahaz entreated the LORD, and the LORD heeded him; for he saw the oppression of Israel, how the king of Aram oppressed them.

Therefore the LORD gave Israel a savior, so that they escaped from the hand of the Arameans; and the people of Israel lived in their homes as formerly.

Nevertheless they did not depart from the sins of the house of Jeroboam,

20 which he caused Israel to sin, but walked in them; the sacred pole also

remained in Samaria. So Jehoahaz was left with an army of not more than fifty horsemen, ten chariots and ten thousand footmen; for the king of Aram had destroyed them and made them like the dust at threshing. Now the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz and all that he did, including his might, are they not

5 written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Israel? So Jehoahaz slept with his ancestors, and they buried him in Samaria; then his son Joash succeeded him. In the thirty-seventh year of King Joash of Judah, Jehoash son of Jehoahaz began to reign over Israel in Samaria; he reigned sixteen years. He also did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not

10 depart from all the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he caused Israel to sin, but he walked in them. Now the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, as well as the might with which he fought against King Amaziah of Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Israel? So Joash slept with his ancestors, and Jeroboam sat upon his throne;

15 Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. Now when Elisha had fallen sick with the illness of which he was to die, King Joash of Israel went down to him, and wept before him, crying, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and arrows"; so he took a bow and arrows. Then he said to the king of Israel,

20 "Draw the bow"; and he drew it. Elisha laid his hands on the king's hands.

Then he said, "Open the window eastward"; and he opened it. Elisha said, "Shoot"; and he shot. Then he said, "The Lord's arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Aram! For you shall fight the Arameans in Aphek until you have made an end of them." He continued, "Take the arrows"; and he took  
5 them. He said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground with them"; he struck three times, and stopped. Then the man of God was angry with him, and said, "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck down Aram until you had made an end of it, but now you will strike down Aram only three times." So Elisha died, and they buried him. Now bands of  
10 Moabites used to invade the land in the spring of the year. As a man was being buried, a marauding band was seen and the man was thrown into the grave of Elisha; as soon as the man touched the bones of Elisha, he came to life and stood on his feet. Now King Hazael of Aram oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz. But the LORD was gracious to them and had  
15 compassion on them; he turned toward them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them; nor has he banished them from his presence until now. When King Hazael of Aram died, his son Ben-hadad succeeded him. Then Jehoash son of Jehoahaz took again from Ben-hadad son of Hazael the towns that he had taken from his father  
20 Jehoahaz in war. Three times Joash defeated him and recovered the towns of

Israel. In the second year of King Joash son of Joahaz of Israel, King  
Amaziah son of Joash of Judah, began to reign. He was twenty-five years  
old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem.  
His mother's name was Jehoaddin of Jerusalem. He did what was right in the  
5 sight of the LORD, yet not like his ancestor David; in all things he did as  
his father Joash had done. But the high places were not removed; the people  
still sacrificed and made offerings on the high places. As soon as the royal  
power was firmly in his hand he killed his servants who had murdered his  
father the king. But he did not put to death the children of the murderers;  
10 according to what is written in the book of the law of Moses, where the  
LORD commanded, "The parents shall not be put to death for the children,  
or the children be put to death for the parents; but all shall be put to death  
for their own sins." He killed ten thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt  
and took Sela by storm; he called it Jokthe-el, which is its name to this day.  
15 Then Amaziah sent messengers to King Jehoash son of Jehoahaz, son of  
Jehu, of Israel, saying, "Come, let us look one another in the face." King  
Jehoash of Israel sent word to King Amaziah of Judah, "A thorn bush on  
Lebanon sent to a cedar on Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son  
for a wife'; but a wild animal of Lebanon passed by and trampled down the  
20 thorn bush. You have indeed defeated Edom, and your heart has lifted you



up. Be content with your glory, and stay at home; for why should you  
provoke trouble so that you fall, you and Judah with you?" But Amaziah  
would not listen. So King Jehoash of Israel went up; he and King Amaziah  
of Judah faced one another in battle at Beth-shemesh, which belongs to  
5 Judah. Judah was defeated by Israel; everyone fled home. King Jehoash of  
Israel captured King Amaziah of Judah son of Jehoash, son of Ahaziah, at  
Beth-shemesh; he came to Jerusalem, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem  
from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate, a distance of four hundred  
cubits. He seized all the gold and silver, and all the vessels that were found  
10 in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the king's house, as well  
as hostages; then he returned to Samaria. Now the rest of the acts that  
Jehoash did, his might, and how he fought with King Amaziah of Judah, are  
they not written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Israel? Jehoash  
slept with his ancestors, and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel;  
15 then his son Jeroboam succeeded him. King Amaziah son of Joash of Judah  
lived fifteen years after the death of King Jehoash son of Jehoahaz of Israel.  
Now the rest of the deeds of Amaziah, are they not written in the Book of  
the Annals of the Kings of Judah? They made a conspiracy against him in  
Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish. But they sent after him to Lachish, and  
20 killed him there. They brought him on horses; he was buried in Jerusalem

