

THE OLD TESTAMENT
1 SAMUEL–ECCLESIASTES

ABOUT THIS EDITION

This edition of THE OLD TESTAMENT increases readability by modernizing the page layout. The text is formatted into standard paragraphs and white space and other modern tools (section headers, bullet lists, etc.) are used to help with readability. Chapter and verse references are visually subdued so as to not distract from the message.

Words that are part of the actual scriptural record appear in serif font. Anything not part of that record (verse numbers, section numbers, and section headers) appears in this sans-serif font. Anything in a sans-serif font is an addition of men and can be treated accordingly.

This edition uses the text from the Inspired Version, or Joseph Smith Translation (JST), of the Bible, while using King James Version verse numbers for consistency. Significant changes in wording between the KJV text and the JST text are indicated by an underline, and the KJV text appears in the margin. Significant additions not found in the KJV text are indicated by a dashed underline.

Many textual differences between the JST and the KJV have little to no impact on the meaning, such as:

JST

KJV

And blessed are all they that do hunger and
thirst after righteousness

Blessed are they which do hunger and
thirst after righteousness

Because the goal of this version is to increase readability, simple differences such as these are not indicated. When a change is indicated, there is a significant difference that should be given attention.

In the Hebrew text, the name of God is יהוה, often transliterated as YHVH or YHWH. In the KJV, that name is represented as LORD or GOD, in all capitals. The JST did not use this method, so textual additions do not have these names in all capitals even though surrounding usage would indicate they were appropriate. There are two significant variations that are used frequently in the Old Testament:

Hebrew	Transliteration	English
יהוה אלהים	Jehovah Elohim	LORD God
אדני יהוה	Adonai Jehovah	Lord GOD

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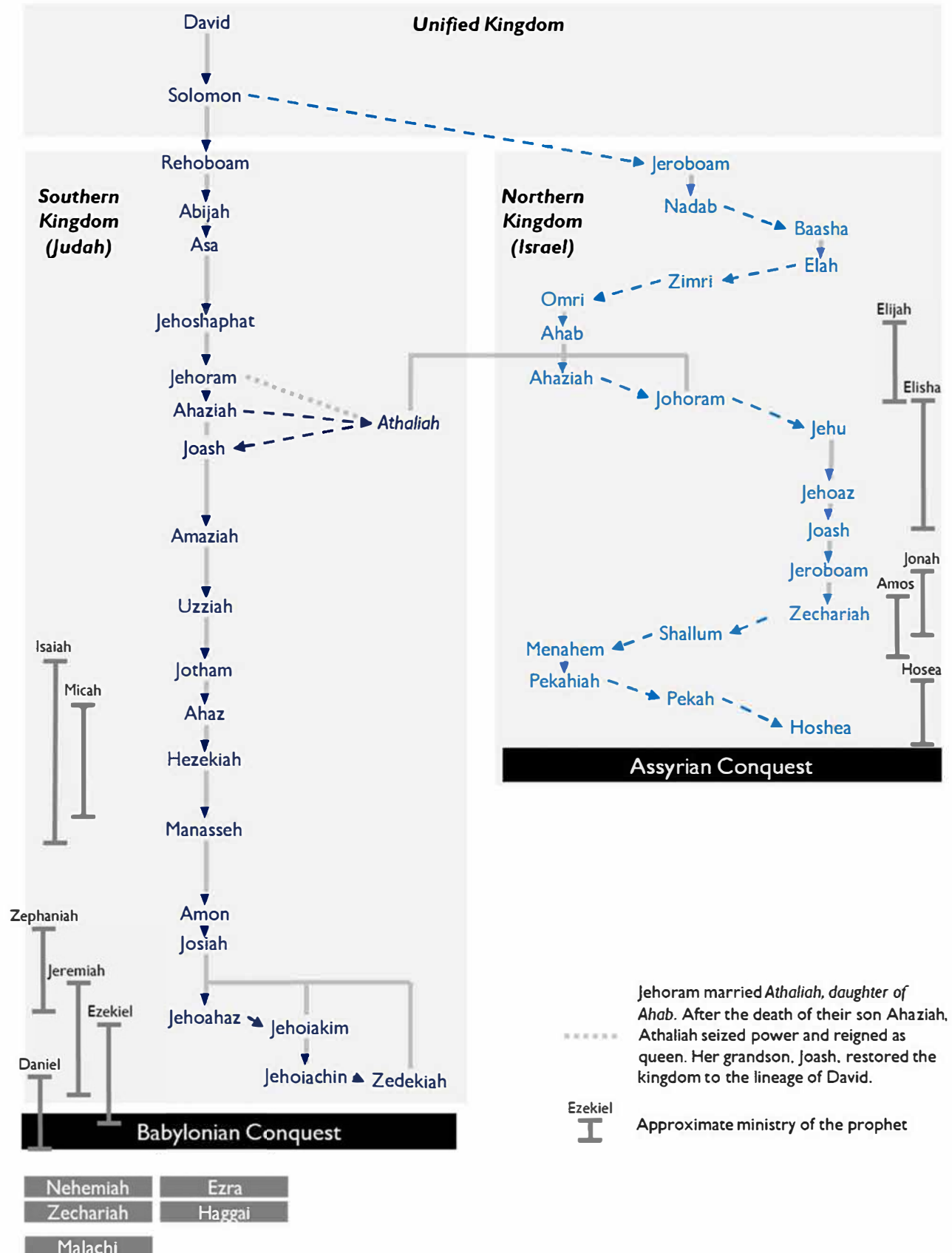
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CONTENTS

1 SAMUEL	1
2 SAMUEL	43
1 KINGS	78
2 KINGS	117
1 CHRONICLES	155
2 CHRONICLES	190
EZRA	231
NEHEMIAH	244
ESTHER	261
JOB	270
PSALMS	317
PROVERBS	390
ECCLESIASTES	419

The Kings of Judah and Israel



1 SAMUEL

¹Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim-Zophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, and Ephrathite; ²and he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah; and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

³And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there. ⁴And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions; ⁵but unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah; but the LORD had shut up her womb. ⁶And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb. ⁷And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat. ⁸Then said Elkanah her husband to her:

Hannah, why weepest thou? And why eatest thou not? And why is thy heart grieved? Am not I better to thee than ten sons?

Hannah prays for a son

⁹So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD. ¹⁰And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. ¹¹And she vowed a vow, and said:

O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man-child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

¹²And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth. ¹³Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. ¹⁴And Eli said unto her:

How long wilt thou be drunken? Put away thy wine from thee.

¹⁵And Hannah answered and said:

No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. ¹⁶Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial; for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.

¹⁷And Eli answered and said:

Go in peace; and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

¹⁸And she said:

Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight.

So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad.

The birth of Samuel

¹⁹And they rose up in the morning early, and worshiped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah; and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after

Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked him of the LORD."

Hannah dedicates Samuel

²¹And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow. ²²But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband:

I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide forever.

²³And Elkanah her husband said unto her:

Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word.

So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him. ²⁴And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ^aephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh; and the child was young. ²⁵And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli. ²⁶And she said:

^a 36 lb or 16 kg

O my lord, as thy soul liveth, my Lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD. ²⁷For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him; ²⁸therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD.

And he worshiped the LORD there.

Hannah's prayer

2 ¹And Hannah prayed, and said:

My heart rejoices in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD; my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoiced in thy salvation.

²There is none holy as the LORD; for there is none besides thee; neither is there any rock like our God.

³Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

⁴The bows of the mighty men are broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.

⁵They that were full have hired out themselves for bread; and they that were hungry ceased; so that the barren hath borne seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.

⁶The LORD killeth, and maketh alive; he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. ⁷The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich; he bringeth low, and lifteth up. ⁸He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory; for the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and he hath set the world upon them. ⁹He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

¹⁰The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them; the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

¹¹And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. And the child did minister unto the LORD before Eli the priest.

Eli's wicked sons

¹²Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD. ¹³And the priest's custom with the people was, that, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand; ¹⁴and he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither.

¹⁵Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, "Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw." ¹⁶And if any man said unto him, "Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as thy soul desireth;" then he would answer him, "Nay; but thou shalt give it me now; and if not, I will take it by force." ¹⁷Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD; for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

¹⁸But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod.

¹⁹Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said:

The LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD.

And they went unto their own home. ²¹And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

²²Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. ²³And he said unto them:

Why do ye such things? For I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. ²⁴Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear; ye make the LORD's people to transgress. ²⁵If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him; but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall entreat for him?

Notwithstanding, they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.

²⁶And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favor both with the LORD, and also with men.

Prophecy against the house of Eli

²⁷And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him:

Thus saith the LORD: Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? ²⁸And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? And did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel? ²⁹Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honorest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?

³⁰Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith: I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me forever; but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honor me I will honor, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed. ³¹Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house. ³²And thou shalt see an enemy in my habitation, in all the wealth which God shall give Israel; and

there shall not be an old man in thine house forever. ³³And the man of thine, whom I shall not cut off from mine altar, shall be to consume thine eyes, and to grieve thine heart; and all the increase of thine house shall die in the flower of their age.

³⁴And this shall be a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them. ³⁵And I will rise me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind; and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed forever. ³⁶And it shall come to pass, that everyone that is left in thine house shall come and crouch to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and shall say, "Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread."

The LORD calls Samuel

3 ¹And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

²And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see; ³and ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep. ⁴That the LORD called Samuel; and he answered, "Here am I." ⁵And he ran unto Eli, and said, "Here am I; for thou calledst me." And he said, "I called not; lie down again." And he went and lay down.

⁶And the LORD called yet again, "Samuel." And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here am I; for thou didst call me." And he answered, "I called not, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD ye revealed unto him.

⁸And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here am I; for thou didst call me." And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child. ⁹Therefore Eli said unto Samuel:

Go, lie down; and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth."

So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, "Samuel, Samuel." Then Samuel answered, "Speak; for thy servant heareth." ¹¹And the LORD said to Samuel:

Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of everyone that heareth it shall tingle. ¹²In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house; when I begin, I will also make an end. ¹³For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. ¹⁴And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering forever.

¹⁵And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to show Eli the vision. ¹⁶Then Eli called Samuel, and said, "Samuel, my son." And he answered, "Here am I." ¹⁷And he said:

What is the thing that the LORD hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me; God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide anything from me of all the things that he said unto thee.

¹⁸And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said:
It is the LORD; let him do what seemeth him good.

¹⁹And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan even to Beer-Sheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD. ²¹And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh; for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

The Philistines capture the ark

4 ¹And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out against the Philistines to battle, and pitched beside Ebenezer; and the Philistines pitched in Aphek. ²And the Philistines put themselves in array against Israel; and when they joined battle, Israel was smitten before the Philistines; and they slew of the army in the field about four thousand men. ³And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said:

Wherefore hath the LORD smitten us today before the Philistines? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.

⁴So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubim; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. ⁵And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again.

⁶And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said:

What meaneth the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews?

And they understood that the ark of the LORD was come into the camp. ⁷And the Philistines were afraid; for they said, "God is come into the camp." And they said:

Woe unto us! For there hath not been such a thing heretofore. ⁸Woe unto us! Who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? These are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness. ⁹Be strong, and quit yourselves like men. O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you; quit yourselves like men, and fight.

¹⁰And the Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent; and there was very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen. ¹¹And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.

The death of Eli

¹²And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the army, and came to Shiloh the same day with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head. ¹³And when he came, lo, Eli sat upon a seat by the wayside watching; for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city, and told it, all the city cried out. ¹⁴And when Eli heard the noise of the crying, he said, "What meaneth the noise of this tumult?" And the man came in hastily, and told Eli. ¹⁵Now Eli was ninety and eight years old; and his eyes were dim, that he could not see. ¹⁶And the man said unto Eli, "I am he that came out of the army, and I fled today out of the army." And he said, "What is there done, my son?"

¹⁷And the messenger answered and said:

Israel is fled before the Philistines, and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people, and thy two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God is taken.

¹⁸And it came to pass, when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died; for he was an old man, and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years.

¹⁹And his daughter-in-law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, near to be delivered; and when she heard the tidings that the ark of God was taken, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and travailed; for her pains came upon her. ²⁰And about the time of her death the women that stood by her said unto her, "Fear not; for thou hast borne a son." But she answered not, neither did she regard it. ²¹And she named the child Ichabod, saying, "The glory is departed from Israel; because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father-in-law and her husband. ²²And she said:

The glory is departed from Israel; for the ark of God is taken.

The ark among the Philistines

5 And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Ebenezer unto Ashdod. ²When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon. ³And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again. ⁴And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him. ⁵Therefore neither the priests of Dagon, nor any that come into Dagon's house, tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod unto this day.

⁶But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and smote them with emerods, even Ashdod and the coasts thereof. ⁷And when the men of Ashdod saw that it was so, they said:

The ark of the God of Israel shall not abide with us; for his hand is sore upon us, and upon Dagon our god.

⁸They sent therefore and gathered all the lords of the Philistines unto them, and said: What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?

And they answered:

Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried about unto Gath.

And they carried the ark of the God of Israel about thither. ⁹And it was so, that, after they had carried it about, the hand of the LORD was against the city with a very great destruction; and he smote the men of the city, both small and great, and they had emerods in their secret parts. ¹⁰Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. And it came to pass, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying:

They have brought about the ark of the God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people.

¹¹So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said:

Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to his own place, that it slay us not, and our people.

For there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there. ¹²And the men that died not were smitten with the emerods; and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

The ark returned to Israel

6 ¹And the ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months. ²And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying:

What shall we do to the ark of the LORD? Tell us wherewith we shall send it to his place.

³And they said:

If ye send away the ark of the God of Israel, send it not empty; but in any wise return him a trespass offering; then ye shall be healed, and it shall be known to you why his hand is not removed from you.

⁴Then said they:

What shall be the trespass offering which we shall return to him?

They answered:

Five golden emerods, and five golden mice, according to the number of the lords of the Philistines; for one plague was on you all, and on your lords. ⁵Wherefore ye shall make images of your emerods, and images of your mice that mar the land; and ye shall give glory unto the God of Israel; peradventure he will lighten his hand from off you, and from off your gods, and from off your land. ⁶Wherefore then do ye harden your hearts, as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? When he had wrought wonderfully among them, did they not let the people go, and they departed?

⁷Now therefore make a new cart, and take two milch kine, on which there hath come no yoke, and tie the kine to the cart, and bring their calves home from them; ⁸and take the ark of the LORD, and lay it upon the cart; and put the jewels of gold, which ye return him for a trespass offering, in a coffer by the side thereof; and send it away, that it may go. ⁹And see, if it goeth up by the way of his own coast to Beth-Shemesh, then he hath done us this great evil; but if not, then we shall know that it is not his hand that smote us; it was a chance that happened to us.

¹⁰And the men did so; and took two milch kine, and tied them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home. ¹¹And they laid the ark of the LORD upon the cart, and the coffer with the mice of gold and the images of their emerods. ¹²And the kine took the straight way to the way of Beth-Shemesh, and went along the highway, lowing as they went, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left; and the lords of the Philistines went after them unto the border of Beth-Shemesh.

¹³And they of Beth-Shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley; and they lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it. ¹⁴And the cart came into the field of Joshua, a Beth-Shemite, and stood there, where there was a great stone; and they clave the wood of the cart, and offered the kine a burnt offering unto the LORD. ¹⁵And the Levites took down the ark of the LORD, and the coffer that was with it, wherein the jewels of gold were, and put them on the great stone; and the men of Beth-Shemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day unto the LORD. ¹⁶And when the five lords of the Philistines had seen it, they returned to Ekron the same day.

¹⁷And these are the golden emerods which the Philistines returned for a trespass offering unto the LORD; for Ashdod one, for Gaza one, for Askelon one, for Gath one, for Ekron one; ¹⁸and the golden mice, according to the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five lords, both of fenced cities, and of country villages, even unto the great stone of Abel, whereon they set down the ark of the LORD; which stone remaineth unto this day in the field of Joshua, the Beth-Shemite.

¹⁹And he smote the men of Beth-Shemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD, even he smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men; and the people lamented, because the LORD had smitten many of the people with a great slaughter. ²⁰And the men of Beth-Shemesh said:

Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? And to whom shall he go up from us?

²¹And they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjath-Jearim, saying:

The Philistines have brought again the ark of the LORD; come ye down, and fetch it up to you.

7 ¹And the men of Kirjath-Jearim came, and fetched up the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD. ²And it came to pass, while the ark abode in Kirjath-Jearim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years; and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.

Samuel subdues the Philistines

³And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying:

If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only; and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.

⁴Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only.

⁵And Samuel said, "Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD."

⁶And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out before the LORD, and fasted on that day, and said there, "We have sinned against the LORD." And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh.

⁷And when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpeh, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines. ⁸And the children of Israel said to Samuel:

Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines.

⁹And Samuel took a suckling lamb, and offered it for a burnt offering wholly unto the LORD; and Samuel cried unto the LORD for Israel; and the LORD heard him. ¹⁰And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel; but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel. ¹¹And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them until they came under Beth-Car.

¹²Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, "Hitherto hath the LORD helped us."

¹³So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel; and the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. ¹⁴And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron even unto Gath; and the coasts thereof did Israel deliver out of the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

¹⁵And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. ¹⁶And he went from year to year in circuit to Beth-El, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places. ¹⁷And his return was to Ramah; for there was his house; and there he judged Israel; and there he built an altar unto the LORD.

Israel asks for a king

- 8 ¹And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. ²Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah; they were judges in Beer-Sheba. ³And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.
- ⁴Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, ⁵and said unto him:
- Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways; now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.
- ⁶But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. ⁷And the LORD said unto Samuel:
- Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee; for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.
- ⁸According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee. ⁹Now therefore hearken unto their voice; howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.
- ¹⁰And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king. ¹¹And he said:
- This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots. ¹²And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. ¹³And he will take your daughters to be confectioneries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. ¹⁴And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your olive yards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. ¹⁵And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. ¹⁶And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work. ¹⁷He will take the tenth of your sheep; and ye shall be his servants. ¹⁸And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.
- ¹⁹Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said:
- Nay; but we will have a king over us; ²⁰that we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.
- ²¹And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD. ²²And the LORD said to Samuel:
- Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king.
- And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, "Go ye every man unto his city."

Samuel anoints Saul

- 9 ¹Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power. ²And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly; and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he; from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.

³And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, "Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses." ⁴And he passed through mount Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalisha, but they found them not; then they passed through the land of Shalim, and there they were not; and he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they found them not.

⁵And when they were come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant that was with him; "Come, and let us return; lest my father leave caring for the asses, and take thought for us." ⁶And he said unto him:

Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honorable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass; now let us go thither; peradventure he can show us our way that we should go.

⁷Then said Saul to his servant:

But, behold, if we go, what shall we bring the man? For the bread is spent in our vessels, and there is not a present to bring to the man of God; what have we?

⁸And the servant answered Saul again, and said:

Behold, I have here at hand the ^afourth part of a shekel of silver; that will I give to the man of God, to tell us our way. ^a 0.1 oz or 3 g

⁹(Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, thus he spake, "Come, and let us go to the seer;" for he that is now called a prophet was beforetime called a seer.)

¹⁰Then said Saul to his servant, "Well said; come, let us go."

So they went unto the city where the man of God was. ¹¹And as they went up the hill to the city, they found young maidens going out to draw water, and said unto them:

Is the seer here?

¹²And they answered them and said:

He is; behold, he is before you; make haste now, for he came today to the city; for there is a sacrifice of the people today in the high place; ¹³as soon as ye be come into the city, ye shall straightway find him, before he go up to the high place to eat; for the people will not eat until he come, because he doth bless the sacrifice; and afterwards they eat that be bidden. Now therefore get you up; for about this time ye shall find him.

¹⁴And they went up into the city; and when they were come into the city, behold, Samuel came out against them, for to go up to the high place.

¹⁵Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying:

¹⁶Tomorrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be a captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines; for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.

¹⁷And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him:

Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! This same shall reign over my people.

¹⁸Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said:

Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer's house is.

¹⁹And Samuel answered Saul, and said:

I am the seer; go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me today, and tomorrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that is in thine heart. ²⁰And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found. And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on thee, and on all thy father's house?

²¹And Saul answered and said:

Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? And my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Wherefore then speakest thou so to me?

²²And Samuel took Saul and his servant, and brought them into the parlor, and made them sit in the chiefest place among them that were bidden, which were about thirty persons. ²³And Samuel said unto the cook:

Bring the portion which I gave thee, of which I said unto thee, Set it by thee.

²⁴And the cook took up the shoulder, and that which was upon it, and set it before Saul. And Samuel said:

Behold that which is left! Set it before thee and eat; for unto this time hath it been kept for thee since I said, I have invited the people.

So Saul did eat with Samuel that day.

²⁵And when they were come down from the high place into the city, Samuel communed with Saul upon the top of the house. ²⁶And they arose early; and it came to pass about the spring of the day, that Samuel called Saul to the top of the house, saying:

Up, that I may send thee away.

And Saul arose, and they went out both of them, he and Samuel, abroad. ²⁷And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul:

Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on) but stand thou still a while, that I may show thee the word of God.

10

¹Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said:

Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?

²When thou art departed from me today, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's sepulcher in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say unto thee, "The asses which thou wentest to seek are found; and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, 'What shall I do for my son?'"

³Then shalt thou go on forward from thence, and thou shalt come to the plain of Tabor, and there shall meet thee three men going up to God to Beth-El, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine; ⁴and they will salute thee, and give thee two loaves of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands.

⁵After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where is the garrison of the Philistines; and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy; ⁶and the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.

⁷And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee.

⁸And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings, and to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings; seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and show thee what thou shalt do.

⁹And it was so, that, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day. ¹⁰And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. ¹¹And it came to pass, when all that knew him beforetime

saw that, behold, he prophesied among the prophets, then the people said one to another, "What is this that is come unto the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" ¹²And one of the same place answered and said, "But who is their father?" Therefore it became a proverb, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

¹³And when he had made an end of prophesying, he came to the high place. ¹⁴And Saul's uncle said unto him and to his servant, "Whither went ye?" And he said:

To seek the asses; and when we saw that they were nowhere, we came to Samuel.

¹⁵And Saul's uncle said, "Tell me, I pray thee, what Samuel said unto you."

¹⁶And Saul said unto his uncle, "He told us plainly that the asses were found."

But of the matter of the kingdom, whereof Samuel spake, he told him not.

Saul made king

¹⁷And Samuel called the people together unto the LORD to Mizpeh; ¹⁸and said unto the children of Israel:

Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all kingdoms, and of them that oppressed you; ¹⁹and ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him, "Nay, but set a king over us." Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands.

²⁰And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was taken. ²¹When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was taken, and Saul the son of Kish was taken; and when they sought him, he could not be found. ²²Therefore they inquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered:

Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff.

²³And they ran and fetched him thence; and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward. ²⁴And Samuel said to all the people:

See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people?

And all the people shouted, and said, "God save the king."

²⁵Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house.

²⁶And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched. ²⁷But the children of Belial said, "How shall this man save us?" And they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

Saul rescues the city of Jabesh

¹Then Nahash the Ammonite came up, and encamped against Jabesh-Gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said unto Nahash:

Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee.

²And Nahash the Ammonite answered them:

On this condition will I make a covenant with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it for a reproach in all Israel.

³And the elders of Jabesh said unto him:

Give us seven days' respite, that we may send messengers unto all the coasts of Israel; and then, if there be no man to save us, we will come out to thee.

⁴Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people; and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept. ⁵And, behold, Saul came after the herd out of the field; and Saul said:

What aileth the people that they weep?

And they told him the tidings of the men of Jabesh. ⁶And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly. ⁷And he took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying:

Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen.

And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent. ⁸And when he numbered them in Bezek, the children of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand. ⁹And they said unto the messengers that came:

Thus shall ye say unto the men of Jabeshgilead, "Tomorrow, by that time the sun be hot, ye shall have help."

And the messengers came and showed it to the men of Jabesh; and they were glad.

¹⁰Therefore the men of Jabesh said:

Tomorrow we will come out unto you, and ye shall do with us all that seemeth good unto you.

¹¹And it was so on the morrow, that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the host in the morning watch, and slew the Ammonites until the heat of the day; and it came to pass, that they which remained were scattered, so that two of them were not left together.

¹²And the people said unto Samuel:

Who is he that said, "Shall Saul reign over us?" Bring the men, that we may put them to death.

¹³And Saul said:

There shall not a man be put to death this day; for today the LORD hath wrought salvation in Israel.

¹⁴Then said Samuel to the people, "Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there." ¹⁵And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

Samuel addresses Israel

12 ¹And Samuel said unto all Israel:

Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me, and have made a king over you. ²And now, behold, the king walketh before you; and I am old and grayheaded; and, behold, my sons are with you; and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day.

³Behold, here I am; witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed; whose ox have I taken? Or whose ass have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? And I will restore it you.

⁴And they said:

Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken aught of any man's hand.

⁵And he said unto them:

The LORD is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that ye have not found aught in my hand.

And they answered, "He is witness."

⁶And Samuel said unto the people:

It is the LORD that advanced Moses and Aaron, and that brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt. ⁷Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD of all the righteous acts of the LORD, which he did to you and to your fathers. ⁸When Jacob was come into Egypt, and your fathers cried unto the LORD, then the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, which brought forth your fathers out of Egypt, and made them dwell in this place.

⁹And when they forgot the LORD their God, he sold them into the hand of Sisera, captain of the host of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab, and they fought against them. ¹⁰And they cried unto the LORD, and said, "We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and have served Baalim and Ashtarothe; but now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee." ¹¹And the LORD sent Jerubbaal, and Bedan, and Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and ye dwelt safe.

¹²And when ye saw that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon came against you, ye said unto me, "Nay; but a king shall reign over us;" when the LORD your God was your king. ¹³Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, and whom ye have desired! And, behold, the LORD hath set a king over you.

¹⁴If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD; then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God; ¹⁵but if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD; then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as it was against your fathers.

¹⁶Now therefore stand and see this great thing, which the LORD will do before your eyes. ¹⁷Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and rain; that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.

¹⁸So Samuel called unto the LORD; and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel. ¹⁹And all the people said unto Samuel:

Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not; for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king.

²⁰And Samuel said unto the people:

Fear not; ye have done all this wickedness; yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; ²¹and turn ye not aside; for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain. ²²For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake; because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

²³Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way; ²⁴only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart; for consider how great things he hath done

for you. ²⁵But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

13 ¹Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel, ²Saul chose him three thousand men of Israel; whereof two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in mount Beth-El, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin; and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent.

³And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear." ⁴And all Israel heard say that Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel also was had in abomination with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal.

⁵And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the seashore in multitude; and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Beth-Aven.

⁶When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits. ⁷And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead.

Saul's unlawful sacrifice

As for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. ⁸And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed; but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. ⁹And Saul said:

Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings.

And he offered the burnt offering. ¹⁰And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. ¹¹And Samuel said:

What hast thou done?

And Saul said:

Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; ¹²therefore said I, "The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD;" I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

¹³And Samuel said to Saul:

Thou hast done foolishly; thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee; for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel forever. ¹⁴But now thy kingdom shall not continue; the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

¹⁵And Samuel arose, and gat him up from Gilgal unto Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people that were present with him, about six hundred men.

Israel without weapons

¹⁶And Saul, and Jonathan his son, and the people that were present with them, abode in Gibeah of Benjamin; but the Philistines encamped in Michmash. ¹⁷And the spoilers came

out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies; one company turned unto the way that leadeth to Ophrah, unto the land of Shual; ¹⁸and another company turned the way to Beth-Horon; and another company turned to the way of the border that looketh to the valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.

¹⁹Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel; for the Philistines said, "Lest the Hebrews make them swords or spears;" ²⁰but all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his axe, and his mattock.

²¹Yet they had a file for the mattocks, and for the coulters, and for the forks, and for the axes, and to sharpen the goads.

²²So it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people that were with Saul and Jonathan; but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found.

²³And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the passage of Michmash.

4 ¹Now it came to pass upon a day, that Jonathan the son of Saul said unto the young man that bare his armor:

Come, and let us go over to the Philistines' garrison, that is on the other side.

But he told not his father. ²And Saul tarried in the uttermost part of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree which is in Migron; and the people that were with him were about six hundred men; ³and Ahiah, the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD's priest in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people knew not that Jonathan was gone.

⁴And between the passages, by which Jonathan sought to go over unto the Philistines' garrison, there was a sharp rock on the one side, and a sharp rock on the other side; and the name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh. ⁵The forefront of the one was situate northward over against Michmash, and the other southward over against Gibeah.

⁶And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armor:

Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will work for us; for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.

⁷And his armor-bearer said unto him:

Do all that is in thy heart; turn thee; behold, I am with thee according to thy heart.

⁸Then said Jonathan:

Behold, we will pass over unto these men, and we will discover ourselves unto them.

⁹If they say thus unto us, "Tarry until we come to you;" then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them. ¹⁰But if they say thus, "Come up unto us;" then we will go up; for the LORD hath delivered them into our hand; and this shall be a sign unto us.

¹¹And both of them discovered themselves unto the garrison of the Philistines; and the Philistines said:

Behold, the Hebrews come forth out of the holes where they had hid themselves.

¹²And the men of the garrison answered Jonathan and his armor-bearer, and said:

Come up to us, and we will show you a thing.

And Jonathan said unto his armor-bearer:

Come up after me; for the LORD hath delivered them into the hand of Israel.

¹³And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armor-bearer after him; and they fell before Jonathan; and his armor-bearer slew after him. ¹⁴And that first slaughter, which Jonathan and his armor-bearer made, was about twenty men, within as it were a half acre of land, which a yoke of oxen might plough.

¹⁵And there was trembling in the host, in the field, and among all the people; the garrison, and the spoilers, they also trembled, and the earth quaked; so it was a very great trembling.

¹⁶And the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked; and, behold, the multitude melted away, and they went on beating down one another. ¹⁷Then said Saul unto the people that were with him:

Number now, and see who is gone from us.

And when they had numbered, behold, Jonathan and his armor-bearer were not there.

¹⁸And Saul said unto Ahiah:

Bring hither the ark of God.

For the ark of God was at that time with the children of Israel. ¹⁹And it came to pass, while Saul talked unto the priest, that the noise that was in the host of the Philistines went on and increased; and Saul said unto the priest:

Withdraw thine hand.

²⁰And Saul and all the people that were with him assembled themselves, and they came to the battle; and, behold, every man's sword was against his fellow, and there was a very great discomfiture. ²¹Moreover, the Hebrews that were with the Philistines before that time, which went up with them into the camp from the country round about, even they also turned to be with the Israelites that were with Saul and Jonathan. ²²Likewise all the men of Israel which had hid themselves in mount Ephraim, when they heard that the Philistines fled, even they also followed hard after them in the battle. ²³So the LORD saved Israel that day; and the battle passed over unto Beth-Aven.

Jonathan eats honey

²⁴And the men of Israel were distressed that day; for Saul had adjured the people, saying, "Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies." So none of the people tasted any food.

²⁵And all they of the land came to a wood; and there was honey upon the ground. ²⁶And when the people were come into the wood, behold, the honey dropped; but no man put his hand to his mouth; for the people feared the oath. ²⁷But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath; wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in a honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened. ²⁸Then answered one of the people, and said:

Thy father straitly charged the people with an oath, saying, "Cursed be the man that eateth any food this day."

And the people were faint. ²⁹Then said Jonathan:

My father hath troubled the land; see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey. ³⁰How much more, if haply the people had eaten freely today of the spoil of their enemies which they found? For had their not been now a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?

³¹And they smote the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon; and the people were very faint. ³²And the people flew upon the spoil, and took sheep, and oxen, and calves, and

slew them on the ground; and the people did eat them with the blood. ³³Then they told Saul, saying:

Behold, the people sin against the LORD, in that they eat with the blood.

And he said, "Ye have transgressed; roll a great stone unto me this day."

³⁴And Saul said:

Disperse yourselves among the people, and say unto them, "Bring me hither every man his ox, and every man his sheep, and slay them here, and eat; and sin not against the LORD in eating with the blood."

And all the people brought every man his ox with him that night, and slew them there.

³⁵And Saul built an altar unto the LORD; the same was the first altar that he built unto the LORD.

³⁶And Saul said:

Let us go down after the Philistines by night, and spoil them until the morning light, and let us not leave a man of them.

And they said, "Do whatsoever seemeth good unto thee."

Then said the priest, "Let us draw near hither unto God."

³⁷And Saul asked counsel of God:

Shall I go down after the Philistines? Wilt thou deliver them into the hand of Israel?

But he answered him not that day. ³⁸And Saul said:

Draw ye near hither, all the chief of the people; and know and see wherein this sin hath been this day. ³⁹For, as the LORD liveth, which saveth Israel, though it be in Jonathan my son, he shall surely die.

But there was not a man among all the people that answered him. ⁴⁰Then said he unto all Israel:

Be ye on one side, and I and Jonathan my son will be on the other side.

And the people said unto Saul, "Do what seemeth good unto thee."

⁴¹Therefore Saul said unto the LORD God of Israel, "Give a perfect lot." And Saul and Jonathan were taken; but the people escaped. ⁴²And Saul said, "Cast lots between me and Jonathan my son." And Jonathan was taken. ⁴³Then Saul said to Jonathan, "Tell me what thou hast done."

And Jonathan told him, and said:

I did but taste a little honey with the end of the rod that was in mine hand, and, lo, I must die.

⁴⁴And Saul answered, "God do so and more also; for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan."

⁴⁵And the people said unto Saul:

Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid; as the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day.

So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not.

⁴⁶Then Saul went up from following the Philistines; and the Philistines went to their own place. ⁴⁷So Saul took the kingdom over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, and against the children of Ammon, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines; and whithersoever he turned himself, he vexed

them. ⁴⁸And he gathered a host, and smote the Amalekites, and delivered Israel out of the hands of them that spoiled them.

Saul's family

⁴⁹Now the sons of Saul were Jonathan, and Ishui, and Melchishua; and the names of his two daughters were these: the name of the first-born Merab, and the name of the younger Michal; ⁵⁰and the name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam, the daughter of Ahimaaz; and the name of the captain of his host was Abner, the son of Ner, Saul's uncle. ⁵¹And Kish was the father of Saul; and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel.

⁵²And there was sore war against the Philistines all the days of Saul; and when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he took him unto him.

The LORD rejects Saul

15 ¹Samuel also said unto Saul:

The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel; now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD. ²Thus saith the LORD of hosts: I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. ³Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

⁴And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah. ⁵And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley. ⁶And Saul said unto the Kenites:

Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them; for ye showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt.

So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. ⁷And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt. ⁸And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. ⁹But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them; but everything that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

¹⁰Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying:

¹¹I have set up Saul to be a king, and he repenteth not that he hath sinned, for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments.

It repenteth me that I have

And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night. ¹²And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying:

Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.

¹³And Samuel came to Saul; and Saul said unto him:

Blessed be thou of the LORD; I have performed the commandment of the LORD.

¹⁴And Samuel said:

What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

¹⁵And Saul said:

They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

¹⁶Then Samuel said unto Saul:

Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night.

And he said unto him, "Say on." ¹⁷And Samuel said:

When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel? ¹⁸And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, "Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed." ¹⁹Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

²⁰And Saul said unto Samuel:

Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. ²¹But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.

²²And Samuel said:

hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offering and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. ²³For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

²⁴And Saul said unto Samuel:

I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words; because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. ²⁵Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.

²⁶And Samuel said unto Saul:

I will not return with thee; for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

²⁷And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent. ²⁸And Samuel said unto him:

The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbor of thine, that is better than thou. ²⁹And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent; for he is not a man that he should repent.

³⁰Then he said:

I have sinned; yet honor me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.

³¹So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshiped the LORD. ³²Then said Samuel:

Bring ye hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites.

And Agag came unto him delicately. And Agag said:

Surely the bitterness of death is past.

³And Samuel said:

As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women.

And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

³⁴Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul. ³⁵And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death; nevertheless, Samuel mourned for Saul; and the LORD rent the kingdom from Saul whom he had made king over Israel.

repented that he made Saul king

Samuel anoints David

16

¹And the LORD said unto Samuel:

How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite; for I have provided me a king among his sons.

²And Samuel said:

How can I go? If Saul hear it, he will kill me.

And the LORD said:

Take a heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD. ³And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show thee what thou shalt do; and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee.

⁴And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Comest thou peaceably?" ⁵And he said:

Peaceably; I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.

And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice. ⁶And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." ⁷But the LORD said unto Samuel:

Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him; for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither hath the LORD chosen this." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, "Neither hath the LORD chosen this." ¹⁰Again Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, "The LORD hath not chosen these."

¹¹And Samuel said unto Jesse, "Are here all thy children?" And he said, "There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keeps the sheep." And Samuel said unto Jesse, "Send and fetch him; for we will not sit down till he come hither." ¹²And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said:

Arise, anoint him; for this is he.

¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

David enters Saul's service

¹⁴But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit which was not of the Lord troubled him. ¹⁵And Saul's servants said unto him:

from the LORD

Behold now, an evil spirit which is not of God troubleth thee. ¹⁶Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on a harp; and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit, which is not of God, is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well. from God

¹⁷And Saul said unto his servants:

Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me.

¹⁸Then answered one of the servants, and said:

Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him.

¹⁹Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said:

Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep.

²⁰And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul. ²¹And David came to Saul, and stood before him; and he loved him greatly; and he became his armor-bearer. ²²And Saul sent to Jesse, saying:

Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favor in my sight.

²³And it came to pass, when the evil spirit, which was not of God, was upon Saul, that David took a harp, and played with his hand; so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him. from God

David and Goliath

17 ¹Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which belongeth to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephes-Dammim. ²And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines. ³And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side; and there was a valley between them.

⁴And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. ⁵And he had a helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. ⁶And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. ⁷And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and one bearing a shield went before him.

⁸And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them:

Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? Am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? Choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. ⁹If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants; but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us.

¹⁰And the Philistine said:

I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.

¹¹When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

¹²Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem-Judah, whose name was Jesse; and he had eight sons; and the man went among men for an old man in the days of Saul.

¹³And the three eldest sons of Jesse went and followed Saul to the battle; and the names of his three sons that went to the battle were Eliab the first-born, and next unto him

Abinadab, and the third Shammah. ¹⁴And David was the youngest; and the three eldest followed Saul. ¹⁵But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

¹⁶And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days.

¹⁷And Jesse said unto David his son:

Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren; ¹⁸and carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge.

¹⁹Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. ²⁰And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle. ²¹For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army. ²²And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren. ²³And as he talked with them behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words; and David heard them.

²⁴And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.

²⁵And the men of Israel said:

Have ye seen this man that is come up? Surely to defy Israel is he come up; and it shall be that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

²⁶And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying:

What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

²⁷And the people answered him after this manner, saying, "So shall it be done to the man that killeth him." ²⁸And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said:

Why camest thou down hither? And with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

²⁹And David said, "What have I now done? Is there not a cause?"

³⁰And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner; and the people answered him again after the former manner. ³¹And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul; and he sent for him. ³²And David said to Saul:

Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

³³And Saul said to David:

Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

³⁴And David said unto Saul:

Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock; ³⁵and I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth; and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and

slew him. ³⁶Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

³⁷David said moreover:

The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.

And Saul said unto David, "Go, and the LORD be with thee."

³⁸And Saul armed David with his armor, and he put a helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. ³⁹And David girded his sword upon his armor, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, "I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them." And David put them off him. ⁴⁰And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand; and he drew near to the Philistine.

⁴¹And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him. ⁴²And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. ⁴³And the Philistine said unto David:

Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves?

And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴And the Philistine said to David:

Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.

⁴⁵Then said David to the Philistine:

Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. ⁴⁶This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee, and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands.

⁴⁸And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. ⁵⁰So David prevailed over the Philistines with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David. ⁵¹Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith.

And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled. ⁵²And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron. ⁵³And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and they spoiled their tents.

⁵⁴And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armor in his tent.

⁵⁵And when Saul saw David go forth against the Philistine, he said unto Abner, the captain of the host, "Abner, whose son is this youth?" And Abner said, "As thy soul

liveth, O king, I cannot tell.” ⁵⁶And the king said, “Inquire thou whose son the stripling is.” ⁵⁷And as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. ⁵⁸And Saul said to him, “Whose son art thou, thou young man?” And David answered, “I am the son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.”

Jonathan befriends David

18 ¹And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. ²And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father’s house. ³Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. ⁴And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

Saul envies David

⁵And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely; and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul’s servants. ⁶And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of music.

⁷And the women answered one another as they played, and said:

Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

⁸And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said:

They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands; and what can he have more but the kingdom?

⁹And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

¹⁰And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit which was not of God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house; and David played with his hand, as at other times; and there was a javelin in Saul’s hand. ¹¹And Saul cast the javelin; for he said:

I will smite David even to the wall with it.

And David avoided out of his presence twice.

¹²And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul. ¹³Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. ¹⁴And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him. ¹⁵Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him. ¹⁶But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

David marries Michal

¹⁷And Saul said to David:

Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife; only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD’s battles.

For Saul said, “Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him.”

¹⁸And David said unto Saul:

Who am I? And what is my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?

¹⁹But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife. ²⁰And Michal Saul's daughter loved David; and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. ²¹And Saul said, "I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Wherefore Saul said to David:

Thou shalt this day be my son-in-law in the one of the twain.

²²And Saul commanded his servants, saying:

Commune with David secretly, and say, "Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee; now therefore be the king's son-in-law."

²³And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said:

Seemeth it to you a light thing to be a king's son-in-law, seeing that I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed?

²⁴And the servants of Saul told him, saying, "On this manner spake David." ²⁵And Saul said:

Thus shall ye say to David, "The king desireth not any dowry, but a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies."

But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.

²⁶And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son-in-law; and the days were not expired. ²⁷Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son-in-law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife. ²⁸And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him. ²⁹And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.

³⁰Then the princes of the Philistines went forth; and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by.

Jonathan warns David

19 ¹And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David.

²But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David; and Jonathan told David, saying:

Saul my father seeketh to kill thee; now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself; ³and I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where thou art, and I will commune with my father of thee; and what I see, that I will tell thee.

⁴And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him:

Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good; ⁵for he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel; thou sawest it, and didst rejoice; wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?

⁶And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan; and Saul sware:

As the LORD liveth, he shall not be slain.

⁷And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan showed him all those things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence, as in times past.

⁸And there was war again; and David went out, and fought with the Philistines, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled from him. ⁹And the evil spirit which was not of the Lord was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand; and David played with his hand. ¹⁰And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall; and David fled, and escaped that night.

¹¹Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning; and Michal David's wife told him, saying:

If thou save not thy life tonight, tomorrow thou shalt be slain.

¹²So Michal let David down through a window; and he went, and fled, and escaped. ¹³And Michal took an image, and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster, and covered it with a cloth. ¹⁴And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He is sick." ¹⁵And Saul sent the messengers again to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him." ¹⁶And when the messengers were come in, behold, there was an image in the bed, with a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster. ¹⁷And Saul said unto Michal:

Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped?

And Michal answered Saul, "He said unto me, 'Let me go; why should I kill thee?'"

¹⁸So David fled, and escaped, and came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and dwelt in Naioth. ¹⁹And it was told Saul, saying, "Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah." ²⁰And Saul sent messengers to take David; and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. ²¹And when it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also. ²²Then went he also to Ramah, and came to a great well that is in Sechu; and he asked and said, "Where are Samuel and David?" And one said, "Behold, they be at Naioth in Ramah." ²³And he went thither to Naioth in Ramah; and the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah. ²⁴And he stripped off his clothes also, and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Wherefore they say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

David and Jonathan

20 ¹And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said before Jonathan:
What have I done? What is mine iniquity? And what is my sin before thy father, that he seeketh my life?

²And he said unto him:

God forbid; thou shalt not die; behold, my father will do nothing either great or small, but that he will show it me; and why should my father hide this thing from me? It is not so.

³And David sware moreover, and said:

Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes; and he saith, "Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved;" but truly, as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death.

⁴Then said Jonathan unto David, "Whatsoever thy soul desireth, I will even do it for thee."

⁵And David said unto Jonathan:

Behold, tomorrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat; but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third day at even. ⁶If thy father at all miss me, then say, "David earnestly asked leave of me that he might run to Bethlehem his city;" for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the family. ⁷If he say thus, "It is well;" thy servant shall have peace; but if he be very wroth, then be sure that evil is determined by him. ⁸Therefore thou shalt deal kindly with thy servant; for thou hast brought thy servant into a covenant of the LORD with thee; notwithstanding, if there be in me iniquity, slay me thyself; for why shouldest thou bring me to thy father?

⁹And Jonathan said:

Far be it from thee; for if I knew certainly that evil were determined by my father to come upon thee, then would not I tell it thee?

¹⁰Then said David to Jonathan:

Who shall tell me? Or what if thy father answer thee roughly?

¹¹And Jonathan said unto David:

Come, and let us go out into the field. And they went out both of them into the field.

¹²And Jonathan said unto David:

O LORD God of Israel, when I have sounded my father about tomorrow any time, or the third day, and, behold, if there be good toward David, and I then send not unto thee, and show it thee; ¹³the LORD do so and much more to Jonathan; but if it please my father to do thee evil, then I will show it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace; and the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my father. ¹⁴And thou shalt not only while yet I live show me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not; ¹⁵but also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house forever; no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth.

¹⁶So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying:

Let the LORD even require it at the hand of David's enemies.

¹⁷And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul. ¹⁸Then Jonathan said to David:

Tomorrow is the new moon; and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty.

¹⁹And when thou hast stayed three days, then thou shalt go down quickly, and come to the place where thou didst hide thyself when the business was in hand, and shalt remain by the stone Ezel. ²⁰And I will shoot three arrows on the side thereof, as though I shot at a mark. ²¹And, behold, I will send a lad, saying, "Go, find out the arrows." If I expressly say unto the lad, "Behold, the arrows are on this side of thee, take them;" then come thou; for there is peace to thee, and no hurt; as the LORD liveth. ²²But if I say thus unto the young man, "Behold, the arrows are beyond thee;" go thy way; for the LORD hath sent thee away. ²³And as touching the matter which thou and I have spoken of, behold, the LORD be between thee and me forever.

²⁴So David hid himself in the field; and when the new moon was come, the king sat him down to eat meat. ²⁵And the king sat upon his seat, as at other times, even upon a seat by the wall; and Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, and David's place was empty.

²⁶Nevertheless Saul spake not anything that day; for he thought, "Something hath befallen

him, he is not clean; surely he is not clean.” ²⁷And it came to pass on the morrow, which was the second day of the month, that David’s place was empty; and Saul said unto Jonathan his son:

Wherefore cometh not the son of Jesse to meat, neither yesterday, nor today?

²⁸And Jonathan answered Saul:

David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Bethlehem; ²⁹and he said, “Let me go, I pray thee; for our family hath a sacrifice in the city; and my brother, he hath commanded me to be there; and now, if I have found favor in thine eyes, let me get away, I pray thee, and see my brethren.” Therefore he cometh not unto the king’s table.

³⁰Then Saul’s anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him:

Thou son of the perverse rebellious woman, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion, and unto the confusion of thy mother’s nakedness? ³¹For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die.

³²And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, “Wherefore shall he be slain? What hath he done?” ³³And Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him; whereby Jonathan knew that it was determined of his father to slay David. ³⁴So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and did eat no meat the second day of the month; for he was grieved for David, because his father had done him shame.

³⁵And it came to pass in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad with him. ³⁶And he said unto his lad, “Run, find out now the arrows which I shoot.” And as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.

³⁷And when the lad was come to the place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried after the lad, and said, “Is not the arrow beyond thee?” ³⁸And Jonathan cried after the lad, “Make speed, haste, stay not.” And Jonathan’s lad gathered up the arrows, and came to his master. ³⁹But the lad knew not anything; only Jonathan and David knew the matter.

⁴⁰And Jonathan gave his artillery unto his lad, and said unto him, “Go, carry them to the city.” ⁴¹And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times; and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded. ⁴²And Jonathan said to David:

Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, “The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed forever.”

And he arose and departed; and Jonathan went into the city.

David at Nob

21 ¹Then came David to Nob to Ahimelech the priest; and Ahimelech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said unto him, “Why art thou alone, and no man with thee?”

²And David said unto Ahimelech the priest:

The king hath commanded me a business, and hath said unto me, “Let no man know anything of the business whereabout I send thee, and what I have commanded thee; and I have appointed my servants to such and such a place.”

³Now therefore what is under thine hand? Give me five loaves of bread in mine hand, or what there is present.

⁴And the priest answered David, and said:

There is no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; if the young men have kept themselves at least from women.

⁵And David answered the priest, and said unto him:

Of a truth women have been kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel.

⁶So the priest gave him hallowed bread; for there was no bread there but the showbread, that was taken from before the LORD, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away.

⁷Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name was Doeg, an Edomite, the chiefest of the herdmen that belonged to Saul.

⁸And David said unto Ahimelech:

And is there not here under thine hand spear or sword? For I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste.

⁹And the priest said:

The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod; if thou wilt take that, take it; for there is no other save that here.

And David said, "There is none like that; give it me."

David at Gath

¹⁰And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.

¹¹And the servants of Achish said unto him:

Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, "Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands?"

¹²And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath. ¹³And he changed his behavior before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands; and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard.

¹⁴Then said Achish unto his servants:

Lo, ye see the man is mad; wherefore then have ye brought him to me? ¹⁵Have I need of madmen, that ye have brought this fellow to play the madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?

David at Adullam and Mizpah

22 ¹David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam; and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him. ²And everyone that was in distress, and everyone that was in debt, and everyone that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them; and there were with him about four hundred men.

³And David went thence to Mizpeh of Moab; and he said unto the king of Moab:

Let my father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, and be with you, till I know what God will do for me.

⁴And he brought them before the king of Moab; and they dwelt with him all the while that David was in the hold. ⁵And the prophet Gad said unto David:

Abide not in the hold; depart, and get thee into the land of Judah.

Saul kills the priests of Nob

Then David departed, and came into the forest of Hareth. ⁶When Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men that were with him, (now Saul abode in Gibeah under a tree in Ramah, having his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing about him) ⁷then Saul said unto his servants that stood about him:

Hear now, ye Benjamites; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds; ⁸that all of you have conspired against me, and there is none that sheweth me that my son hath made a league with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you that is sorry for me, or sheweth unto me that my son hath stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

⁹Then answered Doeg the Edomite, which was set over the servants of Saul, and said:

I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. ¹⁰And he inquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.

¹¹Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests that were in Nob; and they came all of them to the king. ¹²And Saul said, "Hear now, thou son of Ahitub." And he answered, "Here I am, my lord."

¹³And Saul said unto him:

Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

¹⁴Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said:

And who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son-in-law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honorable in thine house? ¹⁵Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? Be it far from me; let not the king impute anything unto his servant, nor to all the house of my father; for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more.

¹⁶And the king said, "Thou shalt surely die, Ahimelech, thou, and all thy father's house."

¹⁷And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him:

Turn, and slay the priests of the LORD; because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not show it to me.

But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the LORD. ¹⁸And the king said to Doeg, "Turn thou, and fall upon the priests." And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod. ¹⁹And Nob, the city of the priests, smote he with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword.

²⁰And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David. ²¹And Abiathar showed David that Saul had slain the LORD's priests. ²²And David said unto Abiathar:

I knew it that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul; I have occasioned the death of all the persons of thy father's house. ²³Abide thou with me, fear not; for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life; but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.

David saves Keilah

23

¹Then they told David, saying:

Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshing floors.

²Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying:

Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.

³And David's men said unto him:

Behold, we be afraid here in Judah; how much more then if we come to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?

⁴Then David inquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said:

Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

⁵So David and his men went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their cattle, and smote them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.*Saul pursues David*⁶And it came to pass, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David to Keilah, that he came down with an ephod in his hand. ⁷And it was told Saul that David was come to Keilah. And Saul said:

God hath delivered him into mine hand; for he is shut in, by entering into a town that hath gates and bars.

⁸And Saul called all the people together to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men. ⁹And David knew that Saul secretly practiced mischief against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest:

Bring hither the ephod.

¹⁰Then said David:O LORD God of Israel, thy servant hath certainly heard that Saul seeketh to come to Keilah, to destroy the city for my sake. ¹¹Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? Will Saul come down, as thy servant hath heard? O LORD God of Israel, I beseech thee, tell thy servant.

And the LORD said, "He will come down."

¹²Then said David, "Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will deliver thee up."¹³Then David and his men, which were about six hundred, arose and departed out of Keilah, and sent whithersoever they could go. And it was told Saul that David was escaped from Keilah; and he forbear to go forth. ¹⁴And David abode in the wilderness in strongholds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand.¹⁵And David saw that Saul was come out to seek his life; and David was in the wilderness of Ziph in a wood. ¹⁶And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God. ¹⁷And he said unto him:

Fear not; for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.

¹⁸And they two made a covenant before the LORD; and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.

¹⁹Then came up the Ziphites to Saul to Gibeah, saying:

Doth not David hide himself with us in strongholds in the wood, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon? ²⁰Now therefore, O king, come down according to all the desire of thy soul to come down; and our part shall be to deliver him into the king's hand.

²¹And Saul said:

Blessed be ye of the LORD; for ye have compassion on me. ²²Go, I pray you, prepare yet, and know and see his place where his haunt is, and who hath seen him there; for it is told me that he dealeth very subtilly. ²³See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hideth himself, and come ye again to me with the certainty, and I will go with you; and it shall come to pass, if he be in the land, that I will search him out throughout all the thousands of Judah.

²⁴And they arose, and went to Ziph before Saul; but David and his men were in the wilderness of Maon, in the plain on the south of Jeshimon. ²⁵Saul also and his men went to seek him. And they told David; wherefore he came down into a rock, and abode in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon. ²⁶And Saul went on this side of the mountain, and David and his men on that side of the mountain; and David made haste to get away for fear of Saul; for Saul and his men compassed David and his men round about to take them.

²⁷But there came a messenger unto Saul, saying:

Haste thee, and come; for the Philistines have invaded the land.

²⁸Wherefore Saul returned from pursuing after David, and went against the Philistines; therefore they called that place Sela-Hammahlekoth. ²⁹And David went up from thence, and dwelt in strongholds at En-Gedi.

David spares Saul's life

24

¹And it came to pass, when Saul was returning from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of En-Gedi." ²Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats. ³And he came to the sheepecotes by the way, where was a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet; and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave.

⁴And the men of David said unto him:

Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, "Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee."

Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily. ⁵And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt. ⁶And he said unto his men:

The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.

⁷So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of his cave, and went on his way. ⁸David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, "My Lord the king." And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself. ⁹And David said to Saul:

Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, "Behold, David seeketh thy hurt?"

¹⁰Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee today into mine hand in the cave; and some bade me kill thee; but mine eye spared thee; and

I said, "I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD's anointed."

¹¹Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand; for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it. ¹²The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee; but mine hand shall not be upon thee. ¹³As saith the proverb of the ancients, "Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked; but mine hand shall not be upon thee."

¹⁴After whom is the king of Israel come out? After whom dost thou pursue? After a dead dog, after a flea. ¹⁵The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand.

¹⁶And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said:, "Is this thy voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept.

¹⁷And he said to David:

Thou art more righteous than I; for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil. ¹⁸And thou hast showed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me; forasmuch as when the LORD had delivered me into thy hand, thou killedst me not. ¹⁹For if a man find his enemy, will he let him go well away? Wherefore the LORD reward thee good for that thou hast done unto me this day. ²⁰And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand. ²¹Swear now therefore unto me by the LORD, that thou wilt not cut off my seed after me, and that thou wilt not destroy my name out of my father's house.

²²And David sware unto Saul. And Saul went home; but David and his men gat them up unto the hold.

Nabal and Abigail

25 ¹And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah. And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Paran.

²And there was a man in Maon, whose possessions were in Carmel; and the man was very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats; and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. ³Now the name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail; and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance; but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the hose of Caleb. ⁴And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal did shear his sheep. ⁵And David sent out ten young men, and David said unto the young men:

Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name; ⁶and thus shall ye say to him that liveth in prosperity, "Peace be both to thee, and peace be to thine house, and peace be unto all that thou hast. ⁷And now I have heard that thou hast shearers; now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there aught missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel. ⁸Ask thy young men, and they will show thee. Wherefore let the young men find favor in thine eyes; for we come in a good day; give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David."

⁹And when David's young men came, they spake to Nabal according to all those words in the name of David, and ceased. ¹⁰And Nabal answered David's servants, and said:

Who is David? And who is the son of Jesse? There be many servants nowadays that break away every man from his master. ¹¹Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give it unto men, whom I know not whence they be?

¹²So David's young men turned their way, and went again, and came and told him all those sayings. ¹³And David said unto his men, "Gird ye on every man his sword." And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword; and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff. ¹⁴But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying:

Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them. ¹⁵But the men were very good unto us, and we were not hurt, neither missed we anything as long as we were conversant with them, when we were in the fields. ¹⁶They were a wall unto us both by night and day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. ¹⁷Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do; for evil is determined against our master, and against all his household; for he is such a son of Belial, that a man cannot speak to him.

¹⁸Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and ^afive measures of parched corn, and a hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on asses. ¹⁹And she said unto her servants, "Go on before me; behold, I come after you." But she told not her husband Nabal. ²⁰And it was so, as she rode on the ass, that she came down by the covert of the hill, and, behold, David and his men came down against her; and she met them.

^a 60 lb or 27 kg

²¹Now David had said:

Surely in vain have I kept all that this fellow hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that pertained unto him; and he hath requited me evil for good. ²²So and more also do God unto the enemies of David, if I leave of all that pertain to him by the morning light any that fighteth against the wall.

²³And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground. ²⁴And fell at his feet, and said:

Upon me, my lord, upon me let this iniquity be; and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid. ²⁵Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, even Nabal; for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him; but I thine handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send.

²⁶Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to shed blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal. ²⁷And now this blessing which thine handmaid hath brought unto my lord, let it even be given unto the young men that follow my lord. ²⁸I pray thee, forgive the trespass of thine handmaid; for the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house; because my lord fighteth the battles of the LORD, and evil hath not been found in thee all thy days. ²⁹Yet a man is risen to pursue thee, and to seek thy soul; but the soul of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of life with the LORD thy God; and the souls of thine enemies, them shall he sling out, as out of the middle of a sling.

³⁰And it shall come to pass, when the LORD shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel; ³¹that this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offense of heart unto my lord,

either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself; but when the LORD shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid.

³²And David said to Abigail:

Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me; ³³and blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand. ³⁴For in very deed, as the LORD God of Israel liveth, which hath kept me back from hurting thee, except thou hadst hasted and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Nabal by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.

³⁵So David received of her hand that which she had brought him, and said unto her:

Go up in peace to thine house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have accepted thy person.

³⁶And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunken; wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light. ³⁷But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone; ³⁸and it came to pass about ten days after, that the LORD smote Nabal, that he died.

³⁹And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said:

Blessed be the LORD, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his servant from evil; for the LORD hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head.

And David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her to him to wife. ⁴⁰And when the servants of David were come to Abigail to Carmel, they spake unto her, saying, "David sent us unto thee, to take thee to him to wife." ⁴¹And she arose, and bowed herself on her face to the earth, and said:

Behold, let thine handmaid be a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.

⁴²And Abigail hasted, and arose, and rode upon an ass, with five damsels of hers that went after her; and she went after the messengers of David, and became his wife. ⁴³David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel; and they were also both of them his wives. ⁴⁴But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Phalti, the son of Laish, which was of Gallim.

David spares Saul's life again

26 ¹And the Ziphites came unto Saul to Gibeah, saying, "Doth not David hide himself in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon?" ²Then Saul arose, and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph. ³And Saul pitched in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, by the way. But David abode in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness. ⁴David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul was come in very deed. ⁵And David arose, and came to the place where Saul had pitched; and David beheld the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the captain of his host; and Saul lay in the trench, and the people pitched round about him.

⁶Then answered David and said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother to Joab, saying, "Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp?" And Abishai said, "I will go down with thee."

⁷So David and Abishai came to the people by night; and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster; but Abner and the people lay round about him. ⁸Then said Abishai to David:

God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day; now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time.

⁹And David said to Abishai:

Destroy him not; for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?

¹⁰David said furthermore:

As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish. ¹¹The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD's anointed; but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go.

¹²So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster; and they gat them away, and no man saw it, nor knew it, neither awaked; for they were all asleep; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them. ¹³Then David went over to the other side, and stood at the top of a hill afar off; a great space being between them; ¹⁴and David cried to the people, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, "Answerest thou not, Abner?" Then Abner answered and said, "Who art thou that criest to the king?"

¹⁵And David said to Abner:

Art not thou a valiant man? And who is like to thee in Israel? Wherefore then hast thou not kept thy lord the king? For there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord. ¹⁶This thing is not good that thou hast done. As the LORD liveth, ye are worthy to die, because ye have not kept your master, the LORD's anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was at his bolster.

¹⁷And Saul knew David's voice, and said, "Is this thy voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord, O king." ¹⁸And he said:

Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? For what have I done? Or what evil is in mine hand? ¹⁹Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If the LORD have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering; but if they be the children of men, cursed be they before the LORD; for they have driven me out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, "Go, serve other gods." ²⁰Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD; for the king of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains.

²¹Then said Saul:

I have sinned; return, my son David; for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day; behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.

²²And David answered and said:

Behold the king's spear! And let one of the young men come over and fetch it. ²³The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered thee into my hand today, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD's anointed. ²⁴And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation.

²⁵Then Saul said to David:

Blessed be thou, my son David; thou shalt both do great things, and also shalt still prevail.

So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

David among the Philistines

27 ¹And David said in his heart, "I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul; there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me anymore in any coast of Israel; so shall I escape out of his hand."

²And David arose, and he passed over with the six hundred men that were with him unto Achish, the son of Maach, king of Gath. ³And David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, even David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's wife. ⁴And it was told Saul that David was fled to Gath; and he sought no more again for him.

⁵And David said unto Achish:

If I have now found grace in thine eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there; for why should thy servant dwell in the royal city with thee?

⁶Then Achish gave him Ziklag that day; wherefore Ziklag pertaineth unto the kings of Judah unto this day. ⁷And the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was a full year and four months. ⁸And David and his men went up and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and the Amalekites; for those nations were of old the inhabitants of the land, as thou goest to Shur, even unto the land of Egypt. ⁹And David smote the land, and left neither man nor woman alive, and took away the sheep, and the oxen, and the asses, and the camels, and the apparel, and returned, and came to Achish. ¹⁰And Achish said: Whither have ye made a road today?

And David said:

Against the south of Judah, and against the south of the Jerahmeelites, and against the south of the Kenites.

¹¹And David saved neither man nor woman alive to bring tidings to Gath, saying, "Lest they should tell on us, saying, 'So did David, and so will be his manner all the while he dwelleth in the country of the Philistines.'" ¹²And Achish believed David, saying:

He hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant forever.

28 ¹And it came to pass in those days, that the Philistines gathered their armies together for warfare, to fight with Israel. And Achish said unto David, "Know thou assuredly, that thou shalt go out with me to battle, thou and thy men." ²And David said to Achish, "Surely thou shalt know what thy servant can do." And Achish said to David, "Therefore will I make thee keeper of mine head forever."

³Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land.

Saul and woman at Endor

⁴And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shunem; and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they pitched in Gilboa. ⁵And when Saul saw the host

of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled. ⁶And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

⁷Then said Saul unto his servants:

Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and inquire of her.

And his servants said to him:

Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.

⁸And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night; and he said:

I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee.

⁹And the woman said unto him:

Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land; wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die also, who hath not a familiar spirit?

¹⁰And Saul sware to her by the LORD, saying:

As the LORD liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing.

¹¹Then said the woman, "The word of whom shall I bring up unto thee?" And he said, "Bring me up the word of Samuel."

¹²And when the woman saw the words of Samuel, she cried with a loud voice; and the woman spake to Saul, saying, "Why hast thou deceived me? For thou art Saul." ¹³And the king said unto her, "Be not afraid; for what sawest thou?"

And the woman said unto Saul, "I saw the words of Samuel ascending out of the earth." And she said, "I saw Samuel also."

gods

¹⁴And he said unto her, "What form is he of?" And she said, "I saw an old man coming up, covered with a mantle." And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped, his face to the ground, and bowed himself. ¹⁵And these are the words of Samuel unto Saul:

Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams; therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do.

¹⁶Then said Samuel:

Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy? ¹⁷And the LORD hath done to him, as he spake by me; for the LORD hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbor, even to David; ¹⁸because thou obeyedst not the voice of the LORD, nor executedst his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the LORD done this thing unto thee this day. ¹⁹Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines; and tomorrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me; the LORD also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.

²⁰Then Saul fell straightway all along on the earth, and was sore afraid, because of the words of Samuel; and there was no strength in him; for he had eaten no bread all the day, nor all the night.

²¹And the woman came unto Saul, and saw that he was sore troubled, and said unto him:

Behold, thine handmaid hath obeyed thy voice, and I have put my life in my hand, and have hearkened unto thy words which thou spakest unto me. ²²Now therefore, I

pray thee, hearken thou also unto the voice of thine handmaid, and let me set a morsel of bread before thee; and eat, that thou mayest have strength, when thou goest on thy way.

²³But he refused, and said, "I will not eat." But his servants, together with the woman, compelled him; and he hearkened unto their voice. So he rose from the earth, and sat upon the bed. ²⁴And the woman had a fat calf in the house; and she hasted, and killed it, and took flour, and kneaded it, and did bake unleavened bread thereof; ²⁵and she brought it before Saul, and before his servants; and they did eat. Then they rose up, and went away that night.

Achish send David back to Ziklag

29 ¹Now the Philistines gathered together all their armies to Aphek; and the Israelites pitched by a fountain which is in Jezreel. ²And the lords of the Philistines passed on by hundreds, and by thousands; but David and his men passed on in the rearward with Achish. ³Then said the princes of the Philistines, "What do these Hebrews here?"

And Achish said unto the princes of the Philistines:

Is not this David, the servant of Saul the king of Israel, which hath been with me these days, or these years, and I have found no fault in him since he fell unto me unto this day?

⁴And the princes of the Philistines were wroth with him; and the princes of the Philistines said unto him:

Make this fellow return, that he may go again to his place which thou hast appointed him; and let him not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he be an adversary to us; for wherewith should he reconcile himself unto his master? Should it not be with the heads of these men? ⁵Is not this David, of whom they sang one to another in dances, saying, "Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands"?

⁶Then Achish called David, and said unto him:

Surely, as the LORD liveth, thou hast been upright, and thy going out and thy coming in with me in the host is good in my sight; for I have not found evil in thee since the day of thy coming unto me unto this day; nevertheless the lords favor thee not. ⁷Wherefore now return, and go in peace, that thou displease not the lords of the Philistines.

⁸And David said unto Achish:

But what have I done? And what hast thou found in thy servant so long as I have been with thee unto this day, that I may not go fight against the enemies of my lord the king?

⁹And Achish answered and said to David:

I know that thou art good in my sight, as an angel of God; notwithstanding, the princes of the Philistines have said, "He shall not go up with us to the battle."

¹⁰Wherefore now rise up early in the morning with thy master's servants that are come with thee; and as soon as ye be up early in the morning, and have light, depart.

¹¹So David and his men rose up early to depart in the morning, to return into the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

David destroys the Amalekites

30 ¹And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with

fire; ²and had taken the women captives, that were therein; they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way. ³So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. ⁴Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had not more power to weep.

⁵And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. ⁶And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters; but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

⁷And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son:

I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David.

⁸And David inquired at the LORD, saying:

Shall I pursue after this troop? Shall I overtake them?

And he answered him:

Pursue; for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

⁹So David went, he and the six hundred men that were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed. ¹⁰But David pursued, he and four hundred men; for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor. ¹¹And they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David, and gave him bread, and he did eat; and they made him drink water; ¹²and they gave him a piece of a cake of figs, and two clusters of raisins; and when he had eaten, his spirit came again to him for he had eaten no bread, nor drank any water, three days and three nights. ¹³And David said unto him:

To whom belongest thou? And whence art thou?

And he said:

I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick. ¹⁴We made an invasion upon the south of the Cherethites, and upon the coast which belongeth to Judah, and upon the south of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire.

¹⁵And David said to him, "Canst thou bring me down to this company?"

And he said:

Swear unto me by God, that thou wilt neither kill me, nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring thee down to this company.

¹⁶And when he had brought him down, behold, they were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah. ¹⁷And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day; and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled. ¹⁸And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away; and David rescued his two wives.

¹⁹And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor anything that they had taken to them; David recovered all.

²⁰And David took all the flocks and the herds, which they drove before those other cattle, and said, "This is David's spoil."

²¹And David came to the two hundred men, which were so faint that they could not follow David, whom they had made also to abide at the brook Besor; and they went forth to meet David, and to meet the people that were with him; and when David came near to

the people, he saluted them. ²²Then answered all the wicked men, and men of Belial, of those that went with David, and said:

Because they went not with us, we will not give them aught of the spoil that we have recovered, save to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead them away, and depart.

²³Then said David:

Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand. ²⁴For who will hearken unto you in this matter? But as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff; they shall part alike.

²⁵And it was so from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day.

²⁶And when David came to Ziklag, he sent of the spoil unto the elders of Judah, even to his friends, saying:

Behold a present for you of the spoil of the enemies of the LORD; ²⁷to them which were in Beth-El, and to them which were in south Ramoth, and to them which were in Jattir. ²⁸And to them which were in Aroer, and to them which were in Siphmoth, and to them which were in Eshtemoa, ²⁹and to them which were in Rachal, and to them which were in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, and to them which were in the cities of the Kenites, ³⁰and to them which were in Hormah, and to them which were in Chor-Ashan, and to them which were in Athach, ³¹and to them which were in Hebron, and to all the places where David himself and his men were wont to haunt.

The death of Saul

31 ¹Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa. ²And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Melchishua, Saul's sons. ³And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers. ⁴Then said Saul unto his armor-bearer:

Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me.

But his armor-bearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it. ⁵And when his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him. ⁶So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armor-bearer, and all his men, that same day together.

⁷And when the men of Israel that were on the other side of the valley, and they that were on the other side Jordan, saw that the men of Israel fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook the cities, and fled; and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

⁸And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa. ⁹And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armor, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to publish it in the house of their idols, and among the people. ¹⁰And they put his armor in the house of Ashtaroth; and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-Shan.

¹¹And when the inhabitants of Jabesh-Gilead heard of that which the Philistines had done to Saul, ¹²all the valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-Shan, and came to Jabesh, and burnt them there.

¹³And they took their bones, and buried them under a tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

2 SAMUEL

David learns of the death of Saul and Jonathan

¹Now it came to pass after the death of Saul, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had abode two days in Ziklag; ²it came even to pass on the third day, that, behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul with his clothes rent, and earth upon his head; and so it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the earth, and did obeisance.

³And David said unto him, "From whence comest thou?" And he said unto him, "Out of the camp of Israel am I escaped." ⁴And David said unto him, "How went the matter? I pray thee, tell me." And he answered:

That the people are fled from the battle, and many of the people also are fallen and dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also.

⁵And David said unto the young man that told him:

How knowest thou that Saul and Jonathan his son be dead?

⁶And the young man that told him said:

As I happened by chance upon mount Gilboa, behold, Saul leaned upon his spear; and, lo, the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him. ⁷And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called unto me. And I answered, "Here am I." ⁸And he said unto me, "Who art thou?" And I answered him, "I am an Amalekite." ⁹He said unto me again, "Stand, I pray thee, upon me, and slay me; for anguish is come upon me, because my life is yet whole in me." ¹⁰So I stood upon him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen; and I took the crown that was upon his head, and the bracelet that was on his arm and have brought them hither unto my lord.

¹¹Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him. ¹²And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.

¹³And David said unto the young man that told him, "Whence art thou?" And he answered, "I am the son of a stranger, an Amalekite." ¹⁴And David said unto him, "How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?" ¹⁵And David called one of the young men, and said, "Go near, and fall upon him." And he smote him that he died. ¹⁶And David said unto him:

Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, "I have slain the LORD's anointed."

¹⁷And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son; ¹⁸(also he bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow; behold, it is written in the book of Jasher):

¹⁹The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places; how are the mighty fallen!

²⁰Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

²¹Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings; for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil.

²²From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty. ²³Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

²⁴Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights; who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel.

²⁵How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places. ²⁶I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant hast thou been unto me; thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.

²⁷How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

David anointed king of Judah

2 ¹And it came to pass after this, that David inquired of the LORD, saying:
Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?

And the LORD said unto him, "Go up."

And David said, "Whither shall I go up?"

And he said, "Unto Hebron."

²So David went up thither, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail Nabal's wife the Carmelite. ³And his men that were with him did David bring up, every man with his household; and they dwelt in the cities of Hebron. ⁴And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying that the men of Jabesh-Gilead were they that buried Saul. ⁵And David sent messengers unto the men of Jabesh-Gilead, and said unto them:

Blessed be ye of the LORD, that ye have showed this kindness unto your lord, even unto Saul, and have buried him. ⁶And now the LORD show kindness and truth unto you; and I also will requite you this kindness, because ye have done this thing.

⁷Therefore now let your hands be strengthened, and be ye valiant; for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Judah have anointed me king over them.

War between the houses of Saul and David

⁸But Abner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's host, took Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim; ⁹and made him king over Gilead, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel. ¹⁰Ishbosheth Saul's son was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David. ¹¹And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

¹²And Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ishbosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon. ¹³And Joab the son of Zeruiah, and the servants of David, went out, and met together by the pool of Gibeon; and they sat down, the one on the one side of the pool, and the other on the other side of the pool.

¹⁴And Abner said to Joab, "Let the young men now arise, and play before us."

And Joab said, "Let them arise."

¹⁵Then there arose and went over by number twelve of Benjamin, which pertained to Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David. ¹⁶And they caught every

one his fellow by the head, and thrust his sword in his fellow's side; so they fell down together; wherefore that place was called Helkath-Zazzurim, which is in Gibeon.

¹⁷And there was a very sore battle that day; and Abner was beaten, and the men of Israel, before the servants of David. ¹⁸And there were three sons of Zeruiah there, Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel; and Asahel was as light of foot as a wild roe. ¹⁹And Asahel pursued after Abner; and in going he turned not to the right hand nor to the left from following Abner.

²⁰Then Abner looked behind him, and said, "Art thou Asahel?" And he answered, "I am."

²¹And Abner said to him:

Turn thee aside to thy right hand or to thy left, and lay thee hold on one of the young men, and take thee his armor.

But Asahel would not turn aside from following of him. ²²And Abner said again to Asahel:

Turn thee aside from following me; wherefore should I smite thee to the ground?

How then should I hold up my face to Joab thy brother?

²³Howbeit he refused to turn aside; wherefore Abner with the hinder end of the spear smote him under the fifth rib, that the spear came out behind him; and he fell down there, and died in the same place; and it came to pass, that as many as came to the place where Asahel fell down and died stood still.

²⁴Joab also and Abishai pursued after Abner; and the sun went down when they were come to the hill of Ammah, that lieth before Giah by the way of the wilderness of Gibeon.

²⁵And the children of Benjamin gathered themselves together after Abner, and became one troop, and stood on the top of a hill.

²⁶Then Abner called to Joab, and said:

Shall the sword devour forever? Knowest thou not that it will be a bitterness in the latter end? How long shall it be then, ere thou bid the people return from following their brethren?

²⁷And Joab said:

As God liveth, unless thou hadst spoken, surely then in the morning the people had gone up every one from following his brother.

²⁸So Joab blew a trumpet, and all the people stood still, and pursued after Israel no more, neither fought they anymore.

²⁹And Abner and his men walked all that night through the plain, and passed over Jordan, and went through all Bithron, and they came to Mahanaim. ³⁰And Joab returned from following Abner; and when he had gathered all the people together, there lacked of David's servants nineteen men and Asahel. ³¹But the servants of David had smitten of Benjamin, and of Abner's men, so that three hundred and threescore men died. ³²And they took up Asahel, and buried him in the sepulcher of his father, which was in Bethlehem. And Joab and his men went all night, and they came to Hebron at break of day.

3 ¹Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David; but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker.

²And unto David were sons born in Hebron, and his first-born was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; ³and his second, Chileab, of Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; ⁴and the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital; ⁵and the sixth, Ithream by Eglah David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron.

Abner joins David

⁶And it came to pass, while there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, that Abner made himself strong for the house of Saul. ⁷And Saul had a concubine, whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah; and Ishbosheth said to Abner:

Wherefore hast thou gone in unto my father's concubine?

⁸Then was Abner very wroth for the words of Ishbosheth, and said:

Am I a dog's head, which against Judah do show kindness this day unto the house of Saul thy father, to his brethren, and to his friends, and have not delivered thee into the hand of David, that thou chargest me today with a fault concerning this woman?

⁹So do God to Abner, and more also, except, as the LORD hath sworn to David, even so I do to him. ¹⁰To translate the kingdom from the house of Saul, and to set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan even to Beersheba.

¹¹And he could not answer Abner a word again, because he feared him. ¹²And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, "Whose is the land?" Saying also:

Make thy league with me, and, behold, my hand shall be with thee, to bring about all Israel unto thee.

¹³And he said:

Well; I will make a league with thee; but one thing I require of thee, that is, thou shalt not see my face, except thou first bring Michal Saul's daughter, when thou comest to see my face.

¹⁴And David sent messengers to Ishbosheth Saul's son, saying:

Deliver me my wife Michal, which I espoused to me for a hundred foreskins of the Philistines.

¹⁵And Ishbosheth sent, and took her from her husband, even from Phaltiel the son of Laish. ¹⁶And her husband went with her along weeping behind her to Bahurim. Then said Abner unto him, "Go, return." And he returned.

¹⁷And Abner had communication with the elders of Israel, saying:

Ye sought for David in times past to be king over you; ¹⁸now then do it; for the LORD hath spoken of David, saying, "By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel out of the hand of the Philistines, and out of the hand of all their enemies."

¹⁹And Abner also spake in the ears of Benjamin; and Abner went also to speak in the ears of David in Hebron all that seemed good to Israel, and that seemed good to the whole house of Benjamin. ²⁰So Abner came to David to Hebron, and twenty men with him. And David made Abner and his men that were with him a feast. ²¹And Abner said unto David:

I will arise and go, and will gather all Israel unto my lord the king, that they may make a league with thee, and that thou mayest reign over all that thine heart desireth.

And David sent Abner away; and he went in peace.

Joab kills Abner

²²And, behold, the servants of David and Joab came from pursuing a troop, and brought in a great spoil with them; but Abner was not with David in Hebron; for he had sent him away, and he was gone in peace. ²³When Joab and all the host that was with him were come, they told Joab, saying:

Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he hath sent him away, and he is gone in peace.

²⁴Then Joab came to the king, and said:

What hast thou done? Behold, Abner came unto thee; why is it that thou hast sent him away, and he is quite gone? ²⁵Thou knowest Abner the son of Ner, that he came to deceive thee, and to know thy going out and thy coming in, and to know all that thou doest.

²⁶And when Joab was come out from David, he sent messengers after Abner, which brought him again from the well of Sirah; but David knew it not. ²⁷And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth rib, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.

²⁸And afterward when David heard it, he said:

I and my kingdom are guiltless before the LORD forever from the blood of Abner the son of Ner; ²⁹let it rest on the head of Joab, and on all his father's house; and let there not fail from the house of Joab one that hath an issue, or that is a leper, or that leaneth on a staff, or that falleth on the sword, or that lacketh bread.

³⁰So Joab and Abishai his brother slew Abner, because he had slain their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle.

³¹And David said to Joab, and to all the people that were with him:

Rend your clothes, and gird you with sackcloth, and mourn before Abner.

And king David himself followed the bier. ³²And they buried Abner in Hebron; and the king lifted up his voice, and wept at the grave of Abner; and all the people wept. ³³And the king lamented over Abner, and said:

Died Abner as a fool dieth? ³⁴Thy hands were not bound, nor thy feet put into fetters; as a man falleth before wicked men, so fellest thou.

And all the people wept again over him. ³⁵And when all the people came to cause David to eat meat while it was yet day, David sware, saying:

So do God to me, and more also, if I taste bread, or aught else, till the sun be down.

³⁶And all the people took notice of it, and it pleased them; as whatsoever the king did pleased all the people. ³⁷For all the people and all Israel understood that day that it was not of the king to slay Abner the son of Ner.

³⁸And the king said unto his servants:

Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel? ³⁹And I am this day weak, though anointed king; and these men the sons of Zeruiah be too hard for me; the LORD shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness.

Ishbosheth is killed

4 ¹And when Saul's son heard that Abner was dead in Hebron, his hands were feeble, and all the Israelites were troubled. ²And Saul's son had two men that were captains of bands; the name of the one was Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, the sons of Rimmon a Beerothite, of the children of Benjamin. (for Beeroth also was reckoned to Benjamin; ³and the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and were sojourners there until this day.)

⁴And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled, and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.

⁵And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went, and came about the heat of the day to the house of Ishbosheth, who lay on a bed at noon. ⁶And they came

thither into the midst of the house, as though they would have fetched wheat; and they smote him under the fifth rib; and Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped.

⁷For when they came into the house, he lay on his bed in his bedchamber, and they smote him, and slew him, and beheaded him, and took his head, and gat them away through the plain all night. ⁸And they brought the head of Ishbosheth unto David to Hebron, and said to the king:

Behold the head of Ishbosheth the son of Saul thine enemy, which sought thy life; and the LORD hath avenged my lord the king this day of Saul, and of his seed.

⁹And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said unto them:

As the LORD liveth, who hath redeemed my soul out of all adversity, ¹⁰when one told me, saying, “Behold, Saul is dead,” thinking to have brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Ziklag, who thought that I would have given him a reward for his tidings; ¹¹how much more, when wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house upon his bed? Shall I not therefore now require his blood of your hand, and take you away from the earth?

¹²And David commanded his young men, and they slew them, and cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged them up over the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ishbosheth, and buried it in the sepulcher of Abner in Hebron.

David anointed king over Israel

5 ¹Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, “Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh. ²Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel; and the LORD said to thee, “Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.””

³So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD; and they anointed David king over Israel. ⁴David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. ⁵In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.

David conquers Jerusalem

⁶And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land; which spake unto David, saying, “Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither;” thinking, David cannot come in hither. ⁷Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion; the same is the city of David.

⁸And David said on that day:

Whosoever getteth up to the gutter, and smiteth the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, that are hated of David’s soul, he shall be chief and captain.

Wherefore they said, “The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.”

⁹So David dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward. ¹⁰And David went on, and grew great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him.

¹¹And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons; and they built David a house. ¹²And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel’s sake.

¹³And David took him more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he was come from Hebron; and there were yet sons and daughters born to David. ¹⁴And these be the names of those that were born unto him in Jerusalem; Shammuah, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon, ¹⁵Ibhar also, and Elishua, and Nepheg, and Japhia, ¹⁶and Elishama, and Eliada, and Eliphalet.

David defeats the Philistines

¹⁷But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the hold.

¹⁸The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. ¹⁹And David inquired of the LORD, saying:

Shall I go up to the Philistines? Wilt thou deliver them into mine hand?

And the LORD said unto David:

Go up; for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

²⁰And David came to Baalperazim, and David smote them there, and said:

The LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters.

Therefore he called the name of that place Baal-Perazim. ²¹And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them.

²²And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.

²³And when David inquired of the LORD, he said:

Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees. ²⁴And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself; for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.

²⁵And David did so, as the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.

The ark brought to Jerusalem

6 ¹Again, David gathered together all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. ²And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubim. ³And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart. ⁴And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark. ⁵And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

⁶And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. ⁷And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah, and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God. ⁸And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah; and he called the name of the place Perez-Uzzah to this day.

⁹And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said:

How shall the ark of the LORD come to me?

¹⁰So David would not remove the ark of the LORD unto him into the city of David; but David carried it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. ¹¹And the ark of the

LORD continued in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months; and the LORD blessed Obed-Edom, and all his household.

¹²And it was told king David, saying:

The LORD hath blessed the house of Obed-Edom, and all that pertaineth unto him, because of the ark of God.

So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom into the city of David with gladness. ¹³And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings. ¹⁴And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod. ¹⁵So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet

¹⁶And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

¹⁷And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. ¹⁸And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offering and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.

¹⁹And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to everyone a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed everyone to his house.

²⁰Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said:

How glorious was the king of Israel today, who uncovered himself today in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!

²¹And David said unto Michal:

It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel; therefore will I play before the LORD; ²²and I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight; and of the maidservants which thou has spoken of, of them shall I be had in honor.

²³Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.

7 ¹And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies; ²that the king said unto Nathan the prophet, "See, now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains."

³And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the LORD is with thee."

God's covenant with David

⁴And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying:

⁵Go and tell my servant David, "Thus said the LORD: Shalt thou build me a house for me to dwell in? ⁶Whereas I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle. ⁷In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, 'Why build ye not me a house of cedar?'"

⁸Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, “Thus saith the LORD of hosts: I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel; ⁹and I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth. ¹⁰Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them anymore, as before time, ¹¹and as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee a house.

¹²And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men. ¹⁵But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. ¹⁶And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established forever before thee; thy throne shall be established forever.”

¹⁷According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

¹⁸Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said:

Who am I, O LORD God? And what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto? ¹⁹And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O LORD God; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant’s house for a great while to come. And is this the manner of man, O LORD God? ²⁰And what can David say more unto thee? For thou, LORD God, knowest thy servant. ²¹For thy word’s sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all these great things, to make thy servant know them.

²²Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God; for there is none like thee, neither is there any God besides thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears. ²³And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods? ²⁴For thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Israel to be a people unto thee forever; and thou, Lord, art become their God.

²⁵And now, O LORD God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish it forever, and do as thou hast said. ²⁶And let thy name be magnified forever, saying, “The LORD of hosts is the God over Israel;” and let the house of thy servant David be established before thee. ²⁷For thou, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, hast revealed to thy servant, saying, “I will build thee a house;” therefore hath thy servant found in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee.

²⁸And now, O Lord GOD, thou art that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant; ²⁹therefore now let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue forever before thee; for thou, O Lord GOD, hast spoken it; and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed forever.

David's victories

8 ¹And after this it came to pass that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them; and David took Gath–Ammah out of the hand of the Philistines.

²And he smote Moab, and measured them with a line, casting them down to the ground; even with two lines measured he to put to death, and one full line to keep alive. And so the Moabites became David's servants, and brought gifts.

³David smote also Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his border at the river Euphrates. ⁴And David took from him a thousand chariots, and seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen; and David houghed all the chariot horses, but reserved of them for a hundred chariots.

⁵And when the Syrians of Damascus came to succor Hadadezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men. ⁶Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus; and the Syrians became servants to David, and brought gifts. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

⁷And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem. ⁸And from Bethah, and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, king David took exceeding much brass. ⁹When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had smitten all the hosts of Hadadezer, ¹⁰then Toi sent Joram his son unto king David, to salute him, and to bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer, and smitten him; for Hadadezer had wars with Toi. And Joram brought with him vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and vessels of brass; ¹¹which also king David did dedicate unto the LORD, with the silver and gold that he had dedicated of all nations which he subdued; ¹²of Syria, and Moab, and of the children of Ammon, and of the Philistines, and of Amalek, and of the spoil of Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

¹³And David gat him a name when he returned from smiting of the Syrians in the valley of salt, being eighteen thousand men.

¹⁴And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

¹⁵And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed judgment and justice unto all his people. ¹⁶And Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder; ¹⁷and Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, were the priests; and Seraiah was the scribe; ¹⁸and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over both the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief rulers.

Mephibosheth

9 ¹And David said:
Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?

²And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, "Art thou Ziba?" And he said, "Thy servant is he." ³And the king said:

Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God unto him?

And Ziba said unto the king, "Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet." ⁴And the king said unto him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said unto the king, "Behold, he is in the

house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lo-Debar.” ⁵Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lo-Debar.

⁶Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, “Mephibosheth.” And he answered, “Behold thy servant!” ⁷And David said unto him:

Fear not; for I will surely show thee kindness for Jonathan thy father’s sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.

⁸And he bowed himself, and said:

What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?

⁹Then the king called to Ziba, Saul’s servant, and said unto him:

I have given unto thy master’s son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house.

¹⁰Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master’s son may have food to eat; but Mephibosheth thy master’s son shall eat bread alway at my table.

Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. ¹¹Then said Ziba unto the king:

According to all that my lord the king hath commanded his servant, so shall thy servant do. As for Mephibosheth, said the king, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king’s sons.

¹²And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Micha. And all that dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants unto Mephibosheth. ¹³So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem; for he did eat continually at the king’s table; and was lame on both his feet.

David defeats the Ammonites

10 ¹And it came to pass after this, that the king of the children of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his stead. ²Then said David:

I will show kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father showed kindness unto me.

And David sent to comfort him by the hand of his servants for his father.

And David’s servants came into the land of the children of Ammon. ³And the princes of the children of Ammon said unto Hanun their lord:

Thinkest thou that David doth honor thy father, that he hath sent comforters unto thee? Hath not David rather sent his servants unto thee, to search the city, and to spy it out and to overthrow it?

