

## 2 Kings

After the death of Ahab, Moab rebelled against Israel. Now Ahazi'ah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber in Sama'ria, and lay sick; so he sent messengers, telling them, "Go, inquire of Ba'al-ze'bub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this sickness." But the angel of the LORD said

5 to Eli'jah the Tishbite, "Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Sama'ria, and say to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Ba'al-ze'bub, the god of Ekron?' Now therefore thus says the LORD, 'You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone, but you shall surely die.'" So Eli'jah went. The messengers returned to

10 the king, and he said to them, "Why have you returned?" And they said to him, "There came a man to meet us, and said to us, 'Go back to the king who sent you, and say to him, Thus says the LORD, Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Ba'al-ze'bub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have

15 gone, but shall surely die.'" He said to them, "What kind of man was he who came to meet you and told you these things?" They answered him, "He wore a garment of haircloth, with a girdle of leather about his loins." And he said, "It is Eli'jah the Tishbite." Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty men with his fifty. He went up to Eli'jah, who was sitting on the top

20 of a hill, and said to him, "O man of God, the king says, 'Come down.'"

But Eli'jah answered the captain of fifty, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty." Then fire came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty. Again the king sent to him another captain of fifty men with his fifty. And he went up and said to

5 him, "O man of God, this is the king's order, 'Come down quickly!'" But Eli'jah answered them, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty." Then the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. Again the king sent the captain of a third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up,

10 and came and fell on his knees before Eli'jah, and entreated him, "O man of God, I pray you, let my life, and the life of these fifty servants of yours, be precious in your sight. Lo, fire came down from heaven, and consumed the two former captains of fifty men with their fifties; but now let my life be precious in your sight." Then the angel of the LORD said to Eli'jah, "Go

15 down with him; do not be afraid of him." So he arose and went down with him to the king, and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, 'Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Ba'al-ze'bub, the god of Ekron, --is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of his word? --therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone, but you shall surely die.'"

20 So he died according to the word of the LORD which Eli'jah had spoken.

Jeho'ram, his brother, became king in his stead in the second year of Jeho'ram the son of Jehosh'aphat, king of Judah, because Ahazi'ah had no son. Now the rest of the acts of Ahazi'ah which he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? Now when the LORD

5 was about to take Eli'jah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Eli'jah and Eli'sha were on their way from Gilgal. And Eli'jah said to Eli'sha, "Tarry here, I pray you; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Eli'sha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel

10 came out to Eli'sha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; hold your peace." Eli'jah said to him, "Eli'sha, tarry here, I pray you; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The sons

15 of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Eli'sha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; hold your peace." Then Eli'jah said to him, "Tarry here, I pray you; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave

20 you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the sons of the prophets

also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Eli'jah took his mantle, and rolled it up, and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Eli'jah

5 said to Eli'sha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Eli'sha said, "I pray you, let me inherit a double share of your spirit." And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." And as they still went on and talked, behold, a chariot of

10 fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Eli'jah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Eli'sha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and rent them in two pieces. And he took up the mantle of Eli'jah that had fallen from him, and went back and

15 stood on the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the mantle of Eli'jah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, "Where is the LORD, the God of Eli'jah?" And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other; and Eli'sha went over. Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him over against them, they said, "The

20 spirit of Eli'jah rests on Eli'sha." And they came to meet him, and bowed to

the ground before him. And they said to him, "Behold now, there are with your servants fifty strong men; pray, let them go, and seek your master; it may be that the Spirit of the LORD has caught him up and cast him upon some mountain or into some valley." And he said, "You shall not send." But

5 when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, "Send." They sent therefore fifty men; and for three days they sought him but did not find him. And they came back to him, while he tarried at Jericho, and he said to them, "Did I not say to you, Do not go?" Now the men of the city said to Eli'sha, "Behold, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees; but

10 the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful." He said, "Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it." So they brought it to him. Then he went to the spring of water and threw salt in it, and said, "Thus says the LORD, I have made this water wholesome; henceforth neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it." So the water has been wholesome to this day, according to

15 the word which Eli'sha spoke. He went up from there to Bethel; and while he was going up on the way, some small boys came out of the city and jeered at him, saying, "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!" And he turned around, and when he saw them, he cursed them in the name of the LORD. And two she-bears came out of the woods and tore forty-two of the

20 boys. From there he went on to Mount Carmel, and thence he returned to

Sama'ria. In the eighteenth year of Jehosh'aphat king of Judah, Jeho'ram the son of Ahab became king over Israel in Sama'ria, and he reigned twelve years. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, though not like his father and mother, for he put away the pillar of Ba'al which his father had made. Nevertheless he clung to the sin of Jerobo'am the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin; he did not depart from it. Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheep breeder; and he had to deliver annually to the king of Israel a hundred thousand lambs, and the wool of a hundred thousand rams. But when Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel. So King Jeho'ram marched out of Sama'ria at that time and mustered all Israel. And he went and sent word to Jehosh'aphat king of Judah, "The king of Moab has rebelled against me; will you go with me to battle against Moab?" And he said, "I will go; I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses." Then he said, "By which way shall we march?" Jeho'ram answered, "By the way of the wilderness of Edom." So the king of Israel went with the king of Judah and the king of Edom. And when they had made a circuitous march of seven days, there was no water for the army or for the beasts which followed them. Then the king of Israel said, "Alas! The LORD has called these three kings to give them into the hand of Moab." And Jehosh'aphat said, "Is there no prophet of the LORD here,

through whom we may inquire of the LORD?" Then one of the king of Israel's servants answered, "Eli'sha the son of Shaphat is here, who poured water on the hands of Eli'jah." And Jehosh'aphat said, "The word of the LORD is with him." So the king of Israel and Jehosh'aphat and the king of Edom went down to him. And Eli'sha said to the king of Israel, "What have I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and the prophets of your mother." But the king of Israel said to him, "No; it is the LORD who has called these three kings to give them into the hand of Moab." And Eli'sha said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, whom I serve, were it not that I have regard for Jehosh'aphat the king of Judah, I would neither look at you, nor see you. But now bring me a minstrel." And when the minstrel played, the power of the LORD came upon him. And he said, "Thus says the LORD, 'I will make this dry stream-bed full of pools.' For thus says the LORD, 'You shall not see wind or rain, but that stream-bed shall be filled with water, so that you shall drink, you, your cattle, and your beasts.' This is a light thing in the sight of the LORD; he will also give the Moabites into your hand, and you shall conquer every fortified city, and every choice city, and shall fell every good tree, and stop up all springs of water, and ruin every good piece of land with stones." The next morning, about the time of offering the sacrifice, behold, water came from the direction of Edom, till the

country was filled with water. When all the Moabites heard that the kings  
had come up to fight against them, all who were able to put on armor, from  
the youngest to the oldest, were called out, and were drawn up at the  
frontier. And when they rose early in the morning, and the sun shone upon  
5 the water, the Moabites saw the water opposite them as red as blood. And  
they said, "This is blood; the kings have surely fought together, and slain  
one another. Now then, Moab, to the spoil!" But when they came to the  
camp of Israel, the Israelites rose and attacked the Moabites, till they fled  
before them; and they went forward, slaughtering the Moabites as they went.  
10 And they overthrew the cities, and on every good piece of land every man  
threw a stone, until it was covered; they stopped every spring of water, and  
felled all the good trees; till only its stones were left in Kir-har'eseth, and  
the slingers surrounded and conquered it. When the king of Moab saw that  
the battle was going against him, he took with him seven hundred  
15 swordsmen to break through, opposite the king of Edom; but they could not.  
Then he took his eldest son who was to reign in his stead, and offered him  
for a burnt offering upon the wall. And there came great wrath upon Israel;  
and they withdrew from him and returned to their own land. Now the wife  
of one of the sons of the prophets cried to Eli'sha, "Your servant my  
20 husband is dead; and you know that your servant feared the LORD, but the



creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves." And Eli'sha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me; what have you in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house, except a jar of oil." Then he said, "Go outside, borrow vessels of all your neighbors,  
5 empty vessels and not too few. Then go in, and shut the door upon yourself and your sons, and pour into all these vessels; and when one is full, set it aside." So she went from him and shut the door upon herself and her sons; and as she poured they brought the vessels to her. When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her,  
10 "There is not another." Then the oil stopped flowing. She came and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest." One day Eli'sha went on to Shunem, where a wealthy woman lived, who urged him to eat some food. So whenever he passed that way, he would turn in there to eat food. And she said to her  
15 husband, "Behold now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God, who is continually passing our way. Let us make a small roof chamber with walls, and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp, so that whenever he comes to us, he can go in there." One day he came there, and he turned into the chamber and rested there. And he said to Geha'zi his servant, "Call  
20 this Shu'nammite." When he had called her, she stood before him. And he

said to him, "Say now to her, See, you have taken all this trouble for us; what is to be done for you? Would you have a word spoken on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?" She answered, "I dwell among my own people." And he said, "What then is to be done for her?"