with his ancestors in the city of David. All the people of Judah took  
Azariah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king to succeed his  
father Amaziah. He rebuilt Elath and restored it to Judah, after King  
Amaziah slept with his ancestors. In the fifteenth year of King Amaziah son  
5 of Joash of Judah, King Jeroboam son of Joash of Israel began to reign in  
Samaria; he reigned forty-one years. He did what was evil in the sight of the  
LORD; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which  
he caused Israel to sin. He restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath as  
far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD, the God  
10 of Israel, which he spoke by his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet,  
who was from Gath-hepher. For the LORD saw that the distress of Israel  
was very bitter; there was no one left, bond or free, and no one to help  
Israel. But the LORD had not said that he would blot out the name of Israel  
from under heaven, so he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam son of Joash.  
15 Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, and all that he did, and his might,  
how he fought, and how he recovered for Israel Damascus and Hamath,  
which had belonged to Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Annals  
of the Kings of Israel? Jeroboam slept with his ancestors, the kings of Israel;  
his son Zechariah succeeded him. In the twenty-seventh year of King  
20 Jeroboam of Israel King Azariah son of Amaziah of Judah began to reign.

He was sixteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. He did what was right in the sight of the LORD, just as his father Amaziah had done. Nevertheless the high places were not taken away; the people still

5 sacrificed and made offerings on the high places. The LORD struck the king, so that he was leprous to the day of his death, and lived in a separate house. Jotham the king's son was in charge of the palace, governing the people of the land. Now the rest of the acts of Azariah, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Judah?

10 Azariah slept with his ancestors; they buried him with his ancestors in the city of David; his son Jotham succeeded him. In the thirty-eighth year of King Azariah of Judah, Zechariah son of Jeroboam reigned over Israel in Samaria six months. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, as his ancestors had done. He did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam son of

15 Nebat, which he caused Israel to sin. Shallum son of Jabesh conspired against him, and struck him down in public and killed him, and reigned in place of him. Now the rest of the deeds of Zechariah are written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Israel. This was the promise of the LORD that he gave to Jehu, "Your sons shall sit on the throne of Israel to

20 the fourth generation." And so it happened. Shallum son of Jabesh began to

reign in the thirty-ninth year of King Uzziah of Judah; he reigned one month in Samaria. Then Menahem son of Gadi came up from Tirzah and came to Samaria; he struck down Shallum son of Jabesh in Samaria and killed him; he reigned in place of him. Now the rest of the deeds of Shallum, including

5 the conspiracy that he made, are written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Israel. At that time Menahem sacked Tiphsah, all who were in it and its territory from Tirzah on; because they did not open it to him, he sacked it. He ripped open all the pregnant women in it. In the thirty-ninth year of King Azariah of Judah, Menahem son of Gadi began to reign over

10 Israel; he reigned ten years in Samaria. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart all his days from any of the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he caused Israel to sin. King Pul of Assyria came against the land; Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver, so that he might help him confirm his hold on the royal power. Menahem exacted the

15 money from Israel, that is, from all the wealthy, fifty shekels of silver from each one, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and did not stay there in the land. Now the rest of the deeds of Menahem, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Israel? Menahem slept with his ancestors, and his

20 son Pekahiah succeeded him. In the fiftieth year of King Azariah of Judah,

Pekahiah son of Menahem began to reign over Israel in Samaria; he reigned two years. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he caused Israel to sin. Pekah son of Remaliah, his captain, conspired against him with fifty of the

5 Gileadites, and attacked him in Samaria, in the citadel of the palace along with Argob and Arieah; he killed him, and reigned in place of him. Now the rest of the deeds of Pekahiah, and all that he did, are written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Israel. In the fifty-second year of King Azariah of Judah, Pekah son of Remaliah began to reign over Israel in Samaria; he

10 reigned twenty years. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he caused Israel to sin. In the days of King Pekah of Israel, King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria came and captured Ijon, Abel-beth-maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali; and he carried the people

15 captive to Assyria. Then Hoshea son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah son of Remaliah, attacked him, and killed him; he reigned in place of him, in the twentieth year of Jotham son of Uzziah. Now the rest of the acts of Pekah, and all that he did, are written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Israel. In the second year of King Pekah son of Remaliah of Israel,

20 King Jotham son of Uzziah of Judah began to reign. He was twenty-five

years old when he began to reign and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jerusha daughter of Zadok. He did what was right in the sight of the LORD, just as his father Uzziah had done. Nevertheless the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and made offerings on

5 the high places. He built the upper gate of the house of the LORD. Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Judah? In those days the LORD began to send King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah against Judah.