⁴Wherefore Hanun took David’s servants, and shaved off the one half of their beards, and cut off their garments in the middle, even to their buttocks, and sent them away. ⁵When they told it unto David, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed; and the king said:

Tarry at Jericho until your beards be grown, and then return.

⁶And when the children of Ammon saw that they stank before David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Bethrehob, and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Maacah a thousand men, and of Ish-Tob twelve thousand men.

⁷And when David heard of it, he sent Joab, and all the host of the mighty men. ⁸And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array at the entering in of the gate;

and the Syrians of Zoba, and of Rehob, and Ish-Tob, and Maacah, were by themselves in the field.

⁹When Joab saw that the front of the battle was against him before and behind, he chose of all the choice men of Israel, and put them in array against the Syrians; ¹⁰and the rest of the people he delivered into the hand of Abishai his brother, that he might put them in array against the children of Ammon. ¹¹And he said, If the Syrians be too strong for me, then thou shalt help me; but if the children of Ammon be too strong for thee, then I will come and help thee. ¹²Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God; and the LORD do that which seemeth him good.

¹³And Joab drew nigh, and the people that were with him, unto the battle against the Syrians; and they fled before him. ¹⁴And when the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fled, then fled they also before Abishai, and entered into the city. So Joab returned from the children of Ammon, and came to Jerusalem. ¹⁵And when the Syrians saw that they were smitten before Israel, they gathered themselves together. ¹⁶And Hadarezer sent, and brought out the Syrians that were beyond the river; and they came to Helam; and Shobach the captain of the host of Hadarezer went before them.

¹⁷And when it was told David, he gathered all Israel together, and passed over Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Syrians set themselves in array against David, and fought with him. ¹⁸And the Syrians fled before Israel; and David slew the men of seven hundred chariots of the Syrians, and forty thousand horsemen, and smote Shobach the captain of their host, who died there. ¹⁹And when all the kings that were servants to Hadarezer saw that they were smitten before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them. So the Syrians feared to help the children of Ammon anymore.

David and Bathsheba

¹And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

²And it came to pass in an evening-tide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house; and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. ³And David sent and inquired after the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bath-Sheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness; and she returned unto her house. ⁵And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, "I am with child."

⁶And David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded of him how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered. ⁸And David said to Uriah:

Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet.

And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess of meat from the king. ⁹But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house. ¹⁰And when they had told David, saying, "Uriah went not down unto his house," David said unto Uriah:

Camest thou not from thy journey? Why then didst thou not go down unto thine house?

¹¹And Uriah said unto David:

The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.

¹²And David said to Uriah:

Tarry here today also, and tomorrow I will let thee depart.

So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow. ¹³And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk; and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.

¹⁴And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him that he may be smitten, and die."

¹⁶And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were. ¹⁷And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab; and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

¹⁸Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war; ¹⁹and charged the messenger, saying:

When thou hast made an end of telling the matters of the war unto the king, ²⁰and if so be that the king's wrath arise, and he say unto thee, "Wherefore approached ye so nigh unto the city when ye did fight? Knew ye not that they would shoot from the wall? ²¹Who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall, that he died in Thebez? Why went ye nigh the wall?" Then say thou, "Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also."

²²So the messenger went, and came and showed David all that Joab had sent him for.

²³And the messenger said unto David:

Surely the men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even unto the entering of the gate. ²⁴And the shooters shot from off the wall upon thy servants; and some of the king's servants be dead, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

²⁵Then David said unto the messenger:

Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, "Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another; make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it;" and encourage thou him.

²⁶And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. ²⁷And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

Nathan rebukes David

12 ¹And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him:

There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. ²The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds; ³but the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up; and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

⁴And there came a traveler unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

⁵And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan: As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die; ⁶and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

⁷And Nathan said to David:

Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel: I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; ⁸and I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things."

⁹Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? Thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. ¹⁰Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

¹¹Thus saith the LORD: Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbor, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. ¹²For thou didst it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

¹³And David said unto Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

And Nathan said unto David:

The LORD also hath not put away thy sin that thou shalt not die. ¹⁴Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

¹⁵And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick. ¹⁶David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth. ¹⁷And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth; but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them. ¹⁸And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead; for they said:

Behold, while the child was yet alive we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice; how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?

¹⁹But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead; therefore David said unto his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead."

²⁰Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshiped; then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.

²¹Then said his servants unto him:

What thing is this that thou hast done? Thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread.

²²And he said:

While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, "Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?" ²³But now he is dead,

wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

²⁴And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her; and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon; and the LORD loved him. ²⁵And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

²⁶And Joab fought against Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and took the royal city.

²⁷And Joab sent messengers to David, and said:

I have fought against Rabbah, and have taken the city of waters. ²⁸Now therefore gather the rest of the people together, and encamp against the city, and take it; lest I take the city, and it be called after my name.

²⁹And David gathered all the people together, and went to Rabbah, and fought against it, and took it.

³⁰And he took their king's crown from off his head, the weight whereof was a talent of gold with the precious stones; and it was set on David's head. And he brought forth the spoil of the city in great abundance. ³¹And he brought forth the people that were therein, and put them under saws, and under harrows of iron, and under axes of iron, and made them pass through the brick kiln; and thus did he unto all the cities of the children of Ammon. So David and all the people returned unto Jerusalem.

Amnon and Tamar

13 ¹And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her. ²And Amnon was so vexed, that he fell sick for his sister Tamar; for she was a virgin; and Amnon thought it hard for him to do anything to her.

³But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother; and Jonadab was a very subtile man. ⁴And he said unto him:

Why art thou, being the king's son, lean from day to day? Wilt thou not tell me?

And Amnon said unto him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."

⁵And Jonadab said unto him:

Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick; and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, "I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it at her hand."

⁶So Amnon lay down and made himself sick; and when the king was come to see him, Amnon said unto the king:

I pray thee, let Tamar my sister come, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat at her hand.

⁷Then David sent home to Tamar, saying:

Go now to thy brother Amnon's house, and dress him meat.

⁸So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. And she took flour, and kneaded it, and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes. ⁹And she took a pan, and poured them out before him; but he refused to eat. And Amnon said:

Have out all men from me.

And they went out every man from him. ¹⁰And Amnon said unto Tamar:

Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand.

And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. ¹¹And when she had brought them unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her:

Come lie with me, my sister.

¹²And she answered him:

Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel; do not thou this folly. ¹³And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? And as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee.

¹⁴Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice; but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.

¹⁵Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said to her:

Arise, begone.

¹⁶And she said unto him:

There is no cause; this evil in sending me away is greater than the other that thou didst unto me.

But he would not hearken unto her. ¹⁷Then he called his servant that ministered unto him, and said:

Put now this woman out from me, and bolt the door after her.

¹⁸And she had a garment of divers colors upon her; for with such robes were the king's daughters that were virgins appareled. Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her. ¹⁹And Tamar put ashes on her head, and rent her garment of divers colors that was on her, and laid her hand on her head, and went on crying. ²⁰And Absalom her brother said unto her, "Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? But hold now thy peace, my sister; he is thy brother; regard not this thing." So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

²¹But when king David heard of all these things, he was very wroth. ²²And Absalom spake unto his brother Amnon neither good nor bad; for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

²³And it came to pass after two full years, that Absalom had sheep shearers in Baal-Hazor, which is beside Ephraim; and Absalom invited all the king's sons. ²⁴And Absalom came to the king, and said, "Behold now, thy servant hath sheep shearers; let the king, I beseech thee, and his servants go with thy servant." ²⁵And the king said to Absalom, "Nay, my son, let us not all now go, lest we be chargeable unto thee."

And he pressed him; howbeit he would not go, but blessed him. ²⁶Then said Absalom, "If not, I pray thee, let my brother Amnon go with us." And the king said unto him, "Why should he go with thee?" ²⁷But Absalom pressed him, that he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him.

²⁸Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying:

Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, "Smite Amnon;" then kill him, fear not; have I not commanded you? Be courageous, and be valiant.

²⁹And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled.

³⁰And it came to pass, while they were in the way, that tidings came to David, saying, "Absalom hath slain all the king's sons, and there is not one of them left." ³¹Then the king arose, and tare his garments, and lay on the earth; and all his servants stood by with their clothes rent.

³²And Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother, answered and said:

Let not my lord suppose that they have slain all the young men the king's sons; for Amnon only is dead; for by the appointment of Absalom this hath been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tamar. ³³Now therefore let not my Lord the king take the thing to his heart, to think that all the king's sons are dead; for Amnon only is dead.

³⁴But Absalom fled. And the young man that kept the watch lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came much people by the way of the hillside behind him. ³⁵And Jonadab said unto the king, "Behold, the king's sons come; as thy servant said, so it is."

³⁶And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of speaking, that, behold, the king's sons came, and lifted up their voice and wept; and the king also and all his servants wept very sore. ³⁷But Absalom fled, and went to Talmai, the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day.

³⁸So Absalom fled, and went to Geshur, and was there three years. ³⁹And the soul of king David longed to go forth unto Absalom; for he was comforted concerning Amnon, seeing he was dead.

Absalom returns to Jerusalem

14 ¹Now Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart was toward Absalom. ²And Joab sent to Tekoah, and fetched thence a wise woman, and said unto her:

I pray thee, feign thyself to be a mourner, and put on now mourning apparel, and anoint not thyself with oil, but be as a woman that had a long time mourned for the dead; ³and come to the king, and speak on this manner unto him.

So Joab put the words in her mouth. ⁴And when the woman of Tekoah spake to the king, she fell on her face to the ground, and did obeisance, and said, "Help, O king." ⁵And the king said unto her, "What aileth thee?" And she answered:

I am indeed a widow woman, and mine husband is dead. ⁶And thy handmaid had two sons, and they two strove together in the field, and there was none to part them, but the one smote the other, and slew him. ⁷And, behold, the whole family is risen against thine handmaid, and they said, "Deliver him that smote his brother, that we may kill him, for the life of his brother whom he slew; and we will destroy the heir also;" and so they will quench my coal which is left, and shalt not leave to my husband neither name nor remainder upon the earth.

⁸And the king said unto the woman, "Go to thine house, and I will give charge concerning thee." ⁹And the woman of Tekoah said unto the king, "My lord, O king, the iniquity be on me, and on my father's house; and the king and his throne be guiltless."

¹⁰And the king said, "Whosoever saith aught unto thee, bring him to me, and he shall not touch thee anymore"

¹¹Then said she, "I pray thee, let the king remember the LORD thy God, that thou wouldest not suffer the revengers of blood to destroy anymore, lest they destroy my son." And he said, "As the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of thy son fall to the earth."

¹²Then the woman said, "Let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak one word unto my lord the king." And he said, "Say on." ¹³And the woman said:

Wherefore then hast thou thought such a thing against the people of God? For the king doth speak this thing as one which is faulty, in that the king doth not fetch home again his banished. ¹⁴For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person; yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him.

¹⁵Now therefore that I am come to speak of this thing unto my lord the king, it is because the people have made me afraid; and thy handmaid said, I will now speak unto the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his handmaid. ¹⁶For the king will hear, to deliver his handmaid out of the hand of the man that would destroy me and my son together out of the inheritance of God.

¹⁷Then thine handmaid said, "The word of my lord the king shall now be comfortable; for as an angel of God, so is my lord the king to discern good and bad; therefore the LORD thy God will be with thee."

¹⁸Then the king answered and said unto the woman, "Hide not from me, I pray thee, the thing that I shall ask thee." And the woman said, "Let my lord the king now speak."

¹⁹And the king said, "Is not the hand of Joab with thee in all this?" And the woman answered and said:

As thy soul liveth, my lord the king, none can turn to the right hand or to the left from aught that my lord the king hath spoken; for thy servant Joab, he bade me, and he put all these words in the mouth of thine handmaid; ²⁰to fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing; and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth.

²¹And the king said unto Joab, "Behold now, I have done this thing; go therefore, bring the young man Absalom again." ²²And Joab fell to the ground on his face, and bowed himself, and thanked the king; and Joab said, "Today thy servant knoweth that I have found grace in thy sight, my lord, O king, in that the king hath fulfilled the request of his servant."

²³So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. ²⁴And the king said, "Let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face." So Absalom returned to his own house, and saw not the king's face.

²⁵But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty; from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. ²⁶And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year's end that he polled it; because the hair was heavy on him, therefore he polled it) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king's weight.

²⁷And unto Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter, whose name was Tamar; she was a woman of a fair countenance.

²⁸So Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, and saw not the king's face. ²⁹Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to have sent him to the king; but he would not come to him; and when he sent again the second time, he would not come. ³⁰Therefore he said unto his servants, "See, Joab's field is near mine, and he hath barley there; go and set it on fire." And Absalom's servants set the field on fire.

³¹Then Joab arose, and came to Absalom unto his house and said unto him, "Wherefore have thy servants set my field on fire?" ³²And Absalom answered Joab:

Behold, I sent unto thee, saying, "Come hither, that I may send thee to the king, to say, 'Wherefore am I come from Geshur? It had been good for me to have been there still;'" now therefore let me see the king's face; and if there be any iniquity in me, let him kill me.

³³So Joab came to the king, and told him; and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king; and the king kissed Absalom.

Absalom's conspiracy

15 ¹And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him. ²And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate; and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, "Of what city art thou?" And he said, "Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel." ³And Absalom said unto him:

See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.

⁴Absalom said moreover:

Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!

⁵And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him. ⁶And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment; so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

⁷And it came to pass after forty years, that Absalom said unto the king:

I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto the LORD, in Hebron. ⁸For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Geshur in Syria, saying, "If the LORD shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD."

⁹And the king said unto him, "Go in peace."

So he arose, and went to Hebron. ¹⁰But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying:

As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, "Absalom reigneth in Hebron."

¹¹And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, that were called; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not anything. ¹²And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city, even from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom.

¹³And there came a messenger to David, saying:

The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.

¹⁴And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem:

Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not else escape from Absalom; make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword.

¹⁵And the king's servants said unto the king:

Behold, thy servants are ready to do whatsoever my lord the king shall appoint.

¹⁶And the king went forth, and all his household after him. And the king left ten women, which were concubines, to keep the house. ¹⁷And the king went forth, and all the people after him, and tarried in a place that was far off. ¹⁸And all his servants passed on beside him; and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men which came after him from Gath, passed on before the king.

¹⁹Then said the king to Ittai the Gittite:

Wherefore goest thou also with us? Return to thy place, and abide with the king; for thou art a stranger, and also an exile. ²⁰Whereas thou camest but yesterday, should I this day make thee go up and down with us? Seeing I go whither I may, return thou, and take back thy brethren; mercy and truth be with thee.

²¹And Ittai answered the king, and said:

As the LORD liveth, and as my lord the king liveth, surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also will thy servant be.

²²And David said to Ittai, "Go and pass over." And Ittai the Gittite passed over, and all his men, and all the little ones that were with him.

²³And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people passed over; the king also himself passed over the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness.

²⁴And lo, Zadok also, and all the Levites were with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God; and they set down the ark of God; and Abiathar went up, until all the people had done passing out of the city.

²⁵And the king said unto Zadok:

Carry back the ark of God into the city; if I shall find favor in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me again, and show me both it, and his habitation; ²⁶but if he thus say, "I have no delight in thee;" behold, here am I, let him do to me as seemeth good unto him.

²⁷The king said also unto Zadok the priest:

Art not thou a seer? Return into the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz thy son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar. ²⁸See, I will tarry in the plain of the wilderness, until there come word from you to certify me.

²⁹Zadok therefore and Abiathar carried the ark of God again to Jerusalem; and they tarried there.

³⁰And David went up by the ascent of mount Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot; and all the people that was with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up. ³¹And one told David, saying, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." And David said, "O Lord, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness."

³²And it came to pass, that when David was come to the top of the mount, where he worshiped God, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head; ³³unto whom David said:

If thou passest on with me, then thou shalt be a burden unto me; ³⁴but if thou return to the city, and say unto Absalom, "I will be thy servant, O king; as I have been thy father's servant hitherto, so will I now also be thy servant;" then mayest thou for me defeat the counsel of Ahithophel. ³⁵And hast thou not there with thee Zadok and Abiathar the priests? Therefore it shall be, that what thing soever thou shalt hear out of the king's house, thou shalt tell it to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. ³⁶Behold, they

have there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz Zadok's son, and Jonathan Abiathar's son; and by them ye shall send unto me everything that ye can hear.

³⁷So Hushai David's friend came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem.

David and Ziba

16 ¹And when David was a little past the top of the hill, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred loaves of bread, and a hundred bunches of raisins, and a hundred of summer fruits, and a bottle of wine.

²And the king said unto Ziba, "What meanest thou by these?"

And Ziba said:

The asses be for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that such as be faint in the wilderness may drink.

³And the king said, "And where is thy master's son?"

And Ziba said unto the king:

Behold, he abideth at Jerusalem; for he said, "Today shall the house of Israel restore me the kingdom of my father."

⁴Then said the king to Ziba, "Behold, thine are all that pertained unto Mephibosheth."

And Ziba said:

I humbly beseech thee that I may find grace in thy sight, my lord, O king.

⁵And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera; he came forth, and cursed still as he came. ⁶And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David, and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.

⁷And thus said Shimei when he cursed:

Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial; ⁸the LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son; and, behold, thou art taken in thy mischief, because thou art a bloody man.

⁹Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king:

Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.

¹⁰And the king said:

What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? So let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him, "Curse David." Who shall then say, "Wherefore hast thou done so?"

¹¹And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants:

Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life; how much more now may this Benjamite do it? Let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him. ¹²It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.

¹³And as David and his men went by the way, Shimei went along on the hill's side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust. ¹⁴And the king, and all the people that were with him, came weary, and refreshed themselves there.

Ahithophel and Hushai counsel David

¹⁵And Absalom, and all the people the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him. ¹⁶And it came to pass, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, was come unto Absalom, that Hushai said unto Absalom, "God save the king, God save the king."

¹⁷And Absalom said to Hushai:

Is this thy kindness to thy friend? Why wentest thou not with thy friend?

¹⁸And Hushai said unto Absalom:

Nay; but whom the LORD, and this people, and all the men of Israel, choose, his will I be, and with him will I abide. ¹⁹And again, whom should I serve? Should I not serve in the presence of his son? As I have served in thy father's presence, so will I be in thy presence.

²⁰Then said Absalom to Ahithophel, "Give counsel among you what we shall do."

²¹And Ahithophel said unto Absalom:

Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father; then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong.

²²So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel. ²³And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counseled in those days, was as if a man had inquired at the oracle of God; so was all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

17 ¹Moreover Ahithophel said unto Absalom:

Let me now choose out twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue after David this night; ²and I will come upon him while he is weary and weakhanded, and will make him afraid; and all the people that are with him shall flee; and I will smite the king only; ³and I will bring back all the people unto thee; the man whom thou seekest is as if all returned; so all the people shall be in peace.

⁴And the saying pleased Absalom well, and all the elders of Israel. ⁵Then said Absalom:

Call now Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear likewise what he saith.

⁶And when Hushai was come to Absalom, Absalom spake unto him, saying:

Ahithophel hath spoken after this manner; shall we do after his saying? If not, speak thou.

⁷And Hushai said unto Absalom:

The counsel that Ahithophel hath given is not good at this time. ⁸For, said Hushai, thou knowest thy father and his men, that they be mighty men, and they be chafed in their minds, as a bear robbed of her whelps in the field; and thy father is a man of war, and will not lodge with the people. ⁹Behold, he is hid now in some pit, or in some other place; and it will come to pass, when some of them be overthrown at the first, that whosoever heareth it will say, "There is a slaughter among the people that follow Absalom." ¹⁰And he also that is valiant, whose heart is as the heart of a lion, shall utterly melt; for all Israel knoweth that thy father is a mighty man, and they which be with him are valiant men.

¹¹Therefore I counsel that all Israel be generally gathered unto thee, from Dan even to Beer-Sheba, as the sand that is by the sea for multitude; and that thou go to battle in thine own person. ¹²So shall we come upon him in some place where he shall be found, and we will light upon him as the dew falleth on the ground; and of him and of all the men that are with him there shall not be left so much as one. ¹³Moreover, if

he be gotten into a city, then shall all Israel bring ropes to that city, and we will draw it into the river, until there be not one small stone found there.

¹⁴And Absalom and all the men of Israel said:

The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel. For the LORD had appointed to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, to the intent that the LORD might bring evil upon Absalom.

¹⁵Then said Hushai unto Zadok and to Abiathar the priests:

Thus and thus did Ahithophel counsel Absalom and the elders of Israel; and thus and thus have I counseled. ¹⁶Now therefore send quickly, and tell David, saying, "Lodge not this night in the plains of the wilderness, but speedily pass over;" lest the king be swallowed up, and all the people that are with him.

¹⁷Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed by En-Rogel; for they might not be seen to come into the city; and a wench went and told them; and they went and told king David.

¹⁸Nevertheless, a lad saw them, and told Absalom; but they went both of them away quickly, and came to a man's house in Bahurim, which had a well in his court; whither they went down. ¹⁹And the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth, and spread ground corn thereon; and the thing was not known. ²⁰And when Absalom's servants came to the woman to the house, they said, "Where is Ahimaaz and Jonathan?" And the woman said unto them, "They be gone over the brook of water." And when they had sought and could not find them, they returned to Jerusalem.

²¹And it came to pass, after they were departed, that they came up out of the well, and went and told king David, and said unto David:

Arise, and pass quickly over the water; for thus hath Ahithophel counseled against you.

²²Then David arose, and all the people that were with him, and they passed over Jordan; by the morning light there lacked not one of them that was not gone over Jordan.

²³And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulcher of his father.

The death of Absalom

²⁴Then David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom passed over Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him. ²⁵And Absalom made Amasa captain of the hosts instead of Joab; which Amasa was a man's son, whose name was Ithra an Israelite, that went in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister to Zeruiah Joab's mother. ²⁶So Israel and Absalom pitched in the land of Gilead.

²⁷And it came to pass, when David was come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lo-Debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim, ²⁸brought beds, and basins, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and parched corn, and beans, and lentiles, and parched pulse ²⁹and honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for David, and for the people that were with him, to eat; for they said:

The people is hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.

18 ¹And David numbered the people that were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them. ²And David sent forth a third part of the people under the hand of Joab, and a third part under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's

brother, and the third part under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said unto the people:

I will surely go forth with you myself also.

³But the people answered:

Thou shalt not go forth; for if we flee away, they will not care for us; neither if half of us die, will they care for us; but now thou art worth ten thousand of us; therefore now it is better that thou succor us out of the city.

⁴And the king said unto them:

What seemeth you best I will do.

And the king stood by the gate side, and all the people came out by hundreds and by thousands. ⁵And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying:

Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom.

And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.

⁶So the people went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was in the wood of Ephraim; ⁷where the people of Israel were slain before the servants of David, and there was there a great slaughter that day of twenty thousand men. ⁸For the battle was there scattered over the face of all the country; and the wood devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

⁹And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away.

¹⁰And a certain man saw it, and told Joab, and said:

Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak.

¹¹And Joab said unto the man that told him:

And, behold, thou sawest him, and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? And I would have given thee ^aten shekels of silver, and a girdle.

^a 4 oz or 115 g

¹²And the man said unto Joab:

Though I should receive a ^bthousand shekels of silver in mine hand, yet would I not put forth mine hand against the king's son; for in our hearing the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "Beware that none touch the young man Absalom."

^b 25 lb or 12 kg

¹³Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life; for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldest have set thyself against me.

¹⁴Then said Joab:

I may not tarry thus with thee.

And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak. ¹⁵And ten young men that bare Joab's armor compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him. ¹⁶And Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing after Israel; for Joab held back the people. ¹⁷And they took Absalom, and cast him into a great pit in the wood, and laid a very great heap of stones upon him; and all Israel fled everyone to his tent.

¹⁸Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and reared up for himself a pillar, which is in the king's dale; for he said, "I have no son to keep my name in remembrance;" and he called the pillar after his own name; and it is called unto this day, Absalom's place.

¹⁹Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok:

Let me now run, and bear the king tidings, how that the LORD hath avenged him of his enemies.

²⁰And Joab said unto him:

Thou shalt not bear tidings this day, but thou shalt bear tidings another day; but this day thou shalt bear no tidings, because the king's son is dead.

²¹Then said Joab to Cush, "Go tell the king what thou hast seen." And Cush bowed himself unto Joab, and ran.

²²Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok yet again to Joab, "But howsoever, let me, I pray thee, also run after Cush." And Joab said, "Wherefore wilt thou run, my son, seeing that thou hast no tidings ready?" ²³"But howsoever," said he, "let me run." And he said unto him, "Run." Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the plain, and overran Cush.

²⁴And David sat between the two gates; and the watchman went up to the roof over the gate unto the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold a man running alone.

²⁵And the watchman cried, and told the king. And the king said, "If he be alone, there is tidings in his mouth." And he came apace, and drew near.

²⁶And the watchman saw another man running; and the watchman called unto the porter, and said, "Behold another man running alone." And the king said, "He also bringeth tidings." ²⁷And the watchman said, "Me thinketh the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok." And the king said, "He is a good man, and cometh with good tidings."

²⁸And Ahimaaz called, and said unto the king, "All is well." And he fell down to the earth upon his face before the king, and said:

Blessed be the LORD thy God, which hath delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king.

²⁹And the king said:

Is the young man Absalom safe?

And Ahimaaz answered:

When Joab sent the king's servant, and me thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what it was.

³⁰And the king said unto him, "Turn aside, and stand here." And he turned aside, and stood still. ³¹And, behold, Cush came; and Cush said, "Tidings, my lord the king; for the LORD hath avenged thee this day of all them that rose up against thee." ³²And the king said unto Cush, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" And Cush answered, "The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do thee hurt, be as that young man is."

³³And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, thus he said:

O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!

19 ¹And it was told Joab, "Behold, the king weepeth and mourneth for Absalom." ²And the victory that day was turned into mourning unto all the people; for the people heard say that day how the king was grieved for his son. ³And the people gat them by stealth that day into the city, as people being ashamed steal away when they flee in battle. ⁴But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice:

O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!

⁵And Joab came into the house to the king, and said:

Thou hast shamed this day the faces of all thy servants, which this day have saved thy life, and the lives of thy sons and of thy daughters, and the lives of thy wives, and the lives of thy concubines; ⁶in that thou lovest thine enemies, and hatest thy friends. For thou hast declared this day, that thou regardest neither princes nor servants; for this day I perceive, that if Absalom had lived, and all we had died this day, then it had pleased thee well.

⁷Now therefore arise, go forth, and speak comfortably unto thy servants; for I swear by the LORD, if thou go not forth, there will not tarry one with thee this night; and that will be worse unto thee than all the evil that befell thee from thy youth until now.

⁸Then the king arose, and sat in the gate. And they told unto all the people, saying, "Behold, the king doth sit in the gate." And all the people came before the king; for Israel had fled every man to his tent. ⁹And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying:

The king saved us out of the hand of our enemies, and he delivered us out of the hand of the Philistines; and now he is fled out of the land for Absalom. ¹⁰And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why speak ye not a word of bringing the king back?

¹¹And king David sent to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, saying:

Speak unto the elders of Judah, saying, "Why are ye the last to bring the king back to his house? Seeing the speech of all Israel is come to the king, even to his house. ¹²Ye are my brethren, ye are my bones and my flesh; wherefore then are ye the last to bring back the king?" ¹³And say ye to Amasa, "Art thou not of my bone, and of my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if thou be not captain of the host before me continually in the room of Joab."

¹⁴And he bowed the heart of all the men of Judah, even as the heart of one man; so that they sent this word unto the king, "Return thou, and all thy servants." ¹⁵So the king returned, and came to Jordan.

And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to conduct the king over Jordan. ¹⁶And Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite, which was of Bahurim, hasted and came down with the men of Judah to meet king David. ¹⁷And there were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went over Jordan before the king. ¹⁸And there went over a ferry boat to carry over the king's household, and to do what he thought good.

And Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king, as he was come over Jordan. ¹⁹And said unto the king:

Let not my lord impute iniquity unto me, neither do thou remember that which thy servant did perversely the day that my lord the king went out of Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart. ²⁰For thy servant doth know that I have sinned; therefore, behold, I am come the first this day of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king.

²¹But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said:

Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD's anointed?

²²And David said:

What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah, that ye should this day be adversaries unto me? Shall there any man be put to death this day in Israel? For do not I know that I am this day king over Israel?

²³Therefore the king said unto Shimei, "Thou shalt not die." And the king sware unto him.

²⁴And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king, and had neither dressed his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came again in peace. ²⁵And it came to pass, when he was come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said unto him:

Wherefore wentest not thou with me, Mephibosheth?

²⁶And he answered:

My lord, O king, my servant deceived me; for thy servant said, I will saddle me an ass, that I may ride thereon, and go to the king; because thy servant is lame. ²⁷And he hath slandered thy servant unto my lord the king; but my lord the king is as an angel of God; do therefore what is good in thine eyes. ²⁸For all of my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king; yet didst thou set thy servant among them that did eat at thine own table. What right therefore have I yet to cry anymore unto the king?

²⁹And the king said unto him:

Why speakest thou anymore of thy matters? I have said, "Thou and Ziba divide the land."

³⁰And Mephibosheth said unto the king:

Yea, let him take all, forasmuch as my lord the king is come again in peace unto his own house.

³¹And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim, and went over Jordan with the king, to conduct him over Jordan. ³²Now Barzillai was a very aged man, even fourscore years old; and he had provided the king of sustenance while he lay at Mahanaim; for he was a very great man. ³³And the king said unto Barzillai:

Come thou over with me, and I will feed thee with me in Jerusalem.

³⁴And Barzillai said unto the king:

How long have I to live that I should go up with the king unto Jerusalem? ³⁵I am this day fourscore years old; and can I discern between good and evil? Can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? Can I hear anymore the voice of singing men and singing women; wherefore then should thy servant be yet a burden unto my lord the king? ³⁶Thy servant will go a little way over Jordan with the king; and why should the king recompense it me with such a reward?

³⁷Let thy servant, I pray thee, turn back again, that I may die in mine own city, and be buried by the grave of my father and of my mother. But behold thy servant Chimham; let him go over with my lord the king; and do to him what shall seem good unto thee.

³⁸And the king answered:

Chimham shall go over with me, and I will do to him that which shall seem good unto thee; and whatsoever thou shalt require of me, that will I do for thee.

³⁹And all the people went over Jordan. And when the king was come over, the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he returned unto his own place. ⁴⁰Then the king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him; and all the people of Judah conducted the king, and also half the people of Israel.

⁴¹And, behold, all the men of Israel came to the king, and said unto the king:
Why have our brethren the men of Judah stolen thee away, and have brought the king and his household, and all David's men with him, over Jordan?

⁴²And all the men of Judah answered the men of Israel:
Because the king is near of kin to us; wherefore then be ye angry for this matter?
Have we eaten at all of the king's cost? Or hath he given us any gift?

⁴³And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said:
We have ten parts in the king, and we have also more right in David than ye; why then did ye despise us, that our advice should not be first had in bringing back our king?

And the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.

Sheba rebels against David

20 ¹And there happened to be there a man of Belial, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite; and he blew a trumpet, and said:
We have no part in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse; every man to his tents, O Israel.

²So every man of Israel went up from after David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri; but the men of Judah calve unto their king, from Jordan even to Jerusalem.

³And David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten women his concubines, whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in ward, and fed them, but went not in unto them. So they were shut up unto the day of their death, living in widowhood.

⁴Then said the king to Amasa:
Assemble me the men of Judah within three days, and be thou here present.

⁵So Amasa went to assemble the men of Judah; but he tarried longer than the set time which he had appointed him.

⁶And David said to Abishai:
Now shall Sheba the son of Bichri do us more harm than did Absalom; take thou thy lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest he get him fenced cities, and escape us.

⁷And there went out after him Joab's men, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and all the mighty men; and they went out of Jerusalem, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.

⁸When they were at the great stone which is in Gibeon, Amasa went before them. And Joab's garment that he had put on was girded unto him, and upon it a girdle with a sword fastened upon his loins in the sheath thereof; and as he went forth it fell out.

⁹And Joab said to Amasa, "Art thou in health, my brother?" And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him. ¹⁰But Amasa took no heed to the sword that was in Joab's hand; so he smote him therewith in the fifth rib, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died. So Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri.

¹¹And one of Joab's men stood by him, and said:
He that favoureth Joab, and he that is for David, let him go after Joab.

¹²And Amasa wallowed in blood in the midst of the highway. And when the man saw that all the people stood still, he removed Amasa out of the highway into the field, and cast a cloth upon him, when he saw that everyone that came by him stood still. ¹³When he was

removed out of the highway, all the people went on after Joab, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.

¹⁴And he went through all the tribes of Israel unto Abel, and to Beth-Maachah, and all the Berites; and they were gathered together, and went also after him. ¹⁵And they came and besieged him in Abel of Beth-Maachah, and they cast up a bank against the city, and it stood in the trench; and all the people that were with Joab battered the wall, to throw it down. ¹⁶Then cried a wise woman out of the city:

Hear, hear; say, I pray you, unto Joab, Come near hither, that I may speak with thee.

¹⁷And when he was come near unto her, the woman said, "Art thou Joab?" And he answered, "I am he." Then she said unto him, "Hear the words of thine handmaid." And he answered, "I do hear."

¹⁸Then she spake, saying:

They are wont to speak in old time, saying, "They shall surely ask counsel at Abel;" and so they ended the matter. ¹⁹I am one of them that are peaceable and faithful in Israel; thou seekest to destroy a city and a mother in Israel; why wilt thou swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?

²⁰And Joab answered and said:

Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy. ²¹The matter is not so; but a man of mount Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, hath lifted up his hand against the king, even against David; deliver him only, and I will depart from the city.

And the woman said unto Joab:

Behold, his head shall be thrown to thee over the wall.

²²Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom; and they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and cast it out to Joab. And he blew a trumpet, and they retired from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king.

²³Now Joab was over all the host of Israel; and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and over the Pelethites; ²⁴and Adoram was over the tribute; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder; ²⁵and Sheva was scribe; and Zadok and Abiathar were the priests; ²⁶and Ira also the Jairite was a chief ruler about David.

The Gibeonites are avenged

21 ¹Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered:

It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites.

²And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them; (now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the children of Israel had sworn unto them; and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Israel and Judah) ³wherefore David said unto the Gibeonites:

What shall I do for you? And wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the LORD?

⁴And the Gibeonites said unto him:

We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shalt thou kill any man in Israel.

And he said, "What ye shall say, that will I do for you."

⁵And they answered the king:

The man that consumed us, and that devised against us that we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the coasts of Israel, ⁶let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, whom the LORD did choose.

And the king said, "I will give them." ⁷But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the LORD's oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul. ⁸But the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bare unto Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite; ⁹and he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the hill before the LORD; and they fell all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest.

¹⁰And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth, and spread it for her upon the rock, from the beginning of harvest until water dropped upon them out of heaven, and suffered neither the birds of the air to rest on them by day, nor the beasts of the field by night.

¹¹And it was told David what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done. ¹²And David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from the men of Jabesh-Gilead, which had stolen them from the street of Beth-Shan, where the Philistines had hanged them, when the Philistines had slain Saul in Gilboa; ¹³and he brought up from thence the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son; and they gathered the bones of them that were hanged.

¹⁴And the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son buried they in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the sepulcher of Kish his father; and they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God was entreated for the land.

War against the Philistines

¹⁵Moreover the Philistines had yet war again with Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines; and David waxed faint. ¹⁶And Ishbi-benob, which was of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose spear weighed ^athree hundred shekels of brass in weight, he being girded with a new sword, thought to have slain David. ¹⁷But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succored him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David sware unto him, saying:

Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel.

¹⁸And it came to pass after this, that there was again a battle with the Philistines at Gob; then Sibbechai the Hushathite slew Saph, which was of the sons of the giant. ¹⁹And there was again a battle in Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaare-Oregim, a Bethlehemite, slew the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. ²⁰And there was yet a battle in Gath, where was a man of great stature, that had on every hand six fingers, and on every foot six toes, four and twenty in number; and he also was born to the giant. ²¹And when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimeah the brother of David slew him.

²²These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.

A song of David

^a 7.5 lb or 3.5 kg

¹And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song, in the day that the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul; ²and he said:

The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; ³the God of my rock; in him will I trust; he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my savior; thou savest me from violence.

⁴I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from mine enemies. ⁵When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid; ⁶the sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me.

⁷In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God; and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears. ⁸Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was wroth. ⁹There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured; coals were kindled by it. ¹⁰He bowed the heavens also, and came down, and darkness was under his feet. ¹¹And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly; and he was seen upon the wings of the wind. ¹²And he made darkness pavilions round about him, dark waters, and thick clouds of the skies. ¹³Through the brightness before him were coals of fire kindled.

¹⁴The LORD thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered his voice. ¹⁵And he sent out arrows, and scattered them; lightning, and discomfited them. ¹⁶And the channels of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were discovered, at the rebuking of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils.

¹⁷He sent from above, he took me; he drew me out of many waters; ¹⁸he delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them that hated me; for they were too strong for me. ¹⁹They prevented me in the day of my calamity; but the LORD was my stay. ²⁰He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

²¹The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me. ²²For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God. ²³For all his judgments were before me; and as for his statutes, I did not depart from them. ²⁴I was also upright before him, and have kept myself from mine iniquity. ²⁵Therefore the LORD hath recompensed me according to my righteousness; according to my cleanness in his eyesight.

²⁶With the merciful thou wilt show thyself merciful, and with the upright man thou wilt show thyself upright. ²⁷With the pure thou wilt show thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt show thyself unsavory. ²⁸And the afflicted people thou wilt save; but thine eyes are upon the haughty, that thou mayest bring them down. ²⁹For thou art my lamp, O Lord; and the LORD will lighten my darkness. ³⁰For by thee I have run through a troop; by my God have I leaped over a wall.

³¹As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried; he is a buckler to all them that trust in him. ³²For who is God, save the LORD? And who is a rock, save our God? ³³God is my strength and power; and he maketh my way perfect. ³⁴He maketh my feet like hinds' feet; and setteth me upon my high places. ³⁵He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms. ³⁶Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation; and thy gentleness hath made me great. ³⁷Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip.

³⁸I have pursued mine enemies, and destroyed them; and turned not again until I had consumed them. ³⁹And I have consumed them, and wounded them, that they could not arise; yea, they are fallen under my feet. ⁴⁰For thou hast girded me with strength to battle; them that rose up against me hast thou subdued under me. ⁴¹Thou hast also

given me the necks of mine enemies, that I might destroy them that hate me. ⁴²They looked, but there was none to save; even unto the LORD, but he answered them not. ⁴³Then did I beat them as small as the dust of the earth; I did stamp them as the mire of the street, and did spread them abroad.

⁴⁴Thou also hast delivered me from the strivings of my people, thou hast kept me to be head of the heathen; a people which I knew not shall serve me. ⁴⁵Strangers shall submit themselves unto me; as soon as they hear, they shall be obedient unto me.

⁴⁶Strangers shall fade away, and they shall be afraid out of their close places.

⁴⁷The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation. ⁴⁸It is God that avengeth me, and that bringeth down the people unto me, ⁴⁹And that bringeth me forth from mine enemies; thou also hast lifted me up on high above them that rose up against me; thou hast delivered me from the violent man. ⁵⁰Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name. ⁵¹He is the tower of salvation for his king; and sheweth mercy to his anointed, unto David, and to his seed forevermore.

David's last words

23 ¹Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said:

²The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. ³The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, "He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. ⁴And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain."

⁵Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure; for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow. ⁶But the sons of Belial shall be all of them as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with hands; ⁷but the man that shall touch them must be fenced with iron and the staff of a spear; and they shall be utterly burned with fire in the same place.

⁸These be the names of the mighty men whom David had: the Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same was Adino the Eznite; he lifted up his spear against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time.

⁹And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away. ¹⁰He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword; and the LORD wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil.

¹¹And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles; and the people fled from the Philistines. ¹²But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines; and the LORD wrought a great victory.

¹³And three of the thirty chief went down, and came to David in the harvesttime unto the cave of Adullam; and the troop of the Philistines pitched in the valley of Rephaim. ¹⁴And David was then in a hold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. ¹⁵And David longed, and said, "Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!" ¹⁶And the three mighty men brake through the host of

the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David; nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD. ¹⁷And he said, "Be it far from me, O Lord, that I should do this; is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men.

¹⁸And Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief among three. And he lifted up his spear against three hundred, and slew them, and had the name among three.

¹⁹Was he not most honorable of three? Therefore he was their captain; howbeit he attained not unto the first three.

²⁰And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man, of Kabzeel, who had done many acts, he slew two lion-like men of Moab; he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow. ²¹And he slew an Egyptian, a goodly man; and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear. ²²These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and had the name among three mighty men. ²³He was more honorable than the thirty, but he attained not to the first three. And David set him over his guard.

²⁴Asahel the brother of Joab was one of the thirty: Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,

²⁵Shammah the Harodite, Elikah the Harodite, ²⁶Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, ²⁷Abiezer the Anethothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite, ²⁸Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite, ²⁹Heleb the son of Maanah, a Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai out of Gibeath of the children of Benjamin, ³⁰Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash, ³¹Abi-Albon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite, ³²Eliabha the Shaalbomite, of the sons of Jashen, Jonathan, ³³Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite, ³⁴Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite, ³⁵Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite, ³⁶Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite, ³⁷Zekek the Ammonite, Nahari the Beerothite, armor-bearer to Joab the son of Zeruiah, ³⁸Ira an Ithrite, Bareb an Ithrite, ³⁹Uriah the Hittite; thirty and seven in all.

David counts his fighting men

24 ¹And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, "Go, number Israel and Judah." ²For the king said to Joab the captain of the host, which was with him:

Go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beersheba, and number ye the people, that I may know the number of the people.

³And Joab said unto the king:

Now the LORD thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be, a hundredfold, and that the eyes of my lord the king may see it; but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing?

⁴Notwithstanding the king's word prevailed against Joab, and against the captains of the host. And Joab and the captains of the host went out from the presence of the king, to number the people of Israel.

⁵And they passed over Jordan, and pitched in Aroer, on the right side of the city that lieth in the midst of the river of Gad, and toward Jazer; ⁶then they came to Gilead, and to the land of Tahtim-Hodshi; and they came to Dan-Jaan, and about to Zidon, ⁷and came to the stronghold of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hivites, and of the Canaanites; and they went out to the south of Judah, even to Beer-Sheba. ⁸So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.

⁹And Joab gave up the sum of the number of the people unto the king; and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew the sword; and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men. ¹⁰And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD:

I have sinned greatly in that I have done; and now, I beseech thee, O Lord, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.

¹¹For when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying:

¹²Go and say unto David, "Thus saith the LORD: I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee."

¹³So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him:

Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? Or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? Or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? Now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me.

¹⁴And David said unto Gad:

I am in a great strait; let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great; and let me not fall into the hand of man.

¹⁵So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed; and there died of the people from Dan even to Beer-Sheba seventy thousand men. ¹⁶And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD said unto him, "Stay now thine hand, it is enough;" for the people repented, and the Lord stayed the hand of the angel, that he destroyed not the people. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah, the Jebusite.

repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people. "It is enough: stay now thine hand"

¹⁷For David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said: Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.

David builds an altar

¹⁸And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him:

Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

¹⁹And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded. ²⁰And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him; and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground. ²¹And Araunah said:

Wherefore is my Lord the king come to his servant?

And David said:

To buy the threshing floor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people.

²²And Araunah said unto David:

Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him; behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood.

²³All these things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king:

The LORD thy God accept thee.

²⁴And the king said unto Arunah:

Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price; neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing.

So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. ²⁵And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was entreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.

1 KINGS

Adonijah sets himself up as king

¹Now king David was old and stricken in years; and they covered him with clothes, but he gat no heat. ²Wherefore his servants said unto him:

Let there be sought for my lord the king a young virgin; and let her stand before the king, and let her cherish him, and let her lie in thy bosom, that my lord the king may get heat.

³So they sought for a fair damsel throughout all the coasts of Israel, and found Abishag a Shunammite, and brought her to the king. ⁴And the damsel was very fair, and cherished the king, and ministered to him; but the king knew her not.

⁵Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king;" and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. ⁶And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, "Why hast thou done so?" And he also was a very goodly man; and his mother bare him after Absalom.

⁷And he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah, and with Abiathar the priest; and they following Adonijah helped him. ⁸But Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and Nathan the prophet, and Shimei, and Rei, and the mighty men which belonged to David, were not with Adonijah.

⁹And Adonijah slew sheep and oxen and fat cattle by the stone of Zoheleth, which is by En-Rogel, and called all his brethren the king's sons, and all the men of Judah the king's servants; ¹⁰but Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah, and the mighty men, and Solomon his brother, he called not.

¹¹Wherefore Nathan spake unto Bath-Sheba the mother of Solomon, saying:

Hast thou not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith doth reign, and David our lord knoweth it not? ¹²Now therefore come, let me, I pray thee, give thee counsel, that thou mayest save thine own life, and the life of thy son Solomon. ¹³Go and get thee in unto king David, and say unto him, "Didst not thou, my lord O king, swear unto thine handmaid, saying, 'Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne?' Why then doth Adonijah reign?" ¹⁴Behold, while thou yet talkest there with the king, I also will come in after thee, and confirm thy words.

¹⁵And Bath-Sheba went in unto the king into the chamber; and the king was very old; and Abishag the Shunammite ministered unto the king. ¹⁶And Bath-Sheba bowed, and did obeisance unto the king. And the king said, "What wouldest thou?"

¹⁷And she said unto him:

My lord, thou swarest by the LORD thy God unto thine handmaid, saying, "Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne."

¹⁸And now, behold, Adonijah reigneth; and now, my lord the king, thou knowest it not; ¹⁹and he hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the sons of the king, and Abiathar the priest, and Joab the captain of the host; but Solomon thy servant hath he not called. ²⁰And thou, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel are upon thee, that thou shouldest tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. ²¹Otherwise it shall come to pass, when my lord the king shall sleep with his father, that I and my son Solomon shall be counted offenders.

²²And, lo, while she yet talked with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in. ²³And they told the king, saying, "Behold Nathan the prophet." And when he was come in before the king, he bowed himself before the king with his face to the ground. ²⁴And Nathan said:

My lord, O king, hast thou said, "Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne?" ²⁵For he is gone down this day, and hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the king's sons, and the captains of the host, and Abiathar the priest; and, behold, they eat and drink before him, and say, God save king Adonijah. ²⁶But me, even me thy servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and thy servant Solomon, hath he not called. ²⁷Is this thing done by my lord the king, and thou hast not showed it unto thy servant, who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?

David makes Solomon king

²⁸Then king David answered and said, "Call me Bath-Sheba." And she came into the king's presence, and stood before the king. ²⁹And the king sware, and said:

As the LORD liveth, that hath redeemed my soul out of all distress, ³⁰even as I sware unto thee by the LORD God of Israel, saying, "Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead;" even so will I certainly do this day.

³¹Then Bath-Sheba bowed with her face to the earth, and did reverence to the king, and said, "Let my lord king David live forever."

³²And king David said, "Call me Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada." And they came before the king. ³³The king also said unto them:

Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon; ³⁴and let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel; and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon. ³⁵Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; for he shall be king in my stead; and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.

³⁶And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, and said:

Amen; the LORD God of my lord the king say so too. ³⁷As the LORD hath been with my lord the king, even so be he with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord king David.

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

⁴¹And Adonijah and all the guests that were with him heard it as they had made an end of eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, "Wherefore is this noise of the city being in an uproar?" ⁴²And while he yet spake, behold Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came; and Adonijah said unto him:

Come in; for thou art a valiant man, and bringest good tidings.

⁴³And Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah:

Verily our lord king David hath made Solomon king. ⁴⁴And the king hath sent with him Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and they have caused him to ride upon the king's

mule; ⁴⁵and Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king in Gihon; and they are come up from thence rejoicing, so that the city rang again. This is the noise that ye have heard. ⁴⁶And also Solomon sitteth on the throne of the kingdom. ⁴⁷And moreover the king's servants came to bless our lord king David, saying, "God make the name of Solomon better than thy name, and make his throne greater than thy throne." And the king bowed himself upon the bed. ⁴⁸And also thus said the king, "Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which hath given one to sit on my throne this day, mine eyes even seeing it."

⁴⁹And all the guests that were with Adonijah were afraid, and rose up, and went every man his way. ⁵⁰And Adonijah feared because of Solomon, and arose, and went, and caught hold on the horns of the altar. ⁵¹And it was told Solomon, saying:

Behold, Adonijah feareth king Solomon; for, lo, he hath caught hold on the horns of the altar, saying, "Let king Solomon swear unto me today that he will not slay his servant with the sword."

⁵²And Solomon said:

If he will show himself a worthy man, there shall not a hair of him fall to the earth; but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die.

⁵³So king Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and bowed himself to king Solomon; and Solomon said unto him, "Go to thine house."

David's instructions to Solomon

2 ¹Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying:

²I go the way of all the earth; be thou strong therefore, and show thyself a man; ³and keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself; ⁴that the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, "If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel."

⁵Moreover thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner, and unto Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that was about his loins, and in his shoes that were on his feet. ⁶Do therefore according to thy wisdom, and let not his hoar head go down to the grave in peace.

⁷But show kindness unto the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be of those that eat at thy table; for so they came to me when I fled because of Absalom thy brother.

⁸And, behold, thou hast with thee Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite of Bahurim, which cursed me with a grievous curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim; but he came down to meet me at Jordan, and I sware to him by the LORD, saying, "I will not put thee to death with the sword." ⁹Now therefore hold him not guiltless; for thou art a wise man, and knowest what thou oughtest to do unto him; but his hoar head bring thou down to the grave with blood.

¹⁰So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David. ¹¹And the days that David reigned over Israel were forty years; seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem.

Solomon's throne established

¹²Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly.

¹³And Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bath-Sheba the mother of Solomon. And she said, "Comest thou peaceably?" And he said, "Peaceably." ¹⁴He said moreover, "I have somewhat to say unto thee." And she said, "Say on." ¹⁵And he said:

Thou knowest that the kingdom was mine, and that all Israel set their faces on me, that I should reign; howbeit the kingdom is turned about, and is become my brother's; for it was his from the LORD. ¹⁶And now I ask one petition of thee, deny me not.

And she said unto him, "Say on." ¹⁷And he said;

Speak, I pray thee, unto Solomon the king, (for he will not say thee nay) that he give me Abishag the Shunammite to wife.

¹⁸And Bath-Sheba said, "Well; I will speak for thee unto the king." ¹⁹Bath-Sheba therefore went unto king Solomon, to speak unto him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her, and bowed himself unto her, and sat down on his throne, and caused a seat to be set for the king's mother; and she sat on his right hand. ²⁰Then she said:

I desire one small petition of thee; I pray thee, say me not nay.

And the king said unto her, "Ask on, my mother; for I will not say thee nay."

²¹And she said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah thy brother to wife."

²²And king Solomon answered and said unto his mother:

And why dost thou ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him the kingdom also; for he is mine elder brother; even for him, and for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah.

²³Then king Solomon swore by the LORD, saying:

God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah have not spoken this word against his own life. ²⁴Now therefore, as the LORD liveth, which hath established me, and set me on the throne of David my father, and who hath made me a house, as he promised, Adonijah shall be put to death this day.

²⁵And king Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he fell upon him that he died.

²⁶And unto Abiathar the priest said the king:

Get thee to Anathoth, unto thine own fields; for thou art worthy of death; but I will not at this time put thee to death, because thou barest the ark of the Lord GOD before David my father, and because thou hast been afflicted in all wherein my father was afflicted.

²⁷So Solomon thrust out Abiathar from being priest unto the LORD; that he might fulfill the word of the LORD, which he spake concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.

²⁸Then tidings came to Joab; for Joab had turned after Adonijah, though he turned not after Absalom. And Joab fled unto the tabernacle of the LORD, and caught hold on the horns of the altar. ²⁹And it was told king Solomon that Joab was fled unto the tabernacle

of the LORD; and, behold, he is by the altar. Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, "Go, fall upon him."

³⁰And Benaiah came to the tabernacle of the LORD, and said unto him:

Thus saith the king, Come forth. And he said, Nay; but I will die here.

And Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, "Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me." ³¹And the king said unto him:

Do as he hath said, and fall upon him, and bury him; that thou mayest take away the innocent blood, which Joab shed, from me, and from the house of my father. ³²And the LORD shall return his blood upon his own head, who fell upon two men more righteous and better than he, and slew them with the sword, my father David not knowing thereof, to wit, Abner the son of Ner, captain of the host of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, captain of the host of Judah. ³³Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of Joab, and upon the head of his seed forever; but upon David, and upon his seed, and upon his house, and upon his throne, shall there be peace forever from the LORD.

³⁴So Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up, and fell upon him, and slew him; and he was buried in his own house in the wilderness. ³⁵And the king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada in his room over the host; and Zadok the priest did the king put in the room of Abiathar.

³⁶And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him:

Build thee a house in Jerusalem, and dwell there, and go not forth thence any whither. ³⁷For it shall be, that on the day thou goest out, and passest over the brook Kidron, thou shalt know for certain that thou shalt surely die; thy blood shall be upon thine own head.

³⁸And Shimei said unto the king:

The saying is good; as my lord the king hath said, so will thy servant do.

And Shimei dwelt in Jerusalem many days.

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

⁴¹And it was told Solomon that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath, and was come again. ⁴²And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him:

Did I not make thee to swear by the LORD, and protested unto thee, saying, "Know for a certain, on the day thou goest out, and walkest abroad any whither, that thou shalt surely die?" And thou saidst unto me, "The word that I have heard is good."

⁴³Why then hast thou not kept the oath of the LORD, and the commandment that I have charged thee with?

⁴⁴The king said moreover to Shimei:

Thou knowest all the wickedness which thine heart is privy to, that thou didst to David my father; therefore the LORD shall return thy wickedness upon thine own head; ⁴⁵and king Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD forever.

⁴⁶So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; which went out, and fell upon him, that he died. And the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.

Solomon asks for wisdom

3 ¹And the LORD was not pleased with Solomon, for he made affinity with Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter to wife, and brought her into the house of David until he had made an end of building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall of Jerusalem round about. And the LORD blessed Solomon for the people's sake only. ²And the people sacrificed in high places, because there was no house built unto the name of the LORD, until those days.

³And because the LORD blessed Solomon as he was walking in the statutes of David, his father, he began to love the LORD, and he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places, and he called on the name of the LORD. ⁴And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for Gibeon was in a great high place; and Solomon offered upon that altar, in Gibeon, a thousand burnt offerings. ⁵And the LORD hearkened unto Solomon, and appeared unto him in a dream by night, and said:

Ask what I shall give thee.

⁶And Solomon said:

Thou hast showed unto thy servant David, my father, great things according to thy mercy when he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, thou hast made thy servant king, instead of David, my father, over thy people. ⁸And I know not how to lead them, to go out, or come in before them, and I, thy servant, am as a little child, in the midst of thy people whom thou hast chosen, a great people that cannot be numbered, nor counted for multitude. ⁹Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad; for who is able to judge this thy people, so great a people?

¹⁰And the speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing. ¹¹And God said unto him:

Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; ¹²behold, I have done according to thy word; lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none made king over Israel like unto thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. ¹³And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honor; so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days. ¹⁴And if thou wilt walk in my ways to keep my statutes, and my commandments, then I will lengthen thy days, and thou shalt not walk in unrighteousness, as did thy father David.

¹⁵And Solomon awoke; and, behold, it was a dream. And he came to Jerusalem, and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings, and offered peace offerings, and made a feast to all his servants.

Solomon's wisdom

¹⁶Then came there two women, that were harlots, unto the king, and stood before him.

¹⁷And the one woman said:

O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house. ¹⁸And it came to pass the third day after that I was delivered, that this woman was delivered also; and we were together; there was no stranger with us in the house, save we two in the house. ¹⁹And this woman's child died in the night,

because she overlaid it. ²⁰And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thine handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom. ²¹And when I rose in the morning to give my child suck, behold, it was dead; but when I had considered it in the morning, behold, it was not my son, which I did bear.

²²And the other woman said, "Nay; but the living is my son, and the dead is thy son." And this said, "No; but the dead is thy son, and the living is my son." Thus they spake before the king.

²³Then said the king, "The one saith, 'This is my son that liveth, and thy son is the dead;,' and the other saith, 'Nay; but thy son is the dead, and my son is the living.'"²⁴And the king said, "Bring me a sword." And they brought a sword before the king. ²⁵And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other."

²⁶Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it." But the other said, "Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it."²⁷Then the king answered and said, "Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it; she is the mother thereof."²⁸And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king; for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to do judgment.

Solomon's officials

4 ¹So king Solomon was king over all Israel. ²And these were the princes which he had: Azariah the son of Zadok the priest, ³Elihoreph and Ahiah, the sons of Shisha, scribes; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, the recorder. ⁴And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the host; and Zadok and Abiathar were the priests; ⁵and Azariah the son of Nathan was over the officers; and Zabud the son of Nathan was principal officer, and the king's friend; ⁶and Ahishar was over the household; and Adoniram the son of Abda was over the tribute. ⁷And Solomon had twelve officers over all Israel, which provided victuals for the king and his household; each man his month in a year made provision. ⁸And these are their names: The son of Hur, in mount Ephraim; ⁹the son of Dekar, in Makaz, and in Shaalbim, and Beth-Shemesh, and Elon-Beth-Hanan; ¹⁰the son of Hesed, in Aruboth; to him pertained Sochoh, and all the land of Hephher; ¹¹the son of Abinadab, in all the region of Dor; which had Taphath the daughter of Solomon to wife; ¹²Baana the son of Ahilud; to him pertained Taanach and Megiddo, and all Beth-Shean, which is by Zartanah beneath Jezreel, from Beth-Shean to Abel-Meholah, even unto the place that is beyond Jokneam; ¹³the son of Geber, in Ramothgilead; to him pertained the towns of Jair the son of Manasseh, which are in Gilead; to him also pertained the region of Argob, which is in Bashan, threescore great cities with walls and brazen bars; ¹⁴Ahinadab the son of Iddo had Mahanaim; ¹⁵Ahimaaz was in Naphtali; he also took Basmath the daughter of Solomon to wife; ¹⁶Baanah the son of Hushai was in Asher and in Aloth; ¹⁷Jehoshaphat the son of Paruah, in Issachar; ¹⁸Shimei the son of Elah, in Benjamin; ¹⁹Geber the son of Uri was in the country of Gilead, in the country of Sihon king of the Amorites, and of Og king of Bashan; and he was the only officer which was in the land.

Solomon's wealth and wisdom

²⁰Judah and Israel were many, as the sand which is by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking, and making merry. ²¹And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt, they brought presents, and served Solomon all the days of his life.

²²And Solomon's provision for one day was ^athirty measures of fine flour, and threescore measures of meal. ²³Ten fat oxen, and twenty oxen out of the pastures, and a hundred sheep, besides harts, and roebucks, and fallow deer, and fatted fowl. ²⁴For he had dominion over all the region on this side the river, from Tiphseh even to Azzah, over all the kings on this side the river; and he had peace on all sides round about him. ²⁵And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beer-Sheba, all the days of Solomon. ²⁶And Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen. ²⁷And those officers provided victuals for king Solomon, and for all that came unto king Solomon's table, every man in his month; they lacked nothing. ²⁸Barley also and straw for the horses and dromedaries brought they unto the place where the officers were, every man according to his charge.

^a 48 gal or 220 liter

²⁹And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the seashore.

³⁰And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt. ³¹For he was wiser than all men, than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was in all nations round about. ³²And he spake three thousand proverbs; and his songs were a thousand and five. ³³And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall; he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes. ³⁴And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom.

Preparations for building the temple

5 ¹And Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants unto Solomon; for he had heard that they had anointed him king in the room of his father; for Hiram was ever a lover of David. ²And Solomon sent to Hiram, saying:

³Thou knowest how that David my father could not build a house unto the name of the LORD his God, for the wars which were about him on every side, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet. ⁴But now the LORD my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent. ⁵And, behold, I purpose to build a house unto the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spake unto David my father, saying, "Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build a house unto my name."

⁶Now therefore command thou that they hew me cedar trees out of Lebanon; and my servants shall be with thy servants; and unto thee will I give hire for thy servants according to all that thou shalt appoint; for thou knowest that there is not among us any that can skill to hew timber like unto the Sidonians.

⁷And it came to pass, when Hiram heard the words of Solomon, that he rejoiced greatly, and said, "Blessed be the LORD this day, which hath given unto David a wise son over this great people." ⁸And Hiram sent to Solomon, saying:

I have considered the things which thou sentest to me for; and I will do all thy desire concerning timber of cedar, and concerning timber of fir. ⁹My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon unto the sea; and I will convey them by sea in floats unto the place that thou shalt appoint me, and will cause them to be discharged there, and thou shalt receive them; and thou shalt accomplish my desire, in giving food for my household.

¹⁰So Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees according to all his desire. ¹¹And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand measures of wheat for food to his household, and

twenty measures of pure oil; thus gave Solomon to Hiram year by year. ¹²And the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him; and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and they two made a league together.

¹³And king Solomon raised a levy out of all Israel; and the levy was thirty thousand men.

¹⁴And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month by courses; a month they were in Lebanon, and two months at home; and Adoniram was over the levy. ¹⁵And Solomon had threescore and ten thousand that bare burdens, and fourscore thousand hewers in the mountains; ¹⁶besides the chief of Solomon's officers which were over the work, three thousand and three hundred, which ruled over the people that wrought in the work.

¹⁷And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house. ¹⁸And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew them, and the stone-squarers; so they prepared timber and stones to build the house.

Solomon builds the temple

6 ¹And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD. ²And the house which king Solomon built for the LORD, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, the height thereof thirty cubits. ³And the porch before the temple of the house, twenty cubits was the length thereof, according to the breadth of the house; and ten cubits was the breadth thereof before the house. ⁴And for the house he made windows of narrow lights. ⁵And against the wall of the house he built chambers round about, against the walls of the house round about, both of the temple and of the oracle; and he made chambers round about. ⁶The nethermost chamber was five cubits broad, and the middle was six cubits broad, and the third was seven cubits broad; for without in the wall of the house he made narrowed rests round about, that the beams should not be fastened in the walls of the house.

⁷And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither; so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.

⁸The door for the middle chamber was in the right side of the house; and they went up with winding stairs into the middle chamber, and out of the middle into the third. ⁹So he built the house, and finished it; and covered the house with beams and boards of cedar.

¹⁰And then he built chambers against all the house, five cubits high; and they rested on the house with timber of cedar.

¹¹And the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying:

¹²Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee which I spake unto David thy father; ¹³and I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.

¹⁴So Solomon built the house, and finished it. ¹⁵And he built the walls of the house within with boards of cedar, both the floor of the house, and the walls of the ceiling; and he covered them on the inside with wood, and covered the floor of the house with planks of fir. ¹⁶And he built twenty cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls with boards of cedar; he even built them for it within, even for the oracle, even for the most holy place. ¹⁷And the house, that is, the temple before it, was forty cubits long. ¹⁸And the cedar of the house within was carved with knops and open flowers; all was cedar; there

was no stone seen. ¹⁹And the oracle he prepared in the house within, to set there the ark of the covenant of the LORD. ²⁰And the oracle in the forepart was twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in breadth, and twenty cubits in the height thereof; and he overlaid it with pure gold; and so covered the altar which was of cedar. ²¹So Solomon overlaid the house within with pure gold; and he made a partition by the chains of gold before the oracle; and he overlaid it with gold. ²²And the whole house he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the house; also the whole altar that was by the oracle he overlaid with gold.

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

²⁹And he carved all the walls of the house round about with carved figures of cherubim and palm trees and open flowers, within and without. ³⁰And the floor of the house he overlaid with gold, within and without.

³¹And for the entering of the oracle he made doors of olive tree; the lintel and side posts were a fifth part of the wall. ³²The two doors also were of olive tree; and he carved upon them carvings of cherubim and palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold, and spread gold upon the cherubim, and upon the palm trees. ³³So also made he for the door of the temple posts of olive tree, a fourth part of the wall. ³⁴And the two doors were of fir tree; the two leaves of the one door were folding, and the two leaves of the other door were folding. ³⁵And he carved thereon cherubim and palm trees and open flowers; and covered them with gold fitted upon the carved work. ³⁶And he built the inner court with three rows of hewed stone, and a row of cedar beams.

³⁷In the fourth year was the foundation of the house of the LORD laid, in the month Zif; ³⁸and in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.

Solomon builds his palace

7 ¹But Solomon was building his own house thirteen years, and he finished all his house.

²He built also the house of the forest of Lebanon; the length thereof was a hundred cubits, and the breadth thereof fifty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits, upon four rows of cedar pillars, with cedar beams upon the pillars. ³And it was covered with cedar above upon the beams, that lay on forty-five pillars, fifteen in a row. ⁴And there were windows in three rows, and light was against light in three ranks. ⁵And all the doors and posts were square, with the windows; and light was against light in three ranks.

⁶And he made a porch of pillars; the length thereof was fifty cubits, and the breadth thereof thirty cubits; and the porch was before them; and the other pillars and the thick beam were before them.

⁷Then he made a porch for the throne where he might judge, even the porch of judgment; and it was covered with cedar from one side of the floor to the other.

⁸And his house where he dwelt had another court within the porch, which was of the like work. Solomon made also a house for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had taken to wife, like unto his porch.

⁹All these were of costly stones, according to the measure of hewed stones, sawed with saws, within and without, even from the foundation unto the coping, and so on the outside toward the great court. ¹⁰And the foundation was of costly stones, even great stones, stones of ten cubits, and stones of eight cubits. ¹¹And above were costly stones, after the measures of hewed stones, and cedars. ¹²And the great court round about was with three rows of hewed stones, and a row of cedar beams, both for the inner court of the house of the LORD, and for the porch of the house.

The temple furnishings

¹³And king Solomon sent and fetched Hiram out of Tyre. ¹⁴He was a widow's son of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in brass; and he was filled with wisdom, and understanding, and cunning to work all works in brass. And he came to king Solomon, and wrought all his work.

¹⁵For he cast two pillars of brass of eighteen cubits high apiece; and a line of twelve cubits did compass either of them about. ¹⁶And he made two chapiters of molten brass, to set upon the tops of the pillars; the height of the one chapter was five cubits, and the height of the other chapter was five cubits; ¹⁷and nets of checker work, and wreaths of chain work, for the chapiters which were upon the top of the pillars; seven for the one chapter, and seven for the other chapter. ¹⁸And he made the pillars, and two rows round about upon the one network, to cover the chapiters that were upon the top, with pomegranates; and so did he for the other chapter. ¹⁹And the chapiters that were upon the top of the pillars were of lily work in the porch, four cubits. ²⁰And the chapiters upon the two pillars had pomegranates also above, over against the belly which was by the network; and the pomegranates were two hundred in rows round about upon the other chapter. ²¹And he set up the pillars in the porch of the temple; and he set up the right pillar, and called the name thereof Jachin; and he set up the left pillar, and called the name thereof Boaz. ²²And upon the top of the pillars was lily work; so was the work of the pillars finished.

²³And he made a molten sea, ten cubits from the one brim to the other; it was round all about, and his height was five cubits; and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about. ²⁴And under the brim of it round about there were knops compassing it, ten in a cubit, compassing the sea round about; the knops were cast in two rows, when it was cast. ²⁵It 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 above upon them, and all their hinder parts were inward. ²⁶And it was a handbreath thick, and the brim thereof was wrought like the brim of a cup, with flowers of lilies; it contained two thousand baths.

²⁷And he made ten bases of brass; four cubits was the length of one base, and four cubits the breadth thereof, and three cubits the height of it. ²⁸And the work of the bases was on this manner; they had borders, and the borders were between the ledges; ²⁹and on the borders that were between the ledges were lions, oxen, and cherubim; and upon the ledges there was a base above; and beneath the lions and oxen were certain additions made of thin work. ³⁰And every base had four brazen wheels, and plates of brass; and the four corners thereof had under-setters; under the laver were under-setters molten, at the side of every addition. ³¹And the mouth of it within the chapter and above was a cubit; but the mouth thereof was round after the work of the base, a cubit and a half; and also upon the mouth of it were gravings with their borders, foursquare, not round. ³²And under the borders

were four wheels; and the axletrees of the wheels were joined to the base; and the height of a wheel was a cubit and half a cubit. ³³And the work of the wheels was like the work of a chariot wheel; their axletrees, and their naves, and their felloes, and their spokes, were all molten. ³⁴And there were four under-setters to the four corners of one base; and the undersettors were of the very base itself. ³⁵And in the top of the base was there a round compass of half a cubit high; and on the top of the base the ledges thereof and the border thereof were of the same. ³⁶For on the plates of the ledges thereof, and on the borders thereof, he graved cherubim, lions, and palm trees, according to the proportion of every one, and additions round about. ³⁷After this manner he made the ten bases; all of them had one casting, one measure, and one size.

³⁸Then made he ten lavers of brass; one laver contained forty baths; and every laver was four cubits; and upon every one of the ten bases one laver. ³⁹And he put five bases on the right side of the house, and five on the left side of the house; and he set the sea on the right side of the house eastward, over against the south.

⁴⁰And Hiram made the lavers, and the shovels, and the basins. So Hiram made an end of doing all the work that he made king Solomon for the house of the LORD. ⁴¹The two pillars, and the two bowls of the chapiters that were on the top of the two pillars; and the two networks, to cover the two bowls of the chapiters which were upon the top of the pillars; ⁴²and four hundred pomegranates for the two networks, even two rows of pomegranates for one network, to cover the two bowls of the chapiters that were upon the pillars; ⁴³and the ten bases, and ten lavers on the bases; ⁴⁴and one sea, and twelve oxen under the sea; ⁴⁵and the pots, and the shovels, and the basins; and all these vessels, which Hiram made to king Solomon for the house of the LORD, were of bright brass. ⁴⁶In the plain of Jordan did the king cast them, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zarthan. ⁴⁷And Solomon left all the vessels unweighed, because they were exceeding many; neither was the weight of the brass found out.

⁴⁸And Solomon made all the vessels that pertained unto the house of the LORD; the altar of gold, and the table of gold, whereupon the showbread was. ⁴⁹And the candlesticks of pure gold, five on the right side, and five on the left, before the oracle, with the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs of gold. ⁵⁰And the bowls, and the snuffers, and the basins, and the spoons, and the censers of pure gold; and the hinges of gold, both for the doors of the inner house, the most holy place, and for the doors of the house, to wit, of the temple.

⁵¹So was ended all the work that king Solomon made for the house of the LORD. And Solomon brought in the things which David his father had dedicated; even the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, did he put among the treasures of the house of the LORD.

The ark brought into the temple

8 ¹Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion. ²And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. ³And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. ⁴And they brought up the ark of the LORD, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that were in the tabernacle, even those did the priests and the Levites bring up. ⁵And king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel, that were assembled unto him, where with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen that could not be told nor numbered for multitude. ⁶And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, into the oracle of the house, to the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubim. ⁷For the cherubim spread forth their two

wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim covered the ark and the staves thereof above. ⁸And they drew out the staves, that the ends of the staves were seen out in the holy place before the oracle, and they were not seen without; and there they are unto this day. ⁹There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. ¹⁰And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD. ¹¹So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

Solomon speaks

¹²Then spake Solomon:

The LORD said that he would dwell in the thick darkness. ¹³I have surely built thee a house to dwell in, a settled place for thee to abide in forever.

¹⁴And the king turned his face about, and blessed all the congregation of Israel; and all the congregation of Israel stood; ¹⁵And he said:

Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which spake with his mouth unto David my father, and hath with his hand fulfilled it, saying, ¹⁶“Since the day that I brought forth my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build a house, that my name might be therein; but I chose David to be over my people Israel.” ¹⁷And it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of the LORD God of Israel. ¹⁸And the LORD said unto David my father, “Whereas it was in thine heart to build a house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart. ¹⁹Nevertheless thou shalt not build the house; but thy son that shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house unto my name.”

²⁰And the LORD hath performed his word that he spake, and I am risen up in the room of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built a house for the name of the LORD God of Israel. ²¹And I have set there a place for the ark, wherein is the covenant of the LORD, which he made with our fathers, when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.

Dedicatory prayer

²²And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven; ²³and he said:

LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart; ²⁴who hast kept with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him; thou spakest also with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day. ²⁵Therefore now, LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him, saying, “There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me.” ²⁶And now, O God of Israel, let thy word, I pray thee, be verified, which thou spakest unto thy servant David my father.

²⁷But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded? ²⁸Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee today; ²⁹that thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, “My name shall be there;” that thou mayest hearken unto the

prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place. ³⁰And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place; and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place; and when thou hearest, forgive.

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

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

³⁵When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them; ³⁶then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance.

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

⁴¹Moreover concerning a stranger, that is not of thy people Israel, but cometh out of a far country for thy name's sake; ⁴²(for they shall hear of thy great name and of thy strong hand, and of thy stretched-out arm) when he shall come and pray toward this house; ⁴³hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for; that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name.

⁴⁴If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, whithersoever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto the LORD toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house that I have built for thy name; ⁴⁵then hear thou in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

⁴⁶If 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 that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near; ⁴⁷yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, "We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness;" ⁴⁸and so return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name; ⁴⁹then hear thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven thy dwelling place, and

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

Solomon's benediction

⁵⁴And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven. ⁵⁵And he stood, and blessed all the congregation of Israel with a loud voice, saying:

⁵⁶Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised; there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant. ⁵⁷The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers; let him not leave us, nor forsake us; ⁵⁸that he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers. ⁵⁹And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the LORD, be nigh unto the LORD our God day and night, that he maintain the cause of his servant, and the cause of his people Israel at all times, as the matter shall require; ⁶⁰that all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God, and that there is none else. ⁶¹Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.

⁶²And the king, and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before the LORD. ⁶³And Solomon offered a sacrifice of peace offerings which he offered unto the LORD, two and twenty thousand oxen, and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD. ⁶⁴The same day did the king hallow the middle of the court that was before the house of the LORD; for there he offered burnt offerings, and meat offering, and the fat of the peace offerings; because the brazen altar that was before the LORD was too little to receive the burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings.

⁶⁵And at that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him, a great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days and seven days, even fourteen days. ⁶⁶On the eighth day he sent the people away; and they blessed the king, and went unto their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the LORD had done for David his servant, and for Israel his people.

The LORD appears to Solomon

9 ¹And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he was pleased to do, ²that the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon.

³And the LORD said unto him:

I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me; I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there forever; and mine

eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually. ⁴And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments; ⁵then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel forever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, "There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel."

⁶But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them; ⁷then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them, and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people; ⁸and at this house, which is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, "Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and to this house?" ⁹And they shall answer, "Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshiped them, and served them; therefore hath the LORD brought upon them all this evil."

Solomon's other acts

¹⁰And it came to pass at the end of twenty years, when Solomon had built the two houses, the house of the LORD, and the king's house, ¹¹(now Hiram the king of Tyre had furnished Solomon with cedar trees and fir trees, and with gold, according to all his desire) that then king Solomon gave Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee. ¹²And Hiram came out from Tyre to see the cities which Solomon had given him; and they pleased him not. ¹³And he said, "What cities are these which thou hast given me, my brother?" And he called them the land of Cabul unto this day. ¹⁴And Hiram sent to the king ^asixscore talents

^a 9,000 lb or 4080 kg

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

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

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

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

²⁶And king Solomon made a navy of ships in Ezion-Geber, which is beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom. ²⁷And Hiram sent in the navy his servants, shipmen that had knowledge of the sea, with the servants of Solomon. ²⁸And they came to Ophir, and fetched from thence gold, four hundred and twenty talents, and brought it to king Solomon.

The queen of Sheba

10 ¹And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions. ²And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones; and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart. ³And Solomon told her all her questions; there was not anything hid from the king, which he told her not. ⁴And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built, ⁵and the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cup-bearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her. ⁶And she said to the king:

It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. ⁷Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it; and, behold, the half was not told me; thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard. ⁸Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom. ⁹Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel; because the LORD loved Israel forever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice.

¹⁰And she gave the king a ^ahundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices very great store, and precious stones; there came no more such abundance of spices as these which the queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon.

^a 4.5 tons or 4 metric tons

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

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

Solomon's wealth

¹⁴Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was ^bsix hundred threescore and six talents of gold. ¹⁵Besides that he had of the merchantmen, and of the traffic of the spice merchants, and of all the kings of Arabia, and of the governors of the country. ¹⁶And king Solomon made two hundred targets of beaten gold; ^csix hundred shekels of gold went to one target. ¹⁷And he made three hundred shields of beaten gold; three pounds of gold went to one shield; and the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.

^b 25 tons or 23 metric tons

^c 15 lb or 6.9 kg

¹⁸Moreover, the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold.

¹⁹The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind; and there were stays on either side on the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays. ²⁰And 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. ²¹And all king Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver;

it was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon. ²²For the king had at sea a navy of Tharshish with the navy of Hiram; once in three years came the navy of Tharshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.

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

²⁶And Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen; and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he bestowed in the cities for chariots, and with the king at Jerusalem. ²⁷And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars made he to be as the sycamore trees that are in the vale, for abundance.

²⁸And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt, and linen yarn; the king's merchants received the linen yarn at a price. ²⁹And a chariot came up and went out of Egypt for ^asix hundred shekels of silver, and a horse for a ^bhundred and fifty; and so for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, did they bring them out by their means.

^a 15 lb or 6.9 kg

^b 3.7 lb or 1.7 kg

Solomon's wives

¹But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; ²of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, "Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you; for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods;" Solomon clave unto these in love. ³And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. ⁴For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, and it became as the heart of David his father. ⁵For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. ⁶And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.

⁷Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

⁸And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

⁹And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, ¹⁰and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he kept not that which the LORD commanded. ¹¹Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon:

Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. ¹²Notwithstanding, in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake; but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. ¹³Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.

Solomon's adversaries

¹⁴And the LORD stirred up an adversary unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite; he was of the king's seed in Edom. ¹⁵For it came to pass, when David was in Edom, and Joab the captain of the host was gone up to bury the slain, after he had smitten every male in Edom; ¹⁶(for six months did Joab remain there with all Israel, until he had cut off every

male in Edom) ¹⁷that Hadad fled, he and certain Edomites of his father's servants with him, to go into Egypt; Hadad being yet a little child. ¹⁸And they arose out of Midian, and came to Paran; and they took men with them out of Paran, and they came to Egypt, unto Pharaoh king of Egypt; which gave him a house, and appointed him victuals, and gave him land.

¹⁹And Hadad found great favor in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him to wife, the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the queen. ²⁰And the sister of Tahpenes bare him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house; and Genubath was in Pharaoh's household among the sons of Pharaoh.

²¹And when Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers, and that Joab the captain of the host was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, "Let me depart, that I may go to mine own country." ²²Then Pharaoh said unto him, "But what hast thou lacked with me, that, behold, thou seekest to go to thine own country?" And he answered, "Nothing; howbeit let me go in any wise."

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

Jeroboam rebels against Solomon

²⁶And Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, an Ephrathite of Zereda, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow woman, even he lifted up his hand against the king.

²⁷And this was the cause that he lifted up his hand against the king; Solomon built Millo, and repaired the breaches of the city of David his father. ²⁸And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor; and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.

²⁹And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two were alone in the field; ³⁰and Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces; ³¹and he said to Jeroboam:

Take thee ten pieces; for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel: Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee; ³²(but he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel) ³³because that they have forsaken me, and have worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and my statutes, and my judgments, and his heart is become as David his father; and he repenteth not as did David his father, that I may forgive him. ³⁴Howbeit, I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, but I will make him prince all the days of his life, for David my servant's sake, whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes in that day. ³⁵But I will take the kingdom out of his sons's hand, and will give unto thee ten tribes. And unto his son will I give one tribe. ³⁶That David my servant may have a light always before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there. ³⁷And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul desireth, and shall be king over Israel. ³⁸And it shall be, if thou wilt hearken

unto all that I command thee, and wilt walk in my ways, and do right in my sight, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did in the day that I blessed him; I will be with thee, and build thee a sure house as I built for David, and gave Israel unto thee. ³⁹And for the transgression of David, and also for the people, I have rent the kingdom, and for this I will afflict the seed of David, but not forever.

⁴⁰Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. And Jeroboam arose, and fled into Egypt, unto Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

The death of Solomon

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

12 ¹And Rehoboam went to Shechem; for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king. ²And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt) ³that they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying:

⁴Thy 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.

⁵And he said unto them, "Depart yet for three days, then come again to me." And the people departed. ⁶And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said:

How do ye advise that I may answer this people?

⁷And they spake unto him, saying:

If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants forever.

⁸But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him; ⁹and he said unto them:

What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, "Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter"?

¹⁰And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying:

Thus shalt thou speak unto this 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 shall be thicker than my father's loins. ¹¹And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."

¹²So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, "Come to me again the third day." ¹³And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him; ¹⁴and spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying:

My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke; my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

¹⁵Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the LORD, that he might perform his saying, which the LORD spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat. ¹⁶So 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; to your tents, O Israel; now see to thine own house, David.” So Israel departed into their tents. ¹⁷But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.

¹⁸Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem. ¹⁹So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.

²⁰And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel; there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

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

²²But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying:

²³Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying, ²⁴“Thus saith the LORD: Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel; return every man to his house; for this thing is from me.”

They hearkened therefore to the word of the LORD, and returned to depart, according to the word of the LORD.

Golden calves at Beth-El and Dan

²⁵Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel. ²⁶And Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David. ²⁷If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.” ²⁸Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them:

It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

²⁹And he set the one in Beth-El, and the other put he in Dan. ³⁰And this thing became a sin; for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.

³¹And he made a house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of people, which were not of the sons of Levi. ³²And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Beth-El, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made; and he placed in Beth-El the priests of the high places which he had made. ³³So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Beth-El the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel; and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

One prophet tested by another

13 ¹And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Beth-El; and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. ²And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said:

O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD: Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.

³And he gave a sign the same day, saying:

This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken: Behold the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out.

⁴And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Beth-El, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, "Lay hold on him." And his hand, when he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him. ⁵The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.

⁶And the king answered and said unto the man of God:

Entreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again.

And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before. ⁷And the king said unto the man of God:

Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward.

⁸And the man of God said unto the king:

If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place; ⁹for so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, "Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest."

¹⁰So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to Beth-El.

¹¹Now there dwelt an old prophet in Beth-El; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Beth-El; the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father. ¹²And their father said unto them, "What way went he?" For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah. ¹³And he said unto his sons, "Saddle me the ass." So they saddled him the ass; and he rode thereon, ¹⁴and went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak; and he said unto him, "Art thou the man of God that camest from Judah?" And he said, "I am."

¹⁵Then he said unto him:

Come home with me, and eat bread.

¹⁶And he said:

I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee; neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place; ¹⁷for it was said to me by the word of the LORD, "Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest."

¹⁸He said unto him:

I am a prophet also, even as thou, and an angel spake unto me by the word of the LORD, saying, "Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water, that I may prove him."

And he lied not unto him. ¹⁹So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water. ²⁰And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the prophet that brought him back; ²¹and he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying:

Thus saith the LORD: Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the LORD, and hast not kept the commandment which the LORD thy God commanded thee, ²²but camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which the LORD did say to thee, “Eat no bread, and drink no water;” thy carcass shall not come unto the sepulcher of thy fathers.

²³And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, to wit, for the prophet whom he had brought back. ²⁴And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him; and his carcass was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcass. ²⁵And, behold, men passed by, and saw the carcass cast in the way, and the lion standing by the carcass; and they came and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt.

²⁶And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said: It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the LORD; therefore the LORD hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake unto me.

²⁷And he spake to his sons, saying, “Saddle me the ass.” And they saddled him. ²⁸And he went and found his carcass cast in the way, and the ass and the lion standing by the carcass; the lion had not eaten the carcass, nor torn the ass. ²⁹And the prophet took up the carcass of the man of God, and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back; and the old prophet came to the city, to mourn and to bury him. ³⁰And he laid his carcass in his own grave; and they mourned over him, saying, “Alas, my brother!”

³¹And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spake to his sons, saying: When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulcher wherein the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones; ³²for the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Beth-El, and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass.

³³After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places; whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places. ³⁴And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth.

Ahijah prophecies against Jeroboam

14 ¹At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam fell sick. ²And Jeroboam said to his wife: Arise, I pray thee, and disguise thyself, that thou be not known to be the wife of Jeroboam; and get thee to Shiloh; behold, there is Ahijah the prophet, which told me that I should be king over this people. ³And take with thee ten loaves, and cracknels, and a cruse of honey, and go to him; he shall tell thee what shall become of the child.

⁴And Jeroboam's wife did so, and arose, and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah. But Ahijah could not see; for his eyes were set by reason of his age.

⁵And the LORD said unto Ahijah: Behold, the wife of Jeroboam cometh to ask a thing of thee for her son; for he is sick; thus and thus shalt thou say unto her; for it shall be, when she cometh in, that she shall feign herself to be another woman.

⁶And it was so, when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet, as she came in at the door, that he said:

Come in, thou wife of Jeroboam; why feignest thou thyself to be another? For I am sent to thee with heavy tidings. ⁷Go, tell Jeroboam:

“Thus saith the LORD God of Israel: Forasmuch as I exalted thee from among the people, and made thee prince over my people Israel, ⁸and rent the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it thee, because he kept not my commandments. But thou hast not been as my servant David, when he followed me with all his heart only to do right in mine eyes. ⁹But hast done evil above all that were before thee; for thou hast gone and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back; ¹⁰therefore, behold, I will bring evil upon the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam him that fighteth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel, and will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as a man taketh away dung, till it be all gone. ¹¹Him that dieth of Jeroboam in the city shall the dogs eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat; for the LORD hath spoken it.

¹²Arise thou therefore, get thee to thine own house; and when thy feet enter into the city, the child shall die. ¹³And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him; for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found some good thing toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.

¹⁴Moreover the LORD shall raise him up a king over Israel, who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam that day; but what? Even now. ¹⁵For the LORD shall smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel out of this good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond the river, because they have made their groves, provoking the LORD to anger. ¹⁶And he shall give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin.”

¹⁷And Jeroboam’s wife arose, and departed, and came to Tirzah; and when she came to the threshold of the door, the child died; ¹⁸and they buried him; and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by the hand of his servant Ahijah the prophet.

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

Rehoboam reigns as king

²¹And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD did choose out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother’s name was Naamah an Ammonitess.

²²And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done. ²³For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree. ²⁴And there were also sodomites in the land; and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

²⁵And it came to pass in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem; ²⁶and he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king’s house; he even took away all; and he took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made. ²⁷And king Rehoboam made in their stead brazen shields, and committed them unto the hands of the chief of the guard, which kept the door of the king’s house. ²⁸And it was so, when the king went into the house of the LORD, that the guard bare them, and brought them back into the guard chamber.

²⁹Now the rest of the acts of Rehoboam, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? ³⁰And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days. ³¹And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. And Abijam his son reigned in his stead.

Abijah reigns as king

15 ¹Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam the son of Nebat reigned Abijam over Judah. ²Three years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom.

³And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him; and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as the LORD commanded David his father.

⁴Nevertheless for David's sake did the LORD his God give him a lamp in Jerusalem, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem; ⁵because David did right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from all that he commanded him, to sin against the LORD; but repented of the evil all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite, wherein the LORD cursed him.

⁶And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life. ⁷Now the rest of the acts of Abijam, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? And there was war between Abijam and Jeroboam. ⁸And Abijam slept with his fathers; and they buried him in the city of David; and Asa his son reigned in his stead.

Asa reigns as king

⁹And in the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel reigned Asa over Judah. ¹⁰And forty and one years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom.

¹¹And Asa did right in the eyes of the LORD, as he commanded David his father. ¹²And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made; and it pleased the LORD. ¹³And also Maachah his mother, even her he removed from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove; and Asa destroyed her idol, and burnt it by the brook Kidron. ¹⁴But the high places were not removed; nevertheless Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days. ¹⁵And he brought in the things which his father had dedicated, and the things which himself had dedicated, into the house of the LORD, silver, and gold, and vessels.

¹⁶And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days. ¹⁷And Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah, and built Ramah, that he might not suffer any to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

¹⁸Then Asa took all the silver and the gold that were left in the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and delivered them into the hand of his servants; and king Asa sent them to Ben-Hadad, the son of Tabrimon, the son of Hezion, king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying,

¹⁹There is a league between me and thee, and between my father and thy father; behold, I have sent unto thee a present of silver and gold; come and break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me.

²⁰So Ben-Hadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of the hosts which he had against the cities of Israel, and smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abel-Beth-Maachah, and all

Cinneroth, with all the land of Naphtali. ²¹And it came to pass, when Baasha heard thereof, that he left off building of Ramah, and dwelt in Tirzah. ²²Then king Asa made a proclamation throughout all Judah; none was exempted; and they took away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha had builded; and king Asa built with them Geba of Benjamin, and Mizpah.

