

1 Kings

Now King David was old and advanced in years; and although they covered him with clothes, he could not get warm. Therefore his servants said to him, "Let a young maiden be sought for my lord the king, and let her wait upon the king, and be his nurse; let her lie in your bosom, that my lord the king

5 may be warm." So they sought for a beautiful maiden throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Ab'ishag the Shu'nammite, and brought her to the king. The maiden was very beautiful; and she became the king's nurse and ministered to him; but the king knew her not. Now Adoni'jah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king"; and he prepared for himself

10 chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. His father had never at any time displeased him by asking, "Why have you done thus and so?" He was also a very handsome man; and he was born next after Ab'salom. He conferred with Jo'ab the son of Zeru'iah and with Abi'athar the priest; and they followed Adoni'jah and helped him. But Zadok the priest, and

15 Benai'ah the son of Jehoi'ada, and Nathan the prophet, and Shim'e-i, and Re'i, and David's mighty men were not with Adoni'jah. Adoni'jah sacrificed sheep, oxen, and fatlings by the Serpent's Stone, which is beside En-ro'gel, and he invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the royal officials of Judah, but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benai'ah or the mighty men or

20 Solomon his brother. Then Nathan said to Bathshe'ba the mother of Solomon,

"Have you not heard that Adoni'jah the son of Haggith has become king and David our lord does not know it? Now therefore come, let me give you counsel, that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. Go in at once to King David, and say to him, 'Did you not, my lord the

5 king, swear to your maidservant, saying, 'Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne'? Why then is Adoni'jah king?' Then while you are still speaking with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words." So Bathshe'ba went to the king into his chamber (now the king was very old, and Ab'ishag the Shu'nammite was ministering to the

10 king). Bathshe'ba bowed and did obeisance to the king, and the king said, "What do you desire?" She said to him, "My lord, you swore to your maidservant by the LORD your God, saying, 'Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne.' And now, behold, Adoni'jah is king, although you, my lord the king, do not know it. He has sacrificed

15 oxen, fatlings, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abi'athar the priest, and Jo'ab the commander of the army; but Solomon your servant he has not invited. And now, my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are upon you, to tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. Otherwise it will come to pass, when my lord

20 the king sleeps with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be counted

offenders." While she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet came in. And they told the king, "Here is Nathan the prophet." And when he came in before the king, he bowed before the king, with his face to the ground. And Nathan said, "My lord the king, have you said, 'Adoni'jah shall

5 reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne'? For he has gone down this day, and has sacrificed oxen, fatlings, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king's sons, Jo'ab the commander of the army, and Abi'athar the priest; and behold, they are eating and drinking before him, and saying, 'Long live King Adoni'jah!' But me, your servant, and Zadok the priest, and

10 Benai'ah the son of Jehoi'ada, and your servant Solomon, he has not invited. Has this thing been brought about by my lord the king and you have not told your servants who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?" Then King David answered, "Call Bathshe'ba to me." So she came into the king's presence, and stood before the king. And the king swore,

15 saying, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my soul out of every adversity, as I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel, saying, 'Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead'; even so will I do this day." Then Bathshe'ba bowed with her face to the ground, and did obeisance to the king, and said, "May my lord King

20 David live for ever!" King David said, "Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan

the prophet, and Benai'ah the son of Jehoi'ada." So they came before the king. And the king said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon; and let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet there anoint him

5 king over Israel; then blow the trumpet, and say, 'Long live King Solomon!' You shall then come up after him, and he shall come and sit upon my throne; for he shall be king in my stead; and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah." And Benai'ah the son of Jehoi'ada answered the king, "Amen! May the LORD, the God of my lord the king,

10 say so. As the LORD has been with my lord the king, even so may he be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David." So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benai'ah the son of Jehoi'ada, and the Cher'ethites and the Pel'ethites, went down and caused Solomon to ride on King David's mule, and brought him to Gihon. There

15 Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tent, and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!" And all the people went up after him, playing on pipes, and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth was split by their noise. Adoni'jah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they finished feasting. And

20 when Jo'ab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, "What does this uproar

in the city mean?" While he was still speaking, behold, Jonathan the son of
Abi'athar the priest came; and Adoni'jah said, "Come in, for you are a
worthy man and bring good news." Jonathan answered Adoni'jah, "No, for
our lord King David has made Solomon king; and the king has sent with
5 him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benai'ah the son of Jehoi'ada,
and the Cher'ethites and the Pel'ethites; and they have caused him to ride on
the king's mule; and Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed
him king at Gihon; and they have gone up from there rejoicing, so that the
city is in an uproar. This is the noise that you have heard. Solomon sits
10 upon the royal throne. Moreover the king's servants came to congratulate our
lord King David, saying, 'Your God make the name of Solomon more
famous than yours, and make his throne greater than your throne.' And the
king bowed himself upon the bed. And the king also said, 'Blessed be the
LORD, the God of Israel, who has granted one of my offspring to sit on my
15 throne this day, my own eyes seeing it.'" Then all the guests of Adoni'jah
trembled, and rose, and each went his own way. And Adoni'jah feared
Solomon; and he arose, and went, and caught hold of the horns of the altar.
And it was told Solomon, "Behold, Adoni'jah fears King Solomon; for, lo, he
has laid hold of the horns of the altar, saying, 'Let King Solomon swear to
20 me first that he will not slay his servant with the sword.'" And Solomon

said, "If he prove to be a worthy man, not one of his hairs shall fall to the earth; but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die." So King Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and did obeisance to King Solomon; and Solomon said to him, "Go to your house."

- 5 When David's time to die drew near, he charged Solomon his son, saying, "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his ordinances, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do
- 10 and wherever you turn; that the LORD may establish his word which he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail you a man on the throne of Israel.' "Moreover you know also what Jo'ab the son of Zeru'iah did to me, how he dealt with the two
- 15 commanders of the armies of Israel, Abner the son of Ner, and Ama'sa the son of Jether, whom he murdered, avenging in time of peace blood which had been shed in war, and putting innocent blood upon the girdle about my loins, and upon the sandals on my feet. Act therefore according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to Sheol in peace. But deal
- 20 loyally with the sons of Barzil'lai the Gileadite, and let them be among those

who eat at your table; for with such loyalty they met me when I fled from Ab'salom your brother. And there is also with you Shim'e-i the son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahu'rim, who cursed me with a grievous curse on the day when I went to Mahana'im; but when he came down to meet me at the

5 Jordan, I swore to him by the LORD, saying, 'I will not put you to death with the sword.' Now therefore hold him not guiltless, for you are a wise man; you will know what you ought to do to him, and you shall bring his gray head down with blood to Sheol." Then David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David. And the time that David reigned over Israel

10 was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was firmly established. Then Adoni'jah the son of Haggith came to Bathshe'ba the mother of Solomon. And she said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably." Then he said, "I have something to say to you." She

15 said, "Say on." He said, "You know that the kingdom was mine, and that all Israel fully expected me to reign; however the kingdom has turned about and become my brother's, for it was his from the LORD. And now I have one request to make of you; do not refuse me." She said to him, "Say on." And

20 he said, "Pray ask King Solomon--he will not refuse you--to give me Ab'ishag the Shu'nammite as my wife." Bathshe'ba said, "Very well; I will

5 speak for you to the king." So Bathshe'ba went to King Solomon, to speak
to him on behalf of Adoni'jah. And the king rose to meet her, and bowed
down to her; then he sat on his throne, and had a seat brought for the king's
mother; and she sat on his right. Then she said, "I have one small request to
10 make of you; do not refuse me." And the king said to her, "Make your
request, my mother; for I will not refuse you." She said, "Let Ab'ishag the
Shu'nammite be given to Adoni'jah your brother as his wife." King Solomon
answered his mother, "And why do you ask Ab'ishag the Shu'nammite for
Adoni'jah? Ask for him the kingdom also; for he is my elder brother, and on
15 his side are Abi'athar the priest and Jo'ab the son of Zeru'iah." Then King
Solomon swore by the LORD, saying, "God do so to me and more also if
this word does not cost Adoni'jah his life! Now therefore as the LORD lives,
who has established me, and placed me on the throne of David my father,
and who has made me a house, as he promised, Adoni'jah shall be put to
20 death this day." So King Solomon sent Benai'ah the son of Jehoi'ada; and he
struck him down, and he died. And to Abi'athar the priest the king said, "Go
to An'athoth, to your estate; for you deserve death. But I will not at this
time put you to death, because you bore the ark of the Lord GOD before
David my father, and because you shared in all the affliction of my father."
20 So Solomon expelled Abi'athar from being priest to the LORD, thus fulfilling

the word of the LORD which he had spoken concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh. When the news came to Jo'ab--for Jo'ab had supported Adoni'jah although he had not supported Ab'salom--Jo'ab fled to the tent of the LORD and caught hold of the horns of the altar. And when it was told King

5 Solomon, "Jo'ab has fled to the tent of the LORD, and behold, he is beside the altar," Solomon sent Benai'ah the son of Jehoi'ada, saying, "Go, strike him down." So Benai'ah came to the tent of the LORD, and said to him, "The king commands, 'Come forth.'" But he said, "No, I will die here." Then Benai'ah brought the king word again, saying, "Thus said Jo'ab, and thus he

10 answered me." The king replied to him, "Do as he has said, strike him down and bury him; and thus take away from me and from my father's house the guilt for the blood which Jo'ab shed without cause. The LORD will bring back his bloody deeds upon his own head, because, without the knowledge of my father David, he attacked and slew with the sword two men more

15 righteous and better than himself, Abner the son of Ner, commander of the army of Israel, and Ama'sa the son of Jether, commander of the army of Judah. So shall their blood come back upon the head of Jo'ab and upon the head of his descendants for ever; but to David, and to his descendants, and to his house, and to his throne, there shall be peace from the LORD for

20 evermore." Then Benai'ah the son of Jehoi'ada went up, and struck him down

and killed him; and he was buried in his own house in the wilderness. The king put Benai'ah the son of Jehoi'ada over the army in place of Jo'ab, and the king put Zadok the priest in the place of Abi'athar. Then the king sent and summoned Shim'e-i, and said to him, "Build yourself a house in

5 Jerusalem, and dwell there, and do not go forth from there to any place whatever. For on the day you go forth, and cross the brook Kidron, know for certain that you shall die; your blood shall be upon your own head."