Jotham slept with his ancestors, and was buried with his ancestors in the city

10 of David, his ancestor; his son Ahaz succeeded him. In the seventeenth year of Pekah son of Remaliah, King Ahaz son of Jotham of Judah began to reign. Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign; he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. He did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD his God, as his ancestor David had done, but he walked in the way of the

15 kings of Israel. He even made his son pass through fire, according to the abominable practices of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel. He sacrificed and made offerings on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree. Then King Rezin of Aram and King Pekah son of Remaliah of Israel came up to wage war on Jerusalem; they besieged

20 Ahaz but could not conquer him. At that time the king of Edom recovered

Elath for Edom, and drove the Judeans from Elath; and the Edomites came to Elath, where they live to this day. Ahaz sent messengers to King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria, saying, "I am your servant and your son. Come up, and rescue me from the hand of the king of Aram and from the hand of the

5 king of Israel, who are attacking me." Ahaz also took the silver and gold found in the house of the LORD and in the treasures of the king's house, and sent a present to the king of Assyria. The king of Assyria listened to him; the king of Assyria marched up against Damascus, and took it, carrying its people captive to Kir; then he killed Rezin. When King Ahaz went to

10 Damascus to meet King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria, he saw the altar that was at Damascus. King Ahaz sent to the priest Uriah a model of the altar, and its pattern, exact in all its details. The priest Uriah built the altar; in accordance with all that King Ahaz had sent from Damascus, just so did the priest Uriah build it, before King Ahaz arrived from Damascus. When the

15 king came from Damascus, the king viewed the altar. Then the king drew near to the altar, went up on it, and offered his burnt offering and his grain offering, poured his drink offering, and dashed the blood of his offerings of well-being against the altar. The bronze altar that was before the LORD he removed from the front of the house, from the place between his altar and

20 the house of the LORD, and put it on the north side of his altar. King Ahaz

commanded the priest Uriah, saying, "Upon the great altar offer the morning burnt offering, and the evening grain offering, and the king's burnt offering, and his grain offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, their grain offering, and their drink offering; then dash against it all the

5 blood of the burnt offering, and all the blood of the sacrifice; but the bronze altar shall be for me to inquire by." The priest Uriah did everything that King Ahaz commanded. Then King Ahaz cut off the frames of the stands, and removed the laver from them; he removed the sea from the bronze oxen that were under it, and put it on a pediment of stone. The covered portal for

10 use on the sabbath that had been built inside the palace, and the outer entrance for the king he removed from the house of the LORD. He did this because of the king of Assyria. Now the rest of the acts of Ahaz that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Judah? Ahaz slept with his ancestors, and was buried with his ancestors in the city

15 of David; his son Hezekiah succeeded him. In the twelfth year of King Ahaz of Judah, Hoshea son of Elah began to reign in Samaria over Israel; he reigned nine years. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, yet not like the kings of Israel who were before him. King Shalmaneser of Assyria came up against him; Hoshea became his vassal, and paid him tribute. But

20 the king of Assyria found treachery in Hoshea; for he had sent messengers



to King So of Egypt, and offered no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year; therefore the king of Assyria confined him and imprisoned him. Then the king of Assyria invaded all the land and came to Samaria; for three years he besieged it. In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria captured Samaria; he carried the Israelites away to Assyria. He placed them in Halah, on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. This occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They had worshiped other gods and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had introduced. The people of Israel secretly did things that were not right against the LORD their God. They built for themselves high places at all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city; they set up for themselves pillars and sacred poles on every high hill and under every green tree; there they made offerings on all the high places, as the nations did whom the LORD carried away before them. They did wicked things, provoking the LORD to anger; they served idols, of which the LORD had said to them, "You shall not do this." Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep my

commandments and my statutes, in accordance with all the law that I  
commanded your ancestors and that I sent to you by my servants the  
prophets." They would not listen but were stubborn, as their ancestors had  
been, who did not believe in the LORD their God. They despised his  
5 statutes, and his covenant that he made with their ancestors, and the warnings  
that he gave them. They went after false idols and became false; they  
followed the nations that were around them, concerning whom the LORD had  
commanded them that they should not do as they did. They rejected all the  
commandments of the LORD their God and made for themselves cast images  
10 of two calves; they made a sacred pole, worshiped all the host of heaven,  
and served Baal. They made their sons and their daughters pass through fire;  
they used divination and augury; and they sold themselves to do evil in the  
sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger. Therefore the LORD was very  
angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight; none was left but the  
15 tribe of Judah alone. Judah also did not keep the commandments of the  
LORD their God but walked in the customs that Israel had introduced. The  
LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel; he punished them and gave  
them into the hand of plunderers, until he had banished them from his  
presence. When he had torn Israel from the house of David, they made  
20 Jeroboam son of Nebat king. Jeroboam drove Israel from following the

LORD and made them commit great sin. The people of Israel continued in all the sins that Jeroboam committed; they did not depart from them until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had foretold through all his servants the prophets. So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria

5 until this day. The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria in place of the people of Israel; they took possession of Samaria, and settled in its cities. When they first settled there, they did not worship the LORD; therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which killed some of them. So

10 the king of Assyria was told, "The nations that you have carried away and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the law of the god of the land; therefore he has sent lions among them; they are killing them, because they do not know the law of the god of the land." Then the king of Assyria commanded, "Send there one of the priests whom you carried away from