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

Nadab reigns as king

²⁵And Nadab the son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned over Israel two years. ²⁶And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin.

²⁷And Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him; and Baasha smote him at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines; for Nadab and all Israel laid siege to Gibbethon. ²⁸Even in the third year of Asa king of Judah did Baasha slay him, and reigned in his stead.

²⁹And it came to pass, when he reigned, that he smote all the house of Jeroboam; he left not to Jeroboam any that breathed, until he had destroyed him, according unto the saying of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Ahijah the Shilonite; ³⁰because of the sins of Jeroboam which he sinned, and which he made Israel sin, by his provocation wherewith he provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger.

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

Baasha reigns as king

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

16 ¹Then the word of the LORD came to Jehu the son of Hanani against Baasha, saying,
²Forasmuch as I exalted thee out of the dust, and made thee prince over my people Israel; and thou hast walked in the way of Jeroboam, and hast made my people Israel to sin, to provoke me to anger with their sins; ³behold, I will take away the posterity of Baasha, and the posterity of his house; and will make thy house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat. ⁴Him that dieth of Baasha in the city shall the dogs eat; and him that dieth of his in the fields shall the fowls of the air eat.

⁵Now the rest of the acts of Baasha, and what he did, and his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? ⁶So Baasha slept with his fathers, and was buried in Tirzah; and Elah his son reigned in his stead.

⁷And also by the hand of the prophet Jehu the son of Hanani came the word of the LORD against Baasha, and against his house, even for all the evil that he did in the sight of the LORD, in provoking him to anger with the work of his hands, in being like the house of Jeroboam; and because he killed him.

Elah reigns as king

⁸In the twenty and sixth year of Asa king of Judah began Elah the son of Baasha to reign over Israel in Tirzah, two years.

⁹And his servant Zimri, captain of half his chariots, conspired against him, as he was in Tirzah, drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza steward of his house in Tirzah. ¹⁰And Zimri went in and smote him, and killed him, in the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his stead.

¹¹And it came to pass, when he began to reign, as soon as he sat on his throne, that he slew all the house of Baasha; he left him not one that fighteth against a wall, neither of his kinsfolks, nor of his friends. ¹²Thus did Zimri destroy all the house of Baasha, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake against Baasha by Jehu the prophet. ¹³For all the sins of Baasha, and the sins of Elah his son, by which they sinned, and by which they made Israel to sin, in provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities.

¹⁴Now the rest of the acts of Elah, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

Zimri reigns as king

¹⁵In the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah did Zimri reign seven days in Tirzah. And the people were encamped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines. ¹⁶And the people that were encamped heard say, Zimri hath conspired, and hath also slain the king; wherefore all Israel made Omri, the captain of the host, king over Israel that day in the camp. ¹⁷And Omri went up from Gibbethon, and all Israel with him, and they besieged Tirzah. ¹⁸And it came to pass, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the palace of the king's house, and burnt the king's house over him with fire, and died, ¹⁹for his sins which he sinned in doing evil in the sight of the LORD, in walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he did, to make Israel to sin.

²⁰Now the rest of the acts of Zimri, and his treason that he wrought, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

Omri reigns as king

²¹Then were the people of Israel divided into two parts; half of the people followed Tibni the son of Ginath, to make him king; and half followed Omri. ²²But the people that followed Omri prevailed against the people that followed Tibni the son of Ginath; so Tibni died, and Omri reigned.

²³In the thirty and first year of Asa king of Judah began Omri to reign over Israel, twelve years; six years reigned he in Tirzah. ²⁴And he bought the hill Samaria of Shemer for ^atwo talents of silver, and built on the hill, and called the name of the city which he built, after the name of Shemer, owner of the hill, Samaria.

^a 150 lb or 168 kg

²⁵But Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all that were before him. ²⁶For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin, to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities.

²⁷Now the rest of the acts of Omri which he did, and his might that he showed, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? ²⁸So Omri slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria; and Ahab his son reigned in his stead.

Ahab becomes king

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

³⁴In his days did Hiel the Bethelite build Jericho; he laid the foundation thereof in Abiram his first-born, and set up the gates thereof in his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Joshua the son of Nun.

Elijah announces a drought and is fed by ravens

17 ¹And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab:
As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

²And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying:

³Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. ⁴And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

⁵So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD; for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. ⁶And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

Elijah and the widow

⁷And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying:

⁹Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there; behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

¹⁰So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks; and he called to her, and said:

Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

¹¹And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said:

Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

¹²And she said:

As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but a handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse; and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

¹³And Elijah said unto her:

Fear not; go and do as thou hast said; but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. ¹⁴For thus saith the LORD God of Israel: The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.

¹⁵And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah; and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. ¹⁶And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

¹⁷And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸And she said unto Elijah:

What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? Art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?

¹⁹And he said unto her, "Give me thy son." And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. ²⁰And he cried unto the LORD, and said:

O Lord my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?

²¹And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said:

O Lord my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.

²²And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. ²³And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother; and Elijah said, "See, thy son liveth."

²⁴And the woman said to Elijah:

Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.

Elijah and Obadiah

18 ¹And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying:

Go, show thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.

²And Elijah went to show himself unto Ahab.

And there was a sore famine in Samaria. ³And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly; ⁴for it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took a hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.) ⁵And Ahab said unto Obadiah:

Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks; peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts.

⁶So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it; Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.

⁷And as Obadiah was in the way, behold, Elijah met him; and he knew him, and fell on his face, and said, "Art thou that my Lord Elijah?" ⁸And he answered him, "I am; go, tell thy lord, 'Behold, Elijah is here.'" ⁹And he said:

What have I sinned, that thou wouldest deliver thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me? ¹⁰As the LORD thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee; and when they said, "He is not there;" he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not. ¹¹And now thou sayest, "Go, tell thy lord, 'Behold, Elijah is here.'" ¹²And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me; but I thy

servant fear the LORD from my youth. ¹³Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid a hundred men of the LORD's prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water? ¹⁴And now thou sayest, "Go, tell thy lord, 'Behold, Elijah is here;'" and he shall slay me.

¹⁵And Elijah said:

As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself unto him today.

Elijah confronts the priests of Baal on mount Carmel

¹⁶So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah. ¹⁷And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him:

Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

¹⁸And he answered:

I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim. ¹⁹Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.

²⁰So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel. ²¹And Elijah came unto all the people, and said:

How long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.

And the people answered him not a word.

²²Then said Elijah unto the people:

I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. ²³Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under; and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under; ²⁴and call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God.

And all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."

²⁵And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal:

Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under.

²⁶And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us." But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

²⁷And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said:

Cry aloud; for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.

²⁸And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. ²⁹And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.

³⁰And Elijah said unto all the people, "Come near unto me." And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. ³¹And Elijah

took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, "Israel shall be thy name;" ³²and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain ^atwo measures of seed. ³³And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock

^a 24 lb or 11 kg

in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said:

Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

³⁴And he said, "Do it the second time." And they did it the second time. And he said, "Do it the third time." And they did it the third time. ³⁵And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

³⁶And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said:

LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. ³⁷Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and thou mayest turn their heart back again.

³⁸Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said:

The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

⁴⁰And Elijah said unto them, "Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape." And they took them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

⁴¹And Elijah said unto Ahab:

Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain.

⁴²So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, ⁴³and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." And he went up, and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go again seven times."

⁴⁴And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said:

Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand.

And he said:

Go up, say unto Ahab, "Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not."

⁴⁵And it came to pass in the meanwhile, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel. ⁴⁶And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

Elijah flees to Horeb

19 ¹And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. ²Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying:

So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.

³And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beer-Sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. ⁴But he himself went a day's journey into

the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die; and said:

It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.

⁵And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, "Arise and eat." ⁶And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again.

⁷And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee." ⁸And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.

The LORD appears to Elijah

⁹And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him:

What doest thou here Elijah?

¹⁰And he said:

I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

¹¹And he said:

Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD.

And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

¹³And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said:

What doest thou here, Elijah?

¹⁴And he said:

I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

¹⁵And the LORD said unto him:

Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus; and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria; ¹⁶and Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-Meholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room. ¹⁷And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay; and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay.

¹⁸Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

Elisha joins Elijah

¹⁹So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was ploughing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth; and Elijah passed by him, and

cast his mantle upon him. ²⁰And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee." And he said unto him, "Go back again; for what have I done to thee?" ²¹And he returned back from him and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

Ben-Hadad attacks Samaria

20 ¹And Ben-Hadad the king of Syria gathered all his host together; and there were thirty and two kings with him, and horses and chariots; and he went up and besieged Samaria, and warred against it. ²And he sent messengers to Ahab king of Israel into the city, and said unto him:

Thus saith Ben-Hadad: ³thy silver and thy gold is mine; thy wives also and thy children, even the goodliest, are mine.

⁴And the king of Israel answered and said:

My lord, O king, according to thy saying, "I am thine, and all that I have."

⁵And the messengers came again, and said:

Thus speaketh Ben-Hadad, saying: Although I have sent unto thee, saying, "Thou shalt deliver me thy silver and thy gold, and thy wives, and thy children;" ⁶yet I will send my servants unto thee tomorrow about this time, and they shall search thine house, and the houses of thy servants; and it shall be, that whatsoever is pleasant in thine eyes, they shall put it in their hand and take it away.

⁷Then the king of Israel called all the elders of the land, and said:

Mark, I pray you, and see how this man seeketh mischief; for he sent unto me for my wives, and for my children, and for my silver, and for my gold, and I denied him not.

⁸And all the elders and all the people said unto him, "Hearken not unto him, nor consent."

⁹Wherefore he said unto the messengers of Ben-Hadad:

Tell my lord the king: All that thou didst send for to thy servant at the first I will do; but this thing I may not do.

And the messengers departed, and brought him word again.

¹⁰And Ben-Hadad sent unto him, and said:

The gods do so unto me, and more also, if the dust of Samaria shall suffice for handfuls for all the people that follow me.

¹¹And the king of Israel answered and said:

Tell him, "Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off."

¹²And it came to pass, when Ben-Hadad heard this message, as he was drinking, he and the kings in the pavilions, that he said unto his servants, "Set yourselves in array." And they set themselves in array against the city.

¹³And behold, there came a prophet unto Ahab king of Israel, saying:

Thus saith the LORD: Hast thou seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will deliver it into thine hand this day; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD.

¹⁴And Ahab said, "By whom?" And he said:

Thus saith the LORD: Even by the young men of the princes of the provinces.

Then he said, "Who shall order the battle?" And he answered, "Thou."

¹⁵Then he numbered the young men of the princes of the provinces, and they were two hundred and thirty-two; and after them he numbered all the people, even all the children of Israel, being seven thousand. ¹⁶And they went out at noon. But Ben-Hadad was drinking himself drunk in the pavilions, he and the kings, the thirty and two kings that helped him. ¹⁷And the young men of the princes of the provinces went out first; and Ben-Hadad sent out, and they told him, saying, "There are men come out of Samaria." ¹⁸And he said:

Whether they be come out for peace, take them alive; or whether they be come out for war, take them alive.

¹⁹So these young men of the princes of the provinces came out of the city, and the army which followed them. ²⁰And they slew every one his man; and the Syrians fled; and Israel pursued them; and Ben-Hadad the king of Syria escaped on a horse with the horsemen.

²¹And the king of Israel went out, and smote the horses and chariots, and slew the Syrians with a great slaughter.

²²And the prophet came to the king of Israel, and said unto him:

Go strengthen thyself, and mark, and see what thou doest; for at the return of the year the king of Syria will come up against thee.

²³And the servants of the king of Syria said unto him:

Their gods are gods of the hills; therefore they were stronger than we; but let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they. ²⁴And do this thing: take the kings away, every man out of his place, and put captains in their rooms; ²⁵and number thee an army, like the army that thou hast lost, horse for horse, and chariot for chariot; and we will fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they.

And he hearkened unto their voice, and did so.

²⁶And it came to pass at the return of the year that Ben-Hadad numbered the Syrians, and went up to Aphek, to fight against Israel. ²⁷And the children of Israel were numbered, and were all present, and went against them; and the children of Israel pitched before them like two little flocks of kids; but the Syrians filled the country.

²⁸And there came a man of God, and spake unto the king of Israel, and said:

Thus saith the LORD: Because the Syrians have said, 'The LORD is God of the hills, but he is not God of the valleys;' therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

²⁹And they pitched one over against the other seven days. And so it was, that in the seventh day the battle was joined; and the children of Israel slew of the Syrians a hundred thousand footmen in one day. ³⁰But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; and there a wall fell upon twenty and seven thousand of the men that were left. And Ben-Hadad fled, and came into the city, into an inner chamber.

³¹And his servants said unto him:

Behold now, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are merciful kings; let us, I pray thee, put sackcloth on our loins, and ropes upon our heads, and go out to the king of Israel; peradventure he will save thy life.

³²So they girded sackcloth on their loins, and put ropes on their heads, and came to the king of Israel, and said, "Thy servant Ben-Hadad saith, 'I pray thee, let me live.'" And he said, "Is he yet alive? He is my brother."

³³Now the men did diligently observe whether anything would come from him, and did hastily catch it; and they said, "Thy brother Ben-Hadad." Then he said, "Go ye, bring

him.” Then Ben-Hadad came forth to him; and he caused him to come up into the chariot.

³⁴And Ben-Hadad said unto him, “The cities, which my father took from thy father, I will restore; and thou shalt make streets for thee in Damascus, as my father made in Samaria.” Then said Ahab, “I will send thee away with this covenant.” So he made a covenant with him, and sent him away.

Ahab cursed by a prophet

³⁵And a certain man of the sons of the prophets said unto his neighbor in the word of the LORD, “Smite me, I pray thee.” And the man refused to smite him. ³⁶Then said he unto him, “Because thou hast not obeyed the voice of the LORD, behold, as soon as thou art departed from me, a lion shall slay thee.” And as soon as he was departed from him, a lion found him, and slew him.

³⁷Then he found another man, and said, “Smite me, I pray thee.” And the man smote him, so that in smiting he wounded him. ³⁸So the prophet departed, and waited for the king by the way, and disguised himself with ashes upon his face. ³⁹And as the king passed by, he cried unto the king; and he said:

Thy servant went out into the midst of the battle; and, behold, a man turned aside, and brought a man unto me, and said, “Keep this man; if by any means he be missing, then shall thy life be for his life, or else thou shalt pay a talent of silver.” ⁴⁰And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone.

And the king of Israel said unto him, “So shall thy judgment be; thyself hast decided it.”

⁴¹And he hasted, and took the ashes away from his face; and the king of Israel discerned him that he was of the prophets. ⁴²And he said unto him:

Thus saith the LORD: Because thou hast let go out of thy hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore thy life shall go for his life, and thy people for his people.

⁴³And the king of Israel went to his house heavy and displeased, and came to Samaria.

Naboth's vineyard

21 ¹And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. ²And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying:

Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house; and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.

³And Naboth said to Ahab:

The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee.

⁴And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, “I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers.” And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread. ⁵But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, “Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread?”

⁶And he said unto her, “Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, ‘Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it.’” And he answered, “I will not give thee my vineyard.”

⁷And Jezebel his wife said unto him:

Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? Arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry; I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

⁸So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth. ⁹And she wrote in the letters, saying:

Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people; ¹⁰and set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, "Thou didst blaspheme God and the king." And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die.

¹¹And the men of his city, even the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jezebel had sent unto them, and as it was written in the letters which she had sent unto them. ¹²They proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people.

¹³And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him; and the men of Belial witnessed against him, even against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth did blaspheme God and the king." Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died. ¹⁴Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth is stoned, and is dead."

¹⁵And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab:

Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead.

¹⁶And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it. ¹⁷And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying:

¹⁸Arise, go down to meet Ahab, king of Israel, which is in Samaria; behold he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it. ¹⁹And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, "Thus saith the LORD: Hast thou killed, and also taken possession?" And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, "Thus saith the LORD: In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine."

²⁰And Ahab said to Elijah, "Hast thou found me, O mine enemy?"

And he answered:

I have found thee; because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD. ²¹Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that fighteth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel. ²²And will make thine house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the provocation wherewith thou hast provoked me to anger, and made Israel to sin.

²³And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying:

The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel. ²⁴Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat.

²⁵But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD whom Jezebel his wife stirred up. ²⁶And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all things as did the Amorites, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

²⁷And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly.

²⁸And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying:

²⁹Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? Because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days; but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house.

Micaiah prophesies against Ahab

22

¹And they continued three years without war between Syria and Israel. ²And it came to pass in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel.

³And the king of Israel said unto his servants:

Know ye that Ramoth in Gilead is ours, and we be still, and take it not out of the hand of the king of Syria?

⁴And he said unto Jehoshaphat:

Wilt thou go with me to battle to Ramoth-Gilead?

And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel:

I am as thou art, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses.

⁵And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel:

Inquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD today.

⁶Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them:

Shall I go against Ramoth-Gilead to battle, or shall I forbear?

And they said:

Go up; for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

⁷And Jehoshaphat said:

Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might inquire of him?

⁸And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat:

There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the LORD; but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.

And Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say so."

⁹Then the king of Israel called an officer, and said:

Hasten hither Micaiah the son of Imlah.

¹⁰And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah sat each on his throne, having put on their robes, in a void place in the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them. ¹¹And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made him horns of iron; and he said:

Thus saith the LORD: With these shalt thou push the Syrians, until thou have consumed them.

¹²And all the prophets prophesied so, saying:

Go up to Ramoth-Gilead, and prosper; for the LORD shall deliver it into the king's hand.

¹³And the messenger that was gone to call Micaiah spake unto him, saying

Behold now, the words of the prophets declare good unto the king with one mouth; let thy word, I pray thee, be like the word of one of them, and speak that which is good.

¹⁴And Micaiah said:

As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak.

¹⁵So he came to the king. And the king said unto him:

Micaiah, shall we go against Ramoth-Gilead to battle, or shall we forbear?

And he answered him:

Go, and prosper; for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

¹⁶And the king said unto him:

How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the LORD?

¹⁷And he said:

I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd; and the LORD said, "These have no master; let them return every man to his house in peace."

¹⁸And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat:

Did I not tell that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil?

The LORD's divine council

¹⁹And he said:

Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left.

²⁰And the LORD said, "Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-Gilead?" And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner.

²¹And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. ²²And the LORD said unto him, "Wherewith?" And he said, "I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets." And he said, "Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also; go forth, and do so."

²³Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.

²⁴But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek and said:

Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee?

²⁵And Micaiah said:

Behold, thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself.

²⁶And the king of Israel said:

Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; ²⁷and say, "Thus saith the king: Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace."

²⁸And Micaiah said, "If thou return at all in peace, the LORD hath not spoken by me."

And he said, "Hearken, O people, every one of you."

The death of Ahab

²⁹So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth-Gilead.

³⁰And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat:

I will disguise myself, and enter into the battle; but put thou on thy robes.

And the king of Israel disguised himself, and went into the battle.

³¹But the king of Syria commanded his thirty and two captains that had rule over his chariots, saying, "Fight neither with small nor great, save only with the king of Israel."

³²And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, "Surely it is the king of Israel." And they turned aside to fight against him; and Jehoshaphat cried out. ³³And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him.

³⁴And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness; wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, "Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded." ³⁵And the battle increased that day; and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even; and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot. ³⁶And there went a proclamation throughout the host about the going down of the sun, saying, "Every man to his city, and every man to his own country."

³⁷So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried the king in Samaria.

³⁸And one washed the chariot in the pool of Samaria; and the dogs licked up his blood; and they washed his armor; according unto the word of the LORD which he spake.

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

Jehoshaphat reigns as king

⁴¹And Jehoshaphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel. ⁴²Jehoshaphat was thirty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi. ⁴³And he walked in all the ways of Asa his father; he turned not aside from it, doing that which was right in the eyes of the LORD; nevertheless the high places were not taken away; for the people offered and burnt incense yet in the high places.

⁴⁴And Jehoshaphat made peace with the king of Israel.

⁴⁵Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, and his might that he showed, and how he warred, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? ⁴⁶And the remnant of the sodomites, which remained in the days of his father Asa, he took out of the land. ⁴⁷There was then no king in Edom; a deputy was king.

⁴⁸Jehoshaphat made ships of Tharshish to go to Ophir for gold; but they went not; for the ships were broken at Ezion-Geber. ⁴⁹Then said Ahaziah the son of Ahab unto Jehoshaphat, "Let my servants go with thy servants in the ships." But Jehoshaphat would not.

⁵⁰And Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father; and Jehoram his son reigned in his stead.

Ahaziah reigns as king in Israel

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

2 KINGS

The LORD's judgment on Ahaziah

¹Then Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab. ²And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria, and was sick; and he sent messengers, and said unto them:

Go, inquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease.

³But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite:

Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, "Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to inquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? ⁴Now therefore thus saith the LORD: Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die."

And Elijah departed.

⁵And when the messengers turned back unto him, he said unto them, "Why are ye now turned back?" ⁶And they said unto him:

There came a man up to meet us, and said unto us, "Go, turn again unto the king that sent you, and say unto him, 'Thus saith the LORD: Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that thou sendest to inquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? Therefore thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.'"

⁷And he said unto them, "What manner of man was he which came up to meet you, and told you these words?" ⁸And they answered him, "He was a hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins." And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite."

⁹Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him; and, behold, he sat on the top of a hill. And he spake unto him:

Thou man of God, the king hath said, "Come down."

¹⁰And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty:

If I be a man of God, then let fire come down out of heaven and consume thee and thy fifty.

And there came down fire out of heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

¹¹Again also he sent unto him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said unto him:

O man of God, thus hath the king said, "Come down quickly."

¹²And Elijah answered and said unto them:

If I be a man of God, let fire come down out of heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty.

And the fire of God came down out of heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

¹³And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him:

O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight. ¹⁴Behold, there came fire down out of heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties; therefore let my life now be precious in thy sight.

¹⁵And the angel of the LORD said unto Elijah, "Go down with him; be not afraid of him." And he arose, and went down with him unto the king. ¹⁶And he said unto him:

Thus saith the LORD: Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to inquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron, is it not because there is no God in Israel to inquire of his word? Therefore thou shalt not come down off that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.

¹⁷So he died according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken. And Jehoram reigned in his stead, in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah; because he had no son. ¹⁸Now the rest of the acts of Ahaziah which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

Elijah taken up to heaven

2 ¹And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. ²And Elijah said unto Elisha, "Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Beth-El." And Elisha said unto him, "As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." So they went down to Beth-El.

³And the sons of the prophets that were at Beth-El came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, "Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head today?" And he said, "Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace."

⁴And Elijah said unto him, "Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho." And he said, "As the lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." So they came to Jericho.

⁵And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to Elisha, and said unto him, "Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head today?" And he answered, "Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace."

⁶And Elijah said unto him, "Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the LORD hath sent me to Jordan." And he said, "As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." And they two went on.

⁷And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood to view afar off; and they two stood by Jordan. ⁸And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.

⁹And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha: Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee.

And Elisha said, "I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me."

¹⁰And he said:

Thou hast asked a hard thing; nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

¹¹And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it, and he cried, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof!" And he saw him no more; and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.

¹³He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan. ¹⁴And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the

waters, and said, "Where is the LORD God of Elijah?" And when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither; and Elisha went over.

¹⁵And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha." And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.

¹⁶And they said unto him:

Behold now, there be with thy servants fifty strong men; let them go, we pray thee, and seek thy master; lest peradventure the Spirit of the LORD hath taken him up, and cast him upon some mountain, or into some valley.

And he said, "Ye shall not send." ¹⁷And when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, "Send." They sent therefore fifty men; and they sought three days, but found him not.

¹⁸And when they came again to him, (for he tarried at Jericho) he said unto them, "Did I not say unto you, 'Go not?'"

Healing the water

¹⁹And the men of the city said unto Elisha, "Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth; but the water is naught, and the ground barren." ²⁰And he said, "Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein." And they brought it to him.

²¹And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said: Thus saith the LORD: I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence anymore death or barren land.

²²So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake.

²³And he went up from thence unto Beth-El; and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, "Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head." ²⁴And he turned back, and looked on them and cursed them in the name of the LORD. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them. ²⁵And he went from thence to mount Carmel, and from thence he returned to Samaria.

Moab rebels

3 ¹Now Jehoram the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years. ²And he wrought evil in the sight of the LORD; but not like his father, and like his mother; for he put away the image of Baal that his father had made. ³Nevertheless he cleaved unto the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom.

⁴And Mesha king of Moab was a sheepmaster, and rendered unto the king of Israel a hundred thousand lambs, and a hundred thousand rams, with the wool. ⁵But it came to pass, when Ahab was dead, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel. ⁶And king Jehoram went out of Samaria the same time, and numbered all Israel. ⁷And he went and sent to Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, saying, "The king of Moab hath rebelled against me; wilt thou go with me against Moab to battle?" And he said, "I will go up; I am as thou art, my people as thy people, and my horses as thy horses."

⁸And he said, "Which way shall we go up?" And he answered, "The way through the wilderness of Edom."

⁹So the king of Israel went, and the king of Judah, and the king of Edom; and they fetched a compass of seven days' journey; and there was no water for the host, and for the cattle that followed them.

¹⁰And the king of Israel said, "Alas! That the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab!"

¹¹But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may inquire of the LORD by him?" And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, "Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah." ¹²And Jehoshaphat said, The word of the LORD is with him. So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.

¹³And Elisha said unto the king of Israel:

What have I to do with thee? Get thee to the prophets of thy father, and to the prophets of thy mother.

And the king of Israel said unto him:

Nay; for the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab.

¹⁴And Elisha said:

As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee. ¹⁵But now bring me a minstrel.

And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him. ¹⁶And he said:

Thus saith the LORD: Make this valley full of ditches. ¹⁷For thus saith the LORD: Ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, that ye may drink, both ye, and your cattle, and your beasts. ¹⁸And this is but a light thing in the sight of the LORD; he will deliver the Moabites also into your hand.

¹⁹And ye shall smite every fenced city, and every choice city, and shall fell every good tree, and stop all wells of water, and mar every good piece of land with stones.

²⁰And it came to pass in the morning, when the meat offering was offered, that, behold, there came water by the way of Edom, and the country was filled with water.

²¹And when all the Moabites heard that the kings were come up to fight against them, they gathered all that were able to put on armor, and upward, and stood in the border.

²²And they rose up early in the morning, and the sun shone upon the water, and the Moabites saw the water on the other side as red as blood; ²³and they said:

This is blood; the kings are surely slain, and they have smitten one another; now therefore, Moab, to the spoil.

²⁴And when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites rose and smote the Moabites, so that they fled before them; but they went forward smiting the Moabites, even in their country. ²⁵And they beat down the cities, and on every good piece of land cast every man his stone, and filled it; and they stopped all the wells of water, and felled all the good trees; only in Kir-Haraseth left they the stones thereof; howbeit the slingers went about it, and smote it.

²⁶And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was too sore for him, he took with him seven hundred men that drew swords, to break through even unto the king of Edom; but they could not. ²⁷Then he took his eldest son that should have reigned in his stead, and offered him for a burnt offering upon the wall. And there was great indignation against Israel; and they departed from him, and returned to their own land.

The widow's oil

4 ¹Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying:

Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD; and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.

²And Elisha said unto her, "What shall I do for thee? Tell me, what hast thou in the house?" And she said, "Thine handmaid hath not anything in the house, save a pot of oil."

³Then he said:

Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbors, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. ⁴And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.

⁵So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out. ⁶And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, "Bring me yet a vessel." And he said unto her. "There is not a vessel more." And the oil stayed.

⁷Then she came and told the man of God. And he said:

Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.

Elisha raises a boy from the dead

⁸And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that, as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread. ⁹And she said unto her husband:

Behold now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God, which passeth by us continually. ¹⁰Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick; and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.

¹¹And it fell on a day, that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber, and lay there.

¹²And he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite."

And when he had called her, she stood before him. ¹³And he said unto him:

Say now unto her, "Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for thee; wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or the captain of the host?"

And she answered, "I dwell among mine own people." ¹⁴And he said, "What then is to be done for her?" And Gehazi answered, "Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old."

¹⁵And he said, "Call her." And when he had called her, she stood in the door. ¹⁶And he said, "About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son." And she said, "Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid."

¹⁷And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life. ¹⁸And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers. ¹⁹And he said unto his father, "My head, my head!" And he said to a lad, "Carry him to his mother."

²⁰And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died. ²¹And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out. ²²And she called unto her husband, and said:

Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men, and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again.

²³And he said, "Wherefore wilt thou go to him today? It is neither new moon, nor Sabbath." And she said, "It shall be well." ²⁴Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant, "Drive, and go forward, slack not thy riding for me, except I bid thee."

²⁵So she went and came unto the man of God to mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant:

Behold, yonder is that Shunammite; ²⁶run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, "Is it well with thee? Is it well with thy husband? Is it well with the child?"

And she answered, "It is well." ²⁷And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet; but Gehazi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said:

Let her alone; for her soul is vexed within her; and the LORD hath hid it from me, and hath not told me.

²⁸Then she said, "Did I desire a son of my lord? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me?'"

²⁹Then he said to Gehazi:

Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way; if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again; and lay my staff upon the face of the child.

³⁰And the mother of the child said, "As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." And he arose, and followed her.

³¹And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but there was neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, "The child is not awaked."

³²And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed. ³³He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD. ³⁴And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands; and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm. ³⁵Then he returned and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him; and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. ³⁶And he called Gehazi, and said, "Call this Shunammite." So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, "Take up thy son." ³⁷Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.

Death in the pot

³⁸And Elisha came again to Gilgal; and there was a dearth in the land; and the sons of the prophets were sitting before him; and he said unto his servant, "Set on the great pot, and seethe pottage for the sons of the prophets."

³⁹And one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered thereof wild gourds his lap full, and came and shred them into the pot of pottage, for they knew them not. ⁴⁰So they poured out for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, "O thou man of God, there is death in the pot." And they could not eat thereof.

⁴¹But he said, "Then bring meal." And he cast it into the pot; and he said, "Pour out for the people, that they may eat." And there was no harm in the pot.

Feeding a hundred

⁴²And there came a man from Baal-Shalisha, and brought the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley, and full ears of corn in the husk thereof. And he said, "Give unto the people, that they may eat." ⁴³And his servitor said, "What, should I set this before a hundred men?" He said again, "Give the people, that they may eat; for thus saith the LORD: They shall eat, and shall leave thereof." ⁴⁴So he set it before them, and they did eat, and left thereof, according to the word of the LORD.

Naaman headed of leprosy

5 ¹Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honorable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria; he was also a mighty man in valor, but he was a leper. ²And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. ³And she said unto her mistress, "Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! For he would recover him of his leprosy."

⁴And one went in, and told his lord, saying, "Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel." ⁵And the king of Syria said, "Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel." And he departed, and took with him ^aten talents of silver, and ^bsix thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment. ⁶And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying:

^a 750 lb or 340 kg

^b 150 lb or 69 kg

Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy.

⁷And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said:

Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? Wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.

⁸And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying:

Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? Let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.

⁹So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. ¹⁰And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying:

Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.

¹¹But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said:

Behold, I thought he will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them, and be clean?

So he turned and went away in a rage. ¹³And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said:

My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? How much rather then, when he saith to thee, "Wash, and be clean"?

¹⁴Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was

clean. ¹⁵And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him; and he said:

Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel; now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.

¹⁶But he said:

As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none.

And he urged him to take it; but he refused. ¹⁷And Naaman said:

Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? For thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD. ¹⁸In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, that when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon; when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing.

¹⁹And he said unto him, "Go in peace." So he departed from him a little way.

²⁰But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said:

Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought; but, as the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.

²¹So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, "Is all well?" ²²And he said:

All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, "Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets; give them, I pray thee, a ^atalent of silver, and two changes of garments."

^a 75 lb or 34 kg

²³And Naaman said, "Be content, take two talents." And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before them. ²⁴And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house; and he let the men go, and they departed.

²⁵But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, "Whence comest thou, Gehazi?" And he said, "Thy servant went no whither." ²⁶And he said unto him:

Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and olive yards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants? ²⁷The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed forever.

And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

An ax floats

6 ¹And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha:

Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us. ²Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there, where we may dwell.

And he answered, "Go ye." ³And one said, "Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants." And he answered, "I will go." ⁴So he went with them.

And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood. ⁵But as one was felling a beam, the axhead fell into the water; and he cried, and said, "Alas, master! For it was borrowed."

⁶And the man of God said, "Where fell it?" And he showed him the place. And he cut

down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim. ⁷Therefore said he, "Take it up to thee." And he put out his hand, and took it.

⁸Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, "In such and such a place shall be my camp." ⁹And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down." ¹⁰And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice.

¹¹Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them:

Will ye not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?

¹²And one of his servants said:

None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.

¹³And he said:

Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him.

And it was told him, saying, "Behold, he is in Dothan." ¹⁴Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host; and they came by night, and compassed the city about.

¹⁵And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, a host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, "Alas, my master! How shall we do?" ¹⁶And he answered:

Fear not; for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

¹⁷And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see." And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw; and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

¹⁸And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, "Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness." And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

¹⁹And Elisha said unto them, "This is not the way, neither is this the city; follow me; and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek." But he led them to Samaria.

²⁰And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, "Lord, open the eyes of these men that they may see." And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

²¹And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite them? Shall I smite them?

²²And he answered:

Thou shalt not smite them; wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master.

²³And he prepared great provision for them; and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.

Famine in Samaria

²⁴And it came to pass after this, that Ben-Hadad king of Syria gathered all his host, and went up, and besieged Samaria. ²⁵And there was a great famine in Samaria; and, behold,

they besieged it, until an ass's head was sold for ^afourscore pieces of silver, and the ^bfourth part of a cab of dove's dung for ^cfive pieces of silver.

^a 2 lb or 920 g
^b 4 oz or 100 g
^c 2 oz or 58 g

²⁶And as the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, there cried a woman unto him, saying, "Help, my lord, O king." ²⁷And he said, "If the LORD do not help thee, whence shall I help thee? Out of the barn floor, or out of the winepress?" ²⁸And the king said unto her, "What aileth thee?"

And she answered:

This woman said unto me, 'Give thy son, that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.' ²⁹So we boiled my son, and did eat him; and I said unto her on the next day, 'Give thy son, that we may eat him;' and she hath hid her son.

³⁰And it came to pass, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he rent his clothes; and he passed by upon the wall, and the people looked, and, behold, he had sackcloth within upon his flesh. ³¹Then he said:

God do so and more also to me, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat shall stand on him this day.

³²But Elisha sat in his house, and the elders sat with him; and the king sent a man from before him; but ere the messenger came to him, he said to the elders:

See ye how this son of a murderer hath sent to take away mine head? Look, when the messenger cometh, shut the door, and hold him fast at the door; is not the sound of his master's feet behind him?

³³And while he yet talked with them, behold, the messenger came down unto him; and he said:

Behold, this evil is of the LORD; what should I wait for the LORD any longer?

7 ¹Then Elisha said:

Hear ye the word of the LORD. Thus saith the LORD: Tomorrow about this time shall a ^dmeasure of fine flour be sold for a ^eshekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.

^d 12 lb or 5.5 kg
^e 0.4 oz or 12 g

²Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said:

Behold, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be?

And he said:

Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shall not eat thereof.

The siege of Samaria ends

³And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate; and they said one to another:

Why sit we here until we die? ⁴If we say, "We will enter into the city," then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there; and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians; if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die.

⁵And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians; and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, there was no man there. ⁶For the LORD had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host; and they said one to another, "Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us." ⁷Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, even the camp as it was, and fled for their life.

⁸And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid it; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried thence also, and went and hid it. ⁹Then they said one to another:

We do not well; this day is a day of good tidings; and we hold our peace; if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us; now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household.

¹⁰So they came and called unto the porter of the city; and they told them, saying:

We came to the camp of the Syrians, and, behold, there was no man there, neither voice of man, but horses tied, and asses tied, and the tents as they were.

¹¹And he called the porters; and they told it to the king's house within. ¹²And the king arose in the night, and said unto his servants:

I will now show you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we be hungry; therefore are they gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, "When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive, and get into the city."

¹³And one of his servants answered and said:

Let some take, I pray thee, five of the horses that remain, which are left in the city, (behold, they are as all the multitude of Israel that are left in it; behold, I say, they are even as all the multitude of the Israelites that are consumed) and let us send and see.

¹⁴They took therefore two chariot horses; and the king sent after the host of the Syrians, saying, "Go and see." ¹⁵And they went after them unto Jordan; and, lo, all the way was full of garments and vessels, which the Syrians had cast away in their haste. And the messengers returned, and told the king. ¹⁶And the people went out, and spoiled the tents of the Syrians. So a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD. ¹⁷And the king appointed the lord on whose hand he leaned to have the charge of the gate; and the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God had said, who spake when the king came down to him.

¹⁸And it came to pass as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, "Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria;" ¹⁹and that lord answered the man of God, and said, "Now, behold, if the LORD should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be?" And he said, "Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof." ²⁰And so it fell out unto him; for the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died.

The Shunammite's land restored

8 ¹Then spake Elisha unto the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying:

Arise, and go thou and thine household, and sojourn wheresoever thou canst sojourn; for the LORD hath called for a famine; and it shall also come upon the land seven years.

²And the woman arose, and did after the saying of the man of God; and she went with her household, and sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years. ³And it came to pass at the seven years' end, that the woman returned out of the land of the Philistines; and she went forth to cry unto the king for her house and for her land.

⁴And the king talked with Gehazi the servant of the man of God, saying, "Tell me, I pray thee, all the great things that Elisha hath done." ⁵And it came to pass, as he was telling the

king how he had restored a dead body to life, that, behold, the woman, whose son he had restored to life, cried to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, "My lord, O, king, this is the woman, and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life." ⁶And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed unto her a certain officer, saying, "Restore all that was hers, and all the fruits of the field since the day that she left the land, even until now."

The death of Ben-Hadad

⁷And Elisha came to Damascus; and Ben-Hadad the king of Syria was sick; and it was told him, saying, "The man of God is come hither." ⁸And the king said unto Hazael:

Take a present in thine hand, and go, meet the man of God, and inquire of the LORD by him, saying, "Shall I recover of this disease?"

⁹So Hazael went to meet him, and took a present with him, even of every good thing of Damascus, forty camels' burden, and came and stood before him, and said:

Thy son Ben-Hadad king of Syria hath sent me to thee, saying, "Shall I recover of this disease?"

¹⁰And Elisha said unto him:

Thou wilt go, and say unto him, "Thou mayest certainly recover;" howbeit, the LORD hath showed me that he shall surely die.

¹¹And he settled his countenance steadfastly, until he was ashamed; and the man of God wept. ¹²And Hazael said, "Why weepeth my lord?"

And he answered:

Because I know the evil that thou wilt do unto the children of Israel; their strongholds wilt thou set on fire, and their young men wilt thou slay with the sword, and wilt dash their children, and rip up their women with child.

¹³And Hazael said, "But what, is thy servant a dog, that he should do this great thing?"

And Elisha answered, "The LORD hath showed me that thou shalt be king over Syria."

¹⁴So he departed from Elisha, and came to his master; who said to him, "What said Elisha to thee?" And he answered, "He told me that thou shouldest surely recover." ¹⁵And it came to pass on the morrow, that he took a thick cloth, and dipped it in water, and spread it on his face, so that he died; and Hazael reigned in his stead.

Jehoram king of Judah

¹⁶And in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Jehoshaphat being then king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah began to reign. ¹⁷Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

¹⁸And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab; for the daughter of Ahab was his wife; and he did evil in the sight of the LORD. ¹⁹Yet the LORD would not destroy Judah for David his servant's sake, as he promised him to give him always a light, and to his children.

²⁰In his days Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah, and made a king over themselves. ²¹So Joram went over to Zair, and all the chariots with him; and he rose by night, and smote the Edomites which compassed him about, and the captains of the chariots; and the people fled into their tents. ²²Yet Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah unto this day. Then Libnah revolted at the same time.

²³And the rest of the acts of Joram, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? ²⁴And Joram slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David; and Ahaziah his son reigned in his stead.

Ahaziah king of Judah

²⁵In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel did Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah begin to reign. ²⁶Two and twenty years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel. ²⁷And he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and did evil in the sight of the LORD, as did the house of Ahab; for he was the son-in-law of the house of Ahab.

²⁸And he went with Joram the son of Ahab to the war against Hazael king of Syria in Ramoth-Gilead; and the Syrians wounded Joram. ²⁹And king Joram went back to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which the Syrians had given him at Ramah, when he fought against Hazael king of Syria.

And Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Joram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was sick.

Jehu anointed king of Israel

9 ¹And Elisha the prophet called one of the children of the prophets, and said unto him: Gird up thy loins, and take this box of oil in thine hand, and go to Ramoth-Gilead; ²and when thou comest thither, look out there Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi, and go in, and make him arise up from among his brethren, and carry him to an inner chamber; ³then take the box of oil, and pour it on his head, and say, "Thus saith the LORD: I have anointed thee king over Israel." Then open the door, and flee, and tarry not.

⁴So the young man, even the young man the prophet, went to Ramoth-Gilead. ⁵And when he came, behold, the captains of the host were sitting; and he said, "I have an errand to thee, O captain." And Jehu said, "Unto which of all us?" And he said, "To thee, O captain."

⁶And he arose, and went into the house; and he poured the oil on his head, and said unto him:

Thus saith the LORD God of Israel: I have anointed thee king over the people of the LORD, even over Israel. ⁷And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel. ⁸For the whole house of Ahab shall perish; and I will cut off from Ahab him that fighteth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel; ⁹and I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah; ¹⁰and the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the portion of Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her.

And he opened the door, and fled.

¹¹Then Jehu came forth to the servants of his lord; and one said unto him, "Is all well? Wherefore came this mad fellow to thee?" And he said unto them, "Ye know the man, and his communication." ¹²And they said, "It is false; tell us now." And he said, "Thus and thus spake he to me, saying, 'Thus saith the LORD: I have anointed thee king over Israel.'"

¹³Then they hasted, and took every man his garment, and put it under him on the top of the stairs, and blew with trumpets, saying, "Jehu is king."

Jehu kills Joram and Ahaziah

¹⁴So Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi conspired against Joram.

(Now Joram had kept Ramoth-Gilead, he and all Israel, because of Hazael king of Syria;

¹⁵but king Joram was returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which the Syrians had given him, when he fought with Hazael king of Syria.)

And Jehu said:

If it be your minds, then let none go forth nor escape out of the city to go to tell it in Jezreel.

¹⁶So Jehu rode in a chariot, and went to Jezreel; for Joram lay there. And Ahaziah king of Judah was come down to see Joram. ¹⁷And there stood a watchman on the tower of Jezreel, and he spied the company of Jehu as he came, and said, "I see a company." And Joram said, "Take a horseman, and send to meet them, and let him say, 'Is it peace?'"

¹⁸So there went one on horseback to meet him, and said, "Thus saith the king, 'Is it peace?'" And Jehu said, "What hast thou to do with peace? Turn thee behind me." And the watchman told, saying, "The messenger came to them, but he cometh not again."

¹⁹Then he sent out a second on horseback, which came to them, and said, "Thus saith the king, 'Is it peace?'" And Jehu answered, "What hast thou to do with peace? Turn thee behind me." ²⁰And the watchman told, saying, "He came even unto them, and cometh not again; and the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi; for he driveth furiously."

²¹And Joram said, "Make ready." And his chariot was made ready. And Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah went out, each in his chariot, and they went out against Jehu, and met him in the portion of Naboth the Jezreelite.

²²And it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, "Is it peace, Jehu?" And he answered, "What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?" ²³And Joram turned his hands, and fled, and said to Ahaziah, "There is treachery, O Ahaziah."

²⁴And Jehu drew a bow with his full strength, and smote Jehoram between his arms, and the arrow went out at his heart, and he sunk down in his chariot. ²⁵Then said Jehu to Bidkar his captain:

Take up, and cast him in the portion of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite; for remember how that, when I and thou rode together after Ahab his father, the LORD laid this burden upon him; ²⁶"Surely I have seen yesterday the blood of Naboth, and the blood of his sons," saith the LORD, "and I will requite thee in this plat," saith the LORD. Now therefore take and cast him into the plat of ground, according to the word of the LORD.

²⁷But when Ahaziah the king of Judah saw this, he fled by the way of the garden house. And Jehu followed after him, and said, "Smite him also in the chariot." And they did so at the going up to Gur, which is by Ibleam. And he fled to Megiddo, and died there. ²⁸And his servants carried him in a chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him in his sepulcher with his fathers in the city of David. ²⁹And in the eleventh year of Joram the son of Ahab began Ahaziah to reign over Judah.

The death of Jezebel

³⁰And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window. ³¹And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, "Had Zimri peace, who slew his master?"

³²And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs. ³³And he said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down; and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses; and he trode her underfoot.

³⁴And when he was come in, he did eat and drink, and said, "Go, see now this cursed woman, and bury her; for she is a king's daughter." ³⁵And they went to bury her; but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of her hands. ³⁶Wherefore they came again, and told him. And he said:

This is the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, "In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel; ³⁷and the carcass of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel; so that they shall not say, 'This is Jezebel.'"

Ahab's family killed

10 ¹And Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote letters, and sent to Samaria, unto the rulers of Jezreel, to the elders, and to them that brought up Ahab's children, saying:

²Now as soon as this letter cometh to you, seeing your master's sons are with you, and there are with you chariots and horses, a fenced city also, and armor; ³look even out the best and meetest of your master's sons, and set him on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house.

⁴But they were exceedingly afraid, and said, "Behold, two kings stood not before him; how then shall we stand?"

⁵And he that was over the house, and he that was over the city, the elders also, and the bringers up of the children, sent to Jehu, saying:

We are thy servants, and will do all that thou shalt bid us; we will not make any king; do thou that which is good in thine eyes.

⁶Then he wrote a letter the second time to them, saying:

If ye be mine, and if ye will hearken unto my voice, take ye the heads of the men your master's sons, and come to me to Jezreel by tomorrow this time.

Now the king's sons, being seventy persons, were with the great men of the city, which brought them up. ⁷And it came to pass, when the letter came to them, that they took the king's sons, and slew seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets, and sent him them to Jezreel.

⁸And there came a messenger, and told him, saying, "They have brought the heads of the king's sons." And he said, "Lay ye them in two heaps at the entering in of the gate until the morning."

⁹And it came to pass in the morning, that he went out, and stood, and said to all the people:

Ye be righteous; behold, I conspired against my master, and slew him; but who slew all these? ¹⁰Know now that there shall fall unto the earth nothing of the word of the LORD, which the LORD spake concerning the house of Ahab; for the LORD hath done that which he spake by his servant Elijah.

¹¹So Jehu slew all that remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men, and his kinsfolks, and his priests, until he left him none remaining.

¹²And he arose and departed, and came to Samaria. And as he was at the shearing house in the way, ¹³Jehu met with the brethren of Ahaziah king of Judah, and said, "Who are ye?" And they answered, "We are the brethren of Ahaziah; and we go down to salute the children of the king and the children of the queen."

¹⁴And he said, "Take them alive." And they took them alive, and slew them at the pit of the shearing house, even two and forty men; neither left he any of them.

¹⁵And when he was departed thence, he lighted on Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him; and he saluted him, and said to him, "Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart?" And Jehonadab answered, "It is." "If it be, give me thine hand." And he gave him his hand; and he took him up to him into the chariot. ¹⁶And he said, "Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD." So they made him ride in his chariot.

¹⁷And when he came to Samaria, he slew all that remained unto Ahab in Samaria, till he had destroyed him, according to the saying of the LORD, which he spake to Elijah.

Servants of Baal killed

¹⁸And Jehu gathered all the people together, and said unto them:

Ahab served Baal a little; but Jehu shall serve him much. ¹⁹Now therefore call unto me all the prophets of Baal, all his servants, and all his priests; let none be wanting; for I have a great sacrifice to do to Baal; whosoever shall be wanting, he shall not live.

But Jehu did it in subtilty, to the intent that he might destroy the worshipers of Baal.

²⁰And Jehu said, "Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal." And they proclaimed it. ²¹And Jehu sent through all Israel; and all the worshipers of Baal came, so that there was not a man left that come not. And they came into the house of Baal; and the house of Baal was full from one end to another. ²²And he said unto him that was over the vestry, "Bring forth vestments for all the worshipers of Baal." And he brought them forth vestments.

²³And Jehu went, and Jehonadab the son of Rechab, into the house of Baal, and said unto the worshipers of Baal:

Search, and look that there be here with you none of the servants of the LORD, but the worshipers of Baal only.

²⁴And when they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings, Jehu appointed fourscore men without, and said:

If any of the men whom I have brought into your hands escape, he that letteth him go, his life shall be for the life of him.

²⁵And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, that Jehu said to the guard and to the captains, "Go in, and slay them; let none come forth." And they smote them with the edge of the sword; and the guard and the captains cast them out, and went to the city of the house of Baal. ²⁶And they brought forth the images out of the house of Baal, and burned them. ²⁷And they brake down the image of Baal, and brake down the house of Baal, and made it a draught house unto this day.

²⁸Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel. ²⁹Howbeit, from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, to wit, the golden calves that were in Beth-El, and that were in Dan.

³⁰And the LORD said unto Jehu:

Because thou hast done well in executing that which is right in mine eyes, and hast done unto the house of Ahab according to all that was in mine heart, thy children of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel.

³¹But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart; for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin.

³²In those days the LORD began to cut Israel short; and Hazael smote them in all the coasts of Israel; ³³from Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, and the Reubenites, and the Manassites, from Aroer, which is by the river Arnon, even Gilead and Bashan.

³⁴Now the rest of the acts of Jehu, and all that he did, and all his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? ³⁵And Jehu slept with his fathers; and they buried him in Samaria. And Jehoahaz his son reigned in his stead. ³⁶And the time that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was twenty and eight years.

Athaliah and Joash

¹And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal. ²But Jehosheba, the daughter of king Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons which were slain; and they hid him, even him and his nurse, in the bedchamber from Athaliah, so that he was not slain. ³And he was with her hid in the house of the LORD six years. And Athaliah did reign over the land.

⁴And the seventh year Jehoiada sent and fetched the rulers over hundreds, with the captains and the guard, and brought them to him into the house of the LORD, and made a covenant with them, and took an oath of them in the house of the LORD, and showed them the king's son. ⁵And he commanded them, saying:

This is the thing that ye shall do: A third part of you that enter in on the Sabbath shall even be keepers of the watch of the king's house; ⁶and a third part shall be at the gate of Sur; and a third part at the gate behind the guard; so shall ye keep the watch of the house, that it be not broken down. ⁷And two parts of all you that go forth on the Sabbath, even they shall keep the watch of the house of the LORD about the king.

⁸And ye shall compass the king round about, every man with his weapons in his hand; and he that cometh within the ranges, let him be slain; and be ye with the king as he goeth out and as he cometh in.

⁹And the captains over the hundreds did according to all things that Jehoiada the priest commanded; and they took every man his men that were to come in on the Sabbath, with them that should go out on the Sabbath, and came to Jehoiada the priest. ¹⁰And to the captains over hundreds did the priest give king David's spears and shields, that were in the temple of the LORD. ¹¹And the guard stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, round about the king, from the right corner of the temple to the left corner of the temple, along by the altar and the temple.

¹²And he brought forth the king's son, and put the crown upon him, and gave him the testimony; and they made him king, and anointed him; and they clapped their hands, and said, "God save the king."

¹³And when Athaliah heard the noise of the guard and of the people, she came to the people into the temple of the LORD. ¹⁴And when she looked, behold, the king stood by a pillar, as the manner was, and the princes and the trumpeters by the king, and all the

people of the land rejoiced, and blew with trumpets; and Athaliah rent her clothes, and cried, "Treason, treason."

¹⁵But Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of the hundreds, the officers of the host, and said unto them, "Have her forth without the ranges; and him that followeth her kill with the sword." For the priest had said, "Let her not be slain in the house of the LORD."

¹⁶And they laid hands on her; and she went by the way by the which the horses came into the king's house; and there was she slain.

¹⁷And Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD and the king and the people, that they should be the LORD's people; between the king also and the people. ¹⁸And all the people of the land went into the house of Baal, and brake it down; his altars and his images brake they in pieces thoroughly, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars.

And the priest appointed officers over the house of the LORD. ¹⁹And he took the rulers over hundreds, and the captains, and the guard, and all the people of the land; and they brought down the king from the house of the LORD, and came by the way of the gate of the guard to the king's house. And he sat on the throne of the kings. ²⁰And all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was in quiet; and they slew Athaliah with the sword beside the king's house.

²¹Seven years old was Jehoash when he began to reign.

Jehoash king of Judah repairs the temple

12 ¹In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash began to reign; and forty years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Zibiah of Beer-Sheba. ²And Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him. ³But the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places.

⁴And Jehoash said to the priests:

All the money of the dedicated things that is brought into the house of the LORD, even the money of everyone that passeth the account, the money that every man is set at, and all the money that cometh into any man's heart to bring into the house of the LORD, ⁵let the priests take it to them, every man of his acquaintance; and let them repair the breaches of the house, wheresoever any breach shall be found.

⁶But it was so, that in the three and twentieth year of king Jehoash the priests had not repaired the breaches of the house. ⁷Then king Jehoash called for Jehoiada the priest, and the other priests, and said unto them:

Why repair ye not the breaches of the house? Now therefore receive no more money of your acquaintance, but deliver it for the breaches of the house.

⁸And the priests consented to receive no more money of the people, neither to repair the breaches of the house.

⁹But Jehoiada the priest took a chest, and bored a hole in the lid of it, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one cometh into the house of the LORD; and the priests that kept the door put therein all the money that was brought into the house of the LORD.

¹⁰And it was so, when they saw that there was much money in the chest, that the king's scribe and the high priest came up, and they put up in bags, and told the money that was found in the house of the LORD. ¹¹And they gave the money, being told, into the hands of them that did the work, that had the oversight of the house of the LORD; and they laid it out to the carpenters and builders, that wrought upon the house of the LORD.

¹²And to masons, and hewers of stone, and to buy timber and hewed stone to repair the breaches of the house of the LORD, and for all that was laid out for the house to repair it.

¹³Howbeit there were not made for the house of the LORD bowls of silver, snuffers, basins, trumpets, any vessels of gold, or vessels of silver, of the money that was brought into the house of the LORD; ¹⁴but they gave that to the workmen, and repaired therewith the house of the LORD. ¹⁵Moreover they reckoned not with the men, into whose hand they delivered the money to be bestowed on workmen; for they dealt faithfully. ¹⁶The trespass money and sin money was not brought into the house of the LORD; it was the priests'.

¹⁷Then Hazael king of Syria went up and fought against Gath, and took it; and Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem. ¹⁸And Jehoash king of Judah took all the hallowed things that Jehoshaphat, and Jehoram, and Ahaziah, his fathers, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own hallowed things, and all the gold that was found in the treasures of the house of the LORD, and in the king's house, and sent it to Hazael king of Syria; and he went away from Jerusalem.

¹⁹And the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? ²⁰And his servants arose, and made a conspiracy, and slew Joash in the house of Millo, which goeth down to Silla. ²¹For Jozachar the son of Shimeath and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, smote him, and he died; and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David; and Amaziah his son reigned in his stead.

Jehoahaz king of Israel

13 ¹In the three and twentieth year of Joash the son of Ahaziah king of Judah, Jehoahaz the son of Jehu began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned seventeen years. ²And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom. ³And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he delivered them into the hand of Hazael king of Syria, and into the hand of Ben-Hadad the son of Hazael, all their days.

⁴And Jehoahaz besought the LORD, and the LORD hearkened unto him; for he saw the oppression of Israel, because the king of Syria oppressed them. ⁵(And the LORD gave Israel a savior, so that they went out from under the hand of the Syrians; and the children of Israel dwelt in their tents, as beforetime. ⁶Nevertheless they departed not from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, who made Israel sin, but walked therein; and there remained the grove also in Samaria.)

⁷Neither did he leave of the people to Jehoahaz but fifty horsemen, and ten chariots, and ten thousand footmen; for the king of Syria had destroyed them, and had made them like the dust by threshing.

⁸Now the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz, and all that he did, and his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? ⁹And Jehoahaz slept with his fathers; and they buried him in Samaria; and Joash his son reigned in his stead.

Jehoash king of Israel

¹⁰In the thirty and seventh year of Joash king of Judah began Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned sixteen years. ¹¹And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD; he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin; but he walked therein.

¹²And the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, and his might wherewith he fought against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? ¹³And Joash slept with his fathers; and Jeroboam sat upon his throne; and Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.

¹⁴Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, "O my father, my father! The chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof."

¹⁵And Elisha said unto him, "Take bow and arrows." And he took unto him bow and arrows. ¹⁶And he said to the king of Israel, "Put thine hand upon the bow." And he put his hand upon it; and Elisha put his hands upon the king's hands. ¹⁷And he said, "Open the window eastward." And he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot." And he shot. And he said, "The arrow of the LORD's deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria; for thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed them." ¹⁸And he said, "Take the arrows." And he took them. And he said unto the king of Israel, "Smite upon the ground." And he smote thrice and stayed. ¹⁹And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, "Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it; whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice."

²⁰And Elisha died, and they buried him.

And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year. ²¹And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulcher of Elisha; and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.

²²But Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz. ²³And the LORD was gracious unto them, and had compassion on them, and had respect unto them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, neither cast he them from his presence as yet.

²⁴So Hazael king of Syria died; and Ben-Hadad his son reigned in his stead. ²⁵And Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz took again out of the hand of Ben-Hadad the son of Hazael the cities, which he had taken out of the hand of Jehoahaz his father by war. Three times did Joash beat him, and recovered the cities of Israel.

Amaziah king of Judah

14 ¹In the second year of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel reigned Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah. ²He was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem. ³And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, yet not like David his father; he did according to all things as Joash his father did. ⁴Howbeit the high places were not taken away; as yet the people did sacrifice and burnt incense on the high places.

⁵And it came to pass, as soon as the kingdom was confirmed in his hand, that he slew his servants which had slain the king his father. ⁶But the children of the murderers he slew not; according unto that which is written in the book of the law of Moses, wherein the LORD commanded, saying:

The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, nor the children be put to death for the fathers; but every man shall be put to death for his own sin.

Deuteronomy 24:16

⁷He slew of Edom in the valley of salt ten thousand, and took Selah by war, and called the name of it Joktheel unto this day.

⁸Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash, the son of Jehoahaz son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us look one another in the face."

⁹And Jehoash the king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying:

The thistle 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 trode down the thistle. ¹⁰Thou hast indeed smitten Edom, and thine heart hath lifted thee up; glory of this, and tarry at home; for why shouldst thou meddle to thy hurt, that thou shouldst fall, even thou, and Judah with thee?

¹¹But Amaziah would not hear. Therefore Jehoash 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. ¹²And Judah was put to the worse before Israel; and they fled every man to their tents. ¹³And Jehoash king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Jehoash the son of Ahaziah at Beth-Shemesh, and came to Jerusalem, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of Ephraim unto the Corner Gate, ^afour hundred cubits. ¹⁴And he took all the gold and silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house, and hostages, and returned to Samaria.

^a 600 ft or 180 m

¹⁵Now the rest of the acts of Jehoash which he did, and his might, and how he fought with Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? ¹⁶And Jehoash slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel; and Jeroboam his son reigned in his stead.

¹⁷And Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah lived after the death of Jehoash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel fifteen years. ¹⁸And the rest of the acts of Amaziah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

¹⁹Now they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem; and he fled to Lachish; but they sent after him to Lachish, and slew him there. ²⁰And they brought him on horses; and he was buried at Jerusalem with his fathers in the city of David.

²¹And all the people of Judah took Azariah, which was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah. ²²He built Elath, and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers.

Jeroboam II king of Israel

²³In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel began to reign in Samaria, and reigned forty and one years. ²⁴And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD; he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin. ²⁵He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gathhepher.

²⁶For the LORD saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter; for there was not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel. ²⁷And the LORD said not that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven; but he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.

²⁸Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, and all that he did, and his might, how he warred, and how he recovered Damascus, and Hamath, which belonged to Judah, for Israel, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? ²⁹And Jeroboam slept with his fathers, even with the kings of Israel; and Zachariah his son reigned in his stead.

Azariah king of Judah

15 ¹In the twenty and seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel began Azariah son of Amaziah king of Judah to reign. ²Sixteen years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned two and fifty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem. ³And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done; ⁴save that the high places were not removed; the people sacrificed and burnt incense still on the high places.

⁵And the LORD smote the king, so that he was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house. And Jotham the king's son was over the house, judging the people of the land.

⁶And the rest of the acts of Azariah, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? ⁷So Azariah slept with his fathers; and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David, and Jotham his son reigned in his stead.

Zechariah king of Israel

⁸In the thirty and eighth year of Azariah king of Judah did Zachariah the son of Jeroboam reign over Israel in Samaria six months. ⁹And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, as his fathers had done; he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.

¹⁰And Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him, and smote him before the people, and slew him, and reigned in his stead. ¹¹And the rest of the acts of Zachariah, behold, they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel. ¹²This was the word of the LORD which he spake unto Jehu, saying, "Thy sons shall sit on the throne of Israel unto the fourth generation." And so it came to pass.

Shallum king of Israel

¹³Shallum the son of Jabesh began to reign in the nine and thirtieth year of Uzziah king of Judah; and he reigned a full month in Samaria. ¹⁴For Menahem the son of Gadi went up from Tirzah, and came to Samaria, and smote Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria, and slew him, and reigned in his stead.

¹⁵And the rest of the acts of Shallum, and his conspiracy which he made, behold, they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

¹⁶Then Menahem smote Tiphsah, and all that were therein, and the coasts thereof from Tirzah; because they opened not to him, therefore he smote it; and all the women therein that were with child he ripped up.

Menahem king of Israel

¹⁷In the nine and thirtieth year of Azariah king of Judah began Menahem the son of Gadi to reign over Israel, and reigned ten years in Samaria. ¹⁸And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD; he departed not all his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.

¹⁹And Pul the king of Assyria came against the land; and Menahem gave Pul a ^athousand talents of silver, that his hand might be with him to confirm the kingdom in his hand.

²⁰And Menahem exacted the money of Israel, even of all the mighty men of wealth, of each man ^bfifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and stayed not there in the land.

^a 38 tons or 34 metric tons

^b 1.2 lb or 575 g

²¹And the rest of the acts of Menahem, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? ²²And Menahem slept with his fathers; and Pekahiah his son reigned in his stead.

Pekahiah king of Israel

²³In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekahiah the son of Menahem began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned two years. ²⁴And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD; he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin. ²⁵But Pekah the son of Remaliah, a captain of his, conspired against him, and smote him in Samaria, in the palace of the king's house, with Argob and Arieah, and with him fifty men of the Gileadites; and he killed him, and reigned in his room.

²⁶And the rest of the acts of Pekahiah, and all that he did, behold, they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

Pekah king of Israel

²⁷In the two and fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekah the son of Remaliah began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned twenty years. ²⁸And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD; he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.

²⁹In the days of Pekah king of Israel came Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, and took Ijon, and Abel-Beth-Maachah, and Janoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria. ³⁰And Hoshea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and smote him, and slew him, and reigned in his stead, in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah.

³¹And the rest of the acts of Pekah, and all that he did, behold, they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

Jotham king of Judah

³²In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah king of Israel began Jotham the son of Uzziah king of Judah to reign. ³³Five and twenty years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jerusha, the daughter of Zadok. ³⁴And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD; he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done. ³⁵Howbeit the high places were not removed; the people sacrificed and burned incense still in the high places. He built the higher gate of the house of the LORD.

³⁶Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? ³⁷In those days the LORD began to send against Judah Rezin the king of Syria, and Pekah the son of Remaliah. ³⁸And Jotham slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father and Ahaz his son reigned in his stead.

Ahaz king of Judah

16 ¹In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham king of Judah began to reign. ²Twenty years old was Ahaz when he began to reign, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem, and did not that which was right in the sight of the LORD his God, like David his father. ³But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yea, and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen, whom the

LORD cast out from before the children of Israel. ⁴And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.

⁵Then Rezin king of Syria, and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel, came up to Jerusalem to war; and they besieged Ahaz, but could not overcome him.

⁶At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria, and drave the Jews from Elath; and the Syrians came to Elath, and dwelt there unto this day.

⁷So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, saying:
I am thy servant and thy son; come up, and save me out of the hand of the king of Syria, and out of the hand of the king of Israel, which rise up against me.

⁸And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house, and sent it for a present to the king of Assyria. ⁹And the king of Assyria hearkened unto him; for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus, and took it, and carried the people of it captive to Kir, and slew Rezin.

The fall of Damascus

¹⁰And king Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, and saw an altar that was at Damascus; and king Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the fashion of the altar, and the pattern of it, according to all the workmanship thereof. ¹¹And Urijah the priest built an altar according to all that king Ahaz had sent from Damascus; so Urijah the priest made it against king Ahaz came from Damascus.

¹²And when the king was come from Damascus, the king saw the altar; and the king approached to the altar, and offered thereon. ¹³And he burnt his burnt offering and his meat offering, and poured his drink offering, and sprinkled the blood of his peace offerings, upon the altar. ¹⁴And he brought also the brazen altar, which was before the LORD from the forefront of the house, from between the altar and the house of the LORD, and put it on the north side of the altar.

¹⁵And king Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying:
Upon the great altar burn the morning burnt offering, and the evening meat offering, and the king's burnt sacrifice, and his meat offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their meat offering, and their drink offerings; and sprinkle upon it all the blood of the burnt offering, and all the blood of the sacrifice; and the brazen altar shall be for me to inquire by.

¹⁶Thus did Urijah the priest, according to all that king Ahaz commanded.

¹⁷And king Ahaz cut off the borders of the bases, and removed the laver from off them; and took down the sea from off the brazen oxen that were under it, and put it upon a pavement of stones. ¹⁸And the covert for the Sabbath that they had built in the house, and the king's entry without, turned he from the house of the LORD for the king of Assyria.

¹⁹Now the rest of the acts of Ahaz which he did, are they not written in the book of chronicles of the kings of Judah? ²⁰And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David; and Hezekiah his son reigned in his stead.

Hosea the last king of Israel

17 ¹In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah began Hoshea the son of Elah to reign in Samaria over Israel nine years. ²And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel that were before him.

³Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria; and Hoshea became his servant, and gave him presents. ⁴And the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea; for he had sent messengers to So king of Egypt, and brought no present to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year; therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison.

Assyria conquers Israel

⁵Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years. ⁶In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

⁷For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods, ⁸and walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made.

⁹And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city. ¹⁰And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree; ¹¹and there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen whom the LORD carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger; ¹²for they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, "Ye shall not do this thing."

¹³Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying:

Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets.

¹⁴Notwithstanding, they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God. ¹⁵And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them.

¹⁶And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. ¹⁷And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

¹⁸Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah only. ¹⁹Also Judah kept not the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made. ²⁰And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight.

²¹For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king; and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin.

²²For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them; ²³until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his

servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.

Samaria resettled by foreigners

²⁴And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof.

²⁵And so it was at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they feared not the LORD; therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which slew some of them. ²⁶Wherefore they spake to the king of Assyria, saying:

The nations which thou hast removed, and placed in the cities of Samaria, know not the manner of the God of the land; therefore he hath sent lions among them, and, behold, they slay them, because they know not the manner of the God of the land.

²⁷Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying:

Carry thither one of the priests whom ye brought from thence; and let them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the manner of the God of the land.

²⁸Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Beth-El, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

²⁹Howbeit every nation made gods of their own, and put them in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities wherein they dwelt.

³⁰And the men of Babylon made Succoth-Benoth, and the men of Cuth made Nergal, and the men of Hamath made Ashima, ³¹and the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burnt their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

³²So they feared the LORD, and made unto themselves of the lowest of them priests of the high places, which sacrificed for them in the houses of the high places. ³³They feared the LORD and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence.

³⁴Unto this day they do after the former manners; they fear not the LORD, neither do they after their statutes, or after their ordinances, or after the law and commandment which the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel; ³⁵with whom the LORD had made a covenant, and charged them, saying:

Ye shall not fear other gods, nor bow yourselves to them, nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them; ³⁶but the LORD, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt with great power and a stretched-out arm, him shall ye fear, and him shall ye worship, and to him shall ye do sacrifice. ³⁷And the statutes, and the ordinances, and the law, and the commandment, which he wrote for you, ye shall observe to do forevermore; and ye shall not fear other gods. ³⁸And the covenant that I have made with you ye shall not forget; neither shall ye fear other gods. ³⁹But the LORD your God ye shall fear; and he shall deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies.

⁴⁰Howbeit they did not hearken, but they did after their former manner. ⁴¹So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children; as did their fathers, so do they unto this day.

Hezekiah king of Judah

18 ¹Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. ²Twenty and five years old was he when he

began to reign; and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Abi, the daughter of Zachariah. ³And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did. ⁴He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made; for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it; and he called it Nehushtan.

⁵He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him. ⁶For he clave to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses.

⁷And the LORD was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth; and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not. ⁸He smote the Philistines, even unto Gaza, and the borders thereof, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

⁹And it came to pass in the fourth year of king Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria, and besieged it. ¹⁰And at the end of three years they took it; even in the sixth year of Hezekiah, that is the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken.

¹¹And the king of Assyria did carry away Israel unto Assyria, and put them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes; ¹²because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD their God, but transgressed his covenant, and all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded, and would not hear them, nor do them.

Assyria invades Judah

¹³Now in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah did Sennacherib king of Assyria come up against all the fenced cities of Judah, and took them. ¹⁴And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria to Lachish, saying, "I have offended; return from me; that which thou puttest on me will I bear." And the king of Assyria appointed unto Hezekiah king of Judah ^athree hundred talents of silver and ^bthirty talents of gold.

^a 11.3 tons or 10.3 metric tons

^b 1.1 tons or 1 metric ton

¹⁵And Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house. ¹⁶At that time did Hezekiah cut off the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.

Jerusalem is threatened

¹⁷And the king of Assyria sent Tartan and Rab-saris and Rab-shakeh from Lachish to king Hezekiah with a great host against Jerusalem; and they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they were come up, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is in the highway of the fuller's field. ¹⁸And when they had called to the king, there came out to them Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph the recorder.

¹⁹And Rab-shakeh said unto them:

Speak ye now to Hezekiah, thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria: What confidence is this wherein thou trustest? ²⁰Thou sayest, (but they are but vain words) I have counsel and strength for the war. Now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me? ²¹Now, behold, thou trustest upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it; so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him. ²²But if ye say unto me, 'We trust in

the LORD our God;’ is not that he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and hath said to Judah and Jerusalem, ‘Ye shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem?’

²³Now therefore, I pray thee, give pledges to my lord the king of Assyria, and I will deliver thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them.

²⁴How then wilt thou turn away the face of one captain of the least of my master’s servants, and put thy trust on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen? ²⁵Am I now come up without the LORD against this place to destroy it? The LORD said to me, “Go up against this land, and destroy it.”

²⁶Then said Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and Shebna, and Joah, unto Rab-shakeh: Speak, I pray thee, to thy servants in the Syrian language; for we understand it; and talk not with us in the Jews’ language in the ears of the people that are on the wall.

²⁷But Rab-shakeh said unto them:

Hath my master sent me to thy master, and to thee, to speak these words? Hath he not sent me to the men which sit on the wall, that they may eat their own dung, and drink their own piss with you?

²⁸Then Rab-shakeh stood and cried with a loud voice in the Jews’ language, and spake, saying:

Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria; ²⁹thus saith the king: Let not Hezekiah deceive you; for he shall not be able to deliver you out of his hand; ³⁰neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, ‘The LORD will surely deliver us, and this city shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.’ ³¹Hearken not to Hezekiah; for thus saith the king of Assyria, ‘Make an agreement with me by a present, and come out to me, and then eat ye every man of his own vine, and everyone of his fig tree, and drink ye everyone the waters of his cistern; ³²until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of corn and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of oil olive and of honey, that ye may live, and not die;’ and hearken not unto Hezekiah, when he persuadeth you, saying, ‘the LORD will deliver us.’

³³Hath any of the gods of the nations delivered at all this land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? ³⁴Where are the gods of Hamath, and of Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah? Have they delivered Samaria out of mine hand?

³⁵Who are they among all the gods of the countries, that have delivered their country out of mine hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of mine hand?

³⁶But the people held their peace, and answered him not a word; for the king’s commandment was, saying, “Answer him not.”

³⁷Then came Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph the recorder, to Hezekiah with their clothes rent, and told him the word of Rab-shakeh.

Isaiah promises deliverance

19 ¹And it came to pass, when king Hezekiah heard it, that he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD. ²And he sent Eliakim, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz. ³And they said unto him: Thus saith Hezekiah: This day is a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and blasphemy; for the children are come to the birth, and there is not strength to bring forth. ⁴It may be

the LORD thy God will hear all the words of Rab-shakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God; and will reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard; wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that are left.

⁵So the servants of king Hezekiah came to Isaiah. ⁶And Isaiah said unto them:

Thus shall ye say to your master, “Thus saith the LORD: Be not afraid of the words which thou hast heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me. ⁷Behold I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumor, and shall return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.”

⁸So Rab-shakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah; for he had heard that he was departed from Lachish. ⁹And when he heard say of Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, “Behold, he is come out to fight against thee;” he sent messengers again unto Hezekiah, saying:

¹⁰Thus shall ye speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying, “Let not thy God in whom thou trustest deceive thee, saying, ‘Jerusalem shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.’ ¹¹Behold, thou hast heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, by destroying them utterly; and shalt thou be delivered? ¹²Have the gods of the nations delivered them which my fathers have destroyed; as Gozan, and Haran, and Rezep, and the children of Eden which were in Thelasar? ¹³Where is the king of Hamath, and the king of Arpad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, of Hena, and Ivah?

¹⁴And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up into the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. ¹⁵And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said:

O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubim, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.

¹⁶Lord, bow down thine ear, and hear; open, Lord, thine eyes, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent him to reproach the living God. ¹⁷Of a truth, Lord, the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations and their lands. ¹⁸And have cast their gods into the fire; for they were no gods, but the work of men’s hands, wood and stone; therefore they have destroyed them. ¹⁹Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only.

Isaiah prophesies Sennacherib’s fall

²⁰Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying:

Thus saith the LORD God of Israel: That which thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard. ²¹This is the word that the LORD hath spoken concerning him:

The virgin the daughter of Zion hath despised thee, and laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee. ²²Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? And against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? Even against the Holy One of Israel. ²³By thy messengers thou hast reproached the LORD, and hast said, With the multitude of my chariots I am come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon, and will cut down the tall cedar trees thereof, and the choice fir trees thereof; and I will enter into the lodgings of his borders, and into the forest of his Carmel. ²⁴I have digged and drunk strange waters, and with the sole of my feet have I dried up all the rivers of besieged places.

²⁵Hast thou not heard long ago how I have done it, and of ancient times that I have formed it? Now have I brought it to pass, that thou shouldest be to lay waste fenced cities into ruinous heaps. ²⁶Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded; they were as the grass of the field, and as the green herb, as the grass on the housetops, and as corn blasted before it be grown up. ²⁷But I know thy abode, and thy going out, and thy coming in, and thy rage against me. ²⁸Because thy rage against me and thy tumult is come up into mine ears, therefore I will put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest.

²⁹And this shall be a sign unto thee: Ye shall eat this year such things as grow of themselves, and in the second year that which springeth of the same; and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruits thereof. ³⁰And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall yet again take root downward, and bear fruit upward. ³¹For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion; the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this.

³²Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it. ³³By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD. ³⁴For I will defend this city to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

³⁵And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred fourscore and five thousand; and when they who were left arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. ³⁶So Sennacherib king of Assyria, departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh. ³⁷And it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Armenia. And Essarhaddon his son reigned in his stead.

Hezekiah's illness

20 ¹In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, "Thus saith the LORD: Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live."

²Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, saying:

³I beseech thee, O Lord, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight.

And Hezekiah wept sore. ⁴And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying:

⁵Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, "Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father: I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears; behold, I will heal thee; on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD. ⁶And I will add unto thy days fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake."

⁷And Isaiah said, "Take a lump of figs." And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered.

⁸And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah:

What shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up into the house of the LORD the third day?

⁹And Isaiah said:

This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken; shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees?

¹⁰And Hezekiah answered:

It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees; nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees.

¹¹And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD; and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz.

¹²At that time Berodach-baladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present unto Hezekiah; for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick. ¹³And Hezekiah hearkened unto them, and showed them all the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armor, and all that was found in his treasures; there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah showed them not.

¹⁴Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, "What said these men? And from whence came they unto thee?" And Hezekiah said, "They are come from a far country, even from Babylon." ¹⁵And he said, "What have they seen in thy house?" And Hezekiah answered, "All the things that are in mine house have they seen; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not showed them."

¹⁶And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah:

Hear the word of the LORD: ¹⁷Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried unto Babylon; nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. ¹⁸And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

¹⁹Then said Hezekiah unto Isaiah, "Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken." And he said, "Is it not good, if peace and truth be in my days?"

²⁰And the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and all his might, and how he made a pool, and a conduit, and brought water into the city, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

²¹And Hezekiah slept with his fathers; and Manasseh his son reigned in his stead.

Manasseh king of Judah

21 ¹Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzibah. ²And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel. ³For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served them. ⁴And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, "In Jerusalem will I put my name." ⁵And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. ⁶And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards; he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

⁷And he set a graven image of the grove that he had made in the house, of which the LORD 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 put my name forever. ⁸Neither will I make the feet of Israel move anymore out of the land which I gave their fathers; only if they will observe to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded them.

⁹But they hearkened not; and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the children of Israel.

¹⁰And the LORD spake by his servants the prophets, saying:

¹¹Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, which were before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols; ¹²therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle. ¹³And I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab; and I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down. ¹⁴And I will forsake the remnant of mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies; ¹⁵because they have done that which was evil in my sight, and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt, even unto this day.

¹⁶Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.

¹⁷Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, and all that he did, and his sin that he sinned, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? ¹⁸And Manasseh slept with his fathers, and was buried in the garden of his own house, in the garden of Uzza; and Amon his son reigned in his stead.

Amon king of Judah

¹⁹Amon was twenty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Meshullemeth, the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah.

²⁰And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh did.

²¹And he walked in all the way that his father walked in, and served the idols that his father served, and worshiped them; ²²and he forsook the LORD God of his fathers, and walked not in the way of the LORD.

²³And the servants of Amon conspired against him, and slew the king in his own house.

²⁴And 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.

²⁵Now the rest of the acts of Amon which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? ²⁶And he was buried in his sepulcher in the garden of Uzza; and Josiah his son reigned in his stead.

Josiah king of Judah finds the book of the law

22 ¹Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath. ²And

he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.

³And it came to pass in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, the scribe, to the house of the LORD, saying:

⁴Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may sum the silver which is brought into the house of the LORD, which the keepers of the door have gathered of the people; ⁵and let them deliver it into the hand of the doers of the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD; and let them give it to the doers of the work, which is in the house of the LORD, to repair the breaches of the house. ⁶Unto carpenters, and builders, and masons, and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair the house. ⁷Howbeit, there was no reckoning made with them of the money that was delivered into their hand, because they dealt faithfully.

⁸And Hilkiah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe:

I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD.

And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. ⁹And Shaphan the scribe came to the king, and brought the king word again, and said:

Thy servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of them that do the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD.

¹⁰And Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, "Hilkiah the priest hath delivered me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king.

¹¹And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes. ¹²And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the king's, saying:

¹³Go ye, inquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found; for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that is written concerning us.

¹⁴So Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asahiah, went unto Huldah, the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college) and they communed with her. ¹⁵And she said unto them:

Thus saith the LORD God of Israel: Tell the man that sent you to me, ¹⁶"Thus saith the LORD: Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the words of the book which the king of Judah hath read; ¹⁷because 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 my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched."

¹⁸But to the king of Judah which sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus shall ye say to him, "Thus saith the LORD God of Israel: As touching the words which thou hast heard; ¹⁹because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD. ²⁰Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place."

And they brought the king word again.

Josiah renews the covenant

23

¹And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.

²And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great; and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD. ³And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

⁴And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven; and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Beth-El.

⁵And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven. ⁶And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people. ⁷And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove.

⁸And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beer-Sheba, and brake down the high places of the gates that were in the entering in of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on a man's left hand at the gate of the city. ⁹Nevertheless the priests of the high places came not up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem, but they did eat of the unleavened bread among their brethren.

¹⁰And he defiled Tophet, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech. ¹¹And he took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entering in of the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathan-melech the chamberlain, which was in the suburbs, and burned the chariots of the sun with fire.

¹²And the altars that were on the top of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, did the king beat down, and brake them down from thence, and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron. ¹³And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile. ¹⁴And he brake in pieces the images, and cut down the groves, and filled their places with the bones of men.

¹⁵Moreover the altar that was at Beth-El, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove.

¹⁶And As Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchers that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchers, and burned them upon the altar, and

polluted it, according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.

¹⁷Then he said, “What title is that that I see?” And the men of the city told him, “It is the sepulcher of the man of God, which came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Beth-El.” ¹⁸And he said, “Let him alone; let no man move his bones.” So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria.

¹⁹And all the houses also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke the LORD to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Beth-El. ²⁰And he slew all the priests of the high places that were there upon the altars, and burned men’s bones upon them, and returned to Jerusalem.

²¹And the king commanded all the people, saying, “Keep the Passover unto the LORD your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant.” ²²Surely there was not holden such a Passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah; ²³but in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, wherein this Passover was holden to the LORD in Jerusalem.

²⁴Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law, which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD. ²⁵And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.

²⁶Notwithstanding, the LORD turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations that Manasseh had provoked him withal. ²⁷And the LORD said:

I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.

²⁸Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and all that he did, are thy not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

²⁹In his days Pharaoh Nechoh king of Egypt went up against the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates; and king Josiah went against him; and he slew him at Megiddo, when he had seen him. ³⁰And his servants carried him in a chariot dead from Megiddo, and brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own sepulcher. And the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and anointed him, and made him king in his father’s stead.

Jehoahaz king of Judah

³¹Jehoahaz was twenty and three years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. And his mother’s name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. ³²And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done. ³³And Pharaoh Nechoh put him in bands at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem; and put the land to a tribute of a ^ahundred talents of silver, and a ^btalent of gold. ³⁴And Pharaoh Nechoh made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the room of Josiah his father, and turned his name to Jehoiakim, and took Jehoahaz away; and he came to Egypt, and died there. ³⁵And Jehoiakim gave the silver and

^a 3.7 tons or 3.4 metric tons

^b 75 lb or 34 kg

the gold to Pharaoh; but he taxed the land to give the money according to the commandment of Pharaoh; he exacted the silver and the gold of the people of the land, of everyone according to his taxation, to give it unto Pharaoh Nechoh.

Jehoiakim king of Judah

³⁶Jehoiakim was twenty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Zebudah, the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah. ³⁷And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.

24 ¹In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years; then he turned and rebelled against him. ²And the LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldees, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servants the prophets. ³Surely at the commandment of the LORD came this upon Judah, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did; ⁴and also for the innocent blood that he shed; for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon.

⁵Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? ⁶So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers; and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead.

⁷And the king of Egypt came not again anymore out of his land; for the king of Babylon had taken from the river of Egypt unto the river Euphrates all that pertained to the king of Egypt.

Jehoiachin king of Judah

⁸Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. And his mother's name was Nehushta, the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. ⁹And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done.

Babylonian conquest

¹⁰At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. ¹¹And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it. ¹²And Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers.

And the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign. ¹³And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said. ¹⁴And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valor, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths; none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land.

¹⁵And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon, and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his officers, and the mighty of the land, those carried he into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon. ¹⁶And all the men of might, even seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths a thousand, all that were strong and apt for war, even them the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon. ¹⁷And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his father's brother king in his stead, and changed his name to Zedekiah.

Zedekiah king of Judah

¹⁸Zedekiah was twenty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. ¹⁹And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. ²⁰For through the anger of the LORD it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, until he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

The fall of Jerusalem

25 ¹And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he, and all his host, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it; and they built forts against it round about. ²And the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of king Zedekiah.

³And on the ninth day of the fourth month the famine prevailed in the city, and there was no bread for the people of the land. ⁴And the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between two walls, which is by the king's garden; (now the Chaldees were against the city round about) and the king went the way toward the plain. ⁵And the army of the Chaldees pursued after the king, and overtook him in the plains of Jericho; and all his army was scattered from him.

⁶So they took the king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon to Riblah; and they gave judgment upon him. ⁷And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon.

⁸And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month, which is the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, unto Jerusalem; ⁹and he burnt the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great man's house burnt he with fire. ¹⁰And all the army of the Chaldees, that were with the captain of the guard, brake down the walls of Jerusalem round about. ¹¹Now the rest of the people that were left in the city, and the fugitives that fell away to the king of Babylon, with the remnant of the multitude, did Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carry away. ¹²But the captain of the guard left of the poor of the land to be vinedressers and husbandmen.

¹³And the pillars of brass that were in the house of the LORD, and the bases, and the brazen sea that was in the house of the LORD, did the Chaldees break in pieces, and carried the brass of them to Babylon. ¹⁴And the pots, and the shovels, and the snuffers, and the spoons, and all the vessels of brass wherewith they ministered, took they away. ¹⁵And the fire-pans, and the bowls, and such things as were of gold, in gold, and of silver, in silver, the captain of the guard took away.

¹⁶The two pillars, one sea, and the bases which Solomon had made for the house of the LORD; the brass of all these vessels was without weight. ¹⁷The height of the one pillar was eighteen cubits, and the chapter upon it was brass; and the height of the chapter three cubits; and the wreathen work and pomegranates upon the chapter round about, all of brass; and like unto these had the second pillar with wreathen work.

¹⁸And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest, and the three keepers of the door; ¹⁹and out of the city he took an officer that was set over the men of war, and five men of them that were in the king's presence, which were found in the city, and the principal scribe of the host, which mustered the people of

the land, and threescore men of the people of the land that were found in the city; ²⁰and Nebuzaradan captain of the guard took these, and brought them to the king of Babylon to Riblah; ²¹and the king of Babylon smote them, and slew them at Riblah in the land of Hamath.

So Judah was carried away out of their land. ²²And as for the people that remained in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left, even over them he made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, ruler. ²³And when all the captains of the armies, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah governor, there came to Gedaliah to Mizpah, even Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and Johanan the son of Careah, and Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah the son of a Maachathite, they and their men. ²⁴And Gedaliah sware to them, and to their men, and said unto them, "Fear not to be the servants of the Chaldees; dwell in the land, and serve the king of Babylon; and it shall be well with you."

²⁵But it came to pass in the seventh month that Ishmael, the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the seed royal, came, and ten men with him, and smote Gedaliah, that he died, and the Jews and the Chaldees that were with him at Mizpah. ²⁶And all the people, both small and great, and the captains of the armies, arose and came to Egypt; for they were afraid of the Chaldees.

²⁷And it came to pass in the seven and thirtieth year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, that Evilmerodach king of Babylon in the year that he began to reign did lift up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah out of prison; ²⁸and he spake kindly to him, and set his throne above the throne of the kings that were with him in Babylon; ²⁹and changed his prison garments; and he did eat bread continually before him all the days of his life. ³⁰And his allowance was a continual allowance given him of the king, a daily rate for every day, all the days of his life.

1 CHRONICLES

¹Adam, Sheth, Enosh. ²Kenan, Mahalaleel, Jered, ³Henoch, Methuselah, Lamech, ⁴Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Descendants of Japheth

⁵The sons of Japheth: Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and Tubal, and Meshech, and Tiras.

⁶And the sons of Gomer: Ashchenaz, and Riphath, and Togarmah.

⁷And the sons of Javan: Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.

Descendants of Ham

⁸The sons of Ham: Cush, and Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

⁹And the sons of Cush: Seba, and Havilah, and Sabta, and Raamah, and Sabtechah. And the sons of Raamah: Sheba, and Dedan. ¹⁰And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be mighty upon the earth.

¹¹And Mizraim begat Ludim, and Anamim, and Lehabim, and Naphtuhim. ¹²And Parthrusim, and Casluhim, (of whom came the Philistines) and Caphtorim.

¹³And Canaan begat Zidon his first-born, and Heth, ¹⁴the Jebusite also, and the Amorite, and the Girgashite, ¹⁵and the Hivite, and the Arkite, and the Sinite, ¹⁶and the Arvadite, and the Zemarite, and the Hamathite.

Descendants of Shem

¹⁷The sons of Shem: Elam, and Asshur, and Arphaxad, and Lud, and Aram, and Uz, and Hul, and Gether, and Meshech.