And Shim'e-i said to the king, "What you say is good; as my lord the king has said, so will your servant do." So Shim'e-i dwelt in Jerusalem many

10 days. But it happened at the end of three years that two of Shim'e-i's slaves ran away to Achish, son of Ma'acah, king of Gath. And when it was told Shim'e-i, "Behold, your slaves are in Gath," Shim'e-i arose and saddled an ass, and went to Gath to Achish, to seek his slaves; Shim'e-i went and brought his slaves from Gath. And when Solomon was told that Shim'e-i had

15 gone from Jerusalem to Gath and returned, the king sent and summoned Shim'e-i, and said to him, "Did I not make you swear by the LORD, and solemnly admonish you, saying, 'Know for certain that on the day you go forth and go to any place whatever, you shall die'? And you said to me, 'What you say is good; I obey.' Why then have you not kept your oath to

20 the LORD and the commandment with which I charged you?" The king also

said to Shim'e-i, "You know in your own heart all the evil that you did to David my father; so the LORD will bring back your evil upon your own head. But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD for ever." Then the king commanded Benai'ah

5 the son of Jehoi'ada; and he went out and struck him down, and he died. So the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon. Solomon made a marriage alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt; he took Pharaoh's daughter, and brought her into the city of David, until he had finished building his own house and the house of the LORD and the wall around Jerusalem. The

10 people were sacrificing at the high places, however, because no house had yet been built for the name of the LORD. Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father; only, he sacrificed and burnt incense at the high places. And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt

15 offerings upon that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said, "Thou hast shown great and steadfast love to thy servant David my father, because he walked before thee in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward thee; and thou hast kept for him this great and

20 steadfast love, and hast given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And

now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people whom thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered or counted for multitude.

- 5 Give thy servant therefore an understanding mind to govern thy people, that I may discern between good and evil; for who is able to govern this thy great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself
- 10 understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in my ways, keeping
- 15 my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days." And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem, and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants. Then two harlots came to the king, and stood before
- 20 him. The one woman said, "Oh, my lord, this woman and I dwell in the

same house; and I gave birth to a child while she was in the house. Then on the third day after I was delivered, this woman also gave birth; and we were alone; there was no one else with us in the house, only we two were in the house. And this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on it.

5 And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while your maidservant slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead son in my bosom. When I rose in the morning to nurse my child, behold, it was dead; but when I looked at it closely in the morning, behold, it was not the child that I had borne." But the other woman said, "No, the living child is mine,

10 and the dead child is yours." The first said, "No, the dead child is yours, and the living child is mine." Thus they spoke before the king. Then the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son that is alive, and your son is dead'; and the other says, 'No; but your son is dead, and my son is the living one.'" And the king said, "Bring me a sword." So a sword was

15 brought before the king. And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other." Then the woman whose son was alive said to the king, because her heart yearned for her son, "Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means slay it." But the other said, "It shall be neither mine nor yours; divide it." Then the king answered and

20 said, "Give the living child to the first woman, and by no means slay it; she

is its mother." And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him, to render justice. King Solomon was king over all Israel, and these were his high officials: Azari'ah the son of Zadok was

5 the priest; Elihor'e'ph and Ahi'jah the sons of Shisha were secretaries; Jehosh'aphat the son of Ahi'lud was recorder; Benai'ah the son of Jehoi'ada was in command of the army; Zadok and Abi'athar were priests; Azari'ah the son of Nathan was over the officers; Zabud the son of Nathan was priest and king's friend; Ahi'shar was in charge of the palace; and Adoni'ram the

10 son of Abda was in charge of the forced labor. Solomon had twelve officers over all Israel, who provided food for the king and his household; each man had to make provision for one month in the year. These were their names: Ben-hur, in the hill country of E'phraim; Ben-deker, in Makaz, Sha-al'bim, Beth-she'mesh, and E'lonbeth-ha'nan; Ben-hesed, in Arub'both (to him

15 belonged Socoh and all the land of Hepher); Ben-abin'adab, in all Naphath-dor (he had Taphath the daughter of Solomon as his wife); Ba'ana the son of Ahi'lud, in Ta'anach, Megid'do, and all Beth-she'an which is beside Zarethan below Jezreel, and from Beth-she'an to A'bel-meho'lah, as far as the other

20 side of Jok'meam; Ben-geber, in Ra'moth-gil'ead (he had the villages of Ja'ir the son of Manas'seh, which are in Gilead, and he had the region of Argob,

which is in Bashan, sixty great cities with walls and bronze bars); Ahin'adab
the son of Iddo, in Mahana'im; Ahi'ma-az, in Naph'tali (he had taken
Bas'emath the daughter of Solomon as his wife); Ba'ana the son of Hushai,
in Asher and Bealoth; Jehosh'aphat the son of Paru'ah, in Is'sachar; Shim'e-i
5 the son of Ela, in Benjamin; Geber the son of Uri, in the land of Gilead,
the country of Sihon king of the Amorites and of Og king of Bashan. And
there was one officer in the land of Judah. Judah and Israel were as many
as the sand by the sea; they ate and drank and were happy. Solomon ruled
over all the kingdoms from the Euphra'tes to the land of the Philistines and
10 to the border of Egypt; they brought tribute and served Solomon all the days
of his life. Solomon's provision for one day was thirty cors of fine flour, and
sixty cors of meal, ten fat oxen, and twenty pasture-fed cattle, a hundred
sheep, besides harts, gazelles, roebucks, and fatted fowl. For he had dominion
over all the region west of the Euphra'tes from Tiph'sah to Gaza, over all the
15 kings west of the Euphra'tes; and he had peace on all sides round about him.
And Judah and Israel dwelt in safety, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, every
man under his vine and under his fig tree, all the days of Solomon. Solomon
also had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand
horsemen. And those officers supplied provisions for King Solomon, and for
20 all who came to King Solomon's table, each one in his month; they let

nothing be lacking. Barley also and straw for the horses and swift steeds
they brought to the place where it was required, each according to his
charge. And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure,
and largeness of mind like the sand on the seashore, so that Solomon's
5 wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east, and all the
wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all other men, wiser than Ethan the
Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame
was in all the nations round about. He also uttered three thousand proverbs;
and his songs were a thousand and five. He spoke of trees, from the cedar
10 that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of the wall; he spoke also
of beasts, and of birds, and of reptiles, and of fish. And men came from all
peoples to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and from all the kings of the earth,
who had heard of his wisdom. Now Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to
Solomon, when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his
15 father; for Hiram always loved David. And Solomon sent word to Hiram,
"You know that David my father could not build a house for the name of
the LORD his God because of the warfare with which his enemies
surrounded him, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet. But
now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither
20 adversary nor misfortune. And so I purpose to build a house for the name of

the LORD my God, as the LORD said to David my father, 'Your son,
whom I will set upon your throne in your place, shall build the house for
my name.' Now therefore command that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me;
and my servants will join your servants, and I will pay you for your servants
5 such wages as you set; for you know that there is no one among us who
knows how to cut timber like the Sido'nians." When Hiram heard the words
of Solomon, he rejoiced greatly, and said, "Blessed be the LORD this day,
who has given to David a wise son to be over this great people." And
Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, "I have heard the message which you have
10 sent to me; I am ready to do all you desire in the matter of cedar and
cypress timber. My servants shall bring it down to the sea from Lebanon;
and I will make it into rafts to go by sea to the place you direct, and I will
have them broken up there, and you shall receive it; and you shall meet my
wishes by providing food for my household." So Hiram supplied Solomon
15 with all the timber of cedar and cypress that he desired, while Solomon gave
Hiram twenty thousand cors of wheat as food for his household, and twenty
thousand cors of beaten oil. Solomon gave this to Hiram year by year. And
the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him; and there was peace
between Hiram and Solomon; and the two of them made a treaty. King
20 Solomon raised a levy of forced labor out of all Israel; and the levy

numbered thirty thousand men. And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month in relays; they would be a month in Lebanon and two months at home; Adoni'ram was in charge of the levy. Solomon also had seventy thousand burden-bearers and eighty thousand hewers of stone in the hill

5 country, besides Solomon's three thousand three hundred chief officers who were over the work, who had charge of the people who carried on the work. At the king's command, they quarried out great, costly stones in order to lay the foundation of the house with dressed stones. So Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders and the men of Gebal did the hewing and prepared the

10 timber and the stone to build the house. In the four hundred and eightieth year after the people of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, he began to build the house of the LORD. The house which King Solomon built for the LORD was sixty cubits long, twenty cubits wide,

15 and thirty cubits high. The vestibule in front of the nave of the house was twenty cubits long, equal to the width of the house, and ten cubits deep in front of the house. And he made for the house windows with recessed frames. He also built a structure against the wall of the house, running round the walls of the house, both the nave and the inner sanctuary; and he made

20 side chambers all around. The lowest story was five cubits broad, the middle

one was six cubits broad, and the third was seven cubits broad; for around the outside of the house he made offsets on the wall in order that the supporting beams should not be inserted into the walls of the house. When the house was built, it was with stone prepared at the quarry; so that neither

5 hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron was heard in the temple, while it was being built. The entrance for the lowest story was on the south side of the house; and one went up by stairs to the middle story, and from the middle story to the third. So he built the house, and finished it; and he made the ceiling of the house of beams and planks of cedar. He built the structure

10 against the whole house, each story five cubits high, and it was joined to the house with timbers of cedar. Now the word of the LORD came to Solomon, "Concerning this house which you are building, if you will walk in my statutes and obey my ordinances and keep all my commandments and walk in them, then I will establish my word with you, which I spoke to David

15 your father. And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel." So Solomon built the house, and finished it. He lined the walls of the house on the inside with boards of cedar; from the floor of the house to the rafters of the ceiling, he covered them on the inside with wood; and he covered the floor of the house with boards of