15 there; let him go and live there, and teach them the law of the god of the land." So one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and lived in Bethel; he taught them how they should worship the LORD. But every nation still made gods of its own and put them in the shrines of the high places that the people of Samaria had made, every nation in the cities

20 in which they lived; the people of Babylon made Succoth-benoth, the people

of Cuth made Nergal, the people of Hamath made Ashima; the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak; the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. They also worshiped the LORD and appointed from among themselves all sorts of people as

5 priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places. So they worshiped the LORD but also served their own gods, after the manner of the nations from among whom they had been carried away. To this day they continue to practice their former customs. They do not worship the LORD and they do not follow the statutes or the ordinances or

10 the law or the commandment that the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel. The LORD had made a covenant with them and commanded them, "You shall not worship other gods or bow yourselves to them or serve them or sacrifice to them, but you shall worship the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt with great power and

15 with an outstretched arm; you shall bow yourselves to him, and to him you shall sacrifice. The statutes and the ordinances and the law and the commandment that he wrote for you, you shall always be careful to observe. You shall not worship other gods; you shall not forget the covenant that I have made with you. You shall not worship other gods, but you shall

20 worship the LORD your God; he will deliver you out of the hand of all

your enemies." They would not listen, however, but they continued to  
 practice their former custom. So these nations worshiped the LORD, but also  
 served their carved images; to this day their children and their children's  
 children continue to do as their ancestors did. In the third year of King  
 5 Hoshea son of Elah of Israel, Hezekiah son of King Ahaz of Judah began to  
 reign. He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign; he reigned  
 twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi daughter of  
 Zechariah. He did what was right in the sight of the LORD just as his  
 ancestor David had done. He removed the high places, broke down the  
 10 pillars, and cut down the sacred pole. He broke in pieces the bronze serpent  
 that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made  
 offerings to it; it was called Nehushtan. He trusted in the LORD the God of  
 Israel; so that there was no one like him among all the kings of Judah after  
 him, or among those who were before him. For he held fast to the LORD;  
 15 he did not depart from following him but kept the commandments that the  
 LORD commanded Moses. The LORD was with him; wherever he went, he  
 prospered. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him.  
 He attacked the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower  
 to fortified city. In the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh  
 20 year of King Hoshea son of Elah of Israel, King Shalmaneser of Assyria

came up against Samaria, besieged it, and at the end of three years, took it.

In the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of King Hoshea of Israel, Samaria was taken. The king of Assyria carried the Israelites away to Assyria, settled them in Halah, on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the

5 cities of the Medes, because they did not obey the voice of the LORD their God but transgressed his covenant--all that Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded; they neither listened nor obeyed. In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, King Sennacherib of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. King Hezekiah of Judah sent to the king

10 of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I have done wrong; withdraw from me; whatever you impose on me I will bear." The king of Assyria demanded of King Hezekiah of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the king's house. At that time Hezekiah

15 stripped the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the doorposts that King Hezekiah of Judah had overlaid and gave it to the king of Assyria. The king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the Rab-saris, and the Rabshakeh with a great army from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem.

They went up and came to Jerusalem. When they arrived, they came and

20 stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is on the highway to the

Fuller's Field. When they called for the king, there came out to them Eliakim son of Hilkiah, who was in charge of the palace, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph, the recorder. The Rabshakeh said to them, "Say to Hezekiah: Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: On what do you

5 base this confidence of yours? Do you think that mere words are strategy and power for war? On whom do you now rely, that you have rebelled against me? See, you are relying now on Egypt, that broken reed of a staff, which will pierce the hand of anyone who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who rely on him. But if you say to me, 'We rely on the

10 LORD our God,' is it not he whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem, 'You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem'? Come now, make a wager with my master the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses, if you are able on your part to set riders on them. How then can you repulse a single captain among the

15 least of my master's servants, when you rely on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen? Moreover, is it without the LORD that I have come up against this place to destroy it? The LORD said to me, Go up against this land, and destroy it." Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah, and Shebna, and Joah said to the Rabshakeh, "Please speak to your servants in the Aramaic language, for we

20 understand it; do not speak to us in the language of Judah within the hearing

of the people who are on the wall." But the Rabshakeh said to them, "Has my master sent me to speak these words to your master and to you, and not to the people sitting on the wall, who are doomed with you to eat their own dung and to drink their own urine?" Then the Rabshakeh stood and called

5 out in a loud voice in the language of Judah, "Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria! Thus says the king: 'Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you out of my hand. Do not let Hezekiah make you rely on the LORD by saying, The LORD will surely deliver us, and this city will not be given into the hand of the king of

10 Assyria.' Do not listen to Hezekiah; for thus says the king of Assyria: 'Make your peace with me and come out to me; then every one of you will eat from your own vine and your own fig tree, and drink water from your own cistern, until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive oil

15 and honey, that you may live and not die. Do not listen to Hezekiah when he misleads you by saying, The LORD will deliver us. Has any of the gods of the nations ever delivered its land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand?