¹⁸And Arphaxad begat Shelah, and Shelah begat Eber. ¹⁹And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of the one was Peleg; because in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan. ²⁰And Joktan begat Almodad, and Sheleph, and Hazarmaveth, and Jerah, ²¹Hadoram also, and Uzal, and Diklah, ²²and Ebal, and Abimael, and Sheba, ²³and Ophir, and Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the sons of Joktan.

²⁴Shem, Arphaxad, Shelah, ²⁵Eber, Peleg, Reu, ²⁶Serug, Nahor, Terah, ²⁷Abram; the same is Abraham.

²⁸The sons of Abraham: Isaac, and Ishmael. ²⁹These are their generations:

Descendants of Abraham through Hagar

The first-born of Ishmael, Nebaioth; then Kedar, and Adbeel, and Mibsam, ³⁰Misma, and Dumah, Massa, Hadad, and Tema, ³¹Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. These are the sons of Ishmael.

Descendants of Abraham through Keturah

³²Now the sons of Keturah, Abraham's concubine: she bare Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah. And the sons of Jokshan: Sheba, and Dedan.

³³And the sons of Midian: Ephah, and Ephher, and Henoch, and Abida, and Eldaah. All these are the sons of Keturah.

Descendants of Abraham through Sarah

³⁴And Abraham begat Isaac. The sons of Isaac: Esau and Israel.

Descendants of Esau

³⁵The sons of Esau: Eliphaz, Reuel, and Jeush, and Jaalam, and Korah. ³⁶The sons of Eliphaz: Teman, and Omar, Zephi, and Gatam, Kenaz, and Timna, and Amalek. ³⁷The sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.

³⁸And the sons of Seir: Lotan, and Shobal, and Zibeon, and Anah, and Dishon, and Ezar, and Dishan. ³⁹And the sons of Lotan; Hori, and Homan; and Timna was Lotan's sister. ⁴⁰The sons of Shobal: Alian, and Manahath, and Ebal, Shephi, and Onam. And the sons of Zibeon: Aiah, and Anah. ⁴¹The sons of Anah: Dishon. And the sons of Dishon: Amram, and Eshban, and Ithran, and Cheran. ⁴²The sons of Ezer: Bilhan, and Zavan, and Jakan. The sons of Dishan; Uz, and Aran.

⁴³Now these are the kings that reigned in the land of Edom before any king reigned over the children of Israel: Bela the son of Beor; and the name of his city was Dinhabah. ⁴⁴And when Bela was dead, Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his stead. ⁴⁵And when Jobab was dead, Husham of the land of the Temanites reigned in his stead. ⁴⁶And when Husham was dead, Hadad the son of Bedad, which smote Midian in the field of Moab, reigned in his stead; and the name of his city was Avith. ⁴⁷And when Hadad was dead, Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his stead. ⁴⁸And when Samalah was dead, Shaul of Rehoboth by the river reigned in his stead. ⁴⁹And when Shaul was dead, Baal-Hanan the son of Achbor reigned in his stead. ⁵⁰And when Baal-Hanan was dead, Hadad reigned in his stead; and the name of his city was Pai; and his wife's name was Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Mezahab. ⁵¹Hadad died also.

And the dukes of Edom were: duke Timnah, duke Aliah, duke Jetheth, ⁵²duke Aholibamah, duke Elah, duke Pinon, ⁵³duke Kenaz, duke Teman, duke Mibzar, ⁵⁴duke Magdiel, duke Iram. These are the dukes of Edom.

Descendants of Israel

2 ¹These are the sons of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun, ²Dan, Joseph, and Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

³The sons of Judah: Er, and Onan, and Shelah; which three were born unto him of the daughter of Shua the Canaanitess. And Er, the firstborn of Judah, was evil in the sight of the LORD; and he slew him. ⁴And Tamar his daughter-in-law bare him Pharez and Zerah. All the sons of Judah were five. ⁵The sons of Phrez: Hezron, and Hamul. ⁶And the sons of Zerah: Zimri, and Ethan, and Heman, and Calcol, and Dara; five of them in all. ⁷And the sons of Carmi: Achar, the troubler of Israel, who transgressed in the thing accursed. ⁸And the sons of Ethan: Azariah. ⁹The sons also of Hezron, that were born unto him: Jerahmeel, and Ram, and Chelubai. ¹⁰And Ram begat Amminadab; and Amminadab begat Nahshon, prince of the children of Judah; ¹¹and Nahshon begat Salma, and Salma begat Boaz, ¹²and Boaz begat Obed, and Obed begat Jesse.

¹³And Jesse begat his first-born Eliab, and Abinadab the second, and Shimma the third, ¹⁴Nethaneel the fourth, Raddai the fifth, ¹⁵Ozem the sixth, David the seventh; ¹⁶whose

sisters were Zeruiah, and Abigail. And the sons of Zeruiah: Abishai, and Joab, and Asahel, three. ¹⁷And Abigail bare Amasa: and the father of Amasa was Jether the Ishmaelite.

¹⁸And Caleb the son of Hezron begat children of Azubah his wife, and of Jerioth; her sons are these; Jeshur, and Shobab, and Ardon. ¹⁹And when Azubah was dead, Caleb took unto him Ephrath, which bare him Hur. ²⁰And Hur begat Uri, and Uri begat Bezaleel.

²¹And afterward Hezron went in to the daughter of Machir the father of Gilead, whom he married when he was threescore years old; and she bare him Segub. ²²And Segub begat Jair, who had three and twenty cities in the land of Gilead. ²³And he took Geshur, and Aram, with the towns of Jair, from them with Kenath, and the towns thereof, even threescore cities. All these belonged to the sons of Machir the father of Gilead.

²⁴And after that Hezron was dead in Caleb-Ephratah, then Abiah Hazron's wife bare him Ashur the father of Tekoa.

²⁵And the sons of Jerahmeel the first-born of Hezron were, Ram the first-born, and Bunah, and Oren, and Ozem, and Ahijah. ²⁶Jerahmeel had also another wife, whose name was Atarah; she was the mother of Onam. ²⁷And the sons of Ram the firstborn of Jerahmeel were, Maaz, and Jamin, and Eker. ²⁸And the sons of Onam were, Shammai, and Jada. And the sons of Shammai: Nadab, and Abishur. ²⁹And the name of the wife of Abishur was Abihail, and she bare him Ahban, and Molid. ³⁰And the sons of Nadab: Seled, and Appaim; but Seled died without children. ³¹And the sons of Appaim: Ishi. And the sons of Ishi: Sheshan. And the children of Sheshan: Ahlai. ³²And the sons of Jada the brother of Shammai: Jether, and Jonathan; and Jether died without children. ³³And the sons of Jonathan: Peleth, and Zaza. These were the sons of Jerahmeel.

³⁴Now Sheshan had no sons, but daughters. And Sheshan had a servant, an Egyptian, whose name was Jarha. ³⁵And Sheshan gave his daughter to Jarha his servant to wife; and she bare him Attai. ³⁶And Attai begat Nathan, and Nathan begat Zabad, ³⁷and Zabad begat Ephial, and Ephial begat Obed, ³⁸and Obed begat Jehu, and Jehu begat Azariah, ³⁹and Azariah begat Helez, and Helez begat Eleasah, ⁴⁰and Eleasah begat Sisamai, and Sisamai begat Shallum, ⁴¹and Shallum begat Jekamiah, and Jekamiah begat Elishama.

⁴²Now the sons of Caleb the brother of Jerahmeel were, Mesha his first-born, which was the father of Ziph; and the sons of Mareshah the father of Hebron. ⁴³And the sons of Hebron: Korah, and Tappuah, and Rekem, and Shema. ⁴⁴And Shema begat Raham, the father of Jorkoam; and Rekem begat Shammai. ⁴⁵And the son of Shammai was Maon; and Maon was the father of Beth-Zur. ⁴⁶And Ephah, Caleb's concubine, bare Haran, and Moza, and Gazez; and Haran begat Gazez. ⁴⁷And the sons of Jahdai: Regem, and Jotham, and Gesham, and Pelet, and Ephah, and Shaaph. ⁴⁸Maachah, Caleb's concubine, bare Sheber, and Tirhanah. ⁴⁹She bare also Shaaph the father of Madmannah, Sheva the father of Machbenah, and the father of Gibeaz; and the daughter of Caleb was Achssa.

⁵⁰These were the sons of Caleb the son of Hur, the first-born of Ephratah; Shobal the father of Kirjath-jearim. ⁵¹Salma the father of Bethlehem, Hareph the father of Beth-Gader. ⁵²And Shobal the father of Kirjath-jearim had sons; Haroeh, and half the Manahethites. ⁵³And the families of Kirjathjearim; the Ithrites, and the Puhites, and the Shumathites, and the Mishraites; of them came the Zareathites, and the Eshtaulites. ⁵⁴The sons of Salma; Bethlehem, and the Netophathites, Ataroth, the house of Joab, and half of the Manahethites, the Zorites. ⁵⁵And the families of the scribes which dwelt at Jabez; the Tirathites, the Shimeathites, and Suchathites. These are the Kenites that came of Hemath, the father of the house of Rechab.

Descendants of David

3 ¹Now these were the sons of David, which were born unto him in Hebron: the first-born Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; the second, Daniel, of Abigail the Carmelitess; ²the third, Absalom the son of Maachah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; ³the fifth Shephatiah of Abital; the sixth, Ithream by Eglah his wife. ⁴These six were born unto him in Hebron; and there he reigned seven years and six months; and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years.

⁵And these were born unto him in Jerusalem: Shimea, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon, four, of Bath-Sheba the daughter of Ammiel; ⁶Ibhar also, and Elishama, and Eliphelet, ⁷and Nogah, and Nepheg, and Japhia, ⁸and Elishama, and Eliada, and Eliphelet, nine. ⁹These were all the sons of David, besides the sons of the concubines, and Tamar their sister.

The kings of Judah

¹⁰And Solomon's son was Rehoboam, Abia his son, Asa his son, Jehoshaphat his son, ¹¹Joram his son, Ahaziah his son, Joash his son, ¹²Amaziah his son, Azariah his son, Jotham his son, ¹³Ahaz his son, Hezekiah his son, Manasseh his son, ¹⁴Amon his son, Josiah his son. ¹⁵And the sons of Josiah were, the first-born Johanan, the second Jehoiakim, the third Zedekiah, the fourth Shallum. ¹⁶And the sons of Jehoiakim; Jeconiah his son, Zedekiah his son.

The royal line after the exile

¹⁷And the sons of Jeconiah: Assir, Salathiel his son, ¹⁸Malchiram also, and Pedaiah, and Shenazar, Jecamiah, Hoshama, and Nedabiah. ¹⁹And the sons of Pedaiah were: Zerubbabel, and Shimei; and the sons of Zerubbabel: Meshullam, and Hananiah, and Shelomith their sister; ²⁰and Hashubah, and Ohel, and Berechiah, and Hasadiah, Jushab-Hesed, five. ²¹And the sons of Hananiah: Pelatiah, and Jesaiah; the sons of Rephaiah, the sons of Arnan, the sons of Obadiah, the sons of Shechaniah. ²²And the sons of Shechaniah: Shemaiah; and the sons of Shemaiah; Hattush, and Igeal, and Bariah, and Neariah, and Shaphat, six. ²³And the sons of Neariah: Elioenai, and Hezekiah, and Azrikam, three. ²⁴And the sons of Elioenai were: Hodaiah, and Eliashib, and Pelaiah, and Akkub, and Johanan, and Daliaiah, and Anani, seven.

Other clans of Judah

4 ¹The sons of Judah: Pharez, Hezron, and Carmi, and Hur, and Shobal.

²And Reaiah the son of Shobal begat Jahath; and Jahath begat Ahumai, and Lahad. These are the families of the Zorathites.

³And these were of the father of Etam: Jezreel, and Ishma, and Idbash; and the name of their sister was Hazeleponi; ⁴and Penuel the father of Gedor, and Ezer the father of Hushah. These are the sons of Hur, the firstborn of Ephratah, the father of Bethlehem.

⁵And Ashur the father of Tekoa had two wives, Helah and Naarah. ⁶And Naarah bare him, Ahuzam, and Hephher, and Temeni, and Haahashtari. These were the sons of Naarah. ⁷And the sons of Helah were, Zereth, and Jezoar, and Ethnan.

⁸And Coz begat Anub, and Zobebah, and the families of Aharhel the son of Harum.

⁹And Jabez was more honorable than his brethren; and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bear him with sorrow." ¹⁰And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying,

“Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me!” And God granted him that which he requested.

¹¹And Chelub the brother of Shuah begat Mehir, which was the father of Eshton. ¹²And Eshton begat Beth-Rapha, and Paseah, and Tehinnah the father of Irnash. These are the men of Rechah.

¹³And the sons of Kenaz: Othniel, and Seraiah; and the sons of Othniel: Hathath.

¹⁴And Meonothai begat Ophrah; and Seraiah begat Joab, the father of the valley of Charashim; for they were craftsmen.

¹⁵And the sons of Caleb the son of Jephunneh; Iru, Elah, and Naam; and the sons of Elah, even Kenaz.

¹⁶And the sons of Jehaleleel: Ziph, and Ziphah, Tiria, and Asareel.

¹⁷And the sons of Ezra were Jether, and Mered, and Ephraim, and Jalon; and she bare Miriam, and Shammai, and Ishbah the father of Eshtemoa. ¹⁸And his wife Jehudijah bare Jered the father of Gedor, and Heber the father of Socho, and Jekuthiel the father of Zanoah. And these are the sons of Bithiah the daughter of Pharaoh, which Mered took.

¹⁹And the sons of his wife Hodiah the sister of Naham, the father of Keilah the Garmite, and Eshtemoa the Maachathite.

²⁰And the sons of Shimon were: Amnon, and Rinnah, Benhanan, and Tilon. And the sons of Ishi were: Zoheth, and Ben-Zoheth.

²¹The sons of Shelah the son of Judah were: Er the father of Lecah, and Laadah the father of Mareshah, and the families of the house of them that wrought fine linen, of the house of Ashbea. ²²And Jokim, and the men of Chozeba, and Joash, and Saraph, who had the dominion in Moab, and Jashubi-Lehem. And these are ancient things. ²³These were the potters, and those that dwelt among plants and hedges; there they dwelt with the king for his work.

Descendants of Simeon

²⁴The sons of Simeon were: Nemuel, and Jamin, Jarib, Zerah, and Shaul; ²⁵Shallum his son, Mibsam his son, Mishma his son. ²⁶And the sons of Mishma: Hamuel his son, Zacchur his son, Shimei his son.

²⁷And Shimei had sixteen sons and six daughters; but his brethren had not many children, neither did all their family multiply, like to the children of Judah. ²⁸And they dwelt at Beer-Sheba, and Moladah, and Hazarshual, ²⁹and at Bilhah, and at Ezem, and at Tolad, ³⁰and at Beth-El, and at Hormak, and at Ziklag, ³¹and at Beth-Marcaboth, and Hazar-Susim, and at Beth-Birei and at Shaaraim. These were their cities unto the reign of David. ³²And their villages were, Etam, and Ain, Rimmon, and Tochen, and Ashan, five cities; ³³and all their villages that were round about the same cities, unto Baal. These were their habitations, and their genealogy.

³⁴And Meshobab, and Jamlech, and Joshah the son of Amaziah, ³⁵and Joel, and Jehu the son of Josibiah, the son of Seraiah, the son of Asiel, ³⁶and Elioenai, and Jaakobah, and Seshohaiah, and Asaiah, and Adiel, and Jesimiel, and Benaiah. ³⁷And Ziza the son of Shiphi, the son of Allon, the son of Jedaiah, the son of Shimri, the son of Shemaiah; ³⁸these mentioned by their names were princes in their families; and the house of their fathers increased greatly. ³⁹And they went to the entrance of Gedor, even unto the east side of the

valley, to seek pasture for their flocks. ⁴⁰And they found fat pasture and good, and the land was wide, and quiet, and peaceable; for they of Ham had dwelt there of old.

⁴¹And these written by name came in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and smote their tents, and the habitations that were found there, and destroyed them utterly unto this day, and dwelt in their rooms; because there was pasture there for their flocks. ⁴²And some of them, even of the sons of Simeon, five hundred men, went to mount Seir, having for their captains Pelatiah, and Neariah, and Rephaiah, and Uzziel, the sons of Ishi. ⁴³And they smote the rest of the Amalekites that were escaped, and dwelt there unto this day.

Descendants of Reuben

5 ¹Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he was the firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel; and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright. ²For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler; but the birthright was Joseph's) ³the sons, I say, of Reuben the first-born of Israel were: Hanoch, and Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.

⁴The sons of Joel: Shemnaiah his son, Gog his son, Shimei his son, ⁵Micah his son, Reaia, his son, Baal his son, ⁶Beerah his son, whom Tilgath-Pilneser king of Assyria carried away captive; he was prince of the Reubenites.

⁷And his brethren by their families, when the genealogy of their generations were reckoned, were the chief, Jeiel, and Zechariah, ⁸and Bela the son of Azaz, the son of Shema, the son of Joel, who dwelt in Aroer, even unto Nebo and Baal-meon; ⁹and eastward he inhabited unto the entering in of the wilderness from the river Euphrates; because their cattle were multiplied in the land of Gilead. ¹⁰And in the days of Saul they made war with the Hagarites, who fell by their hand; and they dwelt in their tents throughout all the east land of Gilead.

Descendants of Gad

¹¹And the children of Gad dwelt over against them, in the land of Bashan unto Salcah; ¹²Joel the chief, and Shapham the next, and Jaanai, and Shaphat in Bashan. ¹³And their brethren of the house of their fathers were, Michael, and Meshullam, and Sheba, and Jorai, and Jachan, and Zia, and Heber, seven. ¹⁴These are the children of Abihail the son of Huri, the son of Jaroah, the son of Gilead, the son of Michael, the son of Jeshishai, the son of Jahdo, the son of Buz; ¹⁵Ahi the son of Abdiel, the son of Guni, chief of the house of their fathers. ¹⁶And they dwelt in Gilead in Bashan, and in her towns, and in all the suburbs of Sharon, upon their borders. ¹⁷All these were reckoned by genealogies in the days of Jotham king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam king of Israel.

¹⁸The sons of Reuben, and the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh, of valiant men, men able to bear buckler and sword, and to shoot with bow, and skillful in war, were four and forty thousand seven hundred and threescore, that went out to the war. ¹⁹And they made war with the Hagarites, with Jetur, and Nephish, and Nodab. ²⁰And they were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all that were with them; for they cried to God in the battle, and he was entreated of them; because they put their trust in him. ²¹And they took away their cattle; of their camels fifty thousand, and of sheep two hundred and fifty thousand, and of asses two thousand, and of men a hundred thousand. ²²For there fell down many slain, because the war was of God. And they dwelt in their steads until the captivity.

The half-tribe of Manasseh

²³And the children of the half tribe of Manasseh dwelt in the land; they increased from Bashan unto Baal-hermon and Senir, and unto mount Hermon. ²⁴And these were the heads of the house of their fathers, even Ephraim, and Ishi, and Eliel, and Azriel, and Jeremiah, and Hodaviah, and Jahdiel, mighty men of valor, famous men, and heads of the house of their fathers.

²⁵And they transgressed against the God of their fathers, and went a whoring after the gods of the people of the land, whom God destroyed before them. ²⁶And the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, and the spirit of Tilgath-Pilneser king of Assyria, and he carried them away, even the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, and brought them unto Halah, and Habor, and Hara, and to the river Gozan, unto this day.

Descendants of Levi

6 ¹The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. ²And the sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, and Hebron, and Uzziel. ³And the children of Amram: Aaron, and Moses, and Miriam. The sons also of Aaron; Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. ⁴Eleazar begat Phinehas, Phinehas begat Abishua. ⁵And Abishua begat Bukki, and Bukki begat Uzzi. ⁶And Uzzi begat Zerahiah, and Zerahiah begat Meraioth. ⁷Meraioth begat Amariah, and Amariah begat Ahitub, ⁸and Ahitub begat Zadok, and Zadok begat Ahimaaz, ⁹and Ahimaaz begat Azariah, and Azariah begat Johanan, ¹⁰and Johanan begat Azariah; (he it is that executed the priest's office in the temple that Solomon built in Jerusalem) ¹¹and Azariah begat Amariah, and Amariah begat Ahitub, ¹²and Ahitub begat Zadok, and Zadok begat Shallum, ¹³and Shallum begat Hilkiah, and Hilkiah begat Azariah, ¹⁴and Azariah begat Seraiah, and Seraiah begat Jehozadak, ¹⁵and Jehozadak went into captivity, when the LORD carried away Judah and Jerusalem by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.

¹⁶The sons of Levi: Gershom, Kohath, and Merari. ¹⁷And these be the names of the sons of Gershom: Libni, and Shimei. ¹⁸And the sons of Kohath were: Amram, and Izhar, and Hebron, and Uzziel. ¹⁹The sons of Merari: Mahli, and Mushi. And these are the families of the Levites according to their fathers.

²⁰Of Gershom: Libni his son, Jahath his son, Zimmah his son, ²¹Joah his son, Iddo his son, Zerah his son, Jeaterai his son.

²²The sons of Kohath: Amminadab his son, Korah his son, Assir his son. ²³Elkanah his son, and Ebiasaph his son, and Assir his son, ²⁴Tahath his son, Uriel his son, Uziah his son, and Shaul his son. ²⁵And the sons of Elkanah: Amasai, and Ahimoth. ²⁶As for Elkanah; the sons of Elkanah; Zophai his son, and Nahath his son, ²⁷Eliab his son, Jeroham his son, Elkanah his son. ²⁸And the sons of Samuel; the first-born Vashni, and Abiah.

²⁹The sons of Merari: Mahli, Libni his son, Shimei his son, Uzza his son, ³⁰Shimea his son, Haggiah his son, Asaiah his son.

The temple musicians

³¹And these are they whom David set over the service of song in the house of the LORD, after that the ark had rest. ³²And they ministered before the dwelling place of the tabernacle of the congregation with singing, until Solomon had built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem; and then they waited on their office according to their order.

³³And these are they that waited with their children. Of the sons of the Kohathites; Heman a singer, the son of Joel, the son of Shemuel, ³⁴the son of Elkanah, the son of

Jeroham, the son of Eliel, the son of Toah, ³⁵the son of Zuph, the son of Elkanah, the son of Mahath, the son of Amasai, ³⁶the son of Elkanah, the son of Joel, the son of Azariah, the son of Zephaniah, ³⁷the son of Tahath, the son of Assir, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah, ³⁸the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, the son of Israel.

³⁹And his brother Asaph, who stood on his right hand, even Asaph the son of Berachiah, the son of Shimeah, ⁴⁰the son of Michael, the son of Baaseiah, the son of Malchiah, ⁴¹the son of Ethni, the son of Zerah, the son of Adaiah, ⁴²the son of Ethan, the son of Zimmah, the son of Shimei, ⁴³the son of Jahath, the son of Gershom, the son of Levi.

⁴⁴And their brethren the sons of Merari stood on the left hand: Ethan the son of Kishi, the son of Abdi, the son of Malluch, ⁴⁵the son of Hashabiah, the son of Amaziah, the son of Hilkiah, ⁴⁶the son of Amzi, the son of Bani, the son of Shamer, ⁴⁷the son of Mahli, the son of Mushi, the son of Merari, the son of Levi.

⁴⁸Their brethren also the Levites were appointed unto all manner of service of the tabernacle of the house of God.

Descendants of Aaron

⁴⁹But Aaron and his sons offered upon the altar of the burnt offering, and on the altar of incense, and were appointed for all the work of the place most holy, and to make an atonement for Israel, according to all that Moses the servant of God had commanded.

⁵⁰And these are the sons of Aaron; Eleazar his son, Phinehas his son, Abishua his son,

⁵¹Bukki his son, Uzzi his son, Zerahiah his son, ⁵²Meraioth his son, Amariah his son, Ahitub his son, ⁵³Zadok his son, Ahimaaz his son.

Territory for the Levites

⁵⁴Now these are their dwelling places throughout their castles in their coasts, of the sons of Aaron, of the families of the Kohathites; for theirs was the lot. ⁵⁵And they gave them Hebron in the land of Judah, and the suburbs thereof round about it. ⁵⁶But the fields of the city, and the villages thereof, they gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh. ⁵⁷And to the sons of Aaron they gave the cities of Judah, namely: Hebron, the city of refuge, and Libnah with her suburbs, and Jattir, and Eshtemoa, with their suburbs, ⁵⁸and Hilen with her suburbs, Debir with her suburbs, ⁵⁹and Ashan with her suburbs, and Beth-Shemesh with her suburbs; ⁶⁰and out of the tribe of Benjamin: Geba with her suburbs, and Alemeth with her suburbs, and Anathoth with her suburbs. All their cities throughout their families were thirteen cities.

⁶¹And unto the sons of Kohath, which were left of the family of that tribe, were cities given out of the half tribe, namely, out of the half tribe of Manasseh, by lot, ten cities.

⁶²And to the sons of Gershom throughout their families out of the tribe of Issachar, and out of the tribe of Asher, and out of the tribe of Naphtali, and out of the tribe of Manasseh in Bashan, thirteen cities. ⁶³Unto the sons of Merari were given by lot, throughout their families, out of the tribe of Reuben, and out of the tribe of Gad, and out of the tribe of Zebulun, twelve cities. ⁶⁴And the children of Israel gave to the Levites these cities with their suburbs. ⁶⁵And they gave by lot out of the tribe of the children of Judah, and out of the tribe of the children of Simeon, and out of the tribe of the children of Benjamin, these cities, which are called by their names.

⁶⁶And the residue of the families of the sons of Kohath had cities of their coasts out of the tribe of Ephraim. ⁶⁷And they gave unto them, of the cities of refuge, Shechem in mount Ephraim with her suburbs; they gave also Gezer with her suburbs, ⁶⁸and Jokmeam with

her suburbs, and Beth-Horon with her suburbs, ⁶⁹and Ajalon with her suburbs, and Gath-Rimmon with her suburbs; ⁷⁰and out of the half tribe of Manasseh; Aner with her suburbs, and Bileam with her suburbs, for the family of the remnant of the sons of Kohath.

⁷¹Unto the sons of Gershom were given, out of the family of the half tribe of Manasseh, Golan in Bashan with her suburbs, and Ashtaroth with her suburbs; ⁷²and out of the tribe of Issachar; Kedesh with her suburbs, Daberath with her suburbs, ⁷³and Ramoth with her suburbs, and Anem with her suburbs; ⁷⁴and out of the tribe of Asher; Mashal with her suburbs, and Abdon with her suburbs, ⁷⁵and Hukok with her suburbs, and Rehob with her suburbs; ⁷⁶and out of the tribe of Naphtali; Kedesh in Galilee with her suburbs, and Hammon with her suburbs, and Kirjathaim with her suburbs.

⁷⁷Unto the rest of the children of Merari were given, out of the tribe of Zebulun, Rimmon with her suburbs, Tabor with her suburbs; ⁷⁸and on the other side Jordan by Jericho, on the east side of Jordan, were given them, out of the tribe of Reuben, Bezer in the wilderness with her suburbs, and Jahzah with her suburbs, ⁷⁹Kedemoth also with her suburbs, and Mephaath with her suburbs; ⁸⁰and out of the tribe of Gad; Ramoth in Gilead with her suburbs, and Mahanaim with her suburbs, ⁸¹and Heshbon with her suburbs, and Jazer with her suburbs.

Descendants of Issachar

7 ¹Now the sons of Issachar were: Tola, and Puah, Jashup, and Shimrom, four. ²And the sons of Tola: Uzzi, and Rephaiah, and Jeriel, and Jahmai, and Jibsam, and Shemuel, heads of their father's house, to wit, of Tola; they were valiant men of might in their generations; whose number was in the days of David two and twenty thousand and six hundred. ³And the sons of Uzzi: Izrahiah; and the sons of Izrahiah: Michael, and Obadiah, and Joel, Ishiah, five; all of them chief men. ⁴And with them, by their generations, after the house of their fathers, were bands of soldiers for war, six and thirty thousand men; for they had many wives and sons. ⁵And their brethren among all the families of Issachar were valiant men of might, reckoned in all by their genealogies fourscore and seven thousand.

Descendants of Benjamin

⁶The sons of Benjamin: Bela, and Becher, and Jediael, three. ⁷And the sons of Bela: Ezbon, and Uzzi, and Uzziel, and Jerimoth, and Iri, five; heads of the house of their fathers mighty men of valor; and were reckoned by their genealogies twenty and two thousand and thirty and four. ⁸And the sons of Becher: Zemira, and Joash, and Eliezer, and Elioenai, and Omri, and Jerimoth, and Abiah, and Anathoth, and Alameth. All these are the sons of Becher. ⁹And the number of them, after their genealogy by their generations, heads of the house of their fathers, mighty men of valor, was twenty thousand and two hundred. ¹⁰The sons also of Jediael: Bilhan; and the sons of Bilhan; Jeush, and Benjamin, and Ehud, and Chenaanah, and Zethan, and Tharshish and Ahishahar. ¹¹All these the sons of Jediael, by the heads of their fathers, mighty men of valor, were seventeen thousand and two hundred soldiers, fit to go out for war and battle. ¹²Shuppim also, and Huppim, the children of Ir, and Hushim, the sons of Aher.

Descendants of Naphtali

¹³The sons of Naphtali: Jahziel, and Guni, and Jezer, and Shallum, the sons of Bilhah.

Descendants of Manasseh

¹⁴The sons of Manasseh: Ashriel, whom she bare; (but his concubine the Aramitess bare Machir the father of Gilead; ¹⁵and Machir took to wife the sister of Huppim and Shuppim, whose sister's name was Maachah) and the name of the second was Zelophehad; and Zelophehad had daughters. ¹⁶And Maachah the wife of Machir bare a son, and she called his name Peresh; and the name of his brother was Sheresh; and his sons were Ulam and Rakem. ¹⁷And the sons of Ulam: Badan. These were the sons of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh. ¹⁸And his sister Hammoleketh bare Ishod, and Abiezer, and Mahalah. ¹⁹And the sons of Shemidah were, Ahian, and Shechem, and Likhi, and Aniam.

Descendants of Ephraim

²⁰And the sons of Ephraim; Shuthelah, and Bered his son, and Tahath his son, and Eladah his son, and Tahath his son, ²¹and Zabad his son, and Shuthelah his son, and Ezer, and Elead, whom the men of Gath that were born in that land slew, because they came down to take away their cattle. ²²And Ephraim their father mourned many days, and his brethren came to comfort him. ²³And when he went in to his wife, she conceived and bare a son, and he called him name Beriah, because it went evil with his house. ²⁴(And his daughter was Sherah, who built Beth-Horon the nether, and the upper, and Uzzensherah.) ²⁵And Rephah was his son, also Resheph, and Telah his son, and Tahan his son, ²⁶Laadan his son, Ammihud his son, Elishama his son, ²⁷Non his son, Jehoshuah his son.

²⁸And their possessions and habitations were: Beth-El and the towns thereof, and eastward Naaran, and westward Gezer, with the towns thereof; Shechem also and the towns thereof, unto Gaza and the towns thereof; ²⁹and by the borders of the children of Manasseh, Beth-Shean and her towns, Taanach and her towns, Megiddo and her towns, Dor and her towns. In these dwelt the children of Joseph the son of Israel.

Descendants of Asher

³⁰The sons of Asher: Imnah, and Isuah, and Ishuai, and Beriah, and Serah their sister. ³¹And the sons of Beriah: Heber, and Malchiel, who is the father of Birzavith. ³²And Heber begat Japhlet, and Shomer, and Hotham, and Shua their sister. ³³And the sons of Japhlet; Pasach, and Bimhal, and Ashvath. These are the children of Japhlet. ³⁴And the sons of Shamer: Ahi, and Rohgah, Jehubbah, and Aram. ³⁵And the sons of his brother Helem: Zophah, and Imna, and Shelesh, and Amal. ³⁶The sons of Zophah: Suah, and Harnepher, and Shual, and Beri, and Imrah, ³⁷Bezer, and Hod, and Shamma, and Shilshah, and Ithran, and Beera. ³⁸And the sons of Jether: Jephunneh, and Pispah, and Ara. ³⁹And the sons of Ulla: Arah, and Haniel, and Rezia. ⁴⁰All these were the children of Asher, heads of their father's house, choice and mighty men of valor, chief of the princes. And the number throughout the genealogy of them that were apt to the war and to battle was twenty and six thousand men.

Genealogy from Benjamin to Saul

8 ¹Now Benjamin begat Bela his first-born, Ashbel the second, and Aharah the third, ²Nohah the fourth, and Rapha the fifth. ³And the sons of Bela were, Addar, and Gera, and Abihud, ⁴and Abishua, and Naaman, and Ahoah, ⁵and Gera, and Shephuphan, and Huram. ⁶And these are the sons of Ehud: these are the heads of the fathers of the inhabitants of Geba, and they removed them to Manahath; ⁷and Naaman, and Ahiah, and Gera, he removed them, and begat Uzza, and Ahihud. ⁸And Shaharaim begat children in the country of Moab, after he had sent them away; Hushim and Baara were his wives. ⁹And he begat of Hodesh his wife: Jobab, and Zibia, and Mesha, and Malcham, ¹⁰and Jeuz

and Shachia, and Mirma. These were his sons, heads of the fathers. ¹¹And of Hushim he begat Abitub, and Elpaal. ¹²The sons of Elpaal: Eber, and Misham, and Shamed, who built Ono, and Lod, with the towns thereof; ¹³Beriah also, and Shema, who were heads of the fathers of the inhabitants of Ajalon, who drove away the inhabitants of Gath; ¹⁴and Ahio, Shashak, and Jeremoth, ¹⁵and Zebadiah, and Arad, and Ader, ¹⁶and Michael, and Ispah, and Joha, the sons of Beriah; ¹⁷and Zebadiah, and Meshullam, and Hezeki, and Heber, ¹⁸Ishmerai also, and Jezliah, and Jobab, the sons of Elpaal; ¹⁹and Jakim, and Zichri, and Zabdi, ²⁰and Elienai, and Zilthai, and Eliel, ²¹and Adaiah, and Beraiah, and Shimrath, the sons of Shimhi; ²²and Ishpan, and Heber, and Eliel, ²³and Abdon, and Zichri, and Hanan, ²⁴and Hananiah, and Elam, and Antothijah, ²⁵and Iphediah, and Penuel, the sons of Shashak; ²⁶and Shamsherai, and Shehariah, and Athaliah, ²⁷and Jaresiah, and Eliah, and Zichri, the sons of Jeroham. ²⁸These were heads of the fathers, by their generations, chief men. These dwelt in Jerusalem.

²⁹And at Gibeon dwelt the father of Gibeon; whose wife's name was Maachah; ³⁰and his first-born son Abdon, and Zur, and Kish, and Baal, and Nadab. ³¹And Gedor, and Ahio, and Zacher. ³²And Mikloth begat Shimeah. And these also dwelt with their brethren in Jerusalem, over against them.

Descendants of king Saul

³³And Ner begat Kish, and Kish begat Saul, and Saul begat Jonathan, and Malchi-Shua, and Abinadab, and Esh-Baal. ³⁴And the son of Jonathan was Merib-Baal; and Merib-Baal begat Micah. ³⁵And the sons of Micah were: Pithon, and Melech, and Tarea, and Ahaz. ³⁶And Ahaz begat Jehoadah; and Jehoadah begat Alemeth, and Azmaveth, and Zimri; and Zimri begat Moza; ³⁷and Moza begat Binea; Rapha was his son, Eleasah his son, Azel his son. ³⁸And Azel had six sons, whose names are these, Azrikam, Bocheru, and Ishmael, and Sheariah, and Obadiah, and Hanan. All these were the sons of Azel. ³⁹And the sons of Eshek his brother were, Ulam, his first-born, Jehush the second, and Eliphelet the third. ⁴⁰And the sons of Ulam were mighty men of valor, archers, and had many sons, and sons' sons a hundred and fifty. All these are of the sons of Benjamin.

People of Jerusalem

9 ¹So all Israel were reckoned by genealogies; and, behold, they were written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah, who were carried away to Babylon for their transgression.

²Now the first inhabitants that dwelt in their possessions in their cities were, the Israelites, the priests, Levites, and the Nethinim. ³And in Jerusalem dwelt of the children of Judah, and of the children of Benjamin, and of the children of Ephraim, and Manasseh; ⁴Uthai the son of Ammihud, the son of Omri, the son of Imri, the son of Bani, of the children of Pharez the son of Judah. ⁵And of the Shilonites: Asaiah the first-born, and his sons. ⁶And of the sons of Zerah: Jeuel, and their brethren, six hundred and ninety. ⁷And of the sons of Benjamin: Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Hodaviah, the son of Hasenuah, ⁸and Ibneiah the son of Jeroha, and Elam the son of Uzzi, the son of Michri, and Meshullam the son of Shephathiah, the son of Reuel, the son of Ibnijah; ⁹and their brethren, according to their generations, nine hundred and fifty and six. All these men were chief of the fathers in the house of their fathers.

Returning priests

¹⁰And of the priests: Jedaiah, and Jehoiarib, and Jachin, ¹¹and Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, the ruler of the house of God; ¹²and Adaiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pashur, the son of

Malchijah, and Maasiai the son of Adiel, the son of Jazerab, the son of Meshullam, the son of Meshillemith, the son of Immer; ¹³and their brethren, heads of the house of their fathers, a thousand and seven hundred and threescore; very able men for the work of the service of the house of God.

Returning Levites

¹⁴And of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, of the sons of Merari; ¹⁵and Bakbakkar, Heresh, and Galal, and Mattaniah, the son of Micah, the son of Zichri, the son of Asaph; ¹⁶and Obadiah the son of Shemaiah, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun, and Berechiah, the son of Asa, the son of Elkanah, that dwelt in the villages of the Netophathites.

Others in Jerusalem

¹⁷And the porters were, Shallum, and Akkub, and Talmon, and Ahiman, and their brethren; Shallum was the chief; ¹⁸who hitherto waited in the king's gate eastward; they were porters in the companies of the children of Levi. ¹⁹And Shallum the son of Kore, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah, and his brethren, of the house of his father, the Korahites, were over the work of the service, keepers of the gates of the tabernacle; and their fathers, being over the host of the LORD, were keepers of the entry. ²⁰And Phinehas the son of Eleazar was the ruler over them in time past, and the LORD was with him.

²¹And Zechariah the son of Meshelemiah was porter of the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. ²²All these which were chosen to be porters in the gates were two hundred and twelve. These were reckoned by their genealogy in their villages, whom David and Samuel the seer did ordain in their set office. ²³So they and their children had the oversight of the gates of the house of the LORD, namely, the house of the tabernacle, by wards. ²⁴In four quarters were the porters, toward the east, west, north, and south. ²⁵And their brethren, which were in their villages, were to come after seven days from time to time with them. ²⁶For these Levites, the four chief porters, were in their set office, and were over the chambers and treasuries of the house of God. ²⁷And they lodged round about the house of God, because the charge was upon them, and the opening thereof every morning pertained to them.

²⁸And certain of them had the charge of the ministering vessels, that they should bring them in and out by tale. ²⁹Some of them also were appointed to oversee the vessels, and all the instruments of the sanctuary, and the fine flour, and the wine, and the oil, and the frankincense, and the spices. ³⁰And some of the sons of the priests made the ointment of the spices. ³¹And Mattithiah, one of the Levites, who was the first-born of Shallum the Korahite, had the set office over the things that were made in the pans. ³²And other of their brethren, of the sons of the Kohathites, were over the showbread, to prepare it every Sabbath.

³³And these are the singers, chief of the fathers of the Levites, who remaining in the chambers were free; for they were employed in that work day and night. ³⁴These chief fathers of the Levites were chief throughout their generations; these dwelt at Jerusalem.

Descendants of Saul

³⁵And in Gibeon dwelt the father of Gibeon, Jehiel, whose wife's name was Maachah; ³⁶and his first-born son Abdon, then Zur, and Kish, and Baal, and Ner, and Nadab, ³⁷and Gedor, and Ahio, and Zechariah, and Mikloth. ³⁸And Mikloth begat Shimeam. And they also dwelt with their brethren at Jerusalem, over against their brethren. ³⁹And Ner begat Kish; and Kish begat Saul; and Saul begat Jonathan, and Malchi-Shua, and Abinadab, and

Esh-baal. ⁴⁰And the son of Jonathan was Merib-Baal; and Merib-Baal begat Micah. ⁴¹And the sons of Micah were, Pithon, and Melech, and Tahrea, and Ahaz. ⁴²And Ahaz begat Jarah; and Jarah begat Alemeth, and Azmaveth, and Zimri; and Zimri begat Moza; ⁴³and Moza begat Binea; and Rephaiah his son, Eleasah his son, Azel his son. ⁴⁴And Azel had six sons, whose names are these: Azrikam, Bocheru, and Ishmael, and Sheariah, and Obadiah, and Hanan. These were the son of Azel.

The death of Saul

10 ¹Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa. ²And the Philistines followed hard after Saul, and after his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchi-Shua, the sons of Saul. ³And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him, and he was wounded of the archers. ⁴Then said Saul to his armor-bearer, "Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and abuse me." But his armor-bearer would not; for he was sore afraid. So Saul took a sword and fell upon it. ⁵And when his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise on the sword and died. ⁶So Saul died, and his three sons, and all his house died together.

⁷And when all the men of Israel that were in the valley saw that they fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, then they forsook their cities, and fled; and the Philistines came and dwelt in them. ⁸And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his sons fallen in mount Gilboa. ⁹And when they had stripped him, they took his head, and his armor, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to carry tidings unto their idols, and to the people. ¹⁰And they put his armor in the house of their gods and fastened his head in the temple of Dagon.

¹¹And when all Jabesh-Gilead heard all that the Philistines had done to Saul, ¹²they arose, all the valiant men, and took away the body of Saul, and the bodies of his sons, and brought them to Jabesh, and buried their bones under the oak in Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

¹³So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, or against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking for counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it; ¹⁴and inquired not of the LORD; therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.

David king of Israel

11 ¹Then all Israel gathered themselves to David unto Hebron, saying: Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh. ²And moreover in time past, even when Saul was king, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel; and the LORD thy God said unto thee, "Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be ruler over my people Israel."

³Therefore came all the elders of Israel to the king to Hebron; and David made a covenant with them in Hebron before the LORD; and they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the LORD by Samuel.

David conquers Jerusalem

⁴And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, which is Jebus; where the Jebusites were, the inhabitants of the land. ⁵And the inhabitants of Jebus said to David, "Thou shalt not come hither." Nevertheless David took the castle of Zion, which is the city of David.

⁶And David said, “Whosoever smiteth the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain.” So Joab the son of Zeruiah went first up, and was chief.

⁷And David dwelt in the castle; therefore they called it the city of David. ⁸And he built the city round about, even from Millo round about, and Joab repaired the rest of the city. ⁹So David waxed greater and greater; for the LORD of hosts was with him.

David's warriors

¹⁰These also are the chief of the mighty men whom David had, who strengthened themselves with him in his kingdom, and with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel. ¹¹And this is the number of the mighty men whom David had; Jashobeam, a Hachmonite, the chief of the captains; he lifted up his spear against three hundred slain by him at one time.

¹²And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, who was one of the three mighties. ¹³He was with David at Pasdammim, and there the Philistines were gathered together to battle, where was a parcel of ground full of barley; and the people fled from before the Philistines. ¹⁴And they set themselves in the midst of that parcel, and delivered it, and slew the Philistines, and the LORD saved them by a great deliverance.

¹⁵Now three of the thirty captains went down to the rock to David, into the cave of Adullam; and the host of the Philistines encamped in the valley of Rephaim. ¹⁶And David was then in the hold, and the Philistines' garrison was then at Bethlehem. ¹⁷And David longed, and said, “Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, that is at the gate!” ¹⁸And the three brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David; but David would not drink of it, but poured it out to the LORD. ¹⁹and said, “My God forbid it me, that I should do this thing; shall I drink the blood of these men that have put their lives in jeopardy?” For with the jeopardy of their lives they brought it; therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mightiest.

²⁰And Abishai the brother of Joab, he was chief of the three, for lifting up his spear against three hundred, he slew them, and had a name among the three. ²¹Of the three, he was more honorable than the two; for he was their captain; howbeit he attained not to the first three.

²²Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel, who had done many acts; he slew two lion-like men of Moab; also he went down and slew a lion in a pit in a snowy day. ²³And he slew an Egyptian, a man of great stature, ^afive cubits high; and in the Egyptian's hand was a spear like a weaver's beam; and he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.

^a 7'6" or 230 cm

²⁴These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and had a name among the three mighties.

²⁵Behold, he was honorable among the thirty, but attained not to the first three; and David set him over his guard.

²⁶Also the valiant men of the armies were: Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem, ²⁷Shammoth the Harorite, Helez the Pelonite, ²⁸Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, Abi-ezer the Anthothite, ²⁹Sibbecai the Hushathite, Ilai the Ahohite,

³⁰Maharai the Netophathite, Heled the son of Baanah the Netophathite, ³¹Ithai the son of Ribai of Gibeah, that pertained to the children of Benjamin, Benaiah the Pirathonite,

³²Hurai of the brooks of Gaash, Abiel the Arbathite, ³³Azmaveth the Baharumite, Eliahba the Shaalbonite, ³⁴the sons of Hashem the Gizonite, Jonathan the son of Shage the Hararite, ³⁵Ahiam the son of Sacar the Hararite, Eliphaz the son of Ur. ³⁶Hepher the Mecherathite, Ahijah the Pelonite, ³⁷Hezro the Carmelite, Naarai the son of Ezbai, ³⁸Joel

the brother of Nathan, Mibhar the son of Haggeri, ³⁹Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Berothite, the armor-bearer of Joab the son of Zeruiah, ⁴⁰Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite, ⁴¹Uriah the Hittite, Zabad the son of Ahlai, ⁴²Adina the son of Shiza the Reubenite, a captain of the Reubenites and thirty with him, ⁴³Hanan the son of Maachah, and Joshaphat the Mithnite, ⁴⁴Uzzia the Ashterathite, Shama and Jehiel the sons of Hothan the Aroerite, ⁴⁵Jediael the son of Shimri, and Joha his brother, the Tizite, ⁴⁶Eliel the Mahavite, and Jeribai and Joshaviah the sons of Elnaam, and Ithmah the Moabite, ⁴⁷Eliel, and Obed, and Jasiel the Mesobaite.

Warriors join David at Ziklag

12 ¹Now these are they that came to David to Ziklag, while he yet kept himself close because of Saul the son of Kish; and they were among the mighty men, helpers of the war. ²They were armed with bows, and could use both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows out of a bow, even of Saul's brethren of Benjamin.

³The chief was Ahiezer, then Joash, the sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite; and Jeziel, and Pelet, the sons of Azmaveth; and Berachah, and Jehu the Antothite, ⁴and Ismaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the thirty; and over the thirty; and Jeremiah, and Jahaziel, and Johanan, and Josabad the Gederathite, ⁵Eluzai, and Jerimoth, and Bealiah, and Shemariah, and Shephatiah the Haruphite, ⁶Elkanah, and Jesiah, and Azareel, and Joezer, and Jashobeam, the Korhites, ⁷and Joelah, and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham of Gedor.

⁸And of the Gadites there separated themselves unto David into the hold to the wilderness men of might, and men of war fit for the battle, that could handle shield and buckler, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as the roes upon the mountains; ⁹Ezer the first, Obadiah the second, Eliab the third, ¹⁰Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth, ¹¹Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh, ¹²Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth, ¹³Jeremiah the tenth, Machbanai the eleventh.

¹⁴These were of the sons of Gad, captains of the host; one of the least was over a hundred, and the greatest over a thousand. ¹⁵These are they that went over Jordan in the first month, when it had overflowed all his banks; and they put to flight all them of the valleys, both toward the east, and toward the west.

¹⁶And there came of the children of Benjamin and Judah to the hold unto David. ¹⁷And David went out to meet them, and answered and said unto them, "If ye be come peaceably unto me to help me, mine heart shall be knit unto you; but if ye be come to betray me to mine enemies, seeing there is no wrong in mine hands, the God of our fathers look thereon, and rebuke it."

¹⁸Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, who was chief of the captains, and he said, "Thine are we, David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse; peace, peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine helpers; for thy God helpeth thee." Then David received them, and made them captains of the band.

¹⁹And there fell some of Manasseh to David, when he came with the Philistines against Saul to battle; but they helped them not; for the lords of the Philistines upon advisement sent him away, saying, "He will fall to his master Saul to the jeopardy of our heads." ²⁰As he went to Ziklag, there fell to him of Manasseh, Adnah, and Jozabad, and Jediael, and Michael, and Jozabad, and Elihu, and Zilthai, captains of the thousands that were of Manasseh. ²¹And they helped David against the band of the rovers; for they were all mighty men of valor, and were captains in the host. ²²For at that time day by day there came to David to help him, until it was a great host, like the host of God.

Warriors join David at Hebron

²³And these are the numbers of the bands that were ready armed to the war, and came to David to Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD.

²⁴The children of Judah that bare shield and spear were six thousand and eight hundred, ready armed to the war.

²⁵Of the children of Simeon: mighty men of valor for the war, seven thousand one hundred.

²⁶Of the children of Levi: four thousand and six hundred. ²⁷And Jehoiada was the leader of the Aaronites, and with him were three thousand and seven hundred. ²⁸And Zadok, a young man mighty of valor, and of his father's house twenty and two captains.

²⁹And of the children of Benjamin: the kindred of Saul, three thousand; for hitherto the greatest part of them had kept the ward of the house of Saul.

³⁰And of the children of Ephraim: twenty thousand and eight hundred, mighty men of valor, famous throughout the house of their fathers.

³¹And of the half tribe of Manasseh: eighteen thousand, which were expressed by name, to come and make David king.

³²And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do: the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.

³³Of Zebulun, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war: fifty thousand, which could keep rank; they were not of double heart.

³⁴And of Naphtali: a thousand captains, and with them with shield and spear, thirty and seven thousand.

³⁵And of the Danites expert in war: twenty and eight thousand and six hundred.

³⁶And of Asher, such as went forth to battle, expert in war: forty thousand.

³⁷And on the other side of Jordan, of the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and of the half tribe of Manasseh, with all manner of instruments of war for the battle: a hundred and twenty thousand.

³⁸All these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest also of Israel were of one heart to make David king. ³⁹And there they were with David three days, eating and drinking; for their brethren had prepared for them. ⁴⁰Moreover they that were nigh them, even unto Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, brought bread on asses, and on camels, and on mules, and on oxen, and meat, meal, cakes of figs, and bunches of raisins, and wine, and oil, and oxen, and sheep abundantly; for there was joy in Israel.

First attempt to bring the ark

13 ¹And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader.

²And David said unto all the congregation of Israel:

If it seem good unto you, and that it be of the LORD our God, let us send abroad unto our brethren everywhere, that are left in all the land of Israel, and with them also to the priests and Levites which are in their cities and suburbs, that they may

gather themselves unto us; ³and let us bring again the ark of our God to us; for we inquired not at it in the days of Saul.

⁴And all the congregation said that they would do so; for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.

⁵So David gathered all Israel together, from Shihor of Egypt even unto the entering of Hemath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjath-Jearim. ⁶And David went up, and all Israel, to Baalah, that is, to Kirjath-Jearim which belonged to Judah, to bring up thence the ark of God the LORD, that dwelleth between the cherubim, whose name is called on it.

⁷And they carried the ark of God in a new cart out of the house of Abinadab; and Uzza and Ahio drave the cart. ⁸And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets.

⁹And when they came unto the threshing floor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled. ¹⁰And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark; and there he died before God.

¹¹And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzza; wherefore that place is called Perez-Uzza to this day.

¹²And David was afraid of God that day, saying, "How shall I bring the ark of God home to me?" ¹³So David brought not the ark home to himself to the city of David, but carried it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. ¹⁴And the ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obed-Edom, and all that he had.

14 ¹Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and timber of cedars, with masons and carpenters, to build him a house. ²And David perceived that the LORD had confirmed him king over Israel, for his kingdom was lifted up on high, because of his people Israel.

³And David took more wives at Jerusalem; and David begat more sons and daughters.

⁴Now these are the names of his children which he had in Jerusalem; Shammua, and Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon, ⁵and Ibhar, and Elishua, and Elpalet, ⁶and Nogah, and Nephtali, and Japhia, ⁷and Elishama, and Beeliada, and Eliphalet.

David defeats the Philistines

⁸And when the Philistines heard that David was anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to seek David. And David heard of it, and went out against them.

⁹And the Philistines came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. ¹⁰And David inquired of God, saying:

Shall I go up against the Philistines? And wilt thou deliver them into mine hand?

And the LORD said unto him:

Go up; for I will deliver them into thine hand.

¹¹So they came up to Baalperazim; and David smote them there. Then David said, "God hath broken in upon mine enemies by mine hand like the breaking forth of waters;" therefore they called the name of that place Baal-Perazim. ¹²And when they had left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire.

¹³And the Philistines yet again spread themselves abroad in the valley. ¹⁴Therefore David inquired again of God; and God said unto him:

Go not up after them; turn away from them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees. ¹⁵And it shall be, when thou shalt hear a sound of going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt go out to battle; for God is gone forth before thee to smite the host of the Philistines.

¹⁶David therefore did as God commanded him; and they smote the host of the Philistines from Gibeon even to Gazer.

¹⁷And the fame of David went out into all lands; and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations.

The ark brought to Jerusalem

15 ¹And David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent. ²Then David said:

None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites; for them hath the LORD chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him forever.

³And David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD unto his place, which he had prepared for it. ⁴And David assembled the children of Aaron, and the Levites; ⁵of the sons of Kohath; Uriel the chief, and his brethren a hundred and twenty; ⁶of the sons of Merari; Asaiah the chief, and his brethren two hundred and twenty; ⁷of the sons of Gershon; Joel the chief, and his brethren a hundred and thirty; ⁸of the sons of Elizaphan; Shemaiah the chief, and his brethren two hundred; ⁹of the sons of Hebron; Eliel the chief, and his brethren fourscore; ¹⁰of the sons of Uzziel; Amminadab the chief, and his brethren a hundred and twelve.

¹¹And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, and Joel, Shemaiah, and Eliel, and Amminadab. ¹²And said unto them:

Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites; sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it. ¹³For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order.

¹⁴So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel. ¹⁵And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded, according to the word of the LORD.

¹⁶And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers with instruments of music, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy.

¹⁷So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of the sons of Merari their brethren, Ethan the son of Kushaiah; ¹⁸and with them their brethren of the second degree, Zechariah, Ben, and Jaaziel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Unni, Eliab, and Benaiah, and Maaseiah, and Mattithiah, and Elipheleh, and Mikneiah, and Obededom, and Jeiel, the porters.

¹⁹So the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were appointed to sound with cymbals of brass; ²⁰and Zechariah, and Aziel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Unni, and Eliab, and Maaseiah, and Benaiah, with psalteries on Alamoth; ²¹and Mattithiah, and Elipheleh, and Mikneiah, and Obed-edom, and Jeiel, and Azaziah, with harps on the Sheminith to excel.

²²And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was for song; he instructed about the song, because he was skillful.

²³And Berechiah and Elkanah were doorkeepers for the ark. ²⁴And Shebaniah, and Jehoshaphat, and Nethaneel, and Amasai, and Zechariah, and Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, did blow with the trumpets before the ark of God; and Obed-Edom and Jehiah were doorkeepers for the ark.

²⁵So David, and the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands, went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the house of Obed-Edom with joy, ²⁶and it came to pass, when God helped the Levites that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that they offered seven bullocks and seven rams. ²⁷And David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites that bare the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers; David also had upon him an ephod of linen. ²⁸Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting, and with sound of the cornet, and with trumpets, and with cymbals, making a noise with psalteries and harps.

²⁹And it came to pass, as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the city of David, that Michal the daughter of Saul looking out at a window saw king David dancing and playing; and she despised him in her heart.

Offerings before the ark

16 ¹So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it; and they offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings before God. ²And when David had made an end of offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD. ³And he dealt to every one of Israel, both man and woman, to every one a loaf of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine.

⁴And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel; ⁵Asaph the chief, and next to him Zachariah, Jeiel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Mattithiah, and Eliab, and Benaiah, and Obedom; and Jeiel with psalteries and with harps; but Asaph made a sound with cymbals; ⁶Benaiah also and Jahaziel the priests with trumpets continually before the ark of the covenant of God.

David's first psalm

⁷Then on that day David delivered first this psalm to thank the LORD into the hand of Asaph and his brethren:

⁸Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the people.

⁹Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him,
talk ye of all his wondrous works.

¹⁰Glory ye in his holy name;
let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.

¹¹Seek the LORD and his strength,
seek his face continually.

¹²Remember his marvelous works that he hath done,
his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;

¹³O ye seed of Israel his servant,
ye children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

¹⁴He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

¹⁵Be ye mindful always of his covenant;
the word which he commanded to a thousand generations;

¹⁶even of the covenant which he made with Abraham,

and of his oath unto Isaac;
¹⁷and hath confirmed the same to Jacob for a law,
and to Israel for an everlasting covenant, ¹⁸Saying,
“Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan,
the lot of your inheritance.”

¹⁹When ye were but few,
even a few, and strangers in it.
²⁰And when they went from nation to nation,
and from one kingdom to another people;
²¹he suffered no man to do them wrong;
yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes, ²²saying,
“Touch not mine anointed,
and do my prophets no harm.”

²³Sing unto the LORD, all the earth;
show forth from day to day his salvation.
²⁴Declare his glory among the heathen;
his marvelous works among all nations.
²⁵For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he also is to be feared above all gods.
²⁶For all the gods of the people are idols;
but the LORD made the heavens.
²⁷Glory and honor are in his presence;
strength and gladness are in his place.

²⁸Give unto the LORD, ye kindreds of the people,
give unto the LORD glory and strength.
²⁹Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name;
bring an offering, and come before him;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
³⁰Fear before him, all the earth;
the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved.

³¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
and let men say among the nations, “The LORD reigneth.”
³²Let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof;
let the fields rejoice and all that is therein.
³³Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of the LORD,
because he cometh to judge the earth.

³⁴O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good;
for his mercy endureth forever.
³⁵And say ye, “Save us, O God of our salvation,
and gather us together, and deliver us from the heathen,
that we may give thanks to thy holy name,
and glory in thy praise.”

³⁶Blessed be the LORD God of Israel forever and ever.

And all the people said, “Amen,” and praised the LORD.

³⁷So he left there before the ark of the covenant of the LORD Asaph and his brethren, to minister before the ark continually, as every day’s work required; ³⁸and Obed-Edom with their brethren, threescore and eight; Obed-Edom also the son of Jeduthun and Hosah to

be porters; ³⁹and Zadok the priest, and his brethren the priests, before the tabernacle of the LORD in the high place that was at Gibeon, ⁴⁰to offer burnt offerings unto the LORD upon the altar of the burnt offering continually morning and evening, and to do according to all that is written in the law of the LORD, which he commanded Israel; ⁴¹and with them Heman and Jeduthun, and the rest that were chosen, who were expressed by name, to give thanks to the LORD, because his mercy endureth forever; ⁴²and with them Heman and Jeduthun with trumpets and cymbals for those that should make a sound, and with musical instruments of God. And the sons of Jeduthun were porters.

⁴³And all the people departed every man to his house; and David returned to bless his house.

God's covenant with David

17 ¹Now it came to pass, as David sat in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, Lo:

I dwell in a house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD remaineth under curtains.

²Then Nathan said unto David, "Do all that is in thine heart; for God is with thee."

³And it came to pass the same night, that the word of God came to Nathan, saying:

⁴Go and tell David my servant, "Thus saith the LORD: Thou shalt not build me a house to dwell in; ⁵for I have not dwelt in a house since the day that I brought up Israel unto this day; but have gone from tent to tent, and from one tabernacle to another. ⁶Wheresoever I have walked with all Israel, spake I a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people, saying, 'Why have ye not built me a house of cedars?'"

⁷Now therefore thus shalt thou say unto my servant David, "Thus saith the LORD of hosts: I took thee from the sheepcote, even from following the sheep, that thou shouldest be ruler over my people Israel. ⁸And I have been with thee whithersoever thou hast walked, and have cut off all thine enemies from before thee and have made thee a name like the name of the great men that are in the earth. ⁹Also I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be moved no more; neither shall the children of wickedness waste them anymore, as at the beginning. ¹⁰And since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel. Moreover I will subdue all thine enemies.

Furthermore I tell thee, that the LORD will build thee a house. ¹¹And it shall come to pass when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom. ¹²He shall build me a house, and I will stablish his throne forever. ¹³I will be his father, and he shall be my son; and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took it from him that was before thee; ¹⁴but I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom forever; and his throne shall be established forevermore.

¹⁵According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

David's prayer

¹⁶And David the king came and sat before the LORD, and said:

Who am I, O LORD God, and what is mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto? ¹⁷And yet this was a small thing in thine eyes, O God; for thou hast also

spoken of thy servant's house for a great while to come, and hast regarded me according to the estate of a man of high degree, O LORD God.

¹⁸What can David speak more to thee for the honor of thy servant? For thou knowest thy servant. ¹⁹O LORD, for thy servant's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all this greatness, in making known all these great things.

²⁰O LORD, there is none like thee, neither is there any God besides thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears. ²¹And what one nation in the earth is like thy people Israel, whom God went to redeem to be his own people, to make thee a name of greatness and terribleness, by driving out nations from before thy people, whom thou hast redeemed out of Egypt? ²²For thy people Israel didst thou make thine own people forever; and thou, LORD, becamest their God.

²³Therefore now, LORD, let the thing that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant and concerning his house be established forever, and do as thou hast said. ²⁴Let it even be established, that thy name may be magnified forever, saying, "The LORD of hosts is the God of Israel, even a God to Israel;" and let the house of David thy servant be established before thee.

²⁵For thou, O my God, hast told thy servant that thou wilt build him a house; therefore thy servant hath found in his heart to pray before thee. ²⁶And now, LORD, thou art God, and hast promised this goodness unto thy servant; ²⁷now therefore let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may be before thee forever; for thou blessest, O LORD, and it shall be blessed forever.

David's victories

18 ¹Now after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them, and took Gath and her towns out of the hand of the Philistines.

²And he smote Moab; and the Moabites became David's servants, and brought gifts.

³And David smote Hadarezer king of Zobah unto Hamath, as he went to establish his dominion by the river Euphrates. ⁴And David took from him a thousand chariots, and seven thousand horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen; David also houghed all the chariot horses, but reserved of them a hundred chariots.

⁵And when the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadarezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men. ⁶Then David put garrisons in Syria-Damascus; and the Syrians became David's servants, and brought gifts. Thus the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

⁷And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadarezer, and brought them to Jerusalem. ⁸Likewise from Tibhath, and from Chun, cities of Hadarezer, brought David very much brass, wherewith Solomon made the brazen sea, and the pillars, and the vessels of brass.

⁹Now when Tou king of Hamath heard how David had smitten all the host of Hadarezer king of Zobah; ¹⁰he sent Hadoram his son to king David, to inquire of his welfare, and to congratulate him, because he had fought against Hadarezer, and smitten him; (for Hadarezer had war with Tou) and with him all manner of vessels of gold and silver and brass.

¹¹Them also king David dedicated unto the LORD with the silver and the gold that he brought from all these nations; from Edom, and from Moab, and from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines, and from Amalek.

¹²Moreover, Abishai the son of Zeruiah slew of the Edomites in the valley of salt eighteen thousand. ¹³And he put garrisons in Edom; and all the Edomites became David's servants. Thus the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

¹⁴So David reigned over all Israel, and executed judgment and justice among all his people.

¹⁵And Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, recorder; ¹⁶and Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Abimelech the son of Abiathar, were the priests; and Shavsha was scribe; ¹⁷and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and the sons of David were chief about the king.

David defeats the Ammonites

19 ¹Now it came to pass after this, that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon died, and his son reigned in his stead. ²And David said, "I will show kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash because his father showed kindness to me." And David sent messengers to comfort him concerning his father.

So the servants of David came into the land of the children of Ammon to Hanun, to comfort him. ³But the princes of the children of Ammon said to Hanun:

Thinkest thou that David doth honor thy father, that he hath sent comforters unto thee? Are not his servants come unto thee for to search, and to overthrow, and to spy out the land?

⁴Wherefore Hanun took David's servants, and shaved them, and cut off their garments in the midst hard by their buttocks, and sent them away.

⁵Then there went certain, and told David how the men were served; and he sent to meet them; for the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, "Tarry at Jericho until your beards be grown, and then return."

⁶And when the children of Ammon saw that they had made themselves odious to David, Hanun and the children of Ammon sent a ^athousand talents of silver to hire them chariots and horsemen out of Mesopotamia, and out of Syriamaachah, and out of Zobah. ⁷So they hired thirty and two thousand chariots, and the king of Maachah and his people; who came and pitched before Medeba. And the children of Ammon gathered themselves together from their cities, and came to battle.

^a 38 tons or 34 metric tons

⁸And when David heard of it, he sent Joab, and all the host of the mighty men. ⁹And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array before the gate of the city; and the kings that were come were by themselves in the field.

¹⁰Now when Joab saw that the battle was set against him before and behind, he chose out of all the choice of Israel, and put them in array against the Syrians. ¹¹And the rest of the people he delivered unto the hand of Abishai his brother, and they set themselves in array against the children of Ammon. ¹²And he said:

If the Syrians be too strong for me, then thou shalt help me; but if the children of Ammon be too strong for thee, then I will help thee. ¹³Be of good courage, and let us behave ourselves valiantly for our people, and for the cities of our God; and let the LORD do that which is good in his sight.

¹⁴So Joab and the people that were with him drew nigh before the Syrians unto the battle; and they fled before him. ¹⁵And when the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fled, they likewise fled before Abishai his brother, and entered into the city. Then Joab came to Jerusalem.

¹⁶And when the Syrians saw that they were put to the worse before Israel, they sent messengers, and drew forth the Syrians that were beyond the river; and Shophach the captain of the host of Hadarezer went before them.

¹⁷And it was told David; and he gathered all Israel, and passed over Jordan, and came upon them, and set the battle in array against them. So when David had put the battle in array against the Syrians, they fought with him. ¹⁸But the Syrians fled before Israel; and David slew of the Syrians seven thousand men which fought in chariots, and forty thousand footmen, and killed Shophach the captain of the host.

¹⁹And when the servants of Hadarezer saw that they were put to the worse before Israel, they made peace with David, and became his servants; neither would the Syrians help the children of Ammon anymore.

Rabbah captured

20 ¹And it came to pass, that after the year was expired, at the time that kings go out to battle, Joab led forth the power of the army, and wasted the country of the children of Ammon, and came and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried at Jerusalem. And Joab smote Rabbah, and destroyed it. ²And David took the crown of their king from off his head, and found it to weigh a ³talent of gold, and there were precious stones in it; and it was set upon David's head; and he brought also exceeding much spoil out of the city. ³And he brought out the people that were in it, and cut them with saws, and with harrows of iron, and with axes. Even so dealt David with all the cities of the children of Ammon. And David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

³ 75 lb or 34 kg

War with the Philistines

⁴And it came to pass after this, that there arose war at Gezer with the Philistines; at which time Sibbechai the Hushathite slew Sippai, that was of the children of the giant; and they were subdued.

⁵And there was war again with the Philistines; and Elhanan the son of Jair slew Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, whose spear staff was like a weaver's beam.

⁶And yet again there was war at Gath, where was a man of great stature, whose fingers and toes were four and twenty, six on each hand, and six on each foot; and he also was the son of the giant. ⁷But when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea David's brother slew him. ⁸These were born unto the giant in Gath; and they fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.

David's census

21 ¹And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel. ²And David said to Joab and to the rulers of the people:

Go, number Israel from Beer-Sheba even to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that I may know it.

³And Joab answered:

The LORD make his people a hundred times so many more as they be; but, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? Why then doth my lord require this thing? Why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel?

⁴Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Wherefore Joab departed, and went throughout all Israel, and came to Jerusalem. ⁵And Joab gave the sum of the number of the people unto David. And all they of Israel were a thousand and a hundred thousand men

that drew sword; and Judah was four hundred three-score and ten thousand men that drew sword. ⁶But Levi and Benjamin counted he not among them; for the king's word was abominable to Joab.

⁷And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel. ⁸And David said unto God:

I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing; but now, I beseech thee, do away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.

⁹And the LORD spake unto Gad, David's seer, saying:

¹⁰Go and tell David, saying, "Thus saith the LORD: I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee."

¹¹So Gad came to David, and said unto him:

Thus saith the LORD: Choose thee ¹²either three years' famine; or three months to be destroyed before thy foes, while that the sword of thine enemies overtaketh thee; or else three days the sword of the LORD, even the pestilence, in the land, and the angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the coasts of Israel.

Now therefore advise thyself what word I shall bring again to him that sent me.

¹³And David said unto Gad:

I am in a great strait; let me fall now into the hand of the LORD; for very great are his mercies; but let me not fall into the hand of man.

¹⁴So the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel; and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men.

¹⁵And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it. And the angel stretched forth his hand unto Jerusalem to destroy it; and God said to the angel, "Stay now thine hand, it is enough;" for as he was destroying, the LORD beheld Israel, that he repented him of the evil; therefore the LORD stayed the angel that destroyed, as he stood by the threshing floor of Ornan, the Jebusite.

¹⁶And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders of Israel, who were clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces. ¹⁷And David said unto God:

Is it not I that commanded the people to be numbered? Even I it is that have sinned and done evil indeed; but as for these sheep, what have they done? Let thine hand I pray thee, O LORD my God, be on me, and on my father's house; but not on thy people, that they should be plagued.

¹⁸Then the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up, and set up an altar unto the LORD in the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. ¹⁹And David went up at the saying of Gad, which he spake in the name of the LORD.

²⁰Now Ornan was threshing wheat, and his four sons with him; and Ornan turned back and saw the angel, and they hid themselves. ²¹And as David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David, and went out of the threshing floor, and bowed himself to David with his face to the ground.

²²Then David said to Ornan:

Grant me the place of this threshing floor, that I may build an altar therein unto the LORD; thou shalt grant it me for the full price; that the plague may be stayed from the people.

²³And Ornan said unto David:

Take it to thee, and let my lord the king do that which is good in his eyes; lo, I give thee the oxen also for burnt offerings, and the threshing instruments for wood, and the wheat for the meat offering; I give it all.

²⁴And king David said to Ornan:

Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price; for I will not take that which is thine for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings without cost.

²⁵So David gave to Ornan for the place ^asix hundred shekels of gold by weight. ²⁶And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the LORD; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering.

^a 15 lb or 6.9 kg

²⁷And the LORD commanded the angel; and he put up his sword again into the sheath thereof. ²⁸At that time when David saw that the LORD had answered him in the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, then he sacrificed there. ²⁹For the tabernacle of the LORD, which Moses made in the wilderness, and the altar of the burnt offering, were at that season in the high place at Gibeon. ³⁰But David could not go before it to inquire of God; for he was afraid because of the sword of the angel of the LORD.

22

¹Then David said:

This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of the burnt offering for Israel.

Preparations for the temple

²And David commanded to gather together the strangers that were in the land of Israel, and he set masons to hew wrought stones to build the house of God. ³And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails for the doors of the gates, and for the joinings; and brass in abundance without weight; ⁴also cedar trees in abundance; for the Zidonians and they of Tyre brought much cedar wood to David.

⁵And David said:

Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be builded for the LORD must be exceeding magnificent, of fame and of glory throughout all countries; I will therefore now make preparation for it.

So David prepared abundantly before his death.

⁶Then he called for Solomon his son, and charged him to build a house for the LORD God of Israel. ⁷And David said to Solomon:

My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build a house unto the name of the LORD my God. ⁸But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars; thou shalt not build a house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight. ⁹Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about, for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days. ¹⁰He shall build a house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever."

¹¹Now, my son, the LORD be with thee; and prosper thou, and build the house of the LORD thy God, as he hath said of thee. ¹²Only the LORD give thee wisdom and understanding, and give thee charge concerning Israel, that thou mayest keep the law of the LORD thy God. ¹³Then shalt thou prosper, if thou takest heed to fulfill the

statutes and judgments which the LORD charged Moses with concerning Israel; be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed.

¹⁴Now, behold, in my trouble I have prepared for the house of the LORD a ^ahundred thousand talents of gold, and a ^bthousand thousand talents of silver; and of brass and iron without weight; for it is in abundance; timber also and stone have I prepared; and thou mayest add thereto. ¹⁵Moreover, there are workmen with thee in abundance, hewers and workers of stone and timber, and all manner of cunning men for every manner of work. ¹⁶Of the gold, the silver, and the brass, and the iron, there is no number. Arise therefore, and be doing, and the LORD be with thee.

^a 3,750 tons or 3,400 metric tons

^b 37,500 tons or 34,000 metric tons

¹⁷David also commanded all the princes of Israel to help Solomon his son, saying:

¹⁸Is not the LORD your God with you? And hath he not given you rest on every side? For he hath given the inhabitants of the land into mine hand; and the land is subdued before the LORD, and before his people. ¹⁹Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God. Arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the LORD.

23 ¹So when David was old and full of days, he made Solomon his son king over Israel.

Courses of the Levites

²And he gathered together all the princes of Israel, with the priests and the Levites. ³Now the Levites were numbered from the age of thirty years and upward; and their number by their polls, man by man, was thirty and eight thousand. ⁴Of which, twenty and four thousand were to set forward the work of the house of the LORD; and six thousand were officers and judges; ⁵moreover four thousand were porters; and four thousand praised the LORD with the instruments which I made, said David, to praise therewith.

⁶And David divided them into courses among the sons of Levi, namely, Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

Gershonites

⁷Of the Gershonites were Laadan, and Shimei. ⁸The sons of Laadan; the chief was Jehiel, and Zetham, and Joel, three. ⁹The sons of Shimei; Shelomith, and Haziel, and Haran, three. These were the chief of the fathers of Laadan. ¹⁰And the sons of Shimei were, Jahath, Zina, and Jeush, and Beriah. These four were the sons of Shimei. ¹¹And Jahath was the chief, and Zizah the second; but Jeush and Beriah had not many sons; therefore they were in one reckoning, according to their father's house.

Kohathites

¹²The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel, four.

¹³The sons of Amram: Aaron, and Moses; and Aaron was separated, that he should sanctify the most holy things, he and his sons forever, to burn incense before the LORD, to minister unto him, and to bless in his name forever. ¹⁴Now concerning Moses the man of God, his sons were named of the tribe of Levi. ¹⁵The sons of Moses were, Gershom and Eliezer. ¹⁶Of the sons of Gershom, Shebuel was the chief. ¹⁷And the sons of Eliezer were, Rehabiah the chief. And Eliezer had none other sons; but the sons of Rehabiah were very many.

¹⁸Of the sons of Izhar: Shelomith the chief.

¹⁹Of the sons of Hebron: Jariah the first, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth.

²⁰Of the sons of Uzziel: Micah the first, and Jesiah the second.

Merarites

²¹The sons of Merari: Mahli, and Mushi. The sons of Mahli: Eleazar, and Kish. ²²And Eleazar died, and had no sons, but daughters; and there brethren the sons of Kish took them. ²³The sons of Mushi: Mahli, and Eder, and Jeremoth, three.

²⁴These were the sons of Levi after the house of their fathers; even the chief of the fathers, as they were counted by number of names by their polls, that did the work for the service of the house of the LORD, from the age of twenty years and upward. ²⁵For David said:

The LORD God of Israel hath given rest unto his people, that they may dwell in Jerusalem forever; ²⁶and also unto the Levites; they shall no more carry the tabernacle, nor any vessels of it for the service thereof.

²⁷For by the last words of David the Levites were numbered from twenty years old and above; ²⁸because their office was to wait on the sons of Aaron for the service of the house of the LORD, in the courts, and in the chambers, and in the purifying of all holy things, and the work of the service of the house of God; ²⁹both for the show bread, and for the fine flour for meat offering, and for the unleavened cakes, and for that which is baked in the pan, and for that which is fried, and for all manner of measure and size; ³⁰and to stand every morning to thank and praise the LORD, and likewise at even; ³¹and to offer all burnt sacrifices unto the LORD in the Sabbaths, in the new moons, and on the set feasts, by number, according to the order commanded unto them, continually before the LORD; ³²and that they should keep the charge of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the charge of the holy place, and the charge of the sons of Aaron their brethren, in the service of the house of the LORD.

The divisions of priests

24 ¹Now these are the divisions of the sons of Aaron.

The sons of Aaron: Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. ²But Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and had no children; therefore Eleazar and Ithamar executed the priest's office. ³And David distributed them, both Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelch of the sons of Ithamar, according to their offices in their service. ⁴And there were more chief men found of the sons of Eleazar than of the sons of Ithamar; and thus were they divided. Among the sons of Eleazar there were sixteen chief men of the house of their fathers, and eight among the sons of Ithamar according to the house of their fathers. ⁵Thus were they divided by lot, one sort with another; for the governors of the sanctuary, and governors of the house of God, were of the sons of Eleazar, and of the sons of Ithamar.

⁶And Shemaiah the son of Nethaneel the scribe, one of the Levites, wrote them before the king, and the princes, and Zadok the priest, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, and before the chief of the fathers of the priests and Levites; one principal household being taken for Eleazar, and one taken for Ithamar.

⁷Now the first lot came forth to Jehoiarib,
the second to Jedaiah,
⁸the third to Harim,
the fourth to Seorim,

⁹the fifth to Malchijah,
 the sixth to Mijamin,
¹⁰the seventh to Hakkoz,
 the eighth to Abijah,
¹¹the ninth to Jeshuah,
 the tenth to Shecaniah,
¹²the eleventh to Eliashib,
 the twelfth to Jakim,
¹³the thirteenth to Huppah,
 the fourteenth to Jeshebeab,
¹⁴the fifteenth to Bilgah,
 the sixteenth to Immer,
¹⁵the seventeenth to Hezir,
 the eighteenth to Aphses,
¹⁶the nineteenth to Pethahiah,
 the twentieth to Jehezkel,
¹⁷the one and twentieth to Jachin,
 the two and twentieth to Gamul,
¹⁸the three and twentieth to Delaiah,
 the four and twentieth to Maaziah.

¹⁹These were the orderings of them in their service to come into the house of the LORD, according to their manner, under Aaron their father, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him.

The rest of the Levites

²⁰And the rest of the sons of Levi were these: of the sons of Amram: Shubael; of the sons of Shubael; Jehdeiah. ²¹Concerning Rehabiah: of the sons of Rehabiah, the first was Isshiah. ²²Of the Izharites: Shelomoth; of the sons of Shelomoth: Jahath. ²³And the sons of Hebron: Jeriah the first, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, Jekameam the fourth. ²⁴Of the sons of Uzziel; Michah; of the sons of Michah: Shamir. ²⁵The brother of Michah was Isshiah; of the sons of Isshiah: Zechariah. ²⁶The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi; the sons of Jaaziah: Beno. ²⁷The sons of Merari by Jaaziah: Beno, and Shoham, and Zaccur, and Ibri. ²⁸Of Mahli came Eleazar, who had no sons. ²⁹Concerning Kish; the son of Kish was Jerahmeel. ³⁰The sons also of Mushi: Mahli, and Eder, and Jerimoth.

These were the sons of the Levites after the house of their father. ³¹These likewise cast lots over against their brethren the sons of Aaron in the presence of David the king, and Zadok, and Ahimelech, and the chief of the fathers of the priests and Levites, even the principal fathers over against their younger brethren.

The musicians

25 ¹Moreover David and the captains of the host separated to the service of the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals; and the number of the workmen according to their service was.

²Of the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, and Joseph, and Nethaniah, and Asarelah, the sons of Asaph under the hands of Asaph, which prophesied according to the order of the king.

³Of Jeduthun: the sons of Jeduthun; Gedaliah, and Zeri, and Jeshaiiah, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the hands of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with a harp, to give thanks and to praise the LORD.

⁴Of Heman: the sons of Heman; Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, and Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, and Romamti-ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth; ⁵all these were the son of Heman the king's seer in the words of God, to lift up the horn. And God gave to Heman fourteen sons and three daughters.

⁶All these were under the hands of their father for song in the house of the LORD, with cymbals, psalteries, and harps, for the service of the house of God, according to the king's order to Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman.

⁷So the number of them, with their brethren that were instructed in the songs of the LORD, even all that were cunning, was two hundred fourscore and eight. ⁸And they cast lots, ward against ward, as well the small as the great, the teacher as the scholar.

⁹Now the first lot came forth for Asaph to Joseph;
the second to Gedaliah, who with his brethren and sons were twelve;
¹⁰the third to Zaccur, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
¹¹the fourth to Izri, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
¹²the fifth to Nethaniah, he, his sons and his brethren, were twelve;
¹³the sixth to Bukkiah, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
¹⁴the seventh to Jesharelah, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
¹⁵the eighth to Jeshaiiah, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
¹⁶the ninth to Mattaniah, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
¹⁷the tenth to Shimei, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
¹⁸the eleventh to Azareel, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
¹⁹the twelfth to Hashabiah, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
²⁰the thirteenth to Shubael, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
²¹the fourteenth to Mattithiah, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
²²the fifteenth to Jeremoth, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
²³the sixteenth to Hananiah, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
²⁴the seventeenth to Joshbekasha, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
²⁵the eighteenth to Hanani, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
²⁶the nineteenth to Mallothi, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
²⁷the twentieth to Eliathah, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
²⁸the one and twentieth to Hothir, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
²⁹the two and twentieth to Giddalti, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
³⁰the three and twentieth to Mahazioth, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve;
³¹the four and twentieth to Romamti-Ezer, he, his sons, and his brethren, were twelve.

The porters

26 ¹Concerning the divisions of the porters:

Of the Korhites was Meshelemiah the son of Kore, of the sons of Asaph. ²And the sons of Meshelemiah were, Zechariah the first-born, Jedaiel the second, Zebadiah the third, Jathniel the fourth, ³Elam the fifth, Jehohanan the sixth, Elioenai the seventh.

⁴Moreover the sons of Obed-Edom were: Shemaiah the first-born, Jehozabad the second, Joah the third, and Sacar the fourth, and Nethaneel the fifth, ⁵Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh, Peulthai the eighth; for God blessed him. ⁶Also unto Shemaiah his son were sons born, that ruled throughout the house of their father; for they were mighty men of valor. ⁷The sons of Shemaiah; Othni, and Rephael, and Obed, Elzabad, whose brethren were strong men, Elihu, and Semachiah. ⁸All these of the sons of Obed-Edom; they and their sons and their brethren, able men for strength for the service, were threescore and two of Obed-Edom.

⁹And Meshelemiah had sons and brethren, strong men, eighteen.

¹⁰Also Hosah, of the children of Merari, had sons; Simri the chief, (for though he was not the first-born, yet his father made him the chief) ¹¹Hilkiah the second, Tebaliah the third, Zechariah the fourth; all the sons and brethren of Hosah were thirteen.

¹²Among these were the divisions of the porters, even among the chief men, having wards one against another, to minister in the house of the LORD. ¹³And they cast lots, as well the small as the great, according to the house of their fathers, for every gate.

¹⁴And the lot eastward fell to Shelemiah. Then for Zechariah his son, a wise counselor, they cast lots; and his lot came out northward. ¹⁵To Obed-Edom southward; and to his sons the house of Asuppim. ¹⁶To Shuppim and Hosah the lot came forth westward, with the gate Shallecheth, by the causeway of the going up, ward against ward. ¹⁷Eastward were six Levites, northward four a day, southward four a day, and toward Asuppim two and two. ¹⁸At Parbar westward, four at the causeway, and two at Parbar.

¹⁹These are the divisions of the porters among the sons of Kore, and among the sons of Merari.

Treasurers and other officials

²⁰And of the Levites, Ahijah was over the treasures of the house of God, and over the treasures of the dedicated things.

²¹As concerning the sons of Laadan: the sons of the Gershanite Laadan, chief fathers, even of Laadan the Gershonite, were Jehieli. ²²The sons of Jehieli: Zetham, and Joel his brother, which were over the treasures of the house of the LORD.

²³Of the Amramites, and the Izharites, the Hebronites, and the Uzzielites; ²⁴and Shebuel the son of Gershom, the son of Moses, was ruler of the treasures. ²⁵And his brethren by Eliezer; Rehabiah his son, and Jeshaiiah his son, and Joram his son, and Zichri his son, and Shelomith his son; ²⁶which Shelomith and his brethren were over all the treasures of the dedicated things, which David the king, and the chief fathers, the captains over thousands and hundreds, and the captains of the host, had dedicated. ²⁷Out of the spoils won in battles did they dedicate to maintain the house of the LORD. ²⁸And all that Samuel the seer, and Saul the son of Kish, and Abner the son of Ner, and Joab the son of Zeruiah, had dedicated; and whosoever had dedicated anything, it was under the hand of Shelomith, and of his brethren.

²⁹Of the Izharites, Chenaniah and his sons were for the outward business over Israel, for officers and judges.

³⁰And of the Hebronite: Hashabiah and his brethren, men of valor, a thousand and seven hundred, were officers among them of Israel on this side Jordan westward in all the business of the LORD, and in the service of the king. ³¹Among the Hebronites was Jerijah the chief, even among the Hebronites, according to the generations of his fathers. In the fortieth year of the reign of David they were sought for, and there were found among them mighty men of valor at Jazer of Gilead. ³²And his brethren, men of valor, were two thousand and seven hundred chief fathers, whom king David made rulers over the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, for every matter pertaining to God, and affairs of the king.

Army divisions

27 ¹Now the children of Israel after their number, to wit, the chief fathers and captains of thousands and hundreds, and their officers that served the king in any matter of the

courses, which came in and went out month by month throughout all the months of the year, of every course were twenty and four thousand.

²Over the first course for the first month was Jashobeam the son of Zabdiel; and in his course were twenty and four thousand. ³Of the children of Perez was the chief of all the captains of the host for the first month.

⁴And over the course of the second month was Dodai an Ahohite, and of his course was Mikloth also the ruler; in his course likewise were twenty and four thousand.

⁵The third captain of the host for the third month was Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, a chief priest; and in his course were twenty and four thousand. ⁶This is that Benaiah, who was mighty among the thirty, and above the thirty; and in his course was Ammizabad his son.

⁷The fourth captain for the fourth month was Asahel the brother of Joab, and Zebadiah his son after him; and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

⁸The fifth captain for the fifth month was Shamhuth the Izrahite; and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

⁹The sixth captain for the sixth month was Ira the son of Ikkes the Tekoite; and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

¹⁰The seventh captain for the seventh month was Helez the Pelonite, of the children of Ephraim; and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

¹¹The eighth captain for the eighth month was Sibbecai the Hushathite, of the Zarhites; and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

¹²The ninth captain for the ninth month was Abiezer the Anehothite, of the Benjamites; and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

¹³The tenth captain for the tenth month was Maharai the Netophathite, of the Zarhites; and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

¹⁴The eleventh captain for the eleventh month was Benaiah the Pirathonite, of the children of Ephraim; and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

¹⁵The twelfth captain for the twelfth month was Heldai the Netophathite, of Othniel; and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

Leaders of the tribes

¹⁶Furthermore over the tribes of Israel; the ruler of the Reubenites was Eliezer the son of Zichri; of the Simeonites, Shephatiah the son of Maachah; ¹⁷of the Levites, Hashabiah the son of Kemuel; of the Aaronites, Zadok; ¹⁸of Judah, Elihu, one of the brethren of David; of Issachar, Omri the son of Michael; ¹⁹of Zebulun, Ishmaiah the son of Obadiah; of Naphtali, Jerimoth the son of Azriel; ²⁰of the children of Ephraim, Hosea, the son of Azaziah; of the half tribe of Manasseh, Joel the son of Pedaiah; ²¹of the half tribe of Manasseh in Gilead, Iddo the son of Zechariah; of Benjamin, Jaasiel the son of Abner. ²²Of Dan, Azareel the son of Jeroham. These were the princes of the tribes of Israel.

²³But David took not the number of them from twenty years old and under; because the LORD had said he would increase Israel like to the stars of the heavens. ²⁴Joab the son of Zeruiah began to number, but he finished not, because there fell wrath for it against Israel; neither was the number put in the account of the chronicles of king David.

²⁵And over the king's treasures was Azmaveth the son of Adiel; and over the storehouses in the fields, in the cities, and in the villages, and in the castles, was Jehonathan the son of

Uzziah;²⁶ and over them that did the work of the field for tillage of the ground was Ezri the son of Chelub;²⁷ and over the vineyards was Shimei the Remathite; over the increase of the vineyards for the wine cellars was Zabdi the Shiphmite;²⁸ and over the olive trees and the sycamore trees that were in the low plains was Baal-hanan the Gederite; and over the cellars of oil was Joash;²⁹ and over the herds that fed in Sharon was Shitrai the Sharonite; and over the herds that were in the valleys was Shaphat the son of Adlai;³⁰ over the camels also was Obil the Ishmaelite; and over the asses was Jedeiah the Meronothite;³¹ and over the flocks was Jaziz the Hagarite. All these were the rulers of the substance which was king David's.