20 cypress. He built twenty cubits of the rear of the house with boards of cedar

from the floor to the rafters, and he built this within as an inner sanctuary,
as the most holy place. The house, that is, the nave in front of the inner
sanctuary, was forty cubits long. The cedar within the house was carved in
the form of gourds and open flowers; all was cedar, no stone was seen. The
5 inner sanctuary he prepared in the innermost part of the house, to set there
the ark of the covenant of the LORD. The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits
long, twenty cubits wide, and twenty cubits high; and he overlaid it with
pure gold. He also made an altar of cedar. And Solomon overlaid the inside
of the house with pure gold, and he drew chains of gold across, in front of
10 the inner sanctuary, and overlaid it with gold. And he overlaid the whole
house with gold, until all the house was finished. Also the whole altar that
belonged to the inner sanctuary he overlaid with gold. In the inner sanctuary
he made two cherubim of olivewood, each ten cubits high. Five cubits was
the length of one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the length of the other
15 wing of the cherub; it was ten cubits from the tip of one wing to the tip of
the other. The other cherub also measured ten cubits; both cherubim had the
same measure and the same form. The height of one cherub was ten cubits,
and so was that of the other cherub. He put the cherubim in the innermost
part of the house; and the wings of the cherubim were spread out so that a
20 wing of one touched the one wall, and a wing of the other cherub touched

the other wall; their other wings touched each other in the middle of the house. And he overlaid the cherubim with gold. He carved all the walls of the house round about with carved figures of cherubim and palm trees and open flowers, in the inner and outer rooms. The floor of the house he

5 overlaid with gold in the inner and outer rooms. For the entrance to the inner sanctuary he made doors of olivewood; the lintel and the doorposts formed a pentagon. He covered the two doors of olivewood with carvings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers; he overlaid them with gold, and spread gold upon the cherubim and upon the palm trees. So also he made

10 for the entrance to the nave doorposts of olivewood, in the form of a square, and two doors of cypress wood; the two leaves of the one door were folding, and the two leaves of the other door were folding. On them he carved cherubim and palm trees and open flowers; and he overlaid them with gold evenly applied upon the carved work. He built the inner court with

15 three courses of hewn stone and one course of cedar beams. In the fourth year the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid, in the month of Ziv. And in the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, which is the eighth month, the house was finished in all its parts, and according to all its specifications. He was seven years in building it. Solomon was building his

20 own house thirteen years, and he finished his entire house. He built the

House of the Forest of Lebanon; its length was a hundred cubits, and its
breadth fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits, and it was built upon three
rows of cedar pillars, with cedar beams upon the pillars. And it was covered
with cedar above the chambers that were upon the forty-five pillars, fifteen in
5 each row. There were window frames in three rows, and window opposite
window in three tiers. All the doorways and windows had square frames, and
window was opposite window in three tiers. And he made the Hall of
Pillars; its length was fifty cubits, and its breadth thirty cubits; there was a
porch in front with pillars, and a canopy before them. And he made the Hall
10 of the Throne where he was to pronounce judgment, even the Hall of
Judgment; it was finished with cedar from floor to rafters. His own house
where he was to dwell, in the other court back of the hall, was of like
workmanship. Solomon also made a house like this hall for Pharaoh's
daughter whom he had taken in marriage. All these were made of costly
15 stones, hewn according to measure, sawed with saws, back and front, even
from the foundation to the coping, and from the court of the house of the
LORD to the great court. The foundation was of costly stones, huge stones,
stones of eight and ten cubits. And above were costly stones, hewn according
to measurement, and cedar. The great court had three courses of hewn stone
20 round about, and a course of cedar beams; so had the inner court of the

house of the LORD, and the vestibule of the house. And King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre. He was the son of a widow of the tribe of Naph'tali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in bronze; and he was full of wisdom, understanding, and skill, for making any work in bronze. He

5 came to King Solomon, and did all his work. He cast two pillars of bronze. Eighteen cubits was the height of one pillar, and a line of twelve cubits measured its circumference; it was hollow, and its thickness was four fingers; the second pillar was the same. He also made two capitals of molten bronze, to set upon the tops of the pillars; the height of the one capital was five

10 cubits, and the height of the other capital was five cubits. Then he made two nets of checker work with wreaths of chain work for the capitals upon the tops of the pillars; a net for the one capital, and a net for the other capital. Likewise he made pomegranates; in two rows round about upon the one network, to cover the capital that was upon the top of the pillar; and he did

15 the same with the other capital. Now the capitals that were upon the tops of the pillars in the vestibule were of lily-work, four cubits. The capitals were upon the two pillars and also above the rounded projection which was beside the network; there were two hundred pomegranates, in two rows round about; and so with the other capital. He set up the pillars at the vestibule of the

20 temple; he set up the pillar on the south and called its name Jachin; and he

set up the pillar on the north and called its name Bo'az. And upon the tops
of the pillars was lily-work. Thus the work of the pillars was finished. Then
he made the molten sea; it was round, ten cubits from brim to brim, and
five cubits high, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference. Under
5 its brim were gourds, for thirty cubits, compassing the sea round about; the
gourds were in two rows, cast with it when it was cast. It stood upon
twelve oxen, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and
three facing east; the sea was set upon them, and all their hinder parts were
inward. Its thickness was a handbreadth; and its brim was made like the
10 brim of a cup, like the flower of a lily; it held two thousand baths. He also
made the ten stands of bronze; each stand was four cubits long, four cubits
wide, and three cubits high. This was the construction of the stands: they
had panels, and the panels were set in the frames and on the panels that
were set in the frames were lions, oxen, and cherubim. Upon the frames,
15 both above and below the lions and oxen, there were wreaths of beveled
work. Moreover each stand had four bronze wheels and axles of bronze; and
at the four corners were supports for a laver. The supports were cast, with
wreaths at the side of each. Its opening was within a crown which projected
upward one cubit; its opening was round, as a pedestal is made, a cubit and
20 a half deep. At its opening there were carvings; and its panels were square,

not round. And the four wheels were underneath the panels; the axles of the wheels were of one piece with the stands; and the height of a wheel was a cubit and a half. The wheels were made like a chariot wheel; their axles, their rims, their spokes, and their hubs, were all cast. There were four

5 supports at the four corners of each stand; the supports were of one piece with the stands. And on the top of the stand there was a round band half a cubit high; and on the top of the stand its stays and its panels were of one piece with it. And on the surfaces of its stays and on its panels, he carved cherubim, lions, and palm trees, according to the space of each, with wreaths

10 round about. After this manner he made the ten stands; all of them were cast alike, of the same measure and the same form. And he made ten lavers of bronze; each laver held forty baths, each laver measured four cubits, and there was a laver for each of the ten stands. And he set the stands, five on the south side of the house, and five on the north side of the house; and he

15 set the sea on the southeast corner of the house. Hiram also made the pots, the shovels, and the basins. So Hiram finished all the work that he did for King Solomon on the house of the LORD: the two pillars, the two bowls of the capitals that were on the tops of the pillars, and the two networks to cover the two bowls of the capitals that were on the tops of the pillars; and

20 the four hundred pomegranates for the two networks, two rows of

pomegranates for each network, to cover the two bowls of the capitals that were upon the pillars; the ten stands, and the ten lavers upon the stands; and the one sea, and the twelve oxen underneath the sea. Now the pots, the shovels, and the basins, all these vessels in the house of the LORD, which

5 Hiram made for King Solomon, were of burnished bronze. In the plain of the Jordan the king cast them, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zarethan. And Solomon left all the vessels unweighed, because there were so many of them; the weight of the bronze was not found out. So Solomon made all the vessels that were in the house of the LORD: the golden altar,

10 the golden table for the bread of the Presence, the lampstands of pure gold, five on the south side and five on the north, before the inner sanctuary; the flowers, the lamps, and the tongs, of gold; the cups, snuffers, basins, dishes for incense, and firepans, of pure gold; and the sockets of gold, for the doors of the innermost part of the house, the most holy place, and for the

15 doors of the nave of the temple. Thus all the work that King Solomon did on the house of the LORD was finished. And Solomon brought in the things which David his father had dedicated, the silver, the gold, and the vessels, and stored them in the treasuries of the house of the LORD. Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of

20 the fathers' houses of the people of Israel, before King Solomon in

Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion. And all the men of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the feast in the month Eth'anim, which is the seventh month. And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. And they

5 brought up the ark of the LORD, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up. And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered. Then the priests brought

10 the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering above the ark and its poles. And the poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the holy place before the

15 inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside; and they are there to this day. There was nothing in the ark except the two tables of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the people of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, so

20 that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the

glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD. Then Solomon said, "The LORD has set the sun in the heavens, but has said that he would dwell in thick darkness. I have built thee an exalted house, a place for thee to dwell in for ever." Then the king faced about, and blessed all the assembly of

5 Israel, while all the assembly of Israel stood. And he said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who with his hand has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to David my father, saying, 'Since the day that I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city in all the tribes of Israel in which to build a house, that my name might be there; but I chose David to

10 be over my people Israel.' Now it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. But the LORD said to David my father, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for my name, you did well that it was in your heart; nevertheless you shall not build the house, but your son who shall be born to you shall build the house

15 for my name.' Now the LORD has fulfilled his promise which he made; for I have risen in the place of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and I have built the house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. And there I have provided a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD which he made with our fathers, when

20 he brought them out of the land of Egypt." Then Solomon stood before the

altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven; and said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to thy servants who walk before thee with all

5 their heart; who hast kept with thy servant David my father what thou didst declare to him; yea, thou didst speak with thy mouth, and with thy hand hast fulfilled it this day. Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father what thou hast promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a man before me to sit upon the throne of Israel, if

10 only your sons take heed to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' Now therefore, O God of Israel, let thy word be confirmed, which thou hast spoken to thy servant David my father. "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built! Yet have

15 regard to the prayer of thy servant and to his supplication, O LORD my God, hearkening to the cry and to the prayer which thy servant prays before thee this day; that thy eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which thou hast said, 'My name shall be there,' that thou mayest