20 Who among all the gods of the countries have delivered their countries out



of my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?" But the people were silent and answered him not a word, for the king's command was, "Do not answer him." Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah, who was in charge of the palace, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph, the recorder, 5 came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn and told him the words of the Rabshakeh. When King Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD. And he sent Eliakim, who was in charge of the palace, and Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz. 10 They said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah, This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to the birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth. It may be that the LORD your God heard all the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the LORD your God 15 has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left." When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah, Isaiah said to them, "Say to your master, 'Thus says the LORD: Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have reviled me. I myself will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor 20 and return to his own land; I will cause him to fall by the sword in his

own land.'" The Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah; for he had heard that the king had left Lachish. When the king heard concerning King Tirhakah of Ethiopia, "See, he has set out to fight against you," he sent messengers again to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus shall

5 you speak to King Hezekiah of Judah: Do not let your God on whom you rely deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria. See, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, destroying them utterly. Shall you be delivered? Have the gods of the nations delivered them, the nations that my predecessors

10 destroyed, Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar? Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, the king of Hena, or the king of Ivvah?" Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it; then Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD and spread it before the

15 LORD. And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: "O LORD the God of Israel, who are enthroned above the cherubim, you are God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. Incline your ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see; hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God.

20 Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their

lands, and have hurled their gods into the fire, though they were no gods but the work of human hands--wood and stone--and so they were destroyed. So now, O LORD our God, save us, I pray you, from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O LORD, are God alone." Then

5   Isaiah son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I have heard your prayer to me about King Sennacherib of Assyria. This is the word that the LORD has spoken concerning him: She despises you, she scorns you-- virgin daughter Zion; she tosses her head-- behind your back, daughter Jerusalem. Whom have you mocked and reviled?

10   Against whom have you raised your voice and haughtily lifted your eyes? Against the Holy One of Israel! By your messengers you have mocked the Lord, and you have said, 'With my many chariots I have gone up the heights of the mountains, to the far recesses of Lebanon; I felled its tallest cedars, its choicest cypresses; I entered its farthest retreat, its densest forest. I dug

15   wells and drank foreign waters, I dried up with the sole of my foot all the streams of Egypt.' Have you not heard that I determined it long ago? I planned from days of old what now I bring to pass, that you should make fortified cities crash into heaps of ruins, while their inhabitants, shorn of strength, are dismayed and confounded; they have become like plants of the

20   field and like tender grass, like grass on the housetops, blighted before it is

grown. "But I know your rising and your sitting, your going out and coming in, and your raging against me. Because you have raged against me and your arrogance has come to my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bit in your mouth; I will turn you back on the way by which you came. "And

5 this shall be the sign for you: This year you shall eat what grows of itself, and in the second year what springs from that; then in the third year sow, reap, plant vineyards, and eat their fruit. The surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward; for from Jerusalem a remnant shall go out, and from Mount Zion a band of survivors.

10 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. "Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city, shoot an arrow there, come before it with a shield, or cast up a siege-ramp against it. By the way that he came, by the same he shall return; he shall not come into this city, says the LORD. For I will defend this city to save it, for my

15 own sake and for the sake of my servant David." That very night the angel of the LORD set out and struck down one hundred eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians; when morning dawned, they were all dead bodies. Then King Sennacherib of Assyria left, went home, and lived at Nineveh. As he was worshiping in the house of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech

20 and Sharezer killed him with the sword, and they escaped into the land of

Ararat. His son Esar-haddon succeeded him. In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz came to him, and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: Set your house in order, for you shall die; you shall not recover." Then Hezekiah turned his face to the

5 wall and prayed to the LORD: "Remember now, O LORD, I implore you, how I have walked before you in faithfulness with a whole heart, and have done what is good in your sight." Hezekiah wept bitterly. Before Isaiah had gone out of the middle court, the word of the LORD came to him: "Turn back, and say to Hezekiah prince of my people, Thus says the LORD, the

10 God of your ancestor David: I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; indeed, I will heal you; on the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD. I will add fifteen years to your life. I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; I will defend this city for my own sake and for my servant David's sake." Then Isaiah said, "Bring a

15 lump of figs. Let them take it and apply it to the boil, so that he may recover." Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "What shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up to the house of the LORD on the third day?" Isaiah said, "This is the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he has promised: the shadow has now advanced ten

20 intervals; shall it retreat ten intervals?" Hezekiah answered, "It is normal for

the shadow to lengthen ten intervals; rather let the shadow retreat ten intervals." The prophet Isaiah cried to the LORD; and he brought the shadow back the ten intervals, by which the sun had declined on the dial of Ahaz.