5 Geha'zi answered, "Well, she has no son, and her husband is old." He said, "Call her." And when he had called her, she stood in the doorway. And he said, "At this season, when the time comes round, you shall embrace a son." And she said, "No, my lord, O man of God; do not lie to your maidservant." But the woman conceived, and she bore a son about that time

10 the following spring, as Eli'sha had said to her. When the child had grown, he went out one day to his father among the reapers. And he said to his father, "Oh, my head, my head!" The father said to his servant, "Carry him to his mother." And when he had lifted him, and brought him to his mother, the child sat on her lap till noon, and then he died. And she went up and

15 laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out. Then she called to her husband, and said, "Send me one of the servants and one of the asses, that I may quickly go to the man of God, and come back again." And he said, "Why will you go to him today? It is neither new moon nor sabbath." She said, "It will be well." Then she saddled

20 the ass, and she said to her servant, "Urge the beast on; do not slacken the

pace for me unless I tell you." So she set out, and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. When the man of God saw her coming, he said to Geha'zi his servant, "Look, yonder is the Shu'nammite; run at once to meet her, and say to her, Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?" And she answered, "It is well." And when she came to the mountain to the man of God, she caught hold of his feet. And Geha'zi came to thrust her away. But the man of God said, "Let her alone, for she is in bitter distress; and the LORD has hidden it from me, and has not told me." Then she said, "Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not say, Do not deceive me?" He said to Geha'zi, "Gird up your loins, and take my staff in your hand, and go. If you meet any one, do not salute him; and if any one salutes you, do not reply; and lay my staff upon the face of the child." Then the mother of the child said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So he arose and followed her. Geha'zi went on ahead and laid the staff upon the face of the child, but there was no sound or sign of life. Therefore he returned to meet him, and told him, "The child has not awaked." When Eli'sha came into the house, he saw the child lying dead on his bed. So he went in and shut the door upon the two of them, and prayed to the LORD. Then he went up and lay upon the child, putting his mouth upon his mouth, his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands; and

as he stretched himself upon him, the flesh of the child became warm. Then he got up again, and walked once to and fro in the house, and went up, and stretched himself upon him; the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. Then he summoned Geha'zi and said, "Call this

5 Shu'nammite." So he called her. And when she came to him, he said, "Take up your son." She came and fell at his feet, bowing to the ground; then she took up her son and went out. And Eli'sha came again to Gilgal when there was a famine in the land. And as the sons of the prophets were sitting before him, he said to his servant, "Set on the great pot, and boil pottage

10 for the sons of the prophets." One of them went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine and gathered from it his lap full of wild gourds, and came and cut them up into the pot of pottage, not knowing what they were. And they poured out for the men to eat. But while they were eating of the pottage, they cried out, "O man of God, there is death in the

15 pot!" And they could not eat it. He said, "Then bring meal." And he threw it into the pot, and said, "Pour out for the men, that they may eat." And there was no harm in the pot. A man came from Ba'al-shal'ishah, bringing the man of God bread of the first fruits, twenty loaves of barley, and fresh ears of grain in his sack. And Eli'sha said, "Give to the men, that they may

20 eat." But his servant said, "How am I to set this before a hundred men?" So

he repeated, "Give them to the men, that they may eat, for thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and have some left.'" So he set it before them. And they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD. Na'aman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his

5 master and in high favor, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little maid from the land of Israel, and she waited on Na'aman's wife. She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Sama'ria! He would cure him of his

10 leprosy." So Na'aman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the maiden from the land of Israel." And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten festal garments. And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter

15 reaches you, know that I have sent to you Na'aman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy." And when the king of Israel read the letter, he rent his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me." But when Eli'sha the man of God

20 heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, he sent to the king, saying,

"Why have you rent your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel." So Na'aman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the door of Eli'sha's house. And Eli'sha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your  
5 flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." But Na'aman was angry, and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and cure the leper. Are not Aba'na and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them,  
10 and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, if the prophet had commanded you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much rather, then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God;  
15 and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him; and he said, "Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant." But he said, "As the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will receive none." And he  
20 urged him to take it, but he refused. Then Na'aman said, "If not, I pray you,

let there be given to your servant two mules' burden of earth; for henceforth  
your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the  
LORD. In this matter may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master  
goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, leaning on my arm, and I  
5 bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of  
Rimmon, the LORD pardon your servant in this matter." He said to him,  
"Go in peace." But when Na'aman had gone from him a short distance,  
Geha'zi, the servant of Eli'sha the man of God, said, "See, my master has  
spared this Na'aman the Syrian, in not accepting from his hand what he  
10 brought. As the LORD lives, I will run after him, and get something from  
him." So Geha'zi followed Na'aman. And when Na'aman saw some one  
running after him, he alighted from the chariot to meet him, and said, "Is all  
well?" And he said, "All is well. My master has sent me to say, 'There have  
just now come to me from the hill country of E'phraim two young men of  
15 the sons of the prophets; pray, give them a talent of silver and two festal  
garments.'" And Na'aman said, "Be pleased to accept two talents." And he  
urged him, and tied up two talents of silver in two bags, with two festal  
garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they carried them  
before Geha'zi. And when he came to the hill, he took them from their hand,  
20 and put them in the house; and he sent the men away, and they departed.

He went in, and stood before his master, and Eli'sha said to him, "Where have you been, Geha'zi?" And he said, "Your servant went nowhere." But he said to him, "Did I not go with you in spirit when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Was it a time to accept money and garments, olive  
5 orchards and vineyards, sheep and oxen, menservants and maidservants? Therefore the leprosy of Na'aman shall cleave to you, and to your descendants for ever." So he went out from his presence a leper, as white as snow. Now the sons of the prophets said to Eli'sha, "See, the place where we dwell under your charge is too small for us. Let us go to the Jordan and  
10 each of us get there a log, and let us make a place for us to dwell there." And he answered, "Go." Then one of them said, "Be pleased to go with your servants." And he answered, "I will go." So he went with them. And when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees. But as one was felling a log, his axe head fell into the water; and he cried out, "Alas, my master!  
15 It was borrowed." Then the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" When he showed him the place, he cut off a stick, and threw it in there, and made the iron float. And he said, "Take it up." So he reached out his hand and took it. Once when the king of Syria was warring against Israel, he took counsel with his servants, saying, "At such and such a place shall be my  
20 camp." But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel, "Beware that



you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are going down there." And the king of Israel sent to the place of which the man of God told him. Thus he used to warn him, so that he saved himself there more than once or twice. And the mind of the king of Syria was greatly troubled because of this

5    thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me who of us is for the king of Israel?" And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Eli'sha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedchamber." And he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and seize him." It was told him, "Behold,

10    he is in Dothan." So he sent there horses and chariots and a great army; and they came by night, and surrounded the city. When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was round about the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" He said, "Fear not, for those who are with us

15    are more than those who are with them." Then Eli'sha prayed, and said, "O LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Eli'sha. And when the Syrians came down against him, Eli'sha prayed to the LORD, and said, "Strike this

20    people, I pray thee, with blindness." So he struck them with blindness in

accordance with the prayer of Eli'sha. And Eli'sha said to them, "This is not the way, and this is not the city; follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." And he led them to Sama'ria. As soon as they entered Sama'ria, Eli'sha said, "O LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." So the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and lo, they were in the midst of Sama'ria. When the king of Israel saw them he said to Eli'sha, "My father, shall I slay them? Shall I slay them?" He answered, "You shall not slay them. Would you slay those whom you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master." So he prepared for them a great feast; and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the Syrians came no more on raids into the land of Israel. Afterward Ben-ha'dad king of Syria mustered his entire army, and went up, and besieged Sama'ria. And there was a great famine in Sama'ria, as they besieged it, until an ass's head was sold for eighty shekels of silver, and the fourth part of a kab of dove's dung for five shekels of silver. Now as the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, a woman cried out to him, saying, "Help, my lord, O king!" And he said, "If the LORD will not help you, whence shall I help you? From the threshing floor, or from the wine press?" And the king asked her, "What is your trouble?" She answered,

"This woman said to me, 'Give your son, that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.' So we boiled my son, and ate him. And on the next day I said to her, 'Give your son, that we may eat him'; but she has hidden her son." When the king heard the words of the woman he rent

5 his clothes--now he was passing by upon the wall--and the people looked, and behold, he had sackcloth beneath upon his body-- and he said, "May God do so to me, and more also, if the head of Eli'sha the son of Shaphat remains on his shoulders today." Eli'sha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him. Now the king had dispatched a man from his

10 presence; but before the messenger arrived Eli'sha said to the elders, "Do you see how this murderer has sent to take off my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door, and hold the door fast against him. Is not the sound of his master's feet behind him?" And while he was still speaking with them, the king came down to him and said, "This trouble is from the

15 LORD! Why should I wait for the LORD any longer?" But Eli'sha said, "Hear the word of the LORD: thus says the LORD, Tomorrow about this time a measure of fine meal shall be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Sama'ria." Then the captain on whose

20 hand the king leaned said to the man of God, "If the LORD himself should make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" But he said, "You shall see

it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it." Now there were four men who were lepers at the entrance to the gate; and they said to one another, "Why do we sit here till we die? If we say, 'Let us enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there; and if we sit here, we die  
5 also. So now come, let us go over to the camp of the Syrians; if they spare our lives we shall live, and if they kill us we shall but die." So they arose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; but when they came to the edge of the camp of the Syrians, behold, there was no one there. For the Lord had made the army of the Syrians hear the sound of chariots, and of  
10 horses, the sound of a great army, so that they said to one another, "Behold, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Egypt to come upon us." So they fled away in the twilight and forsook their tents, their horses, and their asses, leaving the camp as it was, and fled for their lives. And when these lepers came to the edge of the camp, they  
15 went into a tent, and ate and drank, and they carried off silver and gold and clothing, and went and hid them; then they came back, and entered another tent, and carried off things from it, and went and hid them. Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news; if we are silent and wait until the morning light, punishment will overtake us;  
20 now therefore come, let us go and tell the king's household." So they came

and called to the gatekeepers of the city, and told them, "We came to the camp of the Syrians, and behold, there was no one to be seen or heard there, nothing but the horses tied, and the asses tied, and the tents as they were." Then the gatekeepers called out, and it was told within the king's

5 household. And the king rose in the night, and said to his servants, "I will tell you what the Syrians have prepared against us. They know that we are hungry; therefore they have gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the open country, thinking, 'When they come out of the city, we shall take them alive and get into the city.'" And one of his servants said, "Let some men

10 take five of the remaining horses, seeing that those who are left here will fare like the whole multitude of Israel that have already perished; let us send and see." So they took two mounted men, and the king sent them after the army of the Syrians, saying, "Go and see." So they went after them as far as the Jordan; and, lo, all the way was littered with garments and equipment

15 which the Syrians had thrown away in their haste. And the messengers returned, and told the king. Then the people went out, and plundered the camp of the Syrians. So a measure of fine meal was sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD.

