

1 KINGS

Conversational Yahveh Covenant

David in His Old Age

¹¹When King David got old, they covered him with blankets, but he still had the chills. ²His advisers told him, *“Have us look for a young virgin so she can attend you, become your nurse, and lie in your arms to keep you warm.”* ³They searched throughout Israel for a beautiful girl and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. ⁴She became his nurse, but he didn’t have relations with her.

Adonijah Claims the Throne

⁵Adonijah Ben-Haggith^{fem} pushed himself forward to make himself king. He prepared chariots and horsemen with 50 men to run ahead of him. ⁶His father had never crossed him by asking why he did something. ⁷He’d conferred with Joab Ben-Jeruiah and Abiathar the priest. They supported him. He was a handsome man, born after Absalom. ⁸But Zadok the priest, Benaiah Ben-Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei, Rei, and The Three most elite soldiers, belonged to David, didn’t join him. ⁹Adonijah sacrificed sheep, oxen, and young grain-fed animals by the Rock of Zohelath next to En-rogel. He invited his half-brothers, the king’s sons; and the men of Judah, the king’s aides. ¹⁰But he didn’t invite Nathan, Benaiah, The Three most elite soldiers, or his half-brother Solomon. 1 Kg 1:1-10

¹¹Nathan told Bathsheba, Solomon’s mother,

“Haven’t you heard that Adonijah has become king, and David our lord doesn’t know it? ¹²Take my advice and save your life and your son’s life. ¹³Go right now to King David and say, ‘Haven’t you sworn to me that Solomon will be king after you? Why has Adonijah become king?’ ¹⁴While you’re there, I’ll come in and confirm what you say.”

¹⁵Bathsheba went to the king’s bedroom; Abishag was helping him. ¹⁶Bathsheba bowed and prostrated herself to him, and he asked, *“What can I do for you?”*

¹⁷She said,

“You swore to me by Yahveh your God that my son Solomon would be the next king. ¹⁸Adonijah has made himself king without you knowing it. ¹⁹He has sacrificed lots of oxen, grain-fed animals, and sheep, and invited your sons Abiathar and Joab, but not Solomon. ²⁰My lord the king, Israel is looking to you to tell them who will sit on your throne. ²¹Otherwise, as soon as you die, my son and I will be considered adversaries.” 1 Kg 1:11-21

²²While she was talking, Nathan came. ²³They told the king, “*Nathan’s here.*” When he came in, he bowed low ²⁴and said,

“My lord the king, have you said Adonijah will be king? ²⁵He’s gone down today and sacrificed lots of oxen, grain-fed calves, and sheep and invited your sons, the commanders of the army, and Abiathar. They’re eating and drinking with him, and saying, ‘Long live King Adonijah!’ ²⁶But he hasn’t invited me, Zadok, Benaiah, or Solomon. ²⁷Have you done this without telling us?”

David Appoints Solomon as King

²⁸King David answered, “*Call Bathsheba.*” She came in and faced him. ²⁹He vowed, *“As sure as Yahveh lives who has redeemed me from distress, ³⁰as sure as I swore to you by Yahveh God of Israel that your son Solomon would be king after me, I’ll declare it publicly today.”*

³¹She bowed to the floor and said, “*Long live my lord King David!*” **1 Kg 1:22-31**

³²David said, “*Call Zadok, Nathan, and Benaiah.*” When they came in, ³³he told them, *“Take my officials with you, have Solomon ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon. ³⁴Have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there as king. Blow the ram’s horn and say, ‘Long live King Solomon!’ ³⁵Then come up behind him. He’ll come and sit on my throne. I’ve appointed him to rule Israel and Judah.”*

³⁶Benaiah answered,

“Amen! So may Yahveh your God say, ³⁷‘As Yahveh has been with you, so may he be with Solomon and make his throne greater than yours!’”

³⁸Zadok, Nathan, Benaiah, and the king’s bodyguard went down and had Solomon ride David’s mule to Gihon. ³⁹Zadok took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. They blew the ram’s horn and the people said, “*Long live King Solomon!*” ⁴⁰The people followed him up, playing flutes and celebrating. The ground shook at the sound of them. **1 Kg 1:32-40**

⁴¹Adonijah and his guests heard it as they finished eating. When Joab heard the ram’s horn, he said, “*Why is the city in such an uproar?*” ⁴²While he was speaking, Jonathan Ben-Abiathar came. Adonijah said, “*Come in, brave man with good news.*” ⁴³But Jonathan answered,

“No! Our lord King David has made Solomon king. ⁴⁴He sent with him Zadok, Nathan, Benaiah, and the king’s bodyguard. They’ve had him ride the king’s mule. ⁴⁵Zadok and Nathan anointed him king at Gihon and have come up celebrating. That’s why the city’s in an uproar. ⁴⁶Solomon has even taken his seat on the throne. ⁴⁷The king’s aides came to bless our lord King David and say, ‘May your God make Solomon’s name better than your name and his throne

greater than yours!’ ⁴⁸The king also said, ‘Bless Yahveh God of Israel, who has granted a man to sit on my throne today while I can see it.’” **1 Kg 1:41-48**

⁴⁹Adonijah’s guests panicked and fled. ⁵⁰Adonijah was scared of Solomon. He went and held onto the horns of the altar. ⁵¹Solomon heard, “Adonijah is scared. He’s holding onto the horns of the altar and calling for you to swear to him that you won’t put him to death.”

⁵²Solomon said, “If he’ll be a worthy man, not a hair of his will fall to the ground. But if he does anything sinful, he’ll die.” ⁵³King Solomon had them bring him down from the altar. He came and prostrated himself to Solomon. He told him to go on home. **1 Kg 1:49-53**

David’s Instructions to Solomon

2:¹As David’s time to die came closer, he charged Solomon,

²“I’m going the way of all the earth. So be strong, show yourself to be a man. ³Keep the charge of Yahveh your God, follow him, keep his statutes, commandments, ordinances, and testimonies written in the Law of Moses. Then you can succeed at everything you do. ⁴Yahveh will carry out his promise to me, ‘If your descendants follow me sincerely with their heart and soul, you’ll always have one on Israel’s throne.’ ⁵You also know what Joab did to me and the two commanders of Israel’s armies, Abner and Amasa that he murdered. He shed the blood of war in the time of peace. He put the blood of war on the belt around his waist and the sandals on his feet. ⁶Act wisely; don’t let his gray hair go down to Sheol in peace. ⁷But be kind to the descendants of Barzillai the Gileadite. Have them eat at your table. They helped me when I was eluding your half-brother Absalom. ⁸Shimei Ben-Gera is with you. He cursed me with violent curses when I went to Mahanaim. But when he came down to me at the Jordan, I swore to him by Yahveh that I wouldn’t put him to death with the sword. ⁹Don’t you let him go unpunished. You’re a wise man; send his gray hair down to Sheol with blood.”

The Death of David

¹⁰David died and they buried him in The City of David. ¹¹He’d ruled Israel for 40 years, 7 in Hebron and 33 in Jerusalem. ¹²Solomon sat on his throne, and his kingdom became secure.

1 Kg 2:1-12

Solomon’s Throne Established

¹³Adonijah went to Bathsheba.

She said, “Are you coming in peace?”

“Yes. ¹⁴I have something to say to you.”

“Say it.”

¹⁵*“You know that the kingdom was mine as oldest heir and that Israel supposed I would be king. But the kingdom has been turned around and become my half-brother’s; it was his from Yahveh. ¹⁶I’m making one request. Don’t refuse me.”*

“What is it?”

¹⁷*“Please speak to Solomon about giving me Abishag as a wife. He won’t refuse you.”*

¹⁸*“I’ll speak to him.”*

1 Kg 2:13-18

¹⁹Bathsheba went to King Solomon, and the king rose to meet her, bowed to her, and sat down on his throne. Then he had a throne set for the queen mother on his right. ²⁰She said, *“I’m making one small request. Don’t refuse me.”*

“Ask, Mother; I won’t refuse you.”

²¹*“Give Abishag to Adonijah your half-brother as a wife.”*

²²*“Why are you asking for Abishag for Adonijah? Ask for the kingdom too—because he’s my oldest half-brother—even for him, Abiathar, and Joab!”* ²³Solomon swore by Yahveh,

“God do so to me and more if Adonijah hasn’t said that against his own life. ²⁴As sure as Yahveh lives who made me secure on my father’s throne and made me a family like he promised, I’ll execute Adonijah today.”

²⁵He sent Benaiah to execute him.

²⁶Then the king told Abiathar,

“Go to your farm in Anathoth. You should die, but I won’t do it now; you’ve carried the Ark of the Lord Yahveh in my father’s presence and suffered everything he did.”

²⁷Solomon dismissed Abiathar from being priest in fulfillment of Yahveh’s word about the descendants of Eli in Shiloh.

1 Kg 2:19-27

²⁸The news came to Joab because Joab had followed Adonijah—though he hadn’t followed Absalom. Joab fled to Yahveh’s tent and held onto the horns of the altar. ²⁹King Solomon learned that he was beside the altar and sent Benaiah to execute him.

³⁰Benaiah went and told him, *“The king says to come out.”*

But he said, *“I’ll die here.”* Benaiah brought back word to the king.

³¹*“Do like he said and bury him so you can remove from me and my father’s family the blood he shed for no reason. ³²Yahveh will be bringing his blood back on his own head. He fell on two men more upright than he was and killed them with the sword unbeknownst to my father: Abner, commander of Israel’s army, and Amasa, commander of Judah’s army. ³³Their blood will come back on the head of Joab and his descendants permanently. But may David, his descendants, his dynasty, and throne have lasting peace from Yahveh.”* **1 Kg 2:28-33**

³⁴Benaiah went up and fell on him, and they buried him at his house in the country. ³⁵The king appointed Benaiah over the army and Zadok as priest to replace Abiathar.

³⁶The king called for Shimei, *“Build a house in Jerusalem and live here. ³⁷If you cross the Kidron, you’ll be responsible for your own death.”*

³⁸*“All right.”* He lived in Jerusalem a good while.

1 Kg 2:34-38

³⁹But three years later, two of his servants ran away to Achish Ben-Maacah, king of Gath. People told him his servants were in Gath. ⁴⁰He saddled his donkey, went to Achish in Gath to look for them, and brought them back. ⁴¹Solomon found out he’d gone, ⁴²so he called him in,

“Didn’t I make you swear by Yahveh and solemnly warn you that the day you went anywhere else you’d surely die? You agreed. ⁴³Why not keep your oath to Yahveh and my command? ⁴⁴You’ve acknowledged your sin against my father; Yahveh will bring it back on your own head. ⁴⁵But I’ll be blessed, and David’s throne will be secure with Yahveh permanently.”

⁴⁶The king told Benaiah to execute him. That’s how the kingdom became secure for Solomon.

1 Kg 2:39-46

Solomon Asks for Wisdom

^{3:1}Solomon made a marriage alliance with Pharaoh and brought his daughter to The City of David till he’d finished building his own palace, Yahveh’s temple, and the wall around Jerusalem. ²People were still sacrificing on the high places; Yahveh didn’t have a temple yet.