At that time King Merodach-baladan son of Baladan of Babylon sent envoys

5 with letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick. Hezekiah welcomed them; he showed them all his treasure house, the silver, the gold, the spices, the precious oil, his armory, all that was found in his storehouses; there was nothing in his house or in all his realm that Hezekiah did not show them. Then the prophet Isaiah came to King

10 Hezekiah, and said to him, "What did these men say? From where did they come to you?" Hezekiah answered, "They have come from a far country, from Babylon." He said, "What have they seen in your house?" Hezekiah answered, "They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing in my storehouses that I did not show them." Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear

15 the word of the LORD: Days are coming when all that is in your house, and that which your ancestors have stored up until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left, says the LORD. Some of your own sons who are born to you shall be taken away; they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon." Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of

20 the LORD that you have spoken is good." For he thought, "Why not, if

there will be peace and security in my days?" The rest of the deeds of Hezekiah, all his power, how he made the pool and the conduit and brought water into the city, are they not written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Judah? Hezekiah slept with his ancestors; and his son Manasseh

5 succeeded him. Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign; he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hephzibah. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, following the abominable practices of the nations that the LORD drove out before the people of Israel. For he rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he

10 erected altars for Baal, made a sacred pole, as King Ahab of Israel had done, worshiped all the host of heaven, and served them. He built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem I will put my name." He built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. He made his son pass through fire; he practiced

15 soothsaying and augury, and dealt with mediums and with wizards. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger. The carved image of Asherah that he had made he set in the house of which the LORD said to David and to his son Solomon, "In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my name

20 forever; I will not cause the feet of Israel to wander any more out of the

land that I gave to their ancestors, if only they will be careful to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded them." But they did not listen; Manasseh misled them to do more evil than the nations had done that the LORD

5 destroyed before the people of Israel. The LORD said by his servants the prophets, "Because King Manasseh of Judah has committed these abominations, has done things more wicked than all that the Amorites did, who were before him, and has caused Judah also to sin with his idols; therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, I am bringing upon

10 Jerusalem and Judah such evil that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle. I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line for Samaria, and the plummet for the house of Ahab; I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down. I will cast off the remnant of my heritage, and give them into the hand of their enemies; they shall become a

15 prey and a spoil to all their enemies, because they have done what is evil in my sight and have provoked me to anger, since the day their ancestors came out of Egypt, even to this day." Moreover Manasseh shed very much innocent blood, until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another, besides the sin that he caused Judah to sin so that they did what was evil in

20 the sight of the LORD. Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, all that he



did, and the sin that he committed, are they not written in the Book of the  
Annals of the Kings of Judah? Manasseh slept with his ancestors, and was  
buried in the garden of his house, in the garden of Uzza. His son Amon  
succeeded him. Amon was twenty-two years old when he began to reign; he  
5 reigned two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Meshullemeth  
daughter of Haruz of Jotbah. He did what was evil in the sight of the  
LORD, as his father Manasseh had done. He walked in all the way in which  
his father walked, served the idols that his father served, and worshiped  
them; he abandoned the LORD, the God of his ancestors, and did not walk  
10 in the way of the LORD. The servants of Amon conspired against him, and  
killed the king in his house. But the people of the land killed all those who  
had conspired against King Amon, and the people of the land made his son  
Josiah king in place of him. Now the rest of the acts of Amon that he did,  
are they not written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Judah? He  
15 was buried in his tomb in the garden of Uzza; then his son Josiah succeeded  
him. Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign; he reigned thirty-  
one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah daughter of Adaiah  
of Bozkath. He did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in  
all the way of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right or to the  
20 left. In the eighteenth year of King Josiah, the king sent Shaphan son of

Azaliah, son of Meshullam, the secretary, to the house of the LORD, saying,  
"Go up to the high priest Hilkiyah, and have him count the entire sum of the  
money that has been brought into the house of the LORD, which the keepers  
of the threshold have collected from the people; let it be given into the hand  
5 of the workers who have the oversight of the house of the LORD; let them  
give it to the workers who are at the house of the LORD, repairing the  
house, that is, to the carpenters, to the builders, to the masons; and let them  
use it to buy timber and quarried stone to repair the house. But no  
accounting shall be asked from them for the money that is delivered into  
10 their hand, for they deal honestly." The high priest Hilkiyah said to Shaphan  
the secretary, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD."  
When Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, he read it. Then Shaphan the  
secretary came to the king, and reported to the king, "Your servants have  
emptied out the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it  
15 into the hand of the workers who have oversight of the house of the  
LORD." Shaphan the secretary informed the king, "The priest Hilkiyah has  
given me a book." Shaphan then read it aloud to the king. When the king  
heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes. Then the king  
commanded the priest Hilkiyah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Achbor son of  
20 Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary, and the king's servant Asaiah, saying, "Go,

inquire of the LORD for me, for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our ancestors did not obey the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us." So

5 the priest Hilkiyah, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to the prophetess Huldah the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah, son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; she resided in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter, where they consulted her. She declared to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Tell the man who sent you to me, Thus says the LORD, I will

10 indeed bring disaster on this place and on its inhabitants--all the words of the book that the king of Judah has read. Because they have abandoned me and have made offerings to other gods, so that they have provoked me to anger with all the work of their hands, therefore my wrath will be kindled against this place, and it will not be quenched. But as to the king of Judah,

15 who sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus shall you say to him, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard, because your heart was penitent, and you humbled yourself before the LORD, when you heard how I spoke against this place, and against its inhabitants, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and because you have torn

20 your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, says the LORD.

