

The First Book of the Kings

1 David's Old Age. 5 Adonijah's attempted Usurpation. 15 Bath-sheba's Remonstrance. 32 Solomon Anointed King.

1 Now king David was old *and* stricken in years; and they covered him with clothes, but he gat no heat. 2 Wherefore his servants said unto him, Let there be sought for my lord the king a young virgin: and let her stand before the king, and cherish him; and let her lie in thy bosom, that my lord the king may get heat. 3 So they sought for a fair damsel throughout all *the* borders of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. 4 And the damsel *was* very fair; and she cherished the king, and ministered to him; but the king knew her not.

5 Then Adonijah *the* son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. 6 And his father had not displeased him ¹at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he *was* also a very goodly *man*; and he was born after Absalom. 7 And he conferred with Joab *the* son of Zeruiah, and with Abiathar the priest: and they following Adonijah helped him. 8 But Zadok the priest, and Benaiah *the* son of Jehoiada, and Nathan the prophet, and Shimei, and Rei, and the mighty men that *belonged* to David, were not with Adonijah. 9 And Adonijah ²slew sheep and oxen and fatlings by ³the stone of Zohemoth, which *is* beside ⁴En-rogel; and he called all his brethren, the king's sons, and all *the* men of Judah, the king's servants: 10 but Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah, and the mighty men, and Solomon his brother, he called not.

11 Then Nathan spake unto Bath-sheba *the* mother of Solomon, saying, Hast thou not heard that Adonijah *the* son of Haggith doth reign, and David our lord knoweth *it* not? 12 Now therefore come, let me, I pray thee, give thee counsel, that thou mayest save thine own soul, and the soul of thy son Solomon. 13 Go and get thee in unto king David, and say unto him, Didst not thou, my lord, O king, swear unto thy handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he

shall sit upon my throne? why then doth Adonijah reign? 14 Behold, while thou yet talkest there with the king, I also will come in after thee, and confirm thy words.

15 And Bath-sheba went in unto the king into the chamber: and the king was very old; and Abishag the Shunammite was ministering unto the king. 16 And Bath-sheba bowed, and did obeisance unto the king. And the king said, What wouldest thou? 17 And she said unto him, My lord, ⁵thou swarest by Jehovah thy God unto thy handmaid, *saying*, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne. 18 And now, behold, Adonijah reigneth; ⁶and thou, my lord the king, knowest it not: 19 and he hath slain oxen and fatlings and sheep in abundance, and hath called all *the* sons of the king, and Abiathar the priest, and Joab *the* captain of the host; but Solomon thy servant hath he not called. 20 And ⁷thou, my lord the king, *the* eyes of all Israel *are* upon thee, that thou shouldest tell them who shall sit on *the* throne of my lord the king after him. 21 Otherwise it will come to pass, when my lord the king shall sleep with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon shall be counted ⁸offenders.

22 And, lo, while she yet talked with the king, Nathan the prophet came in. 23 And they told the king, saying, Behold, Nathan the prophet. And when he was come in before the king, he bowed himself before the king with his face to *the* ground. 24 And Nathan said, My lord, O king, hast thou said, Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne? 25 For he is gone down *this* day, and hath slain oxen and fatlings and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the king's sons, and *the* captains of the host, and Abiathar the priest; and, behold, they are eating and drinking before him, and say, *Long* live king Adonijah. 26 But me, *even* me thy servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah *the* son of Jehoiada, and thy servant Solomon, hath he not called. 27 Is this thing done by my lord the king, and thou hast not showed unto thy ⁹servants who should sit on *the* throne of my lord the king after him?

28 Then king David answered and said, Call to me Bath-sheba. And she came into the king's presence,

¹ Or, all his life in saying,

² Or, sacrificed *Similarly in* vss. 19, 25.

³ Soncino commentary *says*, The meaning is 'the serpent's stone.' It is usually identified with ezZehweleh, a winding stair hewn in the rock of the mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem.

⁴ Soncino commentary *says*, i.e., 'the fuller's fountain,' a compound of *en*, 'fountain,' and *rogel* (from *regel*, 'foot'), 'fuller,' probably because the washing was done by treading upon the clothes with the foot. The fountain lay on the south-east of Jerusalem, near Siloam, between the territories of Benjamin and Judah (Josh 15:7, 18:16).

⁵ 1Chr 22:9-12.

⁶ *So Many* mss., and the versions. *A majority of the Massoretic reads* and now, my lord the king, thou

⁷ Many mss. *read* now,

⁸ *Hb.* sinners.

⁹ *Hb*^{mg} *reads* servant

and stood before the king. 29 And the king sware, and said, As Jehovah liveth, who hath redeemed my soul out of all adversity, 30 truly as I sware unto thee by Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead; truly so will I do this day. 31 Then Bath-sheba bowed with *her* face to *the* earth, and did obeisance to the king, and said, Let my lord king David live for ever.

32 And king David said, Call to me Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah *the* son of Jehoiada. And they came before the king. 33 And the king said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon: 34 and let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel; and blow ye the trumpet, and say, *Long* live king Solomon. 35 Then ye shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit upon my throne; for he shall be king in my stead; and I have appointed him to be ¹⁰prince over Israel and over Judah. 36 And Benaiah *the* son of Jehoiada answered the king, and said, Amen: Jehovah, *the* God of my lord the king, say so *too*. 37 As Jehovah hath been with my lord the king, even so be he with Solomon, and make his throne greater than *the* throne of my lord king David.

38 So Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah *the* son of Jehoiada, and ¹¹the Cherethites and the Pelethites, went down, and caused Solomon to ride upon king David's mule, and brought him to Gihon. 39 And Zadok the priest took the horn of oil out of the Tent, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, *Long* live king Solomon. 40 And all the people came up after him, and the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth rent with *the* sound of them.

41 And Adonijah and all the guests that *were* with him heard it as they had made an end of eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, Wherefore *is this* noise of the city being in an uproar? 42 While he yet spake, behold, Jonathan *the* son of Abiathar the priest came: and Adonijah said, Come in; for thou *art* a worthy man, and bringest good tidings. 43 And Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, Truly our lord king David hath made Solomon king: 44 and the king hath sent with him Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah *the* son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and they have caused him to ride upon the king's mule; 45 and Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king in Gihon; and they are come up from thence rejoicing, so that the city rang again. This *is* the noise

¹⁰ *Or*, leader

¹¹ *Likely*, the elite palace guard and the couriers, *And so elsewhere. Compare 2Sa 20:7, 23.*

that ye have heard. 46 And also Solomon sitteth on *the* throne of the kingdom. 47 And moreover the king's servants came to bless our lord king David, saying, ¹²Thy God make the name of Solomon better than thy name, and make his throne greater than thy throne: and the king bowed himself upon the bed. 48 And also thus said the king, Blessed be Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, who hath given *one* to sit on my throne *this* day, mine eyes even seeing *it*.

49 And all the guests of Adonijah were afraid, and rose up, and went every man his way. 50 And Adonijah feared because of Solomon; and he arose, and went, and caught hold on *the* horns of the altar. 51 And it was told Solomon, saying, Behold, Adonijah feareth king Solomon; for, lo, he hath laid hold on *the* horns of the altar, saying, Let king Solomon swear unto me ¹³first that he will not slay his servant with the sword. 52 And Solomon said, If he shall show himself a worthy man, there shall not a hair of him fall to *the* earth; but if wickedness be found in him, he shall die. 53 So king Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and did obeisance to king Solomon; and Solomon said unto him, Go to thy house.

2 Now *the* days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, 2 I am going *the* way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and show thyself a man; 3 and keep the charge of Jehovah thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, *and* his commandments, and his ordinances, and his testimonies, according to *that* which is written in *the* law of Moses, that thou mayest ¹⁴prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself; 4 that Jehovah may establish his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on *the* throne of Israel. 5 Moreover thou knowest also what Joab *the* son of Zeruiah did unto me, *even* what he did to *the* two captains of *the* hosts of Israel, unto Abner *the* son of Ner, and unto Amasa *the* son of Jether, whom he slew, and ¹⁵shed *the* blood of war in peace, and put *the* blood of war upon his girdle that *was* about his loins, and in his shoes that *were* on his feet. 6 Do therefore according to thy wisdom, and let not his hoar head go down to Sheol in peace. 7 But show kindness unto *the* sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be of those that eat at thy table; for so they came to me when I fled from Absalom thy brother. 8 And, behold, *there is* with thee Shimei *the* son of Gera, the Benjamite, of Bahurim, who cursed me with a grievous curse in *the* day when I went to Mahanaim;

¹² *Hb*^{mg} omits Thy

¹³ *Hb.* today

¹⁴ *Or*, do wisely in all that thou doest,

¹⁵ *Hb.* set

but he came down to meet me at the Jordan, and I swear to him by Jehovah, saying, I will not put thee to death with the sword. 9 Now therefore hold him not guiltless, for thou *art* a wise man; and thou wilt know what thou oughtest to do unto him, and thou shalt bring his hoar head down to Sheol with blood.

10 And David slept with his fathers, and was buried in *the* city of David. 11 And the days that David reigned over Israel *were* ¹⁶forty years: seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty-three years reigned he in Jerusalem. 12 And Solomon sat upon *the* throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly.

13 Then Adonijah *the* son of Haggith came to Bath-sheba *the* mother of Solomon. And she said, Comest thou peaceably? And he said, Peaceably. 14 He said moreover, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And she said, Say on. 15 And he said, Thou knowest that mine was the kingdom, and *that* all Israel set their faces on me, that I should reign: howbeit the kingdom is turned about, and is become my brother's; for it was his from Jehovah. 16 And now I ask one petition of thee; ¹⁷deny me not. And she said unto him, Say on. 17 And he said, Speak, I pray thee, unto Solomon the king (for he will not say thee no), that he give me Abishag the Shunammite to wife. 18 And Bath-sheba said, Well; I will speak for thee unto the king.

19 Bath-sheba therefore went unto king Solomon, to speak unto him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her, and bowed himself unto her, and sat down on his throne, and caused a throne to be set for the king's mother; and she sat on his right *hand*. 20 Then she said, I ask one small petition of thee; deny me not. And the king said unto her, Ask on, my mother; for I will not deny thee. 21 And she said, Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah thy brother to wife. 22 And king Solomon answered and said unto his mother, And why dost thou ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? ask for him the kingdom also; for he *is* mine elder brother; even for him, and for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab *the* son of Zeruiah. 23 Then king Solomon swore by Jehovah, saying, God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah hath not spoken this word against his *own* soul. 24 Now therefore *as* Jehovah liveth, who hath established me, and set me on *the* throne of David my father, and who hath made me a house, as he promised, surely Adonijah shall be put to death *this* day. 25 And king Solomon sent by Benaiah *the* son of Jehoiada; and he fell upon him, so that he died.

26 And unto Abiathar the priest said the king, Get thee to Anathoth, unto thine own fields; for thou art

¹⁶ *The enumeration does not distinguish the month of accession or the month of demise, but the number of New Years days that were crossed. Cf. 2Sa 5:5.*

¹⁷ *Hb. turn not away my face. Also in vs. 20.*

¹⁸ worthy of death: but I will not at this time put thee to death, because thou barest the ark of *the* Lord Jehovah before David my father, and because thou wast afflicted in all wherein my father was afflicted. 27 So Solomon thrust out Abiathar from being priest unto Jehovah, that he might fulfil ¹⁹the word of Jehovah, which he spake concerning *the* house of Eli in Shiloh.

28 And the tidings came to Joab; for Joab had turned after Adonijah, though he turned not after Absalom. And Joab fled unto *the* Tent of Jehovah, and caught hold on *the* horns of the altar. 29 And it was told king Solomon, Joab is fled unto *the* Tent of Jehovah, and, behold, *he is* by the altar. Then Solomon sent Benaiah *the* son of Jehoiada, saying, Go, fall upon him. 30 And Benaiah came to *the* Tent of Jehovah, and said unto him, Thus saith the king, Come forth. And he said, No; but I will die here. And Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me. 31 And the king said unto him, Do as he hath said, and fall upon him, and bury him; that thou mayest take away *the* blood, which Joab shed without cause, from me and from my father's house. 32 And Jehovah will return his blood upon his own head, because he fell upon two men more righteous and better than he, and slew them with the sword, and my father David knew *it* not, *to wit*, Abner *the* son of Ner, captain of *the* host of Israel, and Amasa *the* son of Jether, captain of *the* host of Judah. 33 So shall their blood return upon *the* head of Joab, and upon *the* head of his seed for ever: but unto David and unto his seed, and unto his house, and unto his throne, shall there be peace ²⁰for ever from Jehovah. 34 Then Benaiah *the* son of Jehoiada went up, and fell upon him, and slew him; and he was buried in his own house in the wilderness. 35 And the king put Benaiah *the* son of Jehoiada in his stead over the host; and Zadok the priest did the king put in the stead of Abiathar.

36 And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him, Build thee a house in Jerusalem, and dwell there, and go not forth thence any whither. 37 For on *the* day thou goest out, and passest over the brook Kidron, know thou for certain that thou shalt surely *begin to die*: thy blood shall be upon thine own head. 38 And Shimei said unto the king, The saying *is* good: as my lord the king hath said, so will thy servant do. And Shimei dwelt in Jerusalem many days.

39 And it came to pass at *the* end of three years, that two of *the* servants of Shimei ran away unto Achish, son of Maacah, king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, Behold, thy servants *are* in Gath. 40 And Shimei arose, and saddled his ass, and went to Gath to Achish, to seek his servants; and Shimei went, and brought his servants from Gath. 41 And it was told

¹⁸ *Hb. a man of death:*

¹⁹ 1Sa 2:27-36.

²⁰ *Or, for time without predetermined limit from*

Solomon that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath, and was come again. 42 And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him, Did I not adjure thee by Jehovah, and protest unto thee, saying, Know for certain, that on *the* day thou goest out, and walkest abroad any whither, thou shalt surely die? and thou saidst unto me, ²¹The saying *that* I have heard *is* good. 43 Why then hast thou not kept the oath of Jehovah, and the commandment that I have charged thee with? 44 The king said moreover to Shimei, Thou knowest all the wickedness which thy heart is privy to, that thou didst to David my father: therefore Jehovah shall return thy wickedness upon thine own head. 45 But king Solomon *shall be* blessed, and *the* throne of David shall be established before Jehovah for ever. 46 So the king commanded Benaiah *the* son of Jehoiada; and he went out, and fell upon him, so that he died. And the kingdom was established in *the* hand of Solomon.