³Solomon loved Yahveh and followed his father’s statutes except he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. ⁴He’d go to Gibeon to sacrifice, the great high place. He offered 1,000 burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵Yahveh appeared to him in a dream there at night,

“Ask what you want me to give you.”

⁶He said, *“You’ve shown great enduring love to David as he followed after truth, goodness, and an upright heart toward you. You’ve given him a son to sit on his throne. ⁷Now, Yahveh my God, you’ve made me king, but I’m just a child. I don’t know how to manage affairs. ⁸I’m among the people you’ve chosen, people too numerous to count. ⁹Give me an intelligent mind to judge them, to distinguish good from bad. Who can judge this large nation?”*

1 Kg 3:1-9

¹⁰ What he asked for pleased Yahveh. ¹¹He told him,

“Because you’ve asked for that instead of a long life, wealth, or the death of your enemies, ¹²I’ll give you what you asked for: a wise, discerning mind; there has never been anybody like you before or will be afterwards. ¹³I’ll also give you what you didn’t ask for: wealth and honor like no other king as long as you live. ¹⁴If you follow my ways and keep my statutes and commandments like your father did, I’ll lengthen your life.”

¹⁵Solomon woke up; it was a dream. He came to Jerusalem and stood in front of the Ark, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and held a banquet for his officials. **1 Kg 3:10-15**

Solomon's Wise Ruling

¹⁶Two prostitutes came and stood in his presence. ¹⁷One woman said,

"My lord, this woman and I live in the same house. I had a baby. ¹⁸and three days later she had one. We were the only ones there. ¹⁹Her son died during the night because she lay on him. ²⁰While I was sleeping, she got up and took my son and laid him in her arms and laid her dead son by me. ²¹When I got up in the morning to nurse him, he was dead. But when I looked closely, it wasn't my son."

²²The other woman said, *"No! the living one is mine. The dead one's yours."*

The first woman said, *"No! the dead one's yours. The living one's mine."*

²³The king said, *"One says, 'This is my son that's alive.' The other says, 'No! your son's the dead one.' ²⁴Get me a sword."*

They brought him one.

²⁵He said, *"Cut the living child in two, and give half to one and half to the other."*

²⁶The real mother spoke out because she was deeply moved over her son, *"My lord, give her the living child! Don't kill him!"*

The other said, *"He won't be mine or yours. Cut him in two!"*

²⁷The king answered, *"Give the first woman the living child. She's his mother."*

²⁸When Israel heard about the judgment he'd handed down, they respected him for the wisdom God had given him for administering justice. **1 Kg 3:16-28**

Solomon's Officials and Governors

4¹Solomon ruled all Israel. ²These were his officials:

Azariah Ben-Zadok was priest.

³**Elihoreph** and **Ahijah**, Ben-Shisha, were secretaries.

Jehoshaphat Ben-Ahilud was recorder.

⁴**Benaiah** Ben-Jehoiada was the general over the army.

Zadok and **Abiathar** were priests.

⁵**Azariah** Ben-Nathan oversaw the deputies.

Zabud Ben-Nathan, a priest, was the king's personal advisor.

⁶**Ahishar** governed the household.

Adoniram Ben-Abda oversaw forced labor.

⁷Solomon had 12 deputies who provided for him and his household, one per month per year:

⁸**Benhur** in the hill country of Ephraim,

1 Kg 4:1-8

⁹**Bendeker** in Makaz, Shaalbim, Beth-shemesh, and Elon-beth-hanan;

- ¹⁰**Benhesed** in Arubboth, (Socoh and the land of Hepher belonged to him.)
- ¹¹**Benabinadab** in all the height of Dor, (His wife was Solomon's daughter Taphath.)
- ¹²**Baana** Ben-Ahilud in Taanach, Megiddo, and Beth-shean, which is beside Zarethan below Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abelmeholah as far as the other side of Jokmeam;
- ¹³**Bengeber** in Ramoth-gilead, (The towns of Jair Ben-Manasseh, in Gilead, belonged to him. He also had the region of Argob, in Bashan, 60 big towns with walls and bronze bars were also his.);
- ¹⁴**Ahinadab** Ben-Iddo in Mahanaim,
- ¹⁵**Ahimaaz** in Naphtali, (married Solomon's daughter Basemath)
- ¹⁶**Baana** Ben-Hushai in Asher and Bealoth,
- ¹⁷**Jehoshaphat** Ben-Paruah in Issachar,
- ¹⁸**Shimei** Ben-Ela in Benjamin,
- ¹⁹**Geber** Ben-Uri in Gilead (the country of King Sihon the Amorite and Og, king of Bashan. He was the only deputy in the land.) **1 Kg 4:7-19**

Solomon's Prosperity and Wisdom

²⁰Judah and Israel were as numerous as sand on the shore. They were eating and drinking and celebrating. ²¹Solomon ruled the kingdoms from the *Euphrates* River to the land of the Philistines and the border of Egypt. They brought tribute and served him his whole life.

²²Solomon's provisions for one day were

30 kors of fine flour and **(330 bushels)**

60 kors of meal, **(660 bushels)**

²³10 grain-fed oxen,

20 pasture-fed oxen, and

100 sheep besides deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fattened fowl.

²⁴He had dominion over the territory west of the *Euphrates* River from Tiphseh to Gaza. He had peace all around. ²⁵Judah and Israel lived safely, every man under his vine and fig tree from Dan to Beersheba Solomon's whole life. ²⁶He had 40,000 stalls for horses for his chariots and 12,000 cavalry. ²⁷For a month at a time, the deputies provided for him and everybody that came to his table; they left, not lacking anything. ²⁸They also brought barley and straw for the horses and swift steeds to where it should be, each according to his responsibility. **1 Kg 4:20-28**

²⁹God gave Solomon wisdom, great discernment, and breadth of mind. ³⁰His wisdom surpassed the wisdom of men in the East and in Egypt. ³¹He was wiser than anyone else—than Ethan the Ezrahite, Heman; or Calcol and Darda, sons of Mahol. He was famous in the nations all around. ³²He authored 3,000 proverbs and wrote 1,005 songs. ³³He knew about trees from the

cedars in Lebanon to the hyssop on the wall. He talked about animals, birds, crawling things, and fish. ³⁴People came from every nation to hear his wisdom, kings everywhere who'd heard about it.

1 Kg 4:29-34

Preparations for Building the Temple

^{5:1}Hiram, king of Tyre, sent ambassadors to Solomon when he heard they'd anointed him king in place of his father. He'd always been a friend to David. ²Solomon sent him a message,

³*"You know my father couldn't build a temple for Yahveh his God because he carried on warfare till Yahveh put down his enemies. ⁴But now Yahveh has given me peace in every direction. There's no adversary or misfortune. ⁵I intend to build a temple for Yahveh like he said, 'Your son that I'll set on your throne will build me a temple.' ⁶Have your woodsmen cut cedars from Lebanon, and my workmen will work with yours. I'll pay them whatever wages you set. You know there's nobody among us that knows how to cut timber like Sidonians."*

⁷When Hiram heard what Solomon said, he was happy, *"Bless Yahveh that's given David a wise son over this great people."* ⁸He sent word to Solomon,

"I've heard your message. I'll do what you want about the cedar and cypress timber. ⁹My workmen will bring it down from Lebanon to the sea, and tie it together in rafts to go by sea to where you designate. I'll have them taken apart there for you to take away. Then you'll satisfy me by feeding my household."

¹⁰Hiram gave him as much cedar and cypress as he wanted. ¹¹Each year Solomon gave him 220,000 bushels ^{20,000 kors} of wheat and 1800 gallons ^{20 kors} of pressed olive oil for his household.

¹²Yahveh gave Solomon wisdom like he'd promised. Hiram and Solomon signed a peace treaty.

1 Kg 5:1-12

¹³King Solomon conscripted 30,000 laborers from all over Israel, ¹⁴and sent them to Lebanon in shifts of 10,000 a month. They worked in Lebanon a month and were home two months. Adoniram oversaw them. ¹⁵Solomon had 70,000 transporters and 80,000 stone cutters in the mountains, ¹⁶besides the 3,300 foremen that oversaw the project and managed the workmen. ¹⁷He commissioned them to quarry huge, high-quality stones for the foundation of the Temple. ¹⁸His and Hiram's builders and workmen from the town of Gebal cut them and prepared the timbers and stones for the Temple.

1 Kg 5:13-18

Solomon Builds the Temple

^{6:1}In the 480th year after the Israelites left Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign, the second month (Ziv), he started building Yahveh's Temple. ²It was 90 x 30 x 45ft high. ³The vestibule across the nave was 30ft long—equal to the Temple's width—and 15ft

deep. ⁴He made recessed frames for the windows. ⁵He also built a three-story structure against the walls of the Temple, going around the nave and inner sanctuary, and made side rooms around *the outside*. ⁶The first story was 7½ft wide, the middle one 9ft, and the third 10½ft; because on the outside he made offsets in the wall of the Temple all the way around so the beams didn't insert into the Temple walls. ⁷While the Temple was being built, the stones were prepared at the quarry. There wasn't any sound of hammer, axe, or iron tool *on site*. ⁸The entry for the lowest side room was on the right side of the Temple. People could go up winding stairs to the middle and third stories. ⁹He built the Temple and finished it with beams and cedar planks ¹⁰in addition to the *three* stories, each 7½ft high, resting against the Temple on cedar timbers. **1 Kg 6:1-10**

¹¹A message from Yahveh came to Solomon,

¹²*"As to this Temple you're building, if you follow my statutes, carry out my ordinances, and keep my commandments, I'll keep the promise with you that I made to your father. ¹³I'll live among the Israelites and not abandon my people."*

¹⁴Solomon finished building the Temple.

¹⁵He paneled the inside of the walls with cedar boards from floor to ceiling and overlaid the floor with cypress boards. ¹⁶Inside the back of the Temple, he separated off the inner sanctuary 30ft deep, the Holy of Holies. ¹⁷The nave in front of it was 60ft long. ¹⁸The cedar all over the inside of the temple was decorated with carved shapes of gourds and open flowers. No stone was showing. ¹⁹He prepared the inner sanctuary for the Ark of Yahveh's Covenant, ²⁰30 x 30 x 30ft high and overlaid with pure gold. He overlaid the altar with cedar. ²¹He drew gold chains across the front of the inner sanctuary and overlaid the rest of the interior with gold. ²²He overlaid the whole Temple with gold as well as the altar by the inner sanctuary. **1 Kg 6:11-22**

²³⁻²⁶In the inner sanctuary he made 2 identical cherubs out of olive wood, each 15ft tall ²⁴with wings 7½ft long and their tips 15ft apart. ²⁷He placed the cherubs in the middle of the inner room with their wings spread out so the wing of one touched one wall, the wing of the other touched the opposite wall, and their *other* wings touched in the center of the Temple. ²⁸He overlaid them with gold.