Now the king had appointed the captain on whose hand he leaned to have

20 charge of the gate; and the people trod upon him in the gate, so that he

died, as the man of God had said when the king came down to him. For when the man of God had said to the king, "Two measures of barley shall be sold for a shekel, and a measure of fine meal for a shekel, about this time tomorrow in the gate of Sama'ria," the captain had answered the man of

5 God, "If the LORD himself should make windows in heaven, could such a thing be?" And he had said, "You shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it." And so it happened to him, for the people trod upon him in the gate and he died. Now Eli'sha had said to the woman whose son he had restored to life, "Arise, and depart with your household, and sojourn

10 wherever you can; for the LORD has called for a famine, and it will come upon the land for seven years." So the woman arose, and did according to the word of the man of God; she went with her household and sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years. And at the end of the seven years, when the woman returned from the land of the Philistines, she went forth to

15 appeal to the king for her house and her land. Now the king was talking with Geha'zi the servant of the man of God, saying, "Tell me all the great things that Eli'sha has done." And while he was telling the king how Eli'sha had restored the dead to life, behold, the woman whose son he had restored to life appealed to the king for her house and her land. And Geha'zi said,

20 "My lord, O king, here is the woman, and here is her son whom Eli'sha

restored to life." And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed an official for her, saying, "Restore all that was hers, together with all the produce of the fields from the day that she left the land until now." Now Eli'sha came to Damascus. Ben-ha'dad the king of Syria was

5 sick; and when it was told him, "The man of God has come here," the king said to Haz'ael, "Take a present with you and go to meet the man of God, and inquire of the LORD through him, saying, 'Shall I recover from this sickness?'" So Haz'ael went to meet him, and took a present with him, all kinds of goods of Damascus, forty camel loads. When he came and stood

10 before him, he said, "Your son Ben-ha'dad king of Syria has sent me to you, saying, 'Shall I recover from this sickness?'" And Eli'sha said to him, "Go, say to him, 'You shall certainly recover'; but the LORD has shown me that he shall certainly die." And he fixed his gaze and stared at him, until he was ashamed. And the man of God wept. And Haz'ael said, "Why does my

15 lord weep?" He answered, "Because I know the evil that you will do to the people of Israel; you will set on fire their fortresses, and you will slay their young men with the sword, and dash in pieces their little ones, and rip up their women with child." And Haz'ael said, "What is your servant, who is but a dog, that he should do this great thing?" Eli'sha answered, "The LORD

20 has shown me that you are to be king over Syria." Then he departed from

Eli'sha, and came to his master, who said to him, "What did Eli'sha say to you?" And he answered, "He told me that you would certainly recover." But on the morrow he took the coverlet and dipped it in water and spread it over his face, till he died. And Haz'ael became king in his stead. In the fifth

5 year of Joram the son of Ahab, king of Israel, Jeho'ram the son of Jehosh'aphat, king of Judah, began to reign. He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife. And he did what was evil in the

10 sight of the LORD. Yet the LORD would not destroy Judah, for the sake of David his servant, since he promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons for ever. In his days Edom revolted from the rule of Judah, and set up a king of their own. Then Joram passed over to Za'ir with all his chariots, and rose by night, and he and his chariot commanders smote the E'domites who

15 had surrounded him; but his army fled home. So Edom revolted from the rule of Judah to this day. Then Libnah revolted at the same time. Now the rest of the acts of Joram, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? So Joram slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David; and Ahazi'ah

20 his son reigned in his stead. In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab,



king of Israel, Ahazi'ah the son of Jeho'ram, king of Judah, began to reign.

Ahazi'ah was twenty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athali'ah; she was a granddaughter of Omri king of Israel. He also walked in the way of the

5 house of Ahab, and did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, as the house of Ahab had done, for he was son-in-law to the house of Ahab. He went with Joram the son of Ahab to make war against Haz'ael king of Syria at Ramoth-gilead, where the Syrians wounded Joram. And King Joram returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which the Syrians had given

10 him at Ramah, when he fought against Haz'ael king of Syria. And Ahazi'ah the son of Jeho'ram king of Judah went down to see Joram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was sick. Then Eli'sha the prophet called one of the sons of the prophets and said to him, "Gird up your loins, and take this flask of oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth-gilead. And when you arrive,

15 look there for Jehu the son of Jehosh'aphat, son of Nimshi; and go in and bid him rise from among his fellows, and lead him to an inner chamber. Then take the flask of oil, and pour it on his head, and say, 'Thus says the LORD, I anoint you king over Israel.' Then open the door and flee; do not tarry." So the young man, the prophet, went to Ramoth-gilead. And when he

20 came, behold, the commanders of the army were in council; and he said, "I

have an errand to you, O commander." And Jehu said, "To which of us all?"

And he said, "To you, O commander." So he arose, and went into the house;

and the young man poured the oil on his head, saying to him, "Thus says

the LORD the God of Israel, I anoint you king over the people of the

5 LORD, over Israel. And you shall strike down the house of Ahab your

master, that I may avenge on Jez'ebel the blood of my servants the prophets,

and the blood of all the servants of the LORD. For the whole house of

Ahab shall perish; and I will cut off from Ahab every male, bond or free, in

Israel. And I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jerobo'am the

10 son of Nebat, and like the house of Ba'asha the son of Ahi'jah. And the

dogs shall eat Jez'ebel in the territory of Jezreel, and none shall bury her."

Then he opened the door, and fled. When Jehu came out to the servants of

his master, they said to him, "Is all well? Why did this mad fellow come to

you?" And he said to them, "You know the fellow and his talk." And they

15 said, "That is not true; tell us now." And he said, "Thus and so he spoke to

me, saying, 'Thus says the LORD, I anoint you king over Israel.'" Then in

haste every man of them took his garment, and put it under him on the bare

steps, and they blew the trumpet, and proclaimed, "Jehu is king." Thus Jehu

the son of Jehosh'aphat the son of Nimshi conspired against Joram. (Now

20 Joram with all Israel had been on guard at Ramoth-gilead against Haz'ael

king of Syria; but King Joram had returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which the Syrians had given him, when he fought with Haz'ael king of Syria.) So Jehu said, "If this is your mind, then let no one slip out of the city to go and tell the news in Jezreel." Then Jehu mounted his chariot, and went to Jezreel, for Joram lay there. And Ahazi'ah king of Judah had come down to visit Joram. Now the watchman was standing on the tower in Jezreel, and he spied the company of Jehu as he came, and said, "I see a company." And Joram said, "Take a horseman, and send to meet them, and let him say, 'Is it peace?'" So a man on horseback went to meet him, and said, "Thus says the king, 'Is it peace?'" And Jehu said, "What have you to do with peace? Turn round and ride behind me." And the watchman reported, saying, "The messenger reached them, but he is not coming back." Then he sent out a second horseman, who came to them, and said, "Thus the king has said, 'Is it peace?'" And Jehu answered, "What have you to do with peace? Turn round and ride behind me." Again the watchman reported, "He reached them, but he is not coming back. And the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi; for he drives furiously." Joram said, "Make ready." And they made ready his chariot. Then Joram king of Israel and Ahazi'ah king of Judah set out, each in his chariot, and went to meet Jehu, and met him at the property of Naboth the Jezreelite. And when Joram saw

Jehu, he said, "Is it peace, Jehu?" He answered, "What peace can there be, so long as the harlotries and the sorceries of your mother Jez'ebel are so many?" Then Joram reined about and fled, saying to Ahazi'ah, "Treachery, O Ahazi'ah!" And Jehu drew his bow with his full strength, and shot Joram

5 between the shoulders, so that the arrow pierced his heart, and he sank in his chariot. Jehu said to Bidkar his aide, "Take him up, and cast him on the plot of ground belonging to Naboth the Jezreelite; for remember, when you and I rode side by side behind Ahab his father, how the LORD uttered this oracle against him: 'As surely as I saw yesterday the blood of Naboth and

10 the blood of his sons--says the LORD--I will requite you on this plot of ground.' Now therefore take him up and cast him on the plot of ground, in accordance with the word of the LORD." When Ahazi'ah the king of Judah saw this, he fled in the direction of Beth-haggan. And Jehu pursued him, and said, "Shoot him also"; and they shot him in the chariot at the ascent of

15 Gur, which is by Ibleam. And he fled to Megid'do, and died there. His servants carried him in a chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him in his tomb with his fathers in the city of David. In the eleventh year of Joram the son of Ahab, Ahazi'ah began to reign over Judah. When Jehu came to Jezreel, Jez'ebel heard of it; and she painted her eyes, and adorned her head, and

20 looked out of the window. And as Jehu entered the gate, she said, "Is it

peace, you Zimri, murderer of your master?" And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" Two or three eunuchs looked out at him. He said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down; and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses, and they

5 trampled on her. Then he went in and ate and drank; and he said, "See now to this cursed woman, and bury her; for she is a king's daughter." But when they went to bury her, they found no more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands. When they came back and told him, he said, "This is the word of the LORD, which he spoke by his servant Eli'jah

10 the Tishbite, 'In the territory of Jezreel the dogs shall eat the flesh of Jez'ebel; and the corpse of Jez'ebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the territory of Jezreel, so that no one can say, This is Jez'ebel.'"

Now Ahab had seventy sons in Sama'ria. So Jehu wrote letters, and sent them to Sama'ria, to the rulers of the city, to the elders, and to the guardians

15 of the sons of Ahab, saying, "Now then, as soon as this letter comes to you, seeing your master's sons are with you, and there are with you chariots and horses, fortified cities also, and weapons, select the best and fittest of your master's sons and set him on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house." But they were exceedingly afraid, and said, "Behold, the two kings

20 could not stand before him; how then can we stand?" So he who was over

the palace, and he who was over the city, together with the elders and the guardians, sent to Jehu, saying, "We are your servants, and we will do all that you bid us. We will not make any one king; do whatever is good in your eyes." Then he wrote to them a second letter, saying, "If you are on

5 my side, and if you are ready to obey me, take the heads of your master's sons, and come to me at Jezreel tomorrow at this time." Now the king's sons, seventy persons, were with the great men of the city, who were bringing them up. And when the letter came to them, they took the king's sons, and slew them, seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets, and

10 sent them to him at Jezreel. When the messenger came and told him, "They have brought the heads of the king's sons," he said, "Lay them in two heaps at the entrance of the gate until the morning." Then in the morning, when he went out, he stood, and said to all the people, "You are innocent. It was I who conspired against my master, and slew him; but who struck down all

15 these? Know then that there shall fall to the earth nothing of the word of the LORD, which the LORD spoke concerning the house of Ahab; for the LORD has done what he said by his servant Eli'jah." So Jehu slew all that remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, all his great men, and his familiar friends, and his priests, until he left him none remaining. Then he set out