3 And Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter, and brought her into *the* city of David, until he had made an end of building his own house, and the house of Jehovah, and the wall of Jerusalem round about. 2 Only the people sacrificed in the high places, because there was no house built for *the* name of Jehovah until those days. 3 And Solomon loved Jehovah, walking in *the* statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places.

4 And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt-offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar. 5 In Gibeon Jehovah appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. 6 And Solomon said, Thou hast showed unto thy servant David my father great lovingkindness, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great lovingkindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. 7 And now, O Jehovah my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I *am but* a little child; I know not *how* to go out or come in. 8 And thy servant is in *the* midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. 9 Give thy servant therefore an ²²understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and evil; for who is able to judge this thy ²³great people?

10 And the speech pleased ²⁴Jehovah, that Solomon had asked this thing. 11 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked

for thyself ²⁵long life, neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked *the* soul of thine enemies, but hast asked for thyself understanding to ²⁶discern justice; 12 behold, I have done according to thy word: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there hath been none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. 13 And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches and honor, so that there ²⁷shall not be any among the kings like unto thee, all thy days. 14 And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days. 15 And Solomon awoke; and, behold, *it was* a dream: and he came to Jerusalem, and stood before *the* ark of *the* covenant of Jehovah, and offered up burnt-offerings, and offered peace-offerings, and made a feast to all his servants.

16 Then there came two women *that were* harlots, unto the king, and stood before him. 17 And the one woman said, Oh, my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house. 18 And it came to pass the third day after I was delivered, that this woman was delivered also; and we *were* together; *there was* no stranger with us in the house, save we two in the house. 19 And this woman's child died in *the* night, because she lay upon it. 20 And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thy handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom. 21 And when I rose in the morning to give my child suck, behold, *it was* dead; but when I had looked at it in the morning, behold, it was not my son, whom I did bear. 22 And the other woman said, No; but the living *is* my son, and the dead *is* thy son. And this *one* said, No; but the dead *is* thy son, and the living *is* my son. Thus they spake before the king.

23 Then said the king, The one saith, This *is* my son *that* liveth, and thy son *is* the dead: and the other saith, No; but thy son *is* the dead, and my son *is* the living. 24 And the king said, Fetch me a sword. And they brought *a* sword before the king. 25 And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to *the* one, and half to *the* other. 26 Then spake the woman whose the living child *was* unto the king, for her heart yearned over her son, and she said, Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, It shall be neither mine nor thine; divide *it*. 27 Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she *is the* mother thereof. 28 And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that *the* wisdom of God *was* in him, to do justice.

²¹ Vs. 38.

²² *Hb.* hearing *Also in* vs. 12.

²³ *Hb.* heavy

²⁴ *Sopherim changed to the Lord, Also in* vs. 15.

²⁵ *Hb.* many days,

²⁶ *Hb.* hear justice;

²⁷ *Or,* hath not been any

4 And king Solomon was king over all Israel. 2 And these *were* the princes whom he had: Azariah *the* son of Zadok, the priest; 3 Elihoreph and Ahijah, *the* sons of Shisha, ²⁸scribes; Jehoshaphat *the* son of Ahilud, the ²⁹recorder; 4 and Benaiah *the* son of Jehoiada *was* over the host; and Zadok and Abiathar *were* priests; 5 and Azariah *the* son of Nathan *was* over the officers; and Zabud *the* son of Nathan *was* ³⁰chief minister, *and* the king's friend; 6 and Ahishar *was* over the household; and Adoniram *the* son of Abda *was* over the men subject to taskwork.

7 And Solomon had twelve officers over all Israel, who provided victuals for the king and his household: each man had to make provision for a month in the year. 8 And these *are* their names: Ben-hur, in *the* hill-country of Ephraim; 9 Ben-deker, in Makaz, and in Shaalbim, and Beth-shemesh, and Elon-beth-hanan; 10 Ben-hesed, in Arubboth (to him *pertained* Socoh, and all *the* land of Hopher); 11 Ben-abinadab, in all ³¹*the* ³²height of Dor (he had Taphath *the* daughter of Solomon to wife); 12 Baana *the* son of Ahilud, in Taanach and Megiddo, and all Beth-shean which *is* beside Zarethan, beneath Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah, as far as ³³beyond Jokmeam; 13 ³⁴Ben-geber, in Ramoth-gilead (to him *pertained* ³⁵*the* towns of Jair *the* son of Manasseh, which *are* in Gilead; *even* to him *pertained* *the* region of Argob, which *is* in Bashan, sixty great cities with walls and brazen bars); 14 Ahinadab *the* son of Iddo, in Mahanaim; 15 Ahimaaz, in Naphtali (he also took Basemath *the* daughter of Solomon to wife); 16 Baana *the* son of Hushai, in Asher and ³⁶Bealoth; 17 Jehoshaphat *the* son of Paruah, in Issachar; 18 Shimei *the* son of Ela, in Benjamin; 19 Geber *the* son of Uri, in *the* land of Gilead, *the* country of Sihon king of the Amorites and of Og king of Bashan; ³⁷*and he was the only officer that was in the land.*³⁸

20 Judah and Israel *were* many as the sand which *is* by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking and making merry. 21 And Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the River *Euphrates* unto *the* land of *the* Philistines, and unto *the* border of Egypt: they brought tribute, and served Solomon all *the* days of his

²⁸ *Or*, secretaries;

²⁹ *Or*, chronicler

³⁰ *Or*, priest,

³¹ *Or*, Naphath-dor

³² *Or*, region of Dor

³³ *Or*, over against (*i.e.*, opposite)

³⁴ *Meaning*, son of man,

³⁵ *Or*, Havvoth-jair

³⁶ *Or*, in Aloth;

³⁷ *Hb.* and one officer

³⁸ Targ¹ adds to maintain the king in the intercalary month. [An intercalary 13th month every 2-3 years.]

life. 22 And Solomon's provision for one day was thirty ³⁹measures of fine flour, and sixty measures of meal, 23 ten fat oxen, and twenty oxen out of *the* pastures, and a hundred sheep, besides harts, and gazelles, and roebucks, and fatted fowl. 24 For he had dominion over all *the* region ⁴⁰on this side the River, from Tiphshah even to Gaza, over all *the* kings on this side the River: and he had peace on all sides round about him. 25 And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig-tree, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, all *the* days of Solomon. 26 And Solomon had ⁴¹forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen. 27 And those officers provided victuals for king Solomon, and for all that came unto king Solomon's table, *every* man in his month; they let nothing be lacking. 28 Barley also and straw for the horses and swift steeds brought they unto the place ⁴²where *the* officers were, every man according to his charge.

29 And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that *is* on the sea-shore. 30 And Solomon's wisdom excelled *the* wisdom of all *the* children of *the* east, and all *the* wisdom of Egypt. 31 For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Calcol, and Darda, *the* sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all the nations round about. 32 And he spake three thousand proverbs; and his songs were a thousand five. 33 And he spake of trees, from the cedar that *is* in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of birds, and of creeping things, and of fishes. 34 And there came of all peoples to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.

5 And Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants unto Solomon; for he had heard that they had anointed him king instead of his father: for Hiram was ever a lover of David. 2 And Solomon sent to Hiram, saying, 3 Thou knowest how that David my father could not build a house for *the* name of Jehovah his God for the

³⁹ *Hb.* cor about 220 litre, or 6¼ U.S. bushel.

Soncino commentary says, According to one calculation, the number of persons maintained by the quantities specified would be no less than 15,000; according to others, 33,000 to 36,000.

⁴⁰ *Or*, beyond the River (*both times*)

⁴¹ In 2Chr 9:25, four thousand stalls *It is unlikely the alphabetic numerics, (4) ד and (04) ׀ were confused, as even in earliest known Hebrew they are dissimilar. Here it seems more likely the numbers written out, ארבעת arbahath (4) and (04) mihabra מיהברה were confused in one of the two passages.*

⁴² *Or*, where he (*that is*, the king) was, *or*, where it should be,

wars which were about him on every side, until Jehovah put them under *the* soles of his feet. 4 But now Jehovah my God hath given me rest on every side; *there is* neither adversary, nor evil occurrence. 5 And, behold, I purpose to build a house for *the* name of Jehovah my God, as Jehovah spake unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy stead, he shall build the house for my name. 6 Now therefore command thou that they cut me cedar-trees out of Lebanon; and my servants shall be with thy servants; and I will give thee hire for thy servants according to all that thou shalt say: for thou knowest that *there is* not among us any that knoweth how to cut timber like unto the Sidonians.

7 And it came to pass, when Hiram heard the words of Solomon, that he rejoiced greatly, and said, Blessed *be* Jehovah *this* day, who hath given unto David a wise son over this great people. 8 And Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, I have heard the *message* which thou hast sent unto me: I will do all thy desire concerning timber of cedar, and concerning timber of ⁴³fir. 9 My servants shall bring *them* down from Lebanon unto *the* sea; and I will make them into rafts to go by sea unto the place that thou shalt appoint me, and will cause them to be broken up there, and thou shalt ⁴⁴receive *them*; and thou shalt accomplish my desire, in giving food for my household. 10 So ⁴⁵Hiram gave Solomon timber of cedar and timber of fir *according to* all his desire. 11 And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand ⁴⁶measures of wheat *for* food to his household, and twenty ⁴⁷thousand measures of ⁴⁸pure oil: thus gave Solomon to Hiram year by year. 12 And Jehovah gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him; and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and they two made a league together.

13 And king Solomon raised a levy out of all Israel; and the levy was thirty thousand men. 14 And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand *a* month by courses; a month they were in Lebanon, *and* two months at home: and Adoniram *was* over the men subject to taskwork. 15 And Solomon had seventy thousand that bare burdens, and eighty thousand that were hewers in the mountains; 16 besides Solomon's chief officers that *were* over the work, three thousand three hundred, that bare rule over the people that wrought in the work. 17 And the king commanded, and they ⁴⁹hewed out great stones, costly stones, to lay *the* foundation of the house with wrought stone. 18 And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders and the Gebalites did fashion

⁴³ Or, cypress.

⁴⁴ Or, carry them away;

⁴⁵ Hb. Hirom (and in vs. 18).

⁴⁶ Hb. cor See footnote on ch. 4:22.

⁴⁷ Massoretic, Vg. omit thousand Cf. 2Chr 2:10.

⁴⁸ Or, beaten oil:

⁴⁹ Hb. brought away great stones,

them, and prepared the timbers and the stones to build the house.

6 And it came to pass in *the* ⁵⁰four hundred eightieth year after *the* children of Israel were come out of *the* land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in *the* month Ziv, which *is* the second month, that he ⁵¹began to build the house of Jehovah. 2 And the house which king Solomon built for Jehovah, *the* length thereof *was* sixty ⁵²cubits, and *the* breadth thereof twenty cubits, and *the* height thereof thirty cubits. 3 And the porch before ⁵³*the* temple of the house, twenty cubits *was* the length thereof according to *the* breadth of the house; and ten cubits *was* the breadth thereof before the house. 4 And for the house he made ⁵⁴windows of fixed lattice-work. 5 And against *the* wall of the house he built stories round about, *against* the walls of the house round about, *both* of the temple and of ⁵⁵*the* Word; and he made side-chambers round about. 6 The nethermost story *was* five cubits broad, and the middle *was* six cubits broad, and the third *was* seven cubits broad; for on *the* outside he made offsets *in the* wall of the house round about, that *the* beams should not have hold in *the* walls of the house. 7 And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready ⁵⁶*at the* quarry; and there was neither hammer nor axe *nor* any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building. 8 The door for the middle side-chambers *was* in the right ⁵⁷side of the house: and they went up by winding stairs into the middle story, and out of the middle into the third. 9 So he built the house, and finished it; and he covered the house with beams and ⁵⁸planks of cedar. 10 And he built the stories against all the house, each five cubits high: and ⁵⁹they rested on the house with timbers of cedar.

11 And *the* word of Jehovah came to Solomon, saying, 12 *Concerning* this house which thou art building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute mine ordinances, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I establish my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father. 13 And I will

⁵⁰ *There is an apparent problem reconciling this number with Jephthah's 300 years in Jg 11:26, and with the 450 years of inheritance in Ac 13:19-20.*

⁵¹ Hb. built the house of Jehovah. Compare Jo 2:20.

⁵² Hb. amnah, forearm (from the elbow to the tip of the fingers), typically 18-20 inches.

⁵³ That is, the holy place. or, the Holy.

⁵⁴ Or, windows broad within, and narrow without.

⁵⁵ Or perhaps, the inner sanctum; That is, the most holy place; or, the Holy of Holies; Hb. debiyr, the word So vs. 16, and elsewhere.

⁵⁶ Or, when it was brought away;

⁵⁷ Hb. shoulder of the house:

⁵⁸ Hb. rows

⁵⁹ Or, he fastened the house

dwell among *the* children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.

14 So Solomon built the house, and finished it. 15 And he built the walls of the house within with boards of cedar: ⁶⁰from *the* floor of the house unto *the* walls of the ceiling, he covered *them* on *the* inside with wood; and he covered the floor of the house with boards of ⁶¹fir. 16 And he built twenty cubits on *the* hinder parts of the house with boards of cedar from the floor unto the walls *of the ceiling*: he built *them* for it within, for a Word, *even* for the Most Holy. 17 And the house, that *is*, the temple before *the* Word, was forty cubits *long*. 18 And *there* was cedar on the house within, carved with ⁶²knops and open flowers: all *was* ⁶³cedar; there was no stone seen. 19 And he prepared a Word in *the* midst of the house within, to set there the ark of *the* covenant of Jehovah. 20 And within the Word *was* a *space* of twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in breadth, and twenty cubits in *the* height thereof; and he overlaid it with pure gold: ⁶⁴and he covered *the* altar with cedar. 21 So Solomon overlaid the house within with pure gold: and he drew chains of gold across before the Word; and he overlaid it with gold. 22 And the whole house he overlaid with gold, until all the house was finished: also the whole altar that *belonged* to the Word he overlaid with gold.