²⁹He carved cherubs, palm trees, and open flowers on the walls of the inner and outer sanctuaries, ³⁰and overlaid both floors with gold. ³¹⁻³²The entrance to the inner sanctuary was 2 doors out of olive wood with a lintel and 5-sided doorposts, with carved cherubs, palm trees, and open flowers on them; and overlaid them with gold. ³³For the entrance to the nave, he made 4-sided doorposts out of olive wood ³⁴and 2 doors of cypress wood. Both leaves of both doors folded in on pivots. ³⁵He carved cherubs, palm trees, and open flowers on them; and overlaid them with gold evenly applied on the carved work. ³⁶He built *the wall of* the inner court with 3 courses of cut stone capped by a layer of cedar beams.

³⁷In the fourth year, the month Ziv, the foundation of Yahveh's Temple was in place.
³⁸In the eleventh year, eighth month (Bul), it was finished as designed. It took 7 years to build.

Solomon Builds His Palace

1 Kg 6:23-38

^{7:1}It took 13 years to build Solomon's palace.

²He built the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon: 150 x 75 x 45ft high. It rested on 4 rows of cedar pillars with cedar beams on the pillars. ³It had cedar panels above the side-rooms that were on the 45 pillars, 15 to a row. ⁴There were 3 rows of window frames with window across from window in three ranks. ⁵All the doorways and doorposts had square frames.

⁶He made the Hall of Pillars: 75 x 45ft with a porch in front and pillars, and a threshold in front of them.

⁷He built the Hall of the Throne, where he would judge, the Hall of Judgment, paneled with cedar from floor to rafters.

⁸The palace where he'd live and the other court inward from the hall had the same workmanship.

He made similar quarters for Pharaoh's daughter that he'd married. ⁹These were made out of expensive stones, cut to size with saws, inside and out, from the foundation to the eaves, and so on the outside to the great court. 1 Kg 7:1-9

¹⁰The foundation consisted of huge, expensive stones, *some* 12ft and 15ft long. ¹¹Above were expensive stones cut to size—and cedar. ¹²The great court had 3 courses of cut stone all around capped by a layer of cedar beams like the inner court of Yahveh's Temple and its porch.

The Temple Furnishings

¹³King Solomon sent for Hiram/*Huram* of Tyre, a widow's son from the tribe of Naphtali. His father was from Tyre, a worker in bronze. ¹⁴He was filled with wisdom, insight, and skill for doing any work in bronze. He came to King Solomon to do his work.

¹⁵Hiram/*Huram* fashioned 2 pillars of bronze 27ft tall and 18ft in circumference. ¹⁶He made 2 capitals out of molten bronze to set on top of the pillars, each 7½ft tall. ¹⁷There were 7 sets of latticework and interwoven chains for the capitals. ¹⁸Hiram circled 200 pomegranates in 2 rows around the latticework on each capital, ¹⁹and each had a lily design 6ft tall. ²⁰The capitals were close to the rounded projection that was beside the latticework. ²¹So he set up the pillars at the porch of the nave. The left pillar he named Boaz, and the right one, Jachin. ²²The capitals on the pillars there were shaped like water lilies. That finished the work on the pillars. 1 Kg 7:10-22

²³Hiram/*Huram* made the sea out of cast metal 15ft from brim to brim. It was 7½ft tall and 45ft in circumference. ²⁴Under its brim, gourds went all the way around it, 10 to each 1½ft. The gourds were in 2 rows, cast with the rest. ²⁵*The sea* rested on 12 oxen, 3 each facing north,

west, south, and east, and their hind quarters aimed inward. ²⁶It was a handbreadth thick with a brim like the brim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It could hold 18,000 gallons. **1 Kg 7:23-26**

²⁷Then Hiram/*Huram* made 10 bronze stands, each 6 x 6 x 4½ft high. ²⁸They had braces between the frames ²⁹decorated with lions, oxen, and cherubs. On the frames there was a pedestal above with lions and oxen, and wreaths of hanging work below. ³⁰Each stand had 4 bronze wheels with bronze axles. There were 4 supports under the basins with wreath decorations on each side. ³¹Its opening was within a crown that stuck up 18ins. At its opening there were carvings, and its panels were square, not round. ³²The 4 wheels were under the panels, and their axels of one piece with the stands. The wheels were 27ins tall, ³³made like chariot wheels with their axels, rims, spokes, and hubs cast *in one piece* from molten bronze. ³⁴There were 4 supports at the 4 corners of each stand made of one piece with the stands. ³⁵On top of the stand was a round band 18ins high with stays and borders of one piece with it. ³⁶On the surfaces of its stays and borders, he carved cherubs, lions, and palm trees according to the space of each, with wreaths all around. ³⁷He made 10 such stands, cast alike, the same size and shape. **1 Kg 7:27-37**

³⁸He made 10 bronze basins, 1 for each stand. Each basin held 360 gallons and measured 6ft across. ³⁹He set the stands 5 on the south side of the Temple and 5 on the north side, and set the sea at the southeast corner of the Temple.

⁴⁰Hiram/*Huram* also made pots, shovels, and basins. He finished everything for King Solomon on Yahveh's Temple: ⁴¹the 2 pillars, 2 bowls for the capitals on top of the pillars, 2 networks to cover the 2 bowls—⁴²400 pomegranates for the 2 networks in 2 rows per network; ⁴³10 stands and the 10 lavers on them, ⁴⁴the sea and the 12 oxen under it. **1 Kg 7:38-44**

⁴⁵He made the pots, shovels, and basins out of burnished bronze. ⁴⁶The king cast them in the plain of the Jordan, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zarethan. ⁴⁷Solomon didn't calculate the weight of the bronze or the items; there were too many.

⁴⁸Solomon made the furniture for Yahveh's Temple: the golden altar, golden table for the Bread of the Presence, ⁴⁹lampstands of pure gold—5 on the south side and 5 on the north in front of the inner sanctuary. *He made* the flowers, lamps, and tongs out of gold; ⁵⁰the cups, snuffers, basins, dishes for incense, and firepans out of pure gold; and the sockets for the doors of the Holy of Holies and for the nave of the Temple out of gold.

⁵¹Solomon finished the work on Yahveh's Temple. He brought in the silver, gold, and articles David had dedicated, and stored them in the^y Temple treasuries. **1 Kg 7:45-51**

The Ark Brought to the Temple

8:1-2In Jerusalem Solomon gathered Israel's elders, heads of tribes, and leaders of families. They gathered at the festival in the seventh month (Ethanim) to bring up the Ark of the

Covenant from The City of David (Zion). ³The priests picked up the Ark ⁴and brought it up with the Tent of Meeting along with the holy items that were in it. The priests and Levites brought them up. ⁵King Solomon and the whole community sacrificed more sheep and oxen than you could count. ⁶The priests brought the Ark to its place in the inner sanctuary, the Holy of Holies. ⁷The cherubs spread out their wings over it and its poles. ⁸The poles were long enough for their ends to be visible from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from the outside. They're still there. ⁹Nothing was in the Ark except the two stone tablets Moses put there at Horeb/Sinai, where Yahveh made covenant with Israel. ¹⁰When the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the Temple. ¹¹They couldn't carry out their service because Yahveh's glory filled the Temple.

1 Kg 8:1-11

Solomon's Prayer of Dedication

¹²Then Solomon said,

"You've^y said you'd be in the dark cloud.

¹³I've built you a glorious temple, a permanent place to live."

¹⁴Then he faced *the people* and blessed the assembly standing there,

¹⁵"Bless Yahveh God of Israel who told my father David, ¹⁶'From the time I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I hadn't chosen a city to build a temple in so my name would be there, but I chose David to rule my people.' ¹⁷My father wanted to build him a temple, ¹⁸but Yahveh said he meant well, ¹⁹but he wouldn't build it; his son would. ²⁰Yahveh has kept that promise; I've risen to Israel's throne and built him a temple. ²¹That's where I've set the Ark that holds the covenant he made with our ancestors when he brought them out of Egypt."

1 Kg 8:12-21

²²Then Solomon stood at the altar and spread out his hands toward heaven.

²³"Yahveh God of Israel, there's no God like you in the sky or on earth because you keep covenant and show enduring love to your servants that follow you with all their heart. ²⁴You've kept your promise to my father. ²⁵Keep this one, too, 'You'll always have a descendant on your throne if they follow me like you have.' ²⁶Confirm that promise now.

²⁷"But will you live on earth? Sky and heaven can't contain you, much less this Temple I've built! ²⁸Yet answer my prayer. Listen to my call ²⁹so you'll be looking toward this Temple day and night where you've put your name. ³⁰Listen when your people and I pray toward here. Listen from heaven, where you live, and forgive.

1 Kg 8:22-30

³¹"When someone sins against another and comes here to take an oath at your altar, ³²then listen from heaven and judge them. Punish sinners by bringing

their way on their own head, and justify the good by rewarding them according to their goodness.

³³*“When an enemy defeats your people because they’ve sinned, if they repent, confess your name, and make petition in this Temple, ³⁴then listen from heaven, forgive them, and bring them back to the country you’ve given their ancestors.*

³⁵*“When there’s no rain because they’ve sinned against you and they pray toward this place, confess your name, and turn from their sin when you punish them, ³⁶then listen from heaven and forgive your people. Teach them the good way to live and send rain on the land you’ve given them to inherit. **1 Kg 8:31-36***

³⁷*“When there’s a famine in the country; disease, blight or mildew, locust or grasshopper; if their enemies lay siege to their towns—whatever the plague or sickness, ³⁸whatever petition any or all your people make, each knowing the suffering in their own heart and spreading their hands toward this Temple, ³⁹then listen from where you live, forgive, and render to each as they’ve done—only you know everyone’s heart—⁴⁰so they’ll respect you as long as they live in the country you’ve given our ancestors.*

⁴¹*“When a foreigner comes from a distant country ⁴²because of your great name, your powerful hand, and outstretched arm, and prays toward this Temple, ⁴³then listen from heaven where you live, and do everything he calls to you for so every nation will know you and respect you like your people do. They’ll know that this Temple I’ve built wears your name. **1 Kg 8:37-43***

⁴⁴*“When your people go out to battle in whatever direction you send them, and they pray to you toward this city you’ve chosen and the Temple I’ve built, ⁴⁵then listen from heaven and support their cause.*

⁴⁶*“When they sin against you (everyone does), you’re angry, and deliver them to an enemy that takes them captive near or far, ⁴⁷if they take it to heart there, repent, and petition you, ‘We’ve sinned, we’ve committed iniquity, we’ve acted perversely,’ ⁴⁸if they come back to you with all their heart and soul, and pray toward the land you’ve given their ancestors, the city you’ve chosen, the Temple I’ve built, ⁴⁹then listen from heaven where you live, uphold their cause, ⁵⁰and forgive them. Have their captors show them mercy (⁵¹because they’re the inheritance you brought out of Egypt, the iron furnace). ⁵²Open your eyes to my petition and to your people Israel, to listen whenever they call. ⁵³You’ve separated them off from all the other nations as your inheritance, Lord Yahveh, like you said through Moses when you brought them out of Egypt.” **1 Kg 8:44-53***

⁵⁴When Solomon had finished that prayer, he stood up from kneeling with his hands spread toward heaven ⁵⁵and blessed Israel with a loud voice,

⁵⁶*“Blessed be Yahveh, who has given his people rest like he promised. Not a word of his promise through Moses has failed. ⁵⁷May he be with us like he was with our ancestors, ⁵⁸and incline our hearts toward him, to follow the statutes and ordinances he commanded them. ⁵⁹May my petition come near him day and night so he’ll support the cause of his servant and of Israel as each day requires. ⁶⁰Then the whole world can know Yahveh is God and no other. ⁶¹Devote your hearts to him completely, follow his statutes, and keep his commandments like you’re doing today.”*

The Dedication of the Temple

⁶²The king and all Israel offered sacrifices and peace offerings to Yahveh: ⁶³22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. That’s how the king and Israel dedicated Yahveh’s Temple. ⁶⁴The same day, he consecrated the middle of the court in front of it, because he offered there the burnt offering, grain offering, and fat of the peace offerings. The bronze altar was too small to hold them. ⁶⁵Solomon and all Israel observed the festival for 14 days, a huge assembly from Lebo-hamath to the River of Egypt, in the presence of Yahveh our God. ⁶⁶The next day he dismissed the people, and they blessed the king. They went home happy for the goodness Yahveh had shown David his servant and Israel his people.