³²Also Jonathan David's uncle was a counselor, a wise man, and a scribe; and Jehiel the son of Hachmoni was with the king's sons; ³³and Ahithophel was the king's counsellor; and Hushai the Archite was the king's companion; ³⁴and after Ahithophel was Jehoiada the son of Benaiah, and Abiathar; and the general of the king's army was Joab.

David's plans for the temple

28 ¹And David assembled all the princes of Israel, the princes of the tribes, and the captains of the companies that ministered to the king by course, and the captains over the thousands, and captains over the hundreds, and the stewards over all the substance and possession of the king, and of his sons, with the officers, and with the mighty men, and with all the valiant men, unto Jerusalem.

²Then David the king stood up upon his feet, and said:

Hear me, my brethren, and my people. As for me, I had in mine heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building; ³but God said unto me, "Thou shalt not build a house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood."

⁴Howbeit the LORD God of Israel chose me before all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever; for he hath chosen Judah to be the ruler; and of the house of Judah, the house of my father; and among the sons of my father he liked me to make me king over all Israel; ⁵and of all my sons, (for the LORD hath given me many sons) he hath chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel. ⁶And he said unto me, "Solomon thy son, he shall build my house and my courts; for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father. ⁷Moreover I will establish his kingdom forever, if he be constant to do my commandments and my judgments, as at this day."

⁸Now therefore, in the sight of all Israel the congregation of the LORD, and in the audience of our God, keep and seek for all the commandments of the LORD your God; that ye may possess this good land, and leave it for an inheritance for your children after you forever.

⁹And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts; if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off forever. ¹⁰Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it.

¹¹Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlors thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat. ¹²And the pattern of all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries of the dedicated things; ¹³also for

the courses of the priests and the Levites, and for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and for all the vessels of service in the house of the LORD. ¹⁴He gave of gold by weight for things of gold, for all instruments of all manner of service; silver also for all instruments of silver by weight, for all instruments of every kind of service; ¹⁵even the weight for the candlesticks of gold, and for their lamps of gold, by weight for every candlestick, and for the lamps thereof; and for the candlesticks of silver by weight, both for the candlestick, and also for the lamps thereof, according to the use of every candlestick. ¹⁶And by weight he gave gold for the tables of showbread, for every table; and likewise silver for the tables of silver; ¹⁷also pure gold for the flesh-hooks, and the bowls, and the cups; and for the golden basins he gave gold by weight for every basin; and likewise silver by weight for every basin of silver; ¹⁸and for the altar of incense refined gold by weight; and gold for the pattern of the chariot of the cherubim, that spread out their wings, and covered the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

¹⁹All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern.

²⁰And David said to Solomon his son:

Be strong and of good courage, and do it; fear not, nor be dismayed, for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD. ²¹And, behold, the courses of the priests and the Levites, even they shall be with thee for all the service of the house of God; and there shall be with thee for all manner of workmanship every willing skillful man, for any manner of service; also the princes and all the people will be wholly at thy commandment.

29 ¹Furthermore David the king said unto all the congregation:

Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen, is yet young and tender, and the work is great; for the palace is not for man, but for the LORD God. ²Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God the gold for things to be made of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and the brass for things of brass, the iron for things of iron, and wood for things of wood; onyx stones, and stones to be set, glistening stones, and of divers colors, and all manner of precious stones, and marble stones in abundance. ³Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, ⁴even three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses withal; ⁵the gold for things of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and for all manner of work to be made by the hands of artificers. And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?

⁶Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king's work, offered willingly, ⁷and gave, for the service of the house of God, of gold five thousand talents and ten thousand drams, and of silver ten thousand talents, and of brass eighteen thousand talents, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. ⁸And they with whom precious stones were found gave them to the treasure of the house of the LORD, by the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite. ⁹Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD; and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.

David's prayer

¹⁰Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation; and David said:

Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever. ¹¹Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory and the majesty; for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. ¹²Both riches and honor come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. ¹³Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

¹⁴But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. ¹⁵For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers; our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding.

¹⁶O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee a house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own. ¹⁷I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.

¹⁸O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this forever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee; ¹⁹and give unto Solomon my son a perfect heart, to keep thy commandments, thy testimonies, and thy statutes, and to do all these things, and to build the palace, for the which I have made provision.

²⁰And David said to all the congregation, "Now bless the LORD your God." And all the congregation blessed the LORD God of their fathers, and bowed down their heads, and worshipped the LORD, and the king. ²¹And they sacrificed sacrifices unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings unto the LORD, on the morrow after that day, even a thousand bullocks, a thousand rams, and a thousand lambs, with their drink offerings, and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel; ²²and did eat and drink before the LORD on that day with great gladness.

And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time, and anointed him unto the LORD to be the chief governor, and Zadok to be priest. ²³Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him. ²⁴And all the princes, and the mighty men, and all the sons likewise of king David, submitted themselves unto Solomon the king. ²⁵And the LORD magnified Solomon exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and bestowed upon him such royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel.

²⁶Thus David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel. ²⁷And the time that he reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem. ²⁸And he died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honor; and Solomon his son reigned in his stead.

²⁹Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of Samuel the seer, and in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer, ³⁰with all his reign and his might, and the times that went over him, and over Israel, and over all the kingdoms of the countries.

2 CHRONICLES

Solomon asks for wisdom

¹And Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him, and magnified him exceedingly.

²Then Solomon spake unto all Israel, to the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and to the judges, and to every governor in all Israel, the chief of the fathers. ³So Solomon, and all the congregation with him, went to the high place that was at Gibeon; for there was the tabernacle of the congregation of God, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness. ⁴But the ark of God had David brought up from Kirjath-Jearim to the place which David had prepared for it; for he had pitched a tent for it at Jerusalem.

⁵Moreover the brazen altar, that Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made, he put before the tabernacle of the LORD; and Solomon and the congregation sought unto it.

⁶And Solomon went up thither to the brazen altar before the LORD, which was at the tabernacle of the congregation, and offered a thousand burnt offerings upon it.

⁷In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, “Ask what I shall give thee.”

⁸And Solomon said unto God:

Thou hast showed great mercy unto David my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead. ⁹Now, O LORD 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.

¹⁰Give 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?

¹¹And God said to Solomon:

Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honor, nor the life of thine enemies, 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; ¹²wisdom 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.

¹³Then Solomon came from his journey to the high place that was at Gibeon to Jerusalem, from before the tabernacle of the congregation, and reigned over Israel.

¹⁴And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen; and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, which he placed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem. ¹⁵And the king made silver and gold at Jerusalem as plenteous as stones, and cedar trees made he as the sycamore trees that are in the vale for abundance.

¹⁶And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt, and linen yarn; the king's merchants received the linen yarn at a price. ¹⁷And they fetched up, and brought forth out of Egypt a chariot for ^asix hundred shekels of silver, and a horse for a ^bhundred and fifty; and so brought they out horses for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, by their means.

^a 15lb or 7kg

^b 3.7lb or 1.7kg

Preparations for building the temple

2 ¹And Solomon determined to build a house for the name of the LORD, and a house for his kingdom. ²And Solomon told out threescore and ten thousand men to bear burdens,

and fourscore thousand to hew in the mountain, and three thousand and six hundred to oversee them.

³And Solomon sent to Hiram 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, therefore, even so deal with me. ⁴Behold, I build a house to the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to him, and to burn before him sweet incense, and for the continual showbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of the LORD our God. And this ordinance shall be kept in Israel forever.

⁵And the house which I build shall be a great house; for great is the LORD our God above all gods. ⁶But who is able to build him a house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him? Who am I then, that I should build him a house, save only to burn sacrifice before him?

⁷Send me now therefore a man cunning to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, and in iron, and in purple, and crimson, and blue, and that has skill to grave with the cunning men that are with me in Judah and in Jerusalem, whom David my father did provide. ⁸Send me also cedar trees, fir trees, and algum trees, out of Lebanon; for I know that thy servants have skill to cut timber in Lebanon; and, behold, I will send my servants with thy servants, ⁹even to prepare me timber in abundance; for the house which I am about to build shall be wonderful great. ¹⁰And, behold, I will give to thy servants, the hewers that cut timber, ^atwenty thousand measures of beaten wheat, and ^btwenty thousand measures of barley, and ^ctwenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil.

^a 3,600 tons or 3,200 metric tons

^b 3,000 tons or 2,700 metric tons

^c 120,000 gal or 440,000 liters

¹¹Then Hiram the king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon:

Because the LORD hath loved his people, he hath made thee king over them.

¹²Hiram said moreover:

Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, that made heaven and earth, who hath given to David the king a wise son, endued with prudence and understanding, that might build a house for the LORD, and a house for his kingdom.

¹³And now I have sent a cunning man, endued with understanding, of Hiram my father's, ¹⁴the son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre, skillful to work in gold, and in silver, in brass, 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 find out every device which shall be put to him, with thy cunning men, and with the cunning men of my lord David thy father.

¹⁵Now therefore the wheat, and the barley, the oil, and the wine, which my lord hath spoken of, let him send unto his servants: ¹⁶and 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 Joppa; and thou shalt carry it up to Jerusalem.

¹⁷And Solomon numbered all the strangers that were in the land of Israel, after the numbering wherewith David his father had numbered them; and they were found a hundred and fifty thousand and three thousand and six hundred. ¹⁸And he set threescore and ten thousand of them to be bearers of burdens, and fourscore thousand to be hewers in the mountain, and three thousand and six hundred overseers to set the people at work.

Solomon builds the temple

3 ¹Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. ²And he began to build in the second day of the second month in the fourth year of his reign.

³Now these are the things wherein Solomon was instructed for the building of the house of God. The length by cubits after the first measure was ^athreescore cubits, and the breadth twenty cubits. ⁴And the porch that was in the front of the house, the length of it was according to the breadth of the house, ^btwenty cubits, and the height was a hundred and twenty; and he overlaid it within with pure gold.

^a 90 x 30 ft or 27 x 9 m

^b 30 ft or 9 m

⁵And the greater house he ceiled with fir tree, which he overlaid with fine gold, and set thereon palm trees and chains. ⁶And he garnished the house with precious stones for beauty; and the gold was gold of Parvaim. ⁷He overlaid also the house, the beams, the posts, and the walls thereof, and the doors thereof, with gold; and graved cherubim on the walls.

⁸And he made the most holy house, the length whereof was according to the breadth of the house, twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits; and he overlaid it with fine gold, amounting to ^csix hundred talents. ⁹And the weight of the nails was ^dfifty shekels of gold. And he overlaid the upper chambers with gold.

^c 23 tons or 21 metric tons

^d 1.2 lb or 575 g

¹⁰And in the most holy house he made two cherubim of image work, and overlaid them with gold. ¹¹And the wings of the cherubim were twenty cubits long; one wing of the one cherub was ^efive cubits, reaching to the wall of the house; and the other wing was likewise five cubits, reaching to the wing of the other cherub. ¹²And one 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. ¹³The wings of these cherubim spread themselves forth twenty cubits; and they stood on their feet, and their faces were inward.

^e 7.5 ft or 2.3 m

¹⁴And he made the veil of blue, and purple, and crimson, and fine linen, and wrought cherubim thereon.

¹⁵Also he made before the house two pillars of ^fthirty and five cubits high, and the chapter that was on the top of each of them was five cubits. ¹⁶And he made chains, as in the oracle, and put them on the heads of the pillars; and made a hundred pomegranates, and put them on the chains. ¹⁷And he reared 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 Jachin, and the name of that on the left Boaz.

^f 53 ft or 16 m

Temple furnishings

4 ¹Moreover he made an altar of brass, twenty cubits the length thereof, and ^gtwenty cubits the breadth thereof, and ten cubits the height thereof. ²Also he made a molten sea of ten cubits from brim to brim, round in compass, and ^hfive cubits the height thereof; and a line of ⁱthirty cubits did compass it round about. ³And under it was the similitude of oxen, which did compass it round about; ^jten in a cubit, compassing the sea round about. Two rows of oxen were cast, when it was cast.

^g 30 x 15 ft or 9 x 4.5 m

^h 7.5 ft or 2.3 m

ⁱ 45 ft or 14m

^j 18 in or 45 cm

⁴It 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 above upon them, and all their hinder parts were inward. ⁵And the thickness of it was a handbreadth, and the brim of it like the work of the brim of a cup; with flowers of lilies; and it received an held ^kthree thousand baths.

^k 18,000 gal or 66,000 liter

⁶He made also ten lavers, and put five on the right hand, and five on the left, to wash in them; such things as they offered for the burnt offering they washed in them; but the sea was for the priests to wash in.

⁷And he made ten candlesticks of gold according to their form, and set them in the temple, five on the right hand, and five on the left.

⁸He 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.

⁹Furthermore he made the court of the priests, and the great court, and doors for the court, and overlaid the doors of them with brass. ¹⁰And he set the sea on the right side of the east end, over against the south.

¹¹And Hiram made the pots, and the shovels, and the basins. And Hiram finished the work that he was to make for king Solomon for the house of God; ¹²to wit, the two pillars, and the pommels, and the chapiters which were on the top of the two pillars, and the two wreaths to cover the two pommels of the chapiters which were on the top of the pillars; ¹³and four hundred pomegranates on the two wreaths; two rows of pomegranates on each wreath, to cover the two pommels of the chapiters which were upon the pillars.

¹⁴He made also bases, and lavers made he upon the bases; ¹⁵one sea, and twelve oxen under it. ¹⁶The pots also, and the shovels, and the fleshhooks, and all their instruments, did Hiram his father make to king Solomon for the house of the LORD, of bright brass. ¹⁷In the plain of Jordan did the king cast them, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zeredathah. ¹⁸Thus Solomon made all these vessels in great abundance; for the weight of the brass could not be found out.

¹⁹And Solomon made all the vessels that were for the house of God, the golden altar also, and the tables whereon the showbread was set; ²⁰oreover the candlesticks with their lamps, that they should burn after the manner before the oracle, of pure gold; ²¹and the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs, made he of gold, and that perfect gold. ²²And the snuffers, and the basins, and the spoons, and the censers, of pure gold; and the entry of the house, the inner doors thereof for the most holy place, and the doors of the house of the temple, were of gold.

5 ¹Thus all the work that Solomon made for the house of the LORD was finished; and Solomon brought in all the things that David his father had dedicated; and the silver, and the gold, and all the instruments, put he among the treasures of the house of God.

The ark brought into the temple

²Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion. ³Wherefore all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto the king in the feast which was in the seventh month.

⁴And all the elders of Israel came; and the Levites took up the ark. ⁵And they brought up the ark, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that were in the tabernacle, these did the priests and the Levites bring up. ⁶Also king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel that were assembled unto him before the ark, sacrificed sheep and oxen, which could not be told nor numbered for multitude.

⁷And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, to the oracle of the house, into the most holy pace, even under the wings of the cherubim; ⁸for the cherubim spread forth their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim covered the ark and the staves thereof above. ⁹And they drew out the staves of the ark, that the

ends of the staves were seen from the ark before the oracle; but they were not seen without. And there it is unto this day. ¹⁰There was nothing in the ark save the two tables which Moses put therein at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.

¹¹And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place; (for all the priests that were present were sanctified, and did not then wait by course; ¹²also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them a hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets) ¹³it came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying, "For he is good; for his mercy endureth forever;" that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; ¹⁴so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.

6 ¹Then said Solomon:

The LORD hath said that he would dwell in the thick darkness. ²But I have built a house of habitation for thee, and a place for thy dwelling forever.

³And the king turned his face, and blessed the whole congregation of Israel; and all the congregation of Israel stood. ⁴And he said:

Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who hath with his hands fulfilled that which he spake with his mouth to my father David, saying, ⁵"Since the day that I brought forth my people out of the land of Egypt I chose no city among all the tribes of Israel to build a house in, that my name might be there; neither chose I any man to be a ruler over my people Israel; ⁶but I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and have chosen David to be over my people Israel."

⁷Now it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of the LORD God of Israel. ⁸But the LORD said to David my father, "Forasmuch as it was in thine heart to build a house for my name, thou didst well in that it was in thine heart; ⁹notwithstanding thou shalt not build the house; but thy son which shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house for my name."

¹⁰The LORD therefore hath performed his word that he hath spoken; for I am risen up in the room of David my father, and am set on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built the house for the name of the LORD God of Israel. ¹¹And in it have I put the ark, wherein is the covenant of the LORD, that he made with the children of Israel.

Dedicatory prayer

¹²And he stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands; ¹³for Solomon had made a brazen scaffold, of ^afive 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 congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven, ¹⁴and said:

^a 7.5 x 7.5 x 4.5 ft or
2.3 x 2.3 x 1.4 m

O LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee in the heaven, nor in the earth; which keepest covenant, and showest mercy unto thy servants, that walk before thee with all their hearts; ¹⁵thou which hast kept with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him; and spakest with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day.

¹⁶Now therefore, O LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him, saying, "There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit upon the throne of Israel;" yet so that thy children take heed to their way to walk in my law, as thou hast walked before me. ¹⁷Now then, O LORD God of Israel, let the word be verified, which thou hast spoken unto thy servant David.

¹⁸But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!

¹⁹Have respect therefore to the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and the prayer which thy servant prayeth before thee; ²⁰that thine eyes may be open upon this house day and night, upon the place whereof thou hast said that thou wouldest put thy name there; to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant prayeth toward this place. ²¹Hearken therefore unto the supplications of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, which they shall make toward this place; hear thou from thy dwelling place, even from heaven; and when thou hearest, forgive.

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

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

²⁶When the heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; yet if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou dost afflict them; ²⁷then hear thou from heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, when thou hast taught them the good way, wherein they should walk; and send rain upon thy land, which thou hast given unto thy people for an inheritance.

²⁸If there be dearth in the land, if there be pestilence, if there be blasting or mildew, locusts or caterpillars; if their enemies besiege them in the cities of their land; whatsoever sore, or whatsoever sickness there be; ²⁹then what prayer or what supplication soever shall be made of any man, or of all thy people Israel, when everyone shall know his own sore and his own grief, and shall spread forth his hands in this house; ³⁰then hear thou from heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and render unto every man according unto all his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou only knowest the hearts of the children of men) ³¹that they may fear thee, to walk in thy ways, so long as they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers.

³²Moreover concerning the stranger, which is not of thy people Israel, but is come from a far country for thy great name's sake, and thy mighty hand, and thy stretched-out arm; if they come and pray in this house; ³³then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for; that all people of the earth may know thy name, and fear thee, as doth thy people Israel, and may know that this house which I have built is called by thy name.

³⁴If thy people go out to war against their enemies by the way that 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; ³⁵then hear thou from the heavens their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

³⁶If they sin against thee, (for there is no man which sinneth not) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them over before their enemies, and they carry them away captives unto a land far off or near; ³⁷yet if they bethink themselves in the land whither they are carried captive, and turn and pray unto thee in the land of their captivity, saying, “We have sinned, we have done amiss, and have dealt wickedly;” ³⁸if they return to thee with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, whither they have carried them captives, and pray toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, and toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house which I have built for thy name; ³⁹then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive thy people which have sinned against thee.

⁴⁰Now, 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.

⁴¹Now therefore arise, O LORD God, into thy resting place, thou, and the ark of thy strength; let thy priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness. ⁴²O LORD God, turn not away the face of thine anointed; remember the mercies of David thy servant.

The dedication of the temple

7 ¹Now 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 the LORD filled the house. ²And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD’s house. ³And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshiped, and praised the LORD, saying, “For he is good; for his mercy endureth forever.”

⁴Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD. ⁵And king Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty and two thousand oxen, and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. ⁶And the priests waited on their offices; the Levites also with instruments of music of the LORD, which David the king had made to praise the LORD, because his mercy endureth forever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood.

⁷Moreover Solomon hallowed the middle of the court that was before the house of the LORD; for there he offered burnt offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings, because the brazen altar which Solomon had made was not able to receive the burnt offerings, and the meat offerings, and the fat. ⁸Also at the same time Solomon kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt. ⁹And in the eighth day they made a solemn assembly; for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days. ¹⁰And on the three and twentieth day of the seventh month he sent the people away into their tents, glad and merry in heart for the goodness that the LORD had showed unto David, and to Solomon, and to Israel his people.

The LORD appears to Solomon

¹¹Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD, and the king's house; and all that came into Solomon's heart to make in the house of the LORD, and in his own house, he prosperously effected. ¹²And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him:

I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for a house of sacrifice.

¹³If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; ¹⁴if my people which 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. ¹⁵Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place. ¹⁶For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there forever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

¹⁷And 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 shalt observe my statutes and my judgments; ¹⁸then will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, "There shall not fail thee a man to be ruler in Israel."

¹⁹But 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, ²⁰then 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 will make it to be a proverb and a byword among all nations. ²¹And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to every one that passeth by it; so that he shall say, "Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and unto this house?" ²²And it shall be answered, "Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshiped them, and served them; therefore hath he brought evil upon them."

Solomon's other activities

8 ¹And it came to pass at the end of twenty years, wherein Solomon had built the house of the LORD, and his own house, ²that the cities which Hiram had restored to Solomon, Solomon built them, and caused the children of Israel to dwell there. ³And Solomon went to Hamath-Zobah, and prevailed against it. ⁴And he built Tadmor in the wilderness, and all the store cities, which he built in Hamath. ⁵Also he built Beth-Horon the upper, and Beth-Horon the nether, fenced cities, with walls, gates, and bars; ⁶and Baalath, and all the store cities that Solomon had, and all the chariot cities, and the cities of the horsemen, and all that Solomon desired to build in Jerusalem, and in Lebanon, and throughout all the land of his dominion.

⁷As for all the people that were left of the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which were not of Israel, ⁸but of their children, who were left after them in the land, whom the children of Israel consumed not, them did Solomon make to pay tribute until this day. ⁹But 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 captains of his chariots and horsemen. ¹⁰And these were the chief of king Solomon's officers, even two hundred and fifty, that bare rule over the people.

¹¹And 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 the places are holy, whereunto the ark of the LORD hath come."

¹²Then Solomon offered burnt offerings unto the LORD on the altar of the LORD, which he had built before the porch. ¹³Even after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the Sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts, three times in the year, even in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles. ¹⁴And he appointed, according to the order of David his father, the courses of the priests to their service, and the Levites to their charges, to praise and minister before the priests, as the duty of every day required; the porters also by their courses at every gate; for so had David the man of God commanded. ¹⁵And they departed not from the commandment of the king unto the priests and Levites concerning any matter, or concerning the treasures.

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

¹⁷Then went Solomon to Eziongeber, and to Eloth, at the seaside in the land of Edom.

¹⁸And Hiram sent him, by the hands of his servants, ships, and servants that had knowledge of the sea; and they went with the servants of Solomon to Ophir, and took thence ³four hundred and fifty talents of gold, and brought them to king Solomon.

^a 17 tons or 15 metric tons

The Queen of Sheba

9 ¹And 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 company, 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. ²And Solomon told her all her questions; and there was nothing hid from Solomon which he told her not. ³And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, and the house that he had built, ⁴and the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel; his cupbearers also, and their apparel; and his ascent by which he went up into the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her. ⁵And she said to the king:

It was a true report which I heard in mine own land of thine acts, and of thy wisdom; ⁶howbeit I believed not their words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it; and, behold, the one-half of the greatness of thy wisdom was not told me; for thou exceedest the fame that I heard. ⁷Happy are thy men, and happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and hear thy wisdom. ⁸Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee to set thee on his throne, to be king for the LORD thy God; because thy God loved Israel, to establish them forever, therefore made he thee king over them, to do judgment and justice.

⁹And she gave the king a ^bhundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices great abundance, and precious stones; neither was there any such spice as the queen of Sheba gave king Solomon.

^b 4.5 tons or 4 metric tons

¹⁰And the servants also of Hiram, and the servants of Solomon, which brought gold from Ophir, brought algum trees and precious stones. ¹¹And the king made of the algum trees terraces to the house of the LORD, and to the king's palace, and harps and psalteries for singers; and there were none such seen before in the land of Judah.

¹²And 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 away to her own land, she and her servants.

Solomon's splendor

¹³Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was ^asix hundred and threescore and six talents of gold; ¹⁴besides that which chapmen and merchants brought. And all the kings of Arabia and governors of the country brought gold and silver to Solomon.

^a 25 tons or 23 metric tons

¹⁵And king Solomon made two hundred targets of beaten gold; ^bsix hundred shekels of beaten gold went to one target. ¹⁶And three hundred shields made he of beaten gold; ^cthree hundred shekels of gold went to one shield. And the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.

^b 15 lb or 6.9 kg

^c 7.5 lb or 3.5 kg

¹⁷Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold. ¹⁸And there were six steps to the throne, with a footstool of gold, which were fastened to the throne, and stays on each side of the sitting place, and two lions standing by the stays; ¹⁹and 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. ²⁰And all the drinking vessels of king Solomon were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver; it was not anything accounted of in the days of Solomon. ²¹For the king's ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram; every three years once came the ships of Tarshish bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.

²²And king Solomon passed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom. ²³And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom, that God had put in his heart. ²⁴And they brought every man his present, vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and raiment, harness, and spices, horses, and mules, a rate year by year.

²⁵And Solomon had four thousand stalls for houses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen; whom he bestowed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem. ²⁶And he reigned over all the kings from the river even unto the land of the Philistines, and to the border of Egypt. ²⁷And the king made silver in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar trees made he as the sycamore trees that are in the low plains in abundance. ²⁸And they brought unto Solomon horses out of Egypt, and out of all lands.

The death of Solomon

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

Israel rebels against Rehoboam

10 ¹And Rehoboam went to Shechem; for to Shechem were all Israel come to make him king. ²And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was in Egypt whither he had fled from the presence of Solomon the king, heard it, that Jeroboam returned out of Egypt. ³And they sent and called him. So Jeroboam and all Israel came and spake to Rehoboam, saying:

⁴Thy father made our yoke grievous; now therefore ease thou somewhat the grievous servitude of thy father, and his heavy yoke that he put upon us, and we will serve thee.

⁵And he said unto them, "Come again unto me after three days." And the people departed. ⁶And 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?” ⁷And they spake unto him, saying:

If thou be kind to this people, and please them, and speak good words to them, they will be thy servants forever.

⁸But he forsook the counsel which the old men gave him, and took counsel with the young men that were brought up with him, that stood before him. ⁹And he said unto them, “What advice give ye that we may return answer to this people, which have spoken to me, saying, ‘Ease somewhat the yoke that thy father did put upon us?’” ¹⁰And the young men that were brought up with him spake unto him, saying:

Thus shalt thou answer the people that spake unto thee, saying, “Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it somewhat lighter for us;” thus shalt thou say unto them, “My little finger shall be thicker than my father’s loins. ¹¹For whereas my father put a heavy yoke upon you, I will put more to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.”

¹²So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day, as the king bade, saying, “Come again to me on the third day.” ¹³And the king answered them roughly; and king Rehoboam forsook the counsel of the old men, ¹⁴And answered them after the advice 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.” ¹⁵So the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was of God, that the LORD might perform his word, which he spake by the hand of Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

¹⁶And when all Israel saw that the king would not hearken unto them, the people answered the king, saying, “What portion have we in David? And we have none inheritance in the son of Jesse; every man to your tents, O Israel; and now, David, see to thine own house.” So all Israel went to their tents. ¹⁷But as for the children of Israel that dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.

¹⁸Then king Rehoboam sent Hadoram that was over the tribute; and the children of Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. But king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem. ¹⁹And Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.

I ¹And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he gathered of the house of Judah and Benjamin ahundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against Israel, that he might bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam.

²But the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying:

³Speak unto Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all Israel in Judah and Benjamin, saying, ⁴“Thus saith the LORD: Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren; return every man to his house; for this thing is done of me.”

And they obeyed the words of the LORD, and returned from going against Jeroboam.

⁵And Rehoboam dwelt in Jerusalem, and built cities for defense in Judah. ⁶He built even Bethlehem, and Etam, and Tekoa, ⁷and Beth-Zur, and Shoco, and Adullam, ⁸and Gath, and Mareshah, and Ziph, ⁹and Adoraim, and Lachish, and Azekah, ¹⁰and Zorah, and Ajaion, and Hebron, which are in Judah and in Benjamin, fenced cities. ¹¹And he fortified the strongholds, and put captains in them, and store of victuals, and of oil and wine. ¹²And in every several city he put shields and spears, and made them exceeding strong, having Judah and Benjamin on his side.

¹³And the priests and the Levites that were in all Israel resorted to him out of all their coasts. ¹⁴For the Levites left their suburbs and their possession, and came to Judah and

Jerusalem; for Jeroboam and his sons had cast them off from executing the priest's office unto the LORD. ¹⁵And he ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils, and for the calves which he had made. ¹⁶And after them, out of all the tribes of Israel, such as set their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the LORD God of their fathers. ¹⁷So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong, three years; for three years they walked in the way of David and Solomon.

Rehoboam's family

¹⁸And Rehoboam took him Mahalath the daughter of Jerimoth the son of David to wife, and Abihail the daughter of Eliab the son of Jesse; ¹⁹which bare him children; Jeush, and Shamariah, and Zaham. ²⁰And after her he took Maachah the daughter of Absalom; which bare him Abijah, and Attai, and Ziza, and Shelomith. ²¹And Rehoboam loved Maachah the daughter of Absalom above all his wives and his concubines; (for he took eighteen wives, and threescore concubines; and begat twenty and eight sons, and threescore daughters.)

²²And Rehoboam made Abijah the son of Maachah the chief, to be ruler among his brethren; for he thought to make him king. ²³And he dealt wisely, and dispersed of all his children throughout all the countries of Judah and Benjamin, unto every fenced city; and he gave them victuals in abundance. And he desired many wives.

Shishak attacks Jerusalem

12 ¹And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him. ²And it came to pass, that in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had transgressed against the LORD. ³With twelve hundred chariots, and threescore thousand horsemen; and the people were without number that came with him out of Egypt; the Lubim, the Sukkim, and the Ethiopians. ⁴And he took the fenced cities which pertained to Judah, and came to Jerusalem.

⁵Then came Shemaiah the prophet to Rehoboam, and to the princes of Judah, that were gathered together to Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said unto them:

Thus saith the LORD: Ye have forsaken me, and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak.

⁶Whereupon the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, "The LORD is righteous." ⁷And when the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying:

They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance; and my wrath shall not be poured out upon Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak. ⁸Nevertheless they shall be his servants; that they may know my service, and the service of the kingdoms of the countries.

⁹So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he took all; he carried away also the shields of gold which Solomon had made. ¹⁰Instead of which king Rehoboam made shields of brass, and committed them to the hands of the chief of the guard, that kept the entrance of the king's house. ¹¹And when the king entered into the house of the LORD, the guard came and fetched them, and brought them again into the guard chamber.

¹²And when he humbled himself, the wrath of the LORD turned from him, that he would not destroy him altogether; and also in Judah things went well.

¹³So king Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem, and reigned; for Rehoboam was one and forty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. ¹⁴And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.

¹⁵Now the acts of Rehoboam, first and last, are they not written in the book of Shemaiah the prophet, and of Iddo the seer concerning genealogies? And there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually. ¹⁶And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David; and Abijah his son reigned in his stead.

Abijah king of Judah

13 ¹Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam began Abijah to reign over Judah. ²He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Michaiah the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah.

And there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam. ³And Abijah set the battle in array with an army of valiant men of war, even four hundred thousand chosen men; Jeroboam also set the battle in array against him with eight hundred thousand men, being mighty men of valor.

⁴And Abijah stood up upon mount Zemaraim, which is in Mount Ephraim, and said: Here me, thou Jeroboam, and all Israel; ⁵ought ye not to know that the LORD God of Israel gave the kingdom over Israel to David forever, even to him and to his sons by a covenant of salt? ⁶Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, is risen up, and hath rebelled against his lord. ⁷And there are gathered unto him vain men, the children of Belial, and have strengthened themselves against Rehoboam the son of Solomon, when Rehoboam was young and tenderhearted, and could not withstand them.

⁸And now ye think to withstand the kingdom of the LORD in the hand of the sons of David; and ye be a multitude, and there are with you golden calves, which Jeroboam made you for gods. ⁹Have ye not cast out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and have made you priests after the manner of the nations 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.

¹⁰But as for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken him; and the priests, which minister unto the LORD, are the sons of Aaron, and the Levites wait upon their business; ¹¹and they burn unto the LORD every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and sweet incense; the showbread also set they in order upon the pure table; and the candlestick of gold with the lamps thereof, to burn every evening; for we keep the charge of the LORD our God; but ye have forsaken him. ¹²And, behold, God himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper.

¹³But Jeroboam caused an ambushment to come about behind them; so they were before Judah, and the ambushment was behind them. ¹⁴And when Judah looked back, behold, the battle was before and behind; and they cried unto the Lord, and the priests sounded with the trumpets. ¹⁵Then 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. ¹⁶And the children of Israel fled before Judah; and God delivered them into their hand. ¹⁷And Abijah and his people slew them with a great slaughter; so there fell down slain of Israel five

hundred thousand chosen men. ¹⁸Thus the children of Israel were brought under at that time, and the children of Judah prevailed, because they relied upon the LORD God of their fathers.

¹⁹And Abijah pursued after Jeroboam, and took cities from him, Beth-El with the towns thereof, and Jeshanah with the towns thereof, and Ephraim with the towns thereof.

²⁰Neither did Jeroboam recover strength again in the days of Abijah; and the LORD struck him, and he died.

²¹But Abijah waxed mighty, and married fourteen wives, and begat twenty and two sons, and sixteen daughters. ²²And the rest of the acts of Abijah, and his ways, and his sayings, are written in the story of the prophet Iddo.

14 ¹So 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.

Asa king of Judah

²And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God; ³for he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves; ⁴and commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment. ⁵Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images; and the kingdom was quiet before him. ⁶And he built fenced cities in Judah; for the land had rest, and he had no war in those years; because the LORD had given him rest. ⁷Therefore he said unto Judah:

Let us build these cities, and make about them walls and towers, gates and bars, while the land is yet before us; because we have sought the LORD our God, we have sought him, and he hath given us rest on every side.

So they built and prospered.

⁸And Asa had an army of men that bare targets and spears, out of Judah three hundred thousand; and out of Benjamin, that bare shields and drew bows, two hundred and fourscore thousand; all these were mighty men of valor.

⁹And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with a host of a thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah. ¹⁰Then Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.

¹¹And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said:

Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power; help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O Lord, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee.

¹²So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled. ¹³And Asa and the people that were with him pursued them unto Gerar; and the Ethiopians were overthrown, that they could not recover themselves; for they were destroyed before the LORD, and before his host; and they carried away very much spoil.

¹⁴And they smote all the cities round about Gerar; for the fear of the LORD came upon them; and they spoiled all the cities; for there was exceeding much spoil in them. ¹⁵They smote also the tents of cattle, and carried away sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem.

Asa's reforms

15 ¹And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded; ²and he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him:

Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you. ³Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law. ⁴But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them. ⁵And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries. ⁶And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city; for God did vex them with all adversity. ⁷Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak; for your work shall be rewarded.

⁸And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that was before the porch of the LORD.

⁹And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers 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 the LORD his God was with him.

¹⁰So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa. ¹¹And they offered unto the LORD the same time, of the spoil which they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep. ¹²And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul; ¹³that whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman. ¹⁴And they sware unto the LORD with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets. ¹⁵And 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 the LORD gave them rest round about.

¹⁶And also concerning Maachah the mother of Asa the king, he removed her from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove; and Asa cut down her idol, and stamped it, and burnt it at the brook Kidron. ¹⁷But the high places were not taken away out of Israel; nevertheless the heart of Asa was perfect all his days. ¹⁸And he brought into the house of God the things that his father had dedicated, and that he himself had dedicated, silver, and gold, and vessels.

¹⁹And there was no more war unto the five and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa.

Asa's final years

16 ¹In the six and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa, Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, to the intent that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

²Then Asa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent to Ben-Hadad king of Syria, that dwelt in Damascus, saying:

³There 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.

⁴And 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 store cities of Naphtali. ⁵And it came to pass, when Baasha heard it, that he left off building of Ramah, and let his work cease. ⁶Then Asa the king took all Judah; and they carried away the stones

of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha was building; and he built therewith Geba and Mizpah.

⁷And 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 not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand. ⁸Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubim a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand. ⁹For the eyes of the LORD 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; therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

¹⁰Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for he was in a rage with him because of this thing. And Asa oppressed some of the people the same time.

¹¹And, behold, the acts of Asa first and last, lo, they are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. ¹²And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great; yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians. ¹³And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign. ¹⁴And they buried him in his own sepulchers, which he had made 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 apothecaries' art; and they made a very great burning for him.

Jehoshaphat king of Judah

17 ¹And Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead, and strengthened himself against Israel.

²And he placed forces in all the fenced cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken.

³And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim; ⁴but sought to the LORD God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel. ⁵Therefore the LORD stablished the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honor in abundance. ⁶And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD; moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah.

⁷Also in the third year of his reign he sent to his princes, even to Ben-hail, and to Obadiah, and to Zechariah, and to Nethaneel, and to Michaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah. ⁸And with them he sent Levites, even Shemaiah, and Nethaniah, and Zebadiah, and Asahel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehonathan, and Adonijah, and Tobijah, and Tobadonijah, Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, priests. ⁹And they taught in Judah, and had the book of the law of the LORD with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people.

¹⁰And the fear of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat. ¹¹Also some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents, and tribute silver; and the Arabians brought him flocks, seven thousand and seven hundred rams, and seven thousand and seven hundred he goats.

¹²And Jehoshaphat waxed great exceedingly; and he built in Judah castles, and cities of store. ¹³And he had much business in the cities of Judah; and the men of war, mighty men of valor, were in Jerusalem. ¹⁴And these are the numbers of them according to the house of their fathers: of Judah, the captains of thousands; Adnah the chief, and with him mighty men of valor three hundred thousand. ¹⁵And next to him was Jehohanan the captain, and

with him two hundred and fourscore thousand. ¹⁶And next to him was Amasiah the son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself unto the LORD; and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valor. ¹⁷And of Benjamin: Eliada a mighty man of valor, and with him armed men with bow and shield two hundred thousand. ¹⁸And next to him was Jehozabad, and with him a hundred and fourscore thousand ready prepared for the war. ¹⁹These waited on the king, besides those whom the king put in the fenced cities throughout all Judah.

Micaiah prophecies against Ahab

18

¹Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab.

²And 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 he had with him, and persuaded him to go up with him to Ramoth-Gilead. ³And 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." ⁴And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, "Inquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD today."

⁵Therefore the king of Israel gathered together of prophets 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 king's hand." ⁶But Jehoshaphat said:

Is there not here a prophet of the LORD, besides, that we might inquire of him?

⁷And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat:

There is yet one man, by whom we may inquire of the LORD; but I hate him; for he never prophesied good unto me, but always evil; the same is Micaiah the son of Imla.

And Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say so." ⁸And the king of Israel called for one of his officers, and said, "Fetch quickly Micaiah the son of Imla."

⁹And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah sat either of them on his throne, clothed in their robes, and they sat in a void place at the entering in of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them. ¹⁰And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah had made him horns of iron, and said, "Thus saith the LORD: With these thou shalt push Syria until they be consumed." ¹¹And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, "Go up to Ramothgilead, and prosper; for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king."

¹²And the messenger that went to call Micaiah spake to him, saying:

Behold, the words of the prophets declare good to the king with one assent; let thy word therefore, I pray thee, be like one of theirs, and speak thou good.

¹³And Micaiah said, "As the LORD liveth, even what my God saith, that will I speak."

¹⁴And when he was come to the king, the king said unto him, "Micaiah, shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear?" And he said, "Go ye up, and prosper, and they shall be delivered into your hand." ¹⁵And the king said to him, "How many times shall I adjure thee that thou say nothing but the truth to me in the name of the LORD?"

¹⁶Then he said:

I did see all Israel scattered upon the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd; and the LORD said, These have no master; let them return therefore every man to his house in peace.

¹⁷And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat:

Did I not tell thee that he would not prophesy good unto me, but evil?

¹⁸Again he said:

Therefore hear the word of the LORD; I saw the LORD sitting upon his throne, and all the host of heaven standing on his right hand and on his left. ¹⁹And the LORD said, "Who shall entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead?" And one spake saying after this manner, and another saying after that manner. ²⁰Then there came out a lying spirit, and stood before them, and said, "I will entice him." And the LORD said unto him, "Wherewith?" ²¹And he said, "I will go out, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets." And the LORD said, "Thou shalt entice him, and thou shalt also prevail; go out, and do even so; for all these have sinned against me."

²²Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath found a lying spirit in the mouth of these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil against thee.

²³Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near, and smote Micaiah upon the cheek, and said, "Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee?" ²⁴And Micaiah said:

Behold, thou shalt see on that day when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself.

²⁵Then the king of Israel said:

Take ye Micaiah, and carry him back to Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; ²⁶and 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."

²⁷And Micaiah said:

If thou certainly return in peace, then hath not the LORD spoken by me.

And he said, "Hearken, all ye people."

The death of Ahab

²⁸So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth-Gilead.

²⁹And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself, and will go to the battle; but put thou on thy robes." So the king of Israel disguised himself; and they went to the battle.

³⁰Now the king of Syria had commanded the captains of the chariots that were with him, saying, "Fight ye not with small or great, save only with the king of Israel." ³¹And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, "It is the king of Israel." Therefore they compassed about him to fight; but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him; and God moved them to depart from him. ³²For it came to pass, that, when the captains of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back again from pursuing him. ³³And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness; therefore he said to his chariot man, "Turn thine hand, that thou mayest carry me out of the host; for I am wounded." ³⁴And 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 sun going down he died.

19 ¹And Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem. ²And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat:

Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? Therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD. ³Nevertheless, there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God.

Jehoshaphat appoints judges

⁴And Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem; and he went out again through the people from Beersheba to mount Ephraim, and brought them back unto the LORD God of their fathers. ⁵And he set judges in the land throughout all the fenced cities of Judah, city by city, ⁶and said to the judges:

Take heed what ye do; for ye judge not for man, but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment. ⁷Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it; for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.

⁸Moreover in Jerusalem did Jehoshaphat set of the Levites, and of the priests, and of the chief of the fathers of Israel, for the judgment of the LORD, and for controversies, when they returned to Jerusalem. ⁹And he charged them, saying:

Thus shall ye do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully, and with a perfect heart. ¹⁰And what cause soever shall come to you of your brethren that dwell in their cities, between blood and blood, between law and commandment, statutes and judgments, ye shall even warn them that they trespass not against the LORD, and so wrath come upon you, and upon your brethren; this do, and ye shall not trespass.

¹¹And, behold, Amariah the chief priest is over you in all matters of the LORD; and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, for all the king's matters; also the Levites shall be officers before you. Deal courageously, and the LORD shall be with the good.

Jehoshaphat defeats Moab and Ammon

20 ¹It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other besides the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. ²Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, "There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they are in Hazazontamar, which was called En-Gedi." ³And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

⁴And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the LORD; even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD. ⁵And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, ⁶and said:

O LORD God of our fathers, thou God who art in heaven; and rulest over all the kingdoms of the heathen; and in thy hand thou hast power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee; ⁷thou our God didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend forever. ⁸And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying, ⁹"If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help."

¹⁰And 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 from them and destroyed them not; ¹¹behold, they reward us not, but have come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit. ¹²O 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.

¹³And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

¹⁴Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation; ¹⁵and he said:

Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, thus saith the LORD unto you: Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. ¹⁶Tomorrow go ye down against them; behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷Ye shall not go to fight in this day; set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem; fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them; for the LORD will be with you.

¹⁸And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground; and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshiping the LORD. ¹⁹And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high.

²⁰And 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 the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

²¹And when he had consulted with the people he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, "Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth forever."

²²And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. ²³For 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, everyone helped to destroy another.

²⁴And when Judah came toward the watchtower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped. ²⁵And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away; and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much. ²⁶And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the valley of Berachah; for there they blessed the LORD; therefore the name of the same place was called, "The valley of Berachah," unto this day.

²⁷Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies. ²⁸And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the LORD.

²⁹And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel. ³⁰So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet; for his God gave him rest round about.

The death of Jehoshaphat

³¹And Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah; he was thirty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Azubah, the daughter of Shilhi. ³²And he walked in the way of Asa his father, and

departed not from it, doing that which was right in the sight of the LORD. ³³Howbeit the high places were not taken away; for as yet the people had not prepared their hearts unto the God of their fathers.

³⁴Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of Jehu the son of Hanani, who is mentioned in the book of the kings of Israel. ³⁵And after this did Jehoshaphat king of Judah join himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who did very wickedly; ³⁶and he joined himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish; and they made the ships in Ezion-Geber. ³⁷Then Eliezer, the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, "Because thou hast joined thyself with Ahaziah, the LORD hath broken thy works." And the ships were broken, that they were not able to go to Tarshish.

21 ¹Now Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And Jehoram his son reigned in his stead. ²And 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 of Israel. ³And their father gave them great gifts of silver, and of gold, and of precious things, with fenced cities in Judah; but the kingdom gave he to Jehoram; because he was the first-born.

Jehoram king of Judah

⁴Now when Jehoram was risen up to the kingdom of his father, he strengthened himself, and slew all his brethren with the sword, and divers also of the princes of Israel. ⁵Jehoram was thirty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. ⁶And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, like as did the house of Ahab; for he had the daughter of Ahab to wife; and he wrought that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD. ⁷Howbeit the LORD would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that he had made with David, and as he promised to give a light to him and to his sons forever.

⁸In his days the Edomites revolted from under the dominion of Judah, and made themselves a king. ⁹Then Jehoram went forth with his princes, and all his chariots with him; and he rose up by night, and smote the Edomites which compassed him in, and the captains of the chariots. ¹⁰So the Edomites revolted from under the hand of Judah unto this day.

The same time also did Libnah revolt from under his hand; because he had forsaken the LORD God of his fathers. ¹¹Moreover he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit fornication, and compelled Judah thereto.

¹²And there came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying:

Thus saith the LORD 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, ¹³but hast walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and hast made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to go a whoring, like to the whoredoms of the house of Ahab, and also hast slain thy brethren of thy father's house, which were better than thyself; ¹⁴behold, with a great plague will the LORD smite thy people, and thy children, and thy wives, and all thy goods. ¹⁵And thou shalt have great sickness by disease of thy bowels, until thy bowels fall out by reason of the sickness day by day.

¹⁶Moreover the LORD stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines, and of the Arabians, that were near the Ethiopians; ¹⁷and they came up into Judah, and brake into it, and carried away all the substance that was found in the king's house, and his sons also,

and his wives; so that there was never a son left him, save Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons.

¹⁸And after all this the LORD smote him in his bowels with an incurable disease. ¹⁹And it came to pass, that in process of time, after the end of two years, his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness; so he died of sore diseases. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning of his fathers.

²⁰Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years, and departed without being desired. Howbeit they buried him in the city of David, but not in the sepulchers of the kings.

Ahaziah king of Judah

22 ¹And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah 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.

²Two and twenty years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri. ³He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab; for his mother was his counselor to do wickedly.

⁴Wherefore he did evil in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab; for they were his counselors, after the death of his father, to his destruction. ⁵He walked also after their counsel, and went with Jehoram the son Ahab king of Israel to war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramoth-Gilead; and the Syrians smote Joram. ⁶And he returned to be healed in Jezreel because of the wounds which were given him at Ramah, when he fought with Hazael king of Syria.

And Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Jehoram the son of Ahab at Jezreel, because he was sick.

⁷And the destruction of Ahaziah was of God by coming to Joram; for when he was come, he went out with Jehoram against Jehu the son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to cut off the house of Ahab. ⁸And it came to pass, that, when Jehu was executing judgment upon the house of Ahab, and found the princes of Judah, and the sons of the brethren of Ahaziah, that ministered to Ahaziah, he slew them. ⁹And he sought Ahaziah; and they caught him, (for he was hid in Samaria) and brought him to Jehu; and when they had slain him, they buried him; because, said they, "he is the son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart." So the house of Ahaziah had no power to keep still the kingdom.

Athaliah and Joash

¹⁰But when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal of the house of Judah. ¹¹But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons that were slain, and put him and his nurse in a 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. ¹²And he was with them hid in the house of God six years; and Athaliah reigned over the land.

23 ¹And in the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and took the captains of hundreds, Azariah the son of Jeroham, 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. ²And they went about in Judah, and gathered the Levites out of all the

cities of Judah, and the chief of the fathers of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem. ³And all the congregation made a covenant with the king in the house of God.

And he said unto them:

Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the LORD hath said of the sons of David. ⁴This is the thing that ye shall do: a third part of you entering on the Sabbath, of the priests and of the Levites, shall be porters of the doors; ⁵and 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 the LORD. ⁶But let none come into the house of the LORD, save the priests, and they that minister of the Levites; they shall go in, for they are holy; but all the people shall keep the watch of the LORD. ⁷And the Levites shall compass the king round about, every man, with his weapons in his hand; and whosoever else cometh into the house he shall be put to death; but be ye with the king when he cometh in, and when he goeth out.

⁸So the Levites and all Judah did according to all things that Jehoiada the priest had commanded, and took every man his men that were to come in on the Sabbath, with them that were to go out on the Sabbath; for Jehoiada the priest dismissed not the courses. ⁹Moreover Jehoiada the priest delivered to the captains of hundreds spears, and bucklers, and shields, that had been king David's, which were in the house of God. ¹⁰And he set all the people, every man having his weapon in his hand, from the right side of the temple to the left side of the temple, along by the altar and the temple, by the king round about.

¹¹Then they brought out the king's son, and put upon him the crown, and gave him the testimony, and made him king. And Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and said, "God save the king."

¹²Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she came to the people into the house of the LORD. ¹³And she looked, and, behold, the king stood at his pillar at the entering in, and the princes and the trumpets by the king; and all the people of the land rejoiced, and sounded with trumpets, also the singers with instruments of music, and such as taught to sing praise. Then Athaliah rent her clothes, and said, "Treason, treason."

¹⁴Then Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of hundreds that were set over the host, and said unto them, "Have her forth of the ranges; and whoso followeth her, let him be slain with the sword. For the priest said, 'Slay her not in the house of the LORD.'" ¹⁵So they laid hands on her; and when she was come to the entering of the Horse Gate by the king's house, they slew her there.

¹⁶And Jehoiada made a covenant between him, and between all the people, and between the king, that they should be the LORD's people. ¹⁷Then 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.

¹⁸Also Jehoiada appointed the offices of the house of the LORD by the hand of the priests the Levites, whom David had distributed in the house of the LORD, to offer the burnt offerings of the LORD, as it is written in the law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, as it was ordained by David. ¹⁹And he set the porters at the gates of the house of the LORD, that none which was unclean in anything should enter in.

²⁰And 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 the LORD; and they came through the high gate into the king's house, and set the king upon the

throne of the kingdom. ²¹And all the people of the land rejoiced; and the city was quiet, after that they had slain Athaliah with the sword.

Joash repairs the temple

24 ¹Joash was seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Zibiah of Beer-Sheba. ²And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest. ³And Jehoiada took for him two wives; and he begat sons and daughters.

⁴And it came to pass after this, that Joash was minded to repair the house of the LORD.

⁵And he gathered together the priest 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. ⁶And 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 collection, according to the commandment of Moses the servant of the LORD, and of the congregation of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness?

⁷For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God; and also all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD did they bestow upon Baalim.

⁸And at the king's commandment they made a chest, and set it without at the gate of the house of the LORD. ⁹And they made a proclamation through Judah and Jerusalem, to bring in to the LORD the collection Moses the servant of God laid upon Israel in the wilderness. ¹⁰And all the princes and all the people rejoiced, and brought in, and cast into the chest, until they had made an end. ¹¹Now it came to pass, that at what time the chest was brought unto the king's office by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, the king's scribe and the high priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it, and carried it to his place again. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance. ¹²And the king and Jehoiada gave it to such as did the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and hired masons and carpenters to repair the house of the LORD, and also such as wrought iron and brass to mend the house of the LORD.

¹³So the workmen wrought, and the work was perfected by them, and they set the house of God in his state, and strengthened it. ¹⁴And when they had finished it, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada, whereof were made vessels for the house of the LORD, even vessels to minister, and to offer withal, and spoons, and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually all the days of Jehoiada.

¹⁵But Jehoiada waxed old, and was full of days when he died; a hundred and thirty years old was he when he died. ¹⁶And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God, and toward his house.

¹⁷Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them. ¹⁸And they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served groves and idols; and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their trespass. ¹⁹Yet he sent prophets to them to bring them again unto the LORD; and they testified against them; but they would not give ear.

²⁰And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them:

Thus saith God: Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? Because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you.

²¹And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the LORD. ²²Thus 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, "The LORD look upon me, and require me."

²³And it came to pass at the end of the year, that the host of Syria 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. ²⁴For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men, and the LORD delivered a very great host into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash. ²⁵And when they were departed from him, (for they left him in great diseases) his own servants conspired against him for the blood of the sons 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 sepulchers of the kings.

²⁶And these are they that conspired against him; Zabad the son of Shimeath an Ammonitess, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith a Moabitess. ²⁷Now concerning his sons, and the greatness of the burdens laid upon him, and the repairing of the house of God, behold, they are written in the story of the book of the kings. And Amaziah his son reigned in his stead.

Amaziah king of Judah

25 ¹Amaziah was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem. ²And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a perfect heart. ³Now it came to pass, when the kingdom was established to him, that he slew his servants that had killed the king his father. ⁴But he slew not their children, but did as it is written in the law in the book of Moses, where the LORD 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."

⁵Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together, and made them captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, according to the houses of their fathers, throughout all Judah and Benjamin; and he numbered them from twenty years old and above, and found them three hundred thousand choice men, able to go forth to war, that could handle spear and shield. ⁶He hired also a hundred thousand mighty men of valor out of Israel for a ^ahundred talents of silver.

^a 3.7 tons or 3.4 metric tons

⁷But there came a man of God to him, saying:

O king, let not the army of Israel go with thee; for the LORD is not with Israel, to wit, with all the children of Ephraim. ⁸But if thou wilt go, do it, be strong for the battle; God shall make thee fall before the enemy; for God hath power to help, and to cast down.

⁹And Amaziah said to the man of God:

But what shall we do for the hundred talents which I have given to the army of Israel?

And the man of God answered:

The LORD is able to give thee much more than this.

¹⁰Then 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 great anger. ¹¹And Amaziah strengthened himself, and led forth his people, and went to the valley of salt, and smote of the children of Seir ten thousand.

¹²And other ten thousand left alive did the children of Judah carry away captive, and brought them unto the top of the rock, and cast them down from the top of the rock, that they all were broken in pieces.

¹³But the soldiers of the army which 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 three thousand of them, and took much spoil.

¹⁴Now 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. ¹⁵Wherefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, which said unto him:

Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand?

¹⁶And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, “Art thou made of the king’s counsel? Forbear; why shouldest thou be smitten?” Then the prophet forbore, and said, “I know that God hath determined to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel.”

¹⁷Then 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 see one another in the face.”

¹⁸And Joash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, “The thistle that grew in Lebanon sent to the cedar that grew in Lebanon, saying, ‘Give thy daughter to my son to wife; and there passed by a wild beast that was in Lebanon, and trode down the thistle.’

¹⁹Thou sayest, ‘Lo, thou hast smitten the Edomites; and thine heart lifteth thee up to boast;’ abide now at home; why shouldest thou meddle to thine hurt, that thou shouldest fall, even thou and Judah with thee?”

²⁰But Amaziah would not hear; for it came of God, that he might deliver them into the hand of their enemies, because they sought after the gods of Edom. ²¹So Joash the king of Israel went up; and they saw one another in the face, both he and Amaziah king of Judah, at Beth-Shemesh, which belongeth to Judah. ²²And Judah was put to the worse before Israel, and they fled every man to his tent. ²³And Joash the 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 to the corner gate, ^afour hundred cubits. ²⁴And he took all the gold and the 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.

^a 600 ft or 180 m

²⁵And Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah lived after the death of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel fifteen years. ²⁶Now 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? ²⁷Now after the time that Amaziah did turn away from following the LORD they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem; and he fled to Lachish; but they sent to Lachish after him, and slew him there. ²⁸And they brought him upon horses, and buried him with his fathers in the city of Judah.

Uzziah king of Judah

26 ¹Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah. ²He built Eloth, and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers.

³Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. ⁴And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah did. ⁵And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper.

⁶And 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 built cities about Ashdod, and among the Philistines. ⁷And God helped him against the Philistines, and against the Arabians that dwelt in Gurbaal, and the Mehunim. ⁸And the Ammonites gave gifts to Uzziah; and his name spread abroad even to the entering in of Egypt; for he strengthened himself exceedingly.

⁹Moreover Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, and at the Valley Gate, and at the turning of the wall, and fortified them. ¹⁰Also he built towers in the desert, and digged many wells; for he had much cattle, both in the low country, and in the plains; husbandmen also, and vinedressers in the mountains, and in Carmel; for he loved husbandry.

¹¹Moreover Uzziah had a host of fighting men, that went out to war by bands, according to the number of their account by the hand of Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the ruler, under the hand of Hananiah, one of the king's captains. ¹²The whole number of the chief of the fathers of the mighty men of valor were two thousand and six hundred. ¹³And under their hand was an army, three hundred thousand and seven thousand and five hundred, that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy. ¹⁴And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and slings to cast stones. ¹⁵And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvelously helped, till he was strong.

¹⁶But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction; for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense. ¹⁷And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, that were valiant men; ¹⁸and they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him:

It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense; go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honor from the LORD God.

¹⁹Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense; and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar. ²⁰And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he was leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out from thence; yea, himself hastened also to go out, because the LORD had smitten him.

²¹And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, being a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD; and Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land.

²²Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, first and last, did Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, write. ²³So Uzziah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the field of the burial which belonged to the kings; for they said, He is a leper; and Jotham his son reigned in his stead.

Jotham king of Judah

27 ¹Jotham was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jerushah, the daughter of Zadok. ²And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah did; howbeit he entered not into the temple of the LORD. And the people did yet corruptly. ³He built the high gate of the house of the LORD, and on the wall of Ophel he built much. ⁴Moreover he built cities in the mountains of Judah, and in the forests he built castles and towers.

⁵He fought also with the king of the Ammonites, and prevailed against them. And the children of Ammon gave him the same year a ^ahundred talents of silver, and ^bten thousand measures of wheat, and ^cten thousand of barley. So much did the children of Ammon pay unto him, both the second year, and the third.

^a 3.7 ton or 3.4 metric ton

^b 1,800 ton or 1,600 metric ton

^c 1,500 ton or 1,350 metric ton

⁶So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God.

⁷Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all his wars, and his ways, lo, they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah. ⁸He was five and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. ⁹And Jotham slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David; and Ahaz his son reigned in his stead.

Ahaz king of Judah

28 ¹Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; but he did not that which was right in the sight of the LORD, like David his father; ²for he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and made also molten images for Baalam. ³Moreover he burnt incense in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and burnt his children in the fire, after the abominations of the heathen whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. ⁴He sacrificed also and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.

⁵Wherefore the LORD his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria; and they smote him, and carried away a great multitude of them 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. ⁶For Pekah the son of Remaliah slew in Judah a hundred and twenty thousand in one day, which were all valiant men; because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. ⁷And Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, slew Maaseiah the king's son, and Azrikam the governor of the house, and Elkanah that was next to the king. ⁸And 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.

⁹But a prophet of the LORD was there, whose name was Oded; and he went out before the host that came to Samaria, and said unto them:

Behold, because the LORD God of your fathers was wroth with Judah, he hath delivered them into your hand, and ye have slain them in a rage that reacheth up into heaven. ¹⁰And now ye purpose to keep under the children of Judah and Jerusalem for bondmen and bondwomen unto you; but are there not with you, even with you, sins against the LORD your God? ¹¹Now hear me therefore, and deliver the captives again, which ye have taken captive of your brethren; for the fierce wrath of the LORD is upon you.

¹²Then 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. ¹³And said unto them:

Ye shall not bring in the captives hither; for whereas we have offended against the LORD already, ye intend to add more to our sins and to our trespass; for our trespass is great, and there is fierce wrath against Israel.

¹⁴So the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the princes and all the congregation. ¹⁵And the men which were expressed 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, to their brethren; then they returned to Samaria.

¹⁶At that time did king Ahaz send unto the kings of Assyria to help him. ¹⁷For again the Edomites had come and smitten Judah, and carried away captives. ¹⁸The Philistines also had invaded the cities of the low country, and of the south of Judah, and had taken Beth-Shemesh, and Ajalon, and Gederoth, and Shoco with the villages thereof, and Timnah with the villages thereof, Gimzo also and the villages thereof; and they dwelt there. ¹⁹For the LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel; for he made Judah naked, and transgressed sore against the LORD. ²⁰And Tilgath-Pilneser king of Assyria came unto him, and distressed him, but strengthened him not. ²¹For Ahaz took away a portion out of the house of the LORD, and out of the house of the king, and of the princes, and gave it unto the king of Assyria; but he helped him not.

²²And in the time of his distress did he trespass yet more against the LORD; this is that king Ahaz. ²³For he sacrificed unto the gods of Damascus, which smote him; and he said, "Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, therefore will I sacrifice to them, that they may help me." But they were the ruin of him, and of all Israel.

²⁴And 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 the LORD, and he made him altars in every corner of Jerusalem. ²⁵And in every several city of Judah he made high places to burn incense unto other gods, and provoked to anger the LORD God of his fathers.

²⁶Now the rest of his acts and of all his ways, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. ²⁷And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, even in Jerusalem; but they brought him not into the sepulchers of the kings of Israel; and Hezekiah his son reigned in his stead.

Hezekiah king of Judah

29 ¹Hezekiah began to reign when he was five and twenty years old, and he reigned nine and twenty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah.

²And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done.

Hezekiah cleanses the temple

³He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of the LORD, and repaired them. ⁴And he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them together into the east street. ⁵And said unto them:

Hear me, ye Levites; sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place. ⁶For our fathers have trespassed, and done that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD our God, and have forsaken him, and have turned away their faces from the habitation of the LORD, and turned their backs. ⁷Also 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. ⁸Wherefore the wrath of the LORD was upon Judah and Jerusalem, and he hath delivered them to trouble, to astonishment, and to hissing, as ye see with your eyes. ⁹For, lo, our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives are in captivity for this. ¹⁰Now it is in mine heart to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, that his fierce wrath may turn away from us. ¹¹My sons, be not now negligent; for the LORD hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense.

¹²Then 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 Jehalelel; and of the Gershonites; Joah the son of Zimmah, and Eden the son of Joah; ¹³and of the sons of Elizaphan; Shimri, and Jeiel; and of the sons of Asaph; Zechariah, and Mattaniah; ¹⁴And of the sons of Heman; Jehiel, and Shimei; and of the sons of Jeduthun; Shemaiah, and Uzziel.

¹⁵And they gathered their brethren, and sanctified themselves, and came, according to the commandment of the king, by the words of the LORD, to cleanse the house of the LORD. ¹⁶And the priests went into the inner part of the house of the LORD, to cleanse it, and brought out all the uncleanness that they found in the temple of the LORD into the court of the house of the LORD. And the Levites took it, to carry it out abroad into the brook Kidron. ¹⁷Now they began on the first day of the first month to sanctify, and on the eighty day of the month came they to the porch of the LORD; so they sanctified the house of the LORD in eight days; and in the sixteenth day of the first month they made an end. ¹⁸Then they went in to Hezekiah the king, and said:

We have cleansed all the house of the LORD, and the altar of burnt offering, with all the vessels thereof, and the showbread table, with all the vessels thereof. ¹⁹Moreover all the vessels, which king Ahaz in his reign did cast away in his transgression, have we prepared and sanctified, and, behold, they are before the altar of the LORD.

²⁰Then Hezekiah the king rose early, and gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the LORD. ²¹And 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 the LORD. ²²So they killed the bullocks, and the priests received the blood, and sprinkled it on the altar; likewise, when they had killed the rams, they sprinkled the blood upon the altar; they killed also the lambs, and they sprinkled the blood upon the altar. ²³And they brought forth the he goats for the sin offering before the king and the congregation; and they laid their hands upon them; ²⁴and the priests killed them, and they made

reconciliation with their blood upon the altar, to make an atonement for all Israel; for the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering should be made for all Israel.

²⁵And he set the Levites in the house of the LORD 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 so was the commandment of the LORD by his prophets. ²⁶And the Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets.

²⁷And Hezekiah commanded to offer the burnt offering upon the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the LORD began also with the trumpets, and with the instruments ordained by David king of Israel. ²⁸And all the congregation worshiped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded; and all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.

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

³¹Then Hezekiah answered and said:

Now ye have consecrated yourselves unto the LORD, come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the LORD.

And the congregation brought in sacrifices and thank offerings; and as many as were of a free heart, burnt offerings. ³²And the number of the burnt offerings, which the congregation brought, was threescore and ten bullocks, a hundred rams, and two hundred lambs; all these were for a burnt offering to the LORD. ³³And the consecrated things were six hundred oxen and three thousand sheep. ³⁴But 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 other priests had sanctified themselves; for the Levites were more upright in heart to sanctify themselves than the priests. ³⁵And also the burnt offerings were in abundance, with the fat of the peace offerings, and the drink offerings for every burnt offering. So the service of the house of the LORD was set in order.

³⁶And Hezekiah rejoiced, and all the people, that God had prepared the people; for the thing was done suddenly.

Hezekiah celebrates the Passover

30 ¹And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover unto the LORD God of Israel. ²For the king had taken counsel, and his princes, and all the congregation in Jerusalem, to keep the Passover in the second month. ³For they could not keep it at that time, because the priests had not sanctified themselves sufficiently, neither had the people gathered themselves together to Jerusalem. ⁴And the thing pleased the king and all the congregation. ⁵So 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 the LORD God of Israel at Jerusalem; for they had not done it of a long time in such sort as it was written.

⁶So 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 the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and he will return to the remnant of you, that are escaped out of the hand of the kings of Assyria. ⁷And be not ye like your fathers, and like your brethren, which trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers, who therefore gave them up to desolation, as ye see. ⁸Now be ye not stiff-necked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified forever; and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you. ⁹For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children shall find compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land; for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him.

¹⁰So 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. ¹¹Nevertheless, divers of Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem. ¹²Also in Judah the hand of God was to give them one heart to do the commandment of the king and of the princes, by the word of the LORD.

¹³And there assembled at Jerusalem much people to keep the feast of unleavened bread in the second month, a very great congregation. ¹⁴And they arose and took away the altars that were in Jerusalem, and all the altars for incense took they away, and cast them into the brook Kidron.

¹⁵Then 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 in the burnt offerings into the house of the LORD. ¹⁶And they stood in their places after their manner, according to the law of Moses the man of God; the priests sprinkled the blood, which they received of the hand of the Levites. ¹⁷For there were many in the congregation that were not sanctified; therefore the Levites had the charge of the killing of the Passovers for everyone that was not clean, to sanctify them unto the LORD. ¹⁸For 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 than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying:

The good LORD pardon everyone ¹⁹that prepareth his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary.

²⁰And the LORD hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people.

²¹And 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 the LORD day by day, singing with loud instruments unto the LORD. ²²And Hezekiah spake comfortably unto all the Levites that taught the good knowledge of the LORD; and they did eat throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings, and making confession to the LORD God of their fathers.

²³And the whole assembly took counsel to keep other seven days; and they kept other seven days with gladness. ²⁴For Hezekiah king of Judah did give to the congregation a thousand bullocks and seven thousand sheep; and the princes gave to the congregation a thousand bullocks and ten thousand sheep; and a great number of priests sanctified themselves. ²⁵And all the congregation of Judah, with the priests and the Levites, and all the congregation that came out of Israel, and the strangers that came out of the land of Israel, and that dwelt in Judah, rejoiced. ²⁶So 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.

²⁷Then the priests the Levites arose and blessed the people; and their voice was heard and their prayer came up to his holy dwelling place, even unto heaven.

31 ¹Now when all this was finished, all Israel that were present went out to the cities of Judah, and brake the images in pieces, and cut down the groves, and threw down the high places and the altars out of all Judah and Benjamin, in Ephraim also and Manasseh, until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned, every man to his possession, into their own cities.

Contributions

²And Hezekiah appointed the courses of the priests and the Levites after their courses, every man according to his service, the priests and Levites for burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister, and to give thanks, and to praise in the gates of the tents of the LORD. ³He appointed also the king's portion of his substance for the burnt offerings, to wit, for the morning and evening burnt offerings, and the burnt offerings for the Sabbaths, and for the new moons, and for the set feasts, as it is written in the law of the LORD. ⁴Moreover he commanded the people that dwelt in Jerusalem to give the portion of the priests and the Levites, that they might be encouraged in the law of the LORD.

⁵And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly. ⁶And concerning 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 which were consecrated unto the LORD their God, and laid them by heaps. ⁷In the third month they began to lay the foundation of the heaps, and finished them in the seventh month. ⁸And when Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD, and his people Israel.

⁹Then Hezekiah questioned with the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps. ¹⁰And Azariah the chief priest of the house of Zadok answered him, and said:

Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the LORD, we have had enough to eat, and have left plenty; for the LORD hath blessed his people; and that which is left is this great store.

¹¹Then Hezekiah commanded to prepare chambers in the house of the LORD; and they prepared them, ¹²and brought in the offerings and the tithes and the dedicated things faithfully; over which Cononiah the Levite was ruler, and Shimei his brother was the next. ¹³And 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 Cononiah and Shimei his brother, at the commandment of Hezekiah the king, and Azariah the ruler of the house of God.

¹⁴And Kore the son of Imnah the Levite, the porter toward the east, was over the freewill offerings of God, to distribute the oblations of the LORD, and the most holy things.

¹⁵And next to him were Eden, and Miniamin, and Jeshua, and Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah, in the cities of the priests, in their set office, to give to their brethren by courses, as well to the great as to the small; ¹⁶besides their genealogy of males, from three years old and upward, even unto everyone that entereth into the house of the LORD, his daily portion for their service in their charges according to their courses; ¹⁷both to the genealogy of the priests by the house of their fathers, and the Levites from twenty years old and upward, in their charges by their courses; ¹⁸and to the genealogy of all their little ones, their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, through all the congregation; for in their set office they sanctified themselves in holiness; ¹⁹also of the sons of Aaron the priests, which were in the fields of the suburbs of their cities, in every several city, the men that

were expressed by name, to give portions to all the males among the priests, and to all that were reckoned by genealogies among the Levites.

²⁰And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah, and wrought that which was good and right and truth before the LORD his God. ²¹And 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.

Sennacherib threatens Jerusalem

32 ¹After these things, and the establishment thereof, Sennacherib king of Assyria came, and entered into Judah, and encamped against the fenced cities, and thought to win them for himself. ²And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib was come, and that he was purposed to fight against Jerusalem, ³he took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which were without the city; and they did help him. ⁴So there was gathered much people together, who stopped all the fountains, and the brook that ran through the midst of the land saying, “Why should the kings of Assyria come, and find much water?” ⁵Also he strengthened himself, and built up all the wall that was broken and raised it up to the towers, and another wall without, and repaired Millo in the city of David, and made darts and shields in abundance.

⁶And he set captains of war over the people, and gathered them together to him in the street of the gate of the city, and spake comfortably to them, saying:

⁷Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him; for there be more with us than with him. ⁸With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles.

And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

⁹After this did Sennacherib king of Assyria send his servants to Jerusalem, (but he himself laid siege against Lachish, and all his power with him) unto Hezekiah king of Judah, and unto all Judah that were at Jerusalem, saying:

¹⁰Thus saith Sennacherib king of Assyria: Whereon do ye trust, that ye abide in the siege in Jerusalem? ¹¹Doth not Hezekiah persuade you to give over yourselves to die by famine and by thirst, saying, “The LORD our God shall deliver us out of the hand of the king of Assyria”? ¹²Hath not the same Hezekiah taken away his high places and his altars, and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, saying, “Ye shall worship before one altar, and burn incense upon it”?

¹³Know ye not what I and my fathers have done unto all the people of other lands? Were the gods of the nations of those lands any ways able to deliver their lands out of mine hand? ¹⁴Who was there among all the gods of those nations that my fathers utterly destroyed, that could deliver his people out of mine hand, that your God should be able to deliver you out of mine hand?

¹⁵Now therefore let not Hezekiah deceive you, nor persuade you on this manner, neither yet believe him; for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people out of mine hand, and out of the hand of my fathers; how much less shall your God deliver you out of mine hand?

¹⁶And his servants spake yet more against the LORD God, and against his servant Hezekiah. ¹⁷He wrote also letters to rail on the LORD God of Israel, and to speak against him, saying, “As the gods of the nations of other lands have not delivered their people out of mine hand, so shall not the God of Hezekiah deliver his people out of mine hand.”

¹⁸Then they cried with a loud voice, in the Jews' speech, unto the people of Jerusalem that were on the wall, to affright them, and to trouble them; that they might take the city.

¹⁹And they spake against the God of Jerusalem, as against the gods of the people of the earth, which were the work of the hands of man.

²⁰And for this cause Hezekiah the king, and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz, prayed and cried to heaven. ²¹And the LORD sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valor, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king 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 of his own bowels slew him there with the sword.

²²Thus the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all other, and guided them on every side. ²³And many brought gifts unto the LORD to Jerusalem, and presents to Hezekiah king of Judah; so that he was magnified in the sight of all nations from thenceforth.

Hezekiah's death

²⁴In those days Hezekiah was sick to the death, and prayed unto the LORD; and he spake unto him, and he gave him a sign. ²⁵But 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. ²⁶Notwithstanding, Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

²⁷And Hezekiah had exceeding much riches and honor; and he made himself treasuries for silver, and for gold, and for precious stones, and for spices, and for shields, and for all manner of pleasant jewels; ²⁸storehouses also for the increase of corn, and wine, and oil; and stalls for all manner of beasts, and cotes for flocks. ²⁹Moreover he provided him cities, and possessions of flocks and herds in abundance; for God had given him substance very much.

³⁰This same Hezekiah also stopped the upper water course of Gihon, and brought it straight down to the west side of the city of David. And Hezekiah prospered in all his works. ³¹Howbeit, in the business of the ambassadors 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.

³²Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and his goodness, behold, they are written in the vision of Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, and in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. ³³And Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the chiefest of the sepulchers 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.

Manasseh king of Judah

33 ¹Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem; ²but did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, like unto the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. ³For he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down, and he reared up altars for Baalim, and made groves, and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served them. ⁴Also he built altars in the house of the LORD, whereof the LORD had said, In Jerusalem shall my name be forever. ⁵And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. ⁶And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom; also he observed times, and used enchantments, and

used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards; he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

⁷And he set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son:

In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, will I put my name forever. ⁸Neither will I anymore remove the foot of Israel from out of the land which I have appointed for your fathers; so that they will take heed to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses.

⁹So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.

¹⁰And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to the people; but they would not hearken.

¹¹Wherefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon. ¹²And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, ¹³and 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 the LORD he was God.

¹⁴Now after this he built a wall without the city of David, on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, even to the entering in at the Fish Gate, and compassed about Ophel, and raised it up a very great height, and put captains of war in all the fenced cities of Judah.

¹⁵And he took away the strange gods, and the idol out of the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD, and in Jerusalem, and cast them out of the city. ¹⁶And he repaired the altar of the LORD, and sacrificed thereon peace offerings and thank offerings, and commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel. ¹⁷Nevertheless the people did sacrifice still in the high places, yet unto the LORD their God only.

¹⁸Now 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 the LORD God of Israel, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Israel. ¹⁹His prayer also, and how God was entreated of him, and all his sins, and his trespass, and the places wherein he built high places, and set up groves and graven images, before he was humbled; behold, they are written among the sayings of the seers. ²⁰So Manasseh slept with his fathers, and they buried him in his own house; and Amon his son reigned in his stead.

Amon king of Judah

²¹Amon was two and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned two years in Jerusalem. ²²But he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, as did Manasseh his father; for Amon sacrificed unto all the carved images which Manasseh his father had made, and served them; ²³and humbled not himself before the LORD, as Manasseh his father had humbled himself; but Amon trespassed more and more.

²⁴And his servants conspired against him, and slew him in his own house. ²⁵But 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.

Reform under Josiah king of Judah

34 ¹Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years. ²And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left.

³For 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 groves, and the carved images, and the molten images. ⁴And they brake down the altars of Baalim in his presence; and the images, that were on high above them, he cut down; and the groves, and the carved 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. ⁵And he burnt the bones of the priests upon their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. ⁶And so did he in the cities of Manasseh, and Ephraim, and Simeon, even unto Naphtali, with their mattocks round about. ⁷And when he had broken down the altars and the groves, and had beaten the graven images into powder, and cut down all the idols throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem.

⁸Now 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 recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.

⁹And when they came to Hilkiah the high priest, they delivered the money that was brought into the house of God, which the Levites that kept the doors had gathered of the hand of Manasseh and Ephraim, and of all the remnant of Israel, and of all Judah and Benjamin; and they returned to Jerusalem. ¹⁰And they put it in the hand of the workmen that had the oversight of the house of the LORD, and they gave it to the workmen that wrought in the house of the LORD, to repair and amend the house; ¹¹even to the artificers and builders gave they it, to buy hewn stone, and timber for couplings, and to floor the houses which the king of Judah had destroyed.

¹²And 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, to set it forward; and other of the Levites, all that could skill of instruments of music. ¹³Also they were over the bearers of burdens, and were overseers of all that wrought the work in any manner of service; and of the Levites there were scribes, and officers, and porters.

The book of the law found

¹⁴And when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found a book of the law of the LORD given by Moses. ¹⁵And Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiah delivered the book to Shaphan.

¹⁶And Shaphan carried the book to the king, and brought the word of the king back again, saying:

All that was committed to thy servants, they do. ¹⁷And they have gathered together the money that was found in the house of the LORD, and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers, and to the hand of the workmen.

¹⁸Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, "Hilkiah the priest hath given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king.

¹⁹And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the law, that he rent his clothes. ²⁰And the king commanded Hilkiah, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Abdon the son of Micah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king's, saying:

²¹Go, inquire of the LORD 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 the LORD that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do after all that is written in this book.

²²And Hilkiah, and they that the king had appointed went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college) and they spake to her to that effect. ²³And she answered them:

Thus saith the LORD God of Israel: Tell ye the man that sent you to me, ²⁴“Thus saith the LORD: 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; ²⁵because 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 my wrath shall be poured out upon this place, and shall not be quenched.”

²⁶And as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, so shall ye say unto him, “Thus saith the LORD God of Israel concerning the words which thou hast heard: ²⁷Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, and humbledst thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard thee also, saith the LORD. ²⁸Behold, I 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 of the same.”

So they brought the king word again. ²⁹Then the king sent and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. ³⁰And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, 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 the LORD. ³¹And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book.

³²And he caused all that were present 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.

³³And Josiah took away all the abominations out of all the countries that pertained to the children of Israel, and made all that were present in Israel to serve, even to serve the LORD their God. And all his days they departed not from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.

Josiah celebrates the Passover

35

¹Moreover, Josiah kept a Passover unto the LORD in Jerusalem; and they killed the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month. ²And he set the priests in their charges, and encouraged them to the service of the house of the LORD. ³And said unto the Levites that taught all Israel, which were holy unto the LORD:

Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of Israel did build; it shall not be a burden upon your shoulders; serve now the LORD your God, and his people Israel, ⁴and prepare yourselves by the houses of your fathers, after your

courses, according to the writing of David king of Israel, and according to the writing of Solomon his son; ⁵and stand in the holy place according to the divisions of the families of the fathers of your brethren the people, and after the division of the families of the Levites. ⁶So kill the Passover, and sanctify yourselves, and prepare your brethren, that they may do according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

⁷And Josiah gave to the people, of the flock, lambs and kids, all for the Passover offerings, for all that were present, to the number of thirty thousand, and three thousand bullocks; these were of the king's substance.

⁸And his princes gave willingly unto the people, to the priests and to the Levites; Hilkiah and Zechariah and Jehiel, rulers of the house of God, gave unto the priests for the Passover offerings two thousand and six hundred small cattle, and three hundred oxen.

⁹Conaniah also, and Shemaiah and Nethaneel, his brethren, and Hashabiah and Jeiel and Jozabad, chief of the Levites, gave unto the Levites for Passover offerings five thousand small cattle, and five hundred oxen.

¹⁰So the service was prepared, and the priests stood in their place, and the Levites in their courses, according to the king's commandment. ¹¹And they killed the Passover, and the priests sprinkled the blood from their hands, and the Levites flayed them. ¹²And they removed the burnt offerings, that they might give according to the divisions of the families of the people, to offer unto the LORD, as it is written in the book of Moses. And so did they with the oxen. ¹³And they roasted the Passover with fire according to the ordinance; but the other holy offerings sod they in pots, and in caldrons, and in pans, and divided them speedily among all the people. ¹⁴And afterward they made ready for themselves, and for the priests; because the priests the sons of Aaron were busied in offering of burnt offerings and the fat until night; therefore the Levites prepared for themselves, and for the priests the sons of Aaron.

¹⁵And 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 waited at every gate; they might not depart from their service; for their brethren the Levites prepared for them.

¹⁶So all the service of the LORD was prepared the same day, to keep the Passover, and to offer burnt offerings upon the altar of the LORD, according to the commandment of king Josiah. ¹⁷And the children of Israel that were present kept the Passover at that time, and the feast of unleavened bread seven days. ¹⁸And there was no Passover like to that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet; neither did all 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. ¹⁹In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah was this Passover kept.

The death of Josiah

²⁰After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Charchemish by Euphrates; and Josiah went out against him. ²¹But 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; for God commanded me to make haste, forbear thee from meddling with God, who is with me, that he destroy thee not.

²²Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.

²³And the archers shot at king Josiah; and the king said to his servants; "Have me away; for I am sore wounded." ²⁴His servants therefore took him out of that chariot, and put him in the second chariot that he had; and they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died, and was buried in one of the sepulchers of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

²⁵And Jeremiah lamented for Josiah; and all the singing men and the singing women spake of Josiah in their lamentations to this day, and made them an ordinance in Israel; and, behold, they are written in the lamentations.

²⁶Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and his goodness, according to that which was written in the law of the LORD, ²⁷and his deeds, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.

Jehoahaz king of Judah

36 ¹Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and made him king in his father's stead in Jerusalem. ²Jehoahaz was twenty and three years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. ³And the king of Egypt put him down at Jerusalem, and condemned the land in a ^ahundred talents of silver and a ^btalent of gold. ⁴And the king of Egypt made Eliakim his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem, and turned his name to Jehoiakim. And Necho took Jehoahaz his brother, and carried him to Egypt.

^a 3.7 ton or 3.4 metric ton

^b 75 lb or 34 kg

Jehoiakim king of Judah

⁵Jehoiakim was twenty and 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 the LORD his God.

⁶Against him came up Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and bound him in fetters, to carry him to Babylon. ⁷Nebuchadnezzar also carried of the vessels of the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.

⁸Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and his abominations which he did, and that which was found in him, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah; and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead.

Jehoiachin king of Judah

⁹Jehoiachin was eight 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 the LORD. ¹⁰And when the year was expired, king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and brought him to Babylon, with the goodly vessels of the house of the LORD, and made Zedekiah his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem.

Zedekiah king of Judah

¹¹Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. ¹²And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the LORD. ¹³And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God; but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the LORD God

of Israel. ¹⁴Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.

The fall of Jerusalem

¹⁵And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place; ¹⁶but they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

¹⁷Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age; he gave them all into his hand. ¹⁸And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon. ¹⁹And 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.

²⁰And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia; ²¹to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths; for as long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill threescore and ten years.

²²Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying:

²³Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up.

EZRA

Cyrus helps the exiles return

¹Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying:

²Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia: The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. ³Who is there among you of all his people? His God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God) which is in Jerusalem. ⁴And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, besides the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.

⁵Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem. ⁶And all they that were about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, besides all that was willingly offered.

⁷Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods; ⁸even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.

⁹And this is the number of them: thirty chargers of gold, a thousand chargers of silver, nine and twenty knives, ¹⁰thirty basins of gold, silver basins of a second sort four hundred and ten, and other vessels a thousand.

¹¹All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred. All these did Sheshbazzar bring up with them of the captivity that were brought up from Babylon unto Jerusalem.

List of exiles who returned

2 ¹Now these are the children of the province that went up out of the captivity, of those which had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon, and came again unto Jerusalem and Judah, everyone unto his city; ²which came with Zerubbabel: Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mizpar, Bigvai, Rehum, Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:

³The children of Parosh: two thousand a hundred seventy and two.

⁴The children of Shephatiah: three hundred seventy and two.

⁵The children of Arah: seven hundred seventy and five.

⁶The children of Pahath-Moab of the children of Jeshua and Joab: two thousand eight hundred and twelve.

⁷The children of Elam: a thousand two hundred fifty and four.

⁸The children of Zattu: nine hundred forty and five.

⁹The children of Zaccai: seven hundred and threescore.

¹⁰The children of Bani: six hundred forty and two.

¹¹The children of Bebai: six hundred twenty and three.

- ¹²The children of Azgad: a thousand two hundred and twenty and two.
- ¹³The children of Adonikam: six hundred sixty and six.
- ¹⁴The children of Bigvai: two thousand fifty and six.
- ¹⁵The children of Adin: four hundred fifty and four.
- ¹⁶The children of Ater of Hezekiah: ninety and eight.
- ¹⁷The children of Bezai: three hundred twenty and three.
- ¹⁸The children of Jorah: a hundred and twelve.
- ¹⁹The children of Hashum: two hundred twenty and three.
- ²⁰The children of Gibbar: ninety and five.
- ²¹The children of Bethlehem: a hundred twenty and three.
- ²²The men of Netophah: fifty and six.
- ²³The men of Anathoth: a hundred twenty and eight.
- ²⁴The children of Azmaveth: forty and two.
- ²⁵The children of Kirjath-Arim, Chephirah, and Beeroth: seven hundred and forty and three.
- ²⁶The children of Ramah and Gaba: six hundred twenty and one.
- ²⁷The men of Michmas: a hundred twenty and two.
- ²⁸The men of Beth-El and Ai: two hundred twenty and three.
- ²⁹The children of Nebo: fifty and two.
- ³⁰The children of Magbish: a hundred fifty and six.
- ³¹The children of the other Elam: a thousand two hundred fifty and four.
- ³²The children of Harim: three hundred and twenty.
- ³³The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono: seven hundred twenty and five.
- ³⁴The children of Jericho: three hundred forty and five.
- ³⁵The children of Senaah: three thousand and six hundred and thirty.
- ³⁶The priests; the children of Jediah, of the house of Jeshua: nine hundred seventy and three.
- ³⁷The children of Immer: a thousand fifty and two.
- ³⁸The children of Pashur: a thousand two hundred forty and seven.
- ³⁹The children of Harim: a thousand and seventeen.
- ⁴⁰The Levites: the children of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the children of Hodaviah: seventy and four.
- ⁴¹The singers: the children of Asaph, a hundred twenty and eight.
- ⁴²The children of the porters: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai: in all a hundred thirty and nine.
- ⁴³The Nethinim: the children of Zihah, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaoth, ⁴⁴the children of Keros: the children of Siaha, the children of Padon, ⁴⁵the children of Lebanah: the children of Hagabah, the children of Akkub, ⁴⁶the children of Hagab, the children of Shalmi, the children of Hanan. ⁴⁷the children of Giddel, the children of Gahar, the children of Reaiah, ⁴⁸the children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda, the children of Gazzam. ⁴⁹the children of Uaaz, the children of Paseah, the children of Besai, ⁵⁰the children of Asnah, the children of Mehunim, the children of Nephusim. ⁵¹the children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur. ⁵²the children of Bazluth, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha, ⁵³the children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Thamah, ⁵⁴the children of Nezhiah, the children of Hatipha.
- ⁵⁵The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Peruda, ⁵⁶the children of Jaaiah, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel, ⁵⁷the children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth of Zebaim, the children of Ami.

⁵⁸All the Nethinim, and the children of Solomon's servants, were three hundred ninety and two.

⁵⁹And these were they which went up from Tel-Mela, Tel-Harsa, Cherub, Addan, and Immer; but they could not show their father's house, and their seed, whether they were of Israel: ⁶⁰the children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekodah, six hundred fifty and two.

⁶¹And of the children of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai; which took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name; ⁶²these sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found; therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood. ⁶³And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim.

⁶⁴The whole congregation together was forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore, ⁶⁵besides their servants and their maids, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven; and there were among them two hundred singing men and singing women. ⁶⁶Their horses were seven hundred thirty and six; their mules, two hundred forty and five; ⁶⁷their camels, four hundred thirty and five; their asses, six thousand seven hundred and twenty.

⁶⁸And some of the chief of the fathers, when they came to the house of the LORD which is at Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God to set it up in his place; ⁶⁹they gave after their ability unto the treasure of the work ^athreescore and one thousand drams of gold, and ^bfive thousand pounds of silver, and one hundred priests' garments.