20 hearken to the prayer which thy servant offers toward this place. And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant and of thy people Israel,

when they pray toward this place; yea, hear thou in heaven thy dwelling
place; and when thou hearest, forgive. "If a man sins against his neighbor
and is made to take an oath, and comes and swears his oath before thine
altar in this house, then hear thou in heaven, and act, and judge thy servants,
5 condemning the guilty by bringing his conduct upon his own head, and
vindicating the righteous by rewarding him according to his righteousness.
"When thy people Israel are defeated before the enemy because they have
sinned against thee, if they turn again to thee, and acknowledge thy name,
and pray and make supplication to thee in this house; then hear thou in
10 heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again to the
land which thou gavest to their fathers. "When heaven is shut up and there
is no rain because they have sinned against thee, if they pray toward this
place, and acknowledge thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou dost
afflict them, then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants,
15 thy people Israel, when thou dost teach them the good way in which they
should walk; and grant rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy
people as an inheritance. "If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence
or blight or mildew or locust or caterpillar; if their enemy besieges them in
any of their cities; whatever plague, whatever sickness there is; whatever
20 prayer, whatever supplication is made by any man or by all thy people

Israel, each knowing the affliction of his own heart and stretching out his hands toward this house; then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and render to each whose heart thou knowest, according to all his ways (for thou, thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men); that they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest to our fathers. "Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of thy people Israel, comes from a far country for thy name's sake (for they shall hear of thy great name, and thy mighty hand, and of thy outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house, hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to thee; in order that all the peoples of the earth may know thy name and fear thee, as do thy people Israel, and that they may know that this house which I have built is called by thy name. "If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, by whatever way thou shalt send them, and they pray to the LORD toward the city which thou hast chosen and the house which I have built for thy name, then hear thou in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause. "If they sin against thee--for there is no man who does not sin--and thou art angry with them, and dost give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near; yet if they lay it to heart in the land to which they have been carried

captive, and repent, and make supplication to thee in the land of their captors, saying, 'We have sinned, and have acted perversely and wickedly'; if they repent with all their mind and with all their heart in the land of their enemies, who carried them captive, and pray to thee toward their land, which

5 thou gavest to their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name; then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause and forgive thy people who have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions which they have committed against thee; and grant them compassion in the sight of

10 those who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them (for they are thy people, and thy heritage, which thou didst bring out of Egypt, from the midst of the iron furnace). Let thy eyes be open to the supplication of thy servant, and to the supplication of thy people Israel, giving ear to them whenever they call to thee. For thou didst separate them from among

15 all the peoples of the earth, to be thy heritage, as thou didst declare through Moses, thy servant, when thou didst bring our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord GOD." Now as Solomon finished offering all this prayer and supplication to the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, where he had knelt with hands outstretched toward heaven; and he stood, and blessed all the

20 assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying, "Blessed be the LORD who has

given rest to his people Israel, according to all that he promised; not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he uttered by Moses his servant. The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers; may he not leave us or forsake us; that he may incline our hearts to him, to walk in

5 all his ways, and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his ordinances, which he commanded our fathers. Let these words of mine, wherewith I have made supplication before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant, and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires; that all the peoples of the earth may

10 know that the LORD is God; there is no other. Let your heart therefore be wholly true to the LORD our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day." Then the king, and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before the LORD. Solomon offered as peace offerings to the LORD twenty-two thousand oxen and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep.

15 So the king and all the people of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD. The same day the king consecrated the middle of the court that was before the house of the LORD; for there he offered the burnt offering and the cereal offering and the fat pieces of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar that was before the LORD was too small to receive the burnt offering

20 and the cereal offering and the fat pieces of the peace offerings. So Solomon

held the feast at that time, and all Israel with him, a great assembly, from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days. On the eighth day he sent the people away; and they blessed the king, and went to their homes joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness

5 that the LORD had shown to David his servant and to Israel his people.

When Solomon had finished building the house of the LORD and the king's house and all that Solomon desired to build, the LORD appeared to Solomon a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon. And the LORD said to him, "I have heard your prayer and your supplication, which you have made

10 before me; I have consecrated this house which you have built, and put my name there for ever; my eyes and my heart will be there for all time. And as for you, if you will walk before me, as David your father walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you, and keeping my statutes and my ordinances, then I will

15 establish your royal throne over Israel for ever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'There shall not fail you a man upon the throne of Israel.' But if you turn aside from following me, you or your children, and do not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land

20 which I have given them; and the house which I have consecrated for my

name I will cast out of my sight; and Israel will become a proverb and a byword among all peoples. And this house will become a heap of ruins; everyone passing by it will be astonished, and will hiss; and they will say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?' Then they

5 will say, 'Because they forsook the LORD their God who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore the LORD has brought all this evil upon them.'" At the end of twenty years, in which Solomon had built the two houses, the house of the LORD and the king's house, and Hiram king of

10 Tyre had supplied Solomon with cedar and cypress timber and gold, as much as he desired, King Solomon gave to Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee. But when Hiram came from Tyre to see the cities which Solomon had given him, they did not please him. Therefore he said, "What kind of cities are these which you have given me, my brother?" So they are called

15 the land of Cabul to this day. Hiram had sent to the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold. And this is the account of the forced labor which King Solomon levied to build the house of the LORD and his own house and the Millo and the wall of Jerusalem and Hazor and Megid'do and Gezer (Pharaoh king of Egypt had gone up and captured Gezer and burnt it with

20 fire, and had slain the Canaanites who dwelt in the city, and had given it as

dowry to his daughter, Solomon's wife; so Solomon rebuilt Gezer) and Lower Beth-hor'on and Ba'alath and Tamar in the wilderness, in the land of Judah, and all the store-cities that Solomon had, and the cities for his chariots, and the cities for his horsemen, and whatever Solomon desired to build in

5 Jerusalem, in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion. All the people who were left of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Per'izzites, the Hivites, and the Jeb'usites, who were not of the people of Israel-- their descendants who were left after them in the land, whom the people of Israel were unable to destroy utterly--these Solomon made a forced levy of slaves, and so they are

10 to this day. But of the people of Israel Solomon made no slaves; they were the soldiers, they were his officials, his commanders, his captains, his chariot commanders and his horsemen. These were the chief officers who were over Solomon's work: five hundred and fifty, who had charge of the people who carried on the work. But Pharaoh's daughter went up from the city of David

15 to her own house which Solomon had built for her; then he built the Millo. Three times a year Solomon used to offer up burnt offerings and peace offerings upon the altar which he built to the LORD, burning incense before the LORD. So he finished the house. King Solomon built a fleet of ships at E'zion-ge'ber, which is near Eloth on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land

20 of Edom. And Hiram sent with the fleet his servants, seamen who were

familiar with the sea, together with the servants of Solomon; and they went to Ophir, and brought from there gold, to the amount of four hundred and twenty talents; and they brought it to King Solomon. Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD,

5 she came to test him with hard questions. She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels bearing spices, and very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she told him all that was on her mind. And Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from the king which he could not explain to her. And when the

10 queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his cupbearers, and his burnt offerings which he offered at the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her. And she said to the king, "The report was true which I heard in my own land of

15 your affairs and of your wisdom, but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it; and, behold, the half was not told me; your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report which I heard. Happy are your wives! Happy are these your servants, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delighted in

20 you and set you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD loved Israel for

ever, he has made you king, that you may execute justice and righteousness."

Then she gave the king a hundred and twenty talents of gold, and a very great quantity of spices, and precious stones; never again came such an abundance of spices as these which the queen of Sheba gave to King

- 5 Solomon. Moreover the fleet of Hiram, which brought gold from Ophir, brought from Ophir a very great amount of almug wood and precious stones. And the king made of the almug wood supports for the house of the LORD, and for the king's house, lyres also and harps for the singers; no such almug wood has come or been seen, to this day. And King Solomon gave to the
- 10 queen of Sheba all that she desired, whatever she asked besides what was given her by the bounty of King Solomon. So she turned and went back to her own land, with her servants. Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold, besides that which came from the traders and from the traffic of the merchants, and
- 15 from all the kings of Arabia and from the governors of the land. King Solomon made two hundred large shields of beaten gold; six hundred shekels of gold went into each shield. And he made three hundred shields of beaten gold; three minas of gold went into each shield; and the king put them in
- 20 the House of the Forest of Lebanon. The king also made a great ivory throne, and overlaid it with the finest gold. The throne had six steps, and at

the back of the throne was a calf's head, and on each side of the seat were arm rests and two lions standing beside the arm rests, while twelve lions stood there, one on each end of a step on the six steps. The like of it was never made in any kingdom. All King Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver, it was not considered as anything in the days of Solomon. For the king had a fleet of ships of Tarshish at sea with the fleet of Hiram. Once every three years the fleet of ships of Tarshish used to come bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks. Thus King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom. And the whole earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put into his mind. Every one of them brought his present, articles of silver and gold, garments, myrrh, spices, horses, and mules, so much year by year. And Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem. And the king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stone, and he made cedar as plentiful as the sycamore of the Shephe'lah. And Solomon's import of horses was from Egypt and Ku'e, and the king's traders received them from Ku'e at a price. A chariot could be imported from Egypt for six hundred shekels of silver, and

a horse for a hundred and fifty; and so through the king's traders they were exported to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria. Now King Solomon loved many foreign women: the daughter of Pharaoh, and Moabite, Ammonite, E'domite, Sido'nian, and Hittite women, from the nations

5 concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, "You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods"; Solomon clung to these in love. He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. For when Solomon was old his wives

10 turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ash'toreth the goddess of the Sido'nians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not wholly follow the LORD, as David his father had

15 done. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. And so he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of

20 Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning

this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD commanded. Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, "Since this has been your mind and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and

5 will give it to your servant. Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However I will not tear away all the kingdom; but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen." And the LORD raised up an adversary against Solomon, Hadad

10 the E'domite; he was of the royal house in Edom. For when David was in Edom, and Jo'ab the commander of the army went up to bury the slain, he slew every male in Edom (for Jo'ab and all Israel remained there six months, until he had cut off every male in Edom); but Hadad fled to Egypt, together with certain E'domites of his father's servants, Hadad being yet a little child.

