

The Second Book of Chronicles

1:7 Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom. 2:1 His Purpose to build a Temple. 5:2 The Temple is Dedicated.

1 And Solomon *the* son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and Jehovah his God *was* with him, and magnified him exceedingly. **2** And Solomon spake unto all Israel, to the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and to the judges, and to every prince in all Israel, *the* heads of the fathers' *houses*. **3** So Solomon, and all the assembly with him, went to the high place that *was* at Gibeon; for there was the tent of meeting of God, which Moses *the* servant of Jehovah had made in *the* wilderness. **4** But the ark of God had David brought up from Kiriath-jearim to *the place that* David had prepared for it; for he had pitched a tent for it at Jerusalem. **5** Moreover the copper altar, that Bezalel *the* son of Uri, *the* son of Hur, had made, ¹was there before *the* tabernacle of Jehovah: and Solomon and the assembly sought unto it. **6** And Solomon ²went up thither to the copper altar before Jehovah, which *was* at *the* tent of meeting, and offered a thousand burnt-offerings upon it.

7 In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee. **8** And Solomon said unto God, Thou hast showed great lovingkindness unto David my father, and hast made me king in his stead. **9** Now, O Jehovah God, let thy promise unto David my father be established; for thou hast made me king over a people like *the* dust of the earth in multitude. **10** Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this thy people, *that is so* great? **11** And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thy heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honor, nor the soul of them that hate thee, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king: **12** wisdom and knowledge *is* granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honor, such as none of the kings have had that *have been* before thee; neither shall there any after thee have *the* like. **13** So Solomon came ³from the high place that *was* at Gibeon, from before *the* tent of meeting, unto Jerusalem; and he reigned over Israel.

14 And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, that he placed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem. **15** And the king made silver and gold to be in Jerusalem as stones, and

¹ *So many* Hb. mss., 4 early printed edns., Sept. Vg.

Some Hb. mss., 2 early printed edns., Aram. *read* he had put before *the* tabernacle

² *Or*, offered there, upon ... yes, he offered *etc.*

³ *So* Sept., Vg. Massoretic *reads* to

cedars made he to be as the sycamore-trees that *are* in the lowland, for abundance. **16** And the horses which Solomon had were brought out of Egypt; the king's merchants received them in droves, each drove at a price. **17** And they fetched up and brought out of Egypt a chariot for ⁴six hundred *shekels* of silver, and a horse for a hundred fifty *shekels*: and so for all *the* kings of the Hittites, and *the* kings of Syria, did they bring them out by their means.

2 Now Solomon purposed to build a house for *the* name of Jehovah, and a house for his kingdom. **2** And Solomon counted out seventy thousand men to bear burdens and eighty thousand men that were hewers in the mountains, and three thousand six hundred to oversee them. **3** And Solomon sent to ⁵Hiram *the* king of Tyre, saying, As thou didst deal with David my father, and didst send him cedars to build him a house to dwell therein, *even so deal with me*. **4** Behold, I am about to build a house for *the* name of Jehovah my God, to sanctify *it* to him, *and* to burn before him incense of sweet spices, and for *the* continual showbread, and for *the* burnt-offerings morning and evening, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on *the* set feasts of Jehovah our God. This *is an ordinance* for ever to Israel. **5** And the house which I build *is* great; for great *is* our God above all the gods. **6** But ⁶who is able to build him a house, seeing the heavens and the heavens of heavens cannot contain him? who *am* I then, that I should build him a house, save only to burn incense before him? **7** Now therefore send me a man skilful to work in gold, and in silver, and in copper, and in iron, and in purple, and crimson, and blue, and that knoweth how to grave *all manner of* gravings, *to be* with the skilful men that *are* with me in Judah and in Jerusalem, whom David my father did provide. **8** Send me also cedar-trees, ⁷fir-trees, and ⁸algun-trees, out of Lebanon; for I know that thy servants know how to cut timber in Lebanon: and, behold, my servants *shall be* with thy servants, **9** even to prepare me timber in abundance; for the house which I am about to build *shall be* great and wonderful. **10** And, behold, I will give to thy servants, the hewers that cut timber, twenty thousand ⁹measures ¹⁰of beaten

⁴ *That is*, 7 kg (15.3 pounds)

⁵ *In* 1Ki 5:2, Hiram

⁶ *Hb.* who retaineth strength to build him a house,

⁷ *Or*, cypress

⁸ *In* 1Ki 10:11, almug-trees

⁹ *Hb.* cors [1 cor ≈ 220 litre, or 6¼ bushel] (*both times*)

So 4,400 m³ each of wheat and barley.

¹⁰ Sept., Vg. *read* of wheat for food,

wheat, and twenty thousand measures of barley, and twenty thousand ¹¹baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil.

11 Then Hiram *the* king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon, Because Jehovah loveth his people, he hath made thee king over them. 12 Hiram said moreover, Blessed *be* Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, that made heaven and earth, who hath given to David the king a wise son, endued with discretion and understanding, that should build a house for Jehovah, and a house for his kingdom. 13 And now I have sent a skilful man, endued with understanding, ¹²of Hiram my father's, 14 *the* son of a woman of *the* daughters of Dan; and his father *was* a man of Tyre, skilful to work in gold, and in silver, in copper, in iron, in stone, and in timber, in purple, in blue, and in fine linen, and in crimson, also to grave any manner of graving, and to devise any device; that there may be *a* place appointed unto him with thy skilful men, and with *the* skilful men of my lord David thy father. 15 Now therefore the wheat and the barley, the oil and the wine, which my lord hath spoken of, let him send unto his servants: 16 and we will cut wood out of Lebanon, as much as thou shalt need; and we will bring it to thee in floats by sea to ¹³Joppa; and thou shalt carry it up to Jerusalem.

17 And Solomon numbered all the sojourners that *were* in *the* land of Israel, after the numbering wherewith David his father had numbered them; and they were found a hundred fifty-three thousand six hundred. 18 And he set seventy thousand of them to bear burdens, and eighty thousand *that were* hewers in the mountains, and three thousand six hundred overseers to set the people at work.

3 Then Solomon began to build the house of Jehovah at Jerusalem on mount Moriah, where *Jehovah* appeared unto David his father, which he made ready ¹⁴in *the* place that David had appointed, in *the* threshing-floor of ¹⁵Ornan the Jebusite. 2 And he began to build in ¹⁶the second *day* of the second month, in *the* fourth year of his reign. 3 Now ¹⁷these *are* the foundations *which* Solomon *laid* for *the* building of the house of God. The length *by* ¹⁸cubits after the first

measure *was* ¹⁹sixty cubits, and *the* breadth twenty cubits. 4 And the porch that *was* before *the* house, the length *of* it, according to *the* breadth of the house, *was* twenty cubits, and the height ²⁰a hundred twenty *cubits*; and he overlaid it within with pure gold. 5 And the greater house he ceiled with ²¹fir-wood, which he overlaid with fine gold, and wrought thereon palm-trees and chains. 6 And he garnished the house with precious stones for beauty: and the gold *was* gold of Parvaim. 7 He overlaid also the house, the beams, the thresholds, and *the* walls thereof, and *the* doors thereof, with gold; and graved cherubim on the walls.

8 And he made the house of the Most Holy: *the* length thereof, according to *the* breadth of the house, *was* twenty cubits, and *the* breadth thereof twenty cubits; and he overlaid it with fine gold, *amounting* to ²²six hundred talents. 9 And *the* weight of *the* nails *was* ²³fifty shekels of gold. And he overlaid the upper chambers with gold.

10 And in *the* house of the Most Holy he made two cherubim of image work; and they overlaid them with gold. 11 And *the* wings of the cherubim *were* twenty cubits long: *the* wing of the one *cherub* *was* five cubits, reaching to *the* wall of the house; and the other wing *was* *likewise* five cubits, reaching to *the* wing of the other cherub. 12 And *the* wing of the other cherub *was* five cubits, reaching to *the* wall of the house; and the other wing *was* five cubits *also*, joining to *the* wing of the other cherub. 13 *The* wings of these cherubim spread themselves forth twenty cubits: and they stood on their feet, and their faces *were* toward the house. 14 And he made the veil *of* blue, and purple, and crimson, and fine linen, and wrought cherubim thereon.

15 Also he made before the house two pillars of ²⁴thirty-five cubits high, and the capital that *was* on *the* top of each of them *was* five cubits. 16 And he made chains in the Word, and put *them* on the tops of the pillars; and he made a hundred pomegranates, and put *them* on the chains. 17 And he set up the pillars before the temple, one on *the* right *hand*, and *the* other on the left; and called *the* name of that on the right *hand* ²⁵Jachin, and *the* name of that on the left ²⁶Boaz.

¹¹ Although 1 bath is usually thought to be 22 litre, it might be up to a factor of four smaller.

Compare note on ch. 4:5. (both times)

¹² Or, even Hiram my father, Cf. Ge 45:8.

¹³ Hb. Japho

¹⁴ Hb. in the place of David,

¹⁵ In 2Sa 24:16, etc., Araunah

¹⁶ Sept., Vg. omit the second day of

¹⁷ Or, These are the things wherein Solomon was instructed for the building of the house of God.

¹⁸ Hb. amnah, forearm (from the elbow to the tip of the fingers), typically 18-20 inches. 0.4445 meter,

per R.B.Y. Scott in The Biblical Archaeologist Reader 3; Anchor: 1970.

¹⁹ That is, 26.7 meters (87.5 feet).

²⁰ Sept., Aram. read twenty cubits; [כ = 20; כר = 120]

²¹ Or, cypress-wood,

²² That is, 20.9 metric tons (1.08 m³) of gold.

²³ That is, 580 gram (30 cm³) of gold.

²⁴ In 1Ki 7:15; 2Ki 25:17; Jr 52:21, eighteen cubits (8 m) each. Possibly the two were fabricated together, end-to-end, for a total length of 15.6 m.

²⁵ That is, He shall establish,

²⁶ That is, In it is strength.

4 Moreover he made an altar of copper, ²⁷twenty cubits *the* length thereof, and twenty cubits *the* breadth thereof, and ten cubits *the* height thereof. 2 Also 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 ²⁸thirty cubits compassed it round about. 3 And under it *was the* likeness of ²⁹oxen, which did compass it round about, ³⁰for ten cubits, compassing the sea round about. The oxen *were* in two rows, cast when it was cast. 4 It stood upon twelve oxen, three looking toward *the* north, and three looking toward *the* west, and three looking toward *the* south, and three looking toward *the* east: and the sea *was set* upon them above, and all their hinder parts *were* inward. 5 And it *was* ³¹a handbreadth thick; and *the* brim thereof was wrought like *the* brim of a cup, like *the* flower of a lily: ³²it received and held three thousand baths. 6 He made also ten lavers, and put five on *the* right hand, and five on *the* left, to wash in them; such things *as belonged* to the burnt-offering they washed in them; but the sea *was* for the priests to wash in.

7 And he made the ten lampstands of gold according to *the* ordinance concerning them; and he set *them* in the temple, five on *the* right hand, and five on *the* left. 8 He made also ten tables, and placed *them* in the temple, five on *the* right side, and five on *the* left. And he made a hundred basins of gold. 9 Furthermore he made *the* court of the priests, and the great court, and doors for the court, and overlaid *the* doors of them with copper. 10 And he set the sea on the right side *of the house* eastward, toward *the* south.

11 And Hiram made the pots, and the shovels, and the basins. So Hiram made an end of doing the work that he wrought for king Solomon in the house of God: 12 *the* two pillars, and the bowls, and the two capitals *which 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, 13 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* ³³upon the pillars. 14 He made

²⁷ See note on ch. 3:3. Thus, 8.89 meter (29 ft., 2 inch)

²⁸ Implying an (inside?) diameter of 9.55 cubit.

²⁹ In 1Ki 7:24, knobs (both times)

³⁰ Or, ten in a cubit,

³¹ That is, 7.33 cm (2.9 inch). So R.B.Y. Scott.

³² With 1 cubit = 0.4445 m, a hemisphere of 30 cubit inside diameter contains 16,467 litre, implying 1 bath is about 5.5 litre. If it were a right circular cylinder, then about 11 litre. If the bath is the more commonly accepted 22 litre, then the cubit would need to be up to 0.695 m. 1Ki 7:26 reads two thousand baths.

³³ Hb. upon the face of the pillars.

also the bases, and the lavers made he upon the bases; 15 one sea, and the twelve oxen under it. 16 The pots also, and the shovels, and the flesh-hooks, and all the vessels thereof, did Hiram his father make for king Solomon for *the* house of Jehovah of bright copper. 17 In *the* plain of the Jordan did the king cast them, in the clay ground between Sukkoth and Zeredah. 18 Thus Solomon made all these vessels in great abundance: for *the* weight of the copper ³⁴could not be found out.

19 And Solomon made all the vessels that *were* in the house of God, the golden altar also, and the tables whereon *was* the showbread; 20 and the lampstands with their lamps, to burn according to the ordinance before the Word, of pure gold; 21 and the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs, of gold, *and* that perfect gold; 22 and the snuffers, and the basins, and the spoons, and the ³⁵firepans, of pure gold: and as for *the* entry of the house, the inner doors thereof for the Most Holy, and *the* doors of the house, *to wit*, of the temple, *were* of gold.

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

2 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 Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of *the* covenant of Jehovah out of *the* city of David, which *is* Zion. 3 And all *the* men of Israel assembled themselves unto the king at the feast, which *was* in the seventh month. 4 And all *the* elders of Israel came: and the Levites took up the ark; 5 and they brought up the ark, and the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that *were* in the Tent; these did the priests³⁶ the Levites bring up. 6 And king Solomon and all *the* congregation of Israel, that were assembled unto him, *were* before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen, that could not be counted nor numbered for multitude. 7 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. 8 For the cherubim spread forth *their* wings over *the* place of the ark, and the cherubim covered the ark and *the* staves thereof above. 9 And ³⁷the staves were so long that *the* ends of the staves were seen ³⁸from the ark before the Word; but they were not seen

³⁴ Or, was not searched out.

³⁵ Or, censers, or, snuffdishes, And so everywhere. The one vessel served all three purposes.

³⁶ So Massoretic. Cf. Ez 44:15. Several Hb. mss. and the versions insert and Cf. 1Ki 8:4.

³⁷ Or, they drew out the staves, so that etc.

³⁸ So Massoretic, Aram., Vg. Sept. reads from the holy place before the oracle; or, ...the Word;

without: and there it is unto this day. 10 *There was* nothing in the ark save the two tables which Moses put *there* at Horeb, ³⁹when Jehovah made a *covenant* with *the* children of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.

11 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the Holy, (for all the priests *that were* present had sanctified themselves, and did not keep their courses; 12 also the Levites *who were* the singers, all of them, even Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun, and their sons and their brethren, arrayed in fine linen, with cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at *the* east end of the altar, and with them a hundred twenty priests sounding with trumpets;) 13 it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers *were* as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking Jehovah; and when they lifted up *their* voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments ⁴⁰of music, and praised Jehovah, *saying*, For *he is* good; for his lovingkindness *endureth* for ever; that *then* the house was filled with ⁴¹a cloud, *even the* house of Jehovah, 14 so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for *the* glory of Jehovah filled the house of God.

6 Then spake Solomon, Jehovah hath said that he would dwell in ⁴²the thick darkness. 2 But I have built thee a house of habitation, and a place for thee to dwell in for ever. 3 And the king turned his face, and blessed all the assembly of Israel: and all *the* assembly of Israel stood.

4 And he said, Blessed *be* Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, who spake with his mouth unto David my father, and hath with his hands fulfilled *it*, *saying*, 5 Since the day that I brought forth my people out of *the* land of Egypt, I chose no city out of all *the* tribes of Israel to build a house in, that my name might be there; neither chose I any man to be ⁴³prince over my people Israel: 6 but I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and have chosen David to be over my people Israel. 7 Now it was in *the* heart of David my father to build a house for *the* name of Jehovah, *the* God of Israel. 8 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: 9 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. 10 And Jehovah hath performed 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

³⁹ *Or*, where

⁴⁰ *Or*, for song,

⁴¹ *So* Massoretic, Aram. Sept. *reads the* cloud of *the* glory of *the* Lord, Douay *reads* [for ever: the house of God was filled with] a cloud. 14 Nor could

⁴² Targum *says*, Jerusalem.