23 And in the Word he made two ⁶⁵cherubim of olive-wood, *each* ten cubits high. 24 And five cubits *was* the one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the other wing of the cherub: from *the* uttermost part of *the* wings unto *the* uttermost part of *the* other wings *were* ten cubits. 25 And the other cherub *was* ten cubits: both the cherubim *were* of one measure and one form. 26 *The* height of the one cherub *was* ten cubits, and so *was* *it* of the other cherub. 27 And he set the cherubim within the inner house; and the wings of the cherubim were stretched forth, so that *the* wing of the one touched the *one* wall, and *the* wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; and their wings touched one another in *the* midst of the house. 28 And he overlaid the cherubim with gold.

29 And he carved all the walls of the house round about with carved figures of cherubim and palm-trees and open flowers, within and without. 30 And the floor of the house he overlaid with gold, within and without. 31 And for the entrance of the Word he made doors of olive-wood: the ⁶⁶lintel and door-posts *were* a fifth part of *the* wall. 32 So *he* made two doors of

⁶⁰ Or, both *the* floors of the house and *the* walls *etc.*

or, ...and *the* beams *etc.* Similarly in vs. 16.

⁶¹ Or, cypress.

⁶² Or, gourds

⁶³ Cedar is toxic to insects, suggesting incorruptibility.

⁶⁴ Or, he overlaid *the* altar also, which *was* of cedar.

⁶⁵ That *is*, plural of cherub.

⁶⁶ Or, posts

olive-wood; and he carved upon them carvings of cherubim and palm-trees and open flowers, and overlaid *them* with gold; and he spread the gold upon the cherubim, and upon the palm-trees. 33 So also made he for *the* entrance of the temple door-posts of olive-wood, out of a fourth part of *the* wall; 34 and two doors of ⁶⁷fir-wood: *the* two leaves of the one door *were* folding, and *the* two leaves of the other door *were* folding. 35 And he carved *thereon* cherubim and palm-trees and open flowers; and he overlaid *them* with gold fitted upon the graven work. 36 And he built the inner court with three courses of hewn stone, and a course of cedar beams.

37 In the fourth year *was* *the* foundation of *the* house of Jehovah laid, in *the* month Ziv. 38 And in the eleventh year, in *the* month Bul, ⁶⁸which *is* the eighth month, *was* the house finished ⁶⁹throughout all *the* parts thereof, and according to all *the* fashion of it. So *was* he seven years in building it.

7 And Solomon *was* building his *own* house thirteen years, and he finished all his house. 2 For he built the house of the forest of Lebanon; *the* length thereof *was* a hundred cubits, and *the* breadth thereof fifty cubits, and *the* height thereof thirty cubits, upon four rows of cedar pillars, with cedar beams upon the pillars. 3 And *it* *was* covered with cedar above over the forty-five ⁷⁰beams, that *were* upon the pillars; fifteen *in* a row. 4 And *there* *were* ⁷¹beams *in* three rows, and window *was* over against window *in* three ranks. 5 And all the doors and posts *were* made square with beams: and window *was* over against window *in* three ranks. 6 And he made the porch of pillars; *the* length thereof *was* fifty cubits, and *the* breadth thereof thirty cubits; and a porch before them; and pillars and a threshold before them. 7 And he made *the* porch of the throne where he *was* to judge, *even* the porch of judgment: and *it* *was* covered with cedar from floor to floor. 8 And his house where he *was* to dwell, the other court within the porch, *was* of the like work. He made also a house for Pharaoh's daughter (whom Solomon had taken to wife), like unto this porch.

9 All these *were* of costly stones, even of hewn stone, ⁷²according to measure, sawed with saws, within and without, even from *the* foundation unto the coping, and so on *the* outside unto the great court. 10 And the

⁶⁷ Or, cypress-wood:

⁶⁸ *The* Hebrew calendar begins with the 7th month, near *the* Autumn equinox. Hence the total time *was* 6½ years, not 7½ years. The years are properly reckoned as 7, not 6, because the duration crossed seven New Years' days (Tishri 1).

⁶⁹ Or, with all *the* appurtenances thereof, and with all *the* ordinances thereof.

⁷⁰ Or, side-chambers, Hb. ribs,

⁷¹ Or, frames for *the* windows in three rows,

⁷² Or, after diverse measures,

foundation *was of* costly stones, even great stones, stones of ten cubits, and stones of eight cubits. 11 And above *were* costly stones, even hewn stone, according to measure, and cedar-wood. 12 And the great court round about *had* three courses of hewn stone, and a course of cedar beams; ⁷³like as the inner court of the house of Jehovah, and *the* porch of the house.

13 And king Solomon sent and fetched ⁷⁴Hiram out of Tyre. 14 He *was the* son of a widow of *the* tribe of Naphtali, and his father *was* a man of Tyre, a worker in copper; and he was filled with wisdom and understanding and skill, to work all works in copper. And he came to king Solomon, and wrought all his work. 15 For he fashioned the two pillars of copper, ⁷⁵eighteen cubits high apiece: and a line of twelve cubits compassed ⁷⁶either of them about. 16 And he made two capitals *of* molten copper, to set upon *the* tops of the pillars: *the* height of the one capital *was* five cubits, and *the* height of the other capital *was* five cubits. 17 There were nets of checker-work, and wreaths of chain-work, for the capitals which *were* upon *the* top of the pillars; seven for the one capital, and seven for the other capital. 18 So he made the pillars; and there were two rows round about upon the one network, to cover the capitals that *were* upon *the* top of the ⁷⁷pillars; and so did he for the other capital. 19 And *the* capitals that were upon *the* top of the pillars in the porch *were* of lily-work, four cubits. 20 And *there were* capitals above also upon the two pillars, close by the belly which *was* beside the network: and the pomegranates *were* two hundred, in rows round about upon the other capital. 21 And he set up the pillars at *the* porch of the temple: and he set up the right pillar, and called the name thereof ⁷⁸Jachin; and he set up the left pillar, and called the name thereof ⁷⁹Boaz. 22 And upon *the* top of the pillars *was* lily-work: so *was the* work of the pillars finished.

23 And he made the molten sea of ten cubits from brim to brim, round in compass, and *the* height thereof *was* five cubits; and a line of ⁸⁰thirty cubits compassed it round about. 24 And under the brim of it round about *there were* knobs which did compass it, ⁸¹for ten cubits, compassing the sea round about: the knobs *were* in two rows, cast when it was cast. 25 It stood upon twelve oxen, three looking toward *the* north, and three looking toward *the* west, and three looking toward *the*

⁷³ Or, both for the inner court ... and for *the* porch

⁷⁴ Not the king of Tyre in ch. 5.

⁷⁵ Hb. eighteen cubits was *the* height of one pillar:

⁷⁶ Hb. the other pillar

⁷⁷ So Aram. Massoretic reads pomegranates;

⁷⁸ That is, He shall establish;

⁷⁹ That is, perhaps, In it is strength.

⁸⁰ Corresponding to a diameter of 9.55 cubits. Likely measuring the basin without the lip.

⁸¹ Or, ten in a cubit,

south, and three looking toward *the* east; and the sea *was set* upon them above, and all their hinder parts *were* inward. 26 And it *was* a handbreadth thick; and *the* brim thereof was wrought like *the* brim of a cup, like *the* flower of a lily: it held two thousand ⁸²baths.

27 And he made the ten bases of copper; four cubits *was the* length of one base, and four cubits *the* breadth thereof, and three cubits *the* height of it. 28 And *the* work of the bases *was* on this *manner*: they had panels; ⁸³and there *were* panels between the ledges; 29 and on the panels that *were* between the ledges *were* lions, oxen, and cherubim; and upon the ledges ⁸⁴*there was* a pedestal above; and beneath the lions and oxen *were* wreaths of hanging work. 30 And every base had four copper wheels, and axles of copper; and *the* four feet thereof had ⁸⁵undersetters: beneath the laver *were* the undersetters molten, with wreaths at *the* side of each. 31 And *the* mouth of it within the capital and above *was* a cubit: and *the* mouth thereof *was* round *after the* work of a pedestal, a cubit and a half; and also upon *the* mouth of it *were* gravings, and their panels *were* foursquare, not round. 32 And the four wheels *were* underneath the panels; and *the* axletrees of the wheels *were* in the base: and *the* height of a wheel *was* a cubit and half a cubit. 33 And *the* work of the wheels *was* like *the* work of a chariot wheel: their axletrees, and their felloes, and their spokes, and their naves, *were* all molten. 34 And *there were* four undersetters at *the* four corners of each base: *the* undersetters thereof *were* of the base itself. 35 And in *the* top of the base *was there* a round compass half a cubit high; and on *the* top of the base *the* ⁸⁶stays thereof and *the* panels thereof *were* of *the* same. 36 And on the plates of *the* stays thereof, and on *the* panels thereof, he graved cherubim, lions, and palm-trees, according to *the* space of each, with wreaths round about. 37 After this *manner* he made the ten bases: all of them had one casting, one measure, *and* one form.

38 And he made ten lavers of copper: one laver contained forty baths; *and* every laver was four cubits; *and* upon every one of the ten bases one laver. 39 And he set the bases, five on *the* right ⁸⁷side of the house, and five on *the* left side of the house: and he set the sea on the right side of the house eastward, toward *the* south.

⁸² 1 bath = 22 litres = 5.8 U.S. gallons. See R.B.Y. Scott, "Weights and Measures of the Bible;" The Biblical Archaeologist Reader 3; Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday Anchor, 1970. p. 352. A cubit of ≥ 19 inches is implied, and a lip of 4 inches.

⁸³ Or, even borders between the ledges;

⁸⁴ Or, it was in like manner above;

⁸⁵ Hb. shoulders

⁸⁶ Hb. hands

⁸⁷ Hb. shoulder

40 And ⁸⁸Hiram made the ⁸⁹lavers, and the shovels, and the basins. So Hiram made an end of doing all the work that he wrought for king Solomon in the house of Jehovah: 41 *the* two pillars, and *the* two bowls of the capitals that *were* on the top of the pillars; and the two networks to cover the two bowls of the capitals that *were* on the top of the pillars; 42 and the four hundred pomegranates for the two networks; two rows of pomegranates for each network, to cover the two bowls of the capitals that *were* ⁹⁰upon the pillars; 43 and the ten bases, and the ten lavers on the bases; 44 and the one sea, and the twelve oxen under the sea; 45 and the pots, and the shovels, and the basins: even all ⁹¹these vessels, which Hiram made for king Solomon, in the house of Jehovah, *were* of burnished copper. 46 In the plain of the Jordan did the king cast them, in the clay ground between Sukkoth and Zarethan. 47 And Solomon left all the vessels *unweighed*, because they were exceeding many: *the* weight of the copper ⁹²could not be found out.

48 And Solomon made all the vessels that *were* in the house of Jehovah: the golden altar, and the table whereupon the showbread *was*, of gold; 49 and the lampstands, five on *the* right *side*, and five on *the* left, before the Word, of pure gold; and the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs, of gold; 50 and the cups, and the snuffers, and the basins, and the spoons, and the ⁹³censers, of pure gold; and the hinges, *both* for the doors of the inner house, the Most Holy, and for the doors of the house, *to wit*, of the temple, of gold.

51 Thus all the work that king Solomon wrought in the house of Jehovah was finished. And Solomon brought in the holy *things* which David his father had dedicated, *even* the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, and put them in *the* treasuries of the house of Jehovah.

8 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, *the* princes of the fathers' houses of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of *the* covenant of Jehovah out of *the* city of David, which *is* Zion. 2 And all *the* men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast, ⁹⁴in the month Ethanim, which *is* the seventh month. 3 And all *the* elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. 4 And they brought up the ark of Jehovah, and the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that *were* in the Tent; even these did the priests and the Levites bring up. 5 And king Solomon

⁸⁸ *Hb.* Hirom

⁸⁹ 4QKgs Sept. *read* pots, *As also* 2Chr 4:11.

⁹⁰ *Hb.* upon the face of the pillars;

⁹¹ *Hb*^{txt} (Aram.) *reads*, the vessels of the Tent,

⁹² *Or*, was not searched out.

⁹³ *Or*, firepans, *or*, snuffdishes,

⁹⁴ *Or*, in later times, in the month Tishri, *Thus, the Temple was dedicated in the 7th month, though it was completed in the 8th month. See ch. 6:38.*

and all *the* congregation of Israel, that were assembled unto him, *were* with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen, that could not be counted nor numbered for multitude. 6 And the priests brought in the ark of *the* covenant of Jehovah unto its place, into *the* Word of the house, to the Most Holy, *even* under *the* wings of the cherubim. 7 For the cherubim spread forth *their* wings over *the* place of the ark, and the cherubim covered the ark and *the* staves thereof above. 8 And ⁹⁵the staves were so long that *the* ends of the staves were seen from the Holy before the Word; but they were not seen without: and there they are unto this day. 9 *There was* nothing in the ark save *the* two tables of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, ⁹⁶when Jehovah made a covenant with *the* children of Israel, when they came out of *the* land of Egypt. 10 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the Holy, that the cloud filled the house of Jehovah, 11 so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud; for *the* glory of Jehovah filled the house of Jehovah.

12 Then spake Solomon, Jehovah hath said that he would dwell in the thick darkness. 13 I have surely built thee a house of habitation, a place for thee to dwell in for ever. 14 And the king turned his face about, and blessed all the assembly of Israel: and all *the* assembly of Israel stood. 15 And he said, Blessed *be* Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, who spake with his mouth unto David my father, and hath with his hand fulfilled *it*, saying, 16 Since the day that I brought forth my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all *the* tribes of Israel to build a house, that my name might be there;⁹⁷ but I chose David to be over my people Israel. 17 Now it was in *the* heart of David my father to build a house for *the* name of Jehovah, *the* God of Israel. 18 But Jehovah said unto David my father, Whereas it was in thy heart to build a house for my name, thou didst well that it was in thy heart: 19 nevertheless thou shalt not build the house; but thy son that shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house for my name. 20 And Jehovah hath established his word that he spake; for I am risen up in *the* stead of David my father, and sit on *the* throne of Israel, as Jehovah promised, and have built the house for *the* name of Jehovah, *the* God of Israel. 21 And there have I set a place for the ark, wherein is *the* covenant of Jehovah, which he made with our fathers, when he brought them out of *the* land of Egypt.