15 They set out from Mid'ian and came to Paran, and took men with them from Paran and came to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave him a house, and assigned him an allowance of food, and gave him land. And Hadad found great favor in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him in marriage the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tah'penes the queen. And the sister

20 of Tah'penes bore him Genu'bath his son, whom Tah'penes weaned in

Pharaoh's house; and Genu'bath was in Pharaoh's house among the sons of
Pharaoh. But when Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers
and that Jo'ab the commander of the army was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh,
"Let me depart, that I may go to my own country." But Pharaoh said to
5 him, "What have you lacked with me that you are now seeking to go to
your own country?" And he said to him, "Only let me go." God also raised
up as an adversary to him, Rezon the son of Eli'ada, who had fled from his
master Hadade'zer king of Zobah. And he gathered men about him and
became leader of a marauding band, after the slaughter by David; and they
10 went to Damascus, and dwelt there, and made him king in Damascus. He
was an adversary of Israel all the days of Solomon, doing mischief as Hadad
did; and he abhorred Israel, and reigned over Syria. Jerobo'am the son of
Nebat, an E'phraimite of Zer'edah, a servant of Solomon, whose mother's
name was Zeru'ah, a widow, also lifted up his hand against the king. And
15 this was the reason why he lifted up his hand against the king. Solomon
built the Millo, and closed up the breach of the city of David his father.
The man Jerobo'am was very able, and when Solomon saw that the young
man was industrious he gave him charge over all the forced labor of the
house of Joseph. And at that time, when Jerobo'am went out of Jerusalem,
20 the prophet Ahi'jah the Shi'lonite found him on the road. Now Ahi'jah had

clad himself with a new garment; and the two of them were alone in the open country. Then Ahi'jah laid hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces. And he said to Jerobo'am, "Take for yourself ten pieces; for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Behold, I am about
5 to tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon, and will give you ten tribes (but he shall have one tribe, for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel), because he has forsaken me, and worshiped Ash'toreth the goddess of the Sido'nians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the
10 Ammonites, and has not walked in my ways, doing what is right in my sight and keeping my statutes and my ordinances, as David his father did.

Nevertheless I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand; but I will make him ruler all the days of his life, for the sake of David my servant whom I chose, who kept my commandments and my statutes; but I will take
15 the kingdom out of his son's hand, and will give it to you, ten tribes. Yet to his son I will give one tribe, that David my servant may always have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen to put my name.

And I will take you, and you shall reign over all that your soul desires, and you shall be king over Israel. And if you will hearken to all that I command
20 you, and will walk in my ways, and do what is right in my eyes by keeping

my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did, I will be with you, and will build you a sure house, as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you. And I will for this afflict the descendants of David, but not for ever." Solomon sought therefore to kill Jerobo'am; but Jerobo'am arose, 5 and fled into Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon. Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon? And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years. And Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of 10 David his father; and Rehobo'am his son reigned in his stead. Rehobo'am went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. And when Jerobo'am the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was still in Egypt, whither he had fled from King Solomon), then Jerobo'am returned from Egypt. And they sent and called him; and Jerobo'am and all the assembly of 15 Israel came and said to Rehobo'am, "Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke upon us, and we will serve you." He said to them, "Depart for three days, then come again to me." So the people went away. Then King Rehobo'am took counsel with the old men, who had stood before Solomon his father while he was 20 yet alive, saying, "How do you advise me to answer this people?" And they

said to him, "If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them,
and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be
your servants for ever." But he forsook the counsel which the old men gave
him, and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him and
5 stood before him. And he said to them, "What do you advise that we answer
this people who have said to me, 'Lighten the yoke that your father put upon
us'?" And the young men who had grown up with him said to him, "Thus
shall you speak to this people who said to you, 'Your father made our yoke
heavy, but do you lighten it for us'; thus shall you say to them, 'My little
10 finger is thicker than my father's loins. And now, whereas my father laid
upon you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father chastised you
with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.'" So Jerobo'am and all the
people came to Rehobo'am the third day, as the king said, "Come to me
again the third day." And the king answered the people harshly, and
15 forsaking the counsel which the old men had given him, he spoke to them
according to the counsel of the young men, saying, "My father made your
yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with
whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions." So the king did not hearken
to the people; for it was a turn of affairs brought about by the LORD that
20 he might fulfil his word, which the LORD spoke by Ahi'jah the Shi'lonite to

Jerobo'am the son of Nebat. And when all Israel saw that the king did not hearken to them, the people answered the king, "What portion have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David." So Israel departed to their tents. But

5 Rehobo'am reigned over the people of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah. Then King Rehobo'am sent Ador'am, who was taskmaster over the forced labor, and all Israel stoned him to death with stones. And King Rehobo'am made haste to mount his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem. So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day. And when all

10 Israel heard that Jerobo'am had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. There was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only. When Rehobo'am came to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, and the tribe of Benjamin, a hundred and eighty thousand chosen warriors, to fight against the house of

15 Israel, to restore the kingdom to Rehobo'am the son of Solomon. But the word of God came to Shemai'ah the man of God: "Say to Rehobo'am the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, 'Thus says the LORD, You shall not go up or fight against your kinsmen the people of Israel. Return every man to his

20 home, for this thing is from me.'" So they hearkened to the word of the

LORD, and went home again, according to the word of the LORD. Then Jerobo'am built Shechem in the hill country of E'phraim, and dwelt there; and he went out from there and built Penu'el. And Jerobo'am said in his heart, "Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David; if this

5 people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehobo'am king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehobo'am king of Judah." So the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, "You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel,

10 who brought you up out of the land of Egypt." And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. And this thing became a sin, for the people went to the one at Bethel and to the other as far as Dan. He also made houses on high places, and appointed priests from among all the people, who were not of the Levites. And Jerobo'am appointed a feast on the fifteenth

15 day of the eighth month like the feast that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices upon the altar; so he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made. He went up to the altar which he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month which he had devised of his

20 own heart; and he ordained a feast for the people of Israel, and went up to

the altar to burn incense. And behold, a man of God came out of Judah by the word of the LORD to Bethel. Jerobo'am was standing by the altar to burn incense. And the man cried against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, "O altar, altar, thus says the LORD: 'Behold, a son shall be born

5 to the house of David, Josi'ah by name; and he shall sacrifice upon you the priests of the high places who burn incense upon you, and men's bones shall be burned upon you.'" And he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign that the LORD has spoken: 'Behold, the altar shall be torn down, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out.'" And when the king

10 heard the saying of the man of God, which he cried against the altar at Bethel, Jerobo'am stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Lay hold of him." And his hand, which he stretched out against him, dried up, so that he could not draw it back to himself. The altar also was torn down, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God

15 had given by the word of the LORD. And the king said to the man of God, "Entreat now the favor of the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." And the man of God entreated the LORD; and the king's hand was restored to him, and became as it was before. And the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me, and refresh

20 yourself, and I will give you a reward." And the man of God said to the

king, "If you give me half your house, I will not go in with you. And I will not eat bread or drink water in this place; for so was it commanded me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'You shall neither eat bread, nor drink water, nor return by the way that you came.'" So he went another way, and

5 did not return by the way that he came to Bethel. Now there dwelt an old prophet in Bethel. And his sons came and told him all that the man of God had done that day in Bethel; the words also which he had spoken to the king, they told to their father. And their father said to them, "Which way did he go?" And his sons showed him the way which the man of God who

10 came from Judah had gone. And he said to his sons, "Saddle the ass for me." So they saddled the ass for him and he mounted it. And he went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak; and he said to him, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?" And he said, "I am." Then he said to him, "Come home with me and eat bread." And he said, "I

15 may not return with you, or go in with you; neither will I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place; for it was said to me by the word of the LORD, 'You shall neither eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by the way that you came.'" And he said to him, "I also am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'Bring him

20 back with you into your house that he may eat bread and drink water.'" But

he lied to him. So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house, and drank water. And as they sat at the table, the word of the LORD came to the prophet who had brought him back; and he cried to the man of God who came from Judah, "Thus says the LORD, 'Because you have disobeyed
5 the word of the LORD, and have not kept the commandment which the LORD your God commanded you, but have come back, and have eaten bread and drunk water in the place of which he said to you, "Eat no bread, and drink no water"; your body shall not come to the tomb of your fathers.'" And after he had eaten bread and drunk, he saddled the ass for the prophet
10 whom he had brought back. And as he went away a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his body was thrown in the road, and the ass stood beside it; the lion also stood beside the body. And behold, men passed by, and saw the body thrown in the road, and the lion standing by the body. And they came and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt. And
15 when the prophet who had brought him back from the way heard of it, he said, "It is the man of God, who disobeyed the word of the LORD; therefore the LORD has given him to the lion, which has torn him and slain him, according to the word which the LORD spoke to him." And he said to his sons, "Saddle the ass for me." And they saddled it. And he went and found
20 his body thrown in the road, and the ass and the lion standing beside the

body. The lion had not eaten the body or torn the ass. And the prophet took up the body of the man of God and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back to the city, to mourn and to bury him. And he laid the body in his own grave; and they mourned over him, saying, "Alas, my brother!" And
5 after he had buried him, he said to his sons, "When I die, bury me in the grave in which the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones. For the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel, and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Sama'ria, shall surely come to pass." After this thing Jerobo'am did not
10 turn from his evil way, but made priests for the high places again from among all the people; any who would, he consecrated to be priests of the high places. And this thing became sin to the house of Jerobo'am, so as to cut it off and to destroy it from the face of the earth. At that time Abi'jah the son of Jerobo'am fell sick. And Jerobo'am said to his wife, "Arise, and
15 disguise yourself, that it be not known that you are the wife of Jerobo'am, and go to Shiloh; behold, Ahi'jah the prophet is there, who said of me that I should be king over this people. Take with you ten loaves, some cakes, and a jar of honey, and go to him; he will tell you what shall happen to the
20 child." Jerobo'am's wife did so; she arose, and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahi'jah. Now Ahi'jah could not see, for his eyes were dim

because of his age. And the LORD said to Ahi'jah, "Behold, the wife of Jerobo'am is coming to inquire of you concerning her son; for he is sick. Thus and thus shall you say to her." When she came, she pretended to be another woman. But when Ahi'jah heard the sound of her feet, as she came

5 in at the door, he said, "Come in, wife of Jerobo'am; why do you pretend to be another? For I am charged with heavy tidings for you. Go, tell Jerobo'am, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: "Because I exalted you from among the people, and made you leader over my people Israel, and tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you; and yet you

10 have not been like my servant David, who kept my commandments, and followed me with all his heart, doing only that which was right in my eyes, but you have done evil above all that were before you and have gone and made for yourself other gods, and molten images, provoking me to anger, and have cast me behind your back; therefore behold, I will bring evil upon

15 the house of Jerobo'am, and will cut off from Jerobo'am every male, both bond and free in Israel, and will utterly consume the house of Jerobo'am, as a man burns up dung until it is all gone. Any one belonging to Jerobo'am who dies in the city the dogs shall eat; and any one who dies in the open country the birds of the air shall eat; for the LORD has spoken it.'" Arise

20 therefore, go to your house. When your feet enter the city, the child shall

die. And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him; for he only of
Jerobo'am shall come to the grave, because in him there is found something
pleasing to the LORD, the God of Israel, in the house of Jerobo'am.