⁴³ *Or*, leader

Jehovah, *the* God of Israel. 11 And there have I set the ark, wherein *is the* covenant of Jehovah, which he made with *the* children of Israel.

12 And he stood before *the* altar of Jehovah in *the* presence of all *the* assembly of Israel, and spread forth his hands; 13 (for Solomon had made a copper scaffold, five cubits long, and five cubits broad, and three cubits high, and had set it in *the* midst of the court; and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all *the* assembly of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven;) 14 and he said, O Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, *there is* no God like thee, in heaven, or on earth; who keepest covenant and lovingkindness ⁴⁴with thy servants, *that* walk before thee with all their heart; 15 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. 16 Now therefore, O Jehovah, the God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him, *saying*, ⁴⁵There 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 in my law as thou hast walked before me. 17 Now therefore, O Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, let thy word be verified, which thou spakest unto thy servant David.

18 But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, *the* heavens and the heavens of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have builded! 19 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; 20 that thine eyes may be open toward this house day and night, *even* toward the place whereof thou hast said that thou wouldest put thy name there; to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall pray toward this place. 21 And hearken thou to *the* supplications of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: yes, hear thou from thy dwelling-place, *even* from heaven; and when thou hearest, forgive.

22 ⁴⁶If a man sin against his neighbor, and an oath be laid upon him to cause him to swear, and ⁴⁷he come *and* swear before thine altar in this house; 23 then hear thou from heaven, and do, and judge thy servants, requiting *the* wicked, to bring his way upon his own head; and justifying *the* righteous, to give him according to his righteousness.

⁴⁴ *Or*, for

⁴⁵ *Hb.* There shall not be cut off unto thee a man from my sight to sit on *the* throne *etc.*

⁴⁶ *Or*, Whereinsoever a man shall sin against

⁴⁷ *So* the versions. Massoretic *reads the* oath come before thine altar in this house;

24 And if thy people Israel be smitten down before *the* enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn again and confess thy name, and pray and make supplication before thee in this house; 25 then hear thou from heaven, and forgive *the* sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gavest to them and to their fathers.

26 When the heavens are 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,⁴⁸ when thou⁴⁹ dost afflict them: 27 then hear thou in heaven, and forgive *the* sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, when 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.

28 If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence, if there be blasting or mildew, locust or caterpillar; if their enemies besiege them in *the* land of⁵⁰ their cities; whatsoever plague or whatsoever sickness *there be*; 29 what prayer *and* supplication soever be made by any man, or by all thy people Israel, who shall know every man his own plague and his own sorrow, and shall spread forth his hands toward this house: 30 then hear thou from heaven thy dwelling-place, and forgive, and render unto *every* man according to all his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of *the* children of men;) 31 that they may fear thee, to walk in thy ways, all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers.

32 Moreover concerning the foreigner, that is not of thy people Israel, when he shall come from a far country for thy great name's sake, and thy mighty hand, and thine outstretched arm; when they shall come and pray toward this house: 33 then hear thou from heaven, *even* from 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, and fear thee, as *doth* thy people Israel, and that they may know that⁵¹ this house which I have built is called by thy name.

34 If thy people go out to battle against their enemies, by *whatsoever* way thou shalt send them, and they pray unto thee toward this city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name; 35 then hear thou from heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their⁵² cause.

⁴⁸ *Or*, because

⁴⁹ *Or*, answerest them:

⁵⁰ *Hb.* its gates; *or*, his gates;

⁵¹ *Or*, thy name is called upon this house which I have built.

⁵² *Or*, right. *Also in vs.* 39.

36 If they sin against thee, (for *there is* no man that sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to *the* enemy, so that⁵³ they carry them away captive unto a land far off or near; 37 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 their captivity, saying, We have sinned, we have done perversely, and have dealt wickedly; 38 if they return unto thee with all their heart and with all their soul in *the* land of their captivity, whither they have carried them captive, and pray toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, and the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house which I have built for thy name: 39 then hear thou from heaven, *even* from thy dwelling-place, their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive thy people who have sinned against thee.

40 Now, O my God, let, I beseech thee, thine eyes be open, and *let* thine ears *be* attent, unto *the* prayer *that is made* in this place. 41 Now therefore arise, O Jehovah God, into thy resting-place, thou, and *the* ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O Jehovah God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in⁵⁴ goodness. 42 O Jehovah God, turn not away *the* face of thine anointed: remember *thy*⁵⁵ lovingkindnesses to David thy servant.

7 Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt-offering and the sacrifices; and *the* glory of Jehovah filled the house. 2 And the priests could not enter into *the* house of Jehovah, because *the* glory of Jehovah filled Jehovah's house. 3 And all *the* children of Israel looked on, when the fire came down, and *the* glory of Jehovah was upon the house; and they bowed themselves with their faces to *the* ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and gave thanks unto Jehovah, *saying*, For *he is* good; for his lovingkindness *endureth* forever.

4 Then the king and all the people offered sacrifice before Jehovah. 5 And king Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand oxen, and a hundred twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. 6 And the priests stood, according to their offices; the Levites also with instruments⁵⁶ of music of Jehovah, which David the king had made to give thanks unto Jehovah, (for his lovingkindness *endureth* forever,) when David praised by their ministry: and the priests sounded trumpets before them; and all Israel stood. 7 Then Solomon

⁵³ *Hb.* they that take them captive carry them away unto a land far off or near;

⁵⁴ *Or*, good.

⁵⁵ *Or*, good deeds to David thy servant. *See ch.* 32:32.

⁵⁶ *Or*, for *the* song of Jehovah,

sanctified the middle of the court that *was* before *the* house of Jehovah; for there he offered the burnt-offerings, and the fat of the peace-offerings, because the copper altar which Solomon had made was not able to receive the burnt-offering, and the meal-offering, and the fat.

8 So Solomon held the feast at that time seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly, from *the* entrance of Hamath unto *the* brook of Egypt. 9 And on the eighth day they held a ⁵⁷solemn assembly: for they kept *the* dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days. 10 And on *the* twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people away unto their tents, joyful and glad of heart for the goodness that Jehovah had showed unto David, and to Solomon, and to Israel his people.

11 Thus Solomon finished the house of Jehovah, and the king's house: and all *that* came into Solomon's heart to make in *the* house of Jehovah, and in his own house, he prosperously effected. 12 And Jehovah appeared to Solomon in the night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for a house of sacrifice. 13 If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command *the* locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; 14 if my people, ⁵⁸who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 15 Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent, unto *the* prayer *that is made* in this place. 16 For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there ⁵⁹for ever; and mine eyes and my heart shall be there perpetually. 17 And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and mine ordinances; 18 then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man *to be* ruler in Israel.

19 But if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them; 20 then will I pluck them up by *the* roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and I will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples. 21 And this house, which is so high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall say, Why hath Jehovah done thus unto this land, and to this house? 22 And they shall answer, Because they

⁵⁷ *Or*, closing festival:

⁵⁸ *Hb.* upon whom my name is called,

⁵⁹ *Or*, for time unlimited, [*i.e.*, without fixed termination]

forsook Jehovah, *the* God of their fathers, who brought them forth out of *the* land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath he brought all this evil upon them.

8 And it came to pass at *the* end of twenty years, wherein Solomon had built the house of Jehovah, and his own house, 2 that the cities which Hiram had given to Solomon, Solomon built them, and caused the children of Israel to dwell there.

3 And Solomon went to Hamath-zobah, and prevailed against it. 4 And he built Tadmor in the wilderness, and all the store-cities, which he built in Hamath. 5 Also he built Beth-horon the upper, and Beth-horon the nether, fortified cities, with walls, double gates, and bars; 6 and Baalath, and all the store-cities that Solomon had, and all the cities for *his* chariots, and the cities for *his* horsemen, and all that Solomon desired to build for his pleasure in Jerusalem, and in Lebanon, and in all *the* land of his dominion.

7 *As for* all the people *that were* left of the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, *that were* not of Israel; 8 of their children that were left after them in the land, whom *the* children of Israel consumed not, of them did Solomon raise ⁶⁰a levy of *bondservants* unto this day. 9 But of *the* children of Israel did Solomon make no servants for his work; but they *were* men of war, and chief of his captains, and rulers of his chariots and of his horsemen. 10 And these *were* the chief officers of king Solomon, *even* two hundred fifty, *that bare* rule over the people.

11 And Solomon brought up the daughter of Pharaoh out of *the* city of David unto the house that he had built for her; for he said, My wife shall not dwell in *the* house of David king of Israel, because ⁶¹*the places are* holy, whereunto *the* ark of Jehovah hath come.

12 Then Solomon offered burnt-offerings unto Jehovah on *the* altar of Jehovah, which he had built before the porch, 13 *even as the* duty of every day required, offering according to *the* commandment of Moses, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the set feasts, three times in the year, *even* in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of booths.

14 And he appointed, according to *the* ordinance of David his father, the courses of the priests to their service, and the Levites to their offices, to praise, and to minister before the priests, as *the* duty of every day required; the doorkeepers also by their courses at every gate: for so had David the man of God commanded. 15 And they departed not from *the* commandment of the king unto the priests and Levites concerning any matter, or concerning the treasures.

⁶⁰ *Hb.* men subject to taskwork unto this day.

⁶¹ *Hb.* they are holy,

16 Now all *the* work of Solomon was prepared unto the day of *the* foundation of *the* house of Jehovah, and until it was finished. So *the* house of Jehovah was completed.

17 Then went Solomon to ⁶²Ezion-geber, and to Eloth, on the seashore in *the* land of Edom. 18 And Hiram sent him by *the* hands of his servants ships, and servants that had knowledge of *the* sea; and they came with *the* servants of Solomon to Ophir, and fetched from thence ⁶³four hundred fifty talents of gold, and brought *them* to king Solomon.

9 And when *the* queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to prove Solomon with hard questions at Jerusalem, with a very great train, and camels that bare spices, and gold in abundance, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart. 2 And Solomon told her all her questions; and there was not anything hid from Solomon which he told her not. 3 And when *the* queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, and the house that he had built, 4 and *the* food of his table, and *the* sitting of his servants, and *the* ⁶⁴attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, his cupbearers also, and their apparel, and his ascent by which he went up unto *the* house of Jehovah; there was ⁶⁵no more spirit in her. 5 And she said to the king, *It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thine* ⁶⁶acts, and of thy wisdom. 6 Howbeit I believed not their words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen *it*; and, behold, *the* half of *the* greatness of thy wisdom was not told me: thou exceedest the fame that I heard. 7 Happy *are* thy men, and happy *are* these thy servants, that stand continually before thee, and hear thy wisdom. 8 Blessed be Jehovah thy God, who delighted in thee, to set thee on his throne, *to be* king for Jehovah thy God: because thy God loved Israel, to establish them ⁶⁷for ever, therefore made he thee king over them, to do justice and righteousness.

9 And she gave the king a hundred twenty talents of gold, and spices in great abundance, and precious stones: neither was there any such spice as *the* queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon. 10 And *the* servants also of Hiram, and *the* servants of Solomon, that brought gold from Ophir, brought ⁶⁸almug-trees and precious stones. 11 And the king made *of* the almug-trees

⁶² Possibly the island near Eloth (Eilat).

⁶³ About 15.66 metric tons of gold. *The route from Tyre to Ezion-geber goes by South Africa (Ophir?), and then by Yemen (Sheba).*

⁶⁴ *Hb.* standing

⁶⁵ *Or,* no more breath *That is,* no more skepticism *In modern idiom,* it took her breath away.

⁶⁶ *Or,* sayings,

⁶⁷ *Or,* for time unlimited, [*i.e.*, without fixed termination]

⁶⁸ In 1Ki 10:11, almug-trees *Also in vs. 11.*

terraces for *the* house of Jehovah, and for the king's house, and harps and psalteries for the singers: and there were none such seen before in *the* land of Judah. 12 And king Solomon gave to *the* queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, besides *that* which she had brought unto the king. So she turned, and went to her own land, she and her servants.

13 Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was ⁶⁹six hundred sixty-six talents of gold, 14 besides *that which* the traders and merchants brought: and all *the* kings of Arabia and *the* governors of the country brought gold and silver to Solomon. 15 And king Solomon made two hundred bucklers of beaten gold; ⁷⁰six hundred *shekels* of beaten gold went to one buckler. 16 And *he made* three hundred shields of beaten gold; three hundred *shekels* of gold went to one shield: and the king put them in *the* house of the forest of Lebanon. 17 Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold. 18 And *there were* six steps to the throne, with a footstool of gold, *which were* fastened to the throne, and ⁷¹stays on either side by *the* place of the seat, and two lions standing beside the stays. 19 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 kingdom. 20 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: silver was nothing accounted of in *the* days of Solomon. 21 For the king had ships that went to Tarshish with *the* servants of Hiram; once every three years came ⁷²*the* ships of Tarshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.

22 So king Solomon exceeded all *the* kings of the earth in riches and wisdom. 23 And all *the* kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart. 24 And they brought every man his tribute, vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and raiment, armor, and spices, horses, and mules, a rate year by year. 25 And Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, that he bestowed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem. 26 And he ruled over all the kings from the River even unto *the* land of *the* Philistines, and to *the* border of Egypt. 27 And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars made he to be as the sycomore-trees that *are* in the lowland, for abundance. 28 And they brought horses for Solomon out of Egypt, and out of all lands.

⁶⁹ Just over 23 metric tons of gold (*in the best year*).

⁷⁰ *That is,* about 7 kg (15.3 pounds)

⁷¹ *Or,* arms *Hb.* hands

⁷² *Ocean-going vessels, apparently to South Africa, then America, and then India, for a 3-year journey.*

29 Now *the* rest of the acts of Solomon, first and last, *are* they not written in *the* ⁷³history of Nathan the prophet, and in *the* prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in *the* visions of ⁷⁴Iddo the seer concerning Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat? 30 And Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years. 31 And Solomon slept with his fathers, and he was buried in *the* city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.

10 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* in Egypt, whither he had fled from *the* presence of king Solomon,) that Jeroboam returned out of Egypt. 3 And they sent and called him; and Jeroboam and all Israel came, and they spake to 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, Come again unto me after three days. 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 be kind to this people, and please 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 the people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou *it* lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say 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 them roughly: and king Rehoboam forsook the counsel of the old men, 14 and spake to them after *the* counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add thereto: 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 brought about of God, that Jehovah might establish his word, which he 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: every man ⁷⁵to your gods, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So all 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 Hadoram, who *was* over the men subject to taskwork; and *the* children of 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.

11 And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled the house of Judah and Benjamin, a hundred eighty thousand chosen *men*, that were warriors, to fight against Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam. 2 But *the* word of Jehovah came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying, 3 Speak unto Rehoboam *the* son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all Israel in Judah and Benjamin, saying, 4 Thus saith Jehovah, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren: return every man to his house; for this thing is of me. So they hearkened unto the words of Jehovah, and returned from going against Jeroboam.

5 And Rehoboam dwelt in Jerusalem, and built cities for defence in Judah. 6 He built Beth-lehem, and Etam, and Tekoa, 7 and Beth-zur, and Soco, and Adullam, 8 and Gath, and Mareshah, and Ziph, 9 and Adoraim, and Lachish, and Azekah, 10 and Zorah, and Aijalon, and Hebron, which *are* in Judah, and in Benjamin, fortified cities. 11 And he fortified the strongholds, and put captains in them, and stores of victuals, and oil and wine. 12 And in every city *he put* shields and spears, and made them exceeding strong. And Judah and Benjamin *belonged* to him.

13 And the priests and the Levites that *were* in all Israel resorted to him out of all their border. 14 For the Levites left their suburbs and their possession, and came to Judah and Jerusalem: for Jeroboam and his sons cast them off, that they should not execute *the* priest's office unto Jehovah; 15 and he appointed him priests for the high places, and for the he-goats, and for the calves which he had made. 16 And after them, out of all *the* tribes of Israel, such as set their hearts to seek Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, came to Jerusalem to sacrifice unto Jehovah, *the* God of their fathers. 17 So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam *the* son of Solomon strong, three years; for they walked three years in *the* way of David and Solomon.