20 and went to Sama'ria. On the way, when he was at Beth-eked of the

Shepherds, Jehu met the kinsmen of Ahazi'ah king of Judah, and he said,  
"Who are you?" And they answered, "We are the kinsmen of Ahazi'ah, and  
we came down to visit the royal princes and the sons of the queen mother."  
He said, "Take them alive." And they took them alive, and slew them at the  
5 pit of Beth-eked, forty-two persons, and he spared none of them. And when  
he departed from there, he met Jehon'adab the son of Rechab coming to  
meet him; and he greeted him, and said to him, "Is your heart true to my  
heart as mine is to yours?" And Jehon'adab answered, "It is." Jehu said, "If  
it is, give me your hand." So he gave him his hand. And Jehu took him up  
10 with him into the chariot. And he said, "Come with me, and see my zeal for  
the LORD." So he had him ride in his chariot. And when he came to  
Sama'ria, he slew all that remained to Ahab in Sama'ria, till he had wiped  
them out, according to the word of the LORD which he spoke to Eli'jah.  
Then Jehu assembled all the people, and said to them, "Ahab served Ba'al a  
15 little; but Jehu will serve him much. Now therefore call to me all the  
prophets of Ba'al, all his worshipers and all his priests; let none be missing,  
for I have a great sacrifice to offer to Ba'al; whoever is missing shall not  
live." But Jehu did it with cunning in order to destroy the worshipers of  
Ba'al. And Jehu ordered, "Sanctify a solemn assembly for Ba'al." So they  
20 proclaimed it. And Jehu sent throughout all Israel; and all the worshipers of

Ba'al came, so that there was not a man left who did not come. And they entered the house of Ba'al, and the house of Ba'al was filled from one end to the other. He said to him who was in charge of the wardrobe, "Bring out the vestments for all the worshipers of Ba'al." So he brought out the

5 vestments for them. Then Jehu went into the house of Ba'al with Jehon'adab the son of Rechab; and he said to the worshipers of Ba'al, "Search, and see that there is no servant of the LORD here among you, but only the worshipers of Ba'al." Then he went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings. Now Jehu had stationed eighty men outside, and said, "The man who allows

10 any of those whom I give into your hands to escape shall forfeit his life." So as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, Jehu said to the guard and to the officers, "Go in and slay them; let not a man escape." So when they put them to the sword, the guard and the officers cast them out and went into the inner room of the house of Ba'al and they

15 brought out the pillar that was in the house of Ba'al, and burned it. And they demolished the pillar of Ba'al, and demolished the house of Ba'al, and made it a latrine to this day. Thus Jehu wiped out Ba'al from Israel. But Jehu did not turn aside from the sins of Jerobo'am the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin, the golden calves that were in Bethel, and in Dan.

20 And the LORD said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in carrying out



what is right in my eyes, and have done to the house of Ahab according to all that was in my heart, your sons of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel." But Jehu was not careful to walk in the law of the LORD the God of Israel with all his heart; he did not turn from the sins of

5 Jerobo'am, which he made Israel to sin. In those days the LORD began to cut off parts of Israel. Haz'ael defeated them throughout the territory of Israel: from the Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, and the Reubenites, and the Manas'sites, from Aro'er, which is by the valley of the Arnon, that is, Gilead and Bashan. Now the rest of the acts of Jehu, and all

10 that he did, and all his might, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? So Jehu slept with his fathers, and they buried him in Sama'ria. And Jeho'ahaz his son reigned in his stead. The time that Jehu reigned over Israel in Sama'ria was twenty-eight years. Now when Athali'ah the mother of Ahazi'ah saw that her son was dead, she arose and

15 destroyed all the royal family. But Jehosh'eba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahazi'ah, took Jo'ash the son of Ahazi'ah, and stole him away from among the king's sons who were about to be slain, and she put him and his nurse in a bedchamber. Thus she hid him from Athali'ah, so that he was not

20 slain; and he remained with her six years, hid in the house of the LORD, while Athali'ah reigned over the land. But in the seventh year Jehoi'ada sent

and brought the captains of the Carites and of the guards, and had them  
come to him in the house of the LORD; and he made a covenant with them  
and put them under oath in the house of the LORD, and he showed them  
the king's son. And he commanded them, "This is the thing that you shall  
5 do: one third of you, those who come off duty on the sabbath and guard the  
king's house (another third being at the gate Sur and a third at the gate  
behind the guards), shall guard the palace; and the two divisions of you,  
which come on duty in force on the sabbath and guard the house of the  
LORD, shall surround the king, each with his weapons in his hand; and  
10 whoever approaches the ranks is to be slain. Be with the king when he goes  
out and when he comes in." The captains did according to all that Jehoi'ada  
the priest commanded, and each brought his men who were to go off duty  
on the sabbath, with those who were to come on duty on the sabbath, and  
came to Jehoi'ada the priest. And the priest delivered to the captains the  
15 spears and shields that had been King David's, which were in the house of  
the LORD; and the guards stood, every man with his weapons in his hand,  
from the south side of the house to the north side of the house, around the  
altar and the house. Then he brought out the king's son, and put the crown  
upon him, and gave him the testimony; and they proclaimed him king, and  
20 anointed him; and they clapped their hands, and said, "Long live the king!"

When Athali'ah heard the noise of the guard and of the people, she went into the house of the LORD to the people; and when she looked, there was the king standing by the pillar, according to the custom, and the captains and the trumpeters beside the king, and all the people of the land rejoicing and

5 blowing trumpets. And Athali'ah rent her clothes, and cried, "Treason! Treason!" Then Jehoi'ada the priest commanded the captains who were set over the army, "Bring her out between the ranks; and slay with the sword any one who follows her." For the priest said, "Let her not be slain in the house of the LORD." So they laid hands on her; and she went through the

10 horses' entrance to the king's house, and there she was slain. And Jehoi'ada made a covenant between the LORD and the king and people, that they should be the LORD's people; and also between the king and the people. Then all the people of the land went to the house of Ba'al, and tore it down; his altars and his images they broke in pieces, and they slew Mattan

15 the priest of Ba'al before the altars. And the priest posted watchmen over the house of the LORD. And he took the captains, the Carites, the guards, and all the people of the land; and they brought the king down from the house of the LORD, marching through the gate of the guards to the king's house. And he took his seat on the throne of the kings. So all the people of the

20 land rejoiced; and the city was quiet after Athali'ah had been slain with the

sword at the king's house. Jeho'ash was seven years old when he began to reign. In the seventh year of Jehu Jeho'ash began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zib'iah of Beer-sheba. And Jeho'ash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all his days, because

5 Jehoi'ada the priest instructed him. Nevertheless the high places were not taken away; the people continued to sacrifice and burn incense on the high places. Jeho'ash said to the priests, "All the money of the holy things which is brought into the house of the LORD, the money for which each man is assessed--the money from the assessment of persons--and the money which a

10 man's heart prompts him to bring into the house of the LORD, let the priests take, each from his acquaintance; and let them repair the house wherever any need of repairs is discovered." But by the twenty-third year of King Jeho'ash the priests had made no repairs on the house. Therefore King Jeho'ash summoned Jehoi'ada the priest and the other priests and said to them, "Why

15 are you not repairing the house? Now therefore take no more money from your acquaintances, but hand it over for the repair of the house." So the priests agreed that they should take no more money from the people, and that they should not repair the house. Then Jehoi'ada the priest took a chest, and bored a hole in the lid of it, and set it beside the altar on the right side

20 as one entered the house of the LORD; and the priests who guarded the

threshold put in it all the money that was brought into the house of the LORD. And whenever they saw that there was much money in the chest, the king's secretary and the high priest came up and they counted and tied up in bags the money that was found in the house of the LORD. Then they would

5 give the money that was weighed out into the hands of the workmen who had the oversight of the house of the LORD; and they paid it out to the carpenters and the builders who worked upon the house of the LORD, and to the masons and the stonecutters, as well as to buy timber and quarried stone for making repairs on the house of the LORD, and for any outlay upon the

10 repairs of the house. But there were not made for the house of the LORD basins of silver, snuffers, bowls, trumpets, or any vessels of gold, or of silver, from the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, for that was given to the workmen who were repairing the house of the LORD with it. And they did not ask an accounting from the men into whose hand

15 they delivered the money to pay out to the workmen, for they dealt honestly. The money from the guilt offerings and the money from the sin offerings was not brought into the house of the LORD; it belonged to the priests. At that time Haz'ael king of Syria went up and fought against Gath, and took it. But when Haz'ael set his face to go up against Jerusalem, Jeho'ash king of

20 Judah took all the votive gifts that Jehosh'aphat and Jeho'ram and Ahazi'ah,

his fathers, the kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own votive gifts, and all the gold that was found in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent these to Haz'ael king of Syria. Then Haz'ael went away from Jerusalem. Now the rest of the acts of Jo'ash, and all that

5 he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? His servants arose and made a conspiracy, and slew Jo'ash in the house of Millo, on the way that goes down to Silla. It was Jo'zacar the son of Shim'e-ath and Jeho'zabad the son of Shomer, his servants, who struck him down, so that he died. And they buried him with his fathers in the city

10 of David, and Amazi'ah his son reigned in his stead. In the twenty-third year of Jo'ash the son of Ahazi'ah, king of Judah, Jeho'ahaz the son of Jehu began to reign over Israel in Sama'ria, and he reigned seventeen years. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and followed the sins of Jerobo'am the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin; he did not depart

15 from them. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he gave them continually into the hand of Haz'ael king of Syria and into the hand of Ben-ha'dad the son of Haz'ael. Then Jeho'ahaz besought the LORD, and the LORD hearkened to him; for he saw the oppression of Israel, how the king of Syria oppressed them. (Therefore the LORD gave Israel a savior,

20 so that they escaped from the hand of the Syrians; and the people of Israel

dwelt in their homes as formerly. Nevertheless they did not depart from the sins of the house of Jerobo'am, which he made Israel to sin, but walked in them; and the Ashe'rah also remained in Sama'ria.) For there was not left to Jeho'ahaz an army of more than fifty horsemen and ten chariots and ten

5 thousand footmen; for the king of Syria had destroyed them and made them like the dust at threshing. Now the rest of the acts of Jeho'ahaz and all that he did, and his might, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? So Jeho'ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in Sama'ria; and Jo'ash his son reigned in his stead. In the thirty-seventh year

10 of Jo'ash king of Judah Jeho'ash the son of Jeho'ahaz began to reign over Israel in Sama'ria, and he reigned sixteen years. He also did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from all the sins of Jerobo'am the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin, but he walked in them. Now the rest of the acts of Jo'ash, and all that he did, and the might with which