1 Kg 8:54-66

Yahveh Appears to Solomon

⁹¹When Solomon had finished building Yahveh’s Temple, the king’s palace, and everything he wanted to do, ²Yahveh appeared to him a second time like he did at Gibeon.

³*“I’ve heard your prayer and consecrated this Temple you’ve built by putting my name there permanently. My eyes and heart will always be there. ⁴If you’ll follow me like your father did in the integrity of heart and godliness, do everything I tell you, keep my statutes and ordinances, ⁵then I’ll make your throne secure over Israel permanently like I promised David, ‘You’ll always have a descendant on Israel’s throne.’*

⁶*“But if you or your sons turn away from me to serve and worship other gods, ⁷I’ll remove Israel from the land I’ve given them, and throw away the Temple I’ve consecrated. Israel will become a proverb, a byword among the nations. ⁸This Temple will become a pile of ruins. Everybody that goes by will be amazed and gasp, ‘Why has Yahveh done this to this land and this Temple?’ ⁹People will say, ‘Because they forsook Yahveh their God, who brought their*

ancestors out of Egypt. They adopted other gods and worshiped and served them.’”

1 Kg 9:1-9

Solomon's Agreement with Hiram

¹⁰At the end of the 20 years it took him to build Yahveh's Temple and the king's palace, King Solomon gave Hiram 20 towns in Galilee. (¹¹Hiram, king of Tyre, had supplied him with all the cedar, cypress, and gold he wanted.) ¹²Hiram came out from Tyre to see them, but he didn't like them. ¹³*"What are these towns you've given me, brother?"* They're still called The Land of Cabul [*A Land as Good as Nothing*]. ¹⁴Nevertheless, Hiram sent Solomon 4½ tons ^{120 talents} of gold.

Solomon's Other Achievements

¹⁵This is the conscripted labor King Solomon levied to build Yahveh's Temple, his own palace, the Millo, the wall of Jerusalem, Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer. ¹⁶Pharaoh, king of Egypt, had gone up and captured Gezer, burned it, killed the Canaanites in it, and gave it as a dowry to his daughter, Solomon's wife. ¹⁷Solomon rebuilt Gezer and the Lower Beth-horon, ¹⁸Baalath, Tamar in the Wilderness of Judah, ¹⁹his storage cities, cities for his chariots and cavalry, and everything he wanted to build in Jerusalem, Lebanon, and the land he ruled. ²⁰To this day Solomon has conscripted laborers from the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites ²¹that Israel couldn't destroy. ²²But he didn't conscript Israelites for forced labor. They were soldiers, officials, officers, captains, chariot commanders, and cavalry.

1 Kg 9:10-22

²³550 chief officers oversaw Solomon's work.

²⁴As soon as Pharaoh's daughter came up from The City of David to the palace Solomon had built for her, he built the Millo.

²⁵Three times a year Solomon offered burnt offerings and peace offerings on the altar he built to Yahveh, burning incense with them.

And so he finished the Temple.

²⁶He also built a fleet of ships in Ezion-geber, near Eloth on the shore of the Red Sea in Edom. ²⁷Hiram sent experienced seamen with the fleet along with Solomon's men. ²⁸They went to Ophir and brought back 15¾ tons ^{420 talents} of gold to Solomon.

1 Kg 9:23-28

The Queen of Sheba Visits Solomon

10:¹When the queen of Sheba heard about Solomon's fame that honored Yahveh, she came to Jerusalem to test him with hard questions. ²She came with a large retinue, and with camels carrying spices, lots of gold, and precious stones. She talked to him about everything that was on her mind. ³He answered all her questions and explained everything. ⁴She saw his wisdom, the palace he'd built, ⁵the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attendance

of his waiters and their attire, his cupbearers, and his stairway up to Yahveh's Temple. It took her breath away.

⁶*"What I heard in my country about your words and wisdom was true.*

⁷But I didn't believe it till I saw it. I hadn't heard half of it. You exceed the report I heard about your prosperity. ⁸How fortunate your officials are, being around you continually and listening to your wisdom! ⁹Bless Yahveh your God who delighted to set you on Israel's throne. Because he loved Israel forever, he made you king to do justice and goodness."

¹⁰She gave him 4½ tons ^{120 talents} of gold and large amounts of spices and precious stones. Never again did such an abundance of spices come in as she brought him.

¹¹Hiram's ships that brought gold from Ophir also brought large quantities of almug wood and precious stones. ¹²From the almug wood, the king made railings for Yahveh's Temple and his own palace, as well as lyres and harps for the singers. Such almug wood hasn't come in again or been seen since.

¹³King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba everything she asked for besides what he gave her on his own. Then she and her attendants went back to her country. **1 Kg 10:1-13**

Solomon's Wealth and Splendor

¹⁴Each year, 25¼ tons ^{666 talents} of gold came in to Solomon ¹⁵besides what came in from traders, merchants' wares, the kings of Arabia, and governors of the country. ¹⁶He made 200 large shields of beaten gold, using 15 lbs ^{600 shekels} of gold on each one. ¹⁷He made 300 shields of beaten gold, using 3¾ lbs ^{3 minas} of gold on each one. He put them in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon. ¹⁸In addition, he made a large throne out of ivory, overlaid with refined gold. ¹⁹There were 6 steps up to it, a round top on the back of it, arms on each side of the seat, and 2 lions standing beside them. ²⁰12 lions stood on the 2 sides of the 6 steps. Nothing like it was ever made for any other kingdom. ²¹His drinking cups were made out of gold; the items for the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. There weren't any silver ones; it wasn't considered valuable in his time. ²²At sea he had the ships of Tarshish with Hiram's ships. Every three years ships came from Tarshish, bringing gold and silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.

²³King Solomon became wealthier and wiser than all the *other* kings in the world. ²⁴The whole world wanted to be around him to hear the wisdom God had put in him. ²⁵Everybody brought a gift, silver and gold articles, clothes, weapons, spices, horses, and mules, so much each year. **1 Kg 10:14-25**

²⁶Solomon gathered 1,400 chariots and 12,000 calvary and stationed them in chariot cities and in Jerusalem. ²⁷He made silver as common as stone in Jerusalem, and cedars as plentiful as sycamores in the lower western hills. ²⁸His merchants obtained horses from Egypt and Kue for a price. ²⁹He imported Egyptian chariots for 15 lbs ^{600 shekels} of silver each and horses

for $3\frac{3}{4}$ lbs ^{150 shekels} of silver apiece. Then he exported them to the kings of the Hittites and of Aram.

1 Kg 10:26-29

Solomon's Wives

11¹King Solomon loved many foreign women along with Pharaoh's daughter: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women. ²They came from the nations Yahveh had told the Israelites not to associate with, *"They'll turn your heart away after their gods."* Solomon held fast to them in love. ³He had 700 wives of royal birth and 300 concubines. ⁴When he was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods. He wasn't wholly devoted to Yahveh like David was. ⁵Solomon went after Ashtoreth, goddess of the Sidonians; and Milcom, the detestable idol of the Ammonites. ⁶He did what was sin and didn't follow Yahveh faithfully. ⁷He built a high place for Chemosh, detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain east of Jerusalem, and for Molech, detestable idol of the Ammonites. ⁸He did that for all his foreign wives, who^{pl} burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

1 Kg 11:1-8

⁹Yahveh was angry with him because he turned his heart away. The God of Israel had appeared to him twice, ¹⁰and commanded him not to go after other gods. But he didn't obey that command. ¹¹God told him,

"Because you've done this and haven't kept my covenant and statutes, I'll tear the kingdom from you and give it to one of your servants. ¹²But for David's sake, I won't do it in your lifetime. I'll tear it away from your son, ¹³but not all of it. I'll give him one tribe for the sake of David and Jerusalem that I've chosen."

1 Kg 11:9-13

Solomon's Adversaries

¹⁴Yahveh raised up Hadad the Edomite against Solomon. He was from the royal line. ¹⁵When David was in Edom, Joab, commander of the army, had gone up to bury the slain and strike down every male in Edom. (¹⁶Joab and all Israel stayed there six months, until he'd killed every male in Edom.) ¹⁷Hadad fled to Egypt with some of his father's officials when he was a boy. ¹⁸They left Midian and went to Paran. They took people with them from Paran and went on to Pharaoh. He gave him a house and land and assigned him food. ¹⁹He came to like Hadad so much that he gave him in marriage the sister of his own wife, Queen Tahpenes. ²⁰She had Hadad's son Genubath and weaned him in Pharaoh's palace. Genubath was in Pharaoh's palace with his sons. ²¹But when Hadad heard that David had died and Joab was dead, he said to Pharaoh, *"Let me leave so I can go to my own country."*

²²*"What have you lacked with me?"*

"Nothing; but you need to let me go."

1 Kg 11:14-22

²³God raised up another adversary, Rezon Ben-Eliada, who had fled from his lord Hadadezer, king of Zobah. ²⁴⁻²⁵He gathered men and led a marauding band after David killed the people in Zobah. They went to Damascus and ruled^{pl} Aram from there. He hated Israel and was its adversary all of Solomon's life like Hadad was.

Jeroboam Rebels Against Solomon

²⁶Jeroboam Ben-Nebat rebelled against *Solomon*. He was an Ephraimite from Zeredah, *one of* Solomon's officials, whose mother was Zeruah, a widow. ²⁷He rebelled when Solomon was building the Millo and closing up the breach in The City of David. ²⁸Jeroboam was a trained soldier. When Solomon saw that the young man was industrious, he appointed him over the forced labor of Joseph's house. ²⁹During that time, when Jeroboam left Jerusalem, the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met him on the road. Ahijah had dressed in a new cloak, and both of them were alone in a field. ³⁰Ahijah took his new cloak and tore it into 12 pieces. ³¹He told Jeroboam,

"Take ten pieces. Yahveh says, 'I'll tear the kingdom away from Solomon and give you ten tribes (³²but he'll have one tribe, for the sake of David and Jerusalem, the city I've chosen from the tribes). ³³They've left me and worshiped Ashtoreth goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh god of Moab, and Milcom god of the Ammonites. They haven't done what I've considered right or observed my statutes and ordinances like David did. ³⁴I won't take the whole kingdom away from Solomon. I'll let him rule all his life for David's sake, ³⁵but I'll take ten tribes away from his son and give them to you. ³⁶I'll give his son one tribe so David will always have a lamp in Jerusalem, the city I've chosen to identify with. ³⁷I'll take you, and you'll reign over whatever you desire and be king of Israel. ³⁸If you listen to everything I tell you like David did, I'll be with you and build you an enduring dynasty like I built for David. ³⁹That's how I'll punish David's descendants for this, but not forever.'"