⁷³ *Hb.* words

⁷⁴ *Hb.* Jedai or, Jedo

⁷⁵ *Sopherim changed to* to your tents,

18 And Rehoboam took him a wife, Mahalath *the* daughter of Jerimoth *the* son of David,⁷⁶ *and of* Abihail *the* daughter of Eliab *the* son of Jesse; 19 and she bare him sons: Jeush, and Shemariah, and Zaham. 20 And after her he took⁷⁷ Maacah *the* daughter of Absalom; and she bare him Abijah, and Attai, and Ziza, and Shelomith. 21 And Rehoboam loved Maacah *the* daughter of Absalom above all his wives and his concubines: (for he took eighteen wives, and sixty concubines, and begat twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters.) 22 And Rehoboam appointed Abijah *the* son of Maacah to be chief, *even the* prince among his brethren; for *he was minded* to make him king. 23 And he dealt wisely, and dispersed of all his sons throughout all *the* lands of Judah and Benjamin, unto every fortified city: and he gave them victuals in abundance. And he⁷⁸ sought for them many wives.

12 And it came to pass, when *the* kingdom of Rehoboam was established, and he was strong, that he forsook the law of Jehovah, and all Israel with him. 2 And it came to pass in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, that Shishaq king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had trespassed against Jehovah, 3 with twelve hundred chariots, and sixty thousand horsemen. And the people *were* without number that came with him out of Egypt: *the*⁷⁹ Lubim, the Sukkiim, and the⁸⁰ Ethiopians. 4 And he took the fortified cities which *pertained* to Judah, and came unto Jerusalem. 5 Now Shemaiah the prophet came to Rehoboam, and to *the* princes of Judah, that were gathered together to Jerusalem because of Shishaq, and said unto them, Thus saith Jehovah, Ye have forsaken me, therefore have I also left you in *the* hand of Shishaq. 6 Then *the* princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, Jehovah *is* righteous. 7 And when Jehovah saw that they humbled themselves, *the* word of Jehovah came to Shemaiah, saying, They have humbled themselves: I will not destroy them; but I will grant them⁸¹ some deliverance, and my wrath shall not be poured out upon Jerusalem by *the* hand of Shishaq. 8 Nevertheless they shall be his servants, that they may know *both* my service, and *the* service of *the* kingdoms of the countries.

9 So Shishaq king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of *the* house of Jehovah, and the treasures of the king's house; he took all away: he took away also the shields of gold which

⁷⁶ Or, and Abihail

⁷⁷ In ch. 13:2, Micaiah *the* daughter of Uriel; Compare Maacah ... Abishalom in 1Ki 15:2.

⁷⁸ Or, sought a multitude of wives.

⁷⁹ Or, Libyans,

⁸⁰ Lit. Cushites. *That is*, Black Africans.

⁸¹ Or, deliverance within a little while, or, a few that shall escape,

Solomon had made. 10 And king Rehoboam made in their stead shields of copper, and committed *them* to *the* hands of *the* captains of the⁸² guard, that kept *the* door of the king's house. 11 And it was so, that, as oft as the king entered into *the* house of Jehovah, the guard came and bare them, and brought them back into the guard-chamber. 12 And when he humbled himself, *the* wrath of Jehovah turned from him, so as not to destroy *him* altogether: and moreover in Judah there were good things *found*.

13 So king Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem, and reigned: for 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 the Ammonitess. 14 And he did *that* which was evil, because he set not his heart to seek Jehovah.

15 Now *the* acts of Rehoboam, first and last, *are* they not written in *the*⁸³ histories of Shemaiah the prophet and of Iddo the seer,⁸⁴ after *the* manner of genealogies? And *there were* wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all *their* days. 16 And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried in *the* city of David: and Abijah his son reigned in his stead.

13 In *the* eighteenth year of king Jeroboam began Abijah to reign over Judah. 2 Three years reigned he in Jerusalem: and his mother's name *was*⁸⁵ Micaiah *the* daughter of Uriel of Gibeah. And there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam. 3 And Abijah joined battle with an army of valiant men of war, *even* four hundred thousand chosen men: and Jeroboam set *the* battle in array against him with eight hundred thousand chosen men, *who were* mighty men of valor. 4 And Abijah stood up upon mount Zemaraim, which *is* in *the* hill-country of Ephraim, and said, Hear me, O Jeroboam and all Israel: 5 Ought ye not to know that Jehovah *the* God of Israel, gave *the* kingdom over Israel to David for ever, *even* to him and to his sons by a covenant of salt? 6 Yet Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat, *the* servant of Solomon *the* son of David, rose up, and rebelled against his lord. 7 And there were gathered unto him sons of worthlessness, base fellows that strengthened themselves against Rehoboam *the* son of Solomon, when Rehoboam was young and tender-hearted, and could not withstand them. 8 And now ye think to withstand the kingdom of Jehovah in *the* hand of *the* sons of David; and ye *are* a great multitude, and *there are* with you *the* golden calves which Jeroboam made you for gods. 9 Have ye not driven out the priests of Jehovah, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites,

⁸² Hb. runners,

⁸³ Hb. words

⁸⁴ Or, in reckoning *the* genealogies

⁸⁵ Sept., Vg. read Maachah See 1Ki 15:2.

and made you priests after *the manner of* the peoples of *other* lands? so that whosoever cometh to consecrate himself with a young bullock and seven rams, *the same* may be a priest of *them that are* no gods. 10 But as for us, Jehovah *is* our God, and we have not forsaken him; and *we have* priests ministering unto Jehovah, *the* sons of Aaron, and the Levites in *their* work: 11 and they burn unto Jehovah every morning and every evening burnt-offerings and sweet incense: *the* showbread also *set they in order* upon the pure table; and the lampstand of gold with *the* lamps thereof, to burn every evening: for we keep the charge of Jehovah our God; but ye have forsaken him. 12 And, behold, God is with us at *our* head, and his priests with *the* trumpets of alarm to sound *an* alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against Jehovah, *the* God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper.

13 But Jeroboam caused *an* ambushment to come about behind them: so they were before Judah, and the ambushment *was* behind them. 14 And when Judah looked back, behold, the battle *was* before and behind them; and they cried unto Jehovah, and the priests sounded with the trumpets. 15 Then *the* men of Judah gave a shout: and as *the* men of Judah shouted, it came to pass, that God smote Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. 16 And *the* children of Israel fled before Judah; and God delivered them into their hand. 17 And Abijah and his people slew them with a great slaughter: so there fell down slain of Israel five hundred thousand chosen men. 18 Thus *the* children of Israel were brought under at that time, and *the* children of Judah prevailed, because they relied upon Jehovah, *the* God of their fathers. 19 And Abijah pursued after Jeroboam, and took cities from him, Beth-el with the towns thereof, and Jeshanah with the towns thereof, and ⁸⁶Ephron with *the* towns thereof. 20 Neither did Jeroboam recover strength again in *the* days of Abijah: and Jehovah smote him, and he died. 21 But Abijah waxed mighty, and took unto himself fourteen wives, and begat twenty-two sons, and sixteen daughters. 22 And *the* rest of *the* acts of Abijah, and his ways, and his sayings, *are* written in *the* commentary of the prophet Iddo.

14 So Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in *the* city of David; and Asa his son reigned in his stead. In his days the land was quiet ten years. 2 And Asa did that *which was* good and right in *the* eyes of Jehovah his God: 3 for he took away the foreign altars, and the high places, and brake down the ⁸⁷pillars, and hewed down the Asherahs, 4 and commanded Judah to seek Jehovah, *the* God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment. 5 Also he took away out of all *the* cities of Judah the high places and the sun-

⁸⁶ Most Hb^{mg} reads Ephraim Cf. Jo 11:54?

⁸⁷ Or, obelisks

images: and the kingdom was quiet before him. 6 And he built fortified cities in Judah; for the land was quiet, and he had no war in those years, because Jehovah had given him rest. 7 For he said unto Judah, Let us build these cities, and make about *them* walls, and towers, double gates, and bars; the land *is* yet before us, because we have sought Jehovah our God; we have sought him, and he hath given us rest on every side. So they built and prospered. 8 And Asa had an army that bare bucklers and spears, out of Judah three hundred thousand; and out of Benjamin, that bare shields and drew bows, two hundred eighty thousand: all these *were* mighty men of valor.

9 And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an army of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and he came unto Mareshah. 10 Then Asa went out to meet him, and they set *the* battle in array in *the* valley ⁸⁸of Zephathah at Mareshah. 11 And Asa cried unto Jehovah his God, and said, Jehovah, ⁸⁹*there is none* ⁹⁰*besides thee* to help, between *the* mighty and him that hath no strength: help us, O Jehovah our God; for we rely on thee, and in thy name are we come against this multitude. O Jehovah, thou *art* our God; let not man prevail against thee. 12 So Jehovah smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled. 13 And Asa and the people that *were* with him pursued them unto Gerar: and *there* fell of *the* Ethiopians ⁹¹so many that they could not recover themselves; for they were ⁹²destroyed before Jehovah, and before his host; and they carried away very much booty. 14 And they smote all the cities round about Gerar; for ⁹³*the* fear of Jehovah came upon them: and they despoiled all the cities; for there was much spoil in them. 15 They smote also *the* tents of cattle, and carried away sheep in abundance, and camels, and returned to Jerusalem.

15 And *the* Spirit of God came upon Azariah *the* son of Oded: 2 and he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: Jehovah *is* with you, while ye are with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you. 3 Now for a long season Israel *was* without *the* true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law: 4 but when in their distress they turned unto Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them. 5 And in those days *there was* no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in; but great vexations *were* upon all *the*

⁸⁸ Sept. reads northwards of Mareshah.

⁸⁹ Or, *there is* no difference with thee to help, whether *the* mighty or him that hath no strength:

⁹⁰ Or, like

⁹¹ Or, so that none remained alive;

⁹² Hb. broken

⁹³ Or, a terror from Jehovah came upon them:

inhabitants of the lands. 6 And they were broken in pieces, nation against nation, and city against city; for God did vex them with all adversity. 7 But be ye strong, and let not your hands be slack; for your work shall be rewarded.

8 And when Asa heard these words, ⁹⁴even the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominations out of all *the* land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from *the* hill-country of Ephraim; and he renewed the altar of Jehovah, that *was* before *the* porch of Jehovah. 9 And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and them that sojourned with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that Jehovah his God *was* with him. 10 So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in *the* fifteenth year of *the* reign of Asa. 11 And they sacrificed unto Jehovah in that day, of the spoil *which* they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep. 12 And they entered into the covenant to seek Jehovah, *the* God of their fathers, with all their heart and with all their soul; 13 and that whosoever would not seek Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman. 14 And they swore unto Jehovah with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with *straight* trumpets, and with rams horn *trumpets*. 15 And all Judah rejoiced at the oath; for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and Jehovah gave them rest round about.

16 And also Maacah, *the* mother of Asa the king, he removed from *being* ⁹⁵queen *mother*, because she had made an abominable image ⁹⁶for an Asherah; and Asa cut down her image, and made dust of *it*, and burnt *it* at *the* brook Kidron. 17 But the high places were not taken away out of Israel: nevertheless *the* heart of Asa was perfect all his days. 18 And he brought into the house of God the holy *things* that his father *had* dedicated, and that he himself *had* dedicated, silver, and gold, and vessels. 19 And there was no *more* war unto *the* thirty-fifth year of *the* reign of Asa.

16 In *the* ⁹⁷thirty-sixth year of *the* reign of Asa, Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah, and built Ramah, that he might not suffer anyone to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. 2 Then Asa brought out silver and gold out of *the* treasures of *the* house of Jehovah and of the king's house, and sent to Ben-hadad king of Syria, that dwelt at ⁹⁸Damascus, saying,

⁹⁴ *Or*, and

⁹⁵ *Or*, queen,

⁹⁶ *Or*, for Asherah;

⁹⁷ In 1Ki 15:33, 16:10, *Baasha's* reign appears to be a decade shorter. [ל' = 36, כו = 26]

⁹⁸ *Hb.* Darmesek

3 ⁹⁹*There is* a league between me and thee, as *there was* between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent thee silver and gold; go, break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me. 4 And Ben-hadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against *the* cities of Israel; and they smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abel-maim, and all *the* ¹⁰⁰store-cities of Naphtali. 5 And it came to pass, when Baasha heard *thereof*, that he left off building Ramah, and let his work cease. 6 Then Asa the king took all Judah; and they carried away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha had builded; and he built therewith Geba and Mizpah.

7 And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on *the* king of Syria, and hast not relied on Jehovah thy God, therefore *is* *the* host of *the* king of Syria escaped out of thy hand. 8 Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubim a huge host, with chariots and horsemen exceeding many? yet, because thou didst rely on Jehovah, he delivered them into thy hand. 9 For *the* eyes of Jehovah run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in *the* behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly; for from henceforth thou shalt have wars. 10 Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in ¹⁰¹the prison-house; for *he was* in a rage with him because of this *thing*. And Asa oppressed *some* of the people at the same time.

11 And, behold, *the* acts of Asa, first and last, lo, they *are* written in *the* book of the kings of Judah and Israel. 12 And in *the* thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was diseased in his feet; his disease *was* exceeding *great*: yet in his disease he sought not to Jehovah, but to the physicians. 13 And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in *the* forty-first year of his reign. 14 And they buried him in his own sepulchres, which he had hewn out for himself in *the* city of David, and laid him in the bed which was filled with sweet odors and divers kinds of *spices* prepared by *the* perfumers' art: and they made a very great burning for him.

17 And Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead, and strengthened himself against Israel. 2 And he placed forces in all the fortified cities of Judah, and set garrisons in *the* land of Judah, and in *the* cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken. 3 And Jehovah was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto the Baalim, 4 but sought to *the* God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after *the* doings of Israel. 5 Therefore Jehovah established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat

⁹⁹ *Or*, *Let there be* a league

¹⁰⁰ *Hb.* store-houses of *the* cities of Naphtali.

¹⁰¹ *Hb.* house of the stocks;

tribute; and he had riches and honor in abundance. 6 And his heart was lifted up in *the* ways of Jehovah: and furthermore he took away the high places and the Asherahs out of Judah.

7 Also in *the* third year of his reign he sent his princes, *even* Ben-hail, and Obadiah, and Zechariah, and Nethanel, and Micaiah, to teach in *the* cities of Judah; 8 and with them the Levites, *even* Shemaiah, and Nethaniah, and Zebadiah, and Asahel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehonathan, and Adonijah, and Tobijah, and Tob-adonijah, the Levites: and with them Elishama and Jehoram, the priests. 9 And they taught in Judah, *having the* book of the law of Jehovah with them; and they went about throughout all *the* cities of Judah, and taught among the people.

10 And ¹⁰²*the* fear of Jehovah fell upon all *the* kingdoms of the lands that *were* round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat. 11 And *some of the* Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents, and silver for tribute; the Arabians also brought him flocks, seven thousand seven hundred rams, and seven thousand seven hundred he-goats. 12 And Jehoshaphat waxed great exceedingly; and he built in Judah castles and cities of store. 13 And he had many works in *the* cities of Judah; and men of war, mighty men of valor, in Jerusalem. 14 And this *was the* numbering of them according to their fathers' houses: Of Judah, *the* captains of thousands: Adnah the captain, and with him mighty men of valor three hundred thousand; 15 and next to him Jehohanan the captain, and with him two hundred eighty thousand; 16 and next to him Amasiah *the* son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself unto Jehovah; and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valor. 17 And of Benjamin: Eliada a mighty man of valor, and with him two hundred thousand armed with bow and shield; 18 and next to him Jehozabad, and with him a hundred eighty thousand ready prepared for war. 19 These were they that waited on the king, besides *those* whom the king put in the fortified cities throughout all Judah.

18 Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance; and he joined affinity with Ahab. 2 And after *certain* years he went down to Ahab to Samaria. And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance, and for the people that *were* with him, and moved him to go up *with him* to Ramoth-gilead. 3 And Ahab king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Wilt thou go with me to Ramoth-gilead? And he answered him, I *am* as thou *art*, and my people as thy people; and *we will be* with thee in the war.