Therefore, I will gather you to your ancestors, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring on this place." They took the message back to the king. Then the king directed that all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem should be gathered to

5 him. The king went up to the house of the LORD, and with him went all the people of Judah, all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests, the prophets, and all the people, both small and great; he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD. The king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD,

10 to follow the LORD, keeping his commandments, his decrees, and his statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. All the people joined in the covenant. The king commanded the high priest Hilkiah, the priests of the second order, and the guardians of the threshold, to bring out of the temple

15 of the LORD all the vessels made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the host of heaven; he burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron, and carried their ashes to Bethel. He deposed the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to make offerings in the high places at the cities of Judah and around Jerusalem; those also who made offerings to Baal,

20 to the sun, the moon, the constellations, and all the host of the heavens. He

brought out the image of Asherah from the house of the LORD, outside Jerusalem, to the Wadi Kidron, burned it at the Wadi Kidron, beat it to dust and threw the dust of it upon the graves of the common people. He broke down the houses of the male temple prostitutes that were in the house of the LORD, where the women did weaving for Asherah. He brought all the priests out of the towns of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had made offerings, from Geba to Beer-sheba; he broke down the high places of the gates that were at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on the left at the gate of the city. The priests of the high places, however, did not come up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem, but ate unleavened bread among their kindred. He defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of Ben-hinnom, so that no one would make a son or a daughter pass through fire as an offering to Molech. He removed the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun, at the entrance to the house of the LORD, by the chamber of the eunuch Nathan-melech, which was in the precincts; then he burned the chariots of the sun with fire. The altars on the roof of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars that Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, he pulled down from there and broke in pieces, and threw the rubble into the Wadi Kidron. The king defiled the high

places that were east of Jerusalem, to the south of the Mount of Destruction, which King Solomon of Israel had built for Astarte the abomination of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. He broke the pillars in pieces, cut down the sacred poles, and covered the sites with human bones. Moreover, the altar at Bethel, the high place erected by Jeroboam son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin--he pulled down that altar along with the high place. He burned the high place, crushing it to dust; he also burned the sacred pole. As Josiah turned, he saw the tombs there on the mount; and he sent and took the bones out of the tombs, and burned them on the altar, and defiled it, according to the word of the LORD that the man of God proclaimed, when Jeroboam stood by the altar at the festival; he turned and looked up at the tomb of the man of God who had predicted these things. Then he said, "What is that monument that I see?" The people of the city told him, "It is the tomb of the man of God who came from Judah and predicted these things that you have done against the altar at Bethel." He said, "Let him rest; let no one move his bones." So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet who came out of Samaria. Moreover, Josiah removed all the shrines of the high places that were in the towns of Samaria, which kings of Israel had made, provoking the LORD to anger; he did to them just

as he had done at Bethel. He slaughtered on the altars all the priests of the high places who were there, and burned human bones on them. Then he returned to Jerusalem. The king commanded all the people, "Keep the passover to the LORD your God as prescribed in this book of the covenant."

5 No such passover had been kept since the days of the judges who judged Israel, or during all the days of the kings of Israel or of the kings of Judah; but in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this passover was kept to the LORD in Jerusalem. Moreover Josiah put away the mediums, wizards, teraphim, idols, and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah

10 and in Jerusalem, so that he established the words of the law that were written in the book that the priest Hilkiah had found in the house of the LORD. Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him. Still the LORD did

15 not turn from the fierceness of his great wrath, by which his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked him. The LORD said, "I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel; and I will reject this city that I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there." Now the

20 rest of the acts of Josiah, and all that he did, are they not written in the

Book of the Annals of the Kings of Judah? In his days Pharaoh Neco king  
of Egypt went up to the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates. King Josiah  
went to meet him; but when Pharaoh Neco met him at Megiddo, he killed  
him. His servants carried him dead in a chariot from Megiddo, brought him  
5 to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own tomb. The people of the land took  
Jehoahaz son of Josiah, anointed him, and made him king in place of his  
father. Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he began to reign; he  
reigned three months in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal daughter  
of Jeremiah of Libnah. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, just  
10 as his ancestors had done. Pharaoh Neco confined him at Riblah in the land  
of Hamath, so that he might not reign in Jerusalem, and imposed tribute on  
the land of one hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold. Pharaoh Neco  
made Eliakim son of Josiah king in place of his father Josiah, and changed  
his name to Jehoiakim. But he took Jehoahaz away; he came to Egypt, and  
15 died there. Jehoiakim gave the silver and the gold to Pharaoh, but he taxed  
the land in order to meet Pharaoh's demand for money. He exacted the silver  
and the gold from the people of the land, from all according to their  
assessment, to give it to Pharaoh Neco. Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old  
when he began to reign; he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's  
20 name was Zebidah daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah. He did what was evil in



the sight of the LORD, just as all his ancestors had done. In his days King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came up; Jehoiakim became his servant for three years; then he turned and rebelled against him. The LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldeans, bands of the Arameans, bands of the Moabites, and