^a 1,100 lb or 500 kg

^b 3 ton or 2.8 metric ton

⁷⁰So the priests, and the Levites, and some of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinim, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

Rebuilding the altar

3 ¹And when the seventh month was come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem. ²Then stood up Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and builded the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God. ³And they set the altar upon his bases; for fear was upon them because of the people of those countries; and they offered burnt offerings thereon unto the LORD, even burnt offerings morning and evening. ⁴They kept also the feast of tabernacles as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number, according to the custom, as the duty of every day required; ⁵and afterward offered the continual burnt offering, both of the new moons, and of all the set feasts of the LORD that were consecrated, and of everyone that willingly offered a freewill offering unto the LORD. ⁶From the first day of the seventh month began they to offer burnt offerings unto the LORD. But the foundation of the temple of the LORD was not yet laid.

Rebuilding the temple

⁷They gave money also unto the masons, and to the carpenters; and meat, and drink, and oil, unto them of Zidon, and to them of Tyre, to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea of Joppa, according to the grant that they had of Cyrus king of Persia.

⁸Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and

the remnant of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the house of the LORD. ⁹Then stood Jeshua with his sons and his brethren, Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together, to set forward the workmen in the house of God; the sons of Henadad, with their sons and their brethren the Levites.

¹⁰And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel. ¹¹And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth forever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

¹²But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy; ¹³so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people; for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

Opposition to rebuilding

4 ¹Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Israel; ²then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them:

Let us build with you; for we seek your God as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esar-Haddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither.

³But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them:

Ye have nothing to do with us to build a house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us.

⁴Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building, ⁵and hired counselors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

⁶And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, wrote they unto him an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

⁷And in the days of Artaxerxes wrote Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of their companions, unto Artaxerxes king of Persia; and the writing of the letter was written in the Syrian tongue, and interpreted in the Syrian tongue.

⁸Rehum the chancellor and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king in this sort; ⁹then wrote Rehum the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their companions; the Dinaites, the Apharsathchites, the Tarpelites, the Apharsites, the Archevites, the Babylonians, the Susanchites, the Dehavites, and the Elamites, ¹⁰and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Asnapper brought over, and set in the cities of Samaria, and the rest that are on this side the river, and at such a time. ¹¹This is the copy of the letter that they sent unto him, even unto Artaxerxes the king:

Thy servants the men on this side the river, and at such a time.

¹²Be it known unto the king, that the Jews which came up from thee to us are come unto Jerusalem, building the rebellious and the bad city, and have set up the walls thereof, and joined the foundations. ¹³Be it known now unto the king, that, if this city be builded, and the walls set up again, then will they not pay toll, tribute, and custom, and so thou shalt endamage the revenue of the kings. ¹⁴Now because we have maintenance from the king's palace, and it was not meet for us to see the king's dishonor, therefore have we sent and certified the king; ¹⁵that search may be made in the book of the records of thy fathers; so shalt thou find in the book of the records, and know that this city is a rebellious city, and hurtful unto kings and provinces, and that they have moved sedition within the same of old time; for which cause was this city destroyed.

¹⁶We certify the king that, if this city be builded again, and the walls thereof set up, by this means thou shalt have no portion on this side the river.

¹⁷Then sent the king an answer unto Rehum the chancellor, and to Shimshai the scribe, and to the rest of their companions that dwell in Samaria, and unto the rest beyond the river:

Peace, and at such a time. ¹⁸The letter which ye sent unto us hath been plainly read before me. ¹⁹And I commanded, and search hath been made, and it is found that this city of old time hath made insurrection against kings, and that rebellion and sedition have been made therein. ²⁰There have been mighty kings also over Jerusalem, which have ruled over all countries beyond the river; and toll, tribute, and custom, was paid unto them.

²¹Give ye now commandment to cause these men to cease, and that this city be not builded, until another commandment shall be given from me. ²²Take heed now that ye fail not to do this; why should damage grow to the hurt of the kings?

²³Now when the copy of king Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, and Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went up in haste to Jerusalem unto the Jews, and made them to cease by force and power.

²⁴Then ceased the work of the house of God which is at Jerusalem. So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

Tatnai's Letter to Darius

5 ¹Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them. ²Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem; and with them were the prophets of God helping them.

³At the same time came to them Tatnai, governor on this side the river, and Shethar-Boznai, and their companions, and said thus unto them, "Who hath commanded you to build this house, and to make up this wall?" ⁴Then said we unto them after this manner, "What are the names of the men that make this building?" ⁵But the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews, that they could not cause them to cease, till the matter came to Darius; and then they returned answer by letter concerning this matter.

⁶The copy of the letter that Tatnai, governor on this side the river, and Shethar-Boznai, and his companions the Apharsachites, which were on this side the river, sent unto Darius the king. ⁷They sent a letter unto him, wherein was written thus:

Unto Darius the king, all peace.

⁸Be it known unto the king that we went into the province of Judea, to the house of the great God, which is builded with great stones, and timber is laid in the walls, and his work goeth fast on, and prospereth in their hands.

⁹Then asked we those elders, and said unto them thus, "Who commanded you to build this house, and to make up these walls?" ¹⁰We asked their names also, to certify thee, that we might write the names of the men that were the chief of them. ¹¹And thus they returned us answer, saying, "We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and build the house that was builded these many years ago, which a great king of Israel builded and set up. ¹²But after that our fathers had provoked the God of heaven unto wrath, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house, and carried the people away into Babylon. ¹³But in the first year of Cyrus the king of Babylon, the same king Cyrus made a decree to build this house of God. ¹⁴And the vessels also of gold and silver of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that was in Jerusalem, and brought them into the temple of Babylon, those did Cyrus the king take out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered unto one, whose name was Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor; ¹⁵and said unto him, 'Take these vessels, go, carry them into the temple that is in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be builded in this place.' ¹⁶Then came the same Sheshbazzar, and laid the foundation of the house of God which is in Jerusalem; and since that time even until now hath it been in building, and yet it is not finished."

¹⁷Now therefore, if it seem good to the king, let there be search made in the king's treasure house, which is there at Babylon, whether it be so, that a decree was made of Cyrus the king to build this house of God at Jerusalem, and let the king send his pleasure to us concerning this matter.

6 ¹Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon. ²And there was found at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of the Medes, a roll, and therein was a record thus written:

³In the first year of Cyrus the king, the same Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem:

Let the house be builded, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid; the height thereof ^athreescore cubits, and the breadth thereof threescore cubits; ⁴with three rows of great stones, and a row of new timber; and let the expenses be given out of the king's house; ⁵and also let the golden and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which is at Jerusalem, and brought unto Babylon, be restored, and brought again unto the temple which is at Jerusalem, every one to his place, and place them in the house of God.

^a 90 ft or 27 m

⁶Now therefore, Tatnai, governor beyond the river, Shethat-Boznai, and your companions the Apharsachites, which are beyond the river, be ye far from thence; ⁷let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place.

⁸Moreover I make a decree what ye shall do to the elders of these Jews for the building of this house of God; that of the king's goods, even of the tribute beyond the river, forthwith expenses be given unto these men, that they be not hindered. ⁹And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which are at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day

without fail; ¹⁰that they may offer sacrifices of sweet saviors unto the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons.

¹¹Also I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let timber be pulled down from his house, and being set up, let him be hanged thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this. ¹²And the God that hath caused his name to dwell there destroy all kings and people, that shall put to their hand to alter and to destroy this house of God which is at Jerusalem.

I Darius have made a decree; let it be done with speed.

Completion and dedication of the temple

¹³Then Tatnai, governor on this side the river, Shethar-Boznai, and their companions, according to that which Darius the king had sent, so they did speedily. ¹⁴And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. ¹⁵And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

¹⁶And the children of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of God with joy, ¹⁷and offered at the dedication of this house of God a hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve he goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel. ¹⁸And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of God, which is at Jerusalem; as it is written in the book of Moses.

The Passover

¹⁹And the children of the captivity kept the Passover upon the fourteenth day of the first month. ²⁰For the priests and the Levites were purified together, all of them were pure, and killed the Passover for all the children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves. ²¹And the children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek the LORD God of Israel, did eat, ²²and kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy; for the LORD had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

Ezra comes to Jerusalem

7 ¹Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, ²the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, ³the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth, ⁴the son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, ⁵the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest; ⁶this Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given; and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him. ⁷And there went up some of the children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinim, unto Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king.

⁸And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.

⁹For upon the first day of the first month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first

day of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him. ¹⁰For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

King Artaxerxes' letter to Ezra

¹¹Now this is the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe, even a scribe of the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of his statutes to Israel.

¹²Artaxerxes, king of kings,

Unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven,

Perfect peace, and at such a time.

¹³I make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee. ¹⁴Forasmuch as thou art sent of the king, and of his seven counselors, to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of thy God which is in thine hand; ¹⁵and to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counselors have freely offered unto the God of Israel, whose habitation is in Jerusalem, ¹⁶and all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their God which is in Jerusalem; ¹⁷that thou mayest buy speedily with this money bullocks, rams, lambs, with their meat offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them upon the altar of the house of your God which is in Jerusalem.

¹⁸And whatsoever shall seem good to thee, and to thy brethren, to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, that do after the will of your God. ¹⁹The vessels also that are given thee for the service of the house of thy God, those deliver thou before the God of Jerusalem. ²⁰And whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy God, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow it out of the king's treasure house.

²¹And I, even I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which are beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily, ²²unto a ^ahundred talents of silver, and to a ^bhundred measures of wheat, and to a ^chundred baths of wine, and to a ^chundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribing how much. ²³Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house of the God of heaven; for why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?

²⁴Also we certify you, that, touching any of the priests and Levites, singers, porters, Nethinim, or ministers of this house of God, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them.

²⁵And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know them not. ²⁶And whosoever will not do the law of thy God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether it be unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment.

²⁷Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, which hath put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem; ²⁸and hath extended mercy unto me before the king, and his counselors, and before all the king's

^a 3.7 ton or 3.4 metric ton

^b 18 ton or 16 metric ton

^c 600 gal or 2,200 liter

mighty princes. And I was strengthened as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me, and I gathered together out of Israel chief men to go up with me.

- 8 ¹These are now the chief of their fathers, and this is the genealogy of them that went up with me from Babylon, in the reign of Artaxerxes the king.
- ²Of the sons of Phinehas: Gershom; of the sons of Ithamar; Daniel; of the sons of David: Hattush.
- ³Of the sons of Shechaniah, of the sons of Pharosh; Zechariah; and with him were reckoned by genealogy of the males a hundred and fifty.
- ⁴Of the sons of Pahath-Moab: Elihoenai the son of Zerahiah, and with him two hundred males.
- ⁵Of the sons of Shechaniah: the son of Jonathan, and with him three hundred males.
- ⁶Of the sons also of Adin: Ebed the son of Jonathan, and with him fifty males.
- ⁷And of the sons of Elam: Jeshaiiah the son of Athaliah, and with him seventy males.
- ⁸And of the sons of Shephatiah: Zebadiah the son of Michael, and with him fourscore males.
- ⁹Of the sons of Joab: Obadiah the son of Jehiel, and with him two hundred and eighteen males.
- ¹⁰And of the sons of Shelomith: the son of Josiphiah, and with him a hundred and threescore males.
- ¹¹And of the sons of Bebai: Zechariah the son of Bebai, and with him twenty and eight males.
- ¹²And of the sons of Azgad: Johanan the son of Hakkatan, and with him a hundred and ten males.
- ¹³And of the last sons of Adonikam, whose names are these: Eliphelet, Jeiel, and Shemaiah, and with them threescore males.
- ¹⁴Of the sons also of Bigvai: Uthai, and Zabbud, and with them seventy males.

The return to Jerusalem

¹⁵And I gathered them together to the river that runneth to Ahava; and there abode we in tents three days; and I viewed the people, and the priests, and found there none of the sons of Levi. ¹⁶Then sent I for Eliezer, for Ariel, for Shemaiah, and for Elnathan, and for Jarib, and for Elnatnan, and for Nathan, and for Zechariah, and for Meshullam, chief men; also for Joiarib, and for Elnathan, men of understanding. ¹⁷And I sent them with commandment unto Iddo the chief at the place Casiphia, and I told them what they should say unto Iddo, and to his brethren the Nethinim, at the place Casiphia, that they should bring unto us ministers for the house of our God. ¹⁸And by the good hand of our God upon us they brought us a man of understanding, of the sons of Mahili, the son of Levi, the son of Israel; and Sherebiah, with his sons and his brethren, eighteen; ¹⁹and Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiiah of the sons of Merari, his brethren and their sons, twenty; ²⁰also of the Nethinim, whom David and the princes had appointed for the service of the Levites, two hundred and twenty Nethinim; all of them were expressed by name.

²¹Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance, ²²for I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way; because we had spoken unto the king, saying, "The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him." ²³So we fasted and besought our God for this; and he was entreated of us.

²⁴Then I separated twelve of the chief of the priests, Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brethren with them, ²⁵and weighed unto them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, even the offering of the house of our God, which the king, and his counselors, and his lords, and all Israel there present, had offered; ²⁶I even weighed unto their hand ^asix hundred and fifty talents of silver, and silver vessels a ^bhundred talents, and of gold a ^bhundred talents; ²⁷also ^ctwenty basins of gold of a thousand drams; and two vessels of fine copper, precious as gold.

^a 24 ton or 22 metric ton

^b 3.7 ton or 3.4 metric ton

^c 19 lb or 8.4 kg

²⁸And I said unto them:

Ye are holy unto the LORD; the vessels are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering unto the LORD God of your fathers. ²⁹Watch ye, and keep them, until ye weigh them before the chief of the priests and the Levites, and chief of the fathers of Israel, at Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of the LORD.

³⁰So took the priests and the Levites the weight of the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, to bring them to Jerusalem unto the house of our God.

³¹Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go unto Jerusalem; and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way. ³²And we came to Jerusalem, and abode there three days.

³³Now on the fourth day was the silver and the gold and the vessels weighed in the house of our God by the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest; and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas; and with them was Jozabad the son of Jeshua, and Noadiah the son of Binnui, Levites; ³⁴by number and by weight of everyone; and all the weight was written at that time.

³⁵Also the children of those that had been carried away, which were come out of the captivity, offered burnt offerings unto the God of Israel, twelve bullocks for all Israel, ninety and six rams, seventy and seven lambs, twelve he goats for a sin offering; all this was a burnt offering unto the LORD. ³⁶And they delivered the king's commissions unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors on this side the river; and they furthered the people, and the house of God.

Ezra on intermarriage

9 ¹Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying:

The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. ²For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons; so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands; yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass.

³And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished. ⁴Then were assembled unto me everyone that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice. ⁵And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God, ⁶and said:

O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God; for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.

⁷Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as it is this day.

⁸And now for a little space grace hath been showed from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage. ⁹For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.

¹⁰And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken thy commandments, ¹¹which thou hast commanded by thy servants the prophets, saying, “The land, unto which ye go to possess it, is an unclean land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness. ¹²Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth forever; that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children forever.”

¹³And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this; ¹⁴should we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? Wouldest not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed us, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping?

¹⁵O LORD God of Israel, thou art righteous; for we remain yet escaped, as it is this day; behold, we are before thee in our trespasses; for we cannot stand before thee because of this.

The people confess

10 ¹Now when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children; for the people wept very sore. ²And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra:

We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land; yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing. ³Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law. ⁴Arise; for this matter belongeth unto thee; we also will be with thee; be of good courage, and do it.

⁵Then arose Ezra, and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear that they should do according to this word. And they sware. ⁶Then Ezra rose up from before the house of God, and went into the chamber of Johanan the son of Eliashib; and when he came thither, he did eat no bread, nor drink water; for he mourned because of the transgression of them that had been carried away.

⁷And they made proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem unto all the children of the captivity, that they should gather themselves together unto Jerusalem; ⁸and that whosoever would not come within three days, according to the counsel of the princes and the elders, all his substance should be forfeited, and himself separated from the congregation of those that had been carried away.

⁹Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together unto Jerusalem within three days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month; and all the people sat in the street of the house of God, trembling because of this matter, and for the great rain. ¹⁰And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them:

Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel.

¹¹Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do his pleasure; and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives.

¹²Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice:

As thou hast said, so must we do. ¹³But the people are many, and it is a time of much rain, and we are not able to stand without, neither is this a work of one day or two; for we are many that have transgressed in this thing. ¹⁴Let now our rulers of all the congregation stand, and let all them which have taken strange wives in our cities come at appointed times, and with them the elders of every city, and the judges thereof, until the fierce wrath of our God for this matter be turned from us.

¹⁵Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahaziah the son of Tikvah were employed about this matter; and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite helped them.

¹⁶And the children of the captivity did so. And Ezra the priest, with certain chief of the fathers, after the house of their fathers, and all of them by their names, were separated, and sat down in the first day of the tenth month to examine the matter. ¹⁷And they made an end with all the men that had taken strange wives by the first day of the first month.

¹⁸And among the sons of the priests there were found that had taken strange wives; namely:

Of the sons of Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren: Maaseiah, and Eliezer, and Jarib, and Gedaliah. ¹⁹And they gave their hands that they would put away their wives; and being guilty, they offered a ram of the flock for their trespass.

²⁰And of the sons of Immer: Hanani, and Zebadiah.

²¹And of the sons of Harim: Maaseiah, and Elijah, and Shemaiah, and Jehiel, and Uziah.

²²And of the sons of Pashur: Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishamael, Nethaneel, Jozabad, and Elasah.

²³Also of the Levites: Jozabad, and Shimei, and Kelaiah, (the same is Kelita) Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer.

²⁴Of the singers also: Eliashib; and of the porters; Shallum, and Telem, and Uri.

²⁵Moreover of Israel, of the sons of Parosh: Ramiah, and Jeziah, and Malchiah, and Miamin, and Eleazar, and Malchijah, and Benaiah.

²⁶And of the sons of Elam: Mattaniah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, and Abdi, and Jeremoth, and Eliah.

²⁷And of the sons of Zattu: Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, and Jeremoth, and Zabad, and Aziza.

²⁸Of the sons also of Bebai: Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai.

²⁹And of the sons of Bani: Meshullam, Malluch, and Adaiah, Jashub, and Sheal, and Ramoth.

³⁰And of the sons of Pahathmoab: Adna, and Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezaleel, and Binnui, and Manasseh.

³¹And of the sons of Harim: Eliezer, Ishijah, Malchiah, Semaiah, Shimeon,

³²Benjamin, Malluch, and Shemariah.

³³Of the sons of Hashum: Mattenai, Mattathah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, and Shimei.

³⁴Of the sons of Bani: Maadai, Amaram, and Uel, ³⁵Benaiah, Bedeiah, Chelluh,
³⁶Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib, ³⁷Mattaniah, Mattenai, and Jaasau, ³⁸and Bani, and
Binnui, Shimei, ³⁹And Shelemiah, and Nathan, and Adaiah, ⁴⁰Machnadebai, Shashai,
Sharai, ⁴¹Azareel, and Shelemiah, Shemariah, ⁴²Shallum, Amariah, and Joseph.
⁴³Of the sons of Nebo: Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jadau, and Joel, Benaiah.

⁴⁴All these had taken strange wives; and some of them had wives by whom they had children.

NEHEMIAH

¹The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace, ²that Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. ³And they said unto me:

The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach; the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.

⁴And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven, ⁵and said:

I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keeps covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments; ⁶let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee; both I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.

⁸Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, "If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations; ⁹but if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there."

¹⁰Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand. ¹¹O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name; and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.

For I was the king's cupbearer.

Artaxerxes sends Nehemiah to Jerusalem

2 ¹And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him; and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence. ²Wherefore the king said unto me: Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? This is nothing else but sorrow of heart.

Then I was very sore afraid, ³and said unto the king:

Let the king live forever; why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchers, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?

⁴Then the king said unto me, "For what dost thou make request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵And I said unto the king:

If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favor in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchers, that I may build it.

⁶And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him):

For how long shall thy journey be? And when wilt thou return?

So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time. ⁷Moreover I said unto the king:

If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah; ⁸and a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into.

And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.

⁹Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me.

¹⁰When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

Nehemiah inspects Jerusalem's walls

¹¹So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days. ¹²And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; neither was there any beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon.

¹³And I went out by night by the gate of the valley, even before the dragon well, and to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and the gates thereof were consumed with fire. ¹⁴Then I went on to the gate of the fountain, and to the king's pool; but there was no place for the beast that was under me to pass. ¹⁵Then went I up in the night by the brook, and viewed the wall, and turned back, and entered by the gate of the valley, and so returned. ¹⁶And the rulers knew not whither I went, or what I did; neither had I as yet told it to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest that did the work.

¹⁷Then said I unto them:

Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire; come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach.

¹⁸Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for this good work.

¹⁹But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said:

What is this thing that ye do? Will ye rebel against the king?

²⁰Then answered I them, and said unto them:

The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build; but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

Builders of the wall

3 ¹Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the Sheep Gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel. ²And next unto him builded the men of Jericho. And next to them builded Zaccur the son of Imri.

³But the Fish Gate did the sons of Hassenaah build, who also laid the beams thereof, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof. ⁴And next unto them repaired Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz. And next unto them repaired Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabeel. And next unto them repaired Zadok the son of Baana. ⁵And next unto them the Tekoites repaired; but their nobles put not their necks to the work of their Lord.

⁶Moreover the old gate repaired Jehoiada the son of Paseah, and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah; they laid the beams thereof, and set up the doors thereof, and the locks thereof, and the bars thereof. ⁷And next unto them repaired Melatiah the Gibeonite, and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon, and of Mizpah, unto the throne of the governor on this side the river. ⁸Next unto him repaired Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, of the goldsmiths. Next unto him also repaired Hananiah the son of one of the apothecaries, and they fortified Jerusalem unto the broad wall. ⁹And next unto them repaired Rephaiah the son of Hur, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem. ¹⁰And next unto them repaired Jedaiah the son of Harumaph, even over against his house. And next unto him repaired Hattush the son of Hashabniah. ¹¹Malchijah the son of Harim, and Hashub the son of Pahath-Moab, repaired the other piece, and the tower of the furnaces. ¹²And the next unto him repaired Shallum the son of Halohesh, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem, he and his daughters.

¹³The Valley Gate repaired Hanun, and the inhabitants of Zanoah; they built it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof, and a ^athousand cubits on the wall unto the Dung Gate.

^a 1,500 ft or 450 m

¹⁴But the Dung Gate repaired Malchiah the son of Rechab, the ruler of part of Beth-Haccerem; he built it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof.

¹⁵But the gate of the fountain repaired Shallum the son of Colhozeh, the ruler of part of Mizpah; he built it, and covered it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof, and the wall of the pool of Siloah by the king's garden, and unto the stairs that go down from the city of David. ¹⁶After him repaired Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, the ruler of the half part of Beth-Zur, unto the place over against the sepulchers of David, and to the pool that was made, and unto the house of the mighty.

¹⁷After him repaired the Levites, Rehum the son of Bani. Next unto him repaired Hashabiah, the ruler of the half part of Keilah, in his part. ¹⁸After him repaired their brethren, Bavai the son of Henadad, the ruler of the half part of Kielah. ¹⁹And next to him repaired Ezer the son of Jeshua, the ruler of Mizpah, another piece over against the going up to the armory at the turning of the wall. ²⁰After him Baruch the son of Zabbai earnestly repaired the other piece, from the turning of the wall unto the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest. ²¹After him repaired Meremoth the son of Uriah the son of Koz another piece, from the door of the house of Eliashib even to the end of the house of Eliashib.

²²And after him repaired the priests, the men of the plain. ²³After him repaired Benjamin and Hashub over against their house. After him repaired Azariah the son of Maaseiah the son of Ananiah by his house. ²⁴After him repaired Binnui the son of Henadad another piece, from the house of Azariah unto the turning of the wall, even unto the corner.

²⁵Palal the son of Uzai, over against the turning of the wall, and the tower which lieth out from the king's high house, that was by court of the prison. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh. ²⁶Moreover the Nethinim dwelt in Ophel, unto the place over against the Water Gate toward the east, and the tower that lieth out. ²⁷After them the Tekoites repaired another piece, over against the great tower that lieth out, even unto the wall of Ophel.

²⁸From above the Horse Gate repaired the priests, everyone over against his house. ²⁹After them repaired Zadok the son of Immer over against his house. After him repaired also Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the East Gate. ³⁰After him repaired Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph, another piece. After him repaired Meshullam the son of Berechiah over against his chamber. ³¹After him repaired Malchiah the goldsmith's son unto the place of the Nethinim, and of the merchants, over against the Gate Miphkad, and to the going up of the corner. ³²And between the going up of the corner unto the Sheep Gate repaired the goldsmiths and the merchants.

Opposition

4 ¹But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews. ²And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said:

What do these feeble Jews? Will they fortify themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they make an end in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned?

³Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said:

Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall.

⁴Hear, O our God; for we are despised; and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity; ⁵and cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before thee, for they have provoked thee to anger before the builders.

⁶So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof; for the people had a mind to work.

⁷But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth, ⁸and conspired all of them together to come and fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it. ⁹Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

¹⁰And Judah said:

The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall.

¹¹And our adversaries said:

They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease.

¹²And it came to pass, that when the Jews which dwelt by them came, they said unto us ten times, "From all places whence ye shall return unto us they will be upon you."

¹³Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows. ¹⁴And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people:

Be not ye afraid of them; remember the LORD, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives and your houses.

¹⁵And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to naught, that we returned all of us to the wall, everyone unto his work.

¹⁶And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the houses of Judah. ¹⁷They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, everyone with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon. ¹⁸For the builders, everyone had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me.

¹⁹And I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people:
The work is great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another. ²⁰In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us; our God shall fight for us.

²¹So we labored in the work; and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared. ²²Likewise at the same time said I unto the people:
Let everyone with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labor on the day.

²³So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that everyone put them off for washing.

Nehemiah helps the poor

5 ¹And there was a great cry of the people and of their wives against their brethren the Jews.

²For there were that said:

We, our sons, and our daughters, are many; therefore we take up corn for them, that we may eat, and live.

³Some also there were that said:

We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn, because of the dearth.

⁴There were also that said:

We have borrowed money for the king's tribute, and that upon our lands and vineyards. ⁵Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children; and, lo, we bring into bondage our sons and our daughters to be servants, and some of our daughters are brought into bondage already; neither is it in our power to redeem them, for other men have our lands and vineyards.

⁶And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words. ⁷Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers, and said unto them:

Ye exact usury, everyone of his brother.

And I set a great assembly against them. ⁸And I said unto them:

We after our ability, have redeemed our brethren the Jews, which were sold unto the heathen; and will ye even sell your brethren? Or shall they be sold unto us?

Then held they their peace, and found nothing to answer.

⁹Also I said:

It is not good that ye do; ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies? ¹⁰I likewise, and my brethren, and my servants, might exact of them money and corn; I pray you, let us leave off this usury. ¹¹Restore, I pray you, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their olive yards, and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money, and of the corn, the wine, and the oil, that ye exact of them.

¹²Then said they:

We will restore them, and will require nothing of them; so will we do as thou sayest.

Then I called the priests, and took an oath of them, that they should do according to this promise. ¹³Also I shook my lap, and said:

So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labor, that performeth not this promise, even thus be he shaken out, and emptied.

And all the congregation said, "Amen," and praised the LORD. And the people did according to this promise.

¹⁴Moreover from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even unto the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that is, twelve years, I and my brethren have not eaten the bread of the governor. ¹⁵But the former governors that had been before me were chargeable unto the people, and had taken of them bread and wine, besides ^aforty shekels of silver; yea, even their servants bare rule over the people; but so did not I, because of the fear of God. ¹⁶Yea, also I continued in the work of this wall, neither bought we any land; and all my servants were gathered thither unto the work.

^a 1 lb or 460 g

¹⁷Moreover there were at my table a hundred and fifty of the Jews and rulers, besides those that came unto us from among the heathen that are about us. ¹⁸Now that which was prepared for me daily was one ox and six choice sheep; also fowls were prepared for me, and once in ten days store of all sorts of wine; yet for all this required not I the bread of the governor, because the bondage was heavy upon this people.

¹⁹Think upon me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.

More opposition

6 ¹Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates) ²that Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, "Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono." But they thought to do me mischief.

³And I sent messengers unto them, saying, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down; why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?" ⁴Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner.

⁵Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand; ⁶wherein was written:

It is reported among the heathen, and Gashmu saith it, that thou and the Jews think to rebel; for which cause thou buildest the wall, that thou mayest be their king, according to these words. ⁷And thou hast also appointed prophets to preach of thee at Jerusalem, saying, "There is a king in Judah;" and now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together.

⁸Then I sent unto him, saying:

There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart.

⁹For they all made us afraid, saying:

Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done.

Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.

¹⁰Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who was shut up; and he said:

Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple; for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee.

¹¹And I said:

Should such a man as I flee? And who is mine enemy, that such a man as I would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in.

¹²And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me; for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. ¹³Therefore should I be afraid of him he hired, and do so as he said, and sin; and that they might have me for an evil report, that they might reproach me? ¹⁴My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear. ¹⁵So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifty day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.

¹⁶And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God. ¹⁷Moreover in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters unto Tobiah, and the letters of Tobiah came unto them. ¹⁸For there were many in Judah sworn unto him, because he was the son-in-law of Shechaniah the son of Arah; and his son Johanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah. ¹⁹Also they reported his good deeds before me, and uttered my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to put me in fear.

7 ¹Now it came to pass, when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors, and the porters and the singers and the Levites were appointed, ²that I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem; for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many. ³And I said unto them:

Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun be hot; and while they stand by, let them shut the doors, and bar them; and appoint watches of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, everyone in his watch, and everyone to be over against his house.

⁴Now the city was large and great; but the people were few therein, and the houses were not builded. ⁵And my God put into mine heart to gather together the nobles, and the rulers, and the people, that they might be reckoned by genealogy. And I found a register of the genealogy of them which came up at the first, and found written therein.

⁶These are the children of the province, that went up out of the captivity, of those that had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and came again to Jerusalem and to Judah, everyone unto his city; ⁷who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamaiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah. The number, I say, of the men of the people of Israel was this:

⁸The children of Parosh: 2,172

- ⁹The children of Shephatiah: 372
- ¹⁰The children of Arah: 775
- ¹¹The children of Pahath-Moab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab: 2,812
- ¹²The children of Elam: 1,254
- ¹³The children of Zattu: 945
- ¹⁴The children of Zaccai: 760
- ¹⁵The children of Bani: 642
- ¹⁶The children of Bebai: 623
- ¹⁷The children of Azgad: 1,222
- ¹⁸The children of Adonikam: 666
- ¹⁹The children of Bigvai: 2,056
- ²⁰The children of Adin: 454
- ²¹The children of Ater of Hezekiah: 98
- ²²The children of Hashum: 223
- ²³The children of Bezai: 323
- ²⁴The children of Jorah: 112
- ²⁵The children of Gibeon: 95
- ²⁶The men of Bethlehem and Netophah: 188
- ²⁷The men of Anthoth: 128
- ²⁸The men of Beth-Azmaveth: 42
- ²⁹The men of Kirjath-Jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth: 743
- ³⁰The men of Ramah and Gaba: 621
- ³¹The men of Michmas: 122
- ³²The men of Beth-El and Ai: 223
- ³³The men of the other Nebo: 52
- ³⁴The children of the other Elam: 1,254
- ³⁵The children of Harim: 320
- ³⁶The children of Jericho: 345
- ³⁷The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono: 725
- ³⁸The children of Senaah: 3,630
- ³⁹The priests: the children of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua: 973
- ⁴⁰The children of Immer: 1,052
- ⁴¹The children of Pshur: 1,247
- ⁴²The children of Harim: 1,017
- ⁴³The Levites: the children of Jeshua, of Kadmiel, and of the children of Hodevah: 74
- ⁴⁴The singers of the children of Asaph: 128
- ⁴⁵The porters: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai: 139
- ⁴⁶The Nethinim: the children of Ziha, the children of Hashupha, the children of Tabbaoth, ⁴⁷the children of Keros, the children of Sia, the children of Padon, ⁴⁸the children of Lebana, the children of Hagaba, the children of Shalmi, ⁴⁹The children of Hanan, the children of Giddel, the children of Gahar, ⁵⁰the children of Reaiah, the children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda, ⁵¹the children of Gazzam, the children of Uzza, the children of Phaseah, ⁵²the children of Besai, the children of Meunim, the children of Nephishesim, ⁵³the children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur, ⁵⁴the children of Bazlith, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha, ⁵⁵the children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Tamah, ⁵⁶the children of Nezhiah, the children of Hatipha, ⁵⁷the children of Solomon's servants; the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Perida, ⁵⁸the children of Jaala, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel, ⁵⁹the children of Shephatiah, the

children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth of Zebaim, the children of Amon. ⁶⁰All the Nethinim, and the children of Solomon's servants, were 392.

⁶¹And these were they which went up also from Tel-Melah, Tel-Haresha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer; but they could not show their father's house, nor their seed, whether they were of Israel. ⁶²The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda: 652. ⁶³And of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai, which took one of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite to wife, and was called after their name. ⁶⁴These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found; therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood. ⁶⁵And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and Thummim.

⁶⁶The whole congregation together was 42,360, ⁶⁷besides their manservants and their maidservants, of whom there were 7,337; and they had 245 singing men and singing women. ⁶⁸Their horses, 736; their mules, 245; ⁶⁹their camels, 435; 6,720 asses.

⁷⁰And some of the chief of the fathers gave unto the work. The Tirshatha gave to the treasure a ^athousand drams of gold, fifty basins, five hundred and thirty priests' garments.

⁷¹And some of the chief of the fathers gave to the treasure of the work ^btwenty thousand drams of gold, and ^ctwo thousand and two hundred pounds of silver. ⁷²And that which the rest of the people gave was ^btwenty thousand drams of gold, and ^dtwo thousand pounds of silver, and threescore and seven priests' garments.

^a 19 lb or 8.4 kg

^b 375 lb or 170 kg

^c 1.3 ton or 1.2 metric ton

^d 1.2 ton or 1.1 metric ton

⁷³So the priests, and the Levites, and the porters, and the singers, and some of the people, and the Nethinim, and all Israel, dwelt in their cities; and when the seventh month came, the children of Israel were in their cities.

Ezra reads the law

8 ¹And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the Water Gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel.

²And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month. ³And he read therein before the street that was before the Water Gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.

⁴And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Urijah, and Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people) and when he opened it, all the people stood up; ⁶and Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," with lifting up their hands; and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁷Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law; and the people stood in their place. ⁸So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, "This day is holy unto the LORD your

God; mourn not, nor weep.” For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said unto them:

Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy unto our Lord; neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

¹¹So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, “Hold your peace, for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved.” ¹²And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

Feast of tabernacles celebrated

¹³And on the second day were gathered together the chief of the fathers of all the people, the priests, and the Levites, unto Ezra the scribe, even to understand the words of the law.

¹⁴And they found written in the law which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month; ¹⁵and that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, “Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths,” as it is written.

¹⁶So the people went forth, and brought them, and made themselves booths, everyone upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the street of the Water Gate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim. ¹⁷And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths; for since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness. ¹⁸Also day by day, from the first day unto the last day, he read in the book of the law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly, according unto the manner.

Israelites confess their sins

9 ¹Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes, and earth upon them. ²And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers. ³And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the LORD their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they confessed, and worshiped the LORD their God. ⁴Then stood up upon the stairs, of the Levites, Jeshua, and Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani, and cried with a loud voice unto the LORD their God. ⁵Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said:

Stand up and bless the LORD your God forever and ever; and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. ⁶Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshipeth thee.

⁷Thou art the LORD the God, who didst choose Abram, and broughtest him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gavest him the name of Abraham; ⁸and foundest his heart faithful before thee, and madest a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanites, the Hitites, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Jebusites, and the Girgashites, to give it, I say, to his seed, and hast performed thy words; for thou art righteous; ⁹and didst see the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and heardest their cry by the Red Sea; ¹⁰and showedst signs and wonders upon Pharaoh, and on all his

servants, and on all the people of his land; for thou knewest that they dealt proudly against them. So didst thou get thee a name, as it is this day. ¹¹And thou didst divide the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; and their persecutors thou threwest into the deeps, as a stone into the mighty waters.

¹²Moreover thou leddest them in the day by a cloudy pillar; and in the night by a pillar of fire, to give them light in the way wherein they should go. ¹³Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments; ¹⁴and madest known unto them thy holy Sabbath, and commandedst them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses thy servant; ¹⁵and gavest them bread from heaven for their hunger, and broughtest forth water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and promisedst them that they should go in to possess the land which thou hadst sworn to give them.

¹⁶But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments, ¹⁷and refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage; but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.

¹⁸Yea, when they had made them a molten calf, and said, "This is thy God that brought thee up out of Egypt, and had wrought great provocations;" ¹⁹yet thou in thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness; the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to show them light, and the way wherein they should go. ²⁰Thou gavest also thy good Spirit to instruct them, and withheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst. ²¹Yea, forty years didst thou sustain them in the wilderness, so that they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not.

²²Moreover thou gavest them kingdoms and nations, and didst divide them into corners; so they possessed the land of Sihon, and the land of the king of Heshbon, and the land of Og king of Bashan. ²³Their children also multipliedst thou as the stars of heaven, and broughtest them into the land, concerning which thou hadst promised to their fathers, that they should go in to possess it. ²⁴So the children went in and possessed the land, and thou subduedst before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gavest them into their hands, with their kings, and the people of the land, that they might do with them as they would. ²⁵And they took strong cities, and a fat land, and possessed houses full of all goods, wells digged, vineyards, and olive yards, and fruit trees in abundance; so they did eat, and were filled, and became fat, and delighted themselves in thy great goodness.

²⁶Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations. ²⁷Therefore thou deliveredst them into the hand of their enemies, who vexed them; and in the time of their trouble, when they cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and according to thy manifold mercies thou gavest them saviors, who saved them out of the hand of their enemies.

²⁸But after they had rest, they did evil again before thee; therefore leftest thou them in the hand of their enemies, so that they had the dominion over them; yet when they returned, and cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and many times didst thou deliver them according to thy mercies; ²⁹and testifiedst against them, that thou

mightest bring them again unto thy law; yet they dealt proudly, and hearkened not unto thy commandments, but sinned against thy judgments, (which if a man do, he shall live in them) and withdrew the shoulder, and hardened their neck, and would not hear. ³⁰Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by thy Spirit in thy prophets; yet would they not give ear; therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands. ³¹Nevertheless for thy great mercies' sake thou didst not utterly consume them, nor forsake them; for thou art a gracious and merciful God.

³²Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who keepest covenant and mercy, let not all the trouble seem little before thee, that hath come upon us, on our kings, on our princes, and on our priests, and on our prophets, and on our fathers, and on all thy people, since the time of the kings of Assyria unto this day.

³³Howbeit thou art just in all that is brought upon us; for thou hast done right, but we have done wickedly; ³⁴neither have our kings, our princes, our priests, nor our fathers, kept thy law, nor hearkened unto thy commandments and thy testimonies, wherewith thou didst testify against them. ³⁵For they have not served thee in their kingdom, and in thy great goodness that thou gavest them, and in the large and fat land which thou gavest before them, neither turned they from their wicked works.

³⁶Behold, we are servants this day, and for the land that thou gavest unto our fathers to eat the fruit thereof and the good thereof, behold, we are servants in it; ³⁷and it yieldeth much increase unto the kings whom thou hast set over us because of our sins; also they have dominion over our bodies, and over our cattle, at their pleasure, and we are in great distress.

³⁸And because of all this we make a sure covenant, and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests, seal unto it.

10 ¹Now those that sealed were: Nehemiah the Tirshatha, the son of Hachaliah, and Zidkijah, ²Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah, ³Pashur, Amariah, Malchijah, ⁴Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch, ⁵Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah, ⁶Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch, ⁷Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin, ⁸Maaziah, Bilgai, Shemaiah; these were the priests.

⁹And the Levites: both Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel; ¹⁰and their brethren, Shebaniah, Hodijah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan, ¹¹Micha, Rehob, Hashabiah, ¹²Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah, ¹³Hodijah, Bani, Beninu.

¹⁴The chief of the people: Parosh, Pahath-moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani, ¹⁵Bunni, Azgad, Behai, ¹⁶Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin, ¹⁷Ater, Hizkijah, Azzur, ¹⁸Hodijah, Hashum, Bezai, ¹⁹Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai, ²⁰Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir, ²¹Meshezabeel, Zadok, Jaddua, ²²Pelathiah, Hanan, Anaiah, ²³Hoshea, Hananiah, Hashub, ²⁴Hallohesh, Pileha, Shobek, ²⁵Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah. ²⁶And Ahijah, Hanan, Anan, ²⁷Malluch, Harim, Baanah.

²⁸And the rest of the people: the priests, the Levites, the porters, the singers, the Nethinim, and all they that had separated themselves from the people of the lands unto the law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, everyone having knowledge, and having understanding; ²⁹they clave to their brethren, their nobles, and entered into an oath, that a curse should come upon them if they did not walk in God's law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD their God, and his judgments and statutes. ³⁰And that they would not give their daughters unto the people of the land, nor take the daughters of the people for their sons. ³¹And if the people of the land bring ware or any victuals on the Sabbath day to sell, that we would

not buy it of them on the Sabbath, or on the holy day; and that we would leave the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt.

³²Also we made ordinances for us, to charge ourselves yearly with the ^athird part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God; ³³for the showbread, and for the continual meat offering, and for the continual burnt offering, of the Sabbaths, of the new moons, for the set feasts, and for the holy things, and for the sin offerings to make an atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God.

^a 1/8 oz or 4 g

³⁴And we cast the lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, after the houses of our fathers, at times appointed year by year, to burn upon the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the law; ³⁵and to bring the firstfruits of our ground, and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, unto the house of the LORD; ³⁶also the first-born of our sons, and of our cattle, as it is written in the law, and the firstlings of our herds and of our flocks, to bring to the house of our God, unto the priests that minister in the house of our God; ³⁷and that we should bring the firstfruits of our dough, and our offerings, and the fruit of all manner of trees, of wine, and of oil, unto the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and the tithes of our ground unto the Levites, that the same Levites might have the tithes in all the cities of our tillage. ³⁸And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes; and the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes unto the house of our God, to the chambers, into the treasure house. ³⁹For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the corn, of the new wine, and the oil, unto the chambers, where are the vessels of the sanctuary, and the priests that minister, and the porters, and the singers; and we will not forsake the house of our God.

Rulers in Jerusalem

¹And the rulers of the people dwelt at Jerusalem; the rest of the people also cast lots, to bring one of ten to dwell in Jerusalem the holy city, and nine parts to dwell in other cities.

²And the people blessed all the men, that willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem.

³Now these are the chief of the province that dwelt in Jerusalem; but in the cities of Judah dwelt everyone in his possession in their cities, to wit, Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the Nethinim, and the children of Solomon's servants.

⁴And at Jerusalem dwelt certain of the children of Judah, and of the children of Benjamin.

Of the children of Judah: Athaiah the son of Uziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalaleel, of the children of Perez; ⁵and Maaseiah the son of Baruch, the son of Col-Hozeh, the son of Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah, the son of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, the son of Shiloni. ⁶All the sons of Perez that dwelt at Jerusalem were four hundred threescore and eight valiant men.

⁷And these are the sons of Benjamin: Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Joed, the son of Pedaiah, the son of Kolaiah, the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ithiel, the son of Jesaiah.

⁸And after him Gabbai; Sallai, nine hundred twenty and eight. ⁹And Joel the son of Zichri was their overseer; and Judah the son of Senuah was second over the city.

¹⁰Of the priests: Jedaiah the son of Joiarib, Jachin. ¹¹Seraiah the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, was the ruler of the house of God. ¹²And their brethren that did the work of the house were eight hundred twenty and two; and Adaiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pelaliah, the son of Amnzi, the son of Zechariah, the son of Pashur, the son of Malchiah, ¹³and his brethren, chief of the

fathers, two hundred forty and two; and Amashai the son of Azareel, the son of Ahasai, the son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer, ¹⁴and their brethren, mighty men of valor, a hundred twenty and eight; and their overseer was Zabdiel, the son of one of the great men.

¹⁵Also of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hashub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Bunni; ¹⁶and Shabbethai and Jozabad, of the chief of the Levites, had the oversight of the outward business of the house of God. ¹⁷And Mattaniah the son of Micha, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, was the principal to begin the thanksgiving in prayer; and Bakbukiah the second among his brethren, and Abda the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun. ¹⁸All the Levites in the holy city were two hundred fourscore and four.

¹⁹Moreover the porters: Akkub, Talmon, and their brethren that kept the gates, were a hundred seventy and two.

²⁰And the residue of Israel: of the priests, and the Levites, were in all the cities of Judah, everyone in his inheritance.

²¹But the Nethinim dwelt in Ophel; and Ziha and Gispa were over the Nethinim.

²²The overseer also of the Levites at Jerusalem was Uzzi the son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micha. Of the sons of Asaph, the singers were over the business of the house of God. ²³For it was the king's commandment concerning them, that a certain portion should be for the singers, due for every day.

²⁴And Pethahiah the son of Meshezabeel, of the children of Zerah the son of Judah, was at the king's hand in all matters concerning the people.

²⁵And for the villages, with their fields, some of the children of Judah dwelt at Kirjath-Arba, and in the villages thereof, and at Dibon, and in the villages thereof, and at Jekabzeel, and in the villages thereof, ²⁶and at Jeshua, and at Moladah, and at Beth-Phelet, ²⁷and at Hazar-shual, and at Beersheba, and in the villages thereof, ²⁸and at Ziklag, and at Mekonah, and in the villages thereof, ²⁹and at En-rimmon, and at Zareah, and at Jarmuth, ³⁰Zanoah, Adullam, and in their villages, at Lachish, and the fields thereof, at Azekah, and in the villages thereof. And they dwelt from Beer-Sheba unto the valley of Hinnom.

³¹The children also of Benjamin from Geba dwelt at Michmash, and Aija, and Beth-El, and in their villages, ³²and at Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah, ³³Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim, ³⁴Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat, ³⁵Lod, and Ono, the valley of craftsmen.

³⁶And of the Levites were divisions in Judah, and in Benjamin.

Priests and Levites

12 ¹Now these are the priests and the Levites that went up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, ²Amariah, Malluch, Hattush, ³Shechaniah, Rehum, Meremoth, ⁴Iddo, Ginnetho, Abijah, ⁵Miamin, Maadiah, Bigah, ⁶Shemaiah, and Joiarib, Jedaiah, ⁷Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah, Jedaiah. These were the chief of the priests and of their brethren in the days of Jeshua.

⁸Moreover the Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, which was over the thanksgiving, he and his brethren. ⁹Also Bakbukiah and Unni, their brethren, were over against them in the watches.

¹⁰And Jeshua begat Joiakim, Joiakim also begat Eliashib, and Eliashib begat Joiada. ¹¹And Joiada begat Jonathan, and Jonathan begat Jaddua.

¹²And in the days of Joiakim were priests, the chief of the fathers: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah; ¹³of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan; ¹⁴of Melicu, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph; ¹⁵of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai; ¹⁶of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam; ¹⁷of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin, of Moadiah, Piltai; ¹⁸of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan; ¹⁹and of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi; ²⁰of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber; ²¹of Hilkiah, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah, Nethaneel.

²²The Levites in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, and Johanan, and Jaddua, were recorded chief of the fathers; also the priests, to the reign of Darius the Persian. ²³The sons of Levi, the chief of the fathers, were written in the book of the chronicles, even until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib. ²⁴And the chief of the Levites; Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brethren over against them, to praise and to give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of God, ward over against ward.

²⁵Mattaniah, and Bakkukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, Akkub, were porters keeping the ward at the thresholds of the gates. ²⁶These were in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor, and of Ezra the priest, the scribe.

Dedication of the wall of Jerusalem

²⁷And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps. ²⁸And the sons of the singers gathered themselves together, both out of the plain country round about Jerusalem, and from the villages of Netophathi; ²⁹also from the house of Gilgal, and out of the fields of Geba and Azmaveth; for the singers had builded them villages round about Jerusalem; ³⁰and the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, and the gates, and the wall.

³¹Then I brought up the princes of Judah upon the wall, and appointed two great companies of them that gave thanks, whereof one went on the right hand upon the wall toward the Dung Gate; ³²and after them went Hoshai, and half of the princes of Judah, ³³And Azariah, Ezra, and Meshullam, ³⁴Judah, and Benjamin, and Shemaiah, and Jeremiah, ³⁵and certain of the priests' sons with trumpets; namely, Zechariah, the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Michaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph; ³⁶and his brethren, Shemaiah, and Azrael, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethaneel, and Judah, Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God, and Ezra the scribe before them. ³⁷And at the Fountain Gate, which was over against them, they went up by the stairs of the city of David, at the going up of the wall, above the house of David, even unto the Water Gate eastward.

³⁸And the other company of them that gave thanks went over against them, and I after them, and the half of the people upon the wall from beyond the tower of the furnaces even unto the broad wall; ³⁹and from above the gate of Ephraim, and above the old gate, and above the Fish Gate, and the tower of Hananeel, and the tower of Meah, even unto the Sheep Gate; and they stood still in the Prison Gate.

⁴⁰So stood the two companies of them that gave thanks in the house of God, and I, and the half of the rulers with me; ⁴¹and the priests; Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Michaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets; ⁴²and Maaseiah, and Shemaiah, and Eleazar, and Uzzi, and Jehohanan, and Malchijah, and Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang loud, with Jezrahiah their overseer. ⁴³Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and

rejoiced; for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the wives also and the children rejoiced; so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off.

⁴⁴And at that time were some appointed over the chambers for the treasures, for the offerings, for the firstfruits and for the tithes, to gather into them out of the fields of the cities the portions of the law for the priests and Levites; for Judah rejoiced for the priests, and for the Levites that waited. ⁴⁵And both the singers and the porters kept the ward of their God, and the ward of the purification, according to the commandment of David, and of Solomon his son. ⁴⁶For in the days of David and Asaph of old there were chief of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving unto God. ⁴⁷And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel, and in the days of Nehemiah, gave the portions of the singers and the porters, every day his portion; and they sanctified holy things unto the Levites; and the Levites sanctified them unto the children of Aaron.

Nehemiah's final reforms

13 ¹On that day they read in the book of Moses in the audience of the people; and therein was found written, that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of God forever; ²because they met not the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Baalam against them, that he should curse them; howbeit our God turned the curse into a blessing. ³Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude.

⁴And before this, Eliashib the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house of our God, was allied unto Tobiah; ⁵and he had prepared for him a great chamber, where aforetime they laid the meat offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of the corn, the new wine, and the oil, which was commanded to be given to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters; and the offerings of the priests.

⁶But in all this time was not I at Jerusalem; for in the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon came I unto the king, and after certain days obtained I leave of the king; ⁷and I came to Jerusalem, and understood of the evil that Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him a chamber in the courts of the house of God. ⁸And it grieved me sore; therefore I cast forth all the household stuff of Tobiah out of the chamber. ⁹Then I commanded, and they cleansed the chambers; and thither brought I again the vessels of the house of God, with the meat offering and the frankincense.

¹⁰And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them; for the Levites and the singers, that did the work were fled everyone to his field. ¹¹Then contended I with the rulers, and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" And I gathered them together, and set them in their place.

¹²Then brought all Judah the tithe of the corn and the new wine and the oil unto the treasuries. ¹³And I made treasurers over the treasuries, Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah; and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah; for they were counted faithful, and their office was to distribute unto their brethren.

¹⁴Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof.

¹⁵In those days saw I in Judah some treading wine-presses on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day; and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals. ¹⁶There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, which brought fish,

and all manner of ware, and sold on the Sabbath unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem. ¹⁷Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them:

What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the Sabbath day? ¹⁸Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city; yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the Sabbath.

¹⁹And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the Sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the Sabbath; and some of my servants set I at the gates, that there should no burden be brought in on the Sabbath day. ²⁰So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Jerusalem once or twice. ²¹Then I testified against them, and said unto them, "Why lodge ye about the wall? If ye do so again, I will lay hands on you." From that time forth came they no more on the Sabbath. ²²And I commanded the Levites, that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the Sabbath day.

Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.

²³In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab; ²⁴and their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people. ²⁵And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying:

Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves. ²⁶Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel; nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin. ²⁷Shall we then hearken unto you to do all this great evil, to transgress against our God in marrying strange wives?

²⁸And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son-in-law to Sanballat the Horonite; therefore I chased him from me.

²⁹Remember then, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites.

³⁰Thus cleansed I them from all strangers, and appointed the wards of the priests and the Levites, everyone in his business; ³¹and for the wood offering, at times appointed, and for the firstfruits.

Remember me, O my God, for good.

ESTHER

¹Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned from India even unto Ethiopia, over a hundred and seven and twenty provinces) ²that in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace, ³in the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him; ⁴when he showed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honor of his excellent majesty many days, even a hundred and fourscore days.

⁵And when these days were expired, the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace; ⁶where were white, green, and blue hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble; the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black marble. ⁷And they gave them drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king. ⁸And the drinking was according to the law; none did compel; for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure.

⁹Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to king Ahasuerus.

¹⁰On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king, ¹¹to bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to show the people and the princes her beauty; for she was fair to look on. ¹²But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains; therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

¹³Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, (for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment; ¹⁴and the next unto him was Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, which saw the king's face, and which sat the first in the kingdom):

¹⁵What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king Ahasuerus by the chamberlains?

¹⁶And Memucan answered before the king and the princes:

Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that are in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus. ¹⁷For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, "The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not." ¹⁸Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath.

¹⁹If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, "That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus;" and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she. ²⁰And when the king's decree, which he shall make, shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great) all the wives shall give to their husbands honor, both to great and small.

²¹And the saying pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memucan; ²²for he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that it should be published according to the language of every people.

Esther becomes queen

2 ¹After these things, when the wrath of king Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her. ²Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him:

Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king; ³and let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hegai the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them; ⁴and let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti.

And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.

⁵Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite; ⁶who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away. ⁷And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter; for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.

⁸So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women. ⁹And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were meet to be given her, out of the king's house; and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women.

¹⁰Esther had not showed her people nor her kindred; for Mordecai had charged her that she should not show it. ¹¹And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her.

¹²Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odors, and with other things for the purifying of the women) ¹³then thus came every maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house. ¹⁴In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, which kept the concubines; she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name.

¹⁵Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all them that looked upon her. ¹⁶So Esther was taken unto

king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

¹⁷And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti. ¹⁸Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.

¹⁹And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sat in the king's gate. ²⁰Esther had not yet showed her kindred nor her people, as Mordecai had charged her; for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him.

Mordecai discovers a conspiracy

²¹In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. ²²And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name. ²³And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree; and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king.

Haman plots to destroy the Jews

3 ¹After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him. ²And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman; for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence.

³Then the king's servants, which were in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, "Why transgressest thou the king's commandment?" ⁴Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand; for he had told them that he was a Jew. ⁵And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath. ⁶And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had showed him the people of Mordecai; wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.

⁷In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.

⁸And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus:

There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws; therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them. ⁹If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed; and I will pay ^aten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries.

^a 375 tons or 340 metric tons

¹⁰And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy. ¹¹And the king said unto Haman:

The silver is given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.

¹²Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring. ¹³And the letters, were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey. ¹⁴The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day.

¹⁵The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed.

Mordecai persuades Esther to help

4 ¹When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry; ²and came even before the king's gate; for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. ³And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

⁴So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told it her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him; but he received it not. ⁵Then called Esther for Hatach, one of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, to know what it was, and why it was.

⁶So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate. ⁷And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them. ⁸Also he gave him a copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to show it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people.

⁹And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai. ¹⁰Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai:

¹¹All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden scepter, that he may live; but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.

¹²And they told to Mordecai Esther's words. ¹³Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther:

Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. ¹⁴For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy

father's house shall be destroyed; and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

¹⁵Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer:

¹⁶Go gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day; I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish.

¹⁷So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

Esther speaks to the king

5 ¹Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house; and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house. ²And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favor in his sight; and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the scepter.

³Then said the king unto her:

What wilt thou, queen Esther? And what is thy request? It shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.

⁴And Esther answered:

If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.

⁵Then the king said:

Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said.

So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared. ⁶And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine:

What is thy petition? And it shall be granted thee; and what is thy request? Even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.

⁷Then answered Esther, and said:

My petition and my request is ⁸if I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do tomorrow as the king hath said.

Haman's hatred of Mordecai

⁹Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai. ¹⁰Nevertheless Haman refrained himself; and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife. ¹¹And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king. ¹²Haman said moreover:

Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and tomorrow am I invited unto her also with the king.

¹³Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.

¹⁴Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him:

Let a gallows be made of ³fifty cubits high, and tomorrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon; then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet.

^a 75 ft or 23 m

And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.

Mordecai honored by the king

6 ¹On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. ²And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

³And the king said:

What honor and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this?

Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him:

There is nothing done for him.

⁴And the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. ⁵And the king's servants said unto him, "Behold, Haman standeth in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in." ⁶So Haman came in.

And the king said unto him:

What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor?

Now, Haman thought in his heart:

To whom would the king delight to do honor more than to myself?

⁷And Haman answered the king:

For the man whom the king delighteth to honor, ⁸let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head; ⁹and let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honor, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honor."

¹⁰Then the king said to Haman:

Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate; let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.

¹¹Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, "Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor."

¹²And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hastened to his house mourning, and having his head covered. ¹³And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had befallen him.

Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him:

If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him but shalt surely fall before him.

¹⁴And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hastened to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.

7 ¹So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen. ²And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine:

What is thy petition, queen Esther? And it shall be granted thee; and what is thy request? And it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom.

³Then Esther the queen answered and said:

If I have found favor in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request; ⁴for we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.

⁵Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen:

Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?

⁶And Esther said:

The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman.

Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen. ⁷And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden; and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king. ⁸Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king:

Will he force the queen also before me in the house?

As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face. ⁹And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king:

Behold also the gallows ^afifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman.

^a 75 ft or 23 m

Then the king said, "Hang him thereon."

¹⁰So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

The king's edict

8 ¹On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told what he was unto her. ²And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

³And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews. ⁴Then the king held out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king. ⁵And said:

If it please the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces; ⁶for how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? Or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?

⁷Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew:

Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hands upon the Jews. ⁸Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring; for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse.

⁹Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, a hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.

¹⁰And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus' name, and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries;

¹¹Wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey. ¹²Upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar. ¹³The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

¹⁴So the posts that rode upon mules and camels went out, being hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. And the decree was given at Shushan the palace.

¹⁵And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad. ¹⁶The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honor. ¹⁷And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.

9 ¹Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them; (though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them) ²the Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt; and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people. ³And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them. ⁴For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces; for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater.

⁵Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them. ⁶And in Shushan the palace the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred men. ⁷And Parshandatha, and Dalphon, and Aspatha, ⁸and Poratha, and Adalia, and Aridatha, ⁹and Parmashta, and Arisai, and Aridai, and Vajezatha, ¹⁰the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, slew they; but on the spoil laid they not their hand.

¹¹On that day the number of those that were slain in Shushan the palace was brought before the king. ¹²And the king said unto Esther the queen:

The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the palace, and the ten sons of Haman; what have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? Now what is thy petition? And it shall be granted thee; or what is thy request further? And it shall be done.

¹³Then said Esther:

If it please the king, let it be granted to the Jews which are in Shushan to do tomorrow also according unto this day's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the gallows.

¹⁴And the king commanded it so to be done; and the decree was given at Shushan; and they hanged Haman's ten sons. ¹⁵For the Jews that were in Shushan gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar, and slew three hundred men at Shushan; but on the prey they laid not their hand.

¹⁶But the other Jews that were in the king's provinces gathered themselves together, and stood for their lives, and had rest from their enemies, and slew of their foes seventy and five thousand, but they laid not their hands on the prey, ¹⁷on the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

¹⁸But the Jews that were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof; and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. ¹⁹Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwall'd towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.

Purim established

²⁰And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far, ²¹to establish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly. ²²As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day; that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.

²³And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them; ²⁴because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that is, the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them; ²⁵but when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows. ²⁶Wherefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them,

²⁷The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year; ²⁸and that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed.

²⁹Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority, to confirm this second letter of Purim. ³⁰And he sent the letters unto all the

Jews, to the hundred twenty and seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth, ³¹to confirm these days of Purim in their times appointed, according as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had enjoined them, and as they had decreed for themselves and for their seed, the matters of the fastings and their cry. ³²And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim; and it was written in the book.

The greatness of Mordecai

10 ¹And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea. ²And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereunto the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia? ³For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed.

JOB

Job's character and wealth

¹There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job, and that man was perfect and upright and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. ²And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. ³His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

⁴And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. ⁵And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." Thus did Job continually.

Satan allowed to test Job

⁶Now there was a day when the children of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. ⁷And the LORD said unto Satan:

Whence comest thou?

Then Satan answered the LORD, and said:

From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

⁸And the LORD said unto Satan:

Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

⁹Then Satan answered the LORD, and said:

Doth Job fear God for naught? ¹⁰Hast not thou made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. ¹¹But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

¹²And the LORD said unto Satan:

Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand.

So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Job loses property and children

¹³And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house; ¹⁴and there came a messenger unto Job, and said:

The oxen were ploughing, and the asses feeding beside them; ¹⁵and the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

¹⁶While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said:

The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

¹⁷While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said:

The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

¹⁸While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said:

Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in there eldest brother's house; ¹⁹and behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

²⁰Then Job arose and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground and worshiped, ²¹and said:

Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither; the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

²²In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Satan smites Job's health

2 ¹Again there was a day when the children of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. ²And the LORD said unto Satan:

From whence comest thou?

And Satan answered the LORD, and said:

From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

³And the LORD said unto Satan:

Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil? And still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

⁴And Satan answered the LORD, and said:

Skin for skin, yea, all that man hath will he give for his life. ⁵But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

⁶And the LORD said unto Satan:

Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

⁷So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. ⁸And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes.

⁹Then said his wife unto him:

Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die.

¹⁰But he said unto her:

Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?

In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

Job's three friends

¹¹Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite; for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him, and to comfort him. ¹²And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, they lifted up their voice and wept; and they rent everyone his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven. ¹³So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word unto him; for they saw that his grief was very great.

Job laments his birth

3 ¹After this opened Job his mouth, and cursed his day. ²And Job spake, and said:

³Let the day perish wherein I was born,
and the night in which it was said, "There is a man-child conceived."

⁴Let that day be darkness;
let not God regard it from above, neither let the light shine upon it.

⁵Let darkness and the shadow of death stain it;
let a cloud dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it.

⁶As for that night, let darkness seize upon it;
let it not be joined unto the days of the year;
let it not come into the number of the months.

⁷Lo, let that night be solitary;
let no joyful voice come therein.

⁸Let them curse it that curse the day,
who are ready to raise up their mourning.

⁹Let the stars of the twilight thereof be dark;
let it look for light, but have none;
neither let it see the dawning of the day;

¹⁰because it shut not up the doors of my mother's womb,
nor hid sorrow from mine eyes.

¹¹Why died I not from the womb?
Why did I not give up the ghost when I came out of the belly?

¹²Why did the knees prevent me?
Or why the breasts that I should suck?

¹³For now should I have lain still and been quiet,
I should have slept; then had I been at rest,

¹⁴With kings and counselors of the earth,
which built desolate places for themselves;

¹⁵Or with princes that had gold,
who filled their houses with silver;

¹⁶Or as a hidden untimely birth I had not been;
as infants which never saw light.

- ¹⁷There the wicked cease from troubling;
and there the weary be at rest.
- ¹⁸There the prisoners rest together;
they hear not the voice of the oppressor.
- ¹⁹The small and great are there;
and the servant is free from his master.
- ²⁰Wherefore is light given to him that is in misery,
and life unto the bitter in soul;
- ²¹Which long for death, but it cometh not;
and dig for it more than for hid treasures;
- ²²Which rejoice exceedingly,
and are glad when they can find the grave?
- ²³Why is light given to a man whose way is hid,
and whom God hath hedged in?
- ²⁴For my sighing cometh before I eat,
and my roarings are poured out like the waters
- ²⁵For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me,
and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.
- ²⁶I was not in safety, neither had I rest,
neither was I quiet; yet trouble came.

Eliphaz: the innocent prosper

- 4 ¹Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:
- ²If we assay to commune with thee, wilt thou be grieved?
But who can withhold himself from speaking?
- ³Behold, thou hast instructed many,
and thou hast strengthened the weak hands.
- ⁴Thy words have upholden him that was falling,
and thou hast strengthened the feeble knees.
- ⁵But now it is come upon thee, and thou faintest;
it toucheth thee, and thou art troubled.
- ⁶Is not this thy fear, thy confidence,
thy hope, and the uprightness of thy ways?
- ⁷Remember, I pray thee, whoever perished, being innocent;
or where were the righteous cut off?
- ⁸Even as I have seen, they that plough iniquity,
and sow wickedness and reap the same.
- ⁹By the blast of God they perish,
and by the breath of his nostrils are they consumed.
- ¹⁰The roaring of the lion, and the voice of the fierce lion,
and the teeth of the young lions, are broken.
- ¹¹The old lion perisheth for lack of prey,
and the stout lion's whelps are scattered abroad.
- ¹²Now a thing was secretly brought to me,
and mine ear received a little thereof.
- ¹³In thoughts from the visions of the night,
when deep sleep falleth on men,
- ¹⁴Fear came upon me, and trembling,
which made all my bones to shake.

¹⁵Then a spirit passed before my face;
the hair of my flesh stood up;
¹⁶it stood still, but I could not discern the form thereof;
an image was before mine eyes, there was silence, and I heard a voice, saying,
¹⁷“Shall mortal man be more just than God?
Shall a man be more pure than his Maker?”
¹⁸Behold, he put no trust in his servants;
and his angels he charged with folly;
¹⁹How much less in them that dwell in houses of clay,
whose foundation is in the dust, which are crushed before the moth?
²⁰They are destroyed from morning to evening;
they perish forever without any regarding it.
²¹Doth not their excellency which is in them go away?
They die, even without wisdom.

5

¹Call now, if there be any that will answer thee;
and to which of the saints wilt thou turn?
²For wrath killeth the foolish man,
and envy slayeth the silly one.
³I have seen the foolish taking root;
but suddenly I cursed his habitation.
⁴His children are far from safety,
and they are crushed in the gate,
neither is there any to deliver them.
⁵Whose harvest the hungry eateth up,
and taketh it even out of the thorns,
and the robber swalloweth up their substance.
⁶Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust,
neither doth trouble spring out of the ground.
⁷Yet man is born unto trouble,
as the sparks fly upward.
⁸I would seek unto God,
and unto God would I commit my cause;
⁹Which doeth great things and unsearchable;
marvelous things without number;
¹⁰Who giveth rain upon the earth,
and sendeth waters upon the fields;
¹¹to set up on high those that be low;
that those which mourn may be exalted to safety.
¹²He disappointeth the devices of the crafty,
so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise.
¹³He taketh the wise in their own craftiness;
and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong.
¹⁴They meet with darkness in the daytime,
and grope in the noonday as in the night.
¹⁵But he saveth the poor from the sword, from their mouth,
and from the hand of the mighty.
¹⁶So the poor hath hope,
and iniquity stoppeth her mouth.
¹⁷Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth;
therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty;

- ¹⁸For he maketh sore, and bindeth up;
he woundeth, and his hands make whole.
- ¹⁹He shall deliver thee in six troubles;
yea in seven there shall no evil touch thee.
- ²⁰In famine he shall redeem thee from death;
and in war from the power of the sword.
- ²¹Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue;
neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh.
- ²²At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh;
neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth.
- ²³For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field;
and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee.
- ²⁴And thou shalt know that thy tabernacle shall be in peace;
and thou shalt visit thy habitation, and shalt not sin.
- ²⁵Thou shalt know also that thy seed shall be great,
and thine offspring as the grass of the earth.
- ²⁶Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age,
like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season.
- ²⁷Lo this, we have searched it, so it is;
hear it, and know thou it for thy good.

Job: my complaint is just

- 6 ¹But Job answered and said:
- ²Oh that my grief were thoroughly weighed,
and my calamity laid in the balances together!
- ³For now it would be heavier than the sand of the sea;
therefore my words are swallowed up.
- ⁴For the arrows of the Almighty are within me,
the poison whereof drinketh up my spirit;
the terrors of God do set themselves in array against me.
- ⁵Doth the wild ass bray when he hath grass?
Or loweth the ox over his fodder?
- ⁶Can that which is unsavory be eaten without salt?
Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?
- ⁷The things that my soul refused to touch
are as my sorrowful meat.
- ⁸Oh that I might have my request;
and that God would grant me the thing that I long for!
- ⁹Even that it would please God to destroy me;
that he would let loose his hand, and cut me off!
- ¹⁰Then should I yet have comfort;
yea, I would harden myself in sorrow; let him not spare;
for I have not concealed the words of the Holy One.
- ¹¹What is my strength, that I should hope?
And what is mine end, that I should prolong my life?
- ¹²Is my strength the strength of stones?
Or is my flesh of brass?
- ¹³Is not my help in me?
And is wisdom driven quite from me?

- ¹⁴To him that is afflicted pity should be showed from his friend;
but he forsaketh the fear of the Almighty.
- ¹⁵My brethren have dealt deceitfully as a brook,
and as the stream of brooks they pass away;
- ¹⁶which are blackish by reason of the ice,
and wherein the snow is hid;
- ¹⁷What time they wax warm, they vanish;
when it is hot, they are consumed out of their place.
- ¹⁸The paths of their way are turned aside;
they go to nothing, and perish.
- ¹⁹The troops of Tema looked,
the companies of Sheba waited for them.
- ²⁰They were confounded because they had hoped;
they came thither, and were ashamed.
- ²¹For now ye are nothing;
ye see my casting down, and are afraid.
- ²²Did I say, Bring unto me?
Or, Give me a reward for me of your substance?
- ²³Or, Deliver me from the enemy's hand?
Or, Redeem me from the hand of the mighty?
- ²⁴Teach me, and I will hold my tongue;
and cause me to understand wherein I have erred.
- ²⁵How forcible are right words!
But what doth your arguing reprove?
- ²⁶Do ye imagine to reprove words,
and the speeches of one that is desperate, which are as wind?
- ²⁷Yea, ye overwhelm the fatherless,
and ye dig a pit for your friend.
- ²⁸Now therefore be content, look upon me;
for it is evident unto you if I lie.
- ²⁹Return, I pray you, let it not be iniquity;
yea, return again, my righteousness is in it.
- ³⁰Is there iniquity in my tongue?
Cannot my taste discern perverse things?

Job: life seems futile

7

- ¹Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth?
Are not his days also like the days of a hireling?
- ²As a servant earnestly desireth the shadow,
and as a hireling looketh for the reward of his work;
- ³so am I made to possess months of vanity,
and wearisome nights are appointed to me.
- ⁴When I lie down, I say, When shall I arise, and the night be gone?
And I am full of tossings to and fro unto the dawning of the day.
- ⁵My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust;
my skin is broken, and become loathsome.
- ⁶My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle,
and are spent without hope.

⁷Oh remember that my life is wind;
mine eyes shall no more see good.
⁸The eye of him that hath seen me shall see me no more;
thine eyes are upon me, and I am not.
⁹As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away;
so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more.
¹⁰He shall return no more to his house,
neither shall his place know him anymore.
¹¹Therefore I will not refrain my mouth;
I will speak in the anguish of my spirit;
I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.
¹²Am I a sea, or a whale,
that thou settest a watch over me?
¹³When I say, "My bed shall comfort me,
my couch shall ease my complaint;"
¹⁴then thou scarest me with dreams,
and terrifiest me through visions;
¹⁵so that my soul chooseth strangling,
and death rather than my life.
¹⁶I loath it; I would not live alway;
let me alone; for my days are vanity
¹⁷What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him?
And that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?
¹⁸And that thou shouldest visit him every morning,
and try him every moment?
¹⁹How long wilt thou not depart from me,
nor let me alone till I swallow down my spittle?
²⁰I have sinned; what shall I do unto thee, O thou preserver of men?
Why hast thou set me as a mark against thee, so that I am a burden to myself?
²¹And why dost thou not pardon my transgression,
and take away mine iniquity?
For now shall I sleep in the dust;
and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I shall not be.

Bildad: Job should repent

8 ¹Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said:
²How long wilt thou speak these things?
And how long shall the words of thy mouth be like a strong wind?
³Doth God pervert judgment?
Or doth the Almighty pervert justice?
⁴If thy children have sinned against him,
and he have cast them away for their transgression;
⁵if thou wouldest seek unto God betimes,
and make thy supplication to the Almighty;
⁶If thou wert pure and upright;
surely now he would awake for thee,
and make the habitation of thy righteousness prosperous.
⁷Though thy beginning was small,
yet thy latter end should greatly increase.

- ⁸For inquire, I pray thee, of the former age,
and prepare thyself to the search of their fathers.
⁹(for we are but of yesterday, and know nothing,
because our days upon earth are a shadow)
¹⁰Shall not they teach thee, and tell thee,
and utter words out of their heart?
¹¹Can the rush grow up without mire?
Can the flag grow without water?
¹²Whilst it is yet in his greenness, and not cut down,
it withereth before any other herb.
¹³So are the paths of all that forget God;
and the hypocrite's hope shall perish;
¹⁴whose hope shall be cut off,
and whose trust shall be a spider's web.
¹⁵He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand;
he shall hold it fast, but it shall not endure.
¹⁶He is green before the sun,
and his branch shooteth forth in his garden.
¹⁷His roots are wrapped about the heap,
and seeth the place of stones.
¹⁸If he destroy him from his place,
then it shall deny him, saying, "I have not seen thee."
¹⁹Behold, this is the joy of his way,
and out of the earth shall others grow.
²⁰Behold, God will not cast away a perfect man,
neither will he help the evildoers;
²¹Till he fill thy mouth with laughing,
and thy lips with rejoicing.
²²They that hate thee shall be clothed with shame;
and the dwelling place of the wicked shall come to naught.

Job: no arbiter between God and man

- 9 ¹Then Job answered and said:
²I know it is so of a truth;
but how should man be just with God?
³If he will contend with him,
he cannot answer him one of a thousand.
⁴He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength;
who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?
⁵Which removeth the mountains, and they know not;
which overturneth them in his anger;
⁶which shaketh the earth out of her place,
and the pillars thereof tremble;
⁷which commandeth the sun, and it riseth not;
and sealeth up the stars;
⁸which alone spreadeth out the heavens,
and treadeth upon the waves of the sea;
⁹which maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades,
and the chambers of the south;

- ¹⁰which doeth great things past finding out;
yea, and wonders without number.
- ¹¹Lo, he goeth by me, and I see him not;
he passeth on also, but I perceive him not.
- ¹²Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him?
Who will say unto him, "What doest thou?"
- ¹³If God will not withdraw his anger,
the proud helpers do stoop under him.
- ¹⁴How much less shall I answer him,
and choose out my words to reason with him?
- ¹⁵Whom, though I were righteous, yet would I not answer,
but I would make supplication to my judge.
- ¹⁶If I had called, and he had answered me;
yet would I not believe that he had hearkened unto my voice.
- ¹⁷For he breaketh me with a tempest,
and multiplieth my wounds without cause.
- ¹⁸He will not suffer me to take my breath,
but filleth me with bitterness.
- ¹⁹If I speak of strength, lo, he is strong;
and if of judgment, who shall set me a time to plead?
- ²⁰If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me;
if I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.
- ²¹Though I were perfect, yet would I not know my soul;
I would despise my life.
- ²²This is one thing, therefore I said it,
He destroyeth the perfect and the wicked.
- ²³If the scourge slay suddenly,
he will laugh at the trial of the innocent.
- ²⁴The earth is given into the hand of the wicked;
he covereth the faces of the judges thereof;
if not, where, and who is he?
- ²⁵Now my days are swifter than a post;
they flee away, they see no good.
- ²⁶They are passed away as the swift ships;
as the eagle that hasteth to the prey.
- ²⁷If I say, I will forget my complaint,
I will leave off my heaviness, and comfort myself;
- ²⁸I am afraid of all my sorrows,
I know that thou wilt not hold me innocent.
- ²⁹If I be wicked,
why then labor I in vain?
- ³⁰If I wash myself with snow water,
and make my hands never so clean;
- ³¹Yet shalt thou plunge me in the ditch,
and mine own clothes shall abhor me.
- ³²For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him,
and we should come together in judgment.
- ³³Neither is there any daysman betwixt us,
that might lay his hand upon us both.

- ³⁴Let him take his rod away from me,
and let not his fear terrify me;
³⁵Then would I speak, and not fear him;
but it is not so with me.

Job's plea to God

10

- ¹My soul is weary of my life;
I will leave my complaint upon myself;
I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.
²I will say unto God, Do not condemn me;
show me wherefore thou contendest with me.
³Is it good unto thee that thou shouldest oppress,
that thou shouldest despise the work of thine hands,
and shine upon the counsel of the wicked?
⁴Hast thou eyes of flesh?
Or seest thou as man seeth?
⁵Are thy days as the days of man?
Are thy years as man's days,
⁶That thou inquirest after mine iniquity,
and searcheth after my sin?
⁷Thou knowest that I am not wicked;
and there is none that can deliver out of thine hand.
⁸Thine hands have made me and fashioned me together round about;
yet thou dost destroy me.
⁹Remember, I beseech thee, that thou hast made me as the clay;
and wilt thou bring me into dust again?
¹⁰Hast thou not poured me out as milk,
and curdled me like cheese?
¹¹Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh,
and hast fenced me with bones and sinews.
¹²Thou hast granted me life and favor,
and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit.
¹³And these things hast thou hid in thine heart;
I know that this is with thee.
¹⁴If I sin, then thou markest me,
and thou wilt not acquit me from mine iniquity.
¹⁵If I be wicked, woe unto me; and if I be righteous,
yet will I not lift up my head.
I am full of confusion;
therefore see thou mine affliction;
¹⁶For it increaseth. Thou huntest me as a fierce lion;
and again thou showest thyself marvelous upon me.
¹⁷Thou renewest thy witnesses against me,
and increasest thine indignation upon me;
changes and war are against me.
¹⁸Wherefore then hast thou brought me forth out of the womb?
Oh that I had given up the ghost, and no eye had seen me!
¹⁹I should have been as though I had not been;
I should have been carried from the womb to the grave.

²⁰Are not my days few?

Cease then, and let me alone, that I may take comfort a little,

²¹Before I go whence I shall not return,

even to the land of darkness and the shadow of death;

²²A land of darkness, as darkness itself;

and of the shadow of death, without any order,

and where the light is as darkness.

Zohar rebukes Job

11 ¹Then answered Zophar the Naamathite, and said:

²Should not the multitude of words be answered?

And should a man full of talk be justified?

³Should thy lies make men hold their peace?

And when thou mockest, shall no man make thee ashamed?

⁴For thou hast said, "My doctrine is pure,

and I am clean in thine eyes."

⁵But oh that God would speak,

and open his lips against thee;

⁶and that he would show thee the secrets of wisdom,

that they are double to that which is!

Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth.

⁷Canst thou by searching find out God?

Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?

⁸It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do?

Deeper than hell; what canst thou know?

⁹The measure thereof is longer than the earth,

and broader than the sea.

¹⁰If he cut off, and shut up,

or gather together, then who can hinder him?

¹¹For he knoweth vain men;

he seeth wickedness also; will he not then consider it?

¹²For vain man would be wise,

though man be born like a wild ass's colt.

¹³If thou prepare thine heart,

and stretch out thine hands toward him;

¹⁴If iniquity be in thine hand, put it far away,

and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles.

¹⁵For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot;

yea, thou shalt be stedfast, and shalt not fear:

¹⁶Because thou shalt forget thy misery,

and remember it as waters that pass away:

¹⁷And thine age shall be clearer than the noonday;

thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt be as the morning.

¹⁸And thou shalt be secure, because there is hope;

yea, thou shalt dig about thee, and thou shalt take thy rest in safety.

¹⁹Also thou shalt lie down, and none shall make thee afraid;

yea, many shall make suit unto thee.

²⁰But the eyes of the wicked shall fail,

and they shall not escape,

and their hope shall be as the giving up of the ghost.

Job: The LORD has done this

- 12 ¹And Job answered and said:
²No doubt but ye are the people,
and wisdom shall die with you.
³But I have understanding as well as you;
I am not inferior to you; yea,
who knoweth not such things as these?
⁴I am as one mocked of his neighbor,
who calleth upon God, and he answereth him;
the just upright man is laughed to scorn.
⁵He that is ready to slip with his feet
is as a lamp despised in the thought of him that is at ease.
⁶The tabernacles of robbers prosper,
and they that provoke God are secure;
into whose hand God bringeth abundantly.
⁷But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee;
and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee;
⁸or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee;
and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee.
⁹Who knoweth not in all these
that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this?
¹⁰In whose hand is the soul of every living thing,
and the breath of all mankind.
¹¹Doth not the ear try words?
And the mouth taste his meat?
¹²With the ancient is wisdom;
and in length of days understanding.
¹³With him is wisdom and strength,
he hath counsel and understanding.
¹⁴Behold, he breaketh down, and it cannot be built again;
he shutteth up a man, and there can be no opening.
¹⁵Behold, he withholdeth the waters, and they dry up;
also he sendeth them out, and they overturn the earth.
¹⁶With him is strength and wisdom;
the deceived and the deceiver are his.
¹⁷He leadeth counselors away spoiled,
and maketh the judges fools.
¹⁸He looseth the bond of kings,
and girdeth their loins with a girdle.
¹⁹He leadeth princes away spoiled,
and overthroweth the mighty.
²⁰He removeth away the speech of the trusty,
and taketh away the understanding of the aged.
²¹He poureth contempt upon princes,
and weakeneth the strength of the mighty.
²²He discovereth deep things out of darkness,
and bringeth out to light the shadow of death.
²³He increaseth the nations, and destroyeth them;
he enlargeth the nations, and straiteneth them again.

²⁴He taketh away the heart of the chief of the people of the earth,
and causeth them to wander in a wilderness where there is no way.

²⁵They grope in the dark without light,
and he maketh them to stagger like a drunken man.

13

¹Lo, mine eye hath seen all this,
mine ear hath heard and understood it.

²What ye know, the same do I know also;
I am not inferior unto you.

³Surely I would speak to the Almighty,
and I desire to reason with God.

⁴But ye are forgers of lies,
ye are all physicians of no value.

⁵Oh that ye would altogether hold your peace!
And it should be your wisdom.

⁶Hear now my reasoning,
and hearken to the pleadings of my lips.

⁷Will ye speak wickedly for God?
And talk deceitfully for him?

⁸Will ye accept his person?
Will ye contend for God?

⁹Is it good that he should search you out?
Or as one man mocketh another, do ye so mock him?

¹⁰He will surely reprove you,
if ye do secretly accept persons.

¹¹Shall not his excellency make you afraid?
And his dread fall upon you?

¹²Your remembrances are like unto ashes,
your bodies to bodies of clay.

¹³Hold your peace, let me alone, that I may speak,
and let come on me what will.

¹⁴Wherefore do I take my flesh in my teeth,
and put my life in mine hand?

¹⁵Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him;
but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

¹⁶He also shall be my salvation;
for a hypocrite shall not come before him.

¹⁷Hear diligently my speech,
and my declaration with your ears.

¹⁸Behold now, I have ordered my cause;
I know that I shall be justified.

¹⁹Who is he that will plead with me?
For now, if I hold my tongue, I shall give up the ghost.

²⁰Only do not two things unto me;
then will I not hide myself from thee.

²¹Withdraw thine hand far from me;
and let not thy dread make me afraid.

²²Then call thou, and I will answer;
or let me speak, and answer thou me.

²³How many are mine iniquities and sins?
Make me to know my transgression and my sin.

- ²⁴Wherefore hidest thou thy face,
and holdest me for thine enemy?
²⁵Wilt thou break a leaf driven to and fro?
And wilt thou pursue the dry stubble?
²⁶For thou writest bitter things against me,
and makest me to possess the iniquities of my youth.
²⁷Thou putttest my feet also in the stocks,
and lookest narrowly unto all my paths;
thou settest a print upon the heels of my feet.
²⁸And he, as a rotten thing, consumeth,
as a garment that is moth-eaten.

Job: death comes to all

14

- ¹Man that is born of a woman
is of few days, and full of trouble.
²He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down;
he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.
³And dost thou open thine eyes upon such a one,
and bringest me into judgment with thee?
⁴Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?
Not one.
⁵Seeing his days are determined,
the number of his months are with thee,
thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;
⁶Turn from him, that he may rest,
till he shall accomplish, as a hireling, his day.
⁷For there is hope of a tree,
if it be cut down, that it will sprout again,
and that the tender branch thereof will not cease.
⁸Though the root thereof wax old in the earth,
and the stock thereof die in the ground;
⁹Yet through the scent of water it will bud,
and bring forth boughs like a plant.
¹⁰But man dieth, and wasteth away;
yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?
¹¹As the waters fail from the sea,
and the flood decayeth and drieth up;
¹²So man lieth down, and riseth not;
till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake,
nor be raised out of their sleep.
¹³Oh that thou wouldest hide me in the grave,
that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past,
that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!
¹⁴If a man die, shall he live again?
All the days of my appointed time will I wait,
till my change come.
¹⁵Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee;
thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.
¹⁶For now thou numberest my steps;
dost thou not watch over my sin?

- ¹⁷My transgression is sealed up in a bag,
and thou sewest up mine iniquity.
- ¹⁸And surely the mountain falling cometh to naught,
and the rock is removed out of his place.
- ¹⁹The waters wear the stones;
thou wastest away the things which grow out of the dust of the earth;
and thou destroyest the hope of man.
- ²⁰Thou prevailest forever against him, and he passeth;
thou changest his countenance, and sendest him away.
- ²¹His sons come to honor, and he knoweth it not;
and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them.
- ²²But his flesh upon him shall have pain,
and his soul within him shall mourn.

Eliphaz: Job does not fear God

- 15** ¹Then answered Eliphaz the Temanite, and said:
- ²Should a wise man utter vain knowledge,
and fill his belly with the east wind?
- ³Should he reason with unprofitable talk?
Or with speeches wherewith he can do no good?
- ⁴Yea, thou castest off fear,
and restrainest prayer before God.
- ⁵For thy mouth utterest thine iniquity,
and thou choosest the tongue of the crafty.
- ⁶Thine own mouth condemneth thee, and not I;
yea, thine own lips testify against thee.
- ⁷Art thou the first man that was born?
Or wast thou made before the hills?
- ⁸Hast thou heard the secret of God?
And dost thou restrain wisdom to thyself?
- ⁹What knowest thou, that we know not?
What understandest thou, which is not in us?
- ¹⁰With us are both the grayheaded and very aged men,
much elder than thy father.
- ¹¹Are the consolations of God small with thee?
Is there any secret thing with thee?
- ¹²Why doth thine heart carry thee away?
And what do thy eyes wink at,
- ¹³That thou turnest thy spirit against God,
and lettest such words go out of thy mouth?
- ¹⁴What is man, that he should be clean?
And he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?
- ¹⁵Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints;
yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight.
- ¹⁶How much more abominable and filthy is man,
which drinketh iniquity like water?
- ¹⁷I will show thee, hear me;
and that which I have seen I will declare;

- ¹⁸Which wise men have told from their fathers,
and have not hid it;
- ¹⁹Unto whom alone the earth was given,
and no stranger passed among them.
- ²⁰The wicked man travaileth with pain all his days,
and the number of years is hidden to the oppressor.
- ²¹A dreadful sound is in his ears;
in prosperity the destroyer shall come upon him.
- ²²He believeth not that he shall return out of darkness,
and he is waited for of the sword.
- ²³He wandereth abroad for bread, saying, "Where is it?"
He knoweth that the day of darkness is ready at his hand.
- ²⁴Trouble and anguish shall make him afraid;
they shall prevail against him, as a king ready to the battle.
- ²⁵For he stretcheth out his hand against God,
and strengtheneth himself against the Almighty.
- ²⁶He runneth upon him, even on his neck,
upon the thick bosses of his bucklers;
- ²⁷Because he covereth his face with his fatness,
and maketh collops of fat on his flanks.
- ²⁸And he dwelleth in desolate cities,
and in houses which no man inhabiteth, which are ready to become heaps.
- ²⁹He shall not be rich, neither shall his substance continue,
neither shall he prolong the perfection thereof upon the earth.
- ³⁰He shall not depart out of darkness;
the flame shall dry up his branches,
and by the breath of his mouth shall he go away.
- ³¹Let not him that is deceived trust in vanity;
for vanity shall be his recompense.
- ³²It shall be accomplished before his time,
and his branch shall not be green.
- ³³He shall shake off his unripe grape as the vine,
and shall cast off his flower as the olive.
- ³⁴For the congregation of hypocrites shall be desolate,
and fire shall consume the tabernacles of bribery.
- ³⁵They conceive mischief, and bring forth vanity,
and their belly prepareth deceit.