4 And Jehoshaphat said unto *the* king of Israel, Inquire ¹⁰³first, I pray thee, for the word of Jehovah. 5 Then *the* king of Israel gathered the prophets

¹⁰² *Or*, a terror from Jehovah

¹⁰³ *Hb.* as the day *or*, today

together, four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for God will deliver *it* into *the* hand of the king. 6 But Jehoshaphat said, *Is there* not here a prophet of Jehovah besides, that we may inquire of him? 7 And *the* king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, *There is* yet one man by whom we may inquire of Jehovah: but I hate him: for he never prophesieth good concerning me, but all his days evil: *the same is* Micaiah *the* son of Imla. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so. 8 Then *the* king of Israel called an ¹⁰⁴officer, and said, Fetch quickly Micaiah *the* son of Imla. 9 Now *the* king of Israel and Jehoshaphat *the* king of Judah sat each on his throne, arrayed in *their* robes, and they were sitting in ¹⁰⁵an open place at *the* entrance of *the* gate of Samaria; and all the prophets were prophesying before them. 10 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. 11 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.

12 And the messenger that went to call Micaiah spake to him, saying, Behold, *the* words of the prophets *declare* good to the king with one mouth: let thy word therefore, I pray thee, be like one of theirs, and speak thou good. 13 And Micaiah said, As Jehovah liveth, what my God saith, that will I speak. 14 And when he was come to the king, the king said unto him, ¹⁰⁶Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And he said, Go ye up, and prosper; and they shall be delivered into your hand. 15 And the king said to him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou speak unto me nothing but *the* truth in *the* name of Jehovah? 16 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. 17 And *the* king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee *that* he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil? 18 And *Micaiah* said, Therefore hear ye *the* word of Jehovah: I saw Jehovah sitting upon his throne, and all the host of heaven standing on his right hand and *on* his left. 19 And Jehovah said, Who shall ¹⁰⁷entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one spake saying after this manner, and another saying after that manner. 20 And there came forth ¹⁰⁸a spirit, and stood before Jehovah, and said, I will entice him. And Jehovah said unto

¹⁰⁴ *Or*, eunuch

¹⁰⁵ *Hb.* a threshing-floor at *the* entrance *etc.*

¹⁰⁶ *Hb.* Micah

¹⁰⁷ *Or*, deceive *And in* vs. 21.

¹⁰⁸ *Hb.* the spirit,

him, Wherewith? 21 And he said, I will go forth, and will be a lying spirit in *the* mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt entice *him*, and shalt prevail also: go forth, and do so. 22 Now therefore, behold, Jehovah hath put a lying spirit in *the* mouth of these thy prophets; and Jehovah hath spoken evil concerning thee.

23 Then Zedekiah *the* son of Chenaanah came near, and smote Micaiah upon the cheek, and said, Which way went *the* Spirit of Jehovah from me to speak unto thee? 24 And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see on that day, when thou shalt go ¹⁰⁹into an inner chamber to hide thyself. 25 And *the* king of Israel said, Take ye Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon *the* governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; 26 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 return in peace. 27 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.

28 So *the* king of Israel and Jehoshaphat *the* king of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead. 29 And *the* king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and go into the battle; but put thou on thy robes. So *the* king of Israel disguised himself; and they went into the battle. 30 Now *the* king of Syria had commanded the captains of his chariots, saying, Fight neither with small nor great, save only with the king of Israel. 31 And it came to pass, when *the* captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, It is *the* king of Israel. Therefore they turned about to fight against him: but Jehoshaphat cried out, and Jehovah helped him; and God moved them *to depart* from him. 32 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. 33 And a *certain* man drew his bow ¹¹⁰at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between ¹¹¹the joints of the armor: wherefore he said to the driver of *the* chariot, Turn thy hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am sore wounded. 34 And the battle increased that day: howbeit *the* king of Israel stayed *himself* up in *his* chariot against *the* Syrians until the even; and about *the* time of *the* going down of the sun he died.

19 And Jehoshaphat *the* king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem. 2 And Jehu *the* son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the wicked, and love them that hate Jehovah? for this thing wrath *is* upon thee from before Jehovah. 3 Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast put away

¹⁰⁹ *Or*, from chamber to chamber to hide thyself.

¹¹⁰ *Hb.* in his simplicity,

¹¹¹ *Or*, the lower armor and the breastplate:

the Asherahs out of the land, and hast set thy heart to seek God.

4 And Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem: and he went out again among the people from Beer-sheba to *the* hill-country of Ephraim, and brought them back unto Jehovah, *the* God of their fathers. 5 And he set judges in the land throughout all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city, 6 and said to the judges, Consider what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for Jehovah; and *he is* with you ¹¹²in *the* judgment. 7 Now therefore let *the* fear of Jehovah be upon you; take heed and do *it*: for *there is* no iniquity with Jehovah our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of bribes.

8 Moreover in Jerusalem did Jehoshaphat set of the Levites and the priests, and of *the* heads of the fathers' houses of Israel, for *the* judgment of Jehovah, and for controversies. And they returned to Jerusalem. 9 And he charged them, saying, Thus shall ye do in *the* fear of Jehovah, faithfully, and with a perfect heart. 10 And whensoever any controversy shall come to you from your brethren that dwell in their cities, between blood and blood, between law and commandment, statutes and ordinances, ye shall warn them, that they be not guilty towards Jehovah, and *so* wrath come upon you and upon your brethren: this do, and ye shall not be guilty. 11 And, behold, Amariah the chief priest *is* over you in all matters of Jehovah; and Zebadiah *the* son of Ishmael, the ruler of *the* house of Judah, in all the king's matters: also the Levites *shall be* officers before you. ¹¹³Deal courageously, and Jehovah be with the good.

20 And it came to pass after this, *that the* children of Moab, and *the* children of Ammon, and with them *some* of the ¹¹⁴Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. 2 Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea from Syria; and, behold, they *are* in Hazazon-tamar (*the same is* Engedi). 3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek unto Jehovah; and he proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. 4 And Judah gathered themselves together, to seek *help* of Jehovah: even out of all *the* cities of Judah they came to seek Jehovah.

5 And Jehoshaphat stood in *the* assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in *the* house of Jehovah, before the new court; 6 and he said, O Jehovah, *the* God of our fathers, *art* not thou God in heaven? and art *not* thou ruler over all *the* kingdoms of the nations? and in thy hand *is* power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee. 7 Didst not thou, O our God, drive out

¹¹² *Or*, in giving judgment. *Hb.* in *the* matter of judgment.

¹¹³ *Hb.* Be strong and do,

¹¹⁴ *Possibly an error for* Meunim, *See* ch. 26:7. *Sept. reads* Minaeans, *Targ. reads* Edomites,

the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and give it to *the* seed of Abraham thy friend ¹¹⁵for ever? 8 And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying, 9 If evil come upon us, ¹¹⁶*the* sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house, and before thee, (for thy name *is* in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, and thou wilt hear and save. 10 And now, behold, *the* children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade, when they came out of *the* land of Egypt, but they turned aside from them, and destroyed them not; 11 behold, *how* they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit. 12 O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company *that* cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes *are* upon thee. 13 And all Judah stood before Jehovah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

14 Then upon Jahaziel *the* son of Zechariah, *the* son of Benaiah, *the* son of Jeiel, *the* son of Mattaniah, the Levite, of *the* sons of Asaph, came *the* Spirit of Jehovah in *the* midst of the assembly; 15 and he said, Harken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and *thou* king Jehoshaphat: Thus saith Jehovah unto you, Fear not ye, neither be dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. 16 Tomorrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the ascent of Ziz; and ye shall find them at *the* end of the valley, before *the* wilderness of Jeruel. 17 Ye shall not *need* to fight in this *battle*: set yourselves, stand ye *still*, and see the salvation of Jehovah with you, O Judah and Jerusalem; fear not, nor be dismayed: tomorrow go out against them; for Jehovah *is* with you. 18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with *his* face to *the* ground; and all Judah and *the* inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before Jehovah, worshipping Jehovah. 19 And the Levites, of *the* children of the Kohathites, and of *the* children of the Korahites, stood up to praise Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, with an exceeding loud voice.

20 And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into *the* wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem: believe in Jehovah your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. 21 And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed them that should sing unto Jehovah, and give praise ¹¹⁷in holy apparel, as they went out before the army, and say, Give thanks unto Jehovah; for his lovingkindness *endureth* for ever. 22 And when they began to sing and to praise, Jehovah

set liers-in-wait against *the* children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, *that* were come against Judah; and they were smitten. 23 For *the* children of Ammon and Moab stood up against *the* inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy *them*: and when they had made an end of *the* inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

24 And when Judah came to the watch-tower of the wilderness, they looked upon the multitude; and, behold, they *were* dead bodies fallen to *the* earth, and there were none that escaped. 25 And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches and ¹¹⁸dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in taking the spoil, it was so much. 26 And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in *the* valley of ¹¹⁹Beracah; for there they blessed Jehovah: therefore the name of that place was called *The* valley of Beracah unto *this* day. 27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in *the* forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for Jehovah had made them to rejoice over their enemies. 28 And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto *the* house of Jehovah. 29 And *the* fear of God was on all *the* kingdoms of the countries, when they heard that Jehovah fought against *the* enemies of Israel. 30 So *the* realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet; for his God gave him rest round about.

31 And Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah: *he* 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. 32 And he walked in *the* way of Asa his father, and turned not aside from it, doing *that which* was right in *the* eyes of Jehovah. 33 Howbeit the high places were not taken away; neither as yet had the people set their hearts unto *the* God of their fathers. 34 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Jehoshaphat, first and last, behold, they *are* written in *the* ¹²⁰history of Jehu *the* son of Hanani, ¹²¹which *is* inserted in *the* book of *the* kings of Israel.

35 And after this did Jehoshaphat king of Judah join himself with Ahaziah king of Israel; *the* same did very wickedly: 36 and he joined himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish; and they made *the* ships in Ezion-geber. 37 Then Eliezer *the* son of Dodavahu of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, Because thou hast joined thyself with Ahaziah, Jehovah hath ¹²²destroyed thy works. And *the* ships

¹¹⁵ *Or*, for time unlimited, [*i.e.*, without fixed termination]

¹¹⁶ *Or*, *the* sword of judgment,

¹¹⁷ *Or*, in *the* beauty of holiness,

¹¹⁸ *A few* Hb. mss., *Vg.* *read* garments,

¹¹⁹ *That is*, Blessing

¹²⁰ *Hb.* words

¹²¹ *Or*, who *is* mentioned in *etc.* See 1Ki 16:1, 7.

¹²² *Or*, made a breach in thy works.

were broken, so that they were not able to go to Tarshish.

21 And Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in *the* city of David: and Jehoram his son reigned in his stead. **2** And he had brethren, *the* sons of Jehoshaphat: Azariah, and Jehiel, and Zechariah, and Azariah, and Michael, and Shephatiah; all these *were the* sons of Jehoshaphat king ¹²³of Israel. **3** And their father gave them great gifts, of silver, and of gold, and of precious things, with fortified cities in Judah: but the kingdom gave he to Jehoram, because he *was* the firstborn. **4** Now when Jehoram was risen up over *the* kingdom of his father, and had strengthened himself, he slew all his brethren with the sword, and *divers* also of *the* princes of Israel. **5** Jehoram *was* thirty-two years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. **6** And he walked in *the* way of *the* kings of Israel, as did *the* house of Ahab; for he had *the* daughter of Ahab to wife: and he did that *which* was evil in *the* sight of Jehovah. **7** Howbeit Jehovah would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that he had made with David, and as he promised to give a lamp to him and to his children all *their* days.

8 In his days Edom revolted from under *the* hand of Judah, and made a king over themselves. **9** Then Jehoram passed over with his captains, and all *his* chariots with him: and he rose up by night, and smote the Edomites that compassed him about, and the captains of the chariots. **10** So Edom revolted from under *the* hand of Judah unto this day: then did Libnah revolt at the same time from under his hand, because he had forsaken Jehovah, *the* God of his fathers.

11 Moreover he made high places in *the* ¹²⁴mountains of Judah, and made the inhabitants of Jerusalem to play *the* harlot, and ¹²⁵led Judah astray. **12** And there came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus saith Jehovah, *the* God of David thy father, Because thou hast not walked in *the* ways of Jehoshaphat thy father, nor in *the* ways of Asa king of Judah, **13** but hast walked in *the* way of *the* kings of Israel, and hast made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to play *the* harlot, like as *the* house of Ahab ¹²⁶did, and also hast slain thy brethren of thy father's house, *that were* better than thyself: **14** behold, Jehovah will smite with a great ¹²⁷plague thy people, and thy children, and thy wives, and all thy substance; **15** and thou *shalt have* great sickness by disease of thy bowels, until thy bowels fall out by reason of the sickness, ¹²⁸day by day.

¹²³ Severin, versions *read* of Judah.

¹²⁴ Sept., Vg. *read* cities Cf. Ez 16:24, 25.

¹²⁵ Or, compelled Judah *thereto*.

¹²⁶ Hb. made to play harlots,

¹²⁷ Hb. stroke

¹²⁸ Or, year after year.

16 And Jehovah stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines, and of the Arabians that *are* beside *the* Ethiopians: **17** and they came up against Judah, and brake into it, and carried away all the substance that was found ¹²⁹in the king's house, and his sons also, and his wives; so that there was never a son left him, save ¹³⁰Jehoahaz, *the* youngest of his sons.

18 And after all this Jehovah smote him in his bowels with an incurable disease. **19** And it came to pass, in process of time, at the end of two years, that his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness, and he died of sore diseases. And his people made no burning for him, like *the* burning of his fathers. **20** Thirty-two years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years: and he departed without being desired; and they buried him in *the* city of David, but not in *the* sepulchres of the kings.

22 And *the* inhabitants of Jerusalem made ¹³¹Ahaziah his youngest son king in his stead; for the band of men that came with the Arabians to the camp had slain all the eldest. So Ahaziah *the* son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned. **2** ¹³²Forty-two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem: and his mother's name was Athaliah *the* ¹³³granddaughter of Omri. **3** He also walked in *the* ways of *the* house of Ahab; for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly. **4** And he did that *which* was evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, as did *the* house of Ahab; for they were his counsellors after *the* death of his father, to his destruction. **5** He walked also after their counsel, and went with Jehoram *the* son of Ahab king of Israel to war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramoth-gilead: and the Syrians wounded Joram. **6** And he returned to be healed in Jezreel ¹³⁴because of the wounds which they had given him at Ramah, when he fought against Hazael king of Syria. And ¹³⁵Azariah *the* son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Jehoram *the* son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was sick.

7 Now *the* ¹³⁶destruction of Ahaziah was of God, *in* that he went unto Joram: for when he was come, he went out with Jehoram against Jehu *the* son of Nimshi, whom Jehovah had anointed to cut off the house of Ahab. **8** And it came to pass, when Jehu was executing judgment upon *the* house of Ahab, that he found the

¹²⁹ Or, belonging to the king's house,

¹³⁰ In ch. 22:1, Ahaziah

¹³¹ In ch. 21:17, Jehoahaz

¹³² In 2Ki 8:26, Twenty-two [42 would make him two years older than his father! [22 = ככ ,24 = כמ

¹³³ Hb. daughter of Omri.

¹³⁴ In 2Ki 8:29, of the wounds

¹³⁵ In vs. 1, Ahaziah as Sept., Aram., Vg.

In ch. 21:17, Jehoahaz

¹³⁶ Hb. treading down of Ahaziah

princes of Judah, and *the* sons of *the* brethren of Ahaziah, ministering to Ahaziah, and slew them. 9 And he sought Ahaziah, and they caught him, (now he was hiding in Samaria,) and they brought him to Jehu, and slew him; and they buried him, for they said, He *is the* ¹³⁷grandson of Jehoshaphat, who sought Jehovah with all his heart. ¹³⁸And *the* house of Ahaziah had no power to hold *the* kingdom.