15 he fought against Amazi'ah king of Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? So Jo'ash slept with his fathers, and Jerobo'am sat upon his throne; and Jo'ash was buried in Sama'ria with the kings of Israel. Now when Eli'sha had fallen sick with the illness of which he was to die, Jo'ash king of Israel went down to him, and wept before him,

20 crying, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And

Eli'sha said to him, "Take a bow and arrows"; so he took a bow and arrows. Then he said to the king of Israel, "Draw the bow"; and he drew it. And Eli'sha laid his hands upon the king's hands. And he said, "Open the window eastward"; and he opened it. Then Eli'sha said, "Shoot"; and he shot. And he

5 said, "The LORD's arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Syria! For you shall fight the Syrians in Aphek until you have made an end of them." And he said, "Take the arrows"; and he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground with them"; and he struck three times, and stopped. Then the man of God was angry with him, and said, "You should

10 have struck five or six times; then you would have struck down Syria until you had made an end of it, but now you will strike down Syria only three times." So Eli'sha died, and they buried him. Now bands of Moabites used to invade the land in the spring of the year. And as a man was being buried, lo, a marauding band was seen and the man was cast into the grave of

15 Eli'sha; and as soon as the man touched the bones of Eli'sha, he revived, and stood on his feet. Now Haz'ael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jeho'ahaz. But the LORD was gracious to them and had compassion on them, and he turned toward them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them; nor has he cast them from his

20 presence until now. When Haz'ael king of Syria died, Ben-ha'dad his son



became king in his stead. Then Jeho'ash the son of Jeho'ahaz took again  
from Ben-ha'dad the son of Haz'ael the cities which he had taken from  
Jeho'ahaz his father in war. Three times Jo'ash defeated him and recovered  
the cities of Israel. In the second year of Jo'ash the son of Jo'ahaz, king of  
5 Israel, Amazi'ah the son of Jo'ash, king of Judah, began to reign. He was  
twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine  
years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jeho-ad'din of Jerusalem. And he  
did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, yet not like David his father;  
he did in all things as Jo'ash his father had done. But the high places were  
10 not removed; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high  
places. And as soon as the royal power was firmly in his hand he killed his  
servants who had slain the king his father. But he did not put to death the  
children of the murderers; according to what is written in the book of the  
law of Moses, where the LORD commanded, "The fathers shall not be put to  
15 death for the children, or the children be put to death for the fathers; but  
every man shall die for his own sin." He killed ten thousand E'domites in  
the Valley of Salt and took Sela by storm, and called it Jok'the-el, which is  
its name to this day. Then Amazi'ah sent messengers to Jeho'ash the son of  
Jeho'ahaz, son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us look one another  
20 in the face." And Jeho'ash king of Israel sent word to Amazi'ah king of

Judah, "A thistle on Lebanon sent to a cedar on Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son for a wife'; and a wild beast of Lebanon passed by and trampled down the thistle. You have indeed smitten Edom, and your heart has lifted you up. Be content with your glory, and stay at home; for why

5 should you provoke trouble so that you fall, you and Judah with you?" But Amazi'ah would not listen. So Jeho'ash king of Israel went up, and he and Amazi'ah king of Judah faced one another in battle at Beth-she'mesh, which belongs to Judah. And Judah was defeated by Israel, and every man fled to his home. And Jeho'ash king of Israel captured Amazi'ah king of Judah, the

10 son of Jeho'ash, son of Ahazi'ah, at Beth-she'mesh, and came to Jerusalem, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem for four hundred cubits, from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate. And he seized all the gold and silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the king's house, also hostages, and he returned to Sama'ria.

15 Now the rest of the acts of Jeho'ash which he did, and his might, and how he fought with Amazi'ah king of Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? And Jeho'ash slept with his fathers, and was buried in Sama'ria with the kings of Israel; and Jerobo'am his son reigned in his stead. Amazi'ah the son of Jo'ash, king of Judah, lived fifteen

20 years after the death of Jeho'ash son of Jeho'ahaz, king of Israel. Now the

rest of the deeds of Amazi'ah, are they not written in the Book of the  
Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? And they made a conspiracy against him  
in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish. But they sent after him to Lachish, and  
slew him there. And they brought him upon horses; and he was buried in  
5 Jerusalem with his fathers in the city of David. And all the people of Judah  
took Azari'ah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his  
father Amazi'ah. He built Elath and restored it to Judah, after the king slept  
with his fathers. In the fifteenth year of Amazi'ah the son of Jo'ash, king of  
Judah, Jerobo'am the son of Jo'ash, king of Israel, began to reign in Sama'ria,  
10 and he reigned forty-one years. And he did what was evil in the sight of the  
LORD; he did not depart from all the sins of Jerobo'am the son of Nebat,  
which he made Israel to sin. He restored the border of Israel from the  
entrance of Hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word  
of the LORD, the God of Israel, which he spoke by his servant Jonah the  
15 son of Amit'tai, the prophet, who was from Gath-he'pher. For the LORD saw  
that the affliction of Israel was very bitter, for there was none left, bond or  
free, and there was none to help Israel. But the LORD had not said that he  
would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, so he saved them by  
the hand of Jerobo'am the son of Jo'ash. Now the rest of the acts of  
20 Jerobo'am, and all that he did, and his might, how he fought, and how he

recovered for Israel Damascus and Hamath, which had belonged to Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? And Jerobo'am slept with his fathers, the kings of Israel, and Zechari'ah his son reigned in his stead. In the twenty-seventh year of Jerobo'am king of Israel

5 Azari'ah the son of Amazi'ah, king of Judah, began to reign. He was sixteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecoli'ah of Jerusalem. And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that his father Amazi'ah had done. Nevertheless the high places were not taken away; the people still

10 sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. And the LORD smote the king, so that he was a leper to the day of his death, and he dwelt in a separate house. And Jotham the king's son was over the household, governing the people of the land. Now the rest of the acts of Azari'ah, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of

15 Judah? And Azari'ah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David, and Jotham his son reigned in his stead. In the thirty-eighth year of Azari'ah king of Judah Zechari'ah the son of Jerobo'am reigned over Israel in Sama'ria six months. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, as his fathers had done. He did not depart from the sins

20 of Jerobo'am the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. Shallum the son

of Jabesh conspired against him, and struck him down at Ibleam, and killed him, and reigned in his stead. Now the rest of the deeds of Zechari'ah, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel. (This was the promise of the LORD which he gave to Jehu, "Your  
5 sons shall sit upon the throne of Israel to the fourth generation." And so it came to pass.) Shallum the son of Jabesh began to reign in the thirty-ninth year of Uzzi'ah king of Judah, and he reigned one month in Sama'ria. Then Men'ahem the son of Gadi came up from Tirzah and came to Sama'ria, and he struck down Shallum the son of Jabesh in Sama'ria and slew him, and  
10 reigned in his stead. Now the rest of the deeds of Shallum, and the conspiracy which he made, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel. At that time Men'ahem sacked Tappuah and all who were in it and its territory from Tirzah on; because they did not open it to him, therefore he sacked it, and he ripped up all the women in it  
15 who were with child. In the thirty-ninth year of Azari'ah king of Judah Men'ahem the son of Gadi began to reign over Israel, and he reigned ten years in Sama'ria. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart all his days from all the sins of Jerobo'am the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. Pul the king of Assyria came against the land;  
20 and Men'ahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver, that he might help him

to confirm his hold of the royal power. Men'ahem exacted the money from Israel, that is, from all the wealthy men, fifty shekels of silver from every man, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and did not stay there in the land. Now the rest of the deeds of Men'ahem, and

5 all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? And Men'ahem slept with his fathers, and Pekahi'ah his son reigned in his stead. In the fiftieth year of Azari'ah king of Judah Pekahi'ah the son of Men'ahem began to reign over Israel in Sama'ria, and he reigned two years. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not

10 turn away from the sins of Jerobo'am the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. And Pekah the son of Remali'ah, his captain, conspired against him with fifty men of the Gileadites, and slew him in Sama'ria, in the citadel of the king's house; he slew him, and reigned in his stead. Now the rest of the deeds of Pekahi'ah, and all that he did, behold, they are written

15 in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel. In the fifty-second year of Azari'ah king of Judah Pekah the son of Remali'ah began to reign over Israel in Sama'ria, and reigned twenty years. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from the sins of Jerobo'am the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. In the days of Pekah king of Israel

20 Tig'lath-pile'ser king of Assyria came and captured I'jon, A'bel-beth-ma'acah,

Jan-o'ah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naph'tali; and  
he carried the people captive to Assyria. Then Hoshe'a the son of Elah made  
a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remali'ah, and struck him down, and  
slew him, and reigned in his stead, in the twentieth year of Jotham the son  
5 of Uzzi'ah. Now the rest of the acts of Pekah, and all that he did, behold,  
they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel. In the  
second year of Pekah the son of Remali'ah, king of Israel, Jotham the son of  
Uzzi'ah, king of Judah, began to reign. He was twenty-five years old when  
he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's  
10 name was Jeru'sha the daughter of Zadok. And he did what was right in the  
eyes of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzzi'ah had done.  
Nevertheless the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and  
burned incense on the high places. He built the upper gate of the house of  
the LORD. Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all that he did, are they  
15 not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? In those  
days the LORD began to send Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of  
Remali'ah against Judah. Jotham slept with his fathers, and was buried with  
his fathers in the city of David his father; and Ahaz his son reigned in his  
stead. In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remali'ah, Ahaz the son  
20 of Jotham, king of Judah, began to reign. Ahaz was twenty years old when

he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD his God, as his father David had done, but he walked in the way of the kings of Israel. He even burned his son as an offering, according to the abominable practices of the nations

5 whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel. And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree. Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remali'ah, king of Israel, came up to wage war on Jerusalem, and they besieged Ahaz but could not conquer him. At that time the king of Edom recovered Elath for

10 Edom, and drove the men of Judah from Elath; and the E'domites came to Elath, where they dwell to this day. So Ahaz sent messengers to Tig'lath-pile'ser king of Assyria, saying, "I am your servant and your son. Come up, and rescue me from the hand of the king of Syria and from the hand of the king of Israel, who are attacking me." Ahaz also took the silver and gold

15 that was found in the house of the LORD and in the treasures of the king's house, and sent a present to the king of Assyria. And the king of Assyria hearkened to him; the king of Assyria marched up against Damascus, and took it, carrying its people captive to Kir, and he killed Rezin. When King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tig'lath-pile'ser king of Assyria, he saw the