Job: you are miserable comforters

16

- ¹Then Job answered and said:
- ²I have heard many such things;
miserable comforters are ye all.
- ³Shall vain words have an end?
Or what emboldeneth thee that thou answerest?
- ⁴I also could speak as ye do; if your soul were in my soul's stead,
I could heap up words against you, and shake mine head at you.
- ⁵But I would strengthen you with my mouth,
and the moving of my lips should assuage your grief.
- ⁶Though I speak, my grief is not assuaged;
and though I forbear, what am I eased?

- ⁷But now he hath made me weary;
 thou hast made desolate all my company.
- ⁸And thou hast filled me with wrinkles,
 which is a witness against me;
 and my leanness rising up in me
 beareth witness to my face.
- ⁹He teareth me in his wrath, who hateth me;
 he gnasheth upon me with his teeth;
 mine enemy sharpeneth his eyes upon me.
- ¹⁰They have gaped upon me with their mouth;
 they have smitten me upon the cheek reproachfully;
 they have gathered themselves together against me.
- ¹¹God hath delivered me to the ungodly,
 and turned me over into the hands of the wicked.
- ¹²I was at ease, but he hath broken me asunder;
 he hath also taken me by the neck, and shaken me to pieces,
 and set me up for his mark.
- ¹³His archers compass me round about,
 he cleaveth my reins asunder, and doth not spare;
 he poureth out my gall upon the ground.
- ¹⁴He breaketh me with breach upon breach;
 he runneth upon me like a giant.
- ¹⁵I have sewed sackcloth upon my skin,
 and defiled my horn in the dust.
- ¹⁶My face is foul with weeping,
 and on my eyelids is the shadow of death;
- ¹⁷Not for any injustice in mine hands;
 also my prayer is pure.
- ¹⁸O earth, cover not thou my blood,
 and let my cry have no place.
- ¹⁹Also now, behold, my witness is in heaven,
 and my record is on high.
- ²⁰My friends scorn me;
 but mine eye poureth out tears unto God.
- ²¹Oh that one might plead for a man with God,
 as a man pleadeth for his neighbor!
- ²²When a few years are come,
 then I shall go the way whence I shall not return.

Job: where is my hope?

17

- ¹My breath is corrupt, my days are extinct,
 the graves are ready for me.
- ²Are there not mockers with me?
 And doth not mine eye continue in their provocation?
- ³Lay down now, put me in a surety with thee;
 who is he that will strike hands with me?
- ⁴For thou hast hid their heart from understanding;
 therefore shalt thou not exalt them.
- ⁵He that speaketh flattery to his friends,
 even the eyes of his children shall fail.

- ⁶He hath made me also a byword of the people;
and aforetime I was as a tabret.
- ⁷Mine eye also is dim by reason of sorrow,
and all my members are as a shadow.
- ⁸Upright men shall be astonished at this,
and the innocent shall stir up himself against the hypocrite.
- ⁹The righteous also shall hold on his way,
and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.
- ¹⁰But as for you all, do ye return, and come now;
for I cannot find one wise man among you.
- ¹¹My days are past, my purposes are broken off,
even the thoughts of my heart.
- ¹²They change the night into day;
the light is short because of darkness.
- ¹³If I wait, the grave is mine house;
I have made my bed in the darkness.
- ¹⁴I have said to corruption, "Thou art my father;"
to the worm, "Thou art my mother, and my sister."
- ¹⁵And where is now my hope?
As for my hope, who shall see it?
- ¹⁶They shall go down to the bars of the pit,
when our rest together is in the dust.

Bildad: God punishes the wicked

- 18** ¹Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said:
- ²How long will it be ere ye make an end of words?
Mark, and afterwards we will speak.
- ³Wherefore are we counted as beasts,
and reputed vile in your sight?
- ⁴He teareth himself in his anger;
shall the earth be forsaken for thee?
And shall the rock be removed out of his place?
- ⁵Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out,
and the spark of his fire shall not shine.
- ⁶The light shall be dark in his tabernacle,
and his candle shall be put out with him.
- ⁷The steps of his strength shall be straitened,
and his own counsel shall cast him down.
- ⁸For he is cast into a net by his own feet,
and he walketh upon a snare.
- ⁹The gin shall take him by the heel,
and the robber shall prevail against him.
- ¹⁰The snare is laid for him in the ground,
and a trap for him in the way.
- ¹¹Terrors shall make him afraid on every side,
and shall drive him to his feet.
- ¹²His strength shall be hunger-bitten,
and destruction shall be ready at his side.
- ¹³It shall devour the strength of his skin;
even the first-born of death shall devour his strength.

- ¹⁴His confidence shall be rooted out of his tabernacle,
and it shall bring him to the king of terrors.
- ¹⁵It shall dwell in his tabernacle, because it is none of his;
brimstone shall be scattered upon his habitation.
- ¹⁶His roots shall be dried up beneath,
and above shall his branch be cut off.
- ¹⁷His remembrance shall perish from the earth,
and he shall have no name in the street.
- ¹⁸He shall be driven from light into darkness,
and chased out of the world.
- ¹⁹He shall neither have son nor nephew among his people,
nor any remaining in his dwellings.
- ²⁰They that come after him shall be astonished at his day,
as they that went before were affrighted.
- ²¹Surely such are the dwellings of the wicked,
and this is the place of him that knoweth not God.

Job: my redeemer lives

- 19** ¹Then Job answered and said:
- ²How long will ye vex my soul
and break me in pieces with words?
- ³These ten times have ye reproached me;
ye are not ashamed that ye make yourselves strange to me.
- ⁴And be it indeed that I have erred,
mine error remaineth with myself.
- ⁵If indeed ye will magnify yourselves against me,
and plead against me my reproach;
- ⁶Know now that God hath overthrown me,
and hath compassed me with his net.
- ⁷Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard;
I cry aloud, but there is no judgment.
- ⁸He hath fenced up my way that I cannot pass,
and he hath set darkness in my paths.
- ⁹He hath stripped me of my glory,
and taken the crown from my head.
- ¹⁰He hath destroyed me on every side, and I am gone;
and mine hope hath he removed like a tree.
- ¹¹He hath also kindled his wrath against me,
and he counteth me unto him as one of his enemies.
- ¹²His troops come together,
and raise up their way against me,
and encamp round about my tabernacle.
- ¹³He hath put my brethren far from me,
and mine acquaintance are verily estranged from me.
- ¹⁴My kinsfolk have failed,
and my familiar friends have forgotten me.
- ¹⁵They that dwell in mine house, and my maids, count me for a stranger;
I am an alien in their sight.
- ¹⁶I called my servant, and he gave me no answer;
I entreated him with my mouth.

- ¹⁷My breath is strange to my wife,
though I entreated for the children's sake of mine own body.
- ¹⁸Yea, young children despised me;
I arose, and they spake against me.
- ¹⁹All my inward friends abhorred me;
and they whom I loved are turned against me.
- ²⁰My bone cleaveth to my skin and to my flesh,
and I am escaped with the skin of my teeth.
- ²¹Have pity upon me, have pity upon me,
O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me.
- ²²Why do ye persecute me as God,
and are not satisfied with my flesh?
- ²³Oh that my words were now written!
Oh that they were printed in a book!
- ²⁴That they were graven
with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever!
- ²⁵For I know that my Redeemer liveth,
and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth;
- ²⁶And though after my skin worms destroy this body;
yet in my flesh shall I see God;
- ²⁷Whom I shall see for myself,
and mine eyes shall behold, and not another;
though my reins be consumed within me.
- ²⁸But ye should say, "Why persecute we him,
seeing the root of the matter is found in me?"
- ²⁹Be ye afraid of the sword;
for wrath bringeth the punishments of the sword,
that ye may know there is a judgment.

Zophar: the wicked will suffer

- 20 ¹Then answered Zophar the Naamathite, and said:
- ²Therefore do my thoughts cause me to answer,
and for this I make haste.
- ³I have heard the check of my reproach,
and the spirit of my understanding causeth me to answer.
- ⁴Knowest thou not this of old,
since man was placed upon earth,
- ⁵That the triumphing of the wicked is short,
and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment?
- ⁶Though his excellency mount up to the heavens,
and his head reach unto the clouds;
- ⁷Yet he shall perish forever like his own dung;
they which have seen him shall say, Where is he?
- ⁸He shall fly away as a dream, and shall not be found;
yea, he shall be chased away as a vision of the night,
- ⁹The eye also which saw him shall see him no more;
neither shall his place anymore behold him.
- ¹⁰His children shall seek to please the poor,
and his hands shall restore their goods.

- ¹¹His bones are full of the sin of his youth,
which shall lie down with him in the dust.
- ¹²Though wickedness be sweet in his mouth,
though he hide it under his tongue;
- ¹³Though he spare it, and forsake it not,
but keep it still within his mouth;
- ¹⁴Yet his meat in his bowels is turned,
it is the gall of asps within him.
- ¹⁵He hath swallowed down riches, and he shall vomit them up again;
God shall cast them out of his belly.
- ¹⁶He shall suck the poison of asps;
the viper's tongue shall slay him.
- ¹⁷He shall not see the rivers, the floods,
the brooks of honey and butter.
- ¹⁸That which he labored for shall he restore,
and shall not swallow it down;
according to his substance shall the restitution be,
and he shall not rejoice therein.
- ¹⁹Because he hath oppressed and hath forsaken the poor;
because he hath violently taken away a house which he builded not;
- ²⁰Surely he shall not feel quietness in his belly,
he shall not save of that which he desired.
- ²¹There shall none of his meat be left;
therefore shall no man look for his goods.
- ²²In the fullness of his sufficiency he shall be in straits;
every hand of the wicked shall come upon him.
- ²³When he is about to fill his belly,
God shall cast the fury of his wrath upon him,
and shall rain it upon him while he is eating.
- ²⁴He shall flee from the iron weapon,
and the bow of steel shall strike him through.
- ²⁵It is drawn, and cometh out of the body;
yea, the glittering sword cometh out of his gall; terrors are upon him.
- ²⁶All darkness shall be hid in his secret places;
a fire not blown shall consume him;
it shall go ill with him that is left in his tabernacle.
- ²⁷The heaven shall reveal his iniquity,
and the earth shall rise up against him.
- ²⁸The increase of his house shall depart,
and his goods shall flow away in the day of his wrath.
- ²⁹This is the portion of a wicked man from God,
and the heritage appointed unto him by God.

Job: the wicked prosper

- 21 ¹But Job answered and said:
²Hear diligently my speech,
and let this be your consolations.
³Suffer me that I may speak;
and after that I have spoken, mock on.

- ⁴As for me, is my complaint to man?
And if it were so, why should not my spirit be troubled?
- ⁵Mark me, and be astonished,
and lay your hand upon your mouth.
- ⁶Even when I remember I am afraid,
and trembling taketh hold on my flesh.
- ⁷Wherefore do the wicked live,
become old, yea, are mighty in power?
- ⁸Their seed is established in their sight with them,
and their offspring before their eyes.
- ⁹Their houses are safe from fear,
neither is the rod of God upon them.
- ¹⁰Their bull gendereth, and faileth not;
their cow calveth, and casteth not her calf.
- ¹¹They send forth their little ones like a flock,
and their children dance.
- ¹²They take the timbrel and harp,
and rejoice at the sound of the organ.
- ¹³They spend their days in wealth,
and in a moment go down to the grave.
- ¹⁴Therefore they say unto God, "Depart from us;
for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.
- ¹⁵What is the Almighty, that we should serve him;
and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?"
- ¹⁶Lo, their good is not in their hand;
the counsel of the wicked is far from me.
- ¹⁷How oft is the candle of the wicked put out!
And how oft cometh their destruction upon them!
God distributeth sorrows in his anger.
- ¹⁸They are as stubble before the wind,
and as chaff that the storm carrieth away.
- ¹⁹God layeth up his iniquity for his children;
he rewardeth him, and he shall know it.
- ²⁰His eyes shall see his destruction;
and he shall drink of the wrath of the Almighty.
- ²¹For what pleasure hath he in his house after him,
when the number of his months is cut off in the midst?
- ²²Shall any teach God knowledge?
Seeing he judgeth those that are high.
- ²³One dieth in his full strength,
being wholly at ease and quiet.
- ²⁴His breasts are full of milk,
and his bones are moistened with marrow.
- ²⁵And another dieth in the bitterness of his soul,
and never eateth with pleasure.
- ²⁶They shall lie down alike in the dust,
and the worms shall cover them.
- ²⁷Behold, I know your thoughts,
and the devices which ye wrongfully imagine against me.

- ²⁸For ye say, "Where is the house of the prince?
And where are the dwelling places of the wicked?"
- ²⁹Have ye not asked them that go by the way?
And do ye not know their tokens,
- ³⁰That the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction?
They shall be brought forth to the day of wrath.
- ³¹Who shall declare his way to his face?
And who shall repay him what he hath done?
- ³²Yet shall he be brought to the grave,
and shall remain in the tomb.
- ³³The clods of the valley shall be sweet unto him,
and every man shall draw after him,
as there are innumerable before him.
- ³⁴How then comfort ye me in vain,
seeing in your answers there remaineth falsehood.

Eliphaz: Job's wickedness is great

- 22 ¹Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:
- ²Can a man be profitable unto God,
as he that is wise may be profitable unto himself?
- ³Is it any pleasure to the Almighty, that thou art righteous?
Or is it gain to him, that thou makest thy ways perfect?
- ⁴Will he reprove thee for fear of thee?
Will he enter with thee into judgment?
- ⁵Is not thy wickedness great?
And thine iniquities infinite?
- ⁶For thou hast taken a pledge from thy brother for naught,
and stripped the naked of their clothing.
- ⁷Thou hast not given water to the weary to drink,
and thou hast withholden bread from the hungry.
- ⁸But as for the mighty man, he had the earth;
and the honorable man dwelt in it.
- ⁹Thou hast sent widows away empty,
and the arms of the fatherless have been broken.
- ¹⁰Therefore snares are round about thee,
and sudden fear troubleth thee;
- ¹¹or darkness, that thou canst not see?
And abundance of waters cover thee.
- ¹²Is not God in the height of heaven?
And behold the height of the stars, how high they are!
- ¹³And thou sayest, "How doth God know?
Can he judge through the dark cloud?"
- ¹⁴Thick clouds are a covering to him, that he seeth not;
and he walketh in the circuit of heaven."
- ¹⁵Hast thou marked the old way
which wicked men have trodden?
- ¹⁶Which were cut down out of time,
whose foundation was overflown with a flood;
- ¹⁷Which said unto God, "Depart from us;"
and what can the Almighty do for them?

- ¹⁸Yet he filled their houses with good things;
but the counsel of the wicked is far from me.
- ¹⁹The righteous see it, and are glad;
and the innocent laugh them to scorn.
- ²⁰Whereas our substance is not cut down,
but the remnant of them the fire consumeth.
- ²¹Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace;
thereby good shall come unto thee.
- ²²Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth,
and lay up his words in thine heart.
- ²³If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up,
thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles.
- ²⁴Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust,
and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks.
- ²⁵Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defense,
and thou shalt have plenty of silver.
- ²⁶For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty,
and shalt lift up thy face unto God.
- ²⁷Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee,
and thou shalt pay thy vows.
- ²⁸Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee;
and the light shall shine upon thy ways.
- ²⁹When men are cast down, then thou shalt say,
“There is lifting up;” and he shall save the humble person.
- ³⁰He shall deliver the island of the innocent;
and it is delivered by the pureness of thine hands.

Job: where is God?

- 23 ¹Then Job answered and said:
- ²Even today is my complaint bitter;
my stroke is heavier than my groaning.
- ³Oh that I knew where I might find him!
That I might come even to his seat!
- ⁴I would order my cause before him,
and fill my mouth with arguments.
- ⁵I would know the words which he would answer me,
and understand what he would say unto me.
- ⁶Will he plead against me with his great power?
No; but he would put strength in me.
- ⁷There the righteous might dispute with him;
so should I be delivered forever from my judge.
- ⁸Behold, I go forward, but he is not there;
and backward, but I cannot perceive him;
- ⁹On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him;
he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him;
- ¹⁰But he knoweth the way that I take;
when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.
- ¹¹My foot hath held his steps,
his way have I kept, and not declined.

24

- ¹²Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips;
I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.
- ¹³But he is in one mind, and who can turn him?
And what his soul desireth, even that he doeth.
- ¹⁴For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me;
and many such things are with him.
- ¹⁵Therefore am I troubled at his presence;
when I consider, I am afraid of him.
- ¹⁶For God maketh my heart soft,
and the Almighty troubleth me;
- ¹⁷because I was not cut off before the darkness,
neither hath he covered the darkness from my face.
- ¹Why, seeing times are not hidden from the Almighty,
do they that know him not see his days?
- ²Some remove the landmarks;
they violently take away flocks, and feed thereof.
- ³They drive away the ass of the fatherless,
they take the widow's ox for a pledge.
- ⁴They turn the needy out of the way;
the poor of the earth hide themselves together.
- ⁵Behold, as wild asses in the desert,
go they forth to their work; rising betimes for a prey;
the wilderness yieldeth food for them and for their children.
- ⁶They reap every one his corn in the field;
and they gather the vintage of the wicked.
- ⁷They cause the naked to lodge without clothing,
that they have no covering in the cold.
- ⁸They are wet with the showers of the mountains,
and embrace the rock for want of a shelter.
- ⁹They pluck the fatherless from the breast,
and take a pledge of the poor.
- ¹⁰They cause him to go naked without clothing,
and they take away the sheaf from the hungry;
- ¹¹which make oil within their walls,
and tread their winepresses, and suffer thirst.
- ¹²Men groan from out of the city, and the soul of the wounded crieth out;
yet God layeth not folly to them.
- ¹³They are of those that rebel against the light;
they know not the ways thereof,
nor abide in the paths thereof.
- ¹⁴The murderer rising with the light
killeth the poor and needy,
and in the night is as a thief.
- ¹⁵The eye also of the adulterer waiteth for the twilight,
saying, "No eye shall see me;"
and disguiseth his face.
- ¹⁶In the dark they dig through houses,
which they had marked for themselves in the daytime;
they know not the light.
- ¹⁷For the morning is to them even as the shadow of death;
if one know them, they are in the terrors of the shadow of death.

- ¹⁸He is swift as the waters; their portion is cursed in the earth;
he beholdeth not the way of the vineyards.
- ¹⁹Drought and heat consume the snow waters;
so doth the grave those which have sinned.
- ²⁰The womb shall forget him;
the worm shall feed sweetly on him;
he shall be no more remembered;
and wickedness shall be broken as a tree.
- ²¹He evil entreateth the barren that beareth not;
and doeth not good to the widow.
- ²²He draweth also the mighty with his power;
he riseth up, and no man is sure of life.
- ²³Though it be given him to be in safety,
whereon he resteth; yet his eyes are upon their ways.
- ²⁴They are exalted for a little while,
but are gone and brought low; they are taken out of the way as all other,
and cut off as the tops of the ears of corn.
- ²⁵And if it be not so now, who will make me a liar,
and make my speech nothing worth?

Bildad: man cannot be righteous

- 25 ¹Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said:
- ²Dominion and fear are with him;
he maketh peace in his high places.
- ³Is there any number of his armies?
And upon whom doth not his light arise?
- ⁴How then can man be justified with God?
Or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?
- ⁵Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not;
yea, the stars are not pure in his sight.
- ⁶How much less man, that is a worm?
And the son of man, which is a worm?

Job: God's majesty is unsearchable

- 26 ¹But Job answered and said:
- ²How hast thou helped him that is without power?
How savest thou the arm that hath no strength?
- ³How hast thou counseled him that hath no wisdom?
And how hast thou plentifully declared the thing as it is?
- ⁴To whom hast thou uttered words?
And whose spirit came from thee?
- ⁵Dead things are formed from under the waters,
and the inhabitants thereof.
- ⁶Hell is naked before him,
and destruction hath no covering.
- ⁷He stretcheth out the north over the empty place,
and hangeth the earth upon nothing.
- ⁸He bindeth up the waters in his thick clouds;
and the cloud is not rent under them.

- ⁹He holdeth back the face of his throne,
and spreadeth his cloud upon it.
- ¹⁰He hath compassed the waters with bounds,
until the day and night come to an end.
- ¹¹The pillars of heaven tremble,
and are astonished at his reproof.
- ¹²He divideth the sea with his power,
and by his understanding he smiteth through the proud.
- ¹³By his Spirit he hath garnished the heavens;
his hand hath formed the crooked serpent.
- ¹⁴Lo, these are parts of his ways;
but how little a portion is heard of him?
But the thunder of his power who can understand?

Job: I will maintain my integrity

- 27 ¹Moreover Job continued his parable, and said:
- ²As God liveth, who hath taken away my judgment;
and the Almighty, who hath vexed my soul;
- ³All the while my breath is in me,
and the Spirit of God is in my nostrils;
- ⁴My lips shall not speak wickedness,
nor my tongue utter deceit.
- ⁵God forbid that I should justify you;
till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me.
- ⁶My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go;
my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.
- ⁷Let mine enemy be as the wicked,
and he that riseth up against me as the unrighteous.
- ⁸For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained,
when God taketh away his soul?
- ⁹Will God hear his cry
when trouble cometh upon him?
- ¹⁰Will he delight himself in the Almighty?
Will he always call upon God?
- ¹¹I will teach you by the hand of God;
that which is with the Almighty will I not conceal.
- ¹²Behold, all ye yourselves have seen it;
why then are ye thus altogether vain?
- ¹³This is the portion of a wicked man with God,
and the heritage of oppressors, which they shall receive of the Almighty.
- ¹⁴If his children be multiplied, it is for the sword;
and his offspring shall not be satisfied with bread.
- ¹⁵Those that remain of him shall be buried in death;
and his widows shall not weep.
- ¹⁶Though he heap up silver as the dust,
and prepare raiment as the clay;
- ¹⁷He may prepare it, but the just shall put it on,
and the innocent shall divide the silver.
- ¹⁸He buildeth his house as a moth,
and as a booth that the keeper maketh.

- ¹⁹The rich man shall lie down, but he shall not be gathered;
he openeth his eyes, and he is not.
- ²⁰Terrors take hold on him as waters,
a tempest stealeth him away in the night.
- ²¹The east wind carrieth him away, and he departeth;
and as a storm hurleth him out of his place.
- ²²For God shall cast upon him, and not spare;
he would fain flee out of his hand.
- ²³Men shall clap their hands at him,
and shall hiss him out of his place.

Job: where is wisdom?

28

- ¹Surely there is a vein for the silver,
and a place for gold where they find it.
- ²Iron is taken out of the earth,
and brass is molten out of the stone.
- ³He setteth an end to darkness, and searcheth out all perfection;
the stones of darkness, and the shadow of death.
- ⁴The flood breaketh out from the inhabitant;
even the waters forgotten of the foot;
they are dried up, they are gone away from men.
- ⁵As for the earth, out of it cometh bread;
and under it is turned up as it were fire.
- ⁶The stones of it are the place of sapphires;
and it hath dust of gold.
- ⁷There is a path which no fowl knoweth,
and which the vulture's eye hath not seen;
- ⁸The lion's whelps have not trodden it,
nor the fierce lion passed by it.
- ⁹He putteth forth his hand upon the rock;
he overturneth the mountains by the roots.
- ¹⁰He cutteth out rivers among the rocks;
and his eye seeth every precious thing.
- ¹¹He bindeth the floods from overflowing;
and the thing that is hid bringeth he forth to light.
- ¹²But where shall wisdom be found?
And where is the place of understanding?
- ¹³Man knoweth not the price thereof;
neither is it found in the land of the living.
- ¹⁴The depth saith, "It is not in me;"
and the sea saith, "It is not with me."
- ¹⁵It cannot be gotten for gold,
neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof.
- ¹⁶It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir,
with the precious onyx, or the sapphire.
- ¹⁷The gold and the crystal cannot equal it;
and the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold.
- ¹⁸No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls;
for the price of wisdom is above rubies.

- ¹⁹The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it,
neither shall it be valued with pure gold.
- ²⁰Whence then cometh wisdom?
And where is the place of understanding?
- ²¹Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living,
and kept close from the fowls of the air.
- ²²Destruction and death say,
“We have heard the fame thereof with our ears.”
- ²³God understandeth the way thereof,
and he knoweth the place thereof.
- ²⁴For he looketh to the ends of the earth,
and seeth under the whole heaven;
- ²⁵To make the weight for the winds;
and he weigheth the waters by measure.
- ²⁶When he made a decree for the rain,
and a way for the lightning of the thunder;
- ²⁷Then did he see it, and declare it;
he prepared it, yea, and searched it out.
- ²⁸And unto man he said,
“Behold, the fear of the LORD, that is wisdom;
and to depart from evil is understanding.”

- 29** ¹Moreover Job continued his parable, and said:
- ²Oh that I were as in months past,
as in the days when God preserved me;
- ³When his candle shined upon my head,
and when by his light I walked through darkness;
- ⁴As I was in the days of my youth,
when the secret of God was upon my tabernacle;
- ⁵When the Almighty was yet with me,
when my children were about me;
- ⁶When I washed my steps with butter,
and the rock poured me out rivers of oil;
- ⁷When I went out to the gate through the city,
when I prepared my seat in the street!
- ⁸The young men saw me, and hid themselves;
and the aged arose, and stood up.
- ⁹The princes refrained talking,
and laid their hand on their mouth.
- ¹⁰The nobles held their peace,
and their tongue cleaved to the roof of their mouth.
- ¹¹When the ear heard me, then it blessed me;
and when the eye saw me, it gave witness to me;
- ¹²Because I delivered the poor that cried,
and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him.
- ¹³The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me;
and I caused the widow’s heart to sing for joy.
- ¹⁴I put on righteousness, and it clothed me;
my judgment was as a robe and a diadem.
- ¹⁵I was eyes to the blind,
and feet was I to the lame.

- ¹⁶I was a father to the poor;
and the cause which I knew not I searched out.
- ¹⁷And I brake the jaws of the wicked,
and plucked the spoil out of his teeth.
- ¹⁸Then I said, "I shall die in my nest,
and I shall multiply my days as the sand."
- ¹⁹My root was spread out by the waters,
and the dew lay all night upon my branch.
- ²⁰My glory was fresh in me,
and my bow was renewed in my hand.
- ²¹Unto me men gave ear, and waited,
and kept silence at my counsel.
- ²²After my words they spake not again;
and my speech dropped upon them.
- ²³And they waited for me as for the rain;
and they opened their mouth wide as for the latter rain.
- ²⁴If I laughed on them, they believed it not;
and the light of my countenance they cast not down.
- ²⁵I chose out their way, and sat chief,
and dwelt as a king in the army,
as one that comforteth the mourners.

30

- ¹But now they that are younger than I have me in derision,
whose fathers I would have disdained to have set with the dogs of my flock.
- ²Yea, whereto might the strength of their hands profit me,
in whom old age was perished?
- ³For want and famine they were solitary;
fleeing into the wilderness in former time desolate and waste;
- ⁴who cut up mallows by the bushes,
and juniper roots for their meat.
- ⁵They were driven forth from among men,
(they cried after them as after a thief)
- ⁶To dwell in the cliffs of the valleys,
in caves of the earth, and in the rocks.
- ⁷Among the bushes they brayed;
under the nettles they were gathered together.
- ⁸They were children of fools, yea, children of base men;
they were viler than the earth.
- ⁹And now am I their song,
yea, I am their byword.
- ¹⁰They abhor me, they flee far from me,
and spare not to spit in my face.
- ¹¹Because he hath loosed my cord, and afflicted me,
they have also let loose the bridle before me.
- ¹²Upon my right hand rise the youth;
they push away my feet,
and they raise up against me the ways of their destruction.
- ¹³They mar my path, they set forward my calamity,
they have no helper.
- ¹⁴They came upon me as a wide breaking in of waters;
in the desolation they rolled themselves upon me.

¹⁵Terrors are turned upon me;
 they pursue my soul as the wind;
 and my welfare passeth away as a cloud.
¹⁶And now my soul is poured out upon me;
 the days of affliction have taken hold upon me.
¹⁷My bones are pierced in me in the night season;
 and my sinews take no rest.
¹⁸By the great force of my disease is my garment changed;
 it bindeth me about as the collar of my coat.
¹⁹He hath cast me into the mire,
 and I am become like dust and ashes.
²⁰I cry unto thee, and thou dost not hear me;
 I stand up, and thouregardest me not.
²¹Thou art become cruel to me;
 with thy strong hand thou opposest thyself against me.
²²Thou liftest me up to the wind;
 thou causest me to ride upon it, and dissolvest my substance.
²³For I know that thou wilt bring me to death,
 and to the house appointed for all living.
²⁴Howbeit he will not stretch out his hand to the grave,
 though they cry in his destruction.
²⁵Did not I weep for him that was in trouble?
 Was not my soul grieved for the poor?
²⁶When I looked for good, then evil came unto me;
 and when I waited for light, there came darkness.
²⁷My bowels boiled, and rested not;
 the days of affliction prevented me.
²⁸I went mourning without the sun;
 I stood up, and I cried in the congregation.
²⁹I am a brother to dragons,
 and a companion to owls.
³⁰My skin is black upon me,
 and my bones are burned with heat.
³¹My harp also is turned to mourning,
 and my organ into the voice of them that weep.

31

¹I made a covenant with mine eyes;
 why then should I think upon a maid?
²For what portion of God is there from above?
 And what inheritance of the Almighty from on high?
³Is not destruction to the wicked?
 And a strange punishment to the workers of iniquity?
⁴Doth not he see my ways,
 and count all my steps?
⁵If I have walked with vanity,
 or if my foot hath hasted to deceit;
⁶Let me be weighed in an even balance,
 that God may know mine integrity.
⁷If my step hath turned out of the way,
 and mine heart walked after mine eyes,

- and if any blot hath cleaved to mine hands;
⁸Then let me sow, and let another eat;
yea, let my offspring be rooted out.
- ⁹If mine heart have been deceived by a woman,
or if I have laid wait at my neighbor's door;
¹⁰Then let my wife grind unto another,
and let others bow down upon her.
- ¹¹For this is a heinous crime;
yea, it is an iniquity to be punished by the judges.
- ¹²For it is a fire that consumeth to destruction,
and would root out all mine increase.
- ¹³If I did despise the cause of my manservant or of my maidservant,
when they contended with me;
¹⁴What then shall I do when God riseth up?
And when he visiteth, what shall I answer him?
- ¹⁵Did not he that made me in the womb make him?
And did not one fashion us in the womb?
- ¹⁶If I have withheld the poor from their desire,
or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail;
¹⁷Or have eaten my morsel myself alone,
and the fatherless hath not eaten thereof;
- ¹⁸(For from my youth he was brought up with me, as with a father,
and I have guided her from my mother's womb)
- ¹⁹If I have seen any perish for want of clothing,
or any poor without covering;
²⁰If his loins have not blessed me,
and if he were not warmed with the fleece of my sheep;
- ²¹If I have lifted up my hand against the fatherless,
when I saw my help in the gate;
²²Then let mine arm fall from my shoulder blade,
and mine arm be broken from the bone.
- ²³For destruction from God was a terror to me,
and by reason of his highness I could not endure.
- ²⁴If I have made gold my hope,
or have said to the fine gold, "Thou art my confidence;"
- ²⁵If I rejoiced because my wealth was great,
and because mine hand had gotten much;
- ²⁶If I beheld the sun when it shined,
or the moon walking in brightness;
- ²⁷And my heart hath been secretly enticed,
or my mouth hath kissed my hand;
- ²⁸This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge;
for I should have denied the God that is above.
- ²⁹If I rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me,
or lifted up myself when evil found him;
- ³⁰(Neither have I suffered my mouth to sin
by wishing a curse to his soul.)
- ³¹If the men of my tabernacle said not,
"Oh that we had of his flesh! We cannot be satisfied."

- ³²The stranger did not lodge in the street;
but I opened my doors to the traveler.
- ³³If I covered my transgressions as Adam,
by hiding mine iniquity in my bosom;
- ³⁴Did I fear a great multitude,
or did the contempt of families terrify me,
that I kept silence, and went not out of the door?
- ³⁵Oh that one would hear me!
Behold, my desire is, that the Almighty would answer me,
and that mine adversary had written a book.
- ³⁶Surely I would take it upon my shoulder,
and bind it as a crown to me.
- ³⁷I would declare unto him the number of my steps;
as a prince would I go near unto him.
- ³⁸If my land cry against me,
or that the furrows likewise thereof complain;
- ³⁹If I have eaten the fruits thereof without money,
or have caused the owners thereof to lose their life;
- ⁴⁰Let thistles grow instead of wheat,
and cockle instead of barley.

The words of Job are ended.

Elihu rebukes Job's friends

- 32** ¹So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. ²Then was kindled the wrath of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram; against Job was his wrath kindled, because he justified himself rather than God. ³Also against his three friends was his wrath kindled, because they had found no answer; and yet had condemned Job. ⁴Now Elihu had waited till Job had spoken, because they were elder than he. ⁵When Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, then his wrath was kindled. ⁶And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said:
- I am young,
and ye are very old;
wherefore I was afraid,
and durst not show you mine opinion.
- ⁷I said, "Days should speak,
and multitude of years should teach wisdom."
- ⁸But there is a spirit in man;
and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.
- ⁹Great men are not always wise;
neither do the aged understand judgment.
- ¹⁰Therefore I said, "Hearken to me;
I also will show mine opinion."
- ¹¹Behold, I waited for your words;
I gave ear to your reasons,
whilst ye searched out what to say.
- ¹²Yea, I attended unto you,
and behold, there was none of you that convinced Job,
or that answered his words;

- ¹³Lest ye should say, "We have found out wisdom;
God thrusteth him down, not man."
¹⁴Now he hath not directed his words against me;
neither will I answer him with your speeches.
¹⁵They were amazed, they answered no more;
they left off speaking.
¹⁶When I had waited, (for they spake not,
but stood still, and answered no more)
¹⁷I said, I will answer also my part;
I also will show mine opinion.
¹⁸For I am full of matter;
the spirit within me constraineth me.
¹⁹Behold, my belly is as wine which hath no vent;
it is ready to burst like new bottles.
²⁰I will speak, that I may be refreshed;
I will open my lips and answer.
²¹Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person;
neither let me give flattering titles unto man.
²²For I know not to give flattering titles;
in so doing my Maker would soon take me away

Elihu rebukes Job

33

- ¹Wherefore, Job, I pray thee, hear my speeches,
and hearken to all my words.
²Behold, now I have opened my mouth,
my tongue hath spoken in my mouth.
³My words shall be of the uprightness of my heart;
and my lips shall utter knowledge clearly.
⁴The Spirit of God hath made me,
and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.
⁵If thou canst answer me,
set thy words in order before me, stand up.
⁶Behold, I am according to thy wish in God's stead;
I also am formed out of the clay.
⁷Behold, my terror shall not make thee afraid,
neither shall my hand be heavy upon thee.
⁸Surely thou hast spoken in mine hearing,
and I have heard the voice of thy words, saying,
⁹"I am clean without transgression,
I am innocent; neither is there iniquity in me.
¹⁰Behold, he findeth occasions against me,
he counteth me for his enemy;
¹¹He putteth my feet in the stocks,
he marketh all my paths."
¹²Behold, in this thou art not just; I will answer thee,
that God is greater than man.
¹³Why dost thou strive against him?
For he giveth not account of any of his matters.

- ¹⁴For God speaketh once, yea twice,
yet man perceiveth it not.
- ¹⁵In a dream, in a vision of the night,
when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed;
- ¹⁶Then he openeth the ears of men,
and sealeth their instruction,
- ¹⁷That he may withdraw man from his purpose,
and hide pride from man.
- ¹⁸He keeps back his soul from the pit,
and his life from perishing by the sword.
- ¹⁹He is chastened also with pain upon his bed,
and the multitude of his bones with strong pain;
- ²⁰So that his life abhorreth bread,
and his soul dainty meat.
- ²¹His flesh is consumed away, that it cannot be seen;
and his bones that were not seen stick out.
- ²²Yea, his soul draweth near unto the grave, and his life to the destroyers.
- ²³If there be a messenger with him,
an interpreter, one among a thousand,
to show unto man his uprightness;
- ²⁴Then he is gracious unto him, and saith,
“Deliver him from going down to the pit;
I have found a ransom.”
- ²⁵His flesh shall be fresher than a child’s;
he shall return to the days of his youth;
- ²⁶He shall pray unto God, and he will be favorable unto him;
and he shall see his face with joy;
for he will render unto man his righteousness.
- ²⁷He looketh upon men, and if any say,
“I have sinned, and perverted that which was right,
and it profited me not;”
- ²⁸He will deliver his soul from going into the pit,
and his life shall see the light.
- ²⁹Lo, all these things worketh God
oftentimes with man.
- ³⁰To bring back his soul from the pit,
to be enlightened with the light of the living.
- ³¹Mark well, O Job, hearken unto me;
hold thy peace, and I will speak.
- ³²If thou hast anything to say, answer me;
speak, for I desire to justify thee.
- ³³If not, hearken unto me;
hold thy peace, and I shall teach thee wisdom.

Elihu: God’s justice

- 34** ¹Furthermore Elihu answered and said:
- ²Hear my words, O ye wise men;
and give ear unto me, ye that have knowledge.

- ³For the ear trieth words,
as the mouth tasteth meat.
- ⁴Let us choose to us judgment;
let us know among ourselves what is good.
- ⁵For Job hath said, "I am righteous;
and God hath taken away my judgment.
- ⁶Should I lie against my right?
My wound is incurable without transgression."
- ⁷What man is like Job,
who drinketh up scorning like water?
- ⁸Which goeth in company with the workers of iniquity,
and walketh with wicked men.
- ⁹For he hath said, "It profiteth a man nothing
that he should delight himself with God."
- ¹⁰Therefore hearken unto me, ye men of understanding;
far be it from God, that he should do wickedness;
and from the Almighty, that he should commit iniquity.
- ¹¹For the work of a man shall he render unto him,
and cause every man to find according to his ways.
- ¹²Yea, surely God will not do wickedly,
neither will the Almighty pervert judgment.
- ¹³Who hath given him a charge over the earth?
Or who hath disposed the whole world?
- ¹⁴If he set his heart upon man,
if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath;
- ¹⁵All flesh shall perish together,
and man shall turn again unto dust.
- ¹⁶If now thou hast understanding, hear this;
hearken to the voice of my words.
- ¹⁷Shall even he that hateth right govern?
And wilt thou condemn him that is most just?
- ¹⁸Is it fit to say to a king, "Thou art wicked"?
And to princes, "Ye are ungodly"?
- ¹⁹How much less to him that accepteth not the persons of princes,
nor regardeth the rich more than the poor?
For they all are the work of his hands.
- ²⁰In a moment shall they die,
and the people shall be troubled at midnight, and pass away;
and the mighty shall be taken away without hand.
- ²¹For his eyes are upon the ways of man,
and he seeth all his goings.
- ²²There is no darkness, nor shadow of death,
where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.
- ²³For he will not lay upon man more than right;
that he should enter into judgment with God.
- ²⁴He shall break in pieces mighty men without number,
and set others in their stead.
- ²⁵Therefore he knoweth their works,
and he overturneth them in the night, so that they are destroyed.

- ²⁶He striketh them as wicked men
in the open sight of others;
²⁷Because they turned back from him,
and would not consider any of his ways;
²⁸So that they cause the cry of the poor to come unto him,
and he heareth the cry of the afflicted.
²⁹When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble?
And when he hideth his face, who then can behold him?
Whether it be done against a nation, or against a man only;
³⁰That the hypocrite reign not,
lest the people be ensnared.
³¹Surely it is meet to be said unto God,
“I have borne chastisement, I will not offend anymore.
³²That which I see not teach thou me;
if I have done iniquity, I will do no more.”
³³Should it be according to thy mind?
He will recompense it, whether thou refuse,
or whether thou choose; and not I;
therefore speak what thou knowest.
³⁴Let men of understanding tell me,
and let a wise man hearken unto me.
³⁵Job hath spoken without knowledge,
and his words were without wisdom.
³⁶My desire is that Job may be tried unto the end,
because of his answers for wicked men.
³⁷For he addeth rebellion unto his sin,
he clappeth his hands among us,
and multiplieth his words against God.

Elihu condemns Job

- 35 ¹Elihu spake moreover, and said:
²Thinkest thou this to be right,
that thou saidst, “My righteousness is more than God’s”?
³For thou saidst, “What advantage will it be unto thee?”
And, “What profit shall I have, if I be cleansed from my sin?”
⁴I will answer thee, and thy companions with thee.
⁵Look unto the heavens, and see;
and behold the clouds which are higher than thou.
⁶If thou sinnest, what doest thou against him?
Or if thy transgressions be multiplied, what doest thou unto him?
⁷If thou be righteous, what givest thou him?
Or what receiveth he of thine hand?
⁸Thy wickedness may hurt a man as thou art;
and thy righteousness may profit the son of man.
⁹By reason of the multitude of oppressions they make the oppressed to cry;
they cry out by reason of the arm of the mighty.
¹⁰But none saith, “Where is God my maker,
who giveth songs in the night;
¹¹Who teacheth us more than the beasts of the earth,
and maketh us wiser than the fowls of heaven?”

- ¹²There they cry, but none giveth answer,
because of the pride of evil men.
- ¹³Surely God will not hear vanity,
neither will the Almighty regard it.
- ¹⁴Although thou sayest thou shalt not see him,
yet judgment is before him; therefore trust thou in him.
- ¹⁵But now, because it is not so, he hath visited in his anger;
yet he knoweth it not in great extremity;
- ¹⁶therefore doth Job open his mouth in vain;
he multiplieth words without knowledge.

Elihu extols God

- 36 ¹Elihu also proceeded, and said:
- ²Suffer me a little, and I will show thee
that I have yet to speak on God's behalf.
- ³I will fetch my knowledge from afar,
and will ascribe righteousness to my Maker.
- ⁴For truly my words shall not be false;
he that is perfect in knowledge is with thee.
- ⁵Behold, God is mighty, and despiseth not any;
he is mighty in strength and wisdom.
- ⁶He preserveth not the life of the wicked;
but giveth right to the poor.
- ⁷He withdraweth not his eyes from the righteous;
but with kings are they on the throne;
yea, he doth establish them forever, and they are exalted.
- ⁸And if they be bound in fetters,
and be holden in cords of affliction;
- ⁹then he sheweth them their work,
and their transgressions that they have exceeded.
- ¹⁰He openeth also their ear to discipline,
and commandeth that they return from iniquity.
- ¹¹If they obey and serve him,
they shall spend their days in prosperity,
and their years in pleasures.
- ¹²But if they obey not, they shall perish by the sword,
and they shall die without knowledge.
- ¹³But the hypocrites in heart heap up wrath;
they cry not when he bindeth them.
- ¹⁴They die in youth,
and their life is among the unclean.
- ¹⁵He delivereth the poor in his affliction,
and openeth their ears in oppression.
- ¹⁶Even so would he have removed thee out of the strait
into a broad place, where there is no straitness;
and that which should be set on thy table should be full of fatness.
- ¹⁷But thou hast fulfilled the judgment of the wicked;
judgment and justice take hold on thee.

- ¹⁸Because there is wrath, beware lest he take thee away with his stroke;
then a great ransom cannot deliver thee.
- ¹⁹Will he esteem thy riches;
no, not gold, nor all the forces of strength.
- ²⁰Desire not the night,
when people are cut off in their place.
- ²¹Take heed, regard not iniquity;
for this hast thou chosen rather than affliction.
- ²²Behold, God exalteth by his power;
who teacheth like him?
- ²³Who hath enjoined him his way?
Or who can say, "Thou hast wrought iniquity"?
- ²⁴Remember that thou magnify his work,
which men behold.
- ²⁵Every man may see it;
man may behold it afar off.
- ²⁶Behold, God is great, and we know him not,
neither can the number of his years be searched out.
- ²⁷For he maketh small the drops of water;
they pour down rain according to the vapor thereof;
- ²⁸Which the clouds do drop
and distill upon man abundantly.
- ²⁹Also can any understand the spreadings of the clouds,
or the noise of his tabernacle?
- ³⁰Behold, he spreadeth his light upon it,
and covereth the bottom of the sea.
- ³¹For by them judgeth he the people;
he giveth meat in abundance.
- ³²With clouds he covereth the light;
and commandeth it not to shine by the cloud that cometh betwixt.
- ³³The noise thereof sheweth concerning it,
the cattle also concerning the vapor.

37

- ¹At this also my heart trembleth,
and is moved out of his place.
- ²Hear attentively the noise of his voice,
and the sound that goeth out of his mouth.
- ³He directeth it under the whole heaven,
and his lightning unto the ends of the earth.
- ⁴After it a voice roareth;
he thundereth with the voice of his excellency;
and he will not stay them when his voice is heard.
- ⁵God thundereth marvelously with his voice;
great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend.
- ⁶For he saith to the snow, "Be thou on the earth;"
likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength.
- ⁷He sealeth up the hand of every man;
that all men may know his work.
- ⁸Then the beasts go into dens,
and remain in their places.

- ⁹Out of the south cometh the whirlwind;
and cold out of the north.
- ¹⁰By the breath of God frost is given;
and the breadth of the waters is straitened.
- ¹¹Also by watering he wearieth the thick cloud;
he scattereth his bright cloud;
- ¹²And it is turned round about by his counsels;
that they may do whatsoever he commandeth them
upon the face of the world in the earth.
- ¹³He causeth it to come, whether for correction,
or for his land, or for mercy.
- ¹⁴Hearken unto this, O Job;
stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.
- ¹⁵Dost thou know when God disposed them,
and caused the light of his cloud to shine?
- ¹⁶Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds,
the wondrous works of him which is perfect in knowledge?
- ¹⁷How thy garments are warm,
when he quieteth the earth by the south wind?
- ¹⁸Hast thou with him spread out the sky,
which is strong, and as a molten looking glass?
- ¹⁹Teach us what we shall say unto him;
for we cannot order our speech by reason of darkness.
- ²⁰Shall it be told him that I speak?
If a man speak, surely he shall be swallowed up.
- ²¹And now men see not the bright light which is in the clouds;
but the wind passeth, and cleanseth them.
- ²²Fair weather cometh out of the north;
with God is terrible majesty.
- ²³Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out;
he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice;
he will not afflict.
- ²⁴Men do therefore fear him;
he respecteth not any that are wise of heart.

The LORD answers Job

- 38** ¹Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:
- ²Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?
- ³Gird up now thy loins like a man;
for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.
- ⁴Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?
Declare, if thou hast understanding.
- ⁵Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest?
Or who hath stretched the line upon it?
- ⁶Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened?
Or who laid the cornerstone thereof;
- ⁷When the morning stars sang together,
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

- ⁸Or who shut up the sea with doors,
when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb?
- ⁹When I made the cloud the garment thereof,
and thick darkness a swaddling band for it,
- ¹⁰And brake up for it my decreed place,
and set bars and doors,
- ¹¹And said, "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further;
and here shall thy proud waves be stayed"?
- ¹²Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days;
and caused the dayspring to know his place;
- ¹³That it might take hold of the ends of the earth,
that the wicked might be shaken out of it?
- ¹⁴It is turned as clay to the seal;
and they stand as a garment.
- ¹⁵And from the wicked their light is withholden,
and the high arm shall be broken.
- ¹⁶Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea?
Or hast thou walked in the search of the depth?
- ¹⁷Have the gates of death been opened unto thee?
Or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?
- ¹⁸Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth?
Declare if thou knowest it all.
- ¹⁹Where is the way where light dwelleth?
And as for darkness, where is the place thereof,
- ²⁰That thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof,
and that thou shouldest know the paths to the house thereof?
- ²¹Knowest thou it, because thou wast then born?
Or because the number of thy days is great?
- ²²Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?
Or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail,
- ²³Which I have reserved against the time of trouble,
against the day of battle and war?
- ²⁴By what way is the light parted,
which scattereth the east wind upon the earth?
- ²⁵Who hath divided a water course for the overflowing of waters,
or a way for the lightning of thunder;
- ²⁶To cause it to rain on the earth where no man is;
on the wilderness wherein there is no man;
- ²⁷To satisfy the desolate and waste ground;
and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth?
- ²⁸Hath the rain a father?
Or who hath begotten the drops of dew?
- ²⁹Out of whose womb came the ice?
And the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it?
- ³⁰The waters are hid as with a stone,
and the face of the deep is frozen.
- ³¹Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades,
or loose the bands of Orion?

- ³²Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season?
Or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?
- ³³Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven?
Cast thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?
- ³⁴Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds,
that abundance of waters may cover thee?
- ³⁵Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go,
and say unto thee, "Here we are"?
- ³⁶Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts?
Or who hath given understanding to the heart?
- ³⁷Who can number the clouds in wisdom?
Or who can stay the bottles of heaven.
- ³⁸When the dust groweth into hardness,
and the clods cleave fast together?
- ³⁹Wilt thou hunt the prey for the lion?
Or fill the appetite of the young lions.
- ⁴⁰When they couch in their dens,
and abide in the covert to lie in wait?
- ⁴¹Who provideth for the raven his food?
When his young ones cry unto God,
they wander for lack of meat.

39

- ¹Knowest thou the time when the wild goats of the rock bring forth?
Or canst thou mark when the hinds do calve?
- ²Canst thou number the months that they fulfill?
Or knowest thou the time when they bring forth?
- ³They bow themselves, they bring forth their young ones,
they cast out their sorrows.
- ⁴Their young ones are in good liking, they grow up with corn;
they go forth, and return not unto them.
- ⁵Who hath sent out the wild ass free?
Or who hath loosed the bands of the wild ass?
- ⁶Whose house I have made the wilderness,
and the barren land his dwellings.
- ⁷He scorneth the multitude of the city,
neither regardeth he the crying of the driver.
- ⁸The range of the mountains is his pasture,
and he searcheth after every green thing.
- ⁹Will the unicorn be willing to serve thee,
or abide by thy crib?
- ¹⁰Canst thou bind the unicorn with his band in the furrow?
Or will he harrow the valleys after thee?
- ¹¹Wilt thou trust him, because his strength is great?
Or wilt thou leave thy labor to him?
- ¹²Wilt thou believe him, that he will bring home thy seed,
and gather it into thy barn?
- ¹³Gavest thou the goodly wings unto the peacocks?
Or wings and feathers unto the ostrich?

- ¹⁴Which leaveth her eggs in the earth,
and warmeth them in the dust,
¹⁵And forgetteth that the foot may crush them,
or that the wild beast may break them.
¹⁶She is hardened against her young ones, as though they were not hers;
her labor is in vain without fear;
¹⁷Because God hath deprived her of wisdom,
neither hath he imparted to her understanding.
¹⁸What time she lifteth up herself on high,
she scorneth the horse and his rider.
¹⁹Hast thou given the horse strength?
Hast thou clothed his neck with thunder?
²⁰Canst thou make him afraid as a grasshopper?
The glory of his nostrils is terrible.
²¹He paweth in the valley, and rejoices in his strength;
he goeth on to meet the armed men.
²²He mocketh at fear, and is not affrighted;
neither turneth he back from the sword,
²³The quiver rattleth against him,
the glittering spear and the shield.
²⁴He swalloweth the ground with fierceness and rage;
neither believeth he that it is the sound of the trumpet.
²⁵He saith among the trumpets, "Ha, Ha!"
And he smelleth the battle afar off,
the thunder of the captains, and the shouting.
²⁶Doth the hawk fly by thy wisdom,
and stretch her wings toward the south?
²⁷Doth the eagle mount up at thy command,
and make her nest on high?
²⁸She dwelleth and abideth on the rock,
upon the crag of the rock, and the strong place.
²⁹From thence she seeketh the prey,
and her eyes behold afar off.
³⁰Her young ones also suck up blood;
and where the slain are, there is she.

40 ¹Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said:
²Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him?
He that reproveth God, let him answer it.

- ³Then Job answered the LORD, and said:
⁴Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee?
I will lay mine hand upon my mouth.
⁵Once have I spoken; but I will not answer;
yea, twice; but I will proceed no further.
⁶Then answered the LORD unto Job out of the whirlwind, and said:
⁷Gird up thy loins now like a man;
I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.
⁸Wilt thou also disannul my judgment?
Wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?

- ⁹Hast thou an arm like God?
Or canst thou thunder with a voice like him?
- ¹⁰Deck thyself now with majesty and excellency;
and array thyself with glory and beauty.
- ¹¹Cast abroad the rage of thy wrath;
and behold everyone that is proud, and abase him.
- ¹²Look on everyone that is proud, and bring him low;
and tread down the wicked in their place.
- ¹³Hide them in the dust together;
and bind their faces in secret.
- ¹⁴Then will I also confess unto thee
that thine own right hand can save thee.
- ¹⁵Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee?
He eateth grass as an ox.
- ¹⁶Lo now, his strength is in his loins,
and his force is in the navel of his belly.
- ¹⁷He moveth his tail like a cedar,
the sinews of his stones are wrapped together.
- ¹⁸His bones are as strong pieces of brass;
his bones are like bars of iron.
- ¹⁹He is the chief of the ways of God;
he that made him can make his sword to approach unto him.
- ²⁰Surely the mountains bring him forth food,
where all the beasts of the field play.
- ²¹He lieth under the shady trees,
in the covert of the reed, and fens.
- ²²The shady trees cover him with their shadow;
the willows of the brook compass him about.
- ²³Behold, he drinketh up a river, and hasteth not;
he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth.
- ²⁴He taketh it with his eyes;
his nose pierceth through snares.

41

- ¹Canst thou draw out leviathan with a hook,
or his tongue with a cord which thou lettest down?
- ²Canst thou put a hook into his nose?
Or bore his jaw through with a thorn?
- ³Will he make many supplications unto thee?
Will he speak soft words unto thee?
- ⁴Will he make a covenant with thee?
Wilt thou take him for a servant forever?
- ⁵Wilt thou play with him as with a bird?
Or wilt thou bind him for thy maidens?
- ⁶Shall the companions make a banquet of him?
Shall they part him among the merchants?
- ⁷Canst thou fill his skin with barbed irons?
Or his head with fish spears?
- ⁸Lay thine hand upon him,
remember the battle, do no more.

- ⁹Behold, the hope of him is in vain;
shall not one be cast down even at the sight of him?
- ¹⁰None is so fierce that dare stir him up;
who then is able to stand before me?
- ¹¹Who hath prevented me, that I should repay him?
Whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine.
- ¹²I will not conceal his parts, nor his power,
nor his comely proportion.
- ¹³Who can discover the face of his garment?
Or who can come to him with his double bridle?
- ¹⁴Who can open the doors of his face?
His teeth are terrible round about.
- ¹⁵His scales are his pride,
shut up together as with a close seal.
- ¹⁶One is so near to another,
that no air can come between them.
- ¹⁷They are joined one to another,
they stick together, that they cannot be sundered.
- ¹⁸By his neesings a light doth shine,
and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning.
- ¹⁹Out of his mouth go burning lamps,
and sparks of fire leap out.
- ²⁰Out of his nostrils goeth smoke,
as out of a seething pot or caldron.
- ²¹His breath kindleth coals,
and a flame goeth out of his mouth.
- ²²In his neck remaineth strength,
and sorrow is turned into joy before him.
- ²³The flakes of his flesh are joined together;
they are firm in themselves; they cannot be moved.
- ²⁴His heart is as firm as a stone;
yea, as hard as a piece of the nether millstone.
- ²⁵When he raiseth up himself, the mighty are afraid;
by reason of breakings they purify themselves.
- ²⁶The sword of him that layeth at him cannot hold;
the spear, the dart, nor the habergeon.
- ²⁷He esteemeth iron as straw,
and brass as rotten wood.
- ²⁸The arrow cannot make him flee;
sling-stones are turned with him into stubble.
- ²⁹Darts are counted as stubble;
he laugheth at the shaking of a spear.
- ³⁰Sharp stones are under him;
he spreadeth sharp pointed things upon the mire.
- ³¹He maketh the deep to boil like a pot;
he maketh the sea like a pot of ointment.
- ³²He maketh a path to shine after him;
one would think the deep to be hoary.
- ³³Upon earth there is not his like,
who is made without fear.

³⁴He beholdeth all high things;
he is a king over all the children of pride.

42 ¹Then Job answered the LORD, and said:
²I know that thou canst do everything,
and that no thought can be withholden from thee.
³Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge?
Therefore have I uttered that I understood not;
things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.
⁴Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak;
I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.
⁵I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear;
but now mine eye seeth thee;
⁶Wherefore I abhor myself,
and repent in dust and ashes.

The LORD rebukes Job's friends

⁷And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite:

My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends; for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath. ⁸Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering, and my servant Job shall pray for you; for him will I accept; lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the things which is right, like my servant Job.

⁹So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the LORD commanded them; the LORD also accepted Job.

Job is restored

¹⁰And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends; also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. ¹¹Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house; and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him; every man also gave him a piece of money, and everyone an earring of gold.

¹²So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. ¹³He had also seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴And he called the name of the first Jemima; and the name of the second, Kezia; and the name of the third Keren-Happuch. ¹⁵And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren. ¹⁶After this lived Job a hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations. ¹⁷So Job died, being old and full of days.

PSALMS

The way of the righteous and of the ungodly

¹Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. ⁴The ungodly are not so; but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

⁵Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. ⁶For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

The LORD's Anointed

2 ¹Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? ²The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his Anointed, saying, ³"Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."

⁴He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall have them in derision. ⁵Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. ⁶Yet have I set my King upon my holy hill of Zion.

⁷I will declare the decree; the LORD hath said unto me, "Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. ⁸Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. ⁹Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

¹⁰Be wise now therefore, O ye kings; be instructed, ye judges of the earth. ¹¹Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. ¹²Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Save me O my God

3 ¹LORD, how are they increased that trouble me! Many are they that rise up against me. ²Many there be which say of my soul, "There is no help for him in God." Selah.

³But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. ⁴I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah.

⁵I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me. ⁶I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about.

⁷Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God; for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheekbone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.

⁸Salvation belongeth unto the LORD; thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah.

Answer me when I call

4 ¹Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness; thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.

²O ye sons of men, how long will ye turn my glory into shame? How long will ye love vanity, and seek after leasing? Selah. ³But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself; the LORD will hear when I call unto him.

⁴Stand in awe, and sin not; commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah. ⁵Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶There be many that say, "Who will show us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us." ⁷Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased.

⁸I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep; for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.

Lead me in righteousness

5 ¹Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my meditation. ²Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God; for unto thee will I pray. ³My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

⁴For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness; neither shall evil dwell with thee. ⁵The foolish shall not stand in thy sight; thou hatest all workers of iniquity. ⁶Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing; the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.

⁷But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy; and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple. ⁸Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before my face.

⁹For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is very wickedness; their throat is an open sepulcher; they flatter with their tongue. ¹⁰Destroy thou them, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions; for they have rebelled against thee.

¹¹But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice; let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them; let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee. ¹²For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favor wilt thou compass him as with a shield.

O LORD, deliver my soul

6 ¹O LORD, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. ²Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak; O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed. ³My soul is also sore vexed; but thou, O LORD, how long?

⁴Return, O LORD, deliver my soul; oh save me for thy mercies' sake. ⁵For in death there is no remembrance of thee; in the grave who shall give thee thanks?

⁶I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears. ⁷Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies.

⁸Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping. ⁹The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer.

¹⁰Let all mine enemies be ashamed and sore vexed; let them return and be ashamed suddenly.

The LORD shall judge

7 ¹O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust; save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me; ²lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver.

³O LORD my God, if I have done this; if there be iniquity in my hands; ⁴if I have rewarded evil unto him that was at peace with me; (yea, I have delivered him that without cause is mine enemy) ⁵let the enemy persecute my soul, and take it; yea, let him tread down my life upon the earth, and lay mine honor in the dust. Selah.

⁶Arise, O LORD, in thine anger, lift up thyself because of the rage of mine enemies; and awake for me to the judgment that thou hast commanded. ⁷So shall the congregation of the people compass thee about; for their sakes therefore return thou on high.

⁸The LORD shall judge the people; judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, and according to mine integrity that is in me. ⁹Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just; for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins. ¹⁰My defense is of God, which saveth the upright in heart. ¹¹God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.

¹²If he turn not, he will whet his sword; he hath bent his bow, and made it ready. ¹³He hath also prepared for him the instruments of death; he ordaineth his arrows against the persecutors. ¹⁴Behold, he travaileth with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood. ¹⁵He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made. ¹⁶His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate.

¹⁷I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness; and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.

How excellent is thy name

8 ¹O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Who hast set thy glory above the heavens. ²Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

³When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; ⁴what is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?

⁵For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet;

⁷All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; ⁸the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

⁹O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

All thy marvelous works

9 ¹I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvelous works. ²I will be glad and rejoice in thee; I will sing praise to thy name, O thou Most High.

³When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at thy presence. ⁴For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right.

⁵Thou hast rebuked the heathen, thou hast destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name forever and ever. ⁶O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end; and thou hast destroyed cities; their memorial is perished with them.

⁷But the LORD shall endure forever; he hath prepared his throne for judgment. ⁸And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.

⁹The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. ¹⁰And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee; for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

¹¹Sing praises to the LORD, which dwelleth in Zion; declare among the people his doings.

¹²When he maketh inquisition for blood, he remembereth them; he forgetteth not the cry of the humble.

¹³Have mercy upon me, O LORD; consider my trouble which I suffer of them that hate me, thou that liftest me up from the gates of death; ¹⁴that I may show forth all thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion; I will rejoice in thy salvation.

¹⁵The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made; in the net which they hid is their own foot taken. ¹⁶The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth; the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgsion. Selah.

¹⁷The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

¹⁸For the needy shall not always be forgotten; the expectation of the poor shall not perish forever.

¹⁹Arise, O LORD; let not man prevail; let the heathen be judged in thy sight. ²⁰Put them in fear, O LORD; that the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah.

Why hidest thou?

10 ¹Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? Why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?

²The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor; let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined. ³For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth. ⁴The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God; God is not in all his thoughts. ⁵His ways are always grievous; thy judgments are far above out of his sight; as for all his enemies, he puffeth at them. ⁶For he hath said in his heart, "I shall not be moved; never in adversity." ⁷His mouth is full of cursing and deceit; and his heart is full of fraud; and under his tongue is mischief and vanity. ⁸He sitteth in the lurking places of the villages; in the secret places doth he murder the innocent; his eyes are privily set against the poor. ⁹He lieth in wait secretly as a lion in his den; he lieth in wait to catch the poor; he doth catch the poor, when he draweth him into his net. ¹⁰He croucheth to the strong ones, and humbleth himself, that the poor may fall by his devices. ¹¹He hath said in his heart, "God hath forgotten; he hideth his face; he will never see it."

strong ones

¹²Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up thine hand; forget not the humble. ¹³The wicked condemn God; wherefore he doth say in his heart, "Thou wilt not require iniquity at my hand." ¹⁴O LORD, thou hast seen all this, for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite it with thy hand. The poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless. ¹⁵O LORD, thou wilt break the arm of the wicked, and of the evil; and seek out his wickedness until thou find none that remain.

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¹⁶And the LORD shall be king forever and ever over his people; for the wicked shall perish out of his land. ¹⁷LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble; thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear; ¹⁸to judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth many no more oppress.

is / heathen

The LORD shall come to his holy temple

11 ¹In that day thou shalt come, O LORD; and I will put my trust in thee. Thou shalt say unto thy people, for mine ear hath heard thy voice; thou shalt say unto every soul, "Flee unto my mountain;" and the righteous shall flee like a bird that is let go from the snare of the fowler. ²For the wicked bend their bow; lo, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart, to destroy their foundation. ³But the foundations of the wicked shall be destroyed, and what can they do?

how say ye to my soul

⁴For the LORD, when he shall come into his holy temple, sitting upon God's throne in heaven, his eyes shall pierce the wicked. Behold his eyelids shall try the children of men, and he shall redeem the righteous, and they shall be tried. ⁵The LORD loveth the righteous, but the wicked, and him that loveth violence, his soul hateth. ⁶Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire, and brimstone, and a horrible tempest, the portion of their cup. ⁷For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.

is in his holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven

The LORD shall save his people

12 ¹In that day thou shalt help, O LORD, the poor and the meek of the earth. For the godly man shall cease to be found, and the faithful fail from among the children of men. ²They shall speak vanity every one with his neighbor; with flattering lips, with a double heart do they speak.

³But the LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, the tongue that speaketh proud things, ⁴who have said, "With our tongue will we prevail, our lips are our own, who shall be lord over us?"

⁵Therefore, thus saith the Lord, "I will arise in that day, I will stand upon the earth, and I will judge the earth for the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy; and their cry hath entered into mine ear." ⁶Therefore the Lord shall sit in judgment upon all those who say in their hearts, "We all sit in safety;" and puffeth at him. These are the words of the LORD; yea, pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him

⁷Thou shalt save thy people, O LORD; thou shalt keep them; thou shalt preserve them from the wickedness of their generations forever. ⁸The wicked walk on every side, and the vilest men are exalted; but in the day of their pride thou shalt visit them.

How long, O LORD?

13 ¹How long, O Lord, wilt thou withdraw thyself from me? How long wilt thou hide thy face from me, that I may not see thee? Wilt thou forget me, and cast me off from thy presence forever? ²How long shall I take counsel in my soul, sorrowing in my heart daily? How long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?

³Consider me, O LORD; and hear my cry, O my God; and lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the death of the ungodly; ⁴lest mine enemy say, "I have prevailed against him." Those that trouble me, rejoice when I am moved.

⁵But I have trusted in thy mercy, my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. ⁶I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.

When wilt thou establish Zion?

14 ¹The fool hath said in his heart, “There is no man that hath seen God. Because he showeth himself not unto us, therefore there is no God.” Behold, they are corrupt; thy have done abominable works, and none of them doeth good.

²For the LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, and by his voice said unto his servant, “Seek ye among the children of men, to see if there are any that do understand God.” And he opened his mouth unto the Lord, and said, “Behold, all these who say they are thine.”

³The Lord answered, and said, “They are all gone aside, they are together become filthy, thou canst behold none of them that are doing good, no, not one. ⁴All they have for their teachers are workers of iniquity, and there is no knowledge in them. They are they who eat up my people. They eat bread and call not upon the LORD.”

⁵They are in great fear, for God dwells in the generation of the righteous. He is the counsel of the poor, because they are ashamed of the wicked, and flee unto the Lord, for their refuge. ⁶They are ashamed of the counsel of the poor because the LORD is his refuge.

⁷Oh that Zion were established out of heaven, the salvation of Israel. O Lord, when wilt thou establish Zion? When the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, Israel shall be glad.

Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion!

Who shall dwell in Zion?

15 ¹LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in the holy hill of Zion?

²He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. ³He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor. ⁴In whose eyes a vile person is condemned; but he honoreth them that fear the LORD; sweareth not falsely to hurt any man, and changeth not. ⁵He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

He that sweareth to his own hurt

The LORD's goodness is extended to all

16 ¹Preserve me, O God; for in thee do I put my trust.

²Thou hast said unto me, that thou art the Lord my God, and, “My goodness is extended unto thee, ³and to all the saints that dwell in the earth, and the excellent, in whom is all my delight.”

O my soul, thou hast said unto the LORD, “Thou art my LORD, my goodness extend not to thee, but

⁴And the wicked, there is no delight in them; their sorrows shall be multiplied upon all those who hasten for to seek another god; their drink offerings of blood will I not accept, nor take up their names into my lips.

⁵Therefore thou, LORD, art the portion of mine inheritance, and of my cup; thou maintainest my lot. ⁶The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea I have a goodly heritage.

⁷I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel; my reins also instruct me in the night seasons. ⁸I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

⁹Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; my flesh also shall rest in hope. ¹⁰For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

¹¹Thou wilt show me the path of life; in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore.

Deliver my soul from the wicked

17 ¹Give me right words, O LORD; speak and thy servant shall hear thee; attend unto my cry, and give ear unto my prayer. I come not unto thee out of feigned lips. ²Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal.

³Thou hast proved my heart; thou hast visited me in the night; thou hast tried me; thou shalt find nothing evil in me, for I am purposed my mouth shall not transgress concerning the works of men. ⁴By the word of thy lips I have kept out of the paths of the destroyer.

⁵Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.

⁶I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear, O God, my speech, and incline thine ear unto me. ⁷Show thy marvelous loving-kindness, O thou that savest them which put their trust in thee, by thy right hand from those that rise up.

⁸Keep me as the apple of the eye. Hide me under the shadow of thy wings from the wicked that oppress me.

⁹My deadly enemies compass me about; ¹⁰they are enclosed in their own fat; with their mouth they speak proudly. ¹¹They have now compassed us in our steps; they have set their eyes, bowing down to the earth; ¹²like as a lion that is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places.

¹³Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down. ¹⁴Deliver my soul from the wicked by thy sword; from men by thy strong hand. Yea, O LORD, from men of the world; for their portion is in their life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy good things; they are full of children, and they die and leave the rest of their inheritance to their babes.

¹⁵As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

The LORD is my rock and my fortress

18 *The servant of the LORD, who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul; and he said:*

¹I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. ²The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. ³I will call upon the LORD, for he is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

⁴The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

⁵The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me.

⁶In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God; he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

⁷Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth. ⁸There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured; coals were kindled by it. ⁹He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness was under his feet. ¹⁰And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly; yea, he

did fly upon the wings of the wind. ¹¹He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies. ¹²At the brightness that was before him his thick clouds passed, hailstones and coals of fire.

¹³The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hailstones and coals of fire. ¹⁴Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them. ¹⁵Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils.

¹⁶He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters. ¹⁷He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me; for they were too strong for me.

¹⁸They prevented me in the day of my calamity; but the LORD was my stay. ¹⁹He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

²⁰The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me. ²¹For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God. ²²For all his judgments were before me, and I did not put away his statutes from me. ²³I was also upright before him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity. ²⁴Therefore hath the LORD recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his eyesight.

²⁵With the merciful thou wilt show thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt show thyself upright; ²⁶with the pure thou wilt show thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt show thyself froward. ²⁷For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks. ²⁸For thou wilt light my candle; the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness. ²⁹For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall. ³⁰O God, thy ways are perfect; the word of the LORD is tried; he is a buckler to all those who trust in him.

³¹For who is God save the LORD? Or who is a rock save our God, ³²our God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect? ³³He maketh my feet like hinds' feet, and setteth me upon my high places. ³⁴He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms. ³⁵Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation; and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great. ³⁶Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip. ³⁷I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them; neither did I turn again till they were consumed. ³⁸I have wounded them that they were not able to rise; they are fallen under my feet. ³⁹For thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle; thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me.

⁴⁰Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies; that I might destroy them that hate me. ⁴¹They cried, but found none to save; unto the LORD, but he answered them not.

⁴²Then did I beat them small as the dust before the wind; I did cast them out as the dirt in the streets.

⁴³Thou hast delivered me from the strivings of the people; and thou hast made me the head of the heathen; a people whom I have not known shall serve me. ⁴⁴As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me; the strangers shall submit themselves unto me. ⁴⁵The strangers shall fade away, and be afraid out of their close places.

⁴⁶The LORD liveth; and blessed be my Rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

⁴⁷It is God that avengeth me, and subdueth the people under me. ⁴⁸He delivereth me from mine enemies; yea, thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me; thou hast delivered me from the violent man.

⁴⁹Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name. ⁵⁰Great deliverance giveth he to his king; and showeth mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed forevermore.

The law of the LORD is perfect

19 ¹The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. ²Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. ³No speech nor language can be, if their voice is not heard. ⁴Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, ⁵which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices as a strong man to run a race. ⁶His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it; and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover by them is thy servant warned; and in keeping of them there is great reward.

¹²Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou me from secret faults. ¹³Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous acts; let them not have dominion over me; then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Remember the name of the LORD

20 ¹The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee; ²send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion; ³remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice; Selah.

⁴Grant thee according to thine own heart, and fulfill all thy counsel. ⁵We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners; the LORD fulfill all thy petitions. ⁶Now know I that the LORD saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand.

⁷Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. ⁸They are brought down and fallen; but we are risen, and stand upright. ⁹Save, LORD; let the king hear us when we call.

Rejoice in the LORD's salvation

21 ¹The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! ²Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips. Selah. ³For thou preventest him with the blessings of goodness; thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head. ⁴He asked life of thee, and thou gavest it him, even length of days forever and ever. ⁵His glory is great in thy salvation; honor and majesty hast thou laid upon him. ⁶For thou hast made him most blessed forever; thou hast made him exceeding glad with thy countenance. ⁷For the king trusteth in the LORD, and through the mercy of the Most High he shall not be moved.

⁸Thine hand shall find out all thine enemies; thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee. ⁹Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger; the LORD shall swallow them up in his wrath, and the fire shall devour them. ¹⁰Their fruit shalt thou destroy from the earth, and their seed from among the children of men. ¹¹For they intended evil against thee; they imagined a mischievous device, which they are not able to perform. ¹²Therefore shalt thou make them turn their back, when thou shalt make ready thine arrows upon thy strings against the face of them.

¹³Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength; so will we sing and praise thy power.

Why hast thou forsaken me?

22 ¹My God, why hast thou forsaken me? My God, hear the words of my roaring; thou art far from helping me. ²O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou answerest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.

³But thou art holy that inhabitest the heavens; thou art worthy of the praises of Israel.

⁴Our fathers trusted in thee; they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. ⁵They cried unto thee, and were delivered; they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.

⁶But I, a worm, am loved of no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. ⁷All they that see me laugh me to scorn; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, ⁸“He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him; let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.”

⁹But thou art he that took me out of the womb; thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother’s breasts. ¹⁰I was cast upon thee from the womb; thou wast my God from my mother’s breasts. ¹¹Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.

¹²Many armies have compassed me; strong armies of Bashan have beset me around. ¹³They gaped upon me with their mouths, like a ravening and a roaring lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. ¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

¹⁶For dogs have compassed me; the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me; they pierced my hands and my feet. ¹⁷I may tell all my bones; they look and stare upon me. ¹⁸They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

¹⁹But be not thou far from me, O LORD; O my strength, haste thee to help me. ²⁰Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog. ²¹Save me from the lion’s mouth, for thou hast heard me speak from the secret places of the wilderness, through the horns of the unicorns. ²²I will declare thy name unto my brethren; in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee. ²³Ye that fear the LORD; praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel. ²⁴For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.

²⁵My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation; I will pay my vows before them that fear him. ²⁶The meek shall eat and be satisfied; they shall praise the LORD that seek him; your heart shall live forever.

²⁷All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD; and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. ²⁸For the kingdom is the LORD’s; and he is the governor among the nations.

²⁹All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship; all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him; and none can keep alive his own soul. ³⁰A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the LORD for a generation. ³¹They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, what he hath done.

The LORD is my shepherd

23 ¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

The earth is the LORD's

24 ¹The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. ²For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

³Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who shall stand in his holy place? ⁴He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. ⁵He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. ⁶This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.

⁷Lift up your heads, O ye generations of Jacob; and be ye lifted up; and the LORD strong and mighty; the LORD mighty in battle, ⁸who is the king of glory, shall establish you forever. And he will roll away the heavens; and will come down to redeem him people; to make you an everlasting name; to establish you upon his everlasting rock. ⁹Lift up your heads, O ye generations of Jacob; lift up your heads, ye everlasting generations, ¹⁰and the LORD of hosts, the king of kings; even the king of glory shall come unto you; and shall redeem his people, and shall establish them in righteousness. Selah.

gates

gates / doors

Show me thy ways

25 ¹Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul. ²O my God, I trust in thee; let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me. ³Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed; let them be ashamed which transgress without cause.

⁴Show me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. ⁵Lead me in thy truth, and teach me; for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

⁶Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy loving-kindnesses; for they have been ever of old. ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.

⁸Good and upright is the LORD; therefore will he teach sinners in the way. ⁹The meek will he guide in judgment; and the meek will he teach his way. ¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

¹¹For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great. ¹²What man is he that feareth the LORD? Him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose. ¹³His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth. ¹⁴The secret of the LORD is with them

This psalm is an acrostic poem. Each verse begins with the successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

that fear him; and he will show them his covenant. ¹⁵Mine eyes are ever toward the LORD; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.

¹⁶Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted. ¹⁷The troubles of my heart are enlarged; oh bring thou me out of my distresses. ¹⁸Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins.

¹⁹Consider mine enemies; for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred. ²⁰Oh keep my soul, and deliver me; let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee. ²¹Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.

²²Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

I have trusted in the LORD

26 ¹Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity; I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide. ²Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. ³For thy loving-kindness is before mine eyes; and I have walked in thy truth.

⁴I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers. ⁵I have hated the congregation of evildoers; and will not sit with the wicked.

⁶I will wash mine hands in innocency; so will I compass thine altar, O LORD; ⁷that I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.

⁸LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honor dwelleth. ⁹Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men; ¹⁰in whose hands is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes.

¹¹But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity; redeem me, and be merciful unto me. ¹²My foot standeth in an even place; in the congregations will I bless the LORD.

The LORD is my light and my salvation

27 ¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

²When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. ³Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this I am confident.

⁴One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple. ⁵For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion; in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

⁶And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me; therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sign praises unto the LORD.

⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice; have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

⁸When thou saidst, "Seek ye my face;" my heart said unto thee, "Thy face, LORD, will I seek." ⁹Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger; thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. ¹⁰When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.

¹¹Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.

¹²Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies; for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.

¹³Unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living, thou wouldst deliver my soul into hell. ¹⁴Thou didst say unto me, "Wait on the LORD, be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thy heart; wait, I say, on the LORD."

The LORD is my strength and my shield

28 ¹Unto thee will I cry, O LORD, my rock; be not silent to me; lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit. ²Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands towards thy holy oracle.

³Draw me not away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity, which speak peace to their neighbors, but mischief is in their hearts. ⁴Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavors; give them after the work of their hands; render to them their desert. ⁵Because they regard not the works of the LORD, nor the operation of his hands, he shall destroy them, and not build them up.

⁶Blessed be the LORD, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications. ⁷The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices; and with my song will I praise him.

⁸The LORD is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed. ⁹Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance; feed them also, and lift them up forever.

Give to the LORD glory

29 ¹Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength. ²Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thundereth; the LORD is upon many waters. ⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaketh the cedars; yea, the LORD breaketh the cedars of Lebanon. ⁶He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn.

⁷The voice of the LORD divideth the flames of fire. ⁸The voice of the LORD shaketh the wilderness; the LORD shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the LORD maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests; and in his temple doth everyone speak of his glory.

¹⁰The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth king forever. ¹¹The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.

The LORD has lifted me up

30 ¹I will extol thee, O LORD; for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me. ²O LORD my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me. ³O LORD, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave; thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.

⁴Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. ⁵For his anger kindleth against the wicked; they repent, and in a moment it is turned away, and they are in his favor, and he giveth them life; therefore, weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life

⁶And in my prosperity I said, “I shall never be moved.” ⁷LORD, by thy favor thou hast made my mountain to stand strong; thou didst hide thy face, and I was troubled.

⁸I cried to thee, O LORD; and unto the LORD I made supplication, ⁹“When I go down to the pit, my blood shall return to the dust. I will praise thee; my soul shall declare thy truth; for what profit am I, if I do it not?” ¹⁰Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me; LORD, be thou my helper.

¹¹Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing; thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness; ¹²to the end that my soul may give glory to thy name, and sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee forever.

31 *Into thine hand I commit my spirit*

¹In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in thy righteousness. ²Bow down thine ears to me; deliver me speedily; be thou my strong rock, for a house of defense to save me.

³For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name’s sake, lead me, and guide me. ⁴Pull me out of the net that they have laid privily for me; for thou art my strength. ⁵Into thine hand I commit my spirit; thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.

⁶I have hated them that regard lying vanities; but I trust in the LORD. ⁷I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy; for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities; ⁸and hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy; thou hast set my feet in a large room.

⁹Have mercy upon me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; mine eye is consumed with grief, yea, my soul and my belly. ¹⁰For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength faileth because of mine iniquity, and my bones are consumed.

¹¹I was a reproach among all mine enemies, but especially among my neighbors, and a fear to mine acquaintance; they that did see me without fled from me. ¹²I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind; I am like a broken vessel. ¹³For I have heard the slander of many; fear was on every side; while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life.

¹⁴But I trusted in thee, O LORD; I said, “Thou art my God.” ¹⁵My times are in thy hand; deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me. ¹⁶Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; save me for thy mercies’ sake. ¹⁷Let me not be ashamed, O LORD; for I have called upon thee; let the wicked be ashamed, and let them be silent in the grave. ¹⁸Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.

¹⁹Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men! ²⁰Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man; thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

²¹Blessed be the LORD; for he hath showed me his marvelous kindness in a strong city.

²²For I said in my haste, “I am cut off from before thine eyes;” nevertheless thou heardest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto thee.

²³O love the LORD, all ye his saints; for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer. ²⁴Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

Blessed are the forgiven

32

¹Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and who have no sins to be covered.

²Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

³When I kept silence, my spirit failed within me; when I opened my mouth, my bones waxed old through my speaking all the day long. ⁴For day and night thy Spirit was heavy upon me; my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

hand

⁵I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, "I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD;" and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

⁶For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found; surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him. ⁷Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

⁸Thou hast said, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will guide thee with mine eye." ⁹Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding; whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.

¹⁰Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about. ¹¹Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous; and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

The LORD loves righteousness

33

¹Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous; to praise the LORD is comely for the upright in heart. ²Praise the LORD with thy voice; sing unto him with the psaltery and harp, an instrument with ten strings. ³Sing unto him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise.

⁴For the word of the LORD is given to the upright, and all his works are done in truth.

⁵He loveth righteousness and judgment; the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.

⁶By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. ⁷He gathereth the waters of the sea together as a heap; he layeth up the depth in storehouses.

⁸Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

⁹For he spake, and it was finished; he commanded, and it stood fast.

¹⁰The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to naught; he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. ¹¹The counsel of the LORD standeth forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. ¹²Blessed are the nations and the people whom the LORD God hath God's goodness, power, and providence.

¹³The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. ¹⁴From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. ¹⁵He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works. ¹⁶There is no king saved by the multitude of host; a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. ¹⁷A horse is a vain thing for safety; neither shall he deliver any by his great strength.

¹⁸Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; ¹⁹to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in a time of famine.

²⁰Our soul waiteth for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. ²¹For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. ²²Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.

Blessed in the man that trusts in the LORD

34 ¹I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. ²My soul shall make her boast in the LORD; the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. ³O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

⁴I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. ⁵They looked unto him, and were lightened; and their faces were not ashamed. ⁶This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. ⁷The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

⁸Oh taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in him. ⁹Oh fear the LORD, ye his saints; for there is no want to them that fear him. ¹⁰The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger; but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.

¹¹Come, ye children, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. ¹²What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good. ¹³Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. ¹⁴Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

¹⁶The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. ¹⁷The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. ¹⁸The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

¹⁹Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

²⁰He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. ²¹Evil shall slay the wicked; and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate. ²²The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants; and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

Let the LORD be magnified

35 ¹Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me; fight against them that fight against me. ²Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for mine help. ³Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me; say unto my soul, "I am thy salvation."

⁴Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul; let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt. ⁵Let them be as chaff before the wind; and let the angel of the LORD chase them. ⁶Let their way be dark and slippery; and let the angel of the LORD persecute them.

⁷For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit, which without cause they have digged for my soul. ⁸Let destruction come upon him at unawares; and let his net that he hath hid catch himself; into that very destruction let him fall.

⁹And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD; it shall rejoice in his salvation. ¹⁰All my bones shall say, "LORD, who is like unto thee, which deliverest the poor from him that is too strong for him, yea, the poor and the needy from him that spoileth him?"

¹¹False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not. ¹²They rewarded me evil for good, for the purpose of the spoiling of my soul. ¹³But as for me,

This psalm is an acrostic poem. Each verse begins with the successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth; I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom. ¹⁴I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother; I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother.

¹⁵But in mine adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together; yea, the abjects gathered themselves together against me, and I knew it not; they did tear me, and ceased not; ¹⁶with hypocritical mockers in feasts, they gnashed upon me with their teeth.

¹⁷LORD, how long wilt thou look on? Rescue my soul from their destructions, my darling from the lions. ¹⁸I will give thee thanks in the great congregation; I will praise thee among much people.

¹⁹Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me; neither let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause. ²⁰For they speak not peace; but they devise deceitful matters against them that are quiet in the land. ²¹Yea, they opened their mouth wide against me, and said, "Aha, aha, our eye hath seen it."

²²This thou hast seen, O LORD; keep not silence; O LORD, be not far from me. ²³Stir up thyself, and awake to my judgment, even unto my cause, my God and my LORD. ²⁴Judge me, O LORD my God, according to thy righteousness; and let them not rejoice over me.

²⁵Let them not say in their hearts, "Ah, so would we have it;" let them not say, "We have swallowed him up."

²⁶Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt; let them be clothed with shame and dishonor that magnify themselves against me.

²⁷Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favor my righteous cause; yea, let them say continually, "Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant." ²⁸And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long.

How excellent is thy loving-kindness

36 ¹The wicked, who live in transgression, saith in their hearts, "There is no condemnation;" for there is no fear of God before their eyes. ²For they flatter themselves in their own eyes, until their iniquities are found to be hateful. ³The words of their mouth are full of iniquity and deceit. The wicked man hath left off to be wise, and to do good; ⁴he deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way that is not good.

⁵O LORD, thou art in the heavens; they are full of thy mercy. And the thoughts of a righteous man ascendeth up unto thee whose throne is far above the clouds. ⁶He is filled with thy righteousness like the great mountains, and with thy judgments like a great deep. O LORD, thou preservest man and beast.

⁷How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. ⁸They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. ⁹For with thee is the fountain of life; in thy light shall we see light.

¹⁰Oh continue thy loving-kindness unto them that know thee; and thy righteousness to the upright in heart. ¹¹Let not the foot of pride come against me, and let not the hand of the wicked remove me. ¹²They are the workers of iniquity and shall fall; they shall be cast down, and shall not be able to rise.

The meek shall inherit the earth

- 37** ¹Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. ²For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.
- ³Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. ⁴Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
- ⁵Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. ⁶And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.
- ⁷Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him; fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.
- ⁸Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. ⁹For evildoers shall be cut off; but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.
- ¹⁰For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be; yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. ¹¹But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.
- ¹²The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. ¹³The LORD shall laugh at him; for he seeth that his day is coming.
- ¹⁴The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation. ¹⁵Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.
- ¹⁶A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked. ¹⁷For the arms of the wicked shall be broken; but the LORD upholdeth the righteous.
- ¹⁸The LORD knoweth the days of the upright; and their inheritance shall be forever.
- ¹⁹They shall not be ashamed in the evil time; and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.
- ²⁰But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs; they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.
- ²¹The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again; but the righteous showeth mercy, and giveth. ²²For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off.
- ²³The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD; and he delighteth in his way.
- ²⁴Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.
- ²⁵I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. ²⁶He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.
- ²⁷Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell forevermore. ²⁸For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved forever; but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off. ²⁹The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever.
- ³⁰The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment. ³¹The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.
- ³²The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him. ³³The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged.
- ³⁴Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.

This psalm is an acrostic poem. Each stanza begins with the successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

³⁵I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. ³⁶Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not; yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.

³⁷Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace. ³⁸But the transgressors shall be destroyed together; the end of the wicked shall come, and they shall be cut off.

³⁹But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD; he is their strength in the time of trouble. ⁴⁰And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them; he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

Forsake me not, O LORD

38 ¹O LORD, rebuke me not in thy wrath; neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. ²For thine arrows stick fast in me, and thy hand presseth me sore.

³There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin. ⁴For mine iniquities are gone over mine head; as a heavy burden they are too heavy for me.

⁵My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness. ⁶I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. ⁷For my loins are filled with a loathsome distress; and no soundness is found in my flesh. ⁸I am feeble, and broken, and very sore. I have wept by reason of the disquietness of my heart.

⁹LORD, all my desire is before thee; and my groaning is not hid from thee. ¹⁰My heart panteth, my strength faileth me; as for the light of mine eyes, it also is gone from me. ¹¹My lovers and my friends stand aloof because of my sore; and my kinsmen stand afar off.

¹²They also that seek after my life lay snares for me; and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long.

¹³But I, as a deaf man, heard not; and I was as a dumb man that openeth not his mouth.

¹⁴Thus I was as a man that heareth not, and in whose mouth are no reproofs.

¹⁵For in thee, O LORD, do I hope; thou wilt hear, O LORD my God. ¹⁶For I said, "Hear me, lest otherwise they should rejoice over me; when my foot slippeth, they magnify themselves against me."

¹⁷For I am ready to halt, and my sorrow is continually before me. ¹⁸For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin. ¹⁹But mine enemies are lively, and they are strong; and they that hate me wrongfully are multiplied. ²⁰They also that render evil for good are mine adversaries; because I follow the thing that good is.

²¹Forsake me not, O LORD; O my God, be not far from me. ²²Make haste to help me, O LORD my salvation.