5 bands of the Ammonites; he sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by his servants the prophets. Surely this came upon Judah at the command of the LORD, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, for all that he had committed, and also for the innocent blood that he had shed; for he filled Jerusalem with

10 innocent blood, and the LORD was not willing to pardon. Now the rest of the deeds of Jehoiakim, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Judah? So Jehoiakim slept with his ancestors; then his son Jehoiachin succeeded him. The king of Egypt did not come again out of his land, for the king of Babylon had taken over all that

15 belonged to the king of Egypt from the Wadi of Egypt to the River Euphrates. Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign; he reigned three months in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Nehushta daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, just as his father had done. At that time the servants of King

20 Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came up to Jerusalem, and the city was besieged.

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to the city, while his servants were besieging it; King Jehoiachin of Judah gave himself up to the king of Babylon, himself, his mother, his servants, his officers, and his palace officials. The king of Babylon took him prisoner in the eighth year of his

5 reign. He carried off all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he cut in pieces all the vessels of gold in the temple of the LORD, which King Solomon of Israel had made, all this as the LORD had foretold. He carried away all Jerusalem, all the officials, all the warriors, ten thousand captives, all the artisans and the smiths; no one

10 remained, except the poorest people of the land. He carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon; the king's mother, the king's wives, his officials, and the elite of the land, he took into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon. The king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon all the men of valor, seven thousand, the artisans and the smiths, one thousand, all of them strong and fit for war. The

15 king of Babylon made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle, king in his place, and changed his name to Zedekiah. Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign; he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, just as Jehoiakim had done. Indeed, Jerusalem and Judah so

20 angered the LORD that he expelled them from his presence. Zedekiah

rebelled against the king of Babylon. And in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came with all his army against Jerusalem, and laid siege to it; they built siegeworks against it all around. So the city was besieged until the

5 eleventh year of King Zedekiah. On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine became so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. Then a breach was made in the city wall; the king with all the soldiers fled by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, by the king's garden, though the Chaldeans were all around the city. They went in

10 the direction of the Arabah. But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and overtook him in the plains of Jericho; all his army was scattered, deserting him. Then they captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, who passed sentence on him. They slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, then put out the eyes of Zedekiah; they

15 bound him in fetters and took him to Babylon. In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month--which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon--Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. He burned the house of the LORD, the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great

20 house he burned down. All the army of the Chaldeans who were with the

captain of the guard broke down the walls around Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried into exile the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who had defected to the king of Babylon-- all the rest of the population. But the captain of the guard left some of the

5 poorest people of the land to be vinedressers and tillers of the soil. The bronze pillars that were in the house of the LORD, as well as the stands and the bronze sea that were in the house of the LORD, the Chaldeans broke in pieces, and carried the bronze to Babylon. They took away the pots, the shovels, the snuffers, the dishes for incense, and all the bronze vessels

10 used in the temple service, as well as the firepans and the basins. What was made of gold the captain of the guard took away for the gold, and what was made of silver, for the silver. As for the two pillars, the one sea, and the stands, which Solomon had made for the house of the LORD, the bronze of all these vessels was beyond weighing. The height of the one pillar was

15 eighteen cubits, and on it was a bronze capital; the height of the capital was three cubits; latticework and pomegranates, all of bronze, were on the capital all around. The second pillar had the same, with the latticework. The captain of the guard took the chief priest Seraiah, the second priest Zephaniah, and the three guardians of the threshold; from the city he took an officer who

20 had been in command of the soldiers, and five men of the king's council

who were found in the city; the secretary who was the commander of the army who mustered the people of the land; and sixty men of the people of the land who were found in the city. Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them, and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. The king of

5 Babylon struck them down and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah went into exile out of its land. He appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam son of Shaphan as governor over the people who remained in the land of Judah, whom King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had left. Now when all the captains of the forces and their men heard that the king of Babylon

10 had appointed Gedaliah as governor, they came with their men to Gedaliah at Mizpah, namely, Ishmael son of Nethaniah, Johanan son of Kareah, Seraiah son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah son of the Maacathite. Gedaliah swore to them and their men, saying, "Do not be afraid because of the Chaldean officials; live in the land, serve the king of Babylon, and it

15 shall be well with you." But in the seventh month, Ishmael son of Nethaniah son of Elishama, of the royal family, came with ten men; they struck down Gedaliah so that he died, along with the Judeans and Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah. Then all the people, high and low and the captains of the forces set out and went to Egypt; for they were afraid of the Chaldeans.

20 In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of King Jehoiachin of Judah, in the

twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, King Evil-merodach of Babylon, in the year that he began to reign, released King Jehoiachin of Judah from prison; he spoke kindly to him, and gave him a seat above the other seats of the kings who were with him in Babylon. So Jehoiachin put  
5 aside his prison clothes. Every day of his life he dined regularly in the king's presence. For his allowance, a regular allowance was given him by the king, a portion every day, as long as he lived.\*

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