22 And Solomon stood before *the* altar of Jehovah in the presence of all *the* assembly of Israel, and spread forth his hands *toward* the heavens; 23 and he said,

⁹⁵ *Or*, they drew out the staves; so that *the* ends *etc.*

⁹⁶ *Or*, where

⁹⁷ 4QKgs *apparently inserts* nor did I choose anyone to be a leader over my people Israel, but I chose Jerusalem for my name to be there, [*ms. fragmentary*]

O Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, *there is* no God like thee, in the heavens above, or on earth beneath; who keepest covenant and lovingkindness ⁹⁸with thy servants, that walk before thee with all their heart; 24 who hast kept with thy servant David my father that which thou didst promise him: yes, thou spakest with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled *it* with thy hand, as *it* is this day. 25 Now therefore, O Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him, saying, ⁹⁹There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on *the* throne of Israel, if only thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me as thou hast walked before me. 26 Now therefore, O God of Israel, let thy word, I pray thee, be verified, which thou spakest unto thy servant David my father.

27 But will God in very deed dwell on the earth? behold, the heavens and the heavens of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded! 28 Yet have thou respect unto *the* prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O Jehovah my God, to hearken unto the cry and to *the* prayer which thy servant prayeth before thee *this* day; 29 that thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, *even* toward the place whereof thou hast said, My name shall be there; to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall pray toward this place. 30 And hearken thou to *the* supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: yes, hear thou up *in* the heavens thy dwelling-place; and when thou hearest, forgive.

31 ¹⁰⁰If a man sin against his neighbor, and an oath be laid upon him to cause him to swear, and he come *and* swear before thine altar in this house; 32 then hear thou *in* the heavens, and do, and judge thy servants, condemning *the* wicked, to bring his way upon his own head, and justifying *the* righteous, to give him according to his righteousness.

33 When thy people Israel are smitten down before an enemy, because they have sinned against thee; if they turn again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray and make supplication unto thee in this house: 34 then hear thou *in* the heavens, and forgive *the* sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gavest unto their fathers.

35 When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, ¹⁰¹when thou ¹⁰²dost afflict them: 36 then hear thou *in* the heavens, and forgive *the* sin of thy servants,

⁹⁸ *Or*, for

⁹⁹ *Hb.* There shall not be cut off unto thee a man from my sight to sit on *the* throne of Israel,

¹⁰⁰ *Or*, Whereinsoever a man shall sin against

¹⁰¹ *Or*, because

¹⁰² *Or*, answerest them:

and of thy people Israel, ¹⁰³when thou teachest them the good way wherein they should walk; and send rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance.

37 If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence, if there be blasting *or* mildew, locust *or* caterpillar; if their enemy besiege them in *the* land of their ¹⁰⁴cities; whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness *there be*; 38 what prayer and supplication soever be *made* by any man, *or* by all thy people Israel, who shall know *every* man *the* plague of his *own* heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house: 39 then hear thou *in* the heavens thy dwelling-place, and forgive, and do, and render unto *every* man according to all his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, *even* thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;) 40 that they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers.

41 Moreover concerning the foreigner, that is not of thy people Israel, when he shall come out of a far country for thy name's sake 42 (for they shall hear of thy great name, and of thy mighty hand, and of thine outstretched arm); when he shall come and pray toward this house; 43 hear thou *in* the heavens thy dwelling-place, and do according to all that the foreigner calleth to thee for; that all *the* peoples of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as *doth* thy people Israel, and that they may know that ¹⁰⁵this house which I have built is called by thy name.

44 If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, by whatsoever way thou shalt send them, and they pray unto Jehovah toward the city which thou hast chosen, and *toward* the house which I have built for thy name; 45 then hear thou *in* the heavens their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their ¹⁰⁶cause.

46 If they sin against thee (for *there is* no man that sinneth not), and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to an enemy, so that ¹⁰⁷they carry them away captive unto *the* land of the enemy, far off or near; 47 *yet* if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they are carried captive, and turn again, and make supplication unto thee in *the* land of them that carried them captive, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have dealt wickedly; 48 if they return unto thee with all their heart and with all their soul in *the* land of their enemies, who carried them captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name: 49 then hear thou their prayer and their supplication *in* the heavens thy dwelling-place, and maintain their

¹⁰³ *Or*, because

¹⁰⁴ *Hb.* gates;

¹⁰⁵ *Or*, thy name is called upon this house *etc.*

¹⁰⁶ *Or*, right.

¹⁰⁷ *Hb.* they that take them captive carry them away

¹⁰⁸cause; 50 and forgive thy people who have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee; and give them ¹⁰⁹compassion before those who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them 51 (for they *are* thy people, and thine inheritance, which thou broughtest forth out of Egypt, from *the* midst of the furnace of iron); 52 that thine eyes may be open unto *the* supplication of thy servant, and unto *the* supplication of thy people Israel, to hearken unto them whensoever they cry unto thee. 53 For thou didst separate them from among all *the* peoples of the earth, *to be* thine inheritance, as thou spakest by Moses thy servant, when thou broughtest our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord Jehovah.

54 And it was *so*, that, when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto Jehovah, he arose from before *the* altar of Jehovah, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread forth toward the heavens. 55 And he stood, and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying, 56 Blessed *be* Jehovah, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not ¹¹⁰failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by Moses his servant. 57 Jehovah our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us; 58 that he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his ordinances, which he commanded our fathers. 59 And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before Jehovah, be nigh unto Jehovah our God day and night, that he maintain *the* cause of his servant, and *the* cause of his people Israel, ¹¹¹as every day shall require; 60 that all *the* peoples of the earth may know that Jehovah, he *is* God; *there is* none else. 61 Let your heart therefore be perfect with Jehovah our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.

62 And the king, and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before Jehovah. 63 And Solomon offered for the sacrifice of peace-offerings, which he offered unto Jehovah, twenty-two thousand oxen, and a hundred twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all *the* children of Israel dedicated the house of Jehovah. 64 The same day did the king sanctify the middle of the court that *was* before *the* house of Jehovah; for there he offered the burnt-offering, and the meal-offering, and the fat of the peace-offerings, because the copper altar that *was* before Jehovah *was* too little to receive the burnt-offering, and the meal-offering, and the fat of the peace-offerings. 65 So Solomon held the feast at that

¹⁰⁸ *Or*, right;

¹⁰⁹ *Hb.* to be for compassion

¹¹⁰ *Hb.* fallen

¹¹¹ *Hb.* *the* thing of a day in its day;

time, and all Israel with him, a great assembly, from *the* entrance of Hamath unto *the* brook of Egypt, before Jehovah our God, seven days and seven days, *even* fourteen days. 66 On the eighth day he sent the people away; and they blessed the king, and went unto their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that Jehovah had showed unto David his servant, and to Israel his people.

9 And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished *the* building of the house of Jehovah, and the king's house, and all Solomon's ¹¹²desire which he was pleased to do, 2 that Jehovah appeared to Solomon a second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon. 3 And Jehovah said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have sanctified this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there ¹¹³for ever; and mine eyes and my heart shall be there perpetually. 4 And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, *and* wilt keep my statutes and mine ordinances; 5 then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom over Israel for ever, according as I ¹¹⁴promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon *the* throne of Israel. 6 *But* if ye shall turn away from following me, ye or your children, and not keep my commandments *and* my statutes which I have set before you, but shall go and serve other gods, and worship them; 7 then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all peoples. 8 ¹¹⁵And though this house is *so* high, yet shall every one that passeth by it be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath Jehovah done thus unto this land, and to this house? 9 and they shall answer, Because they forsook Jehovah their God, who brought forth their fathers out of *the* land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath Jehovah brought all this evil upon them.

10 And it came to pass at *the* end of twenty years, wherein Solomon had built the two houses, the house of Jehovah and the king's house 11 (*now* Hiram *the* king of Tyre had furnished Solomon with cedar-trees and fir-trees, and with gold, according to all his desire), that then king Solomon gave Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee. 12 And Hiram came out from Tyre to see the cities which Solomon had given him; and they pleased him not. 13 And he said, What cities *are* these

¹¹² *Or*, delight

¹¹³ *Or*, for time without fixed end; *Hb.* owlam [=olam] *Similarly in* vs. 5.

¹¹⁴ *Or*, spake concerning David thy father,

¹¹⁵ *Or*, and this house shall be high; every one *etc.*

which thou hast given me, my brother? And ¹¹⁶he called them *the* land of ¹¹⁷Cabul unto this day. 14 And Hiram sent to the king ¹¹⁸one hundred twenty talents of gold.

15 And this is *the* ¹¹⁹reason of the levy which king Solomon raised, to build the house of Jehovah, and his *own* house, and ¹²⁰Millo, and the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, and Megiddo, and Gezer. 16 Pharaoh king of Egypt had gone up, and taken Gezer, and burnt it with fire, and slain the Canaanites *that* dwelt in the city, and given it *for* a portion unto his daughter, Solomon's wife. 17 And Solomon built Gezer, and Beth-horon *the* nether, 18 and Baalath, and ¹²¹Tamar in the wilderness, in the land, 19 and all the store-cities that Solomon had, and the cities for *his* chariots, and the cities for his horsemen, and that which Solomon desired to build for his pleasure in Jerusalem, and in Lebanon, and in all *the* land of his dominion. 20 As for all the people *that were* left of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, who *were* not of *the* children of Israel; 21 their children that were left after them in the land, whom *the* children of Israel were not able ¹²²utterly to destroy, of them did Solomon raise ¹²³a levy of bondservants unto this day. 22 But of *the* children of Israel did Solomon make no bondservants; but they *were* the men of war, and his servants, and his princes, and his captains, and rulers of his chariots and of his horsemen.

23 These *were* the chief officers that *were* over Solomon's work, five hundred fifty, *that* bare rule over the people *that* wrought in the work.

24 But Pharaoh's daughter came up out of *the* city of David unto her house which *Solomon* had built for her: then did he build Millo.

25 And three times in *a* year did Solomon offer burnt-offerings and peace-offerings upon the altar which he built unto Jehovah, burning incense therewith, *upon the altar* that was before Jehovah. So he finished the house.

26 And king Solomon made a navy of ships in Ezion-geber, which *is* beside ¹²⁴Eloth, on *the* shore of *the* Red Sea, in *the* land of Edom. 27 And Hiram sent in *the* navy his servants, shipmen that had knowledge of the sea, with *the* servants of Solomon. 28 And they came

to Ophir, and fetched from thence gold, ¹²⁵four hundred twenty talents, and brought *it* to king Solomon.

10 And when *the* queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning *the* name of Jehovah, she came to prove him with hard questions. 2 And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones; and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart. 3 And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not *anything* hid from the king which he told her not. 4 And when *the* queen of Sheba had seen all *the* wisdom of Solomon, and the house that he had built, 5 and *the* food of his table, and *the* sitting of his servants, and *the* ¹²⁶attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and ¹²⁷his ascent by which he went up unto the house of Jehovah; there was no more spirit in her. 6 And she said to the king, It was *a* true report that I heard in mine own land of thine ¹²⁸acts, and of thy wisdom. 7 Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen *it*: and, behold, the half was not told me; ¹²⁹thy wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame which I heard. 8 Happy *are* thy men, happy *are* these thy servants, *that* stand continually before thee, and *that* hear thy wisdom. 9 Blessed be Jehovah thy God, who delighted in thee, to set thee on *the* throne of Israel: because Jehovah loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do justice and righteousness. 10 And she gave the king ¹³⁰a hundred twenty talents of gold, and of spices very great store, and precious stones: there came no more such abundance of spices as these which *the* queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon.

11 And *the* navy also of Hiram, that brought gold from Ophir, brought in from Ophir great plenty of ¹³¹almug-trees and precious stones. 12 And the king made of the almug-trees ¹³²pillars for *the* house of Jehovah, and for the king's house, harps also and psalteries for the singers: there came no such almug-trees, nor were seen, unto this day.

13 And king Solomon gave to *the* queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, besides *that* ¹³³which Solomon gave her of his royal bounty. So she turned, and went to her own land, she and her servants.

¹¹⁶ Or, they were called *the* land of Cabul

¹¹⁷ Perhaps meaning, As good as nothing

¹¹⁸ 1 talent = 35 kg; so 4.2 metric tons.

¹¹⁹ Or, account

¹²⁰ Likely a strong tower (or, rampart), for defense.

¹²¹ Hb^{mg}, versions read Tadmor So 2Chr 8:4. *The new trade route through Tadmor greatly reduced the cost of goods coming from Arabia.*

¹²² Hb. to devote,

¹²³ Hb. men subject to servile taskwork unto this day.

¹²⁴ Modern Eilat.

¹²⁵ That is, 14,600 kg.

¹²⁶ Hb. standing

¹²⁷ Or, his burnt-offering which he offered in *the* house

¹²⁸ Or, sayings,

¹²⁹ Hb. thou hast added wisdom and goodness to the fame which I heard.

¹³⁰ 4.2 metric tons. Compare ch. 9:14.

¹³¹ In 2Chr 2:8, 9:10, almug-trees.

Perhaps, sandal-wood.

¹³² Or, a railing Hb. a prop

¹³³ Hb. which he gave her according to *the* hand of king Solomon.

14 Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was ¹³⁴six hundred sixty-six talents of gold, 15 besides *that which* the traders brought, and *the* traffic of the merchants, and of all *the* kings of ¹³⁵the mingled people, and of *the* governors of the country. 16 And king Solomon made two hundred bucklers of beaten gold; ¹³⁶six hundred *shekels* of gold went to one buckler. 17 And *he made* three hundred shields of beaten gold; three ¹³⁷pounds of gold went to one shield: and the king put them in *the* house of the forest of Lebanon. 18 Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with *the* finest gold. 19 There were six steps to the throne, and *the* top of the throne was round behind; and *there were* ¹³⁸stays on either side by *the* place of the seat, and two lions standing beside the stays. 20 And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps: there was not *the* like made in any *other* kingdom. 21 And all king Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all *the* vessels of *the* house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold: none were of silver; it was nothing accounted of in *the* days of Solomon. 22 For the king had at sea a ¹³⁹navy of Tarshish with *the* navy of Hiram: once every three years came *the* navy of Tarshish, bringing ¹⁴⁰gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.

23 So king Solomon exceeded all *the* kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom. 24 And all the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart. 25 And they brought every man his tribute, vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and raiment, and armor, and spices, horses, and mules, a rate year by year.