10 Now when Athaliah *the* mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and ¹³⁹destroyed all the seed royal of *the* house of Judah. 11 But ¹⁴⁰Jehoshabeath, *the* daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons that *were* slain, and put him and his nurse in ¹⁴¹the bedchamber. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of king Jehoram, *the* wife of Jehoiada the priest, (for she was *the* sister of Ahaziah,) hid him from Athaliah, so that she slew him not. 12 And he was with them hid in the house of God six years: and Athaliah reigned over the land.

23 And in the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and took the captains of hundreds, Azariah *the* son of Jehoram, and Ishmael *the* son of Jehohanan, and Azariah *the* son of Obed, and Maaseiah *the* son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat *the* son of Zichri, into covenant with him. 2 And they went about in Judah, and gathered the Levites out of all *the* cities of Judah, and *the* heads of the fathers' *houses* of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem. 3 And all the assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And he said unto them, Behold, the king's son shall reign, as Jehovah hath spoken concerning *the* sons of David. 4 This *is* the thing that ye shall do: a third part of you, that come in on the sabbath, of the priests and of the Levites, *shall be* porters of the thresholds; 5 and a third part *shall be* at the king's house; and a third part at *the* gate of the foundation: and all the people *shall be* in *the* courts of *the* house of Jehovah. 6 But let none come into *the* house of Jehovah, save the priests, and they *that* minister of the Levites; they shall come in, for they *are* holy: but all the people shall keep *the* charge of Jehovah. 7 And the Levites shall compass the king round about, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whosoever cometh into the house, let him be slain: and be ye with the king when he cometh in, and when he goeth out.

¹³⁷ *Hb.* son of Jehoshaphat,

¹³⁸ *Or,* And there was none of *the* house of Ahaziah that had power to hold *the* kingdom.

¹³⁹ *So a few Hb. mss., all versions. Hb.* spake death to *If Jehoram's other sons were from other wives, Athaliah likely had a Kill-or-be-killed mentality.*

¹⁴⁰ *In 2Ki 11:2, Jehosheba*

¹⁴¹ *Or,* *the* chamber for the beds.

8 So the Levites and all Judah did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded: and they took every man his men, those that were to come in on the sabbath, with those that were to go *out* on the sabbath; for Jehoiada the priest dismissed not the courses. 9 And Jehoiada the priest delivered to *the* captains of hundreds the spears, and bucklers, and shields, that *had been* king David's, which *were* in the house of God. 10 And he set all the people, every man with his weapon in his hand, from the right ¹⁴²side of the house to the left side of the house, along by the altar and the house, by the king round about. 11 Then they brought out the king's son, and ¹⁴³put the crown upon him, and *gave him* the testimony, and made him king: and Jehoiada and his sons anointed him; and they said, *Long* live the king.

12 And when Athaliah heard the noise ¹⁴⁴of the people running and praising the king, she came to the people *into the* house of Jehovah: 13 and she looked, and, behold, the king stood by his pillar at the entrance, and the captains and the trumpets by the king; and all *the* people of the land rejoiced, and blew trumpets; the singers also *played* on the instruments of music, and led *the* singing of praise. Then Athaliah rent her clothes, and said, Treason! treason! 14 And Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of hundreds that were set over the host, and said unto them, Have her forth between the ranks; and whoso followeth her, let him be slain with the sword: for the priest said, Slay her not in *the* house of Jehovah. 15 So they laid hands on her; and she went to *the* entrance of the horse gate to the king's house: and they slew her there.

16 And Jehoiada made a covenant between himself, and all the people, and the king, that they should be Jehovah's people. 17 And all the people went to the house of Baal, and brake it down, and brake his altars and his images in pieces, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. 18 And Jehoiada appointed the ¹⁴⁵officers of *the* house of Jehovah under *the* hand of the priests the Levites, whom David had distributed in *the* house of Jehovah, to offer *the* burnt-offerings of Jehovah, as *it is* written in *the* law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, ¹⁴⁶according to *the* order of David. 19 And he set the porters at *the* gates of *the* house of Jehovah, that none *that was* unclean in anything should enter in. 20 And he took the captains of hundreds, and the nobles, and the governors of the people, and all the people of the land, and brought down the king from *the* house of Jehovah: and they

¹⁴² *Hb.* shoulder (*both times*)

¹⁴³ *Or,* put upon him the crown and the testimony,

¹⁴⁴ *Or,* of the people, of the guard, and of those who praised the king,

¹⁴⁵ *Hb.* offices

¹⁴⁶ *Hb.* by *the* hands of David.

came through the upper gate unto the king's house, and set the king upon *the* throne of the kingdom. 21 So all *the* people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet. And Athaliah they had slain with the sword.

24 Joash *was* seven years old when he began to reign; and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name *was* Zibiah, of Beer-sheba. 2 And Joash did *that which was* right in *the* eyes of Jehovah all *the* days of Jehoiada the priest. 3 And Jehoiada took for him two wives; and he begat sons and daughters.

4 And it came to pass after this, *that* Joash was minded to restore the house of Jehovah. 5 And he gathered together the priests and the Levites, and said to them, Go out unto *the* cities of Judah, and gather of all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year; and see that ye hasten the matter. Howbeit the Levites hastened it not. 6 And the king called for Jehoiada the chief, and said unto him, Why hast thou not required of the Levites to bring in out of Judah and out of Jerusalem the tax of Moses *the* servant of Jehovah, and of the assembly ¹⁴⁷of Israel, for *the* tent of the testimony? 7 For *the* sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God; and also all *the* holy things of *the* house of Jehovah did they bestow upon the Baalim.

8 So the king commanded, and they made a chest, and set it without at *the* gate of *the* house of Jehovah. 9 And they made a proclamation through Judah and Jerusalem, to bring in for Jehovah *the* tax *that* Moses the servant of God *laid* upon Israel in the wilderness. 10 And all the princes and all the people rejoiced, and brought in, and cast into the chest, until they had made *it* full. 11 And it was so, that, at what time the chest was brought unto the king's officers by *the* hand of the Levites, and when they saw that *there was* much money, the king's scribe and the chief priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it, and carried it to its place again. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance. 12 And the king and Jehoiada gave it to such as did *the* work of *the* service of *the* house of Jehovah; and they hired masons and carpenters to restore *the* house of Jehovah, and also such as wrought iron and copper to repair the house of Jehovah. 13 So the workmen wrought, and ¹⁴⁸the work of repairing went forward in their hands, and they set up the house of God ¹⁴⁹in its state, and strengthened it. 14 And when they had made an end, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada, whereof were made vessels for *the* house of Jehovah, *even* vessels *wherewith* to minister and ¹⁵⁰to offer, and

¹⁴⁷ *Or*, for Israel,

¹⁴⁸ *Hb.* healing (*or*, a bandage) went up upon the work

¹⁴⁹ *Or*, according to *the* proportion thereof,

¹⁵⁰ *Or*, the pestles,

spoons, and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt-offerings in *the* house of Jehovah continually all *the* days of Jehoiada.

15 But Jehoiada waxed old and was full of days, and he died; a hundred thirty years old *was he* when he died. 16 And they buried him in *the* city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, and toward God and his house. 17 Now after *the* death of Jehoiada came *the* princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them. 18 And they forsook the house of Jehovah *the* God of their fathers, and served the Asherahs and the idols: and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their guiltiness. 19 Yet he sent prophets to them, to bring them again unto Jehovah; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear.

20 And *the* Spirit of God ¹⁵¹came upon Zechariah *the* son of Jehoiada the priest; and he stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of Jehovah, so that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken Jehovah, he hath also forsaken you. 21 And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at *the* commandment of the king in *the* court of *the* house of Jehovah. 22 Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, Jehovah look upon *it*, and require *it*.

23 And it came to pass at *the* ¹⁵²end of the year, *that* *the* army of *the* Syrians came up against him: and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the princes of the people from among *the* people, and sent all *the* spoil of them unto *the* king of Damascus. 24 For *the* army of *the* Syrians came with a small company of men; and Jehovah delivered a very great host into their hand, because they had forsaken Jehovah, *the* God of their fathers. So they executed ¹⁵³judgment upon Joash.

25 And when they were departed from him, (for they left him very sick,) his own servants conspired against him for *the* blood of *the* ¹⁵⁴sons of Jehoiada the priest, and slew him on his bed, and he died; and they buried him in *the* city of David, but they buried him not in *the* sepulchres of the kings. 26 And these are they that conspired against him: ¹⁵⁵Zabad *the* son of Shimeath the Ammonitess, and Jehozabad *the* son of Shimrith the Moabitess. 27 Now *concerning* his sons, and *the* greatness of the burdens ¹⁵⁶*laid* upon him, and *the*

¹⁵¹ *Hb.* clothed itself with Zechariah *etc.*

¹⁵² *Hb.* revolution of the year,

¹⁵³ *Hb.* judgments

¹⁵⁴ *Vg.*, *part of Sept. read* son

¹⁵⁵ *In* 2Ki 12:21, Jozacar ... Shomer

¹⁵⁶ *Or*, uttered against him,

¹⁵⁷rebuilding of the house of God, behold, they *are* written in *the* commentary of *the* book of the kings. And Amaziah his son reigned in his stead.

25 Amaziah *was* twenty-five years old *when* he began to reign; and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name *was* Jehoaddan, of Jerusalem. **2** And he did that *which was* right in *the* eyes of Jehovah, but not with a perfect heart. **3** Now it came to pass, when the kingdom was established unto him, that he slew his servants *that* had killed the king his father. **4** But he put not their children to death, but *did* according to that *which is* written in the law in *the* book of Moses, as Jehovah commanded, saying, *The fathers shall not die for the children, neither shall the children die for the fathers; but every man shall die for his own sin.*

5 Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together, and ordered them according to *their fathers'* houses, under captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, even all Judah and Benjamin: and he numbered them from twenty years old and upward, and found them three hundred thousand chosen *men, able* to go forth to war, that could handle spear and shield. **6** He hired also a hundred thousand mighty men of valor out of Israel for ¹⁵⁸a hundred talents of silver. **7** But there came a man of God to him, saying, O king, let not *the* army of Israel go with thee; for Jehovah *is* not with Israel, *to wit, with* all *the* children of Ephraim. **8** But ¹⁵⁹if thou wilt go, do *valiantly*, be strong for the battle: God will cast thee down before the enemy; for God hath power to help, and to cast down. **9** And Amaziah said to the man of God, But what shall we do for the hundred talents which I have given to *the* ¹⁶⁰army of Israel? And the man of God answered, Jehovah is able to give thee much more than this. **10** Then Amaziah separated them, *to wit,* the army that *was* come to him out of Ephraim, to go home again: wherefore their anger was greatly kindled against Judah, and they returned home in fierce anger. **11** And Amaziah took courage, and led forth his people, and went to the Valley of Salt, and smote of the children of Seir ten thousand. **12** And *other* ten thousand did *the* children of Judah carry away alive, and brought them unto *the* top of ¹⁶¹the rock, and cast them down from *the* top of the rock, so that they all were broken in pieces. **13** But ¹⁶²*the* men of the army whom Amaziah sent back, that they should not go with him to battle, fell upon *the* cities of Judah, from Samaria even unto Beth-horon, and smote of them three thousand, and took much spoil.

¹⁵⁷ *Hb.* founding

¹⁵⁸ *About* 3,480 kg of silver.

¹⁵⁹ *Or,* go thou,

¹⁶⁰ *Hb.* troop *And in* vs. 10.

¹⁶¹ *Or,* Sela (*both times*)

¹⁶² *Hb.* *the* sons of the troop whom Amaziah sent back,

14 Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah *was* come from *the* slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of *the* children of Seir, and set them up *to be* his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them. **15** Wherefore *the* anger of Jehovah was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, who said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people which have not delivered their own people out of thy hand? **16** And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that *the king* said unto him, Have we made thee of the king's counsel? forbear; why shouldest thou be smitten? Then the prophet forebare, and said, I know that God hath determined to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel.

17 Then Amaziah king of Judah took advice, and sent to Joash, *the* son of Jehoahaz *the* son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, Come, let us look one another in *the* face. **18** And Joash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, The ¹⁶³thistle that *was* in Lebanon sent to the cedar that *was* in Lebanon, saying, Give thy daughter to my son to wife: and there passed by *a* wild beast that *was* in Lebanon, and trod down the thistle. **19** Thou sayest, Lo, thou hast smitten Edom; and thy heart lifteth thee up to boast: abide now at home; why shouldest thou ¹⁶⁴meddle to *thy* hurt, that thou shouldest fall, *even* thou, and Judah with thee?

20 But Amaziah would not hear; for it *was* of God, that he might deliver them into *the* hand of *their* enemies, because they had sought after the gods of Edom. **21** So Joash king of Israel went up; and he and Amaziah king of Judah looked one another in *the* face at Beth-shemesh, which *belongeth* to Judah. **22** And Judah was put to *the* worse before Israel; and they fled *every* man to his tent. **23** And Joash king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, *the* son of Joash *the* son of Jehoahaz, at Beth-shemesh, and brought him to Jerusalem, and brake down *the* wall of Jerusalem from *the* gate of Ephraim unto ¹⁶⁵the corner gate, ¹⁶⁶four hundred cubits. **24** And *he took* all the gold and silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of God with Obed-edom, and the treasures of the king's house, the hostages also, and returned to Samaria.

25 And Amaziah *the* son of Joash king of Judah lived after *the* death of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel fifteen years. **26** Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Amaziah, first and last, behold, *are* they not written in *the* book of *the* kings of Judah and Israel? **27** Now from *the* time that Amaziah did turn away from following Jehovah they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem; and he fled to Lachish: but they sent after

¹⁶³ *Or,* thorn (*both times*)

¹⁶⁴ *Or,* provoke calamity to *thy* hurt,

¹⁶⁵ *So in* 2Ki 14:13. *Hb*^{txt} *reads* the gate that looketh,

¹⁶⁶ *About* 0.178 km (583 feet).

him to Lachish, and slew him there. 28 And they brought him upon horses, and buried him with his fathers in ¹⁶⁷the city of Judah.

26 And all *the* people of Judah took ¹⁶⁸Uzziah, who *was* sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah. 2 He built Eloth, and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers. 3 Sixteen years old *was* Uzziah when he began to reign; and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name *was* Jechiliah, of Jerusalem. 4 And he did *that which was* right in *the* eyes of Jehovah, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. 5 And he set himself to seek God in *the* days of Zechariah, who ¹⁶⁹had understanding in ¹⁷⁰the vision of God: and as long as he sought Jehovah, God made him to prosper.

6 And he went forth and warred against the Philistines, and brake down the wall of Gath, and the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod; and he built cities in *the country of* Ashdod, and among the Philistines. 7 And God helped him against *the* Philistines, and against the Arabians *that dwelt* in Gurbal, and the Meunim. 8 And the Ammonites gave tribute to Uzziah: and his name spread abroad *even to* the entrance of Egypt; for he waxed exceeding strong. 9 Moreover Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the corner gate, and at the valley gate, and at the turning of *the wall*, and fortified them. 10 And he built towers in the wilderness, and hewed out many cisterns, for he had much cattle; in the lowland also, and in the ¹⁷¹plain: *and he had* husbandmen and vinedressers in the mountains and in ¹⁷²the fruitful fields; for he loved husbandry. 11 Moreover Uzziah had a force of fighting men, that went out to war by bands, according to *the* number of their reckoning made by Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the officer, under *the* hand of Hananiah, *one* of the king's captains. 12 *The* whole number of the heads of fathers' *houses*, *even the* mighty men of valor, *was* two thousand six hundred. 13 And under their hand *was* an armed force, three hundred seven thousand five hundred, that made war with powerful force, to help the king against the enemy. 14 And Uzziah prepared for them, even for all the host, shields, and spears, and helmets, and coats of mail, and bows, and stones for slinging. 15 And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by skilful men, to be on the towers and upon the ¹⁷³battlements, wherewith to

¹⁶⁷ In 2Ki 14:20, *the* city of David. *as* Sept., Aram., Vg.

¹⁶⁸ In 2Ki 14:21, Azariah

¹⁶⁹ Or, gave the instruction in

¹⁷⁰ Hb. the seeing of God: Sept., Aram. *read the* fear of God:

¹⁷¹ Or, table-land:

¹⁷² Or, Carmel; See 1Sa 25:2.