20 altar that was at Damascus. And King Ahaz sent to Uri'ah the priest a model



of the altar, and its pattern, exact in all its details. And Uri'ah the priest  
built the altar; in accordance with all that King Ahaz had sent from  
Damascus, so Uri'ah the priest made it, before King Ahaz arrived from  
Damascus. And when the king came from Damascus, the king viewed the  
5 altar. Then the king drew near to the altar, and went up on it, and burned  
his burnt offering and his cereal offering, and poured his drink offering, and  
threw the blood of his peace offerings upon the altar. And the bronze altar  
which was before the LORD he removed from the front of the house, from  
the place between his altar and the house of the LORD, and put it on the  
10 north side of his altar. And King Ahaz commanded Uri'ah the priest, saying,  
"Upon the great altar burn the morning burnt offering, and the evening cereal  
offering, and the king's burnt offering, and his cereal offering, with the burnt  
offering of all the people of the land, and their cereal offering, and their  
drink offering; and throw upon it all the blood of the burnt offering, and all  
15 the blood of the sacrifice; but the bronze altar shall be for me to inquire  
by." Uri'ah the priest did all this, as King Ahaz commanded. And King Ahaz  
cut off the frames of the stands, and removed the laver from them, and he  
took down the sea from off the bronze oxen that were under it, and put it  
upon a pediment of stone. And the covered way for the sabbath which had  
20 been built inside the palace, and the outer entrance for the king he removed

from the house of the LORD, because of the king of Assyria. Now the rest of the acts of Ahaz which he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David; and Hezeki'ah his son reigned in

5 his stead. In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah Hoshe'a the son of Elah began to reign in Sama'ria over Israel, and he reigned nine years. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, yet not as the kings of Israel who were before him. Against him came up Shalmane'ser king of Assyria; and Hoshe'a became his vassal, and paid him tribute. But the king of Assyria

10 found treachery in Hoshe'a; for he had sent messengers to So, king of Egypt, and offered no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year; therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison. Then the king of Assyria invaded all the land and came to Sama'ria, and for three years he besieged it. In the ninth year of Hoshe'a the king of Assyria

15 captured Sama'ria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria, and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. And this was so, because the people of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods

20 and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD drove out before

the people of Israel, and in the customs which the kings of Israel had introduced. And the people of Israel did secretly against the LORD their God things that were not right. They built for themselves high places at all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city; they set up for themselves pillars  
5 and Ashe'rim on every high hill and under every green tree; and there they burned incense on all the high places, as the nations did whom the LORD carried away before them. And they did wicked things, provoking the LORD to anger, and they served idols, of which the LORD had said to them, "You shall not do this." Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah by every prophet  
10 and every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes, in accordance with all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets." But they would not listen, but were stubborn, as their fathers had been, who did not believe in the LORD their God. They despised his  
15 statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and the warnings which he gave them. They went after false idols, and became false, and they followed the nations that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had commanded them that they should not do like them. And they forsook all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made for  
20 themselves molten images of two calves; and they made an Ashe'rah, and

worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Ba'al. And they burned their sons and their daughters as offerings, and used divination and sorcery, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger. Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them

5 out of his sight; none was left but the tribe of Judah only. Judah also did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the customs which Israel had introduced. And the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel, and afflicted them, and gave them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight. When he had torn Israel

10 from the house of David they made Jerobo'am the son of Nebat king. And Jerobo'am drove Israel from following the LORD and made them commit great sin. The people of Israel walked in all the sins which Jerobo'am did; they did not depart from them, until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had spoken by all his servants the prophets. So Israel was exiled

15 from their own land to Assyria until this day. And the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sephar-va'im, and placed them in the cities of Sama'ria instead of the people of Israel; and they took possession of Sama'ria, and dwelt in its cities. And at the beginning of their dwelling there, they did not fear the LORD; therefore the

20 LORD sent lions among them, which killed some of them. So the king of

Assyria was told, "The nations which you have carried away and placed in the cities of Sama'ria do not know the law of the god of the land; therefore he has sent lions among them, and behold, they are killing them, because they do not know the law of the god of the land." Then the king of Assyria

5     commanded, "Send there one of the priests whom you carried away thence; and let him go and dwell there, and teach them the law of the god of the land." So one of the priests whom they had carried away from Sama'ria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

But every nation still made gods of its own, and put them in the shrines of

10    the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities in which they dwelt; the men of Babylon made Suc'coth-be'noth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashi'ma, and the Av'vites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sephar'vites burned their children in the fire to Adram'melech and Anam'melech, the gods of Sephar-va'im. They also feared

15    the LORD, and appointed from among themselves all sorts of people as priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places. So they feared the LORD but also served their own gods, after the manner of the nations from among whom they had been carried away. To this day they do according to the former manner. They do not fear the

20    LORD, and they do not follow the statutes or the ordinances or the law or

the commandment which the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel. The LORD made a covenant with them, and commanded them, "You shall not fear other gods or bow yourselves to them or serve them or sacrifice to them; but you shall fear the LORD, who brought you

5 out of the land of Egypt with great power and with an outstretched arm; you shall bow yourselves to him, and to him you shall sacrifice. And the statutes and the ordinances and the law and the commandment which he wrote for you, you shall always be careful to do. You shall not fear other gods, and you shall not forget the covenant that I have made with you. You shall not

10 fear other gods, but you shall fear the LORD your God, and he will deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies." However they would not listen, but they did according to their former manner. So these nations feared the LORD, and also served their graven images; their children likewise, and their children's children--as their fathers did, so they do to this day. In the third

15 year of Hoshe'a son of Elah, king of Israel, Hezeki'ah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign. He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechari'ah. And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done. He removed the

20 high places, and broke the pillars, and cut down the Ashe'rah. And he broke

in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had burned incense to it; it was called Nehush'tan. He trusted in the LORD the God of Israel; so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before

5 him. For he held fast to the LORD; he did not depart from following him, but kept the commandments which the LORD commanded Moses. And the LORD was with him; wherever he went forth, he prospered. He rebelled against the king of Assyria, and would not serve him. He smote the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.

10 In the fourth year of King Hezeki'ah, which was the seventh year of Hoshe'a son of Elah, king of Israel, Shalmane'ser king of Assyria came up against Sama'ria and besieged it and at the end of three years he took it. In the sixth year of Hezeki'ah, which was the ninth year of Hoshe'a king of Israel, Sama'ria was taken. The king of Assyria carried the Israelites away to

15 Assyria, and put them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes, because they did not obey the voice of the LORD their God but transgressed his covenant, even all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded; they neither listened nor obeyed. In the fourteenth year of King Hezeki'ah Sennach'erib king of Assyria came up

20 against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them. And Hezeki'ah king of

Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I have done wrong; withdraw from me; whatever you impose on me I will bear." And the king of Assyria required of Hezeki'ah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. And Hezeki'ah gave him all the silver that was

5 found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasuries of the king's house.

At that time Hezeki'ah stripped the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the doorposts which Hezeki'ah king of Judah had overlaid and gave it to the king of Assyria. And the king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the Rab'saris, and the Rab'sshakeh with a great army from Lachish to King

10 Hezeki'ah at Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. When they arrived, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is on the highway to the Fuller's Field. And when they called for the king, there came out to them Eli'akim the son of Hilki'ah, who was over the household, and Shebnah the secretary, and Jo'ah the son of Asaph, the recorder. And the

15 Rab'sshakeh said to them, "Say to Hezeki'ah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: On what do you rest this confidence of yours? Do you think that mere words are strategy and power for war? On whom do you now rely, that you have rebelled against me? Behold, you are relying now on Egypt, that broken reed of a staff, which will pierce the hand of any

20 man who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who rely on



him. But if you say to me, "We rely on the LORD our God," is it not he whose high places and altars Hezeki'ah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem, "You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem"? Come now, make a wager with my master the king of Assyria: I will give you two

5 thousand horses, if you are able on your part to set riders upon them. How then can you repulse a single captain among the least of my master's servants, when you rely on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen? Moreover, is it without the LORD that I have come up against this place to destroy it? The LORD said to me, Go up against this land, and destroy it." Then

10 Eli'akim the son of Hilki'ah, and Shebna, and Jo'ah, said to the Rab'shakeh, "Pray, speak to your servants in the Aramaic language, for we understand it; do not speak to us in the language of Judah within the hearing of the people who are on the wall." But the Rab'shakeh said to them, "Has my master sent me to speak these words to your master and to you, and not to the men

15 sitting on the wall, who are doomed with you to eat their own dung and to drink their own urine?" Then the Rab'shakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah: "Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria! Thus says the king: 'Do not let Hezeki'ah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you out of my hand. Do not let Hezeki'ah make

20 you to rely on the LORD by saying, The LORD will surely deliver us, and

this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.' Do not listen to Hezeki'ah; for thus says the king of Assyria: 'Make your peace with me and come out to me; then every one of you will eat of his own vine, and every one of his own fig tree, and every one of you will drink the

5 water of his own cistern; until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey, that you may live, and not die. And do not listen to Hezeki'ah when he misleads you by saying, The LORD will deliver us. Has any of the gods of the nations ever delivered his land out of the

10 hand of the king of Assyria? Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharva'im, Hena, and Ivvah? Have they delivered Sama'ria out of my hand? Who among all the gods of the countries have delivered their countries out of my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?'" But the people were silent and answered him

15 not a word, for the king's command was, "Do not answer him." Then Eli'akim the son of Hilki'ah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Jo'ah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezeki'ah with their clothes rent, and told him the words of the Rab'sshakeh. When King Hezeki'ah heard it, he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth,

20 and went into the house of the LORD. And he sent Eli'akim, who was over

the household, and Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz. They said to him, "Thus says Hezeki'ah, This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to the birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth.