26 And Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, that he bestowed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem. 27 And the king made silver *to be* in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars made he *to be* as the sycamore-trees that *are* in the lowland, for abundance. 28 And the horses which Solomon had were brought

¹³⁴ *That is, about 19,500 kg or about 21.5 Br. tons.*

¹³⁵ *In 2Chr 9:14, Arabia,*

¹³⁶ *That is, 7 kilograms, or about 15 pounds.*

¹³⁷ *Hb. maneh Hence about 1.74 kg = 3.8 pounds, about 90 cm³ in volume.*

¹³⁸ *Or, arms Hb. hands*

¹³⁹ *Ships of Tarshish were ocean-going vessels, larger than Ships of Kittim for the Mediterranean trade.*

¹⁴⁰ *Likely gold from the world's largest deposits in South Africa (Ophir), then silver from the world's largest deposits in the western Americas [Solomon was contemporary with the Olmec civilization in Mexico], then ivory from India, and lastly the livestock also from India. Such a long expedition could explain the need for a 3-year duration.*

out of Egypt; and the king's merchants received them in droves, each drove at a price. 29 And a chariot came up and went out of Egypt for ¹⁴¹six hundred *shekels* of silver, and a horse for a hundred fifty; and so for all *the* kings of the Hittites, and for *the* kings of Syria, did they bring *them* out ¹⁴²by their means.

11 Now king Solomon loved many foreign women, ¹⁴³together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of *the* Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites; 2 of the nations concerning which Jehovah said unto *the* children of Israel, Ye shall not go among them, neither shall they come among you; *for* surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. 3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. 4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, *that* his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not perfect with Jehovah his God, as *was* *the* heart of David his father. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth *the* goddess of *the* Sidonians, and after Milcom *the* abomination of *the* Ammonites. 6 And Solomon did *that* which was evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, and went not fully after Jehovah, as *did* David his father. 7 Then did Solomon build a high place for Chemosh *the* abomination of Moab, in ¹⁴⁴*the* mount that *is* before Jerusalem, and for Molech *the* abomination of *the* children of Ammon. 8 And so did he for all his foreign wives, who burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

9 And Jehovah was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned away from Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, who had appeared unto him twice, 10 and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which Jehovah commanded. 11 Wherefore Jehovah said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this ¹⁴⁵*is* done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. 12 Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it, for David thy father's sake: *but* I will rend it out of *the* hand of thy son. 13 Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; *but* I will give one tribe to thy son, for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, which I have chosen.

14 And Jehovah raised up an adversary unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite: he *was* of the king's seed in Edom. 15 For it came to pass, when David was in Edom, and Joab *the* captain of the host was gone up

¹⁴¹ *That is, 7 kilograms, or about 15 pounds.*

¹⁴² *Hb. in their hand.*

¹⁴³ *Or, besides the daughter of Pharaoh,*

¹⁴⁴ *That is, the mount of Olives just east of Jerusalem*

¹⁴⁵ *Hb. is with thee,*

to bury the slain, and had smitten every male in Edom 16 (for Joab and all Israel remained there six months, until he had cut off every male in Edom); 17 that Hadad fled, he and certain Edomites of his father's servants with him, to go into Egypt, Hadad *being* yet a little child. 18 And they arose out of Midian, and came to Paran; and they took men with them out of Paran, and they came to Egypt, unto Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave him a house, and appointed him victuals, and gave him land. 19 And Hadad found great favor in *the* sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him to wife the sister of his own wife, *the* sister of Tahpenes the queen. 20 And *the* sister of Tahpenes bare him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house; and Genubath was in Pharaoh's house among *the* sons of Pharaoh. 21 And when Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers, and that Joab *the* captain of the host was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, Let me depart, that I may go to mine own country. 22 Then Pharaoh said unto him, But what hast thou lacked with me, that, behold, thou seekest to go to thine own country? And he answered, Nothing: howbeit only let me depart.

23 And God raised up *another* adversary unto him, Rezon *the* son of Eliada, who had fled from his lord Hadadezer king of Zobah. 24 And he gathered men unto him, and became captain over a troop, when David slew them *of Zobah*: and they went to Damascus, and dwelt therein, and reigned in Damascus. 25 And he was an adversary to Israel all *the* days of Solomon, besides the mischief that Hadad *did*: and he abhorred Israel, and reigned over Syria.

26 And Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, a servant of Solomon, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, he also lifted up *his* hand against the king. 27 And this *was* the reason why he lifted up *his* hand against the king: Solomon built Millo, and ¹⁴⁶repaired the breach of *the* city of David his father. 28 And the man Jeroboam *was* a mighty man of valor; and Solomon saw the young man that he was industrious, and he gave him charge over all *the* ¹⁴⁷labor of *the* house of Joseph. 29 And it came to pass at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; now *Ahijah* had clad himself with a new garment; and they two *were* alone in the field. 30 And Ahijah laid hold of the new garment that *was* on him, and rent it *in* twelve pieces. 31 And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces; for thus saith Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of *the* hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee 32 (but he shall have one tribe, for my servant David's sake and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all *the* tribes of Israel); 33 because that they have

¹⁴⁶ *Hb.* closed up

¹⁴⁷ *Hb* burden

forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth *the* goddess of *the* Sidonians, Chemosh *the* god of Moab, and Milcom *the* god of *the* children of Ammon; and they have not walked in my ways, to do *that which is* right in mine eyes, and *to keep* my statutes and mine ordinances, as *did* David his father. 34 Howbeit I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand; but I will make him prince all *the* days of his life, for David my servant's sake whom I chose, ¹⁴⁸who kept my commandments and my statutes; 35 but I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand, and will give it unto thee, *even* ten tribes. 36 And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a lamp always before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there. 37 And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign ¹⁴⁹according to all that thy soul desireth, and shalt be king over Israel. 38 And it shall be, if thou wilt hearken unto all that I command thee, and wilt walk in my ways, and do *that which is* right in mine eyes, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did; that I will be with thee, and will build thee a sure house, as I built for David, and will give Israel unto thee. 39 And I will for this afflict the seed of David but not for ever. 40 Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam; but Jeroboam arose, and fled into Egypt, unto Shishaq king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until *the* death of Solomon.

41 Now *the* rest of *the* ¹⁵⁰acts of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, *are* they not written in *the* book of *the* acts of Solomon? 42 And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel *was* forty years. 43 And Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in *the* city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.

12 And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king. 2 And it came to pass, when Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat heard of *it* (for he was yet in Egypt, whither he had fled from *the* presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt, 3 and they sent and called him), that Jeroboam and all *the* assembly of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying, 4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee. 5 And he said unto them, Depart yet *for* three days, then come again to me. And the people departed.

6 And king Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, that had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, saying, What counsel give ye me to return answer to this people? 7 And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this

¹⁴⁸ *Or*, because he kept my commandments

¹⁴⁹ *Or*, over all that thy soul desireth,

¹⁵⁰ *Or*, words *or*, matters

day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants all thy days. 8 But he forsook the counsel of the old men which they had given him, and took counsel with the young men that were grown up with him, *that* stood before him. 9 And he said unto them, What counsel give ye, that we may return answer to this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke that thy father did put upon us lighter? 10 And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou say unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou *it* lighter unto us; thus shalt thou speak unto them, My little *finger* is thicker than my father's loins. 11 And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king bade, saying, Come to me again the third day. 13 And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the counsel of the old men which they had given him, 14 and spake to them after *the* counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke: my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions. 15 So the king hearkened not unto the people; for it was a thing brought about of Jehovah, that he might establish his word, which Jehovah spake by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat.

16 And when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither *have we* inheritance in *the* son of Jesse: ¹⁵¹to your gods, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents. 17 But *as for the* children of Israel that dwelt in *the* cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them. 18 Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the men subject to taskwork; and all Israel stoned him to death with stones. And king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to *his* chariot, to flee to Jerusalem. 19 So Israel rebelled against *the* house of David unto this day. 20 And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was returned, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, ¹⁵²and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed *the* house of David, but *the* tribe of Judah only.

21 And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, and the tribe of Benjamin, a hundred eighty thousand chosen men, that were warriors, to fight against *the* house of Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam *the* son of

¹⁵¹ Sopherim *changed to* to your tents,

¹⁵² Likely soon after Tishri 1 (*cf.* vs. 32), as the kings of Israel appear to reckon regnal years from Nisan 1.

Solomon, 22 But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying, 23 Speak unto Rehoboam *the* son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all *the* house of Judah and Benjamin, and to *the* rest of the people, saying, 24 Thus saith Jehovah, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren *the* children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is of me. So they hearkened unto the word of Jehovah, and returned and went their way, according to *the* word of Jehovah.

25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in *the* hill-country of Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and he went out from thence, and built Penuel. 26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now will the kingdom return to *the* house of David: 27 if this people go up to offer sacrifices in *the* house of Jehovah at Jerusalem, then will *the* heart of this people turn again unto their lord, *even* unto Rehoboam king of Judah; and they will kill me, and return to Rehoboam king of Judah. 28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold; and he said unto them, ¹⁵³It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy ¹⁵⁴gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of *the* land of Egypt. 29 And he set the one in Beth-el, and the other put he in Dan. 30 And this thing became a sin; for the people went to *worship* before ¹⁵⁵the one, *even* unto Dan. 31 And he made houses of high places, and made priests from among all the people, that were not of *the* sons of Levi. 32 And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto *the* feast that *is* in Judah, and he ¹⁵⁶went up unto the altar; so did he in Beth-el, ¹⁵⁷sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Beth-el the priests of the high places that he had made. 33 And he went up unto the altar which he had made in Beth-el on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, *even* in the month which he had devised ¹⁵⁸of his own heart: and he ordained a feast for *the* children of Israel, and went up unto the altar, to burn incense.

13 And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by *the* word of Jehovah unto Beth-el: and Jeroboam was standing by the altar to burn incense. 2 And he cried against the altar by *the* word of Jehovah, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith Jehovah: Behold, a son shall be born unto *the* house of David, Josiah by name; and ¹⁵⁹upon thee shall he sacrifice the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee,

¹⁵³ Or, Ye have gone up long enough to Jerusalem:

¹⁵⁴ Hb. *elohim*,

¹⁵⁵ Or, each of them,

¹⁵⁶ Or, offered upon the altar *Similarly in* vs. 33 (*both times*).

¹⁵⁷ Or, to sacrifice unto

¹⁵⁸ Hb^{txt} *alone reads*, apart:

¹⁵⁹ 2Ki 23:15-16.

and men's bones shall they burn upon thee. 3 And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This *is* the sign which Jehovah hath spoken: Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that *are* upon it shall be poured out. 4 And it came to pass, when the king heard the saying of the man of God, which he cried against the altar in Beth-el, that Jeroboam put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not draw it back again to him. 5 The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by *the* word of Jehovah. 6 And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Entreat now the favor of Jehovah thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God entreated Jehovah, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as *it was* before. 7 And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward. 8 And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thy house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place; 9 for so was it charged me by *the* word of Jehovah, saying, Thou shalt eat no bread, nor drink water, neither return by the way that thou camest. 10 So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to Beth-el.

11 Now there dwelt an old prophet in Beth-el; and ¹⁶⁰one of his sons came and told him all the works that *the* man of God had done that day in Beth-el: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them also they told unto their father. 12 And their father said unto them, What way went he? Now his sons ¹⁶¹had showed *him* what way the man of God went, that came from Judah. 13 And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass; and he rode thereon. 14 And he went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an ¹⁶²oak; and he said unto him, *Art* thou the man of God that camest from Judah? And he said, I *am*. 15 Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread. 16 And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee; neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place: 17 for it was said to me by *the* word of Jehovah, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest. 18 And he said unto him, I also *am* a prophet as thou *art*; and an angel spake unto me by *the* word of Jehovah, saying, Bring him back with thee into thy house, that he may eat bread and drink water. *But* he lied unto him. 19 So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water.

20 And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that *the* word of Jehovah came unto the prophet that

brought him back; 21 and he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith Jehovah, Forasmuch as thou hast been disobedient unto the mouth of Jehovah, and hast not kept the commandment which Jehovah thy God commanded thee, 22 but camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place of which he said to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy body shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers. 23 And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, *to wit*, for the prophet whom he had brought back. 24 And when he was gone, a lion met him in the way, and slew him: and his body was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it; the lion also stood by the body. 25 And, behold, men passed by, and saw the body cast in the way, and the lion standing by the body; and they came and told *it* in the city where the old prophet dwelt.

26 And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard *thereof*, he said, It *is* the man of God, who ¹⁶³was disobedient unto the mouth of Jehovah: therefore Jehovah hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to *the* word of Jehovah, which he spake unto him. 27 And he spake to his sons, saying, Saddle me the ass. And they saddled *it*. 28 And he went and found his body cast in the way, and *the* ass and the lion standing by the body: the lion had not eaten the body, nor torn the ass. 29 And the prophet took up the body of the man of God, and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back; and he came to *the* city of the old prophet, to mourn, and to bury him. 30 And he laid his body in his own grave; and they mourned over him, *saying*, Alas, my brother! 31 And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spake to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God *is* buried; lay my bones beside his bones. 32 For the saying which he cried by *the* word of Jehovah against the altar in Beth-el, and against all *the* houses of the high places which *are* in *the* cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass.

33 After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again from among all the people priests of *the* high places: ¹⁶⁴whosoever would, he consecrated him that there might be priests of *the* high places. 34 And ¹⁶⁵this thing became sin unto *the* house of Jeroboam, even to cut *it* off, and to destroy *it* from off *the* face of the earth.

14 At that time Abijah *the* son of Jeroboam fell sick. 2 And Jeroboam said to his wife, Arise, I pray thee, and disguise thyself, that thou be not known to be *the* wife of Jeroboam; and get thee to Shiloh: behold, there is Ahijah the prophet, who spake concerning me that

¹⁶⁰ *Hb.* his son came

¹⁶¹ *So* versions. Massoretic *reads* saw what way

¹⁶² *Or*, terebinth;

¹⁶³ *Or*, rebelled against the word of Jehovah:

¹⁶⁴ *Or*, whomsoever he would,

¹⁶⁵ *Or*, by this thing he became sin

I should be king over this people. 3 And take with thee ten loaves, and cakes, and a ¹⁶⁶cruse of honey, and go to him: he will tell thee what shall become of the child. 4 And Jeroboam's wife did so, and arose, and went to Shiloh, and came to *the* house of Ahijah. Now Ahijah could not see; for his eyes were set by reason of his age. 5 And Jehovah said unto Ahijah, Behold, *the* wife of Jeroboam cometh to inquire of thee concerning her son; for he *is* sick: thus and thus shalt thou say unto her; for it will be, when she cometh in, that she will feign herself *to be* another woman.