Moreover the LORD will raise up for himself a king over Israel, who shall
5 cut off the house of Jerobo'am today. And henceforth the LORD will smite
Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and root up Israel out of this good
land which he gave to their fathers, and scatter them beyond the Euphra'tes,
because they have made their Ashe'rim, provoking the LORD to anger. And
he will give Israel up because of the sins of Jerobo'am, which he sinned and
10 which he made Israel to sin." Then Jerobo'am's wife arose, and departed, and
came to Tirzah. And as she came to the threshold of the house, the child
died. And all Israel buried him and mourned for him, according to the word
of the LORD, which he spoke by his servant Ahi'jah the prophet. Now the
rest of the acts of Jerobo'am, how he warred and how he reigned, behold,
15 they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel. And
the time that Jerobo'am reigned was twenty-two years; and he slept with his
fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his stead. Now Rehobo'am the son of
Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehobo'am was forty-one years old when he
began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which
20 the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there.

His mother's name was Na'amah the Ammonitess. And Judah did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they committed, more than all that their fathers had done. For they also built for themselves high places, and pillars, and Ashe'rim on every

5 high hill and under every green tree; and there were also male cult prostitutes in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD drove out before the people of Israel. In the fifth year of King Rehobo'am, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem; he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of

10 the king's house; he took away everything. He also took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made; and King Rehobo'am made in their stead shields of bronze, and committed them to the hands of the officers of the guard, who kept the door of the king's house. And as often as the king went into the house of the LORD, the guard bore them and brought them back to

15 the guardroom. Now the rest of the acts of Rehobo'am, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?

And there was war between Rehobo'am and Jerobo'am continually. And Rehobo'am slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. His mother's name was Na'amah the Ammonitess. And Abi'jam his

20 son reigned in his stead. Now in the eighteenth year of King Jerobo'am the

son of Nebat, Abi'jam began to reign over Judah. He reigned for three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Ma'acah the daughter of Abish'alom.

And he walked in all the sins which his father did before him; and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father.

5 Nevertheless for David's sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, setting up his son after him, and establishing Jerusalem; because David did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, and did not turn aside from anything that he commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uri'ah the Hittite. Now there was war between Rehobo'am and

10 Jerobo'am all the days of his life. The rest of the acts of Abi'jam, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? And there was war between Abi'jam and Jerobo'am. And Abi'jam slept with his fathers; and they buried him in the city of David. And Asa his son reigned in his stead. In the twentieth year of Jerobo'am king of Israel

15 Asa began to reign over Judah, and he reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Ma'acah the daughter of Abish'alom. And Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as David his father had done. He put away the male cult prostitutes out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made. He also removed Ma'acah his mother from being

20 queen mother because she had an abominable image made for Ashe'rah; and

Asa cut down her image and burned it at the brook Kidron. But the high places were not taken away. Nevertheless the heart of Asa was wholly true to the LORD all his days. And he brought into the house of the LORD the votive gifts of his father and his own votive gifts, silver, and gold, and

5 vessels. And there was war between Asa and Ba'asha king of Israel all their days. Ba'asha king of Israel went up against Judah, and built Ramah, that he might permit no one to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. Then Asa took all the silver and the gold that were left in the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house, and gave them into the

10 hands of his servants; and King Asa sent them to Ben-ha'dad the son of Tabrim'mon, the son of He'zi-on, king of Syria, who dwelt in Damascus, saying, "Let there be a league between me and you, as between my father and your father: behold, I am sending to you a present of silver and gold; go, break your league with Ba'asha king of Israel, that he may withdraw

15 from me." And Ben-ha'dad hearkened to King Asa, and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel, and conquered Ijon, Dan, A'bel-beth-ma'acah, and all Chin'neroth, with all the land of Naph'tali. And when Ba'asha heard of it, he stopped building Ramah, and he dwelt in Tirzah.

Then King Asa made a proclamation to all Judah, none was exempt, and

20 they carried away the stones of Ramah and its timber, with which Ba'asha

had been building; and with them King Asa built Geba of Benjamin and Mizpah. Now the rest of all the acts of Asa, all his might, and all that he did, and the cities which he built, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? But in his old age he was diseased in his

5 feet. And Asa slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father; and Jehosh'aphat his son reigned in his stead. Nadab the son of Jerobo'am began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah; and he reigned over Israel two years. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in his

10 sin which he made Israel to sin. Ba'asha the son of Ahi'jah, of the house of Is'sachar, conspired against him; and Ba'asha struck him down at Gib'bethon, which belonged to the Philistines; for Nadab and all Israel were laying siege to Gib'bethon. So Ba'asha killed him in the third year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his stead. And as soon as he was king, he killed all the

15 house of Jerobo'am; he left to the house of Jerobo'am not one that breathed, until he had destroyed it, according to the word of the LORD which he spoke by his servant Ahi'jah the Shi'lonite; it was for the sins of Jerobo'am which he sinned and which he made Israel to sin, and because of the anger to which he provoked the LORD, the God of Israel. Now the rest of the

20 acts of Nadab, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the

Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? And there was war between Asa and Ba'asha king of Israel all their days. In the third year of Asa king of Judah, Ba'asha the son of Ahi'jah began to reign over all Israel at Tirzah, and reigned twenty-four years. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of Jerobo'am and in his sin which he made Israel to sin. And the word of the LORD came to Jehu the son of Hana'ni against Ba'asha, saying, "Since I exalted you out of the dust and made you leader over my people Israel, and you have walked in the way of Jerobo'am, and have made my people Israel to sin, provoking me to anger with their sins, behold, I will utterly sweep away Ba'asha and his house, and I will make your house like the house of Jerobo'am the son of Nebat. Any one belonging to Ba'asha who dies in the city the dogs shall eat; and any one of his who dies in the field the birds of the air shall eat." Now the rest of the acts of Ba'asha, and what he did, and his might, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? And Ba'asha slept with his fathers, and was buried at Tirzah; and Elah his son reigned in his stead. Moreover the word of the LORD came by the prophet Jehu the son of Hana'ni against Ba'asha and his house, both because of all the evil that he did in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger with the work of his hands, in being like the house of Jerobo'am, and also because he destroyed it. In the twenty-

sixth year of Asa king of Judah, Elah the son of Ba'asha began to reign over Israel in Tirzah, and reigned two years. But his servant Zimri, commander of half his chariots, conspired against him. When he was at Tirzah, drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza, who was over the household in Tirzah, Zimri came in and struck him down and killed him, in the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his stead. When he began to reign, as soon as he had seated himself on his throne, he killed all the house of Ba'asha; he did not leave him a single male of his kinsmen or his friends. Thus Zimri destroyed all the house of Ba'asha, according to the word of the LORD, which he spoke against Ba'asha by Jehu the prophet, for all the sins of Ba'asha and the sins of Elah his son which they sinned, and which they made Israel to sin, provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their idols. Now the rest of the acts of Elah, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? In the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, Zimri reigned seven days in Tirzah. Now the troops were encamped against Gib'bethon, which belonged to the Philistines, and the troops who were encamped heard it said, "Zimri has conspired, and he has killed the king"; therefore all Israel made Omri, the commander of the army, king over Israel that day in the camp. So Omri went up from Gib'bethon, and all Israel with him, and they

besieged Tirzah. And when Zimri saw that the city was taken, he went into the citadel of the king's house, and burned the king's house over him with fire, and died, because of his sins which he committed, doing evil in the sight of the LORD, walking in the way of Jerobo'am, and for his sin which

5 he committed, making Israel to sin. Now the rest of the acts of Zimri, and the conspiracy which he made, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? Then the people of Israel were divided into two parts; half of the people followed Tibni the son of Ginath, to make him king, and half followed Omri. But the people who followed Omri

10 overcame the people who followed Tibni the son of Ginath; so Tibni died, and Omri became king. In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri began to reign over Israel, and reigned for twelve years; six years he reigned in Tirzah. He bought the hill of Sama'ria from Shemer for two talents of silver; and he fortified the hill, and called the name of the city which he

15 built, Sama'ria, after the name of Shemer, the owner of the hill. Omri did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did more evil than all who were before him. For he walked in all the way of Jerobo'am the son of Nebat, and in the sins which he made Israel to sin, provoking the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger by their idols. Now the rest of the acts of Omri

20 which he did, and the might that he showed, are they not written in the

Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? And Omri slept with his fathers, and was buried in Sama'ria; and Ahab his son reigned in his stead.

In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri began to reign over Israel, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in

5 Sama'ria twenty-two years. And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD more than all that were before him. And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jerobo'am the son of Nebat, he took for wife Jez'ebel the daughter of Ethba'al king of the Sido'nians, and went and served Ba'al, and worshiped him. He erected an altar for Ba'al in

10 the house of Ba'al, which he built in Sama'ria. And Ahab made an Ashe'rah. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him. In his days Hi'el of Bethel built Jericho; he laid its foundation at the cost of Abi'ram his first-born, and set up its gates at the cost of his youngest son Segub, according to the word of

15 the LORD, which he spoke by Joshua the son of Nun. Now Eli'jah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word." And the word of the LORD came to him,

"Depart from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith,

20 that is east of the Jordan. You shall drink from the brook, and I have

commanded the ravens to feed you there." So he went and did according to the word of the LORD; he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith that is east of the Jordan. And the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. And after

5 a while the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land. Then the word of the LORD came to him, "Arise, go to Zar'ephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So he arose and went to Zar'ephath; and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her

10 and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." And she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a cruse; and now, I am gathering a couple of sticks, that I may go in and prepare it

15 for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." And Eli'jah said to her, "Fear not; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, 'The jar of meal shall not be spent, and the cruse of oil shall not fail, until the day that the LORD sends rain

20 upon the earth.'" And she went and did as Eli'jah said; and she, and he, and

her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not spent, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD which he spoke by Eli'jah. After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill; and his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. And

5 she said to Eli'jah, "What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to cause the death of my son!" And he said to her, "Give me your son." And he took him from her bosom, and carried him up into the upper chamber, where he lodged, and laid him upon his own bed. And he cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God,

10 hast thou brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?" Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this child's soul come into him again." And the LORD hearkened to the voice of Eli'jah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. And Eli'jah took the child, and

15 brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and delivered him to his mother; and Eli'jah said, "See, your son lives." And the woman said to Eli'jah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth." After many days the word of the LORD came to Eli'jah, in the third year, saying, "Go, show yourself to Ahab; and I

20 will send rain upon the earth." So Eli'jah went to show himself to Ahab.