¹⁷³ Or, corner towers,

shoot arrows and great stones. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong.

16 But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up, ¹⁷⁴so that *he did* corruptly, and he trespassed against Jehovah his God; for he went into *the* temple of Jehovah to burn incense upon the altar of incense. 17 And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him eighty priests of Jehovah, *that were* valiant men: 18 and they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, *It pertaineth* not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto Jehovah, but to the priests *the* sons of Aaron, *that are* sanctified to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither *shall it be* for thine honor from Jehovah God. 19 Then Uzziah was wroth; and *he had* a censer in his hand to burn incense; and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy ¹⁷⁵brake forth in his forehead before the priests in *the* house of Jehovah, beside the altar of incense. 20 And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he *was* leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out quickly from thence; yes, himself hasted also to go out, because Jehovah had smitten him. 21 And Uzziah the king *was* a leper unto *the* day of his death, and dwelt in ¹⁷⁶a separate house, *being* a leper; for he was cut off from *the* house of Jehovah: and Jotham his son *was* over the king's house, judging the people of the land. 22 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Uzziah, first and last, did Isaiah the prophet, *the* son of Amoz, write. 23 So Uzziah slept with his fathers; and they buried him with his fathers in the field of burial which *belonged* to the kings; for they said, *He is* a leper: and Jotham his son reigned in his stead.

27 Jotham *was* twenty-five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name *was* Jerushah *the* daughter of Zadok. 2 And he did *that which was* right in *the* eyes of Jehovah, according to all that his father Uzziah had done: howbeit he entered not into *the* temple of Jehovah. And the people did yet corruptly. 3 He built the upper gate of *the* house of Jehovah, and on the wall of Ophel he built much. 4 Moreover he built cities in *the* hill-country of Judah, and in the forests he built castles and towers. 5 He fought also with *the* king of *the* children of Ammon, and prevailed against them. And *the* children of Ammon gave him the same year a ¹⁷⁷hundred talents of silver, and ¹⁷⁸ten thousand measures of wheat, and ten thousand of barley.

¹⁷⁴ Or, to his destruction,

¹⁷⁵ Hb. rose (*as the* sun)

¹⁷⁶ Or, the infirmary,

¹⁷⁷ About 3,480 kg

¹⁷⁸ Hb. cors [1 cor ≈ 220 litre, or 6¼ bushel] (*both times*) So 2,200 m³ each, of wheat and barley.

So much did *the* children of Ammon render unto him, in the second year also, and in the third. 6 So Jotham became mighty, because he ordered his ways before Jehovah his God. 7 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Jotham, and all his wars, and his ways, behold, they *are* written in *the* book of *the* kings of Israel and Judah. 8 He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. 9 And Jotham slept with his fathers, and they buried him in *the* city of David: and Ahaz his son reigned in his stead.

28 Ahaz *was* twenty years old when he began to reign; and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem: and he did not *that which was* right in *the* eyes of Jehovah, like David his father; 2 but he walked in *the* ways of *the* kings of Israel, and made also molten images for the Baalim. 3 Moreover he burnt incense in *the* valley of *the* son of Hinnom, and burnt his children in the fire, according to *the* abominations of the nations whom Jehovah cast out before *the* children of Israel. 4 And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.

5 Wherefore Jehovah his God delivered him into *the* hand of *the* king of Syria; and they smote him, and carried away of his a great multitude of captives, and brought *them* to Damascus. And he was also delivered into *the* hand of the king of Israel, who smote him with a great slaughter. 6 For Pekah *the* son of Remaliah slew in Judah a hundred twenty thousand in one day, all of *them* ¹⁷⁹valiant men; because they had forsaken Jehovah, *the* God of their fathers. 7 And Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, slew Maaseiah the king's son, and Azrikam *the* ruler of the house, and Elkanah *that was* ¹⁸⁰next to the king.

8 And *the* children of Israel carried away captive of their brethren two hundred thousand, women, sons, and daughters, and took also away much spoil from them, and brought the spoil to Samaria. 9 But a prophet of Jehovah was there, whose name *was* Oded: and he went out to meet the host *that* came to Samaria, and said unto them, Behold, because Jehovah, *the* God of your fathers, was wroth with Judah, he hath delivered them into your hand, and ye have slain them in a rage *which* hath reached up unto heaven. 10 And now ye purpose to keep under *the* children of Judah and Jerusalem for bondmen and bondwomen unto you: *but are there* not even with you ¹⁸¹trespasses of your own against Jehovah your God? 11 Now hear me therefore, and send back the captives, that ye have taken captive of your brethren; for *the* fierce wrath of Jehovah *is* upon you. 12 Then certain of *the* heads of *the* children of Ephraim, Azariah *the* son of Johanan, Berechiah *the*

son of Meshillemoth, and Jehizkiah *the* son of Shallum, and Amasa *the* son of Hadlai, stood up against them *that* came from the war, 13 and said unto them, Ye shall not bring in the captives hither: for ye purpose *that which will bring* upon us a ¹⁸²trespass against Jehovah, to add unto our sins and to our trespass; for our trespass *is* great, and *there is* fierce wrath against Israel. 14 So the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the princes and all the assembly. 15 And the men that have been mentioned by name rose up, and took the captives, and with the spoil clothed all that were naked among them, and arrayed them, and shod them, and gave them to eat and to drink, and anointed them, and carried all *the* feeble of them upon asses, and brought them to Jericho, the city of palm-trees, unto their brethren: then they returned to Samaria.

16 At that time did king Ahaz send unto *the* ¹⁸³kings of Assyria to help him. 17 For again *the* Edomites had come and smitten Judah, and carried away ¹⁸⁴captives. 18 *The* Philistines also had invaded *the* cities of the lowland, and of the South of Judah, and had taken Beth-shemesh, and Aijalon, and Gederoth, and Soco with *the* ¹⁸⁵towns thereof, and Timnah with *the* towns thereof, Gimzo also and the towns thereof: and they dwelt there. 19 For Jehovah brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of ¹⁸⁶Israel; for he had ¹⁸⁷dealt wantonly in Judah, and trespassed sore against Jehovah. 20 And Tilgath-pilneser king of Assyria came ¹⁸⁸unto him, and distressed him, but ¹⁸⁹strengthened him not. 21 For Ahaz took away a portion *out* of the house of Jehovah, and *out* of the house of the king and of the princes, and gave it unto *the* king of Assyria: but it helped him not.

¹⁸² Or, guilt (all three times)

¹⁸³ Ahaz overlapped the reigns of Tiglath-pileser III by 4 years, then (with Hezekiah as co-regent) Shalmaneser V by 5 years (entire reign), and Sargon by 7 years. Sept., Aram., Vg. read king

¹⁸⁴ Hb. a captivity.

¹⁸⁵ Hb. daughters (all three times)

¹⁸⁶ Severin, several mss. almost alone read Judah;

¹⁸⁷ Or, cast away restraint in Judah,

¹⁸⁸ Or, against

¹⁸⁹ Or, prevailed not against him. Tiglath-pileser III claims tribute from "Sibitti-be'l of Byblos, Enil of Hamath,... [Ma]tan-be'l of Arvad, Sanipu of the house of Ammon, Salamanu of Moab,...Mitinti of Ashkelon, Jehoahaz of Judah, Kaush-malaku of Edom,... Hanno of Gaza consisting of gold, silver, tin, iron, antimony, linen garments with multicolored trimmings, garments of their native industries being made of dark purple wool...all kinds of costly objects be they products of the sea or of the continent, the choice products of their regions, the treasures of their kings, horses, mules trained for the yoke..." ANE-I, p. 193.

¹⁷⁹ Lit. sons of valor; That is, men schooled in military tactics;

¹⁸⁰ Hb. second

¹⁸¹ Hb. guiltinesses

22 And in *the* time ¹⁹⁰of his distress did he trespass yet more against Jehovah, *this same* king Ahaz. 23 For he sacrificed unto *the* gods of ¹⁹¹Damascus, *that* smote him; and he said, Because *the* gods of *the* kings of Syria helped them, *therefore* will I sacrifice to them, that they may help me. But they were *the* ruin of him, and of all Israel. 24 And Ahaz gathered together the vessels of the house of God, and cut in pieces the vessels of the house of God, and shut up the doors of *the* house of Jehovah; and he made him altars in every corner of Jerusalem. 25 And in every city of Judah he made high places to burn incense unto other gods, and provoked to anger Jehovah, *the* God of his fathers. 26 Now *the* rest of his acts, and all his ways, first and last, behold, they *are* written in *the* book of *the* kings of Judah and Israel. 27 And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, *even* in Jerusalem; for they brought him not into *the* sepulchres of *the* kings of Israel: and Hezekiah his son reigned in his stead.

29 Hezekiah began to reign *when he was* twenty-five years old; and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name was ¹⁹²Abijah, *the* daughter of Zechariah. 2 And he did that *which was* right in *the* eyes of Jehovah, according to all that David his father had done. 3 He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of *the* house of Jehovah, and repaired them. 4 And he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them together into *the* broad place on the east, 5 and said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites; now sanctify yourselves, and sanctify the house of Jehovah, *the* God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of ¹⁹³*the* holy place. 6 For our fathers have trespassed, and done that *which was* evil in *the* sight of Jehovah our God, and have forsaken him, and have turned away their faces from the habitation of Jehovah, and turned *their* backs. 7 Also they have shut up *the* doors of the porch, and put out the lamps, and have not burned incense nor offered burnt-offerings in the holy place unto *the* God of Israel. 8 Wherefore *the* wrath of Jehovah was upon Judah and Jerusalem, and he hath delivered them to be ¹⁹⁴tossed to and fro, to be an astonishment, and a hissing, as ye see with your eyes. 9 For, lo, our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives *are* in captivity for this. 10 Now *it is* in my heart to make a covenant with Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, that his fierce anger may turn away from us. 11 My sons, be not now negligent; for Jehovah hath chosen you to

stand before him, to minister unto him, and that ye should be his ministers, and burn incense.

12 Then the Levites arose, Mahath, *the* son of Amasai, and Joel *the* son of Azariah, of *the* sons of the Kohathites; and of *the* sons of Merari, Kish *the* son of Abdi, and Azariah *the* son of Jehallelel; and of the Gershonites, Joah *the* son of Zimmah, and Eden *the* son of Joah; 13 and of *the* sons of Elizaphan, Shimri and Jeuel; and of *the* sons of Asaph, Zechariah and Mattaniah; 14 and of *the* sons of Heman, Jehuel and Shimei; and of *the* sons of Jeduthun, Shemaiah and Uzziel. 15 And they gathered their brethren, and sanctified themselves, and went in, according to *the* commandment of the king by *the* words of Jehovah, to cleanse *the* house of Jehovah. 16 And the priests went in unto *the* inner part of the house of Jehovah, to cleanse *it*, and brought out all the uncleanness that they found in *the* temple of Jehovah into *the* court of *the* house of Jehovah. And the Levites took *it*, to carry *it* out abroad to *the* brook Kidron. 17 Now they began on *the* first day of the first month to sanctify, and on *the* eighth day of the month came they to *the* porch of Jehovah; and they sanctified the house of Jehovah in eight days: and on *the* sixteenth day of the first month they made an end. 18 Then they went in to Hezekiah the king within *the* palace, and said, We have cleansed all the house of Jehovah, and the altar of burnt-offering, with all the vessels thereof, and the table of showbread, with all the vessels thereof. 19 Moreover all the vessels, which king Ahaz in his reign did cast away when he trespassed, have we prepared and sanctified; and, behold, they *are* before *the* altar of Jehovah.

20 Then Hezekiah the king arose early, and gathered the princes of the city, and went up to *the* house of Jehovah. 21 And they brought seven bullocks, and seven rams, and seven lambs, and seven he-goats, for a sin-offering for the kingdom and for the sanctuary and for Judah. And he commanded the priests *the* sons of Aaron to offer *them* on *the* altar of Jehovah. 22 So they killed the bullocks, and the priests received the blood, and sprinkled *it* on the altar: and they killed the rams, and sprinkled the blood upon the altar: they killed also the lambs, and sprinkled the blood upon the altar. 23 And they brought near the he-goats for the sin-offering before the king and the assembly; and they laid their hands upon them: 24 and the priests killed them, and they made a sin-offering with their blood upon the altar, to make atonement for all Israel; for the king commanded *that* the burnt-offering and the sin-offering *should be made* for all Israel.

25 And he set the Levites in *the* house of Jehovah with cymbals, with psalteries, and with harps, according to *the* commandment of David, and of Gad the king's seer, and Nathan the prophet; for the commandment *was* of Jehovah by his prophets. 26 And the Levites stood with *the* instruments of David,

¹⁹⁰ Or, that he distressed him did he trespass etc.

¹⁹¹ Hb. Darmesek

¹⁹² So Massoretic Vg. 4QChr reads Aybah
Aram. reads Ani Sept. varies widely from
Abba (B) to Abbathyth (A).

¹⁹³ Or, the Holy. Also in vs. 7.

¹⁹⁴ Or, a terror,

and the priests with the trumpets. 27 And Hezekiah commanded to offer the burnt-offering upon the altar. And when the burnt-offering began, *the* song of Jehovah began *also*, and the trumpets, together with *the* instruments of David king of Israel. 28 And all the assembly worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded; all *this continued* until the burnt-offering was finished.

29 And when they had made an end of offering, the king and all that were present with him bowed themselves and worshipped. 30 Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praises unto Jehovah with *the* words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped.

31 Then Hezekiah answered and said, Now ye have ¹⁹⁵consecrated yourselves unto Jehovah; come near and bring sacrifices and thank-offerings into *the* house of Jehovah. And the assembly brought in sacrifices and thank-offerings; and as many as were of a willing heart brought burnt-offerings. 32 And *the* number of the burnt-offerings which the assembly brought was seventy bullocks, a hundred rams, and two hundred lambs: all these *were* for a burnt-offering to Jehovah. 33 And the sanctified *things were* six hundred oxen and three thousand sheep. 34 But the priests were too few, so that they could not flay all the burnt-offerings: wherefore their brethren the Levites did help them, till the work was ended, and until the priests had sanctified themselves; for the Levites *were* more upright in heart to sanctify themselves than the priests. 35 And also *the* burnt-offerings *were* in abundance, with the fat of the peace-offerings, and with the drink-offerings for every burnt-offering. So *the* service of *the* house of Jehovah was set in order. 36 And Hezekiah rejoiced, and all the people, because of that which God had prepared for the people: for the thing was *done* suddenly.

30 And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to *the* house of Jehovah at Jerusalem, to keep *the* passover unto Jehovah, *the* God of Israel. 2 For the king had taken counsel, and his princes, and all the assembly in Jerusalem, to keep the passover in the second month. 3 For they could not keep it at that time, because the priests had not sanctified themselves in sufficient number, neither had the people gathered themselves together to Jerusalem. 4 And the thing was right in *the* eyes of the king and of all the assembly. 5 So they established a decree to make proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beer-sheba even to Dan, that they should come to keep *the* passover unto Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, at Jerusalem: for they had

¹⁹⁵ *Hb.* filled your hand unto Jehovah;
In modern idiom, you have your hands full

not kept it ¹⁹⁶in great numbers in such sort as it is written. 6 So the posts went with the letters from the king and his princes throughout all Israel and Judah, and according to *the* commandment of the king, saying, Ye children of Israel, turn again unto Jehovah, *the* God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, that he may return to the remnant that are escaped of you out of *the* hand of *the* kings of Assyria. 7 And be not ye like your fathers, and like your brethren, who trespassed against Jehovah, *the* God of their fathers, so that he gave them up ¹⁹⁷to desolation, as ye see. 8 Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers were; but ¹⁹⁸yield yourselves unto Jehovah, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified ¹⁹⁹for ever, and serve Jehovah your God, that his fierce anger may turn away from you. 9 For if ye turn again unto Jehovah, your brethren and your children *shall find* compassion before them that led them captive, and shall come again into this land: for Jehovah your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away *his* face from you, if ye return unto him.