⁴⁰Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, but he fled to Shishak {Shoshenq I}, king of Egypt, and stayed there till Solomon died.

Solomon's Death

⁴¹The rest of what Solomon did and his wisdom are recorded in *The Book of the Acts of Solomon*. ⁴²He ruled Israel in Jerusalem for 40 years. ⁴³When he died, they buried him in The City of David. His son Rehoboam reigned.

1 Kg 11:23-43

The Northern Tribes Rebel Against Rehoboam

12:¹Rehoboam went to Shechem because all Israel had come there to make him king. ²Jeroboam heard about it in Egypt. (³They sent and called him.) Jeroboam and all Israel came and

told Rehoboam, ⁴*“Your father made our yoke hard. Lighten his hard service and his heavy yoke, and we’ll serve you.”* ⁵He said, *“Leave for three days, then come back.”* So they left.

⁶King Rehoboam consulted with the elders that had served Solomon, *“How do you advise me to answer the people?”* ⁷They said, *“If you’ll serve this nation today, grant them their petition, and speak good words to them, they’ll serve you permanently.”* ⁸But he dismissed their advice and consulted with the young men he grew up with and served him. ⁹*“What’s your advice about answering the people, ‘Lighten the yoke your father put on us’?”* ¹⁰The young men said,

“Tell them, ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s waist! ¹¹My father loaded you with a heavy yoke; I’ll add to it. My father disciplined you with whips; I’ll discipline you with scorpions.’”

¹²Then Jeroboam and the people came to Rehoboam on the third day. ¹³The king answered them harshly. He didn’t take the elders’ advice ¹⁴and spoke to them according to the young men’s advice, *“My father made your yoke heavy; I’ll add to it. My father disciplined you with whips; I’ll discipline you with scorpions.”* ¹⁵He ignored the people, a turn of affairs Yahveh let happen to bring about what he’d told Jeroboam through Ahijah of Shiloh. **1 Kg 12:1-15**

¹⁶When Israel saw that he didn’t listen, they answered him,

*“What part do we have in David?
We have no inheritance in Jesse’s son;
Go home, Israel!
Look after your own house, David!”*

Israel went home, ¹⁷but **Rehoboam** ruled the Israelites that lived in Judah. ¹⁸He sent Adoram, supervisor over forced labor, and Israel stoned him to death. Rehoboam hurried and got in his chariot and fled to Jerusalem. ¹⁹Israel has been in rebellion against David’s descendants ever since. ²⁰When all Israel heard that Jeroboam was back, they called him to the assembly and crowned him king of all Israel. No tribe but Judah stayed with David’s dynasty. **1 Kg 12:16-20**

Shemaiah’s Prophecy

²¹When Rehoboam got to Jerusalem, he gathered Judah and Benjamin, 180,000 chosen soldiers, to fight Israel to restore the kingdom to himself. ²²But a message from God came to Shemaiah, the man of God,

²³*“Tell Rehoboam, the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, and the rest of the people, ²⁴Yahveh says not to fight their relatives the Israelites: go home; this thing has his approval.”*

They listened and went home.

1 Kg 12:21-24

The Gold Calves at Bethel and Dan

²⁵Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. He went out from there and built Penuel. ²⁶He said to himself,

“The kingdom will revert to David’s descendants. ²⁷If the people go up to offer sacrifices in Yahveh’s Temple at Jerusalem, their hearts will go back to Rehoboam, and they’ll kill me.”

²⁸So he made two gold calves and said, *“It’s too much trouble to go up to Jerusalem. Look, your gods, Israel, that brought you up from Egypt!”* ²⁹He set one in Bethel and the other in Dan.

³⁰That thing became a sin because the people went to worship at the one as far as Dan. ³¹He made houses on high places and appointed priests from among the people that didn’t descend from Levi. ³²⁻³³He instituted a festival in Bethel on the fifteenth day, eighth month like the festival in Judah. He went up to burn incense on the altar there and sacrificed to the calves he’d made. He stationed priests at the high places he’d made there. 1 Kg 12:25-33

A Prophet Denounces Jeroboam

^{13:1}A man of God went from Judah to Bethel at Yahveh’s command while Jeroboam was standing by the altar to burn incense. ²He cried out against the altar by a message from Yahveh,

“Altar, altar, Yahveh says, ‘A son named Josiah will be born among David’s descendants. He’ll sacrifice on you the priests of the high places who burn incense on you. He’ll burn human bones on you.’”

³He gave a sign the same day,

“Yahveh has given this sign: the altar will open up and ashes pour out.”

⁴When the king heard what the man of God said, he reached out from the altar and said, *“Arrest him!”* But his hand froze, and he couldn’t draw it back. ⁵The altar split apart and ashes poured out like the sign had said. ⁶The king answered the man of God, *“Ask Yahveh your God to restore my hand.”*

He asked Yahveh, and the king’s hand became like before. 1 Kg 13:1-6

⁷The king said, *“Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I’ll give you a reward.”*

⁸The man of God told him,

“If you gave me half of what you own, I wouldn’t go with you, eat bread, or drink water here. ⁹Yahveh told me not to eat bread, drink water, or come back the way I came.”

¹⁰So he went back a different way. 1 Kg 13:7-10

¹¹An old prophet was living in Bethel. His sons came and told him what the man of God had done that day in Bethel and what he’d told the king. ¹²Their father asked them which way he went. They’d seen which way he’d gone. ¹³*“Saddle the donkey for me.”* They saddled it, and he rode ¹⁴after the man of God and found him sitting under a terebinth tree. *“Are you the man of God from Judah?”*

“Yes.”

¹⁵“Come home with me and eat bread.”

¹⁶“I can’t return with you, eat bread, or drink water with you here. ¹⁷Yahveh told me not to eat bread, drink water, or go back the way I came.”

¹⁸He told him,

“I’m a prophet like you. An angel from Yahveh told me to bring you back to my house so you can eat bread and drink water.” He was lying.

¹⁹He went back with him and ate bread and drank water.

1 Kg 13:11-19

²⁰As they were sitting at the table, a message from Yahveh came to the prophet that brought him back. ²¹He cried out to the man from Judah, “Yahveh says, ‘Because you’ve disobeyed me, ²²your body won’t go to your ancestors’ grave.’” ²³After he’d eaten bread and drunk water, he saddled the donkey for the prophet. ²⁴When he’d gone, a lion met him and killed him. It threw his body on the road with the donkey standing beside it. The lion stood by the body too. ²⁵Some men passed by and saw the body and the lion standing beside it. They went and told it in the city where the old prophet lived.

1 Kg 13:20-25

²⁶When the prophet heard it, he said,

“It’s the man of God that disobeyed Yahveh; he let the lion tear him apart like his message had said.”

²⁷Then he told his sons to saddle the donkey for him. ²⁸He went and found the body on the road with the donkey and the lion standing beside it. The lion hadn’t eaten the body or torn the donkey. ²⁹The old prophet picked up the body and laid it on his donkey. He brought it back to his city ³⁰and laid it in his own grave. They mourned for him, “Ah, my brother!” ³¹He told his sons,

“When I die, bury me where I buried the man of God. Lay my bones beside his. ³²What he cried out by the message from Yahveh against the altar in Bethel and the houses at the high places in the towns of Samaria will certainly happen.”

³³Even after all that, Jeroboam kept following his own sinful way. Anybody that volunteered, he ordained as a priest for the high places. ³⁴What happened became the sin in his family that destroyed it.

1 Kg 13:26-34

Ahijah’s Prophecy Against Jeroboam

^{14:1}At that time, Abijah, Jeroboam’s¹ son, got sick. ²Jeroboam told his wife,

“Disguise yourself and go to Shiloh. Ahijah the prophet is there who said I’d be king. ³Take ten loaves of bread, some cakes, and a jar of honey. He’ll tell you what will happen to the boy.”

⁴She went to Ahijah’s house at Shiloh. He couldn’t see because of his age. ⁵Yahveh had told him,

“Jeroboam’s wife is coming to ask about her son that’s sick. Tell her such and such; when she gets here, she’ll pretend to be another woman.”

⁶When Ahijah heard her footsteps coming in the door, he said,

*“Come in, Jeroboam’s wife, why pretend to be another woman? I’m sent to you with a harsh message. ⁷Tell Jeroboam that Yahveh God of Israel says, ‘I lifted you up from among the people and made you Israel’s leader. ⁸I tore the kingdom away from David’s descendants and gave it to you. But you’ve not been like David. He kept my commandments and followed me with all his heart and did only what I said was right. ⁹You’ve done more evil than anybody before you. You’ve made other gods and molten images and tossed me aside. ¹⁰So I’ll bring catastrophe on your family: I’ll eliminate from you every male, bond or free, and consume your family like a person burns up manure. ¹¹**Dogs will eat any relative that dies in the city; birds will eat any that die in the field;** I’ve said so.’*

1 Kg 14:1-11

¹²*“Go home. When you enter the city, the child will die. ¹³Israel will mourn for him and bury him. He’s the only one in Jeroboam’s family they’ll put in a grave. This child was something good that Yahveh saw in Jeroboam’s family. ¹⁴Yahveh will raise up a king to get rid of Jeroboam’s dynasty. ¹⁵He’ll strike Israel like water washing over a reed and uproot Israel from this good land. He’ll scatter them beyond the Euphrates River because they’ve set up their Asherah poles and made him angry. ¹⁶He’ll give Israel up over the sins Jeroboam got Israel to do.”*

¹⁷She left and went to Tirzah. As she was going into the house, the child died. ¹⁸All Israel buried him and mourned for him like Yahveh’s message said.

The Death of Jeroboam

¹⁹The rest of the acts of Jeroboam—how he ruled and made war—are recorded in *The Chronicles of the Kings of Israel*. ²⁰He ruled for 22 years and died. His son Nadab reigned.

1 Kg 14:12-20

Rehoboam Rules in Judah

²¹Rehoboam ruled in Judah. He was 41 when he became king and ruled for 17 years in Jerusalem, the city Yahveh chose from the tribes of Israel to identify with. His mother was Naamah the Ammonitess. ²²Judah provoked Yahveh more than their ancestors did. ²³They built high places, sacred pillars, and Asherah poles on every tall hill under every green tree. ²⁴There were male cult prostitutes in the land. They did all the disgusting things the nations did that Yahveh originally drove out for Israel.