Now the famine was severe in Sama'ria. And Ahab called Obadi'ah, who was over the household. (Now Obadi'ah revered the LORD greatly; and when Jez'ebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, Obadi'ah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.) And

5 Ahab said to Obadi'ah, "Go through the land to all the springs of water and to all the valleys; perhaps we may find grass and save the horses and mules alive, and not lose some of the animals." So they divided the land between them to pass through it; Ahab went in one direction by himself, and Obadi'ah went in another direction by himself. And as Obadi'ah was on the

10 way, behold, Eli'jah met him; and Obadi'ah recognized him, and fell on his face, and said, "Is it you, my lord Eli'jah?" And he answered him, "It is I. Go, tell your lord, 'Behold, Eli'jah is here.'" And he said, "Wherein have I sinned, that you would give your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me? As the LORD your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom whither my

15 lord has not sent to seek you; and when they would say, 'He is not here,' he would take an oath of the kingdom or nation, that they had not found you. And now you say, 'Go, tell your lord, "Behold, Eli'jah is here.'" And as soon as I have gone from you, the Spirit of the LORD will carry you whither I know not; and so, when I come and tell Ahab and he cannot find you, he

20 will kill me, although I your servant have revered the LORD from my youth.

Has it not been told my lord what I did when Jez'ebel killed the prophets of the LORD, how I hid a hundred men of the LORD'S prophets by fifties in a cave, and fed them with bread and water? And now you say, 'Go, tell your lord, "Behold, Eli'jah is here"; and he will kill me." And Eli'jah said, "As

5 the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself to him today." So Obadi'ah went to meet Ahab, and told him; and Ahab went to meet Eli'jah. When Ahab saw Eli'jah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?" And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel; but you have, and your father's house, because you have forsaken the commandments

10 of the LORD and followed the Ba'als. Now therefore send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the four hundred and fifty prophets of Ba'al and the four hundred prophets of Ashe'rah, who eat at Jez'ebel's table." So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel, and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. And Eli'jah came near to all the people, and said, "How

15 long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Ba'al, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word. Then Eli'jah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD; but Ba'al's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Let two bulls be given to us; and let them choose one bull for themselves,

20 and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it; and I will

prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood, and put no fire to it. And
you call on the name of your god and I will call on the name of the
LORD; and the God who answers by fire, he is God." And all the people
answered, "It is well spoken." Then Eli'jah said to the prophets of Ba'al,
5 "Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; and
call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it." And they took the bull
which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Ba'al
from morning until noon, saying, "O Ba'al, answer us!" But there was no
voice, and no one answered. And they limped about the altar which they had
10 made. And at noon Eli'jah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud, for he is a
god; either he is musing, or he has gone aside, or he is on a journey, or
perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." And they cried aloud, and cut
themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed
out upon them. And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the
15 offering of the oblation, but there was no voice; no one answered, no one
heeded. Then Eli'jah said to all the people, "Come near to me"; and all the
people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had
been thrown down; Eli'jah took twelve stones, according to the number of the
tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying,
20 "Israel shall be your name"; and with the stones he built an altar in the

name of the LORD. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as
would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order, and cut
the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, "Fill four jars with
water, and pour it on the burnt offering, and on the wood." And he said,
5 "Do it a second time"; and they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a
third time"; and they did it a third time. And the water ran round about the
altar, and filled the trench also with water. And at the time of the offering
of the oblation, Eli'jah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of
Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in
10 Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy
word. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that
thou, O LORD, art God, and that thou hast turned their hearts back." Then
the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt offering, and the wood,
and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.
15 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The
LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God." And Eli'jah said to them, "Seize
the prophets of Ba'al; let not one of them escape." And they seized them;
and Eli'jah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and killed them there.
And Eli'jah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of the
20 rushing of rain." So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Eli'jah went up

to the top of Carmel; and he bowed himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees. And he said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." And he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go again seven times." And at the seventh time he said,

5 "Behold, a little cloud like a man's hand is rising out of the sea." And he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.'" And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the LORD was on Eli'jah; and he girded up his loins and ran

10 before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel. Ahab told Jez'ebel all that Eli'jah had done, and how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jez'ebel sent a messenger to Eli'jah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid, and he arose and went for his life, and

15 came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree; and he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am no better than my fathers." And he lay down and slept under a broom tree; and behold, an angel touched

20 him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." And he looked, and behold, there was

at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank, and lay down again. And the angel of the LORD came again a second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, else the journey will be too great for you." And he arose, and ate and drank, and went in the

5 strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. And there he came to a cave, and lodged there; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Eli'jah?" He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the people of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thy altars, and

10 slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away." And he said, "Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an

15 earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. And when Eli'jah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Eli'jah?" He said, "I

20 have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the people of

Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thy altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away." And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, you shall anoint Haz'ael to be king over Syria; and Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel; and Eli'sha the son of Shaphat of A'bel-meho'lah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. And him who escapes from the sword of Haz'ael shall Jehu slay; and him who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Eli'sha slay. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Ba'al, and every mouth that has not kissed him." So he departed from there, and found Eli'sha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing, with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Eli'jah passed by him and cast his mantle upon him. And he left the oxen, and ran after Eli'jah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" And he returned from following him, and took the yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Eli'jah, and ministered to him. Ben-ha'dad the king of Syria gathered all his army together; thirty-two kings were with him, and horses and chariots; and he

went up and besieged Sama'ria, and fought against it. And he sent
messengers into the city to Ahab king of Israel, and said to him, "Thus says
Ben-ha'dad: 'Your silver and your gold are mine; your fairest wives and
children also are mine.'" And the king of Israel answered, "As you say, my
5 lord, O king, I am yours, and all that I have." The messengers came again,
and said, "Thus says Ben-ha'dad: 'I sent to you, saying, "Deliver to me your
silver and your gold, your wives and your children"; nevertheless I will send
my servants to you tomorrow about this time, and they shall search your
house and the houses of your servants, and lay hands on whatever pleases
10 them, and take it away.'" Then the king of Israel called all the elders of the
land, and said, "Mark, now, and see how this man is seeking trouble; for he
sent to me for my wives and my children, and for my silver and my gold,
and I did not refuse him." And all the elders and all the people said to him,
"Do not heed or consent." So he said to the messengers of Ben-ha'dad, "Tell
15 my lord the king, 'All that you first demanded of your servant I will do; but
this thing I cannot do.'" And the messengers departed and brought him word
again. Ben-ha'dad sent to him and said, "The gods do so to me, and more
also, if the dust of Sama'ria shall suffice for handfuls for all the people who
follow me." And the king of Israel answered, "Tell him, 'Let not him that
20 girds on his armor boast himself as he that puts it off.'" When Ben-ha'dad

heard this message as he was drinking with the kings in the booths, he said to his men, "Take your positions." And they took their positions against the city. And behold, a prophet came near to Ahab king of Israel and said, "Thus says the LORD, Have you seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will

5 give it into your hand this day; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

And Ahab said, "By whom?" He said, "Thus says the LORD, By the servants of the governors of the districts." Then he said, "Who shall begin the battle?" He answered, "You." Then he mustered the servants of the governors of the districts, and they were two hundred and thirty-two; and

10 after them he mustered all the people of Israel, seven thousand. And they went out at noon, while Ben-ha'dad was drinking himself drunk in the booths, he and the thirty-two kings who helped him. The servants of the governors of the districts went out first. And Ben-ha'dad sent out scouts, and they reported to him, "Men are coming out from Sama'ria." He said, "If they

15 have come out for peace, take them alive; or if they have come out for war, take them alive." So these went out of the city, the servants of the governors of the districts, and the army which followed them. And each killed his man; the Syrians fled and Israel pursued them, but Ben-ha'dad king of Syria

20 escaped on a horse with horsemen. And the king of Israel went out, and captured the horses and chariots, and killed the Syrians with a great

slaughter. Then the prophet came near to the king of Israel, and said to him,
"Come, strengthen yourself, and consider well what you have to do; for in
the spring the king of Syria will come up against you." And the servants of
the king of Syria said to him, "Their gods are gods of the hills, and so they
5 were stronger than we; but let us fight against them in the plain, and surely
we shall be stronger than they. And do this: remove the kings, each from his
post, and put commanders in their places; and muster an army like the army
that you have lost, horse for horse, and chariot for chariot; then we will
fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they."
10 And he hearkened to their voice, and did so. In the spring Ben-ha'dad
mustered the Syrians, and went up to Aphek, to fight against Israel. And the
people of Israel were mustered, and were provisioned, and went against them;
the people of Israel encamped before them like two little flocks of goats, but
the Syrians filled the country. And a man of God came near and said to the
15 king of Israel, "Thus says the LORD, 'Because the Syrians have said, "The
LORD is a god of the hills but he is not a god of the valleys," therefore I
will give all this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I
am the LORD.'" And they encamped opposite one another seven days. Then
on the seventh day the battle was joined; and the people of Israel smote of
20 the Syrians a hundred thousand foot soldiers in one day. And the rest fled

into the city of Aphek; and the wall fell upon twenty-seven thousand men
that were left. Ben-ha'dad also fled, and entered an inner chamber in the city.
And his servants said to him, "Behold now, we have heard that the kings of
the house of Israel are merciful kings; let us put sackcloth on our loins and
5 ropes upon our heads, and go out to the king of Israel; perhaps he will
spare your life." So they girded sackcloth on their loins, and put ropes on
their heads, and went to the king of Israel and said, "Your servant Ben-
ha'dad says, 'Pray, let me live.'" And he said, "Does he still live? He is my
brother." Now the men were watching for an omen, and they quickly took it
10 up from him and said, "Yes, your brother Ben-ha'dad." Then he said, "Go
and bring him." Then Ben-ha'dad came forth to him; and he caused him to
come up into the chariot. And Ben-ha'dad said to him, "The cities which my
father took from your father I will restore; and you may establish bazaars for
yourself in Damascus, as my father did in Sama'ria." And Ahab said, "I will
15 let you go on these terms." So he made a covenant with him and let him
go. And a certain man of the sons of the prophets said to his fellow at the
command of the LORD, "Strike me, I pray." But the man refused to strike
him. Then he said to him, "Because you have not obeyed the voice of the
LORD, behold, as soon as you have gone from me, a lion shall kill you."
20 And as soon as he had departed from him, a lion met him and killed him.