6 And it was *so*, when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet, as she came in at the door, that he said, Come in, *thou* wife of Jeroboam; why feignest thou thyself *to be* another? for I *am* sent to thee *with* heavy tidings. 7 Go, tell Jeroboam, thus saith Jehovah, *the* God of Israel: Forasmuch as I exalted thee from among the people, and made thee ¹⁶⁷prince over my people Israel, 8 and rent the kingdom away from *the* house of David, and gave it thee; and *yet* thou hast not been as my servant David, who kept my commandments, and who followed me with all his heart, to do only *that which* was right in mine eyes, 9 but hast done evil above all that were before thee, and hast gone and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back: 10 therefore, behold, I will bring evil upon *the* house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam *every* man-child, him that is shut up and him that is left at large in Israel, and will utterly sweep away *the* house of Jeroboam, as a man sweepeth away dung, till it be all gone. 11 Him *that* dieth of Jeroboam in the city shall the dogs eat; and him *that* dieth in the field shall *the* birds of the heavens eat: for Jehovah hath spoken *it*. 12 Arise thou therefore, get thee to thy house: *and* when thy feet enter into the city, the child shall die. 13 And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him; for he only of Jeroboam shall come to *the* grave, because in him there is found *some* good thing toward Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, in *the* house of Jeroboam. 14 Moreover Jehovah will raise him up a king over Israel, who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam that day: ¹⁶⁸but what? even now. 15 For Jehovah will smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water; and he will root up Israel out of this good land which he gave to their fathers, and will scatter them beyond the River, because they have made their Asherim, provoking Jehovah to anger. 16 And he will give Israel up because of *the* sins of Jeroboam, ¹⁶⁹which he hath sinned, and wherewith he hath made Israel to sin.

17 And Jeroboam's wife arose, and departed, and came to Tirzah: *and* as she came to *the* threshold of the

¹⁶⁶ *Or*, bottle

¹⁶⁷ *Or*, leader *Hb.* nagid

¹⁶⁸ *Or*, and what even now?

¹⁶⁹ *Or*, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin.

house, the child died. 18 And all Israel buried him, and mourned for him, according to *the* word of Jehovah, which he spake by his servant Ahijah the prophet.

19 And *the* rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he warred, and how he reigned, behold, they *are* written in *the* book of ¹⁷⁰the chronicles of *the* kings of Israel. 20 And the days which Jeroboam reigned *were* twenty-two years: and he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his stead.

21 And Rehoboam *the* son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam *was* forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which Jehovah had chosen out of all *the* tribes of Israel, to put his name there: and his mother's name *was* Naamah ¹⁷¹the Ammonitess. 22 And Judah did that which was evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they committed, above all that their fathers had done. 23 For they also built them high places, and ¹⁷²pillars, and ¹⁷³Asherim, on every high hill, and under every *kind of* green tree; 24 and there were also sodomites in the land: they did according to all the abominations of the nations which Jehovah drove out before *the* children of Israel.

25 And it came to pass in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, *that* ¹⁷⁴Shishaq king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem; 26 and he took away the treasures of *the* house of Jehovah, and the treasures of the king's house; he even took away all: and he took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made. 27 And king Rehoboam made in their stead shields of copper, and committed *them to the* hands of *the* captains of the ¹⁷⁵guard, who kept *the* door of the king's house. 28 And it was *so*, that, as oft as the king went into *the* house of Jehovah, the guard bare them, and brought them back into the guard-chamber.

29 Now *the* rest of the acts of Rehoboam, and all that he did, *are* they not written in ¹⁷⁶*the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Judah? 30 And there was

¹⁷⁰ *This work is lost, likely lost when Shalmaneser and Sennacherib, kings of Assyria, conquered Samaria and all Israel, and took away the Israelites captive.*

¹⁷¹ *Sept. reads* daughter of Ana son of Naas [*or*, of Hanan son of Nahash] king of the Ammonites.

¹⁷² *Or*, obelisks,

¹⁷³ *Plural of Asherah (masc.). Just as Asheroth is the fem. plural of Astarte. Likely a high wooden idol.*

¹⁷⁴ *Sheshonk I claims many victories in Canaan and Syria, including over Taanach, Beth-shean, Mahanaim, Gibeon, Beth-horon, and Megiddo in Israel, and The Field of Abram, Arad, and many other cities in Judah. [The names of many more cities in the list are lost.] J.H. Breasted, Ancient Records of Egypt [ARE], Vol. IV, para. 709-723.*

¹⁷⁵ *Hb.* runners,

¹⁷⁶ *The book of Chronicles in the Old Testament.*

war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all *their* days. 31 And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in *the* city of David: and his mother's name was Naamah the Ammonitess. And ¹⁷⁷Abijam his son reigned in his stead.

15 Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat began Abijam to reign over Judah. 2 Three years reigned he in Jerusalem: and his mother's name was ¹⁷⁸Maacah *the* daughter of ¹⁷⁹Abishalom. 3 And he walked in all *the* sins of his father which he had done before him; and his heart was not perfect with Jehovah his God, as *the* heart of David his father. 4 Nevertheless for David's sake did Jehovah his God give him a lamp in Jerusalem, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem; 5 because David did *that which* was right in *the* eyes of Jehovah, and turned not aside from *anything* that he commanded him all *the* days of his life, save only in *the* matter of Uriah the Hittite. 6 Now there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all *the* days of his life.

7 And *the* rest of *the* acts of Abijam, and all that he did, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Judah? And there was war between Abijam and Jeroboam. 8 And Abijam slept with his fathers; and they buried him in *the* city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead.

9 And in the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel began Asa to reign over Judah. 10 And forty-one years reigned he in Jerusalem: and his mother's name was Maacah *the* daughter of Abishalom. 11 And Asa did *that which* was right in *the* eyes of Jehovah, as *did* David his father. 12 And he put away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made. 13 And also Maacah his mother he removed from *being* ¹⁸⁰queen, because she had made an abominable image ¹⁸¹for *an* Asherah; and Asa cut down her image, and burnt *it* at *the* brook Kidron. 14 But the high places were not taken away: nevertheless *the* heart of Asa was perfect with Jehovah all his days. 15 And he brought into *the* house of Jehovah the *things* that his father had sanctified, and *the things* that *he* himself had sanctified, silver, and gold, and vessels.

16 And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days. 17 And Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah, and built ¹⁸²Ramah, that he might not suffer anyone to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. 18 Then Asa took all the silver and the gold *that were* left in *the* treasures of *the* house of Jehovah, and the treasures of the king's house, and

¹⁷⁷ In 2Chr 12:16, Abijah

¹⁷⁸ In 2Chr 13:2, Micaiah *the* daughter of Uriel.

¹⁷⁹ In 2Chr 11:20, 21, Absalom.

¹⁸⁰ Or, queen mother,

¹⁸¹ Or, for Asherah;

¹⁸² Meaning, high place

delivered them into *the* hand of his servants; and king Asa sent them to Ben-hadad, *the* son of Tabrimmon, *the* son of Hezion, king of Syria, *that* dwelt at Damascus, saying, 19 ¹⁸³*There is* a league between me and thee, between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent unto thee a present of silver and gold; go, break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me. 20 And Ben-hadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against *the* cities of Israel, and smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abel-beth-maacah, and all Chinneroth, with all the land of Naphtali. 21 And it came to pass, when Baasha heard *thereof*, that he left off building Ramah, and dwelt in Tirzah. 22 Then king Asa made a proclamation unto all Judah; none *was* exempted: and they carried away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha had builded; and king Asa built therewith Geba of Benjamin, and Mizpah.

23 Now *the* rest of all *the* acts of Asa, and all his might, and all that he did, and the cities which he built, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Judah? But in *the* time of his old age ¹⁸⁴he was diseased in his feet. 24 And Asa slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in *the* city of David his father; and Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead.

25 And Nadab *the* son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in *the* second year of Asa king of Judah; and he reigned over Israel two years. 26 And he did that which was evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, and walked in *the* way of his father, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin. 27 And Baasha *the* son of Ahijah, of *the* house of Issachar, conspired against him; and Baasha smote him at Gibbethon, which *belonged* to the Philistines; for Nadab and all Israel were laying siege to Gibbethon. 28 Even in *the* third year of Asa king of Judah did Baasha slay him, and reigned in his stead. 29 And it came to pass *that*, as soon as he was king, he smote all the house of Jeroboam: he left not to Jeroboam any that breathed, until he had destroyed him; according unto *the* saying of Jehovah, which he spake by his servant Ahijah the Shilonite; 30 for *the* sins of Jeroboam which he sinned, and wherewith he made Israel to sin, because of his provocation wherewith he provoked Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, to anger.

31 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Nadab, and all that he did, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Israel? 32 And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.

¹⁸³ Or, Let there be a league

¹⁸⁴ Asa's diseased feet may have caused Jehoshaphat to exercise authority already in King Asa's 39th year, though likely not in his own right. Cf. 2Chr 16:12. But it might have caused Jehoshaphat to count the balance of Asa's last year as his first year, contrary to the usual practice in Judah.

33 In *the* third year of Asa king of Judah began Baasha *the* son of Ahijah to reign over all Israel in Tirzah, *and reigned* twenty-four years. 34 And he did *that* which was evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, and walked in *the* way of Jeroboam, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin.

16 And *the* word of Jehovah came to Jehu *the* son of Hanani against Baasha, saying, 2 Forasmuch as I exalted thee out of the dust, and made thee ¹⁸⁵prince over my people Israel, and thou hast walked in *the* way of Jeroboam, and hast made my people Israel to sin, to provoke me to anger with their sins; 3 behold, I will utterly sweep away Baasha and his house; and I will make thy house like *the* house of Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat. 4 Him *that* dieth of Baasha in the city shall the dogs eat; and him *that* dieth of his in the field shall *the* birds of the heavens eat.

5 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Baasha, and what he did, and his might, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Israel? 6 And Baasha slept with his fathers, and was buried in Tirzah; and Elah his son reigned in his stead. 7 And moreover by the prophet Jehu *the* son of Hanani came *the* word of Jehovah against Baasha, and against his house, both because of all the evil that he did in *the* sight of Jehovah, to provoke him to anger with *the* work of his hands, in being like *the* house of Jeroboam, and because he smote ¹⁸⁶him.

8 In *the* twenty-sixth year of Asa king of Judah began Elah *the* son of Baasha to reign over Israel in Tirzah, *and reigned* two years. 9 And his servant Zimri, captain of half *his* chariots, conspired against him. Now he was in Tirzah, drinking himself drunk in *the* house of Arza, who was over the household in Tirzah: 10 and Zimri went in and smote him, and killed him, in *the* twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his stead. 11 And it came to pass, when he began to reign, as soon as he sat on his throne, *that* he smote all *the* house of Baasha: he left him not a single man-child, neither of his kinsfolks, nor of his friends. 12 Thus did Zimri destroy all *the* house of Baasha, according to *the* word of Jehovah, which he spake against Baasha by Jehu the prophet, 13 for all *the* sins of Baasha, and *the* sins of Elah his son, which they sinned, and wherewith they made Israel to sin, to provoke Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, to anger with their vanities. 14 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Elah, and all that he did, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Israel?

15 In *the* twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah did Zimri reign seven days in Tirzah. Now the people *were* encamped against Gibbethon, which *belonged* to the Philistines. 16 And the people *that were* encamped

¹⁸⁵ Or, leader

¹⁸⁶ Or, it.

heard say, Zimri hath conspired, and hath also smitten the king: wherefore all Israel made Omri, *the* captain of *the* host, king over Israel that day in the camp. 17 And Omri went up from Gibbethon, and all Israel with him, and they besieged Tirzah. 18 And it came to pass, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into *the* ¹⁸⁷castle of the king's house, and burnt the king's house over him with fire, and died, 19 for his sins which he sinned in doing *that* which was evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, in walking in *the* way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he did, to make Israel to sin. 20 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Zimri, and his treason that he wrought, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Israel?

21 Then were the people of Israel divided into two parts: half of the people followed Tibni *the* son of Ginath, to make him king; and half followed Omri. 22 But the people that followed Omri prevailed against the people that followed Tibni *the* son of Ginath: so Tibni died, and Omri reigned. 23 In *the* thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah began Omri to reign over Israel, *and reigned* twelve years: six years reigned he in Tirzah. 24 And he bought the hill ¹⁸⁸Samaria of Shemer for ¹⁸⁹two talents of silver; and he ¹⁹⁰built on the hill, and called the name of the city which he built, after *the* name of Shemer, *the* owner of the hill, Samaria. 25 And Omri did *that* which was evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, and dealt wickedly above all that *were* before him. 26 For he walked in all *the* way of Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat, and in his sins wherewith he made Israel to sin, to provoke Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, to anger with their vanities. 27 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Omri which he did, and his might that he showed, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Israel? 28 So Omri slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria; and Ahab his son reigned in his stead.

29 And in *the* thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab *the* son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab *the* son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. 30 And Ahab *the* son of Omri did *that* which was evil in *the* sight of Jehovah above all that *were* before him. 31 And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in *the* sins of Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat, that he took to wife ¹⁹¹Jezebel *the* daughter of Ethbaal king of *the* Sidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. 32 And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. 33 And Ahab made the Asherah; and Ahab did yet more to provoke Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, to anger than all *the* kings

¹⁸⁷ Or, palace

¹⁸⁸ Hb. Shomeron *And so elsewhere.*

¹⁸⁹ *That is,* 70 kg of silver

¹⁹⁰ Or, fortified the hill,

¹⁹¹ Hb. Izebel

of Israel that were before him. 34 In his days did Hiel the Beth-el-ite build Jericho: he laid *the* foundation thereof with the *loss* of Abiram his firstborn, and set up the gates thereof with the *loss* of his youngest son Segub, ¹⁹²according to *the* word of Jehovah, which he spake by Joshua *the* son of Nun.