1 Kg 14:21-24

²⁵In the **fifth year of King Rehoboam**, Shishak [Shoshenq I], king of Egypt, came up and attacked Jerusalem. ²⁶He took away the treasures in Yahveh's Temple and the king's palace, and everything Solomon had made, including the gold shields. ²⁷Rehoboam made bronze shields to replace them and committed them to the care of the commanders of the guard for the king's palace. ²⁸Whenever he went to the Temple, the guards would carry them and bring them back to the guardroom.

²⁹The rest of the acts of Rehoboam are recorded in *The Chronicles of the Kings of Judah*. ³⁰War went on constantly between him and Jeroboam. ³¹He died and they buried him in The City of David. His son Abijam became king.

1 Kg 14:25-31

Abijam Rules in Judah

15:¹In the **eighteenth year of King Jeroboam** Ben-Nebat, **Abijam** began to reign over Judah ²and ruled for 3 years in Jerusalem. His mother was Maacah daughter of Abishalom. ³He did the sins his father did. His heart wasn't wholly true to Yahveh like David's was. ⁴But for David's sake Yahveh gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, set up his descendant after him, and made Jerusalem secure. ⁵*He did it* because David did what was right and didn't deviate from anything Yahveh commanded him his whole life—except in the matter about Uriah the Hittite. [⁶] ⁷The rest of the acts of Abijam are recorded in *The Chronicles of the Kings of Judah*. ⁸He died and they buried him in The City of David. His son Asa became king.

Asa Rules in Judah

⁹In the **twentieth year of Jeroboam**, king of Israel, **Asa** began to rule in Judah ¹⁰and ruled for 41 years in Jerusalem. His mother was Maacah daughter of Abishalom. ¹¹Asa did what was right like David did. ¹²He

put the male cult prostitutes out of the country,
removed the idols his ancestors had made,

¹³removed his mother from being queen mother because she'd set up a detestable Asherah pole,

¹⁴cut it down and burned it at the Brook Kidron.

He didn't take away the high places, but his heart was true to Yahveh his whole life. ¹⁵He brought to Yahveh's Temple his and his father's dedicated gifts—silver, gold, and various articles.

1 Kg 15:1-15

¹⁶War went on between **Asa** and **Baasha**, king of Israel, their whole lives. ¹⁷Baasha went up against Judah and fortified Ramah to prevent anybody from going out or coming to Asa. ¹⁸Then Asa took the silver and gold that was left in the treasuries of Yahveh's Temple and delivered it to his officials. He sent them to Benhadad Ben-Tabrimmon Ben-Hezion, king of Aram, who lived in Damascus, saying,

¹⁹“Let’s make a treaty like your father and my father did. I’ve sent you a gift of silver and gold. Break your treaty with Baasha so he’ll withdraw from me.”

²⁰Benhadad listened to Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the towns in Israel, and conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel-beth-maacah, and Chinneroth, besides the land of Naphtali.

²¹When Baasha heard it, he stopped fortifying Ramah and stayed in Tirzah. ²²Then Asa made a proclamation to Judah—no one was exempt—to carry away the stones of Ramah and its timber and fortify Geba in Benjamin and the town of Mizpah.

²³The rest of the acts of Asa, the strength of his rule, the towns he built are recorded in *The Chronicles of the Kings of Judah*. In his old age, he had a disease in his feet. ²⁴He died and they buried him with his ancestors in The City of David. His son Jehoshaphat reigned.

1 Kg 15:16-24

Nadab Rules in Israel

²⁵Nadab Ben-Jeroboam became king of Israel in the **second year of Asa**, king of Judah, and ruled for 2 years. ²⁶He did evil like his father had done and got Israel to do. ²⁷Then Baasha Ben-Ahijah from the tribe of Issachar plotted against him, and struck him down at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines, while Nadab and all Israel were laying siege to it. ²⁸Baasha killed him in the **third year of Asa** and began to reign. ²⁹As soon as he became king, he killed everybody in Jeroboam’s family—like Yahveh had said by Ahijah of Shiloh. ³⁰*He did it* because of the sins Jeroboam got Israel to do, and it made Yahveh God of Israel angry. ³¹The rest of the acts of Nadab are recorded in *The Chronicles of the Kings of Israel*. ³²There was war between Asa and Baasha their whole life.

Baasha Rules in Israel

³³In the **third year of Asa**, Baasha became king of Israel at Tirzah and ruled for 24 years. ³⁴He did evil like Jeroboam did and got Israel to do.

1 Kg 15:25-34

16:¹A message from Yahveh came to Jehu Ben-Hanani against Baasha:

²“Since I lifted you up from the dust to lead Israel, you’ve done what Jeroboam did and got Israel to do and made me angry by their sins. ³I’ll consume you and your family and make it like Jeroboam’s. ⁴**Dogs will eat any relative that dies in the city; birds will eat any that die in the field.**”

⁵The rest of the acts of Baasha and the strength of his rule are recorded in *The Chronicles of the Kings of Israel*. ⁶He died and they buried him in Tirzah. His son Elah became king. ⁷In addition, a message from Yahveh through the prophet Jehu came against Baasha and his dynasty. *It came against him* because of his sin that made Yahveh angry like Jeroboam’s dynasty did, and because he destroyed Jeroboam’s family.

1 Kg 16:1-7

Elah Rules in Israel

⁸In the **twenty-sixth year of Asa**, king of Judah, Elah became king of Israel at Tirzah and ruled for 2 years. ⁹Zimri, commander of half his chariots, led a plot against him. Elah was at Tirzah getting drunk in the house of Arza, who managed the palace at Tirzah. ¹⁰Zimri went in and struck him and put him to death in the **twenty-seventh year of Asa** and became king. ¹¹As soon as he became king, he killed Baasha's family. He didn't leave a single male among his relatives and friends. ¹²So Zimri destroyed Baasha's family like Yahveh had said through the prophet Jehu. ¹³*He delivered that message* because of the sins Baasha and Elah did and got Israel to do with their idols and made Yahveh angry. ¹⁴The rest of the acts of Elah are recorded in *The Chronicles of the Kings of Israel*. **1 Kg 16:8-14**

Zimri Rules in Israel

¹⁵In the **twenty-seventh year of Asa**, Zimri ruled for 7 days at Tirzah. The people were camped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines. ¹⁶The people camped there heard that Zimri had struck down the king; so Israel made Omri, the commander of the army, king of Israel that day in the camp. ¹⁷Then Omri and Israel went up from Gibbethon and laid siege to Tirzah. ¹⁸When Zimri saw that the city was taken, he went into the fortress of the king's palace and burned it down over himself and died. ¹⁹*He did it* because of his sins, following the way of Jeroboam and getting Israel to sin. ²⁰The rest of the acts of Zimri and his conspiracy are recorded in *The Chronicles of the Kings of Israel*.

Omri Rules in Israel

²¹The people of Israel were divided: half followed Tibni Ben-Ginath and half followed Omri. ²²But the ones that followed Omri prevailed. Tibni died and Omri became king. ²³In the **thirty-first year of Asa**, king of Judah, Omri became king in Israel and ruled for 12 years, 6 in Tirzah. ²⁴He bought the hill of Samaria from "Shemer" for 151 lbs ^{two talents} of silver, and built a city on it that he named Samaria after its owner. ²⁵Omri did evil worse than anybody before him. ²⁶He did everything Jeroboam did and got Israel to do. ²⁷The rest of the acts of Omri and the strength he showed are recorded in *The Chronicles of the Kings of Israel*. ²⁸He died and they buried him in Samaria. His son Ahab became king. **1 Kg 16:15-28**

Ahab Rules in Israel

²⁹Ahab became king of Israel in the **thirty-eighth year of Asa**, king of Judah, and ruled Israel in Samaria for 22 years. ³⁰He did evil worse than anybody before him. ³¹As though it had been a trivial thing for him to follow in the sins of Jeroboam, he married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians, and went to serve and worship Baal. ³²He erected an altar for

Baal in a temple for Baal that he built for Baal in Samaria³³ and set up an Asherah pole. He did more to provoke Yahveh God of Israel than any king of Israel before him.

³⁴During his reign, Hiel from Bethel rebuilt Jericho. He laid its foundations with the loss of Abiram his firstborn and set up its gates with the loss of his youngest son Segub, in fulfillment of Yahveh's message through Joshua Ben-Nun. **1 Kg 16:29-34**

Elijah Predicts a Drought

17:¹Elijah the Tishbite, a settler in Gilead, told Ahab,

"As Yahveh God of Israel lives that I serve, there won't be dew or rain the next several years except when I say so."

²A message from Yahveh came to him,

³*"Get away from here to the east and hide by Brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. ⁴You'll drink from the stream, and I've commanded the ravens to provide for you there."*

⁵He went to live by Brook Cherith. ⁶Ravens brought him bread and meat morning and evening, and he drank from the stream. ⁷After a while it dried up because it hadn't rained.

The Widow in Zarephath

⁸Then a message from Yahveh came to him, ⁹*"Go to Zarephath, near Sidon, and stay. I've commanded a widow there to provide for you."* ¹⁰He went to Zarephath. When he came to the city gate, a widow was gathering sticks. He called to her, *"Please get me a little water in a jug to drink."* **1 Kg 17:1-10**

¹¹As she was going to get it, he called to her to bring him a piece of bread too.

¹²She said,

"As Yahveh your God lives, I don't have any, just a handful of flour in a bowl and a little oil in a jug. I'm gathering a few sticks so I can fix it for us to eat and die."

¹³Elijah told her,

"Don't worry. Do what you've said but make me a little bread cake from it first and bring it out. Then you can make one for you and your boy. ¹⁴Yahveh God of Israel says the bowl of flour won't get empty, and the jug of oil won't go dry before it rains."

¹⁵She did what he said; and she, her son, and household ate for many days. ¹⁶The bowl didn't get empty, and the jug didn't go dry. **1 Kg 17:11-16**

Elijah Resurrects the Widow's Son

¹⁷After that, her little boy got sick, so sick he quit breathing. ¹⁸She said to Elijah, *“What do I have to do with you, man of God? You’ve come to remind me of my sin and put my son to death!”*

¹⁹*“Give him to me.”* He took him from her arms to the upper room where he was staying and laid him on his own bed.

²⁰He called out, *“Yahveh my God, have you brought misfortune on the widow I’ve been staying with by causing her son to die?”* ²¹He stretched out on the child three times and called out again, *“Please bring him back.”*

²²Yahveh listened, and the child revived.

²³Elijah brought him down to his mother. *“See, he’s alive.”*

²⁴She told him, *“Now I know for sure you’re a man of God and what you say from Yahveh is true.”*

1 Kg 17:17-24

Elijah Confronts Ahab

18:¹**In the third year**, a message from Yahveh came to Elijah, *“Present yourself to Ahab, and I’ll send rain.”* ²So he went to Ahab. The famine was severe in Samaria. ³Ahab called Obadiah, who managed the palace. (Obadiah respected Yahveh greatly. ⁴When Jezebel was destroying Yahveh’s prophets, he hid 100 of them by 50s in a cave and provided them bread and water.)

⁵*“Go to the springs and valleys in the land. Maybe we’ll find grass to keep the horses and mules alive, and not have to kill any livestock.”*

⁶They divided up the land to survey it. Ahab went one way and Obadiah went another.