Then he found another man, and said, "Strike me, I pray." And the man struck him, smiting and wounding him. So the prophet departed, and waited for the king by the way, disguising himself with a bandage over his eyes. And as the king passed, he cried to the king and said, "Your servant went
5 out into the midst of the battle; and behold, a soldier turned and brought a man to me, and said, 'Keep this man; if by any means he be missing, your life shall be for his life, or else you shall pay a talent of silver.' And as your servant was busy here and there, he was gone." The king of Israel said to him, "So shall your judgment be; you yourself have decided it." Then he
10 made haste to take the bandage away from his eyes; and the king of Israel recognized him as one of the prophets. And he said to him, "Thus says the LORD, 'Because you have let go out of your hand the man whom I had devoted to destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people.'" And the king of Israel went to his house resentful
15 and sullen, and came to Sama'ria. Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab king of Sama'ria. And after this Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house; and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money." But
20 Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give you the

inheritance of my fathers." And Ahab went into his house vexed and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him; for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food. But Jez'ebel his wife

5 came to him, and said to him, "Why is your spirit so vexed that you eat no food?" And he said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite, and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it please you, I will give you another vineyard for it'; and he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'" And Jez'ebel his wife said to him, "Do you now govern

10 Israel? Arise, and eat bread, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and she sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who dwelt with Naboth in his city. And she wrote in the letters,

"Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people; and set two

15 base fellows opposite him, and let them bring a charge against him, saying, 'You have cursed God and the king.' Then take him out, and stone him to death." And the men of his city, the elders and the nobles who dwelt in his city, did as Jez'ebel had sent word to them. As it was written in the letters which she had sent to them, they proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth on high

20 among the people. And the two base fellows came in and sat opposite him;

and the base fellows brought a charge against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth cursed God and the king." So they took him outside the city, and stoned him to death with stones. Then they sent to Jez'ebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned; he is dead." As soon as Jez'ebel heard that

5 Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jez'ebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead." And as soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it. Then the word of the LORD

10 came to Eli'jah the Tishbite, saying, "Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who is in Sama'ria; behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to take possession. And you shall say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, "Have you killed, and also taken possession?"' And you shall say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: "In the place where dogs licked up the blood of

15 Naboth shall dogs lick your own blood.'"" Ahab said to Eli'jah, "Have you found me, O my enemy?" He answered, "I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do what is evil in the sight of the LORD. Behold, I will bring evil upon you; I will utterly sweep you away, and will cut off from Ahab every male, bond or free, in Israel; and I will make your house

20 like the house of Jerobo'am the son of Nebat, and like the house of Ba'asha

the son of Ahi'jah, for the anger to which you have provoked me, and because you have made Israel to sin. And of Jez'ebel the LORD also said, "The dogs shall eat Jez'ebel within the bounds of Jezreel.' Any one belonging to Ahab who dies in the city the dogs shall eat; and any one of his who

5 dies in the open country the birds of the air shall eat." (There was none who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the LORD like Ahab, whom Jez'ebel his wife incited. He did very abominably in going after idols, as the Amorites had done, whom the LORD cast out before the people of Israel.) And when Ahab heard those words, he rent his clothes, and put

10 sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about dejectedly. And the word of the LORD came to Eli'jah the Tishbite, saying, "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days; but in his son's days I will bring the evil upon his house." For three years Syria and

15 Israel continued without war. But in the third year Jehosh'aphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel. And the king of Israel said to his servants, "Do you know that Ramoth-gilead belongs to us, and we keep quiet and do not take it out of the hand of the king of Syria?" And he said to Jehosh'aphat, "Will you go with me to battle at Ramoth-gilead?" And

20 Jehosh'aphat said to the king of Israel, "I am as you are, my people as your

people, my horses as your horses." And Jehosh'aphat said to the king of Israel, "Inquire first for the word of the LORD." Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said to them, "Shall I go to battle against Ramoth-gilead, or shall I forbear?" And they

5 said, "Go up; for the Lord will give it into the hand of the king." But Jehosh'aphat said, "Is there not here another prophet of the LORD of whom we may inquire?" And the king of Israel said to Jehosh'aphat, "There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of the LORD, Micai'ah the son of Imlah; but I hate him, for he never prophesies good concerning me, but evil." And

10 Jehosh'aphat said, "Let not the king say so." Then the king of Israel summoned an officer and said, "Bring quickly Micai'ah the son of Imlah."

Now the king of Israel and Jehosh'aphat the king of Judah were sitting on their thrones, arrayed in their robes, at the threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Sama'ria; and all the prophets were prophesying before them. And

15 Zedeki'ah the son of Chena'anah made for himself horns of iron, and said, "Thus says the LORD, 'With these you shall push the Syrians until they are destroyed.'" And all the prophets prophesied so, and said, "Go up to Ramoth-gilead and triumph; the LORD will give it into the hand of the king." And the messenger who went to summon Micai'ah said to him, "Behold, the

20 words of the prophets with one accord are favorable to the king; let your

word be like the word of one of them, and speak favorably." But Micai'ah said, "As the LORD lives, what the LORD says to me, that I will speak." And when he had come to the king, the king said to him, "Micai'ah, shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall we forbear?" And he answered

5 him, "Go up and triumph; the LORD will give it into the hand of the king." But the king said to him, "How many times shall I adjure you that you speak to me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?" And he said, "I saw all Israel scattered upon the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd; and the LORD said, 'These have no master; let each return to his

10 home in peace.'" And the king of Israel said to Jehosh'aphat, "Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?" And Micai'ah said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing beside him on his right hand and on his left; and the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab, that

15 he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said one thing, and another said another. Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, saying, 'I will entice him.' And the LORD said to him, 'By what means?' And he said, 'I will go forth, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And he said, 'You are to entice him, and you shall

20 succeed; go forth and do so.' Now therefore behold, the LORD has put a

lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the LORD has spoken evil concerning you." Then Zedeki'ah the son of Chena'anah came near and struck Micai'ah on the cheek, and said, "How did the Spirit of the LORD go from me to speak to you?" And Micai'ah said, "Behold, you shall see on

5 that day when you go into an inner chamber to hide yourself." And the king of Israel said, "Seize Micai'ah, and take him back to Amon the governor of the city and to Jo'ash the king's son; and say, 'Thus says the king, "Put this fellow in prison, and feed him with scant fare of bread and water, until I come in peace."'" And Micai'ah said, "If you return in peace, the LORD has

10 not spoken by me." And he said, "Hear, all you peoples!" So the king of Israel and Jehosh'aphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead. And the king of Israel said to Jehosh'aphat, "I will disguise myself and go into battle, but you wear your robes." And the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle. Now the king of Syria had commanded the thirty-two captains of

15 his chariots, "Fight with neither small nor great, but only with the king of Israel." And when the captains of the chariots saw Jehosh'aphat, they said, "It is surely the king of Israel." So they turned to fight against him; and Jehosh'aphat cried out. And when the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back from pursuing him. But a certain

20 man drew his bow at a venture, and struck the king of Israel between the

scale armor and the breastplate; therefore he said to the driver of his chariot,
"Turn about, and carry me out of the battle, for I am wounded." And the
battle grew hot that day, and the king was propped up in his chariot facing
the Syrians, until at evening he died; and the blood of the wound flowed
5 into the bottom of the chariot. And about sunset a cry went through the
army, "Every man to his city, and every man to his country!" So the king
died, and was brought to Sama'ria; and they buried the king in Sama'ria. And
they washed the chariot by the pool of Sama'ria, and the dogs licked up his
blood, and the harlots washed themselves in it, according to the word of the
10 LORD which he had spoken. Now the rest of the acts of Ahab, and all that
he did, and the ivory house which he built, and all the cities that he built,
are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
So Ahab slept with his fathers; and Ahazi'ah his son reigned in his stead.
Jehosh'aphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of
15 Ahab king of Israel. Jehosh'aphat was thirty-five years old when he began to
reign, and he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was
Azu'bah the daughter of Shilhi. He walked in all the way of Asa his father;
he did not turn aside from it, doing what was right in the sight of the
LORD; yet the high places were not taken away, and the people still
20 sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. Jehosh'aphat also made

peace with the king of Israel. Now the rest of the acts of Jehosh'aphat, and his might that he showed, and how he warred, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? And the remnant of the male cult prostitutes who remained in the days of his father Asa, he exterminated

5 from the land. There was no king in Edom; a deputy was king. Jehosh'aphat made ships of Tarshish to go to Ophir for gold; but they did not go, for the ships were wrecked at E'zion-ge'ber. Then Ahazi'ah the son of Ahab said to Jehosh'aphat, "Let my servants go with your servants in the ships," but Jehosh'aphat was not willing. And Jehosh'aphat slept with his fathers, and

10 was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father; and Jeho'ram his son reigned in his stead. Ahazi'ah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Sama'ria in the seventeenth year of Jehosh'aphat king of Judah, and he reigned two years over Israel. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother,

15 and in the way of Jerobo'am the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin. He served Ba'al and worshiped him, and provoked the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger in every way that his father had done.*

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