5 It may be that the LORD your God heard all the words of the Rab'shakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words which the LORD your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left." When the servants of King Hezeki'ah came to Isaiah, Isaiah said to them, "Say to your master, 'Thus

10 says the LORD: Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have reviled me. Behold, I will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.'" The Rab'shakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah;

15 for he heard that the king had left Lachish. And when the king heard concerning Tirha'kah king of Ethiopia, "Behold, he has set out to fight against you," he sent messengers again to Hezeki'ah, saying, "Thus shall you speak to Hezeki'ah king of Judah: 'Do not let your God on whom you rely deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of

20 the king of Assyria. Behold, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have

done to all lands, destroying them utterly. And shall you be delivered? Have the gods of the nations delivered them, the nations which my fathers destroyed, Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Tel-assar? Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city

5 of Sepharva'im, the king of Hena, or the king of Ivvah?" Hezeki'ah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezeki'ah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. And Hezeki'ah prayed before the LORD, and said: "O LORD the God of Israel, who art enthroned above the cherubim, thou art the God, thou alone, of all

10 the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth. Incline thy ear, O LORD, and hear; open thy eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennach'erib, which he has sent to mock the living God. Of a truth, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands, and have cast their gods into the fire; for they were no gods, but the work of

15 men's hands, wood and stone; therefore they were destroyed. So now, O LORD our God, save us, I beseech thee, from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou, O LORD, art God alone." Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezeki'ah, saying, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Your prayer to me about Sennach'erib king of Assyria I have

20 heard. This is the word that the LORD has spoken concerning him: "She

despises you, she scorns you--the virgin daughter of Zion; she wags her head  
behind you--the daughter of Jerusalem. "Whom have you mocked and  
reviled? Against whom have you raised your voice and haughtily lifted your  
eyes? Against the Holy One of Israel! By your messengers you have mocked  
5 the LORD, and you have said, 'With my many chariots I have gone up the  
heights of the mountains, to the far recesses of Lebanon; I felled its tallest  
cedars, its choicest cypresses; I entered its farthest retreat, its densest forest. I  
dug wells and drank foreign waters, and I dried up with the sole of my foot  
all the streams of Egypt.' "Have you not heard that I determined it long ago?  
10 I planned from days of old what now I bring to pass, that you should turn  
fortified cities into heaps of ruins, while their inhabitants, shorn of strength,  
are dismayed and confounded, and have become like plants of the field, and  
like tender grass, like grass on the housetops; blighted before it is grown?  
"But I know your sitting down and your going out and coming in, and your  
15 raging against me. Because you have raged against me and your arrogance  
has come into my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bit in your  
mouth, and I will turn you back on the way by which you came. "And this  
shall be the sign for you: this year you shall eat what grows of itself, and  
in the second year what springs of the same; then in the third year sow, and  
20 reap, and plant vineyards, and eat their fruit. And the surviving remnant of

the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward;  
for out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a  
band of survivors. The zeal of the LORD will do this. "Therefore thus says  
the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city  
5 or shoot an arrow there, or come before it with a shield or cast up a siege  
mound against it. By the way that he came, by the same he shall return, and  
he shall not come into this city, says the LORD. For I will defend this city  
to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David." And  
that night the angel of the LORD went forth, and slew a hundred and  
10 eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men arose early  
in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies. Then Sennach'erib king  
of Assyria departed, and went home, and dwelt at Nin'evéh. And as he was  
worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, Adram'melech and Share'zer, his  
sons, slew him with the sword, and escaped into the land of Ar'arat. And  
15 Esarhad'don his son reigned in his stead. In those days Hezeki'ah became  
sick and was at the point of death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz  
came to him, and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, 'Set your house in  
order; for you shall die, you shall not recover.'" Then Hezeki'ah turned his  
face to the wall, and prayed to the LORD, saying, "Remember now, O  
20 LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in faithfulness and

with a whole heart, and have done what is good in thy sight." And  
Hezeki'ah wept bitterly. And before Isaiah had gone out of the middle court,  
the word of the LORD came to him: "Turn back, and say to Hezeki'ah the  
prince of my people, Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: I  
5 have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I will heal you; on  
the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD. And I will add  
fifteen years to your life. I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of  
the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city for my own sake and for my  
servant David's sake." And Isaiah said, "Bring a cake of figs. And let them  
10 take and lay it on the boil, that he may recover." And Hezeki'ah said to  
Isaiah, "What shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall  
go up to the house of the LORD on the third day?" And Isaiah said, "This  
is the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he  
has promised: shall the shadow go forward ten steps, or go back ten steps?"  
15 And Hezeki'ah answered, "It is an easy thing for the shadow to lengthen ten  
steps; rather let the shadow go back ten steps." And Isaiah the prophet cried  
to the LORD; and he brought the shadow back ten steps, by which the sun  
had declined on the dial of Ahaz. At that time Mero'dach-bal'adan the son of  
Bal'adan, king of Babylon, sent envoys with letters and a present to  
20 Hezeki'ah; for he heard that Hezeki'ah had been sick. And Hezeki'ah

welcomed them, and he showed them all his treasure house, the silver, the gold, the spices, the precious oil, his armory, all that was found in his storehouses; there was nothing in his house or in all his realm that Hezeki'ah did not show them. Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezeki'ah, and

5 said to him, "What did these men say? And whence did they come to you?"

And Hezeki'ah said, "They have come from a far country, from Babylon." He said, "What have they seen in your house?" And Hezeki'ah answered, "They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing in my storehouses that I did not show them." Then Isaiah said to Hezeki'ah, "Hear the word of the

10 LORD: Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left, says the LORD. And some of your own sons, who are born to you, shall be taken away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon." Then said Hezeki'ah to Isaiah, "The word of

15 the LORD which you have spoken is good." For he thought, "Why not, if there will be peace and security in my days?" The rest of the deeds of Hezeki'ah, and all his might, and how he made the pool and the conduit and brought water into the city, are they not written in the Book of the

Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? And Hezeki'ah slept with his fathers; and

20 Manas'sseh his son reigned in his stead. Manas'sseh was twelve years old when



he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Heph'zibah. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominable practices of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel. For he rebuilt the high places which

5 Hezeki'ah his father had destroyed; and he erected altars for Ba'al, and made an Ashe'rah, as Ahab king of Israel had done, and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served them. And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem will I put my name." And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the

10 LORD. And he burned his son as an offering, and practiced soothsaying and augury, and dealt with mediums and with wizards. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger. And the graven image of Ashe'rah that he had made he set in the house of which the LORD said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I

15 have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my name for ever; and I will not cause the feet of Israel to wander any more out of the land which I gave to their fathers, if only they will be careful to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded them." But they did not listen, and Manas'sseh seduced

20 them to do more evil than the nations had done whom the LORD destroyed

before the people of Israel. And the LORD said by his servants the prophets,  
"Because Manas'seh king of Judah has committed these abominations, and has  
done things more wicked than all that the Amorites did, who were before  
him, and has made Judah also to sin with his idols; therefore thus says the  
5 LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing upon Jerusalem and Judah  
such evil that the ears of every one who hears of it will tingle. And I will  
stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Sama'ria, and the plummet of  
the house of Ahab; and I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it  
and turning it upside down. And I will cast off the remnant of my heritage,  
10 and give them into the hand of their enemies, and they shall become a prey  
and a spoil to all their enemies, because they have done what is evil in my  
sight and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came out of  
Egypt, even to this day." Moreover Manas'seh shed very much innocent  
blood, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another, besides the sin  
15 which he made Judah to sin so that they did what was evil in the sight of  
the LORD. Now the rest of the acts of Manas'seh, and all that he did, and  
the sin that he committed, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles  
of the Kings of Judah? And Manas'seh slept with his fathers, and was buried  
in the garden of his house, in the garden of Uzza; and Amon his son  
20 reigned in his stead. Amon was twenty-two years old when he began to

reign, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Meshul'lemeth the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, as Manas'sseh his father had done. He walked in all the way in which his father walked, and served the idols that his father

5 served, and worshiped them; he forsook the LORD, the God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the LORD. And the servants of Amon conspired against him, and killed the king in his house. But the people of the land slew all those who had conspired against King Amon, and the people of the land made Josi'ah his son king in his stead. Now the rest of

10 the acts of Amon which he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? And he was buried in his tomb in the garden of Uzza; and Josi'ah his son reigned in his stead. Josi'ah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedi'dah the daughter of Adai'ah of

15 Bozkath. And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. In the eighteenth year of King Josi'ah, the king sent Shaphan the son of Azali'ah, son of Meshul'lam, the secretary, to the house of the LORD, saying, "Go up to Hilki'ah the high priest, that he may reckon

20 the amount of the money which has been brought into the house of the

LORD, which the keepers of the threshold have collected from the people;  
and let it be given into the hand of the workmen who have the oversight of  
the house of the LORD; and let them give it to the workmen who are at the  
house of the LORD, repairing the house, that is, to the carpenters, and to the  
5 builders, and to the masons, as well as for buying timber and quarried stone  
to repair the house. But no accounting shall be asked from them for the  
money which is delivered into their hand, for they deal honestly." And  
Hilki'ah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the book  
of the law in the house of the LORD." And Hilki'ah gave the book to  
10 Shaphan, and he read it. And Shaphan the secretary came to the king, and  
reported to the king, "Your servants have emptied out the money that was  
found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of the workmen who  
have the oversight of the house of the LORD." Then Shaphan the secretary  
told the king, "Hilki'ah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read  
15 it before the king. And when the king heard the words of the book of the  
law, he rent his clothes. And the king commanded Hilki'ah the priest, and  
Ahi'kam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Micai'ah, and Shaphan  
the secretary, and Asai'ah the king's servant, saying, "Go, inquire of the  
LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words  
20 of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the LORD that is

kindled against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us." So Hilki'ah the priest, and Ahi'kam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asai'ah went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, son of Harhas, keeper  
5 of the wardrobe (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter); and they talked with her. And she said to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: 'Tell the man who sent you to me, Thus says the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place and upon its inhabitants, all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read. Because they have forsaken me and  
10 have burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the work of their hands, therefore my wrath will be kindled against this place, and it will not be quenched. But as to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus shall you say to him, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Regarding the words which you have heard,  
15 because your heart was penitent, and you humbled yourself before the LORD, when you heard how I spoke against this place, and against its inhabitants, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and you have rent your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, says the LORD.  
Therefore, behold, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be  
20 gathered to your grave in peace, and your eyes shall not see all the evil

which I will bring upon this place." And they brought back word to the king. Then the king sent, and all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem were gathered to him. And the king went up to the house of the LORD, and with him all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the

5 priests and the prophets, all the people, both small and great; and he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant which had been found in the house of the LORD. And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes, with all his heart and all

10 his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book; and all the people joined in the covenant. And the king commanded Hilki'ah, the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the threshold, to bring out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels made for Ba'al, for Ashe'rah, and for all the host of heaven; he burned them

15 outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron, and carried their ashes to Bethel. And he deposed the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places at the cities of Judah and round about Jerusalem; those also who burned incense to Ba'al, to the sun, and the moon, and the constellations, and all the host of the heavens. And he

20 brought out the Ashe'rah from the house of the LORD, outside Jerusalem, to

the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and beat it to dust and cast the dust of it upon the graves of the common people. And he broke down the houses of the male cult prostitutes which were in the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the Ashe'rah. And he brought

5 all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beer-sheba; and he broke down the high places of the gates that were at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on one's left at the gate of the city.