⁷Elijah met Obadiah on the road. He recognized him and fell on his face, *“Is that you, Elijah?”*

⁸*“It’s me. Go tell your master I’m here.”*

⁹He said,

“How have I sinned that you’re turning me over to Ahab to execute me?”

¹⁰*As Yahveh your God lives, he’s searched for you in every nation and kingdom. When they said you weren’t there, he’d make the kingdom or nation swear they couldn’t find you.* ¹¹*Now you’re telling me to go tell him you’re here.* ¹²*When I leave, the Spirit of Yahveh will carry you where I don’t know. When I tell Ahab and he can’t find you, he’ll kill me even though I’ve respected Yahveh my whole life.* ¹³*Haven’t you heard what I did when Jezebel was killing his prophets? I hid 100 of them by 50s in a cave and provided them bread and water?* ¹⁴*Now you want me to tell my master you’re here!”*

¹⁵Elijah said, *“As Yahveh of Hosts lives, I’ll present myself to Ahab today.”* **1 Kg 18:1-15**

¹⁶Obadiah went and told Ahab, and he came to meet Elijah. ¹⁷When Ahab saw him, he said, *“Is that you, you troubler of Israel?”*

¹⁸He said,

“I haven’t brought trouble on Israel. You and your father’s family have done that. You’ve abandoned Yahveh’s commandments and worshipped the images of Baal. ¹⁹Now then, gather Israel to me at Mount Carmel, along with the 450 Baal prophets and 400 Asherah prophets that eat at Jezebel’s table.”

The Contest on Mount Carmel

²⁰Ahab sent a message among the Israelites and brought the prophets to Mount Carmel.

²¹Elijah faced the people and said, *“How long will you waver between two sides? If Yahveh is God, follow him. If Baal is god, follow him.”*

The people didn’t say anything.

1 Kg 18:16-21

²²Then Elijah told them,

“I’m the only prophet Yahveh has left; Baal has 450 of them. ²³Let us have two oxen. They can choose one, cut it up, lay it on the wood, but not put any fire under it. I’ll prepare the other, lay it on the wood, and not put a fire under it.

²⁴Then you call on your god, and I’ll call on Yahveh. The one that answers by fire, is God.”

The people answered, *“That’s good.”*

²⁵Elijah told the Baal prophets, *“Choose an ox and prepare it first; there are lots of you. Call on your god, but don’t put fire under it.” ²⁶They prepared their ox and called on Baal from morning till noon, “Baal, answer us.”* There was no answer. They leaped around the altar they’d made. ²⁷At about noon Elijah mocked them, *“Shout, because he’s a god. Either he’s occupied or has wandered off. Maybe he’s traveling or asleep and needs to be woke up.” ²⁸As was their custom, they shouted and cut themselves with swords and lances till blood gushed out on them. ²⁹When noon had passed, they raved till the time for evening sacrifice. But there wasn’t any voice, nobody answered, nobody paid attention.*

1 Kg 18:22-29

³⁰Then Elijah told the crowd to come closer. He repaired Yahveh’s altar that had been torn down. ³¹He took 12 stones corresponding to the 12 tribes of Jacob, whose name Yahveh had changed to ‘Israel.’ ³²With the stones, he rebuilt the altar in Yahveh’s name and dug a trench around it big enough to hold more than .73 of a bushel ^{2 seahs} of seed. ³³Then he arranged the wood, cut the ox in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He told them to fill four large jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and the wood. ³⁴*“Do it again.” “Do it a third time.” ³⁵The water ran down around the altar and filled the trench. ³⁶Then at the time of evening sacrifice, he went up to the altar and said,*

“Yahveh, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, show today that you’re God in Israel, that I’m your servant, that you’ve told me to do this. ³⁷Answer me so the people can know you’re God and that you’ve brought them back to you.”

1 Kg 18:30-37

³⁸Fire came down from Yahveh and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, the dust, and the water in the trench. ³⁹The people they fell on their faces, *"Yahveh is God! Yahveh is God!"* ⁴⁰Elijah told them, *"Seize the Baal prophets. Don't let a one of them get away."* They seized them, and Elijah brought them down to the Kishon River and killed them.

Yahveh Sends Rain

⁴¹Elijah told Ahab, *"Go get something to eat; there's the sound of heavy rain."* ⁴²Ahab went to eat. Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel and crouched down with his head between his knees. ⁴³He told his servant to go look toward the sea. He went and looked, *"There's nothing."* He said, *"Go back,"* seven times. ⁴⁴The seventh time, *the servant said, "A cloud the size of a man's hand is coming up from the horizon."* He said, *"Go tell Ahab to get his chariot ready and go down so the rain doesn't stop him."* ⁴⁵In a little while, the sky grew dark with clouds and wind, and a downpour came. Ahab rode to Jezreel. ⁴⁶Yahveh was with Elijah, and he girded up and outran Ahab to Jezreel.

1 Kg 18:38-46**Elijah Flees to Sinai**

^{19:1}Ahab told Jezebel what Elijah had done, and how he'd killed the prophets with the sword. ²She sent a messenger to Elijah, *"The gods do so to me and more, if I don't make your life like theirs by tomorrow at this time."* ³He fled for his life to Beersheba in Judah and left his attendant there. ⁴He went on a day's journey into the open country and sat down under a juniper tree, *"That's enough, Yahveh. Take my life. I'm no better than my ancestors."* ⁵He lay down and slept under the tree, and an angel touched him, *"Get up and eat."* ⁶He looked and at his head was a loaf of bread baked on hot stones and a jug of water. He ate and lay back down. ⁷An angel of Yahveh came a second time and touched him, *"Get up and eat some more, or the trip will be too much for you."* ⁸He ate and on the strength of that food went for 40 days to Horeb/Sinai, the mountain of God.

1 Kg 19:1-8**Yahveh Speaks to Elijah**

⁹He came upon a cave and stayed there, and a message from Yahveh came to him, *"What are you doing here, Elijah?"*

¹⁰He said,

"I've been zealous for you because Israel has abandoned your covenant, torn down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I'm the only one left, and they're trying to kill me."

¹¹He said, *"Go out and stand on the mountain in my presence."* Yahveh was passing by! A gale was tearing the mountains and breaking the rocks in pieces in Yahveh's presence, but

Yahveh wasn't in the wind. After the wind an earthquake came, but Yahveh wasn't in the earthquake. ¹²After the earthquake, fire *came*, but Yahveh wasn't in the fire. After the fire the sound of a gentle whisper came. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out and stood at the entrance to the cave. A voice came to him, *"What are you doing here, Elijah?"*

1 Kg 19:9-13

¹⁴He said,

"I've been zealous for you because Israel has abandoned your covenant, torn down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I'm the only one left, and they're trying to kill me."

¹⁵Yahveh told him,

"Go back on the road to the Wilderness of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram, ¹⁶anoint Jehu Ben-Nimshi king of Israel, and anoint Elisha Ben-Shaphat from Abel-meholah to succeed you as prophet. ¹⁷The one that escapes from Hazael's sword, Jehu will kill, and the one that escapes from Jehu's sword, Elisha will kill. ¹⁸I'll preserve 7,000 in Israel, who haven't bowed to Baal and haven't kissed him."

The Call of Elisha

¹⁹He left and found Elisha plowing with 12 yokes of oxen; he was with the twelfth. Elijah went over and threw his mantle on him. ²⁰He left the oxen and ran after Elijah, *"Let me kiss my parents. Then I'll go with you."* He told him, *"Go on back, but think about what I've done for you."* ²¹He went back, took a yoke of oxen, sacrificed them, and boiled their meat with the yokes. He gave it to the people to eat. Then he got up and followed Elijah as his assistant.

1 Kg 19:14-21

Ahab's War with Syria

^{20:1}Benhadad, king of Aram, gathered his army, 32 kings with horses and chariots. He went up and laid siege to Samaria and attacked it. ²He sent ambassadors to Ahab in the city, *"Benhadad says, ³Your silver and gold are mine. Your most beautiful wives and children are mine too."*

⁴The king of Israel said, *"It's according to your message, my lord king. I and everything I have are yours."*

⁵The ambassadors came back,

"This is what Benhadad said, 'I sent to you saying, "You'll give me your silver and gold, your wives and your children," ⁶but about this time tomorrow I'll send my officials to search your palace and your officials' houses. They'll carry off whatever you consider valuable."

⁷The king of Israel called the elders of the land, *"See how this man is looking to make trouble; he sent for my wives, my children, my silver and gold. I didn't tell him no."*

⁸The elders and the people advised, “*Don’t agree to anything.*” 1 Kg 20:1-8

⁹He said to Benhadad’s ambassadors, “*Tell my lord the king, ‘Everything you sent for the first time I’ll do, but I can’t do this.’*” The ambassadors took him that message.

¹⁰Benhadad sent to him, “*May the gods do so to me and more also, if there’s enough dust left in Samaria for each of my soldiers to have a handful.*”

¹¹The king of Israel answered, “*The one that puts on his armor shouldn’t brag like the one that takes it off.*”

¹²When Benhadad heard it, he was drinking with the kings in temporary shelters and told his officers, “*Take your positions.*”

Ahab’s Victory over Ben-Hadad

They took their positions against the city. 1 Kg 20:9-12

¹³A prophet approached Ahab, “*Yahveh says: ‘I’ll deliver this big army to you today, and you’ll know I’m Yahveh.’*”

¹⁴Ahab said, “*Who’ll do it?*”

“*Yahveh says, ‘The young men of the rulers in the province.’*”

“*Who’ll begin the battle?*”

“*You.*”

¹⁵He mustered the troops of the 232 provinces, 7,000 Israelites.

¹⁶They went out at noon while Benhadad was getting drunk in temporary shelters with his 32 allied kings. ¹⁷Israel’s troops went out first.

Benhadad sent out *an inquiry*, and they told him, “*Troops have come out of Samaria.*”

¹⁸“*If they’ve come out either for peace or war, take them alive.*”

¹⁹The troops came out of the city along with the entire army. ²⁰They each killed their man, the Arameans fled, and Israel chased them. Benhadad escaped on a horse with the cavalry.

²¹The king of Israel struck the horses and chariots, and killed the Arameans with a great slaughter. 1 Kg 20:13-21

²²The prophet came to the king, “*Make plans for another attack. At the first of the year, the king of Aram will come back.*”

²³Now the officers of Aram’s king told him,

“*Their gods are mountain gods; so they were stronger than we were. Let’s fight them on the plains. We’ll surely be stronger than they are.*” ²⁴*Put a commander in place of each king.* ²⁵*Muster an army like the one you’ve lost, horse for horse, chariot for chariot. Then fight them in the plain; we’ll surely be stronger than they are.*” 1 Kg 20:22-25

²⁶At the first of the year, Benhadad mustered the Arameans and went up to Aphek to fight Israel. ²⁷The Israelites mustered, gathered provisions, and went to meet them. They camped

there like two little flocks of goats, but the Arameans filled the countryside. ²⁸Then a man of God came up and told the king of Israel,

“Yahveh says, ‘Because the Arameans have said I’m a mountain god, not a god of the valleys, I’ll give this great army to you; you’ll know I’m Yahveh.’”