10 So the posts passed from city to city through *the* country of Ephraim and Manasseh, even unto Zebulun: but they laughed them to scorn, and mocked them. 11 Nevertheless certain men of Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem. 12 Also upon Judah came the hand of God to give them one heart, to do *the* commandment of the king and of the princes by *the* word of Jehovah.

13 And there assembled at Jerusalem much people to keep the feast of unleavened bread in the second month, a very great assembly. 14 And they arose and took away the altars that *were* in Jerusalem, and all the ²⁰⁰altars for incense took they away, and cast *them* into *the* brook Kidron. 15 Then they killed the passover on *the* fourteenth *day* of the second month: and the priests and the Levites were ashamed, and sanctified themselves, and brought burnt-offerings into *the* house of Jehovah. 16 And they stood in their place after their order, according to *the* law of Moses the man of God: the priests sprinkled the blood *which they received* of *the* hand of the Levites. 17 For *there were* many in the assembly that had not sanctified themselves: therefore the Levites had *the* charge of killing the passovers for every one *that was* not clean, to sanctify *them* unto Jehovah. 18 For a multitude of the people, *even* many of Ephraim and Manasseh, Issachar and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise ²⁰¹than it is written. For Hezekiah had

¹⁹⁶ *Or,* of a long time in such sort as it is written.

¹⁹⁷ *Or,* to be an astonishment,

¹⁹⁸ *Hb.* give the hand yourselves unto Jehovah,

¹⁹⁹ *Or,* for time unlimited, [*i.e.*, without fixed termination]

²⁰⁰ *Or,* vessels

²⁰¹ Nu 9:10-11; Ex 12:19.

prayed for them, saying, The good Jehovah ²⁰²pardon every one 19 *that* setteth his heart to seek God, Jehovah, *the* God of his fathers, though *he be* not *cleansed* according to *the* purification of the Holy. 20 And Jehovah hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people. 21 And *the* children of Israel *that* were present at Jerusalem kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with great gladness; and the Levites and the priests praised Jehovah day by day, *singing* with loud instruments unto Jehovah. 22 And Hezekiah spake comfortably unto all the Levites *that* had good understanding *in the service* of Jehovah. So they did eat *throughout* the feast for the seven days, offering sacrifices of peace-offerings, and ²⁰³making confession to Jehovah, *the* God of their fathers.

23 And the whole assembly took counsel to keep other seven days; and they kept *another* seven days with gladness. 24 For Hezekiah king of Judah did give to the assembly *for offerings* a thousand bullocks and seven thousand sheep; and the princes gave to the assembly a thousand bullocks and ten thousand sheep; and a great number of priests sanctified themselves. 25 And all *the* assembly of Judah, with the priests and the Levites, and all the assembly *that* came out of Israel, and the sojourners *that* came out of *the* land of Israel, and *that* dwelt in Judah, rejoiced. 26 So there was great joy in Jerusalem; for since *the* time of Solomon *the* son of David king of Israel *there was* not *the* like in Jerusalem. 27 Then the priests the Levites arose and blessed the people: and their voice was heard, and their prayer came *up* to his holy habitation, *even* unto the heavens.

31 Now when all this was finished, all Israel *that* were present went out to *the* cities of Judah, and brake in pieces the ²⁰⁴pillars, and hewed down the Asherim, and brake down the high places and the altars out of all Judah and Benjamin, in Ephraim also and Manasseh, until they had destroyed them all. Then all *the* children of Israel returned, every man to his possession, into their own cities.

2 And Hezekiah appointed the courses of the priests and the Levites after their courses, every man according to his service, both the priests and the Levites, for burnt-offerings and for peace-offerings, to minister, and to give thanks, and to praise in *the* gates of *the* camp of Jehovah. 3 *He appointed* also the king's portion of his substance for the burnt-offerings, *to wit*, for the morning and the evening burnt-offerings, and the burnt-offerings for the sabbaths, and for the new moons, and for the set feasts, as *it is* ²⁰⁵written in *the* law of Jehovah. 4 Moreover he commanded the people

²⁰² *Or*, pardon him 19 *that* setteth his whole heart *etc.*

²⁰³ *Or*, giving thanks to Jehovah,

²⁰⁴ *Or*, obelisks

²⁰⁵ Nu 10:10; Lv 23.

that dwelt in Jerusalem to give *the* portion of the priests and the Levites, that they might ²⁰⁶give themselves to *the* law of Jehovah. 5 And as soon as the commandment came abroad, *the* children of Israel gave in abundance the firstfruits of grain, new wine, and oil, and honey, and of all *the* increase of *the* field; and the tithe of all *things* brought they in abundantly. 6 And *the* children of Israel and Judah, *that* dwelt in *the* cities of Judah, they also brought in *the* tithe of oxen and sheep, and *the* tithe of holy *things* that were hallowed unto Jehovah their God, and laid *them* by heaps. 7 In the third month they began to lay *the* foundation of the heaps, and finished *them* in the seventh month. 8 And when Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed Jehovah, and his people Israel. 9 Then Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps. 10 And Azariah the chief priest, of *the* house of Zadok, answered him and said, Since *the people* began to bring the oblations into *the* house of Jehovah, we have eaten and had enough, and have plenty left: for Jehovah hath blessed his people; and *that* which is left is this great store.

11 Then Hezekiah commanded to prepare chambers in *the* house of Jehovah; and they prepared *them*. 12 And they brought in the oblations and the tithes and the holy *things* faithfully: and over them Conaniah the Levite *was* ruler, and Shimei his brother *was* second. 13 And Jehiel, and Azariah, and Nahath, and Asahel, and Jerimoth, and Jozabad, and Eliel, and Ismachiah, and Mahath, and Benaiah, *were* overseers under *the* hand of Conaniah and Shimei his brother, by *the* appointment of Hezekiah the king, and Azariah *the* ruler of the house of God. 14 And Kore *the* son of Imnah the Levite, the porter at the east *gate*, *was* over the freewill offerings of God, to distribute *the* oblations of Jehovah, and the most holy *things*. 15 And under him *were* Eden, and Miniamin, and Jeshua, and Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah, in *the* cities of the priests, in *their* office of trust, to give to their brethren by courses, as well to the great as to the small: 16 besides them that were reckoned by genealogy of males, from three years old and upward, *even* every one that entered into *the* house of Jehovah, ²⁰⁷as *the* duty of every day required, for their service in their offices according to their courses; 17 and them that were reckoned by genealogy of the priests by their fathers' houses, and the Levites from twenty years old and upward, in their offices by their courses; 18 ²⁰⁸and them that were reckoned by genealogy of all their little ones, their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, through all *the* congregation: for in their office of trust they sanctified themselves in holiness. 19 Also *for the*

²⁰⁶ *Hb.* be strong in themselves to *the* law

²⁰⁷ *Or*, for his daily portion,

²⁰⁸ *Or*, even to give to them that were reckoned

sons of Aaron the priests, *that were in the fields of the suburbs of their cities*, in every city, there were men that were mentioned by name, to give portions to all *the* males among the priests, and to all that were reckoned by genealogy among the Levites.

20 And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah; and he wrought *that which was good and right and* ²⁰⁹faithful before Jehovah his God. 21 And in every work that he began *in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments*, to seek his God, he did *it* with all his heart, and prospered.

32 After these things, and this faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came, and entered into Judah, and encamped against the fortified cities, and thought ²¹⁰to win them for himself. 2 And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib was come, and that ²¹¹he was purposed to fight against Jerusalem, 3 he took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which *were* without the city; and they helped him. 4 So there was gathered much people together, and they stopped all the fountains, and the brook *that* flowed through *the* midst of the land, saying, Why should *the* kings of Assyria come, and find much water? 5 And he took courage, and built up all the wall *that* was broken down, and ²¹²raised *it* up to the towers, and ²¹³the other wall without, and strengthened Millo *in* the city of David, and made weapons and shields in abundance. 6 And he set captains of war over the people, and gathered them together to him *in the broad place at the gate of the city*, and spake comfortably to them, saying, 7 Be strong and of good courage, be not afraid nor dismayed for *the* king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that *is* with him; for ²¹⁴*there is* a greater with us than with him: 8 with him *is* an arm of flesh; but with us *is* Jehovah our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon *the* words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

9 After this did Sennacherib king of Assyria send his servants to Jerusalem, (now he *was* before Lachish, and all his power with him,) unto Hezekiah king of Judah, and unto all Judah that *were* at Jerusalem, saying, 10 Thus saith Sennacherib king of Assyria, Whereon do ye trust, that ye abide ²¹⁵*the* siege in Jerusalem? 11 Doth not Hezekiah persuade you, to give you over to die by famine and by thirst, saying, Jehovah our God will deliver us out of *the* hand of *the* king of Assyria? 12 Hath not the same Hezekiah taken away his high

²⁰⁹ *Hb.* faithfulness

²¹⁰ *Hb.* to break them up for himself.

²¹¹ *Hb.* his face was to fight against Jerusalem,

²¹² *Vg. reads,* built towers thereon,

²¹³ *Or,* another wall without,

²¹⁴ *Or,* *there are* more with us than with him:

²¹⁵ *Or,* *in the* stronghold in Jerusalem

places and his altars, and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, saying, Ye shall worship before one altar, and upon it shall ye burn incense? 13 Know ye not what I and my fathers have done unto all *the* peoples of the lands? Were *the* gods of *the* nations of the lands in any wise able to deliver their land out of my hand? 14 Who *was there* among all *the* gods of those nations which my fathers ²¹⁶utterly destroyed, that could deliver his people out of my hand, that your God should be able to deliver you out of my hand? 15 Now therefore let not Hezekiah deceive you, nor persuade you after this manner, neither believe ye him; for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people out of my hand, and out of *the* hand of my fathers: how much less shall your ²¹⁷God deliver you out of my hand?

16 And his servants spake yet *more* against Jehovah God, and against his servant Hezekiah. 17 He wrote also ²¹⁸letters, to rail on Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, and to speak against him, saying, As *the* gods of *the* nations of the lands, which have not delivered their people out of my hand, so shall not *the* God of Hezekiah deliver his people out of my hand. 18 And they cried with a loud voice in *the* Jews' language unto *the* people of Jerusalem that *were* on the wall, to affright them, and to trouble them; that they might take the city. 19 And they spake of *the* God of Jerusalem, as of *the* gods of *the* peoples of the earth, *which are* the work of men's hands.

20 And Hezekiah the king, and Isaiah the prophet *the* son of Amoz, prayed because of this, and cried to heaven. 21 And Jehovah sent an angel, who cut off all *the* mighty men of valor, and *the* leaders and captains, in *the* camp of *the* king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into *the* house of his god, they that came forth from his own bowels slew him there with the sword. 22 Thus Jehovah saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from *the* hand of Sennacherib *the* king of Assyria, and from *the* hand of all *others*, and guided them on every side. 23 And many brought gifts unto Jehovah to Jerusalem, and precious things to Hezekiah king of Judah; so that he was exalted in *the* sight of all nations from thenceforth.

24 In those days Hezekiah was sick even unto death: and he prayed unto Jehovah; and he spake unto him, and gave him a ²¹⁹sign. 25 But Hezekiah rendered not again according to *the* benefit *done* unto him; for his heart was lifted up: therefore there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem. 26 Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for *the*

²¹⁶ *Hb.* devoted,

²¹⁷ *Or,* gods

²¹⁸ *Or,* a letter,

²¹⁹ *Or,* wonder.

²²⁰pride of his heart, *both* he and *the* inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that *the* wrath of Jehovah came not upon them in *the* days of Hezekiah.

27 And Hezekiah had exceeding much riches and honor: and he provided him treasuries for silver, and for gold, and for precious stones, and for spices, and for shields, and for all manner of goodly vessels; 28 store-houses also for *the* increase of grain and new wine and oil; and stalls for all manner of beasts, and flocks in folds. 29 Moreover he provided him cities, and possessions of flocks and herds in abundance; for God had given him very much substance. 30 This same Hezekiah also stopped the upper spring of *the* waters of Gihon, and brought them straight down on *the* west *side* of *the* city of David. And Hezekiah prospered in all his works. 31 Howbeit in *the* business of *the* ²²¹ambassadors of *the* princes of Babylon, who sent unto him to inquire of the wonder that was *done* in the land, God left him, to try him, that he might know all *that was* in his heart.

32 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Hezekiah, and his good deeds, behold, they *are* written in *the* vision of Isaiah the prophet *the* son of Amoz, in *the* book of *the* kings of Judah and Israel. 33 And Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in *the* ascent of *the* sepulchres of *the* sons of David: and all Judah and *the* inhabitants of Jerusalem did him honor at his death. And Manasseh his son reigned in his stead.

33 Manasseh was ²²²twelve years old when he began to reign; and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. 2 And he did *that which was* evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, after *the* abominations of the nations whom Jehovah cast out before *the* children of Israel. 3 For he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; and he reared up altars for the Baalim, and made Asheroth, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. 4 And he built altars in *the* house of Jehovah, whereof Jehovah said, In Jerusalem shall my name be ²²³for ever. 5 And he built altars for all the host of heaven in *the* two courts of *the* house of Jehovah. 6 He also made his children to pass through the fire in *the* valley of *the* son of Hinnom; and practised augury, and used enchantments, and practised sorcery, and dealt with them that had familiar spirits, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, to provoke him to anger. 7 And he set the graven image of the idol, which he had made, in the house of God, of which God said to David and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all *the* tribes of Israel, will I

²²⁰ *Hb.* lifting up of his heart,

²²¹ *Hb.* interpreters 2Ki 20:12-19; Is 39:1-8.

²²² *When Hezekiah was delivered from Sennacherib, Manasseh had not yet been born, per 2Ki 20:6, 18.*

²²³ *Or,* for time unlimited. [*i.e.*, without fixed termination]

put my name for ever: 8 neither will I any more remove the foot of Israel from off the land which I have appointed for your fathers, if only they will observe to do all that I have commanded them, even all the law and the statutes and the ordinances *given* by Moses. 9 And Manasseh seduced Judah and *the* inhabitants of Jerusalem, *so that* they did evil more than did the nations whom Jehovah destroyed before *the* children of Israel.

10 And Jehovah spake to Manasseh, and to his people; but they gave no heed. 11 Wherefore Jehovah brought upon them the captains of the host of ²²⁴*the* king of Assyria, who took Manasseh ²²⁵in chains, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon. 12 And when he was in distress, he besought Jehovah his God, and humbled himself greatly before *the* God of his fathers. 13 And he prayed unto him; and he was entreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that Jehovah he *is* God.

14 Now after this he built an outer wall to *the* city of David, on *the* west *side* of Gihon, in the valley, even to *the* entrance at the fish gate; and he compassed Ophel about *with it*, and raised it up to a very great height: and he put ²²⁶valiant captains in all the fortified cities of Judah. 15 And he took away the foreign gods, and the idol out of *the* house of Jehovah, and all the altars that he had built in *the* mount of *the* house of Jehovah, and in Jerusalem, and cast *them* out of the city. 16 And he ²²⁷built up the altar of Jehovah, and offered thereon sacrifices of peace-offerings and of thanksgiving, and commanded Judah to serve Jehovah, *the* God of Israel. 17 Nevertheless the people sacrificed still in the high places, *but* only unto Jehovah their God.

18 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Manasseh, and his prayer unto his God, and *the* words of the seers that spake to him in *the* name of Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, behold, they *are* written among *the* acts of *the* kings of

²²⁴ *Esar-Haddon, king of Assyria, writes, I called up the kings of the country Hatti and of the region on the other side of the river Euphrates, to wit: Ba'lu king of Tyre, Manasseh, king of Judah, Qaushgabri, king of Edom, Musuri, king of Moab, Sil-Bel, king of Gaza, Metinti, king of Ashkelon, Ikausu, king of Ekron, Milkiashapa, king of Byblos, Matanba'al, king of Arvad, Abiba'al, king of Samsimuyruna, Puduil, king of Beth-Ammon, Ahilmilki, king of Ashdod – 12 kings from the seacoast; ...10 kings from Cyprus amidst the sea, together 22 kings of Hatti, the seashore and the islands... James B. Pritchard, The Ancient Near East, Vol. I (ANE-I); Princeton, 1958. p. 201.*

²²⁵ *Or,* with the hooks,

²²⁶ *Or,* captains of *the* army in all the fortified cities

²²⁷ *Most Hb^{ext} Vg. read* prepared the altar

Israel. 19 His prayer also, and *how God* was entreated of him, and all his sin and his trespass, and the places wherein he built high places, and set up the Asherim and the graven images, before he humbled himself: behold, they *are* written in *the* history of ²²⁸Hozai. 20 So Manasseh slept with his fathers, and they buried him in his own house: and Amon his son reigned in his stead.