However, the priests of the high places did not come up to the altar of the

10 LORD in Jerusalem, but they ate unleavened bread among their brethren.

And he defiled To'pheth, which is in the valley of the sons of Hinnom, that no one might burn his son or his daughter as an offering to Molech. And he removed the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun, at the entrance to the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathan-melech the

15 chamberlain, which was in the precincts; and he burned the chariots of the sun with fire. And the altars on the roof of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manas'sseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, he pulled down and

20 broke in pieces, and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron. And the king defiled the high places that were east of Jerusalem, to the south of the

mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had built for  
Ash'toreth the abomination of the Sido'nians, and for Chemosh the  
abomination of Moab, and for Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.  
And he broke in pieces the pillars, and cut down the Ashe'rim, and filled  
5 their places with the bones of men. Moreover the altar at Bethel, the high  
place erected by Jerobo'am the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, that  
altar with the high place he pulled down and he broke in pieces its stones,  
crushing them to dust; also he burned the Ashe'rah. And as Josi'ah turned, he  
saw the tombs there on the mount; and he sent and took the bones out of  
10 the tombs, and burned them upon the altar, and defiled it, according to the  
word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who had predicted  
these things. Then he said, "What is yonder monument that I see?" And the  
men of the city told him, "It is the tomb of the man of God who came  
from Judah and predicted these things which you have done against the altar  
15 at Bethel." And he said, "Let him be; let no man move his bones." So they  
let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet who came out of Sama'ria.  
And all the shrines also of the high places that were in the cities of  
Sama'ria, which kings of Israel had made, provoking the LORD to anger,  
Josi'ah removed; he did to them according to all that he had done at Bethel.  
20 And he slew all the priests of the high places who were there, upon the



altars, and burned the bones of men upon them. Then he returned to  
Jerusalem. And the king commanded all the people, "Keep the passover to  
the LORD your God, as it is written in this book of the covenant." For no  
such passover had been kept since the days of the judges who judged Israel,  
5 or during all the days of the kings of Israel or of the kings of Judah; but in  
the eighteenth year of King Josi'ah this passover was kept to the LORD in  
Jerusalem. Moreover Josi'ah put away the mediums and the wizards and the  
teraphim and the idols and all the abominations that were seen in the land of  
Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might establish the words of the law which  
10 were written in the book that Hilki'ah the priest found in the house of the  
LORD. Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD  
with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to  
all the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him. Still the LORD  
did not turn from the fierceness of his great wrath, by which his anger was  
15 kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manas'sah  
had provoked him. And the LORD said, "I will remove Judah also out of  
my sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off this city which I  
have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be  
there." Now the rest of the acts of Josi'ah, and all that he did, are they not  
20 written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? In his days

Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt went up to the king of Assyria to the river  
Euphra'tes. King Josi'ah went to meet him; and Pharaoh Neco slew him at  
Megid'do, when he saw him. And his servants carried him dead in a chariot  
from Megid'do, and brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own  
5 tomb. And the people of the land took Jeho'ahaz the son of Josi'ah, and  
anointed him, and made him king in his father's stead. Jeho'ahaz was twenty-  
three years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months in  
Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamu'tal the daughter of Jeremiah of  
Libnah. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to  
10 all that his fathers had done. And Pharaoh Neco put him in bonds at Riblah  
in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem, and laid upon  
the land a tribute of a hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold. And  
Pharaoh Neco made Eli'akim the son of Josi'ah king in the place of Josi'ah  
his father, and changed his name to Jehoi'akim. But he took Jeho'ahaz away;  
15 and he came to Egypt, and died there. And Jehoi'akim gave the silver and  
the gold to Pharaoh, but he taxed the land to give the money according to  
the command of Pharaoh. He exacted the silver and the gold of the people  
of the land, from every one according to his assessment, to give it to  
Pharaoh Neco. Jehoi'akim was twenty-five years old when he began to reign,  
20 and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zebi'dah

the daughter of Pedai'ah of Rumah. And he did what was evil in the sight  
of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done. In his days  
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoi'akim became his  
servant three years; then he turned and rebelled against him. And the LORD  
5 sent against him bands of the Chalde'ans, and bands of the Syrians, and  
bands of the Moabites, and bands of the Ammonites, and sent them against  
Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD which he spoke by  
his servants the prophets. Surely this came upon Judah at the command of  
the LORD, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh,  
10 according to all that he had done, and also for the innocent blood that he  
had shed; for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the LORD would  
not pardon. Now the rest of the deeds of Jehoi'akim, and all that he did, are  
they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? So  
Jehoi'akim slept with his fathers, and Jehoi'achin his son reigned in his stead.  
15 And the king of Egypt did not come again out of his land, for the king of  
Babylon had taken all that belonged to the king of Egypt from the Brook of  
Egypt to the river Euphrates. Jehoi'achin was eighteen years old when he  
became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. His mother's name  
was Nehush'ta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. And he did what was  
20 evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done. At

that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up to Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to the city, while his servants were besieging it; and Jehoiachin the king of Judah gave himself up to the king of Babylon, himself, and his

5 mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his palace officials. The king of Babylon took him prisoner in the eighth year of his reign, and carried off all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold in the temple of the LORD, which Solomon king of Israel had made, as the LORD had foretold. He

10 carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valor, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths; none remained, except the poorest people of the land. And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon; the king's mother, the king's wives, his officials, and the chief men of the land, he took into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon.

15 And the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon all the men of valor, seven thousand, and the craftsmen and the smiths, one thousand, all of them strong and fit for war. And the king of Babylon made Mattani'ah, Jehoiachin's uncle, king in his stead, and changed his name to Zedeki'ah. Zedeki'ah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned

20 eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamu'tal the daughter of

Jeremiah of Libnah. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD,  
according to all that Jehoi'akim had done. For because of the anger of the  
LORD it came to the point in Jerusalem and Judah that he cast them out  
from his presence. And Zedeki'ah rebelled against the king of Babylon. And  
5 in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the  
month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came with all his army against  
Jerusalem, and laid siege to it; and they built siegeworks against it round  
about. So the city was besieged till the eleventh year of King Zedeki'ah. On  
the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was so severe in the city that  
10 there was no food for the people of the land. Then a breach was made in  
the city; the king with all the men of war fled by night by the way of the  
gate between the two walls, by the king's garden, though the Chalde'ans were  
around the city. And they went in the direction of the Arabah. But the army  
of the Chalde'ans pursued the king, and overtook him in the plains of  
15 Jericho; and all his army was scattered from him. Then they captured the  
king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, who passed  
sentence upon him. They slew the sons of Zedeki'ah before his eyes, and put  
out the eyes of Zedeki'ah, and bound him in fetters, and took him to  
20 Babylon. In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month--which was the  
nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon--Nebu'zarad'an, the

captain of the bodyguard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to  
Jerusalem. And he burned the house of the LORD, and the king's house and  
all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down. And all the  
army of the Chalde'ans, who were with the captain of the guard, broke down  
5 the walls around Jerusalem. And the rest of the people who were left in the  
city and the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babylon, together with  
the rest of the multitude, Nebu'zarad'an the captain of the guard carried into  
exile. But the captain of the guard left some of the poorest of the land to be  
vinedressers and plowmen. And the pillars of bronze that were in the house  
10 of the LORD, and the stands and the bronze sea that were in the house of  
the LORD, the Chalde'ans broke in pieces, and carried the bronze to  
Babylon. And they took away the pots, and the shovels, and the snuffers,  
and the dishes for incense and all the vessels of bronze used in the temple  
service, the firepans also, and the bowls. What was of gold the captain of  
15 the guard took away as gold, and what was of silver, as silver. As for the  
two pillars, the one sea, and the stands, which Solomon had made for the  
house of the LORD, the bronze of all these vessels was beyond weight. The  
height of the one pillar was eighteen cubits, and upon it was a capital of  
bronze; the height of the capital was three cubits; a network and  
20 pomegranates, all of bronze, were upon the capital round about. And the

second pillar had the like, with the network. And the captain of the guard took Serai'ah the chief priest, and Zephani'ah the second priest, and the three keepers of the threshold; and from the city he took an officer who had been in command of the men of war, and five men of the king's council who

5 were found in the city; and the secretary of the commander of the army who mustered the people of the land; and sixty men of the people of the land who were found in the city. And Nebu'zarad'an the captain of the guard took them, and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. And the king of Babylon smote them, and put them to death at Riblah in the land of

10 Hamath. So Judah was taken into exile out of its land. And over the people who remained in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left, he appointed Gedali'ah the son of Ahi'kam, son of Shaphan, governor. Now when all the captains of the forces in the open country and their men heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedali'ah governor,

15 they came with their men to Gedali'ah at Mizpah, namely, Ish'mael the son of Nethani'ah, and Joha'nán the son of Kare'ah, and Serai'ah the son of Tanhu'meth the Netoph'athite, and Ja-azani'ah the son of the Ma-ac'athite. And Gedali'ah swore to them and their men, saying, "Do not be afraid because of the Chalde'an officials; dwell in the land, and serve the king of Babylon, and

20 it shall be well with you." But in the seventh month, Ish'mael the son of

Nethani'ah, son of Eli'shama, of the royal family, came with ten men, and attacked and killed Gedali'ah and the Jews and the Chalde'ans who were with him at Mizpah. Then all the people, both small and great, and the captains of the forces arose, and went to Egypt; for they were afraid of the

5 Chalde'ans. And in the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoi'achin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, Evil-mero'dach king of Babylon, in the year that he began to reign, graciously freed Jehoi'achin king of Judah from prison; and he spoke kindly to him, and gave him a seat above the seats of the kings who were with him in

10 Babylon. So Jehoi'achin put off his prison garments. And every day of his life he dined regularly at the king's table; and for his allowance, a regular allowance was given him by the king, every day a portion, as long as he lived.\*

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