²⁹They camped against one another for a week. The seventh day, the battle began, and the Israelites killed 100,000 foot soldiers in one day. ³⁰The rest fled into Aphek, and the wall fell on 27,000 more. Benhadad fled to the city into an inner room. **1 Kg 20:26-30**

³¹His officers told him, *“We’ve heard that the kings of Israel are merciful. Let’s put burlap around our waists and ropes on our heads, and go out to the king of Israel. Maybe he’ll let you live.”* ³²So they put burlap around their waists and ropes on their heads, and went to the king of Israel, *“Benhadad says, ‘Please don’t kill me.’”*

He said, *“Is my brother still alive.”*

A Prophet Condemns Ahab’s Release

³³The officers quickly picked up on his word and said, *“Your brother Benhadad.”* He said, *“Go bring him here.”* Benhadad came out, and he took him up into the chariot.

³⁴Benhadad told him, *“I’ll restore the towns my father took from your father, and you’ll make streets in Damascus like my father did in Samaria.”* Ahab said, *“And I’ll let you go with this treaty.”* He made a treaty with him and let him go. **1 Kg 20:31-34**

³⁵One man from the company of prophets said to another by a message from Yahveh, *“Strike me,”* but he wouldn’t do it. ³⁶*“Because you’ve ignored Yahveh, as soon as you leave me, a lion will kill you.”* That’s what happened.

³⁷He found another man, *“Strike me.”* He struck him and wounded him.

³⁸The prophet left and waited for the king by the road. He disguised himself with a bandage over his eyes. ³⁹As the king went by, he shouted,

“I went into the battle, and a man brought a fellow over and said, ‘Guard this man. If he’s missing for any reason, it’s your life for his, or you’ll pay 75½ lbs ^{a talent} of silver.’” ⁴⁰*While I was busy here and there, he got away.”*

The king told him, *“That’s what your judgment will be. You’ve decided it yourself.”*

⁴¹Right away he took the bandage off his eyes, and the king recognized he was one of the prophets. ⁴²He told him, *“Yahveh says, since you let the man go that he’d devoted to destruction, it’s your life for his and your people for his.”*

⁴³The king of Israel went home to Samaria sullen and resentful.

1 Kg 20:35-43

Naboth’s Vineyard

²¹¹After this, Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel beside King Ahab's palace. ²Ahab spoke to him about it, *"Give me your vineyard so I can use it for a vegetable garden; it's close to my palace. I'll trade you a better vineyard for it."*

³But Naboth said, *"Yahveh forbid me from giving you my ancestors' inheritance."*

⁴Ahab went home sullen and resentful. He lay down on his bed and turned away and wouldn't eat.

⁵His wife Jezebel came in, *"Why are you so sullen you won't eat?"*

⁶*"I asked Naboth to let me buy his vineyard or trade him for another one, but he wouldn't do it."* **1 Kg 21:1-6**

⁷Jezebel said, *"Do you rule Israel? Get up, eat something, and be happy. I'll get you his vineyard."* ⁸She wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent them to the elders and nobles in Naboth's town, ⁹*"Declare a fast and seat Naboth in a prominent place. ¹⁰Put two worthless fellows with him and have them accuse him of cursing God and the king. Then take him out and stone him."*

¹¹The elders and nobles ¹²declared a fast and put Naboth in a prominent place. ¹³The two worthless fellows came in and sat down with him, and started accusing him of cursing God and the king. They took him outside the city and stoned him, ¹⁴and sent word to Jezebel. ¹⁵She told Ahab, *"Go take Naboth's vineyard; he's dead."* ¹⁶He got up to go down and take it. **1 Kg 21:7-16**

¹⁷Then a message from Yahveh came to Elijah,

¹⁸*"Meet Ahab in Naboth's vineyard. He's gone down to confiscate it.*

¹⁹*Tell him I've said, 'Have you murdered and confiscated? Where dogs licked up Naboth's blood, they'll lick up yours.'"*

²⁰Ahab said, *"Have you found me, my enemy?"*

*"I've found you because you've sold yourself to doing evil in Yahveh's presence. ²¹I'll bring evil on you and completely sweep you away. I'll remove from you every male in Israel, bond or free, ²²and make your dynasty like Jeroboam's and Baasha's; you've made me angry and got Israel to sin.' ²³Yahveh has also said dogs will eat Jezebel in the district of Jezreel. ²⁴**Dogs will eat any relative that dies in the city; birds will eat any that die in the field.**"*

²⁵Nobody had sold himself to doing evil like Ahab did, influenced by his wife. ²⁶He acted horribly in following idols like the Amorites had done that Yahveh originally drove out.

²⁷When Ahab heard that, he tore his clothes, put on burlap, and fasted. He lay down in burlap and walked around in mourning. ²⁸Then a message came to Elijah, ²⁹*"See how Ahab has humbled himself? Since he's done that, I won't do what I'd promised during his lifetime. I'll bring it on his family during his son's life."* **1 Kg 21:17-29**

Ahab and the False Prophets

22:¹Three years passed without war between Aram and Israel. ²In the **third year**, **Jehoshaphat**, king of Judah, came down to visit the king of Israel. ³The king of Israel said to his officials, *“Do you know that Ramoth-gilead belongs to us, and we’re still not doing anything to take it back from the king of Aram?”* ⁴He asked Jehoshaphat, *“Will you go with me to battle at Ramoth-gilead?”*

Jehoshaphat said, *“I’m like you, my troops like yours, my horses like yours.”* ⁵He added, *“Let’s ask first for a message from Yahveh.”*

⁶The king of Israel gathered the prophets—about 400 men, *“Should we attack Ramoth-gilead?”*

“Yes, Yahveh will deliver it to you.”

⁷But Jehoshaphat said, *“Isn’t there still a prophet of Yahveh we can ask?”*

⁸The king said, *“There’s still one, Micaiah Ben-Imlah, but I despise him; he never prophesies anything good about me.”*

⁹*“Don’t say that.”*

1 Kg 22:1-9

¹⁰The two kings were sitting on their thrones, arrayed in their robes at the threshing floor by the gate of Samaria. The prophets were prophesying there. ¹¹Zedekiah Ben-Chenaanah made iron horns for himself and said, *“Yahveh says you’ll gore the Arameans with these till they’re consumed.”* ¹²The prophets were all prophesying, *“Attack Ramoth-gilead. Yahveh will deliver it to you.”*

Micaiah Prophesies Against Ahab

¹³The messenger to Micaiah told him, *“The prophets agree in giving a favorable report to the king. Make your report like theirs.”*

¹⁴But Micaiah swore, *“As sure as Yahveh lives, I’ll say what he tells me.”*

¹⁵When he came, the king said, *“Micaiah, should we attack Ramoth-gilead?”*

He answered, *“Go right on up there! Yahveh is going to deliver it to you!!”*

¹⁶The king said, *“How many times do I have to make you swear not to tell me anything but the truth in Yahveh’s name?”*

¹⁷He said,

*“I saw Israel scattered on the mountains
like sheep without a shepherd.*

*Yahveh said, ‘They don’t have a master anymore;
they need to go home in peace.’”*

1 Kg 22:10-17

¹⁸The king told Jehoshaphat, *“Didn’t I tell you he wouldn’t prophesy anything good about me?”*

¹⁹Micaiah said,

“Listen to Yahveh’s message. I saw him^y on his throne and the host in heaven standing on his left and right. ²⁰He said, ‘Who will lure Ahab to go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?’ One said this, another said that. ²¹Then a spirit came forward, ‘I’ll lure him.’

²²*‘How?’*

‘By being a deceiving spirit in his prophets.’

‘Go do it.’”

²³Micaiah said, *“Yahveh has put a deceiving spirit in your prophets. He’s declared disaster for you.”* 1 Kg 22:18-23

²⁴Zedekiah came up and hit him on the cheek, *“How did Yahveh’s Spirit pass from me to speak to you?”*

²⁵*“You’ll see when you’re hiding in an inner room.”*

²⁶The king said, *“Take Micaiah to Amon, governor of the city, and to Joash my son. ²⁷Tell them the king says to put this man in prison and feed him sparingly with bread and water till I come back safely.”*

²⁸Micaiah said, *“If you ‘come back safely,’ Yahveh hasn’t spoken by me. Listen to that, all of you.”*

Ahab Killed in Battle

²⁹*Ahab and Jehoshaphat went up against Ramoth-gilead.*

³⁰*Ahab told Jehoshaphat, “I’ll disguise myself and go into the battle, but you wear your royal robes.”* So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle. ³¹The king of Aram had told the 32 captains of his chariots, *“Don’t fight anybody great or small except the king of Israel.”* ³²When the captains saw Jehoshaphat in his royal robes, they said, *“That has to be the king of Israel,”* and they turned aside to attack him, and he cried out. ³³When they saw it wasn’t the king of Israel, they turned back. 1 Kg 22:24-33

³⁴An Aramean archer drew his bow at random and hit the king of Israel in a joint in the armor. He told the chariot driver, *“Turn around and get me out of the fight. I’m seriously wounded.”* ³⁵The battle raged that day; the king was propped up in his chariot in sight of the Arameans and died that evening. The blood from the wound ran down onto the bottom of the chariot. ³⁶Then a shout went through the army just before sundown, *“Every man to his city and country.”*

³⁷The king died; they took him to Samaria and buried him. ³⁸They washed the chariot by the pool of Samaria. The dogs licked up his blood (where the prostitutes took baths) like Yahveh had said. ³⁹The rest of the acts of Ahab, the ivory palace he built, the towns he built are recorded in *The Chronicles of the Kings of Israel*. ⁴⁰His son Ahaziah became king. 1 Kg 22:34-40

Jehoshaphat Rules in Judah

⁴¹Jehoshaphat Ben-Asa became king in Judah in the **fourth year of Ahab**, king of Israel. ⁴²He was 35 and ruled for 25 years in Jerusalem. His mother was Azubah Bat-Shilhi. ⁴³He followed the ways of Asa in doing what was right, but he didn't take away the high places. People sacrificed and burned incense there. ⁴⁴He also made peace with the king of Israel.

⁴⁵The rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, the strength he showed in his rule, the wars he fought, are recorded in *The Chronicles of the Kings of Judah*. ⁴⁶He expelled from the land the remnant of shrine sodomites from his father's reign. ⁴⁷There wasn't any king in Edom; a deputy served as king. ⁴⁸Jehoshaphat built ships from Tarshish to go to Ophir for gold, but they didn't make it; they wrecked at Ezion-geber. ⁴⁹Then Ahab's son Ahaziah said to Jehoshaphat, "*Let my men go with yours in the ships.*" But Jehoshaphat wouldn't let them. ⁵⁰He died and they buried him in The City of David. His son **Jehoram** became king. 1 Kg 22:41-50

Ahaziah Rules in Israel

⁵¹Ahaziah became king of Israel in Samaria in the **seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat**, king of Judah, and ruled for 2 years. ⁵²He did evil like his parents and Jeroboam^I that got Israel to sin. ⁵³He served and worshiped Baal and made Yahveh God of Israel angry like his father had done. 1 Kg 22:51-53