17 And Elijah the ¹⁹³Tishbite, *who was* of the sojourners of Gilead, said unto Ahab, *As* Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. 2 And *the* word of Jehovah came unto him, saying, 3 Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by *the* brook Cherith, that *is* before the Jordan. 4 And it shall be, *that* thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. 5 So he went and did according unto *the* word of Jehovah; for he went and dwelt by *the* brook Cherith, that *is* before the Jordan. 6 And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook. 7 And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

8 And *the* word of Jehovah came unto him, saying, 9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which *belongeth* to Sidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow there to sustain thee. 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath; and when he came to *the* gate of the city, behold, a widow *was* there gathering sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in *a* vessel, that I may drink. 11 And as she was going to fetch *it*, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thy hand. 12 And she said, *As* Jehovah thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but a handful of meal in the jar, and a little oil in the cruse: and, behold, I *am* gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. 13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go *and* do as thou hast said; but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it forth unto me, and afterward make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, The jar of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until *the* day that Jehovah sendeth rain upon the earth. 15 And she went and did according to *the* saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat *many* days. 16 The jar of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to *the* word of Jehovah, which he spake by Elijah.

17 And it came to pass after these things, *that* the son of the woman, *the* mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. 18 And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O *thou* man of God? ¹⁹⁴thou art come unto me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to slay my

¹⁹² Josh 6:26.

¹⁹³ Meaning, sojourner, *And so everywhere.*

¹⁹⁴ Or, art thou come *etc.*

son! 19 And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into the chamber, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. 20 And he cried unto Jehovah, and said, O Jehovah my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? 21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto Jehovah, and said, O Jehovah my God, I pray thee, let this child's ¹⁹⁵soul come into him again. 22 And Jehovah hearkened unto *the* voice of Elijah; and *the* soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. 23 And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother; and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth. 24 And the woman said to Elijah, Now I know that thou *art* a man of God, *and* that *the* word of Jehovah in thy mouth *is* truth.

18 And it came to pass *after* many days, that *the* word of Jehovah came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, Go, show thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth. 2 And Elijah went to show himself unto Ahab. And the famine *was* sore in Samaria. 3 And Ahab called Obadiah, who *was* over the household. (Now Obadiah feared Jehovah greatly: 4 for it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of Jehovah, that Obadiah took a hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in *a* cave, and fed them with bread and water.) 5 And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go through the land, unto all the fountains of water, and unto all the brooks: peradventure we may find grass and save *the* horses and mules alive, ¹⁹⁶that we lose not all the beasts. 6 So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it: Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.

7 And as Obadiah was in the way, behold, Elijah met him: and he knew him, and fell on his face, and said, *Is* it thou, my lord Elijah? 8 And he answered him, *It is* I: go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah *is here*. 9 And he said, Wherein have I sinned, that thou wouldest deliver thy servant into *the* hand of Ahab, to slay me? 10 *As* Jehovah thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, *He is* not *here*, he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not. 11 And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah *is here*. 12 And it will come to pass, *as soon as* I am gone from thee, that *the* Spirit of Jehovah will carry thee whither I know not; and *so* when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he will slay me: but I thy servant fear Jehovah from my youth. 13 Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of Jehovah, how I hid a hundred men of Jehovah's prophets by fifty in *a* cave, and fed them with bread

¹⁹⁵ Or, life *or*, being *And in* vs. 22.

¹⁹⁶ Or, and lose none of the beasts.

and water? 14 And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah *is here*; and he will slay me. 15 And Elijah said, As Jehovah of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself unto him today.

16 So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah. 17 And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, *Is it thou, thou troubler of Israel?* 18 And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of Jehovah, and thou hast followed the ¹⁹⁷Baalim. 19 Now therefore send, *and* gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred fifty, and *the* prophets of the Asherah four hundred, ¹⁹⁸that eat at Jezebel's table.

20 So Ahab sent unto all *the* children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel. 21 And Elijah came near unto all the people, and said, How long go ye limping between the two sides? if Jehovah *be* God, follow him; but if Baal, *then* follow him. And the people answered him not a word. 22 Then said Elijah unto the people, I, *even* I only, am left a prophet of Jehovah; but Baal's prophets *are* four hundred fifty men. 23 Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay *it* on the wood, and put no fire *under*; and I will dress the other bullock, and lay *it* on the wood, and put no fire *under*. 24 And call ye on *the* name of your god, and I will call on *the* name of Jehovah: and the god that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, *It is* well spoken.

25 And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye *are* many; and call on *the* name of your god, but put no fire *under it*. 26 And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed *it*, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, ¹⁹⁹hear us. But *there was* no voice, nor any that answered. And they ²⁰⁰leaped about the altar which was made. 27 And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud; for he *is* a god: either he is musing, or he is gone aside, or he is on a journey, *or* peradventure he sleepeth and must be awaked. 28 And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with ²⁰¹knives and lances, till *the* blood gushed out upon them. 29 And it was so, when midday was past, that they prophesied until *the time of the* offering of the *evening* oblation; but *there was*

neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any ²⁰²that regarded.

30 And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me; and all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of Jehovah *that was* thrown down. 31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of *the* tribes of *the* sons of Jacob, unto whom *the* word of Jehovah came, saying, Israel shall be thy name. 32 And with the stones he built an altar in *the* name of Jehovah; and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain ²⁰³two measures of seed. 33 And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid *it* on the wood. And he said, Fill four jars with water, and pour *it* on the burnt-offering, and on the wood. 34 And he said, Do *it* a second time; and they did *it* a second time. And he said, Do *it* a third time; and they did *it* a third time. 35 And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water. 36 And it came to pass at *the time of the* offering of the *evening* oblation, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, O Jehovah, *the* God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known *this* day that thou *art* God in Israel, and *that* I *am* thy servant, and *that* I have done all these things at thy word. 37 Hear me, O Jehovah, hear me, that this people may know that thou, Jehovah, *art* God, ²⁰⁴and *that* thou turnest their heart back again. 38 Then *the* fire of Jehovah fell, and consumed the burnt-offering, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that *was* in the trench. 39 And when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces: and they said, Jehovah, he *is* God; Jehovah, he *is* God. 40 And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them; and Elijah brought them down to *the* brook Kishon, and slew them there.

41 And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for *there is the* sound of abundance of rain. 42 So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he bowed himself down upon *the* earth, and put his face between his knees. 43 And he said to his servant, Go up now, look toward *the* sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, *There is* nothing. And he said, Go again seven times. 44 And it came to pass at the seventh *time*, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a cloud ²⁰⁵out of *the* sea, as small as a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Make ready *thy* chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not. 45 And it came to pass in a little while, that the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel: 46 and *the* hand of Jehovah was on

¹⁹⁷ *Plural of Baal.*

¹⁹⁸ *That is, those who are employed by Jezebel.*

¹⁹⁹ *Or, answer us.*

²⁰⁰ *Or, limped*

²⁰¹ *Or, swords*

²⁰² *Hb. attention.*

²⁰³ *Or, a two-seah measure of seed. About 14.7 litre.*

²⁰⁴ *Or, for thou didst turn their heart backward again.*

²⁰⁵ *That is, from the west, over the Mediterranean Sea.*

Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ²⁰⁶ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

19 And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let *the* gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy soul as *the* soul of one of them by tomorrow about *this* time. 3 ²⁰⁷And when he saw *that*, he arose, and went for his soul, and came to Beer-sheba, which *belongeth* to Judah, and left his servant there. 4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a ²⁰⁸juniper-tree: and he requested for his soul that he might die, and said, It is enough; now, O Jehovah, take away my soul; for I *am* not better than my fathers. 5 And he lay down and slept under a juniper-tree; and, behold, an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. 6 And he looked, and, behold, *there was* at his head a cake baken on *the* ²⁰⁹coals, and a cruse of water. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. 7 And *the* angel of Jehovah came again a second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat, because the journey *is* too great for thee. 8 And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in *the* strength of that food forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.

9 And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, *the* word of Jehovah *came* to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? 10 And he said, I have been very jealous for Jehovah, *the* God of hosts; for *the* children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword: and I, *even* I only, am left; and they seek my soul, to take it away. 11 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before Jehovah. And, behold, Jehovah passed by, and a great and strong wind rent *the* mountains, and brake in pieces *the* rocks before Jehovah; *but* Jehovah *was* not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; *but* Jehovah *was* not in the earthquake: 12 and after the earthquake a fire; *but* Jehovah *was* not in the fire: and after the fire ²¹⁰a still small voice. 13 and it was *so*, when Elijah heard *it*, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in *the* entrance of the cave. And, behold, *there came* a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah? 14 And he said, I have been very jealous for Jehovah, *the* God of hosts; for *the* children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars,

²⁰⁶ *About 50 km. Beyond about 20 km, a strong man has more stamina and can outrun a horse.*

²⁰⁷ *Some mss., Sept., Aram., Vg. read he was afraid and he arose,*

²⁰⁸ *Or, broom-tree: Similarly in vs. 5.*

²⁰⁹ *Or, hot stones,*

²¹⁰ *Hb. a sound of gentle stillness.*

and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, *even* I only, am left; and they seek my soul, to take it away.

15 And Jehovah said unto him, Go, return on thy way ²¹¹to *the* wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, thou shalt anoint Hazael to be king over Syria; 16 and Jehu *the* grandson of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel; and Elisha *the* son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy stead. 17 And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth from *the* sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay; and him that escapeth from *the* sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay. 18 Yet will I leave *me* seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

19 So he departed thence, and found Elisha *the* son of Shaphat, who was plowing, with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed over unto him, and cast his mantle upon him. 20 And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again; for what have I done to thee? 21 And he returned from following him, and took the yoke of oxen, ²¹²and slew them, and ²¹³boiled *their* flesh with *the* instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

20 And ²¹⁴Ben-hadad *the* king of Syria gathered all his host together; and *there were* thirty-two kings with him, and horses and chariots: and he went up and besieged Samaria, and fought against it. 2 And he sent messengers to Ahab king of Israel, into the city, and said unto him, Thus saith Ben-hadad, 3 Thy silver and thy gold *is* mine; thy wives also and thy children, *even* the goodliest, *are* mine. 4 And *the* king of Israel answered and said, It is according to thy saying, my lord, O king; I *am* thine, and all that I have. 5 And the messengers came again, and said, Thus speaketh Ben-hadad, saying, I sent indeed unto thee, saying, Thou shalt deliver me thy silver, and thy gold, and thy wives, and thy children; 6 but I will send my servants unto thee tomorrow about *this* time, and they shall search thy house, and the houses of thy servants; and it shall be, *that* ²¹⁵whatsoever is pleasant in thine eyes, they *shall* put *it* in their hand, and take *it* away.

²¹¹ *Or, by the wilderness to Damascus:*

²¹² *Having no further need of his personally-trained tools of the trade, he made a feast out of them.*

²¹³ *Or, roasted*

²¹⁴ *Ben-hadad's Aleppo inscription says, A stele set up by Barhadad (Ben-hadad) the son of T[abrimmon, the son of Hezion], king of Aram... [J.B. Pritchard, ANET, p. 501.] Not to be confused with the later Ben-hadad, the son of Hazael, king of Aram. Cf. 2Ki 8:14-15, 13:25.*

²¹⁵ *Hb. all the desire of thine eyes,*

7 Then *the* king of Israel called all *the* elders of the land, and said, Mark, I pray you, and see how this *man* seeketh mischief: for he sent unto me for my wives, and for my children, and for my silver, and for my gold; and I denied him not. 8 And all the elders and all the people said unto him, Hearken thou not, neither consent. 9 Wherefore he said unto *the* messengers of Ben-hadad, Tell my lord the king, All that thou didst send for to thy servant at the first I will do; but this thing I may not do. And the messengers departed, and brought him word again. 10 And Ben-hadad sent unto him, and said, *The* gods do so unto me, and more also, if *the* dust of Samaria shall suffice for handfuls for all the people that ²¹⁶follow me. 11 And *the* king of Israel answered and said, Tell *him*, Let not him that girdeth on *his* armor boast himself as he that putteth it off. 12 And it came to pass, when *Ben-hadad* heard this message, as he *was* drinking, he and the kings, in the ²¹⁷booths, that he said unto his servants, ²¹⁸Set yourselves in array. And they set themselves in array against the city.

13 And, behold, a prophet came near unto Ahab king of Israel, and said, Thus saith Jehovah, Hast thou seen all this great multitude? behold, I will deliver it into thy hand *this* day; and thou shalt know that I *am* Jehovah. 14 And Ahab said, By whom? And he said, Thus saith Jehovah, By *the* ²¹⁹young men of *the* princes of the provinces. Then he said, Who shall ²²⁰begin the battle? And he answered, Thou. 15 Then he mustered the young men of *the* princes of the provinces, and they were two hundred thirty-two: and after them he mustered all the people, *even* all *the* children of Israel, *being* seven thousand.

16 And they went out at noon. But Ben-hadad *was* drinking himself drunk in the booths, he and the kings, *the* thirty-two kings that helped him. 17 And *the* young men of *the* princes of the provinces went out first; and Ben-hadad sent out, and they told him, saying, There are men come out from Samaria. 18 And he said, Whether they are come out for peace, take them alive; or whether they are come out for war, take them alive. 19 So these went out of the city, *the* young men of *the* princes of the provinces, and the army which followed them. 20 And they slew every one his man; and *the* Syrians fled, and Israel pursued them: and Ben-hadad *the* king of Syria escaped ²²¹on a horse with horsemen. 21 And *the* king of Israel went out, and smote the horses and the chariots, and slew *the* Syrians with a great slaughter.

²¹⁶ *Hb.* are at my feet.

²¹⁷ *Or*, huts, *or*, pavilions, *Also in* vs. 16.

²¹⁸ *Or*, place *the* engines. And they placed *the* engines against the city.

²¹⁹ *Or*, servants

²²⁰ *Hb.* bind

²²¹ *Or*, with horse and horsemen.

22 And the prophet came near to *the* king of Israel, and said unto him, Go, strengthen thyself, and mark, and see what thou doest; for at *the* return of the year *the* king of Syria will come up against thee. 23 And *the* servants of *the* king of Syria said unto him, Their god *is* a god of *the* hills; therefore they were stronger than we: but let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they. 24 And do this thing: take the kings away, every man out of his place, and put ²²²captains in their stead; 25 and number thee an army, like the army that thou hast lost, horse for horse, and chariot for chariot; and we will fight against them in the plain, *and* surely we shall be stronger than they. And he hearkened unto their voice, and did so.