21 Amon *was* twenty-two years old when he began to reign; and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. 22 And he did *that which was* evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, as did Manasseh his father; and Amon sacrificed unto all the graven images which Manasseh his father had made, and served them. 23 And he humbled not himself before Jehovah, as Manasseh his father had humbled himself; but this same Amon ²²⁹trespassed more and more. 24 And his servants conspired against him, and put him to death in his own house. 25 *But the* people of the land slew all them *that* had conspired against king Amon; and *the* people of the land made Josiah his son king in his stead.

34 Josiah *was* eight years old when he began to reign; and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. 2 And he did *that which was* right in *the* eyes of Jehovah, and walked in *the* ways of David his father, and turned not aside to *the* right hand or to *the* left. 3 For in *the* eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after *the* God of David his father; and in *the* twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the Asherim, and the graven images, and the molten images. 4 And they brake down the altars of the Baalim in his presence; and the sun-images that *were* on high above them he hewed down; and the Asherim, and the graven images, and the molten images, he brake in pieces, and made dust *of* them, and strewed *it* upon the graves *of* them that had sacrificed unto them. 5 And he burnt *the* bones of *the* priests upon their altars, and purged Judah and Jerusalem. 6 And *so did he* ²³⁰in *the* cities of Manasseh and Ephraim and Simeon, even unto Naphtali, ²³¹in their ruins round about. 7 And he brake down the altars, and beat the Asherim and the graven images into powder, and hewed down all the sun-images throughout all *the* land of Israel, and returned to Jerusalem.

8 Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land and the house, he sent Shaphan *the* son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah *the* governor of the city,

and Joah *the* son of Joahaz the ²³²recorder, to repair the house of Jehovah his God. 9 And they came to Hilkiah the high priest, and delivered the money that was brought into *the* house of God, which the Levites, *the* keepers of the threshold, had gathered of *the* hand of Manasseh and Ephraim, and of all *the* remnant of Israel, and of all Judah and Benjamin, ²³³and of *the* inhabitants of Jerusalem. 10 And they delivered *it* into *the* hand of the workmen that had *the* oversight of *the* house of Jehovah; and ²³⁴the workmen that wrought in *the* house of Jehovah gave it to mend and repair the house; 11 even to the carpenters and to the builders gave they *it*, to buy hewn stone, and timber for couplings, and to make beams for the houses which *the* kings of Judah had destroyed. 12 And the men did the work faithfully: and *the* overseers of them *were* Jahath and Obadiah, the Levites, of *the* sons of Merari; and Zechariah and Meshullam, of *the* sons of the Kohathites, ²³⁵to set *it* forward; and *others of* the Levites, all that were skilful with instruments of music. 13 Also *they were* over the bearers of burdens, and set forward all that did *the* work in every manner of service: and of the Levites there were scribes, and officers, and porters.

14 And when they brought out the money that was brought into *the* house of Jehovah, Hilkiah the priest found the book of *the* law of Jehovah ²³⁶given by Moses. 15 And Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, I have found *the* book of the law in *the* house of Jehovah. And Hilkiah delivered the book to Shaphan. 16 And Shaphan carried the book to the king, and moreover brought back word to the king, saying, All that was committed to thy servants, they are doing. 17 And they have ²³⁷emptied out the money that was found in *the* house of Jehovah, and have delivered it into *the* hand of the overseers, and into *the* hand of the workmen. 18 And Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read therein before the king. 19 And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the law, that he rent his clothes. 20 And the king commanded Hilkiah, and Ahikam *the* son of Shaphan, and ²³⁸Abdon *the* son of Micah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying, 21 Go ye, inquire of Jehovah for me, and for them that are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning *the* words of the book that is found; for great *is the* wrath of Jehovah that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not

²²⁸ Or, the seers.

²²⁹ Or, became more and more guilty.

²³⁰ It may be inferred Josiah controlled about half of the former ten-tribe Kingdom of Israel.

²³¹ Or, as otherwise read, with their axes round about. The Hebrew is obscure, but seems to imply further destruction of these altars and images.

²³² Or, chronicler

²³³ Hb^{mg} reads, and they returned to Jerusalem.

²³⁴ Or, they gave it to the workmen etc.

²³⁵ Or, to preside over it;

²³⁶ Hb. by the hand of Moses.

²³⁷ Or, poured out the money

²³⁸ In 2Ki 22:12, Achbor *the* son of Micaiah,

kept the word of Jehovah, to do according unto all that is written in this book.

22 So Hilkiah, and *they* whom the king *had commanded*, went to Huldah the prophetess, *the* wife of Shallum *the* son of ²³⁹Tokhath, *the* son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the ²⁴⁰second quarter;) and they spake to her to that *effect*. 23 And she said unto them, Thus saith Jehovah, *the* God of Israel: Tell ye the man that sent you unto me, 24 Thus saith Jehovah, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon *the* inhabitants thereof, *even* all the curses *that* are written in the book which they have read before *the* king of Judah. 25 Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all *the* works of their hands; therefore is my wrath poured out upon this place, and it shall not be quenched. 26 But unto *the* king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of Jehovah, thus shall ye say to him, Thus saith Jehovah, *the* God of Israel: *As touching* the words which thou hast heard, 27 because thy heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against *the* inhabitants thereof, and hast humbled thyself before me, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard *thee*, saith Jehovah. 28 Behold, ²⁴¹I will gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace, neither shall thine eyes see all the evil that I will bring upon this place, and upon *the* inhabitants thereof. And they brought back word to the king.

29 Then the king sent and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. 30 And the king went up to *the* house of Jehovah, and all *the* men of Judah and *the* inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, both great and small: and he read in their ears all the words of *the* book of the covenant that was found in *the* house of Jehovah. 31 And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before Jehovah, to walk after Jehovah, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book. 32 And he caused all that were found in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand *to it*. And *the* inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to *the* covenant of God, *the* God of their fathers. 33 And Josiah took away all the abominations out of all the countries that *pertained to the* children of Israel, and made all that were found in Israel to serve, *even* to serve Jehovah

²³⁹ In 2Ki 22:14, Tikvah, *the* son of Harhas,

²⁴⁰ Hb. Mishneh;

²⁴¹ Josiah was mortally wounded in battle but died later in Jerusalem. All four of his successors were taken captive by Egypt (Jehoahaz) or by Babylon.

their God. All his days they departed not from following Jehovah, *the* God of their fathers.

35 And Josiah kept a passover unto Jehovah in Jerusalem: and they killed the passover on *the* fourteenth *day* of the first month. 2 And he set the priests in their offices, and encouraged them to *the* service of *the* house of Jehovah. 3 And he said unto the Levites *that* taught all Israel, the holy *ones* unto Jehovah, Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon *the* son of David king of Israel did build; *there shall no more be* a burden upon *your* shoulders: now serve Jehovah your God, and his people Israel. 4 And prepare *yourselves* after your fathers' houses by your courses, according to *the* writing of David king of Israel, and according to *the* writing of Solomon his son. 5 And stand in *the* holy *place* according to *the* divisions of the fathers' houses of your brethren *the* children of the people, ²⁴²and *let there be for each* a portion of a fathers' house of the Levites. 6 And kill the passover, and sanctify yourselves, and prepare for your brethren, to do according to *the* word of Jehovah by Moses.

7 And Josiah ²⁴³gave to *the* children of the people, of *the* flock, lambs and kids, all of *them* for the passover-offerings, unto all that were present, to *the* number of thirty thousand, and three thousand bullocks: these *were* of the king's substance. 8 And his princes gave ²⁴⁴for a freewill-offering unto the people, to the priests, and to the Levites. Hilkiah and Zechariah and Jehiel, *the* rulers of the house of God, gave unto the priests for the passover-offerings two thousand six hundred *small cattle*, and three hundred oxen. 9 Conaniah also, and Shemaiah and Nethanel, his brethren, and Hashabiah and Jeiel and Jozabad, *the* chiefs of the Levites, gave unto the Levites for the passover-offerings five thousand *small cattle*, and five hundred oxen.

10 So the service was prepared, and the priests stood in their place, and the Levites by their courses, according to the king's commandment. 11 And they killed the passover, and the priests sprinkled *the blood which they received* of their hand, and the Levites flayed *them*. 12 And they removed the burnt-offerings, that they might give them according to *the* divisions of *the* fathers' houses of *the* children of the people, to offer unto Jehovah, as *it is* written in *the* book of Moses. And so *did they* with the oxen. 13 And they roasted the passover with fire ²⁴⁵according to the ordinance: and the holy offerings boiled they in pots, and in caldrons, and in pans, and carried *them* quickly to all *the* children of the people. 14 And afterward they

²⁴² Or, and according to *the* distribution of each fathers' house of the Levites.

²⁴³ Or, gave for offerings to And so in vss. 8, 9. See ch. 30:24.

²⁴⁴ Or, willingly unto the people,

²⁴⁵ Ex 12:8-9.

prepared for themselves, and for the priests, because the priests *the* sons of Aaron *were busied* in offering the burnt-offerings and the fat until night: therefore the Levites prepared for themselves, and for the priests *the* sons of Aaron. 15 And the singers *the* sons of Asaph *were* in their place, according to *the* commandment of David, and Asaph, and Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer; and the porters *were* at every gate: they needed not to depart from their service; for their brethren the Levites prepared for them.

16 So all *the* service of Jehovah was prepared the same day, to keep the passover, and to offer burnt-offerings upon *the* altar of Jehovah, according to *the* commandment of king Josiah. 17 And *the* children of Israel that were present kept the passover at that time, and the feast of unleavened bread seven days. 18 And there was no passover like to that kept in Israel from *the* days of Samuel the prophet; neither did any of *the* kings of Israel keep such a passover as Josiah kept, and the priests, and the Levites, and all Judah and Israel that were present, and *the* inhabitants of Jerusalem. 19 In *the* eighteenth year of *the* reign of Josiah was this passover kept.

20 After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Neco king of Egypt went up to fight against Carchemish by *the* Euphrates: and Josiah went out against him. 21 But he sent ambassadors to him, saying, What have I to do with thee, thou king of Judah? *I come* not against thee *this* day, but against *the* house wherewith I have war; and God ²⁴⁶hath commanded me to make haste: forbear thee from *meddling* with God, who *is* with me, that he destroy thee not. 22 Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto *the* words of Neco from *the* mouth of God, and came to fight in *the* valley of Megiddo. 23 And the archers shot at king Josiah; and the king said to his servants, Have me away; for I am sore wounded. 24 So his servants took him out of the chariot, and put him in the second chariot that he had, and brought him to Jerusalem; and he died, and was buried in *the* sepulchres of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah. 25 And Jeremiah lamented for Josiah: and all the singing men and singing women spake of Josiah in their lamentations unto *this* day; and they made them an ordinance in Israel: and, behold, they *are* written in the lamentations. 26 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Josiah, and his good deeds, according to *that which is* written in *the* law of Jehovah, 27 and his acts, first and last, behold, they *are* written in *the* book of *the* kings of Israel and Judah.

²⁴⁶ Or, hath given command to speed me:

36 Then *the* people of the land took Jehoahaz *the* son of Josiah, and made him king in his father's stead in Jerusalem. 2 Joahaz *was* twenty-three years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. 3 And *the* king of Egypt deposed him at Jerusalem, and fined the land a hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold. 4 And *the* king of Egypt made Eliakim his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. And Neco took Joahaz his brother, and carried him to Egypt.

5 Jehoiakim *was* twenty-five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem: and he did *that which was* evil in *the* sight of Jehovah his God. 6 Against him came up Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and bound him in fetters, to carry him to Babylon. 7 Nebuchadnezzar also carried of *the* vessels of the house of Jehovah to Babylon, and put them in his ²⁴⁷temple at Babylon. 8 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Jehoiakim, and his abominations which he did, and *that which was* found ²⁴⁸in him, behold, they *are* written in *the* book of *the* kings of Israel and Judah: and ²⁴⁹Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead.

9 Jehoiachin *was* ²⁵⁰eight years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem: and he did *that which was* evil in *the* sight of Jehovah. 10 And at *the* return of the year king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and brought him to Babylon, with *the* goodly vessels of *the* house of Jehovah, and made Zedekiah his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem.

11 Zedekiah *was* twenty-one years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem: 12 and he did *that which was* evil in *the* sight of Jehovah his God; he humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet *speaking* from *the* mouth of Jehovah. 13 And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him ²⁵¹swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and ²⁵²hardened his heart against turning unto Jehovah, *the* God of Israel. 14 Moreover all *the* chiefs of the priests, and the people, trespassed very greatly after all *the* abominations of the nations; and they polluted the house of Jehovah which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. 15 And Jehovah *the* God of their fathers, sent to them by his messengers, rising up early and sending, because he had compassion on his people, and on his

²⁴⁷ Or, palace

²⁴⁸ Or, against him,

²⁴⁹ In 1Chr 3:16, Jeconiah In Jer 22:24, Coniah

²⁵⁰ So Massoretic, Sept^B, Vg. In 2Ki 24:8, eighteen as also in most Sept. mss., Aram.

[In alphabetic numerics, ך = 8; ךׁ = 10 + 8 = 18.]

²⁵¹ A guilt not shared by any earlier king in Israel.

²⁵² Hb. strengthened his heart

dwelling-place: 16 but they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and scoffed at his prophets, until the wrath of Jehovah arose against his people, till *there was* no ²⁵³remedy.

17 Therefore he brought upon them the king of *the* Chaldeans, who slew their young men with the sword in *the* house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or virgin, old man or hoary-headed: he gave *them* all into his hand. 18 And all *the* vessels of the house of God, great and small, and *the* treasures of *the* house of Jehovah, and *the* treasures of the king, and of his princes, all *these* he brought to Babylon. 19 And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all *the* palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all *the* goodly vessels thereof. 20 And them *that* had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and his sons until *the* reign of *the* kingdom of Persia: 21 to fulfil *the* word of Jehovah by *the* mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths: *for* as long as it lay desolate it kept sabbath, to fulfil seventy years.

22 Now in *the* first year of ²⁵⁴Cyrus king of Persia, that *the* word of Jehovah by *the* mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, Jehovah stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, ²⁵⁵so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and *put it* also in writing, saying, 23 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All *the* kingdoms of the earth hath Jehovah, the God of heaven, given me; and he hath charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah. Whosoever

there is among you of all his people, Jehovah his God *be* with him, and let him go up.

End of the Second Book of Chronicles of Kings of Judah

²⁵³ *Hb.* healing.

²⁵⁴ *Hb.* Koresh *And everywhere else.*

²⁵⁵ *Cyrus wrote a similar type of proclamation for Babylon on a clay barrel, [Marduk god of Babylon] pronounced the name of Cyrus (Ku-ra-aš)... to become the ruler of all the world. He made the Guti [Gutium, or Goyim] country and all the Manda-hordes [hordes of the Medes] bow in submission to his feet. And he did always endeavour to treat according to justice the black-headed whom he [Marduk] has made him conquer... I am Cyrus, king of the world, great king, legitimate king, king of Babylon, king of Sumer and Akkad, king of the four rims of the earth, son of Cambyses, great king, king of Anshan, grandson of Cyrus, great king, king of Anshan, descendant of Teispes, great king, king of Anshan, of a family which always exercised kingship; whose rule Bel and Nebo love, whom they want as king to please their hearts... I returned to these sacred cities on the other side of the Tigris, the sanctuaries of which have been ruins for a long time, the images which used to live therein and established for them permanent sanctuaries. I also gathered all their former inhabitants and returned to them their habitations. James B. Pritchard, The Ancient Near East, Vol. I; Princeton: 1958. p. 206f.*