26 And it came to pass at *the* return of the year, that Ben-hadad mustered the Syrians, and went up to Aphek, to fight against Israel. 27 And *the* children of Israel were mustered, and were victualled, and went against them: and *the* children of Israel encamped before them like two little flocks of kids; but *the* Syrians filled the country. 28 And ²²³a man of God came near and spake unto *the* king of Israel, and said, Thus saith Jehovah, Because *the* Syrians have said, Jehovah *is* a god of *the* hills, but he *is* not a god of *the* valleys; therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thy hand, and ye shall know that I *am* Jehovah. 29 And they encamped one over against *the* other seven days. And *so* it was, that in the seventh day of the battle was joined; and *the* children of Israel slew of the Syrians a hundred thousand footmen in one day. 30 But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; and the wall fell upon twenty-seven thousand men that *were* left. And Ben-hadad fled, and came into the city, ²²⁴into an inner chamber.

31 And his servants said unto him, Behold now, we have heard that *the* kings of *the* house of Israel *are* merciful kings: let us, we pray thee, put sackcloth on our loins, and ropes upon our heads, and go out to *the* king of Israel: peradventure he will save thy soul. 32 So they girded sackcloth on their loins, and *put* ropes on their heads, and came to *the* king of Israel, and said, Thy servant Ben-hadad saith, I pray thee, let my soul live. And he said, *Is* he yet alive? ²²⁵he *is* my brother. 33 Now the men ²²⁶observed diligently, and hastened ²²⁷to

²²² *Or*, governors *See* ch. 10:15.

²²³ *Or*, the

²²⁴ *Or*, from chamber to chamber.

²²⁵ *Apparently in Ahab's 19th year. Shalmaneser III of Assyria (reigned 35 years) had claimed substantial victories over Carchemish and five other northern nations in his first year (Ahab's 17th year). If Ahab and Ben-hadad had joined together to discourage Shalmaneser from advancing further south, such a league could explain Ahab's words, "my brother."*

²²⁶ *Or*, took it as an omen (*Hb.* divined), and hastened

²²⁷ *Hb^{mg} reads* to catch it from him;

catch whether *it* were ²²⁸his mind; and they said, Thy brother Ben-hadad. Then he said, Go ye, bring him. Then Ben-hadad came forth to him; and he caused him to come up into the chariot. 34 And *Ben-hadad* said unto him, The cities which my father took from thy father I will restore; and thou shalt make streets for thee in Damascus, as my father made in Samaria. And I, *said Ahab*, will let thee go with *this* covenant. So he made a covenant with him, and let him go.

35 And a certain man of *the* sons of the prophets said unto his fellow by *the* word of Jehovah, Smite me, I pray thee. And the man refused to smite him. 36 Then said he unto him, Because thou hast not obeyed *the* voice of Jehovah, behold, as soon as thou art departed from me, *a* lion shall slay thee. And as soon as he was departed from him, *a* lion found him, and slew him. 37 Then he found another man, and said, Smite me, I pray thee. And the man smote him, smiting and wounding *him*. 38 So the prophet departed, and waited for the king by the way, and disguised himself with his headband over his eyes. 39 And as the king passed by, he cried unto the king; and he said, Thy servant went out into *the* midst of the battle; and, behold, a man turned aside, and brought a man unto me, and said, Keep this man: if by any means he be missing, then shall thy soul be for his soul, or else thou shalt pay a talent of silver. 40 And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone. And *the* king of Israel said unto him, So *shall* thy judgment *be*; thyself hast decided *it*. 41 And he hastened, and took the headband away from his eyes; and *the* king of Israel discerned him that he *was* of the prophets. 42 And he said unto him, Thus saith Jehovah, Because thou hast let go out of *thy* hand the man whom I had devoted to destruction, therefore thy soul shall go for his soul, and thy people for his people. 43 And *the* king of Israel went to his house heavy and displeased, and came to Samaria.

21 And it came to pass after these things, *that* Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which *was* in Jezreel, hard by *the* palace of Ahab king of Samaria. 2 And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it *is* near unto my house; and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it: *or*, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee *the* worth of it in money. 3 And Naboth said to Ahab, Jehovah forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee. 4 And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread.

²²⁸ *Hb.* from him;

5 But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread? 6 And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee *another* vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard. 7 And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern *the* kingdom of Israel? arise, *and* eat bread, and let thy heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite. 8 So she wrote ²²⁹letters in Ahab's name, and sealed *them* with his seal, and sent *the* letters unto the elders and to the nobles that *were* in his city, *and* that dwelt with Naboth. 9 And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth ²³⁰on high among the people: 10 and set two men, ²³¹sons of worthlessness, before him, and let them bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst ²³²curse God and *the* king. And *then* carry him out, and stone him to death.

11 And *the* men of his city, *even* the elders and the nobles that dwelt in his city, did as Jezebel had sent unto them, *according* as it *was* written in the letters which she had sent unto them. 12 They proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people. 13 And the two men, *the* sons of worthlessness, came in and sat before him: and the men of worthlessness bare witness against him, *even* against Naboth, in *the* presence of the people, saying, Naboth did curse God and *the* king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him to death with stones. 14 Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead. 15 And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead. 16 And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to *the* vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

17 And *the* word of Jehovah came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 18 Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who *dwelleth* in Samaria: behold, *he is* in *the* vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to take possession of it. 19 And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith Jehovah, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith Jehovah, In *the* place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine. 20 And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found *thee*, because thou hast sold thyself to do that

²²⁹ *Or*, a letter in Ahab's name

²³⁰ *Or*, at the head of the people: *And in vs. 12.*

²³¹ *That is*, schooled in worthless ways,

²³² *Or*, renounce *And in vs. 13.* Sopherim changed to bless (*in both verses*)

which is evil in *the* sight of Jehovah. 21 Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will utterly sweep thee away and will cut off from Ahab every man-child, and him that is shut up and him that is left at large in Israel: 22 and I will make thy house like *the* house of Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat, and like *the* house of Baasha *the* son of Ahijah for the provocation wherewith thou hast provoked *me* to anger, and hast made Israel to sin. 23 And of Jezebel also spake Jehovah, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by *the* rampart of Jezreel. 24 Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall *the* birds of the heavens eat; 25 (But there was none like unto Ahab, who did sell himself to do that which was evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up. 26 And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites did, whom Jehovah cast out before *the* children of Israel.)

27 And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly. 28 And *the* word of Jehovah came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 29 Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days; *but* in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house.

22 And they continued three years without war between Syria and Israel. 2 And it came to pass in the third year, ²³³that Jehoshaphat *the* king of Judah came down to *the* king of Israel. 3 And *the* king of Israel said unto his servants, Know ye that Ramoth-gilead is ours, and we ²³⁴are still, *and* take it not out of *the* hand of *the* king of Syria? 4 And he said unto Jehoshaphat, Wilt thou go with me to battle to Ramoth-gilead? And Jehoshaphat said to *the* king of Israel, I *am* as thou *art*, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses.

5 And Jehoshaphat said unto *the* king of Israel, Inquire ²³⁵first, I pray thee, for the word of Jehovah.

²³³ *Jehoshaphat's league with Ahab may have been in response to the threat from Shalmaneser III of Assyria, also in Ahab's last year. Shalmaneser claims to have defeated: Ahab of Israel, 2,000 chariots and 10,000 foot-soldiers; Hadad-ezer of Damascus, 1,200 chariots and 20,000 foot-soldiers and 1,200 cavalrymen; Irhuleni of Hamath, 700 chariots and 10,000 foot-soldiers and 700 cavalrymen; Gindibu' of Arabia, 1,000 camel-riders; and eight other nations (one illegible), slaying 14,000. It is likely Shalmaneser's losses were still greater, as he does not claim to have extracted tribute from these twelve nations [ANET p. 277]. With Assyria repulsed, if Damascus/Syria had lost much more than Israel, Ahab may have felt emboldened to retake Ramoth-gilead. Cf. ch. 20:34.*

²³⁴ *Or, keep silence,*

²³⁵ *Hb. as the day, or, today,*

6 Then *the* king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them, shall I go against Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for ²³⁶Jehovah will deliver *it* into *the* hand of the king. 7 But Jehoshaphat said, *Is there* not here a prophet of Jehovah besides, that we may inquire of him? 8 And *the* king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, *There is* yet one man by whom we may inquire of Jehovah, Micaiah *the* son of Imlah: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so. 9 Then *the* king of Israel called an ²³⁷officer, and said, Fetch quickly Micaiah *the* son of Imlah. 10 Now *the* king of Israel and Jehoshaphat *the* king of Judah were sitting each on his throne, arrayed in their robes, in ²³⁸an open place at *the* entrance of *the* gate of Samaria; and all the prophets were prophesying before them. 11 And Zedekiah *the* son of Chenaanah made him horns of iron, and said, Thus saith Jehovah, With these shalt thou push the Syrians, until they be consumed. 12 And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, Go up to Ramoth-gilead, and prosper; for Jehovah will deliver *it* into *the* hand of the king.

13 And the messenger that went to call Micaiah spake unto him, saying, Behold now, *the* words of the prophets *declare* good unto the king with one mouth: let thy word, I pray thee, be like *the* word of one of them, and speak thou good. 14 And Micaiah said, As Jehovah liveth, what Jehovah saith unto me, that will I speak. 15 And when he was come to the king, the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall we forbear? And he answered him, Go up and prosper; and Jehovah will deliver *it* into *the* hand of the king. 16 And the king said unto him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou speak unto me nothing but *the* truth in *the* name of Jehovah? 17 And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd: and Jehovah said, These have no master; let them return every man to his house in peace. 18 And *the* king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil? 19 And Micaiah said, Therefore hear thou *the* word of Jehovah: I saw Jehovah sitting on his throne, and all *the* host of heaven standing by him on his right *hand* and on his left. 20 And Jehovah said, Who shall ²³⁹entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one said on this manner; and another said on that manner. 21 And there came forth ²⁴⁰a spirit, and stood before Jehovah, and said, I will entice him. 22 And Jehovah said unto him, Wherewith? And he

²³⁶ *Sopherim changed to the Lord*

²³⁷ *Or, eunuch,*

²³⁸ *Hb. a threshing-floor*

²³⁹ *Or, deceive*

²⁴⁰ *Hb. the spirit,*

said, I will go forth, and will be a lying spirit in *the* mouth of all ²⁴¹his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt entice *him*, and shalt prevail also: go forth, and do so. 23 Now therefore, behold, Jehovah hath put a lying spirit in *the* mouth of all these thy prophets; and Jehovah hath spoken evil concerning thee.

24 Then Zedekiah *the* son of Chenaanah came near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, Which way went *the* Spirit of Jehovah from me to speak unto thee? 25 And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see on that day, when thou shalt go ²⁴²into an inner chamber to hide thyself. 26 And *the* king of Israel said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon *the* governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; 27 and say, Thus saith the king, Put this *fellow* in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace. 28 And Micaiah said, If thou return at all in peace, Jehovah hath not spoken by me. And he said, Hear, ye peoples, all of you.

29 So *the* king of Israel and Jehoshaphat *the* king of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead. 30 And *the* king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and go into the battle; but put thou on thy robes. And *the* king of Israel disguised himself, and went into the battle. 31 Now *the* king of Syria had commanded the thirty-two captains of his chariots, saying, ²⁴³Fight neither with small nor great, save only with the king of Israel. 32 And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, Surely it *is* *the* king of Israel; and they turned aside to fight against him: and Jehoshaphat cried out. 33 And it came to pass, when *the* captains of the chariots saw that it *was* not *the* king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him. 34 And a *certain* man drew *his* bow ²⁴⁴at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between ²⁴⁵the joints of the armor: wherefore he said unto *the* driver of his chariot, Turn thy hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am sore wounded. 35 And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in *his* chariot against *the* Syrians, and died in the evening; and *the* blood ran out of the wound into *the* bottom of the chariot. 36 And there went a cry throughout the host about *the* going down of the sun, saying, Every man to his city, and every man to his country.

37 So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried the king in Samaria. 38 And *they* washed the chariot by *the* pool of Samaria; and the dogs licked up his blood (²⁴⁶now the harlots washed themselves

there); ²⁴⁷according unto *the* word of Jehovah which he spake. 39 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Ahab, and all that he did, and the ivory house which he built, and all the cities that he built, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Israel? 40 So Ahab slept with his fathers; and Ahaziah his son reigned in his stead.

41 And Jehoshaphat *the* son of Asa began to reign over Judah in *the* fourth year of Ahab king of Israel. 42 Jehoshaphat *was* thirty-five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Azubah *the* daughter of Shilhi. 43 And he walked in all *the* way of Asa his father; he turned not aside from it, doing *that* *which* *was* right in *the* eyes of Jehovah: howbeit the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places. 44 And Jehoshaphat made peace with *the* king of Israel.

45 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Jehoshaphat, and his might that he showed, and how he warred, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Judah? 46 And *the* remnant of the sodomites, that remained in *the* days of his father Asa, he put away out of the land. 47 And *there* *was* no king in Edom: a deputy *was* king. 48 Jehoshaphat made ²⁴⁸ships of Tarshish to go to Ophir for gold (but they went not; for the ships were broken at Ezion-geber). 49 Then said Ahaziah *the* son of Ahab unto Jehoshaphat, Let my servants go with thy servants in the ships. But Jehoshaphat would not. 50 And Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in *the* city of David his father; and Jehoram his son reigned in his stead.

51 Ahaziah *the* son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria in *the* seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and he reigned two years over Israel. 52 And he did *that* which was evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, and walked in *the* way of his father, and in *the* way of his mother, and in *the* way of Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat, ²⁴⁹wherein he made Israel to sin. 53 And he served Baal, and worshipped him, and provoked to anger Jehovah *the* God of Israel, according to all that his father had done.

End of the First Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah

²⁴¹ Likely implying these prophets were in Ahab's hire.

²⁴² Or, from chamber to chamber to hide thyself.

²⁴³ Implying the king of Syria knew that Ahab alone was the motivator for the battle, not the people.

²⁴⁴ Hb. in his simplicity,

²⁴⁵ Or, the lower armor and the breastplate:

²⁴⁶ Or, and they washed the armor there

²⁴⁷ ch. 21:19.

²⁴⁸ Implying ocean-going ships were necessary to reach Ophir; hence, most likely, Ophir is South Africa.

²⁴⁹ Or, who made Israel to sin.