My hope is in thee

39 ¹I said, "I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue; I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me." ²I was dumb with silence, I held my peace, even from good; and my sorrow was stirred. ³My heart was hot within me; while I was musing the fire burned; then spake I with my tongue:

⁴LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. ⁵Behold, thou hast made my days as a handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee; verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah. ⁶Surely

every man walketh in a vain show; surely they are disquieted in vain; he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them.

⁷And now, LORD, what wait I for? My hope is in thee. ⁸Deliver me from all my transgressions; make me not the reproach of the foolish. ⁹I was dumb, and opened not my mouth; because thou didst chasten me. ¹⁰Remove thy stroke away from me, or I shall be consumed by the blow of thy hand. ¹¹When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth; surely every man is vanity. Selah.

¹²Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears; for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were. ¹³Oh spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more.

Blessed is the man that trusts the LORD

40 ¹I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. ²He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my doings. ³And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God; many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

⁴Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. ⁵Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward; they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

⁶Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened; burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. ⁷Then said I, "Lo, I come; in the volume of the book it is written of me. ⁸I delight to do thy will, O my God; yea, thy law is within my heart."

⁹I have preached righteousness in the great congregation; lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest. ¹⁰I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation; I have not concealed thy loving-kindness and thy truth from the great congregation.

¹¹Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O LORD; let thy loving-kindness and thy truth continually preserve me. ¹²For innumerable evils have compassed me about; mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head; therefore my heart faileth me.

¹³Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me. ¹⁴Let them be ashamed and confounded together that seek after my soul to destroy it; let them be driven backward and put to shame that wish me evil. ¹⁵Let them be desolate for a reward of their shame that say unto me, Aha, aha.

¹⁶Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee; let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified. ¹⁷But I am poor and needy; yet the LORD thinketh upon me; thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.

Blessed is he that considers the poor

41 ¹Blessed is he that considereth the poor; the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. ²The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth; and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. ³The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing; thou wilt make all his pains to cease, when he is laid in his bed of sickness.

bed in his sickness

⁴I said, "LORD, be merciful unto me; heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee." ⁵Mine enemies speak evil of me, "When shall he die, and his name perish?" ⁶And if he come to see me, he speaketh vanity; his heart gathereth iniquity to itself; when he goeth abroad, he telleth it. ⁷All that hate me whisper together against me; against me do they devise my hurt.

⁸"An evil disease," say they, "cleaveth fast unto him; and now that he lieth he shall rise up no more." ⁹Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me. ¹⁰But thou, O LORD, be merciful unto me, and raise me up, that I may requite them.

¹¹By this I know that thou favorest me, because mine enemy doth not triumph over me.

¹²And as for me, thou upholdest me in mine integrity, and settest me before thy face forever.

¹³Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.

My soul is cast down

42 ¹As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee; O God. ²My soul thirsteth for to see God, for to see the living God; when shall I come and appear before thee, O God? ³My tears have been poured out unto thee day and night, while mine enemies continually say unto me, "Where is thy God?" ⁴When I remember these mine enemies, I pour out my soul unto thee; for I had gone with the multitude; I also went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with the multitude that kept holyday.

⁵Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

⁶O my God, my soul is cast down within me; therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar. ⁷Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts; all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me. ⁸Yet the LORD will command his loving-kindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me and my prayer unto the God of my life. ⁹I will say unto God my rock, "Why hast thou forgotten me? Why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?" ¹⁰As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, "Where is thy God?"

¹¹Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

Plead my cause

43 ¹Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation; oh deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man. ²For thou art the God of my strength; why dost thou cast me off; why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

³Oh send out thy light and thy truth; let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles. ⁴Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy; yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God.

⁵Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

Arise for our help

- 44 ¹We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work thou didst in their days, in the times of old. ²How thou didst drive out the heathen with thy hand, and plantedst them; how thou didst afflict the people, and cast them out. ³For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them; but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favor unto them.
- ⁴Thou art my King, O God; command deliverances for Jacob. ⁵Through thee will we push down our enemies; through thy name will we tread them under that rise up against us. ⁶For I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me. ⁷But thou hast saved us from our enemies, and hast put them to shame that hated us. ⁸In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name forever. Selah.
- ⁹But thou hast cast off, and put us to shame; and goest not forth with our armies. ¹⁰Thou makest us to turn back from the enemy; and they which hate us spoil for themselves. ¹¹Thou hast given us like sheep appointed for meat; and hast scattered us among the heathen. ¹²Thou sellest thy people for naught, and dost not increase thy wealth by their price. ¹³Thou makest us a reproach to our neighbors, a scorn and a derision to them that are round about us. ¹⁴Thou makest us a byword among the heathen, a shaking of the head among the people. ¹⁵My confusion is continually before me, and the shame of my face hath covered me, ¹⁶for the voice of him that reproacheth and blasphemeth; by reason of the enemy and avenger.
- ¹⁷All this is come upon us; yet have we not forgotten thee, neither have we dealt falsely in thy covenant. ¹⁸Our heart is not turned back, neither have our steps declined from thy way; ¹⁹though thou hast sore broken us in the place of dragons, and covered us with the shadow of death. ²⁰If we have forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a strange god; ²¹shall not God search this out? For he knoweth the secrets of the heart. ²²Yea, for thy sake are we killed all the day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter.
- ²³Awake, why sleepest thou, O LORD? Arise, cast us not off forever. ²⁴Wherefore hidest thou thy face, and forgettest our affliction and our oppression? ²⁵For our soul is bowed down to the dust; our belly cleaveth unto the earth. ²⁶Arise for our help, and redeem us for thy mercies' sake.

Thy throne is forever

- 45 To the chief Musician upon Shoshannim, for the son of Korah, Maschil, A Song of loves.
- ¹My heart is inditing a good matter; I speak of the things which I have made touching the King; my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.
- ²Thou art fairer than the children of men; grace is poured into thy lips; therefore God hath blessed thee forever. ³Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most Mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty.
- ⁴And in thy majesty ride prosperously, because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things. ⁵Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the King's enemies; whereby the people fall under thee.
- ⁶Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever; the scepter of thy kingdom is a right scepter. ⁷Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness; therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. ⁸All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad. ⁹Kings'

daughters were among thy honorable women; upon thy right hand did stand the queen in gold of Ophir.

¹⁰Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house; ¹¹so shall the King greatly desire thy beauty; for he is thy LORD; and worship thou him. ¹²And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall entreat thy favor.

¹³The King's daughter is all glorious within; her clothing is of wrought gold. ¹⁴She shall be brought unto the King in raiment of needlework; the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee. ¹⁵With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought; they shall enter into the King's palace.

¹⁶Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth. ¹⁷I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations; therefore shall the people praise thee forever and ever.

Be still, and know that I am God

46 ¹GOD is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth shall be removed, and though the mountains shall be carried into the midst of the sea; ³and the waters thereof roar, being troubled, and the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.

⁴Yet there shall be a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. ⁵For Zion shall come, and God shall be in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God shall help her right early. ⁶The heathen shall be enraged, and their kingdoms shall be moved, and the LORD shall utter his voice, and the earth shall be melted. ⁷The LORD of hosts who shall be with us, the God of Jacob our refuge. Selah.

⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he shall make in the earth in the latter days. ⁹He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire, and saith unto the nations, ¹⁰"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." ¹¹The LORD of hosts shall be with us, the God of Jacob our refuge. Selah.

God is king of all the earth

47 ¹Oh clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. ²For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth. ³He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet. ⁴He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah.

⁵God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. ⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises unto our King, sing praises. ⁷For God is the King of all the earth; sing ye praises with understanding.

⁸God reigneth over the heathen; God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness. ⁹The princes of the people are gathered together, even the people of the God of Abraham; for the shields of the earth belong unto God; he is greatly exalted.

Zion, the city of God

48

¹Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. ²Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. ³God is known in her palaces for a refuge.

⁴For, lo, the kings were assembled, they passed by together. ⁵They saw it, and so they marveled; they were troubled, and hasted away. ⁶Fear took hold upon them there, and pain, as of a woman in travail. ⁷Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind. ⁸As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God; God will establish it forever. Selah.

⁹We have thought of thy loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple. ¹⁰According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth; thy right hand is full of righteousness. ¹¹Let mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Judah be glad, because of thy judgments.

¹²Walk about Zion, and go round about her; tell the towers thereof. ¹³Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following. ¹⁴For this God is our God forever and ever; he will be our guide even unto death.

Redemption is through God

49 To the chief Musician, A Psalm for the sons of Korah.

¹Hear this, all ye people; give ear, all ye inhabitants of the world; ²both low and high, rich and poor, together. ³My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. ⁴I will incline mine ear to a parable; I will open my dark saying upon the harp.

⁵Wherefore should I fear in the days of evil, when the iniquity of my heels shall compass me about? ⁶They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; ⁷none can by any means redeem his brother; nor give to God a ransom for him (⁹)that he should still live forever, that it ceaseth not forever to see corruption. (⁸)For the redemption of their souls is through God, and precious.

¹⁰For he seeth wise men die; likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others; ¹¹their inward thought of their houses forever; their dwelling places, to all generations. Lands they called after their own names, and they are honorable.

¹²Nevertheless, man in honor abideth not, he is also like the beasts that perish.

¹³This I speak of them who walk in their way, and forsaketh the Almighty in their folly; yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah. ¹⁴Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling. ¹⁵But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, for he shall receive me. Selah.

This their way is their folly

¹⁶Be not thou afraid when one is made rich; when the glory of his house is increased; ¹⁷for when he dieth he shall carry nothing away; his glory shall not descend after him. ¹⁸Though while he lived he blessed his soul, (and men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself) ¹⁹he shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light. ²⁰Man that is in honor, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish.

God judges his people

50 ¹The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. ²Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.

³Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence; a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. ⁴He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. ⁵Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. ⁶And the heavens shall declare his righteousness; for God is judge himself. Selah.

⁷Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, and I will testify against thee; I am God, even thy God. ⁸I will not reprove thee for thy sacrifices or thy burnt offerings, to have been continually before me. ⁹I will take no bullock out of thy house, nor he goats out of thy folds; ¹⁰for every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. ¹¹I know all the fowls of the mountains; and the wild beasts of the field are mine.

¹²If I were hungry, I would not tell thee; for the world is mine, and the fullness thereof. ¹³Will I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats? ¹⁴Offer unto God thanksgiving, and pay thy vows unto the Most High; ¹⁵and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

¹⁶But unto the wicked God saith:

What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth? ¹⁷Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee.

¹⁸When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers. ¹⁹Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit.

²⁰Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; thou slanderest thine own mother's son. ²¹These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such a one as thyself; but I will reprove thee, and set covenants in order before thine eyes. them

²²"Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none can deliver. ²³Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me; and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I show the salvation of God.

Create in me a clean heart

51 *A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone into Bath-Sheba.*

¹Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness; according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I acknowledge my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight; that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. ⁵Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. ⁶Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts; and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

⁹Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free Spirit.

¹³Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

¹⁴Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation; and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. ¹⁵O LORD, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall

show forth thy praise. ¹⁶For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it; thou delightest not in burnt offering. ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

¹⁸Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion; build thou the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

I trust in the mercy of God forever

52 *A Psalm of David, when Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul, and said unto him, David is come to the house of Ahimelech.*

¹Why boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? The goodness of God endureth continually. ²Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. ³Thou lovest evil more than good; and lying rather than to speak righteousness. Selah. ⁴Thou lovest all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue.

⁵God shall likewise destroy thee forever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah. ⁶The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him. ⁷Lo, the man who made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness.

⁸But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever. ⁹I will praise thee forever, because thou hast done wonderful works; I will wait on thy name; for thou art good before thy saints.

There is none that does good

53 ¹The fool hath said in his heart, "There is no God." Such are corrupt, and they have done abominable iniquity. There is none that doeth good.

²God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God.

³Every one of them is gone back; they are altogether become filthy.

⁴The workers of iniquity have no knowledge; they eat up my people as they eat bread; they have not called upon God.

⁵There is none that doeth good, no not one. They were in great fear, for God hath scattered the bones of him that encampeth against him. O LORD, thou hast put to shame those who have said in their hearts there was no fear, because thou hast despised them.

⁶Oh that Zion were come, the salvation of Israel; for out of Zion shall they be judged, when God bringeth back the captivity of his people. And Jacob shall rejoice; Israel shall be glad.

Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion!

God is my helper

54 *Psalm of David, when the Ziphim came and said to Saul, "Doth not David hide himself with us?"*

¹Save me, O God, by thy name, and judge me by thy strength. ²Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

³For strangers are risen up against me, and oppressors seek after my soul; they have not set God before them. Selah.

⁴Behold, God is mine helper; the LORD is with them that uphold my soul. ⁵He shall reward evil unto mine enemies; cut them off in thy truth.

⁶I will freely sacrifice unto thee; I will praise thy name, O LORD; for it is good. ⁷For he hath delivered me out of all trouble; and mine eye hath seen his desire upon mine enemies.

Cast your burden upon the LORD

55 ¹Give ear to my prayer, O God, and hide not thyself from my supplication. ²Attend unto me, and hear me; I mourn in my complaint, and make a noise; ³because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked; for they cast iniquity upon me, and in wrath they hate me.

⁴My heart is sore pained within me; and the terrors of death are fallen upon me.

⁵Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me. ⁶And I said, "Oh that I had wings like a dove! For then would I fly away, and be at rest. ⁷Lo, then would I wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. Selah. ⁸I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest."

⁹Destroy, O LORD, and divide their tongues; for I have seen violence and strife in the city. ¹⁰Day and night they go about it upon the walls thereof; mischief also and sorrow are in the midst of it. ¹¹Wickedness is in the midst thereof; deceit and guile depart not from her streets.

¹²For it was not an enemy that reproached me, neither he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; if so, then I could have borne it; I would have hid myself from him; ¹³but it was a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. ¹⁴We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company. ¹⁵Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell; for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.

¹⁶As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me. ¹⁷Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud; and he shall hear my voice. ¹⁸He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me; for there were many with me. ¹⁹God shall hear, and afflict them, even he that abideth of old. Selah. Because they have no changes, therefore they fear not God.

²⁰They have put forth their hands against such as be at peace with them; they have broken the LORD's covenant. ²¹The words of their mouth were smother than butter, but war was in their heart. Their words were softer than oil, yet they have drawn swords.

²²Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee; he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

²³But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction; bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.

In God I have put my trust

56 *A Michtam of David, when the Philistines took him in Gath.*

¹Be merciful unto me, O God; for man would swallow me up; he fighting daily oppresseth me. ²Mine enemies would daily swallow me up; for they be many that fight against me, O thou Most High. ³What! Am I afraid? I will trust in thee. ⁴In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

⁵Every day they wrest my words; all their thoughts are against me for evil. ⁶They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul. ⁷Shall they escape by iniquity? In thine anger cast down the people, O God.

⁸Thou tellest my wanderings; put thou my tears into thy bottle; are they not in thy book?

⁹When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back; this I know; for God is for me.

¹⁰In God will I praise his word; in the LORD will I praise his word. ¹¹In God have I put my trust; I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

¹²Thy vows are upon me, O God; I will render praises unto thee. ¹³For thou hast delivered my soul from death; wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?

Let thy glory be above all the earth

57 *A Michtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave.*

¹Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me, for my soul trusteth in thee; yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast. ²I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me. ³He shall send from heaven, and save me from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth.

⁴My soul is among lions; and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.

⁵Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth.

⁶They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down; they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves. Selah. ⁷My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise. ⁸Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp; I myself will awake early. ⁹I will praise thee, O LORD, among the people; I will sing unto thee among the nations. ¹⁰For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds.

¹¹Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth.

God judges the earth

58 ¹Do ye indeed speak righteousness, O congregation? Do ye judge uprightly, O ye sons of men? ²Yea, in heart ye work wickedness; ye weigh the violence of your hands in the earth.

³The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. ⁴Their poison is like the poison of a serpent; they are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear; ⁵which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely.

⁶Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth; break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD. ⁷Let them melt away as waters which run continually; when he bendeth his bow to shoot his arrows, let them be as cut in pieces. ⁸As a snail which melteth, let every one of them pass away; like the untimely birth of a woman, that they may not see the sun.

⁹Before your pots can feel the thorns, he shall take them away as with a whirlwind, both living, and in his wrath.

¹⁰The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance; he will wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.

¹¹So that a man shall say, “Verily there is a reward for the righteous; verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.”

Deliver me from my enemies

59 *A Michtam of David; when Saul sent, and they watched the house to kill him.*

¹Deliver me from mine enemies, O my God; defend me from them that rise up against me. ²Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, and save me from bloody men.

³For, lo, they lie in wait for my soul; the mighty are gathered against me; not for my transgression, nor for my sin, O LORD. ⁴They run and prepare themselves without my fault; awake to help me, and behold. ⁵Thou therefore, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel, awake to visit all the heathen; be not merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah.

⁶They return at evening; they make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city.

⁷Behold, they belch out with their mouth; swords are in their lips; for who, say they, doth hear?

⁸But thou, O LORD, shalt laugh at them; thou shalt have all the heathen in derision.

⁹Because of his strength will I wait upon thee; for God is my defense. ¹⁰The God of my mercy shall prevent me; God shall let me see my desire upon mine enemies.

¹¹Slay them not, lest my people forget; scatter them by thy power; and bring them down, O LORD, our shield. ¹²For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips let them even be taken in their pride; and for cursing and lying which they speak. ¹³Consume them in wrath, consume them, that they may not be; and let them know that God ruleth in Jacob unto the ends of the earth. Selah.

¹⁴And at evening let them return; and let them make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city. ¹⁵Let them wander up and down for meat, and grudge if they be not satisfied.

¹⁶But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning; for thou hast been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble. ¹⁷Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing; for God is my defense, and the God of my mercy.

Thou has cast us off

60 *A Michtam of David; when he strove with Aram-Naharaim and with Aram-Zobah, when Joab returned, and smote of Edom in the valley of salt twelve thousand.*

¹O God, thou hast cast us off, thou hast scattered us, thou hast been displeased; oh turn thyself to us again. ²Thou hast made the earth to tremble; thou hast broken it; heal the breaches thereof; for it shaketh. ³Thou hast showed thy people hard things; thou hast made us to drink the wine of astonishment.

⁴Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah. ⁵That thy beloved may be delivered; save with thy right hand, and hear me.

⁶God hath spoken in his holiness, “I will rejoice, I will divide Shechem, and mete out the valley of Succoth. ⁷Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine; Ephraim also is the strength of mine head; Judah is my lawgiver; ⁸Moab is my washpot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe; Philistia, triumph thou because of me.”

⁹Who will bring me into the strong city? Who will lead me into Edom? ¹⁰Wilt not thou, O God, which hadst cast us off? And thou, O God, which didst not go out with our

armies? ¹¹Give us help from trouble; for vain is the help of man. ¹²Through God we shall do valiantly; for he it is that shall tread down our enemies.

Thou has been a shelter for me

61 ¹Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. ²From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. ³For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.

⁴I will abide in thy tabernacle forever; I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah. ⁵For thou, O God, hast heard my vows; thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name.

⁶Thou wilt prolong the king's life; and his years as many generations. ⁷He shall abide before God forever; oh prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him.

⁸So will I sing praise unto thy name forever, that I may daily perform my vows.

My soul waits upon God

62 ¹Truly my soul waiteth upon God; from him cometh my salvation. ²He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.

³How long will he imagine mischief against a man? Ye shall be slain all of you; as a bowing wall shall ye be, and as a tottering fence. ⁴They only consult to cast him down from his excellency; they delight in lies; they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. Selah.

⁵My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. ⁶He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defense; I shall not be moved. ⁷In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.

⁸Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Selah.

⁹Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie; to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity. ¹⁰Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.

¹¹God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God. ¹²Also unto thee, O LORD, belongeth mercy; for thou renderest to every man according to his work.

God's loving-kindness is better than life

63 ¹O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; ²to see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. ³Because thy loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. ⁴Thus will I bless thee while I live; I will lift up my hands in thy name.

⁵My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips; ⁶when I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. ⁷Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. ⁸My soul followeth hard after thee; thy right hand upholdeth me.

⁹But those that seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth.

¹⁰They shall fall by the sword; they shall be a portion for foxes. ¹¹But the king shall rejoice

in God; everyone that sweareth by him shall glory; but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped.

Hide me from the wicked

64 ¹Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer; preserve my life from fear of the enemy. ²Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity; ³who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words; ⁴that they may shoot in secret at the perfect; suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not. ⁵They encourage themselves in an evil matter; they commune of laying snares privily; they say, "Who shall see them?" ⁶They search out iniquities; they accomplish a diligent search; both the inward thought of every one of them, and the heart, is deep.

⁷But God shall shoot at them with an arrow; suddenly shall they be wounded. ⁸So they shall make their own tongue to fall upon themselves; all that see them shall flee away. ⁹And all men shall fear, and shall declare the work of God; for they shall wisely consider of his doing.

¹⁰The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory.

God will purge our transgressions

65 ¹Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion; and unto thee shall the vow be performed. ²O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. ³Iniquities prevail against me; as for our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away. ⁴Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts; we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.

⁵By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea; ⁶which by his strength setteth fast the mountains; being girded with power; ⁷which tilleth the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people. ⁸They also that dwell in the uttermost parts are afraid at thy tokens; thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice.

⁹Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it; thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water; thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it.

¹⁰Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly; thou settlest the furrows thereof; thou makest it soft with showers; thou blessest the springing thereof. ¹¹Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness. ¹²They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness; and the little hills rejoice on every side. ¹³The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.

Come and see the works of God

66 ¹Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands; ²sing forth the honor of his name; make his praise glorious. ³Say unto God, "How terrible art thou in thy works! Through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee. ⁴All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name." Selah.

⁵Come and see the works of God; he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men.

⁶He turned the sea into dry land; they went through the flood on foot; there did we rejoice

in him. ⁷He ruleth by his power forever; his eyes behold the nations; let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.

⁸Oh bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard; ⁹which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved. ¹⁰For thou, O God, hast proved us; thou hast tried us, as silver is tried. ¹¹Thou broughtest us into the net; thou laidest affliction upon our loins. ¹²Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.

¹³I will go into thy house with burnt offerings; I will pay thee my vows, ¹⁴which my lips have uttered, and my mouth hath spoken, when I was in trouble. ¹⁵I will offer unto thee burnt sacrifices of fatlings, with the incense of rams; I will offer bullocks with goats. Selah.

¹⁶Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul.

¹⁷I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue. ¹⁸If I regard iniquity in my heart, the LORD will not hear me; ¹⁹but verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer.

²⁰Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.

God be merciful unto us

67 ¹God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah; ²that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. ³Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

⁴Oh let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah. ⁵Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

⁶Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. ⁷God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

God shall scatter his enemies

68 ¹Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered; let them also that hate him flee before him. ²As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God. ³But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God; yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.

⁴Sing unto God, sing praises to his name; extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name JAH, and rejoice before him. ⁵A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation. ⁶God setteth the solitary in families; he bringeth out those which are bound with chains; but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.

⁷O God, when thou wentest forth before thy people, when thou didst march through the wilderness; Selah; ⁸the earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God; even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel. ⁹Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain, whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary. ¹⁰Thy congregation hath dwelt therein; thou, O God, hast prepared of thy goodness for the poor.

¹¹The LORD gave the word; great was the company of those that published it. ¹²Kings of armies did flee apace; and she that tarried at home divided the spoil. ¹³Though ye have lain among the pots, yet shall ye be as the wings of a dove covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold. ¹⁴When the Almighty scattered kings in it, it was white as snow in Salmon.

¹⁵The hill of God is as the hill of Bashan; a high hill as the hill of Bashan. ¹⁶Why leap ye, ye high hills? This is the hill which God desireth to dwell in; yea, the LORD will dwell in it forever. ¹⁷The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels; the LORD is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place. ¹⁸Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive; thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.

¹⁹Blessed be the LORD, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah. ²⁰He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto GOD the Lord belong the issues from death. ²¹But God shall wound the head of his enemies, and the hairy scalp of such a one as goeth on still in his trespasses. ²²The LORD said, "I will bring again from Bashan, I will bring my people again from the depths of the sea; ²³that thy foot may be dipped in the blood of thine enemies, and the tongue of thy dogs in the same."

²⁴They have seen thy goings, O God; even the goings of my God, my King, in the sanctuary. ²⁵The singers went before, the players on instruments followed after; among them were the damsels playing with timbrels. ²⁶Bless ye God in the congregations, even the LORD, from the fountain of Israel. ²⁷There is little Benjamin with their ruler, the princes of Judah, and their council, the princes of Zebulun, and the princes of Naphtali.

²⁸Thy God hath commanded thy strength; strengthen, O God, that which thou hast wrought for us. ²⁹Because of thy temple at Jerusalem shall kings bring presents unto thee. ³⁰Rebuke the company of spearmen, the multitude of the bulls, with the calves of the people, till everyone submit himself with pieces of silver; scatter thou the people that delight in war. ³¹Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God.

³²Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth; oh sing praises unto the LORD; Selah; ³³to him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, which were of old; lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice. ³⁴Ascribe ye strength unto God; his excellency is over Israel, and his strength is in the clouds. ³⁵O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places; the God of Israel is he that giveth strength and power unto his people. Blessed be God.

Our sins are not hid from God

69 ¹Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto my soul. ²I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing; I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me. ³I am weary of my crying; my throat is dried; mine eyes fail while I wait for my God.

⁴They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head; they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty; then I restored that which I took not away. ⁵O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee.

⁶Let not them that wait on thee, O LORD God of hosts, be ashamed for my sake; let not those that seek thee be confounded for my sake, O God of Israel. ⁷Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face. ⁸I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children.

⁹For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me. ¹⁰When I wept, and chastened my soul with fasting, that was to my reproach. ¹¹I made sackcloth also my garment; and I became a proverb to them. ¹²They that sit in the gate speak against me, and I was the song of the drunkards.

¹³But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, in an acceptable time; O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation. ¹⁴Deliver me out of the mire, and let me not sink; let me be delivered from them that hate me, and out of the deep

waters. ¹⁵Let not the waterflood overflow me, neither let the deep swallow me up, and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me.

¹⁶Here me, O LORD; for thy loving-kindness is good; turn unto me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies. ¹⁷And hide not thy face from thy servant; for I am in trouble; hear me speedily. ¹⁸Draw nigh unto my soul, and redeem it; deliver me because of mine enemies.

¹⁹Thou hast known my reproach, and my shame, and my dishonor; mine adversaries are all before thee. ²⁰Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness; and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. ²¹They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

²²Let their table become a snare before them; and that which should have been for their welfare, let it become a trap. ²³Let their eyes be darkened, that they see not; and make their loins continually to shake. ²⁴Pour out thine indignation upon them, and let thy wrathful anger take hold of them. ²⁵Let their habitation be desolate; and let none dwell in their tents. ²⁶For they persecute him whom thou hast smitten; and they talk to the grief of those whom thou hast wounded. ²⁷Add iniquity unto their iniquity; and let them not come into thy righteousness. ²⁸Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.

²⁹But I am poor and sorrowful; let thy salvation, O God, set me up on high. ³⁰I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. ³¹This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hooves. ³²The humble shall see this, and be glad; and your heart shall live that seek God. ³³For the LORD heareth the poor, and despiseth not his prisoners.

³⁴Let the heaven and earth praise him, the seas, and everything that moveth therein. ³⁵For God will save Zion, and will build the cities of Judah; that they may dwell there, and have it in possession. ³⁶The seed also of his servants shall inherit it; and they that love his name shall dwell therein.

Make haste to deliver me

70 ¹Make haste, O God, to deliver me; make haste to help me, O LORD. ²Let them be ashamed and confounded that seek after my soul; let them be turned backward, and put to confusion, that desire my hurt. ³Let them be turned back for a reward of their shame that say, "Aha, aha."

⁴Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee; and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified. ⁵But I am poor and needy; make haste unto me, O God; thou art my help and my deliverer; O LORD, make no tarrying.

Thou art my hope

71 ¹In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be put to confusion. ²Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape; incline thine ear unto me, and save me. ³Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort; thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress.

⁴Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man. ⁵For thou art my hope, O Lord GOD; thou art my trust from my youth. ⁶By thee have I been holden up from the womb; thou art he that took me out of my mother's bowels; my praise shall be continually of thee.

⁷I am as a wonder unto many; but thou art my strong refuge. ⁸Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honor all the day. ⁹Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth. ¹⁰For mine enemies speak against me; and they that lay wait for my soul take counsel together, ¹¹saying, "God hath forsaken him; persecute and take him; for there is none to deliver him."

¹²O God, be not far from me; O my God, make haste for my help. ¹³Let them be confounded and consumed that are adversaries to my soul; let them be covered with reproach and dishonor that seek my hurt. ¹⁴But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more. ¹⁵My mouth shall show forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof. ¹⁶I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD; I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only.

¹⁷O God, thou hast taught me from my youth; and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. ¹⁸Now also when I am old and gray-headed, O God, forsake me not; until I have showed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to everyone that is to come.

¹⁹Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high, who hast done great things; O God, who is like unto thee! ²⁰Thou, which hast showed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth. ²¹Thou shalt increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side.

²²I will also praise thee with the psaltery, even thy truth, O my God; unto thee will I sing with the harp, O thou Holy One of Israel. ²³My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing unto thee; and my soul, which thou hast redeemed. ²⁴My tongue also shall talk of thy righteousness all the day long; for they are confounded, for they are brought unto shame, that seek my hurt.

A psalm for Solomon

72 ¹Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son. ²He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment. ³The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness. ⁴He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.

⁵They shall fear thee as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations. ⁶He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass; as showers that water the earth. ⁷In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth.

⁸He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth. ⁹They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust. ¹⁰The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents; the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts. ¹¹Yea, all kings shall fall down before him; all nations shall serve him.

¹²For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.

¹³He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy. ¹⁴He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence; and precious shall their blood be in his sight.

¹⁵And he shall live, and to him shall be given of the gold of Sheba; prayer also shall be made for him continually; and daily shall he be praised. ¹⁶There shall be a handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountains; the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon; and they of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth. ¹⁷His name shall endure forever; his name shall be continued as long as the sun; and men shall be blessed in him; all nations shall call him blessed.

¹⁸Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. ¹⁹And blessed be his glorious name forever; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen, and Amen.

²⁰The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.

The prosperity of the wicked

73 ¹Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart. ²But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well-nigh slipped. ³For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

⁴For there are no bands in their death; but their strength is firm. ⁵They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men. ⁶Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment. ⁷Their eyes stand out with fatness; they have more than heart could wish. ⁸They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression; they speak loftily. ⁹They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth. ¹⁰Therefore his people return hither; and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them. ¹¹And they say, "How doth God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?" ¹²Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. ¹³Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. ¹⁴For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning. ¹⁵If I say, "I will speak thus;" behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children.

¹⁶When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; ¹⁷until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.

¹⁸Surely thou didst set them in slippery places; thou castedst them down into destruction.

¹⁹How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. ²⁰As a dream when one awaketh; so, O LORD, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image. ²¹Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins. ²²So foolish was I, and ignorant; I was as a beast before thee.

²³Nevertheless I am continually with thee; thou hast holden me by my right hand. ²⁴Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. ²⁵Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides thee. ²⁶My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.

²⁷For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish; thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee. ²⁸But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

God is my king

74 ¹O God, why hast thou cast us off forever? Why doth thine anger smoke against the sheep of thy pasture? ²Remember thy congregation, which thou hast purchased of old; the rod of thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed; this mount Zion, wherein thou hast dwelt. ³Lift up thy feet unto the perpetual desolations; even all that the enemy hath done wickedly in the sanctuary.

⁴Thine enemies roar in the midst of thy congregations; they set up their ensigns for signs.

⁵A man was famous according as he had lifted up axes upon the thick trees. ⁶But now they break down the carved work thereof at once with axes and hammers. ⁷They have cast fire into thy sanctuary, they have defiled by casting down the dwelling place of thy name to the ground. ⁸They said in their hearts, "Let us destroy them together;" they have burned up all the synagogues of God in the land.

⁹We see not our signs; there is no more any prophet; neither is there among us any that knoweth how long. ¹⁰O God, how long shall the adversary reproach? Shall the enemy blaspheme thy name forever? ¹¹Why withdrawest thou thy hand, even thy right hand? Pluck it out of thy bosom.

¹²For God is my King of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth. ¹³Thou didst divide the sea by thy strength; thou brakest the heads of the dragons in the waters. ¹⁴Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces, and gavest him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness. ¹⁵Thou didst cleave the fountain and the flood; thou driedst up mighty rivers. ¹⁶The day is thine, the night also is thine; thou hast prepared the light and the sun. ¹⁷Thou hast set all the borders of the earth; thou hast made summer and winter.

¹⁸Remember this, that the enemy hath reproached, O LORD, and that the foolish people have blasphemed thy name. ¹⁹O deliver not the soul of thy turtledove unto the multitude of the wicked; forget not the congregation of thy poor forever.

²⁰Have respect unto the covenant; for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty. ²¹Oh let not the oppressed return ashamed; let the poor and needy praise thy name.

²²Arise, O God, plead thine own cause; remember how the foolish man reproacheth thee daily. ²³Forget not the voice of thine enemies; the tumult of those that rise up against thee increaseth continually.

God will judge uprightly

75 ¹Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks; for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare.

²When I shall receive the congregation I will judge uprightly. ³The earth and all the inhabitants thereof are dissolved; I bear up the pillars of it. Selah. ⁴I said unto the fools, "Deal not foolishly;" and to the wicked, "Lift not up the horn; ⁵lift not up your horn on high; speak not with a stiff neck."

⁶For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. ⁷But God is the judge; he putteth down one, and setteth up another. ⁸For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same; but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.

⁹But I will declare forever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob. ¹⁰All the horns of the wicked also will I cut off; but the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.

God's enemies cannot stand before him

76 ¹In Judah is God known; his name is great in Israel. ²In Salem also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling place in Zion. ³There brake he the arrows of the bow, the shield, and the sword, and the battle. Selah.

⁴Thou art more glorious and excellent than the mountains of prey. ⁵The stouthearted are spoiled, they have slept their sleep; and none of the men of might have found their hands.

⁶At thy rebuke, O God of Jacob, both the chariot and horse are cast into a dead sleep.

⁷Thou, even thou, art to be feared; and who may stand in thy sight when once thou art angry? ⁸Thou didst cause judgment to be heard from heaven; the earth feared, and was still, ⁹when God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth. Selah.

¹⁰Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee; the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.

¹¹Vow, and pay unto the LORD your God; let all that be round about him bring presents unto him that ought to be feared. ¹²He shall cut off the spirit of princes; he is terrible to the kings of the earth.

In the day of trouble I seek the LORD

77 ¹I cried unto God with my voice, even unto God with my voice, and he gave ear unto me. ²In the day of my trouble I sought the LORD; my sore ran in the night, and ceased not; my soul refused to be comforted. ³I remembered God, and was troubled; I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah.

⁴Thou holdest mine eyes waking; I am so troubled that I cannot speak. ⁵I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times. ⁶I call to remembrance my song in the night; I commune with mine own heart; and my spirit made diligent search. ⁷Will the LORD cast off forever? And will he be favorable no more? ⁸Is his mercy clean gone forever? Doth his promise fail forevermore? ⁹Hath God forgotten to be gracious? Hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? Selah.

¹⁰And I said, "This is my infirmity; but I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High."

¹¹I will remember the works of the LORD; surely I will remember thy wonders of old. ¹²I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings. ¹³Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary; who is so great a God as our God? ¹⁴Thou art the God that doest wonders; thou hast declared thy strength among the people. ¹⁵Thou hast with thine arm redeemed thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah.

¹⁶The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee; they were afraid; the depths also were troubled. ¹⁷The clouds poured out water; the skies sent out a sound; thine arrows also went abroad. ¹⁸The voice of thy thunder was in the heaven; the lightnings lightened the world; the earth trembled and shook. ¹⁹Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known. ²⁰Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Teach the coming generation

78 ¹Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. ²I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old; ³which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. ⁴We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

⁵For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children; ⁶that the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children; ⁷that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; ⁸and might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God.

⁹The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle. ¹⁰They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law; ¹¹and forgat his works, and his wonders that he had showed them. ¹²Marvelous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. ¹³He divided the sea, and

caused them to pass through; and he made the waters to stand as a heap. ¹⁴In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire. ¹⁵He clave the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink as out of the great depths. ¹⁶He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers.

¹⁷And they sinned yet more against him by provoking the Most High in the wilderness.

¹⁸And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust. ¹⁹Yea, they spake against God; they said, “Can God furnish a table in the wilderness? ²⁰Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed; can he give bread also? Can he provide flesh for his people?”

²¹Therefore the LORD heard this, and was wroth; so a fire was kindled against Jacob, and anger also came up against Israel; ²²because they believed not in God, and trusted not in his salvation; ²³though he had commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven, ²⁴and had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven. ²⁵Man did eat angels’ food; he sent them meat to the full. ²⁶He caused an east wind to blow in the heaven; and by his power he brought in the south wind. ²⁷He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea; ²⁸and he let it fall in the midst of their camp, round about their habitations. ²⁹So they did eat, and were well filled; for he gave them their own desire; ³⁰they were not estranged from their lust; but while their meat was yet in their mouths, ³¹the wrath of God came upon them, and slew the fattest of them, and smote down the chosen men of Israel.

³²For all this they sinned still, and believed not for his wondrous works. ³³Therefore their days did he consume in vanity, and their years in trouble. ³⁴When he slew them, then they sought him; and they returned and inquired early after God. ³⁵And they remembered that God was their Rock, and the high God their Redeemer. ³⁶Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto him with their tongues. ³⁷For their heart was not right with him, neither were they steadfast in his covenant. ³⁸But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not; yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath. ³⁹For he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again. ⁴⁰How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert! ⁴¹Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. ⁴²They remembered not his hand, nor the day when he delivered them from the enemy; ⁴³how he had wrought his signs in Egypt, and his wonders in the field of Zoan; ⁴⁴and had turned their rivers into blood; and their floods, that they could not drink. ⁴⁵He sent divers sorts of flies among them, which devoured them; and frogs, which destroyed them. ⁴⁶He gave also their increase unto the caterpillar, and their labor unto the locust. ⁴⁷He destroyed their vines with hail, and their sycamore trees with frost. ⁴⁸He gave up their cattle also to the hail, and their flocks to hot thunderbolts. ⁴⁹He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels among them. ⁵⁰He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence; ⁵¹and smote all the first-born in Egypt; the chief of their strength in the tabernacles of Ham; ⁵²but made his own people to go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock. ⁵³And he led them on safely, so that they feared not; but the sea overwhelmed their enemies. ⁵⁴And he brought them to the border of his sanctuary, even to this mountain, which his right hand had purchased. ⁵⁵He cast out the heathen also before them, and divided them an inheritance by line, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents.

⁵⁶Yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies; ⁵⁷but turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers; they were turned aside like a deceitful bow. ⁵⁸For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to

jealousy with their graven images. ⁵⁹When God heard this, he was wroth, and greatly abhorred Israel. ⁶⁰So that he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent which he placed among men; ⁶¹and delivered his strength into captivity, and his glory into the enemy's hand. ⁶²He gave his people over also unto the sword; and was wroth with his inheritance, ⁶³the fire consumed their young men; and their maidens were not given to marriage. ⁶⁴Their priests fell by the sword; and their widows made no lamentation. ⁶⁵Then the LORD awaked as one out of sleep, and like a mighty man that shouteth by reason of wine. ⁶⁶And he smote his enemies in the hinder parts; he put them to a perpetual reproach. ⁶⁷Moreover he refused the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim; ⁶⁸but chose the tribe of Judah, the mount Zion which he loved. ⁶⁹And he built his sanctuary like high palaces, like the earth which he hath established forever. ⁷⁰He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds; ⁷¹from following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance. ⁷²So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.

How long, LORD?

79 ¹O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple have they defiled; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps. ²The dead bodies of thy servants have they given to be meat unto the fowls of the heaven, the flesh of thy saints unto the beasts of the earth. ³Their blood have they shed like water round about Jerusalem; and there was none to bury them. ⁴We are become a reproach to our neighbors, a scorn and derision to them that are round about us.

⁵How long, LORD? Wilt thou be angry forever? Shall thy jealousy burn like fire? ⁶Pour out thy wrath upon the heathen that have not known thee, and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name. ⁷For they have devoured Jacob, and laid waste his dwelling place.

⁸Oh remember not against us former iniquities; let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us; for we are brought very low. ⁹Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name; and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake. ¹⁰Wherefore should the heathen say, "Where is their God?" Let him be known among the heathen in our sight by the revenging of the blood of thy servants which is shed.

¹¹Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee; according to the greatness of thy power preserve thou those that are appointed to die; ¹²and render unto our neighbors sevenfold into their bosom their reproach, wherewith they have reproached thee, O LORD. ¹³So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks forever; we will show forth thy praise to all generations.

How long will thou be angry?

80 ¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubim, shine forth. ²Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh stir up thy strength, and come and save us.

³Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts, how long wilt thou be angry against the prayer of thy people?

⁵Thou feedest them with the bread of tears; and givest them tears to drink in great measure. ⁶Thou makest us a strife unto our neighbors; and our enemies laugh among themselves.

⁷Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

⁸Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt; thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.
⁹Thou preparest room before it, and didst cause it to take deep root, and it filled the land.
¹⁰The hills were covered with the shadow of it, and the boughs thereof were like the goodly cedars. ¹¹She sent out her boughs unto the sea, and her branches unto the river.
¹²Why hast thou then broken down her hedges, so that all they which pass by the way do pluck her? ¹³The boar out of the wood doth waste it, and the wild beast of the field doth devour it.
¹⁴Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and behold, and visit this vine; ¹⁵and the vineyard which thy right hand hath planted, and the branch that thou madest strong for thyself. ¹⁶It is burned with fire, it is cut down; they perish at the rebuke of thy countenance. ¹⁷Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, upon the son of man whom thou madest strong for thyself. ¹⁸So will not we go back from thee; quicken us, and we will call upon thy name.
¹⁹Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

My people would not hearken to my voice

81 ¹Sing aloud unto God our strength; make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob. ²Take a psalm, and bring hither the timbrel, the pleasant harp with the psaltery. ³Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day.
⁴For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob. ⁵This he ordained in Joseph for a testimony, when he went out through the land of Egypt; where I heard a language that I understood not. ⁶I removed his shoulder from the burden; his hands were delivered from the pots. ⁷Thou calledst in trouble, and I delivered thee; I answered thee in the secret place of thunder; I proved thee at the waters of Merribah. Selah.
⁸Hear, O my people, and I will testify unto thee; O Israel, if thou wilt hearken unto me; ⁹there shall no strange god be in thee; neither shalt thou worship any strange god. ¹⁰I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt; open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.
¹¹But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me. ¹²So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust; and they walked in their own counsels. ¹³Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways! ¹⁴I should soon have subdued their enemies, and turned my hand against their adversaries. ¹⁵The haters of the LORD should have submitted themselves unto him; but their time should have endured forever. ¹⁶He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat; and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee.

God judges the gods

82 ¹God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods. ²"How long will ye suffer them to judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah. ³Defend the poor and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and needy. ⁴Deliver the poor and needy; rid them out of the hand of the wicked."
⁵They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are out of course.
⁶I have said, "Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the Most High." ⁷But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.
⁸Arise, O God, judge the earth; for thou shalt inherit all nations.

O God, be not still

83 ¹Keep not thou silence, O God; hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. ²For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult; and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. ³They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. ⁴They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance." ⁵For they have consulted together with one consent; they are confederate against thee; ⁶the tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; ⁷Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; ⁸Assur also is joined with them; they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah.

⁹Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kishon; ¹⁰which perished at En-dor; they became as dung for the earth. ¹¹Make their nobles like Oreb, and like Zeeb; yea, all their princes as Zebah, and as Zalmunna; ¹²who said, "Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession."

¹³O my God, make them like a wheel; as the stubble before the wind. ¹⁴As the fire burneth a wood, and as the flame setteth the mountains on fire; ¹⁵so persecute them with thy tempest, and make them afraid with thy storm. ¹⁶Fill their faces with shame; that they may seek thy name, O LORD. ¹⁷Let them be confounded and troubled forever; yea, let them be put to shame, and perish. ¹⁸That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the Most High over all the earth.

My soul longs for the courts of the LORD

84 ¹How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! ²My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

³Yea, the sparrow hath found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God. ⁴Blessed are they that dwell in thy house; they will be still praising thee. Selah.

⁵Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. ⁶Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools. ⁷They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.

⁸O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah. ⁹Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed.

¹⁰For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. ¹¹For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. ¹²O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

Show us mercy

85 ¹LORD, thou has been favorable unto thy land; thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob. ²Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people; thou hast covered all their sin. Selah. ³Thou hast taken away all thy wrath; thou hast turned thyself from the fierceness of thine anger.

⁴Turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause thine anger toward us to cease. ⁵Wilt thou be angry with us forever? Wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations? ⁶Wilt thou not revive us again; that thy people may rejoice in thee? ⁷Show us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation.

⁸I will hear what God the LORD will speak; for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints; but let them not turn again to folly. ⁹Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹²Yea, the LORD shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set us in the way of his steps.

86 *Teach me thy way*

¹Bow down thine ear, O LORD, hear me; for I am poor and needy. ²Preserve my soul; for I am holy; O thou my God, save thy servant that trusteth in thee. ³Be merciful unto me, O LORD; for I cry unto thee daily. ⁴Rejoice the soul of thy servant; for unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul. ⁵For thou, LORD, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee. ⁶Give ear, O LORD, unto my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications. ⁷In the day of my trouble, I will call upon thee; for thou wilt answer me.

⁸Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O LORD; neither are there any works like unto thy works. ⁹All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O LORD; and shall glorify thy name. ¹⁰For thou art great, and doest wondrous things; thou art God alone. ¹¹Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth; unite my heart to fear thy name. ¹²I will praise thee, O LORD my God, with all my heart; and I will glorify thy name forevermore. ¹³For great is thy mercy toward me; and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.

¹⁴O God, the proud are risen against me, and the assemblies of violent men have sought after my soul; and have not set thee before them. ¹⁵But thou, O LORD, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, long-suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. ¹⁶Oh turn unto me, and have mercy upon me; give thy strength unto thy servant, and save the son of thine handmaid. ¹⁷Show me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed; because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me.

Glorious things are spoken of thee

87 ¹His foundation is in the holy mountains. ²The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. ³Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Selah.

⁴I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to them that know me; behold Philistia, and Tyre, with Ethiopia; this man was born there. ⁵And of Zion it shall be said, "This and that man was born in her;" and the Highest himself shall establish her. ⁶The LORD shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. Selah.

⁷As well the singers as the players on instruments shall be there; all my springs are in thee.

I have cried day and night before thee

88 ¹O LORD God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee; ²let my prayer come before thee; incline thine ear unto my cry; ³for my soul is full of troubles; and my life draweth nigh unto the grave. ⁴I am counted with them that go down into the pit; I am as a man that hath no strength; ⁵free among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, whom thou rememberest no more; and they are cut off from thy hand. ⁶Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps. ⁷Thy wrath lieth hard upon me, and thou hast afflicted me with all thy waves. Selah.

⁸Thou hast put away mine acquaintance far from me; thou hast made me an abomination unto them; I am shut up, and I cannot come forth. ⁹Mine eye mourneth by reason of affliction; LORD, I have called daily upon thee, I have stretched out my hands unto thee. ¹⁰Wilt thou show wonders to the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise thee? Selah. ¹¹Shall thy loving-kindness be declared in the grave? Or thy faithfulness in destruction? ¹²Shall thy wonders be known in the dark? And thy righteousness in the land of forgetfulness? ¹³But unto thee have I cried, O LORD; and in the morning shall my prayer prevent thee. ¹⁴LORD, why castest thou off my soul? Why hidest thou thy face from me? ¹⁵I am afflicted and ready to die from my youth up; while I suffer thy terrors I am distracted. ¹⁶Thy fierce wrath goeth over me; thy terrors have cut me off. ¹⁷They came round about me daily like water; they compassed me about together. ¹⁸Lover and friend hast thou put far from me, and mine acquaintance into darkness.

89 Maschil of Ethan the Ezrahite.

¹I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever, with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations. ²For I have said, "Mercy shall be built up forever; thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens." ³I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant. ⁴Thy seed will I establish forever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah.

⁵And the heavens shall praise thy wonders, O LORD; thy faithfulness also in the congregation of the saints. ⁶For who in the heaven can be compared unto the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the LORD? ⁷God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him. ⁸O LORD God of hosts, who is a strong LORD like unto thee? Or to thy faithfulness round about thee? ⁹Thou rulest the raging of the sea; when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them. ¹⁰Thou hast broken Rahab in pieces, as one that is slain; thou hast scattered thine enemies with thy strong arm. ¹¹The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine; as for the world and the fullness thereof, thou hast founded them. ¹²The north and the south thou hast created them; Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in thy name. ¹³Thou hast a mighty arm; strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand. ¹⁴Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne; mercy and truth shall go before thy face. ¹⁵Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound; they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance. ¹⁶In thy name shall they rejoice all the day; and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted. ¹⁷For thou art the glory of their strength; and in thy favor our horn shall be exalted. ¹⁸For the LORD is our defense; and the Holy One of Israel is our King.

¹⁹Then thou spakest in vision to thy Holy One, and saidst, "I have laid help upon one that is mighty; I have exalted one chosen out of the people. ²⁰I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him; ²¹with whom my hand shall be established; mine arm also shall strengthen him. ²²The enemy shall not exact upon him; nor the son of wickedness afflict him. ²³And I will beat down his foes before his face, and plague them that hate him. ²⁴But my faithfulness and my mercy shall be with him; and in my name shall his horn be exalted. ²⁵I will set his hand also in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers."

²⁶He shall cry unto me, "Thou art my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation."

²⁷Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth. ²⁸My mercy will I keep for him forevermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him. ²⁹His seed also will I make to endure forever, and his throne as the days of heaven. ³⁰If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; ³¹if they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; ³²then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with

stripes. ³³Nevertheless my loving-kindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. ³⁴My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. ³⁵Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. ³⁶His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before me. ³⁷It shall be established forever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven. Selah.

³⁸But thou hast cast off and abhorred, thou hast been wroth with thine anointed. ³⁹Thou hast made void the covenant of thy servant; thou hast profaned his crown by casting it to the ground. ⁴⁰Thou hast broken down all his hedges; thou hast brought his strongholds to ruin. ⁴¹All that pass by the way spoil him; he is a reproach to his neighbors. ⁴²Thou hast set up the right hand of his adversaries; thou hast made all his enemies to rejoice. ⁴³Thou hast also turned the edge of his sword, and hast not made him to stand in the battle. ⁴⁴Thou hast made his glory to cease, and cast his throne down to the ground. ⁴⁵The days of his youth hast thou shortened; thou hast covered him with shame. Selah.

⁴⁶How long, LORD? Wilt thou hide thyself forever? Shall thy wrath burn like fire?

⁴⁷Remember how short my time is; wherefore hast thou made all men in vain? ⁴⁸What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? Selah.

⁴⁹LORD, where are thy former loving-kindnesses, which thou swarest unto David in thy truth? ⁵⁰Remember, LORD, the reproach of thy servants; how I do bear in my bosom the reproach of all the mighty people; ⁵¹wherewith thine enemies have reproached, O LORD; wherewith they have reproached the footsteps of thine anointed.

⁵²Blessed be the LORD forevermore. Amen, and Amen.

From everlasting to everlasting

90 ¹LORD, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. ²Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

³Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, "Return, ye children of men." ⁴For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

⁵Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep; in the morning they are like grass which groweth up. ⁶In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.

⁷For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled. ⁸Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

⁹For all our days are passed away in thy wrath; we spend our years as a tale that is told.

¹⁰The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. ¹¹Who knoweth the power of thine anger? Even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.

¹²So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. ¹³Return us, O LORD. How long wilt thou hide thy face from thy servants? And let them repent of all their hard speeches they have spoken concerning thee. ¹⁴Oh satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. ¹⁵Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil. ¹⁶Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. ¹⁷And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

How long? And let it repent thee concerning thy servants

The LORD is my refuge and my fortress

91 ¹He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ²I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress; my God; in him will I trust.”

³Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

⁴He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust; his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. ⁵Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; ⁶nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

⁷A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. ⁸Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

⁹Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation; ¹⁰there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

¹¹For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. ¹²They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. ¹³Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder; the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

¹⁴Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him; I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. ¹⁵He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him. ¹⁶With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.

How great are thy works

92 ¹It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High; ²to show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night, ³upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound. ⁴For thou, LORD, hast made me glad through thy work; I will triumph in the works of thy hands.

⁵O LORD, how great are thy works! And thy thoughts are very deep. ⁶A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this. ⁷When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed forever; ⁸but thou, LORD, art most high forevermore. ⁹For, lo, thine enemies, O LORD, for, lo, thine enemies shall perish; all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.

¹⁰But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of a unicorn; I shall be anointed with fresh oil. ¹¹Mine eye also shall see my desire on mine enemies, and mine ears shall hear my desire of the wicked that rise up against me.

¹²The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree; he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

¹³Those that he planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

¹⁴They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; ¹⁵to show that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

The LORD reigns

93 ¹The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself; the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved.

²Thy throne is established of old; thou art from everlasting.

³The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves. ⁴The LORD on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea.

⁵Thy testimonies are very sure; holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, forever.

The LORD will not cast off his people

94 ¹O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongeth; O God, to whom vengeance belongeth, show thyself. ²Lift up thyself, thou Judge of the earth; render a reward to the proud. ³LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph? ⁴How long shall they utter and speak hard things? And all the workers of iniquity boast themselves? ⁵They break in pieces thy people, O LORD, and afflict thine heritage. ⁶They slay the widow and the stranger, and murder the fatherless. ⁷Yet they say, "The LORD shall not see, neither shall the God of Jacob regard it."

⁸Understand, ye brutish among the people; and ye fools, when will ye be wise? ⁹He that planteth the ear, shall he not hear? He that formed the eye, shall he not see? ¹⁰He that chastiseth the heathen, shall not he correct? He that teacheth man knowledge, shall not he know? ¹¹The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity.

¹²Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law; ¹³that thou mayest give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit be digged for the wicked. ¹⁴For the LORD will not cast off his people; neither will he forsake his inheritance. ¹⁵But judgment shall return unto righteousness; and all the upright in heart shall follow it.

¹⁶Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? Or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity? ¹⁷Unless the LORD had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence. ¹⁸When I said, "My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up." ¹⁹In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul. ²⁰Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law? ²¹They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood. ²²But the LORD is my defense; and my God is the rock of my refuge. ²³And he shall bring upon them their own iniquity, and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; yea, the LORD our God shall cut them off.

The LORD is above all gods

95 ¹Oh come, let us sing unto the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation. ²Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. ³For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. ⁴In his hand are the deep places of the earth; the strength of the hills is his also. ⁵The sea is his, and he made it; and his hand formed the dry land.

⁶Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our maker. ⁷For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today if ye will hear his voice, ⁸harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness; ⁹when your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. ¹⁰Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, "It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways; ¹¹unto whom I sware in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest."

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name

96 ¹Oh sing unto the LORD a new song; sing unto the LORD, all the earth. ²Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day. ³Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. ⁴For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. ⁵For all the gods of the nations are idols; but the LORD made the heavens. ⁶Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

⁷Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. ⁸Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts. ⁹Oh worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; fear before him, all the earth.

¹⁰Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth; the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved; he shall judge the people righteously.

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof.

¹²Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein; then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice.

¹³Before the LORD; for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth; he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

The LORD is exalted above all gods

97 ¹The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. ²Clouds and darkness are round about him; righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. ³A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about. ⁴His lightnings enlightened the world; the earth saw, and trembled. ⁵The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the LORD of the whole earth.

⁶The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory. ⁷Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols; worship him, all ye gods.

⁸Zion heard, and was glad; and the daughters of Judah rejoiced because of thy judgments, O LORD. ⁹For thou, LORD, art high above all the earth; thou art exalted far above all gods.

¹⁰Ye that love the LORD, hate evil; he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked. ¹¹Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart. ¹²Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

Sing unto the LORD

98 ¹Oh sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvelous things; his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory. ²The LORD hath made known his salvation; his righteousness hath he openly showed in the sight of the heathen. ³He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

⁴Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth; make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. ⁵Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.

⁶With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.

⁷Let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. ⁸Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills be joyful together ⁹before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth; with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

Exalt ye the LORD

99 ¹The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble; he sitteth between the cherubim; let the earth be moved. ²The LORD is great in Zion; and he is high above all the people. ³Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy. ⁴The king's strength also loveth judgment; thou dost establish equity, thou executest judgment and righteousness in Jacob. ⁵Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy.

⁶Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among them that call upon his name; they called upon the LORD, and he answered them. ⁷He spake unto them in the cloudy pillar; they kept his testimonies, and the ordinance that he gave them.

⁸Thou answeredst them, O LORD our God; thou wast a God that forgavest them, though thou tookest vengeance of their inventions. ⁹Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill, for the LORD our God is holy.

Serve the LORD with gladness

100 ¹Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. ²Serve the LORD with gladness; come before his presence with singing.

³Know ye that the LORD he is God; it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

⁵For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

I will behave myself wisely

101 ¹I will sing of mercy and judgment; unto thee, O LORD, will I sing. ²I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. Oh when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. ³I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes; I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me. ⁴A froward heart shall depart from me; I will not know a wicked person.

⁵Whoso privily slandereth his neighbor, him will I cut off; him that hath a high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.

⁶Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

⁷He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house; he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.

⁸I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD.

Hide not thy face from me

102 *A prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed, and poureth out his complaint before the LORD.*

¹Hear my prayer, O LORD, and let my cry come unto thee. ²Hide not thy face from me in the day when I am in trouble; incline thine ear unto me; in the day when I call answer me speedily.

³For my days are consumed like smoke, and my bones are burned as a hearth. ⁴My heart is smitten, and withered like grass; so that I forget to eat my bread. ⁵By reason of the voice of my groaning my bones cleave to my skin. ⁶I am like a pelican of the wilderness; I am like an owl of the desert. ⁷I watch and am as a sparrow alone upon the housetop. ⁸Mine enemies reproach me all the day; and they that are mad against me are sworn against me. ⁹For I have eaten ashes like bread, and mingled my drink with weeping, ¹⁰Because of thine indignation and thy wrath; for thou hast lifted me up, and cast me down. ¹¹My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass.

¹²But thou, O LORD, shalt endure forever; and thy remembrance unto all generations.

¹³Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion; for the time to favor her, yea, the set time, is come. ¹⁴For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favor the dust thereof. ¹⁵So the heathen shall fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth thy glory.

¹⁶When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. ¹⁷He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. ¹⁸This shall be written for the generation to come; and the people which shall be gathered shall praise the LORD.

¹⁹For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth; ²⁰to hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death; ²¹to declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem; ²²when the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms to serve the LORD.

²³He weakened my strength in the way; he shortened my days. ²⁴I said, "O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days; thy years are throughout all generations."

²⁵Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the work of thy hands. ²⁶They shall perish, but thou shalt endure; yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed; ²⁷but thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. ²⁸The children of thy servants shall continue, and their seed shall be established before thee.

The LORD pities those that fear him

103

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name. ²Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; ³who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; ⁴who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies; ⁵who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. ⁷He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. ⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. ⁹He will not always chide; neither will he keep his anger forever. ¹⁰He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. ¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. ¹³Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. ¹⁴For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

¹⁵As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. ¹⁶For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone, and the place thereof shall know it no more. ¹⁷But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; ¹⁸to such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them. ¹⁹The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.

²⁰Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. ²¹Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his that do his pleasure. ²²Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion; bless the LORD, O my soul.

The LORD shall rejoice in his works

104

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with power and majesty; ²who coverest thyself with light as with a garment; who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain; ³who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters; who maketh the clouds his chariot; who walketh upon the wings of the wind; ⁴who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire; ⁵who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed forever.

⁶Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. ⁷At thy rebuke they fled, at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away. ⁸They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them. ⁹Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.

¹⁰He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. ¹¹They give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst. ¹²By them shall the fowls of the heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches. ¹³He watereth the hills from his chambers; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works.

¹⁴He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man; that he may bring forth food out of the earth; ¹⁵and wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart.

¹⁶The trees of the LORD are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted; ¹⁷where the birds make their nests; as for the stork, the fir trees are her house. ¹⁸The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the conies.

¹⁹He appointed the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. ²⁰Thou makest darkness, and it is night; wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth. ²¹The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God. ²²The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens. ²³Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labor until the evening.

²⁴O LORD, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made strengtheneth man's heart. ²⁵So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. ²⁶There go the ships; and thou hast made Leviathan to play therein.

²⁷These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season. ²⁸That thou givest them they gather; thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good. ²⁹Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled; thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust. ³⁰Thou sendest forth thy Spirit, they are created; and thou renewest the face of the earth.

³¹The glory of the LORD shall endure forever; the LORD shall rejoice in his works. ³²He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth; he toucheth the hills, and they smoke. ³³I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. ³⁴My meditation of him shall be sweet; I will be glad in the LORD. ³⁵Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more.

Bless thou the LORD, O my soul. Praise ye the LORD.

The LORD's work with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses

105 ¹Oh give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the people. ²Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him; talk ye of all his wondrous works. ³Glory ye in his holy name; let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.

⁴Seek the LORD, and his strength; seek his face evermore. ⁵Remember his marvelous works that he hath done; his wonders and the judgments of his mouth; ⁶O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen.

⁷He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth. ⁸He hath remembered his covenant forever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations. ⁹Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; ¹⁰and confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant; ¹¹saying, "Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance;" ¹²when they were but a few men in number; yea, very few, and strangers in it.

¹³When they went from one nation to another, from one kingdom to another people; ¹⁴he suffered no man to do them wrong; yea, he reprov'd kings for their sakes; ¹⁵saying, "Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm."

¹⁶Moreover he called for a famine upon the land; he brake the whole staff of bread. ¹⁷He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant; ¹⁸whose feet they hurt with fetters; he was laid in iron; ¹⁹until the time that his word came; the word of the LORD tried him. ²⁰The king sent and loosed him; even the ruler of the people, and let him go free. ²¹He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his substance; ²²to bind his princes at his pleasure; and teach his senators wisdom.

²³Israel also came into Egypt; and Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham. ²⁴And he increased his people greatly; and made them stronger than their enemies. ²⁵He turned their heart to hate his people, to deal subtilly with his servants.

²⁶He sent Moses his servant; and Aaron whom he had chosen. ²⁷They showed his signs among them, and wonders in the land of Ham. ²⁸He sent darkness, and made it dark; and they rebelled not against his word. ²⁹He turned their waters into blood, and slew their fish. ³⁰Their land brought forth frogs in abundance, in the chambers of their kings. ³¹He spake, and there came divers sorts of flies, and lice in all their coasts. ³²He gave them hail for rain, and flaming fire in their land. ³³He smote their vines also and their fig trees; and brake the trees of their coasts. ³⁴He spake, and the locusts came, and caterpillars, and that without number, ³⁵and did eat up all the herbs in their land, and devoured the fruit of their ground. ³⁶He smote also all the first-born in their land, the chief of all their strength.

³⁷He brought them forth also with silver and gold; and there was not one feeble person among their tribes. ³⁸Egypt was glad when they departed; for the fear of them fell upon them.

³⁹He spread a cloud for a covering; and fire to give light in the night. ⁴⁰The people asked, and he brought quails, and satisfied them with the bread of heaven. ⁴¹He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out; they ran in the dry places like a river. ⁴²For he remembered his holy promise unto Abraham his servant.

⁴³And he brought forth his people with joy, and his chosen with gladness; ⁴⁴and gave them the lands of the heathen; and they inherited the labor of the people; ⁴⁵that they might observe his statutes, and keep his laws. Praise ye the LORD.

We have sinned with our fathers

106 ¹Praise ye the LORD. Oh give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever. ²Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? Who can show forth all his praise? ³Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times.

⁴Remember me, O LORD, with the favor of thy people; oh visit me with thy salvation; ⁵That I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance.

⁶We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly. ⁷Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked thee at the sea, at the Red Sea. ⁸Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known. ⁹He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it was dried up; so he led them through the depths, as through the wilderness. ¹⁰And he saved them from the hand of him that hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy. ¹¹And the waters covered their enemies; there was not one of them left. ¹²Then believed they his words; they sang his praise.

¹³They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel; ¹⁴but lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. ¹⁵And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.

¹⁶They envied Moses also in the camp, and Aaron the saint of the LORD. ¹⁷The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and covered the company of Abiram. ¹⁸And a fire was kindled in their company; the flame burned up the wicked.

¹⁹They made a calf in Horeb, and worshiped the molten image. ²⁰Thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass. ²¹They forgot God their savior, which had done great things in Egypt; ²²wondrous works in the land of Ham, and terrible things by the Red Sea. ²³Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them.

²⁴Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word; ²⁵but murmured in their tents, and hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD. ²⁶Therefore he lifted up his hand against them, to overthrow them in the wilderness; ²⁷to overthrow their seed also among the nations, and to scatter them in the lands.

²⁸They joined themselves also unto Baal-Peor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead. ²⁹Thus they provoked him to anger with their inventions; and the plague brake in upon them. ³⁰Then stood up Phinehas, and executed judgment; and so the plague was stayed. ³¹And that was counted unto him for righteousness unto all generations forevermore.

³²They angered him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes; ³³because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips.

³⁴They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the LORD commanded them; ³⁵but were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works. ³⁶And they served their idols; which were a snare unto them. ³⁷Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, ³⁸and shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan; and the land was polluted with blood. ³⁹Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions.

⁴⁰Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance. ⁴¹And he gave them into the hand of the heathen; and they

that hated them ruled over them. ⁴²Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their hand. ⁴³Many times did he deliver them; but they provoked him with their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity.

⁴⁴Nevertheless he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry; ⁴⁵and he remembered for them his covenant, and spared his people according to the multitude of his mercies.

⁴⁶He made them also to be pitied of all those that carried them captive.

⁴⁷Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise.

⁴⁸Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting; and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the LORD.

The redeemed of the LORD

107 ¹Oh give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever. ²Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy; ³and gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south.

⁴They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in.

⁵Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. ⁶Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses. ⁷And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation. ⁸Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! ⁹For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

¹⁰Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron; ¹¹because they rebelled against the works of God, and contemned the counsel of the Most High; ¹²therefore he brought down their heart with labor; they fell down, and there was none to help. ¹³Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses. ¹⁴He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder. ¹⁵Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! ¹⁶For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder.

¹⁷Fools, because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted. ¹⁸Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death. ¹⁹Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses. ²⁰He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. ²¹Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! ²²And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.

²³They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; ²⁴these see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep. ²⁵For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. ²⁶They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths; their soul is melted because of trouble. ²⁷They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end. ²⁸Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. ²⁹He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. ³⁰Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven. ³¹On that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! ³²Let them

exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

³³He turneth rivers into a wilderness, and the watersprings into dry ground; ³⁴a fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein. ³⁵He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into water springs. ³⁶And there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation; ³⁷and sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase. ³⁸He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly; and suffereth not their cattle to decrease.

³⁹Again, they are minished and brought low through oppression, affliction, and sorrow. ⁴⁰He poureth contempt upon princes, and causeth them to wander in the wilderness, where there is no way. ⁴¹Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction, and maketh him families like a flock. ⁴²The righteous shall see it, and rejoice; and all iniquity shall stop her mouth.

⁴³Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving-kindness of the LORD.

Through God we shall do valiantly

108 ¹O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. ²Awake, psaltery and harp; I myself will awake early. ³I will praise thee, O LORD, among the people; and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations. ⁴For thy mercy is great above the heavens; and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds.

⁵Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; and thy glory above all the earth; ⁶that thy beloved may be delivered; save with thy right hand, and answer me.

⁷God hath spoken in his holiness, "I will rejoice, I will divide Shechem, and mete out the valley of Succoth. ⁸Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine; Ephraim also is the strength of mine head; Judah is my lawgiver; ⁹Moab is my washpot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe; over Philistia will I triumph."

¹⁰Who will bring me into the strong city? Who will lead me into Edom? ¹¹Wilt not thou, O God, who hast cast us off? And wilt not thou, O God, go forth with our hosts? ¹²Give us help from trouble; for vain is the help of man. ¹³Through God we shall do valiantly; for he it is that shall tread down our enemies.

Deliver thou me

109 ¹Hold not thy peace, O God of my praise; ²for the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are opened against me; they have spoken against me with a lying tongue. ³They compassed me about; they spake against me also, with words of hatred; and fought against me without a cause. ⁴And, notwithstanding my love, they are my adversaries; yet I will continue in prayer for them. ⁵And they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love.

⁶Set thou a wicked man over them; and let Satan stand at his right hand. ⁷When they shall be judged, let them be condemned; and let their prayer become sin. ⁸Let their days be few; let another take their office. ⁹Let their children be fatherless; and their wives widows. ¹⁰Let their children be continually vagabonds, and beg; let them seek also out of their desolate places. ¹¹Let the extortioner catch all that they have; and let the stranger spoil their labor. ¹²Let there be none to extend mercy unto them; neither let there be any to favor their fatherless children. ¹³Let their posterity be cut off in the generation following; let their names be blotted out. ¹⁴Let the iniquity of their fathers be remembered before the LORD;

and let not the sin of their mothers be blotted out. ¹⁵Let them be before the LORD continually, that he may cut off the memory of them from the earth.

¹⁶Because they remembered not to show mercy, but persecuted the poor and needy man, that they might even slay the broken in heart. ¹⁷As they loved cursing, so let it come upon them; as they delighted not in blessing, so let it be far from them. ¹⁸As they clothed themselves with cursing like as with their garments, so let it come into their bowels like water, and like oil into their bones. ¹⁹Let it be unto them as a garment which covereth them, and for a girdle wherewith they are girded continually. ²⁰This shall be the reward of mine adversaries, from the LORD; and of them who speak evil against my soul.

²¹But do thou deliver me, O LORD my God, for thy name's sake; because thy mercy is good, therefore deliver thou me. ²²For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me. ²³I am gone like the shadow when it declineth; I am tossed up and down as the locust. ²⁴My knees are weak through fasting; and my flesh faileth of fatness. ²⁵I became also a reproach unto them; when they looked upon me they shook their heads.

²⁶Help me, O LORD my God; oh save me according to thy mercy; ²⁷that they may know that this is thy hand; that thou, LORD, hast done it. ²⁸Let them curse, but bless thou; when they arise, let them be ashamed; but let thy servant rejoice. ²⁹Let mine adversaries be clothed with shame; and let them cover themselves with their own confusion, as with a mantle.

³⁰I will greatly praise the LORD with my mouth; yea, I will praise him among the multitude. ³¹For he shall stand at the right hand of the poor, to save him from those that condemn his soul.

A priest forever after the order of Melchizedek

110 ¹The LORD said unto my LORD, "Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool."

²The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion; rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. ³Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning; thou hast the dew of thy youth. ⁴The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, "Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

⁵The LORD at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath. ⁶He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill their streets with their dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries. ⁷He shall drink of the brook in the way; therefore shall he lift up the head.

Fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom

111 ¹Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation. ²The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. ³His work is honorable and glorious; and his righteousness endureth forever. ⁴He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and full of compassion. ⁵He hath given meat unto them that fear him; he will ever be mindful of his covenant. ⁶He hath showed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen.

⁷The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. ⁸They stand fast forever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness. ⁹He sent redemption unto his people; he hath commanded his covenant forever; holy and reverend is his name.

¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all they that do his commandments; his praise endureth forever.

Blessed in the man who fears the LORD

112 ¹Praise ye the LORD, Blessed is the man who feareth the LORD, and delighteth greatly in his commandments. ²His seed shall be mighty upon earth; the generation of the upright shall be blessed. ³Wealth and riches shall be in his house; and his righteousness endureth forever. ⁴Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness; he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous. ⁵A good man showeth favor, and lendeth; he will guide his affairs with discretion. ⁶Surely he shall not be moved forever; the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. ⁷He shall not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD. ⁸His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see judgment executed upon his enemies. ⁹He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth forever; his horn shall be exalted with honor. ¹⁰The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away; the desire of the wicked shall perish.

Who is like unto the LORD?

113 ¹Praise ye the LORD. Praise, O ye servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD. ²Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. ³From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD's name is to be praised. ⁴The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens. ⁵Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high, ⁶who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth! ⁷He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill; ⁸that he may set him with princes, even with the princes of his people. ⁹He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD.

Tremble at the presence of the LORD

114 ¹When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language; ²Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion. ³The sea saw it, and fled; Jordan was driven back. ⁴The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like lambs. ⁵What ailed thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest? Thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back? ⁶Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams; and ye little hills, like lambs? ⁷Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the God of Jacob; ⁸which turned the rock into a standing water, the flint into a fountain of waters.

Unto thy name be glory

115 ¹Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name be glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake. ²Wherefore should the heathen say, "Where is now their God?" ³But our God is in the heavens; he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased. ⁴Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. ⁵They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not; ⁶they have ears, but they hear not; noses have they, but they smell not; ⁷they have hands, but they handle not; feet have they, but they

walk not; neither speak they through their throat. ⁸They that make them are like unto them; so is everyone that trusteth in them.

⁹O Israel, trust thou in the LORD; he is thy help and thy shield. ¹⁰O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD; he is thy help and thy shield. ¹¹Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD; he is your help and your shield.

¹²The LORD hath been mindful of us; he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron. ¹³He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great.

¹⁴The LORD shall increase you more and more, you and your children. ¹⁵Ye are blessed of the LORD which made heaven and earth.

¹⁶The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's; but the earth hath he given to the children of men. ¹⁷The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.

¹⁸But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD.

The LORD preserves the simple

116 ¹I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications.

²Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

³The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me; I found trouble and sorrow. ⁴Then called I upon the name of the LORD; O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.

⁵Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful. ⁶The LORD preserveth the simple; I was brought low, and he helped me. ⁷Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee.

⁸For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. ⁹I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

¹⁰I believed, therefore have I spoken, "I was greatly afflicted;" ¹¹I said in my haste, "All men are liars."

¹²What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me? ¹³I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD. ¹⁴I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people. ¹⁵Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. ¹⁶O LORD, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid; thou hast loosed my bonds. ¹⁷I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD. ¹⁸I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people, ¹⁹In the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.

The truth of the LORD endures forever

117 ¹Oh praise the LORD, all ye nations; praise him all ye people. ²For his merciful kindness is great toward us; and the truth of the LORD endureth forever. Praise ye the LORD.

The LORD's mercy endures forever

118 ¹Oh give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; because his mercy endureth forever.

²Let Israel now say, that his mercy endureth forever. ³Let the house of Aaron now say, that his mercy endureth forever. ⁴Let them now that fear the LORD say, that his mercy endureth forever.

⁵I called upon the LORD in distress; the LORD answered me, and set me in a large place.
⁶The LORD is on my side; I will not fear; what can man do unto me? ⁷The LORD taketh my part with them that help me; therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me.

⁸It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. ⁹It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

¹⁰All nations compassed me about; but in the name of the LORD will I destroy them.

¹¹They compassed me about; yea, they compassed me about; but in the name of the LORD I will destroy them. ¹²They compassed me about like bees; they are quenched as the fire of thorns; for in the name of the LORD I will destroy them. ¹³Thou hast thrust sore at me that I might fall; but the LORD helped me.

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation. ¹⁵The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous; the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly. ¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly.

¹⁷I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD. ¹⁸The LORD hath chastened me sore; but he hath not given me over unto death.

¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go into them, and I will praise the LORD; ²⁰this gate of the LORD, into which the righteous shall enter. ²¹I will praise thee; for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. ²²The stone which the builders refused has become the headstone of the corner. ²³This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD; O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity.

²⁶Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD; we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD. ²⁷God is the LORD, which hath showed us light; bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar.

²⁸Thou art my God, and I will praise thee; thou art my God, I will exalt thee. ²⁹Oh give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever.

Thy word is settled in heaven

119 א ALEPH

¹Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. ²Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. ³They also do no iniquity; they walk in his ways. ⁴Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. ⁵Oh that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! ⁶Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments. ⁷I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments. ⁸I will keep thy statutes; oh forsake me not utterly.

ב BETH

⁹Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. ¹⁰With my whole heart have I sought thee; oh let me not wander from thy commandments. ¹¹Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. ¹²Blessed art thou, O LORD; teach me thy statutes. ¹³With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth. ¹⁴I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. ¹⁵I will meditate upon thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. ¹⁶I will delight myself in thy statutes; I will not forget thy word.

This psalm is an acrostic poem. Each verse within a stanza begins with the designated letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

ג GIMEL

¹⁷Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word. ¹⁸Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. ¹⁹I am a stranger in the earth; hide not thy commandments from me. ²⁰My heart breaketh, for my soul longeth after thy judgments at all times. ²¹Thou hast rebuked the proud; they are cursed who do err from thy commandments. ²²Remove from me reproach and contempt; for I have kept thy testimonies. ²³Princes also did sit and speak against me; but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes. ²⁴Thy testimonies also are my delight, and my counselors.

ד DALETH

²⁵My soul cleaveth unto the dust; quicken thou me according to thy word. ²⁶I have declared my ways, and thou heardest me; teach me thy statutes. ²⁷Make me to understand the way of thy precepts; so shall I talk of thy wondrous works. ²⁸My soul melteth for heaviness; strengthen thou me according unto thy word. ²⁹Remove from me the way of lying; and grant me thy law graciously. ³⁰I have chosen the way of truth; thy judgments have I laid before me. ³¹I have stuck unto thy testimonies; O LORD, put me not to shame. ³²I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.

ה HE

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it to the end. ³⁴Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. ³⁵Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. ³⁶Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. ³⁷Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way. ³⁸Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear. ³⁹Turn away my reproach which I fear; for thy judgments are good. ⁴⁰Behold, I have longed after thy precepts; quicken me in thy righteousness.

ו VAU

⁴¹Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, even thy salvation, according to thy word. ⁴²So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me; for I trust in thy word. ⁴³And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments. ⁴⁴So shall I keep thy law continually forever and ever. ⁴⁵And I will walk at liberty; for I seek thy precepts. ⁴⁶I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed. ⁴⁷And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved. ⁴⁸My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate upon thy statutes.

ז ZAIN

⁴⁹Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope. ⁵⁰This is my comfort in my affliction; for thy word hath quickened me. ⁵¹The proud have had me greatly in derision; yet have I not declined from thy law. ⁵²I remembered thy judgments of old, O LORD; and have comforted myself. ⁵³Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law. ⁵⁴Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage. ⁵⁵I have remembered thy name, O LORD, in the night, and have kept thy law. ⁵⁶This I had, because I kept thy precepts.

ח CHETH

⁵⁷Thou art my portion, O LORD; I have said that I would keep thy words. ⁵⁸I entreated thy favor with my whole heart; be merciful unto me according to thy word. ⁵⁹I thought

on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies. ⁶⁰I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments. ⁶¹The bands of the wicked have robbed me; but I have not forgotten thy law. ⁶²At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments. ⁶³I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts. ⁶⁴The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy; teach me thy statutes.

U TETH

⁶⁵Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, according unto thy word. ⁶⁶Teach me good judgment and knowledge; for I have believed thy commandments. ⁶⁷Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now have I kept thy word. ⁶⁸Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes. ⁶⁹The proud have forged a lie against me; but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart. ⁷⁰Their heart is as fat as grease; but I delight in thy law. ⁷¹It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes. ⁷²The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.

J JOD

⁷³Thy hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments. ⁷⁴They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word. ⁷⁵I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me. ⁷⁶Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant. ⁷⁷Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live; for thy law is my delight. ⁷⁸Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause; but I will meditate upon thy precepts. ⁷⁹Let those that fear thee turn unto me, and those that have known thy testimonies. ⁸⁰Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed.

C CAPH

⁸¹My soul fainteth for thy salvation; but I hope in thy word. ⁸²Mine eyes fail for thy word, saying, "When wilt thou comfort me?" ⁸³For I am become like a bottle in the smoke; yet do I not forget thy statutes. ⁸⁴How many are the days of thy servant? When wilt thou execute judgment on them that persecute me? ⁸⁵The proud have digged pits for me, which are not after thy law. ⁸⁶All thy commandments are faithful; they persecute me wrongfully; help thou me. ⁸⁷They had almost consumed me upon earth; but I forsook not thy precepts. ⁸⁸Quicken me after thy loving-kindness; so shall I keep the testimony of thy mouth.

L LAMED

⁸⁹Forever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. ⁹⁰Thy faithfulness is unto all generations; thou hast established the earth, and it abideth. ⁹¹They continue this day according to thine ordinances; for all are thy servants. ⁹²Unless thy law had been my delight, I should then have perished in mine affliction. ⁹³I will never forget thy precepts; for with them thou hast quickened me. ⁹⁴I am thine, save me; for I have sought thy precepts. ⁹⁵The wicked have waited for me to destroy me; but I will consider thy testimonies. ⁹⁶I have seen an end of all perfection; but thy commandment is exceeding broad.

M MEM

⁹⁷Oh how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day. ⁹⁸Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies; for they are ever with me. ⁹⁹I have more understanding than all my teachers; for thy testimonies are my meditation. ¹⁰⁰I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. ¹⁰¹I have refrained my feet

from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. ¹⁰²I have not departed from thy judgments; for thou hast taught me. ¹⁰³How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth. ¹⁰⁴Through thy precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

י NUN

¹⁰⁵Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. ¹⁰⁶I have sworn and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgments. ¹⁰⁷I am afflicted very much; quicken me, O LORD, according unto thy word. ¹⁰⁸Accept, I beseech thee, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me thy judgments. ¹⁰⁹My soul is continually in thy hand; and I do not forget thy law. ¹¹⁰The wicked have laid a snare for me; yet I erred not from thy precepts. ¹¹¹Thy testimonies have I taken as a heritage forever; for they are the rejoicing of my heart. ¹¹²I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes always, even unto the end.

ו SAMECH

¹¹³I hate vain thoughts; but thy law do I love. ¹¹⁴Thou art my hiding place and my shield; I hope in thy word. ¹¹⁵Depart from me, ye evildoers; for I will keep the commandments of my God. ¹¹⁶Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live; and let me not be ashamed of my hope. ¹¹⁷Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe; and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually. ¹¹⁸Thou hast trodden down all them that err from thy statutes; for their deceit is falsehood. ¹¹⁹Thou puttest away all the wicked of the earth like dross; therefore I love thy testimonies. ¹²⁰My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments.

ז AIN

¹²¹I have done judgment and justice; leave me not to mine oppressors. ¹²²Be surety for thy servant for good; let not the proud oppress me. ¹²³Mine eyes fail for thy salvation, and for the word of thy righteousness. ¹²⁴Deal with thy servant according unto thy mercy, and teach me thy statutes. ¹²⁵I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies, ¹²⁶and the time, O LORD, for me to work; for they have made void thy law. ¹²⁷Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. ¹²⁸Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be thy right; and I hate every false way.

ח PE

¹²⁹Thy testimonies are wonderful; therefore doth my soul keep them. ¹³⁰The entrance of thy words giveth light; they give understanding unto the simple. ¹³¹I opened my mouth, and panted; for I longed for thy commandments. ¹³²Look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name. ¹³³Order my steps in thy word; and let not any iniquity have dominion over me. ¹³⁴Deliver me from the oppression of man; so will I keep thy precepts. ¹³⁵Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes. ¹³⁶Rivers of water run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.

ט TZADDI

¹³⁷Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy judgments. ¹³⁸Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful. ¹³⁹My zeal hath consumed me, because mine enemies have forgotten thy words. ¹⁴⁰Thy word is very pure; therefore thy servant loveth it. ¹⁴¹I am small and despised; yet do not I forget thy precepts. ¹⁴²Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth. ¹⁴³Trouble and

anguish have taken hold on me; yet thy commandments are my delights. ¹⁴⁴The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting; give me understanding, and I shall live.

7 KOPH

¹⁴⁵I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O LORD; I will keep thy statutes. ¹⁴⁶I cried unto thee; save me, and I shall keep thy testimonies. ¹⁴⁷I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried; I hoped in thy word. ¹⁴⁸Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word. ¹⁴⁹Hear my voice according unto thy loving-kindness; O LORD, quicken me according to thy judgment. ¹⁵⁰They draw nigh that follow after mischief; they are far from thy law. ¹⁵¹Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth. ¹⁵²Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them forever.

7 RESH

¹⁵³Consider mine affliction, and deliver me; for I do not forget thy law. ¹⁵⁴Plead my cause, and deliver me; quicken me according to thy word. ¹⁵⁵Salvation is far from the wicked; for they seek not thy statutes. ¹⁵⁶Great are thy tender mercies, O LORD; quicken me according to thy judgments. ¹⁵⁷Many are my persecutors and mine enemies; yet do I not decline from thy testimonies. ¹⁵⁸I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not thy word. ¹⁵⁹Consider how I love thy precepts; quicken me, O LORD, according to thy loving-kindness. ¹⁶⁰Thy word is true from the beginning; and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth forever.

U SCHIN

¹⁶¹Princes have persecuted me without a cause; but my heart standeth in awe of thy word. ¹⁶²I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil. ¹⁶³I hate and abhor lying; but thy law do I love. ¹⁶⁴Seven times a day do I praise thee, because of thy righteous judgments. ¹⁶⁵Great peace have they which love thy law; and nothing shall offend them. ¹⁶⁶LORD, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments. ¹⁶⁷My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly. ¹⁶⁸I have kept thy precepts and thy testimonies; for all my ways are before thee.

7 TAU

¹⁶⁹Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD; give me understanding according to thy word. ¹⁷⁰Let my supplication come before thee; deliver me according to thy word. ¹⁷¹My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes. ¹⁷²My tongue shall speak of thy word; for all thy commandments are righteousness. ¹⁷³Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts. ¹⁷⁴I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight. ¹⁷⁵Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee, and let thy judgments help me. ¹⁷⁶I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.

Deliver my soul, O LORD

120

¹In my distress I cried unto the LORD, and he heard me. ²Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue.

³What shall be given unto thee? Or what shall be done unto thee, thou false tongue?

⁴Sharp arrows of the mighty, with coals of juniper.

⁵Woe is me, that I sojourn in Mesech, that I dwell in the tents of Kedar! ⁶My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace. ⁷I am for peace; but when I speak, they are for war.

My help comes from the LORD

- 121** ¹I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. ²My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.
- ³Behold, he that keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. ⁴He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; he that keeps thee will not slumber.
- ⁵The LORD is thy keeper; the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. ⁶The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.
- ⁷The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil; he shall preserve thy soul. ⁸The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore.

Jerusalem

- 122** ¹I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD." ²Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.
- ³Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together; ⁴whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD.
- ⁵For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.
- ⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee. ⁷Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. ⁸For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee. ⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.

Wait upon the LORD

- 123** ¹Unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens. ²Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God, until that he have mercy upon us.
- ³Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us; for we are exceedingly filled with contempt. ⁴Our soul is exceedingly filled with the scorning of those that are at ease, and with the contempt of the proud.

Our help is in the name of the LORD

- 124** ¹Now may Israel say, "If the LORD was not on our side when men rose up against us, ²then they had swallowed us up quick when their wrath was kindled against us. ⁴Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul; ⁵then the proud waters had gone over our soul."
- ⁶Blessed be the LORD, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth. ⁷Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we are escaped. ⁸Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

The LORD is round about his people

- 125** ¹They that trust in the LORD in mount Zion, cannot be removed, but abide forever. ²As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even forever. ³For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity. ⁴Do good, O LORD, unto the good, and unto the upright in their hearts. ⁵As for such as turn aside unto their

crooked ways, the LORD shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity; but peace shall be upon Israel.

The captivity of Zion

- 126 ¹When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. ²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongues with singing; then said they among the heathen, "The LORD hath done great things for them." ³The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.
- ⁴Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south. ⁵They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. ⁶He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Children are a heritage of the LORD

- 127 ¹Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it; except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. ²It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows; for so he giveth his beloved sleep.
- ³Lo, children are a heritage of the LORD; and the fruit of the womb is his reward. ⁴As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. ⁵Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

Blessed are those that fear the LORD

- 128 ¹Blessed is everyone that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways. ²For thou shalt eat the labor of thine hands; happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.
- ³Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house; thy children like olive plants round about thy table. ⁴Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD.
- ⁵The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion; and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. ⁶Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.

Let them that hate Zion be confounded

- 129 ¹Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth, may Israel now say; ²many a time have they afflicted me from my youth; yet they have not prevailed against me. ³The ploughers ploughed upon my back; they made long their furrows. ⁴The LORD is righteous; he hath cut asunder the cords of the wicked. ⁵Let them all be confounded and turned back that hate Zion. ⁶Let them be as the grass upon the housetops, which withereth afore it groweth up. ⁷Wherewith the mower filleth not his hand; nor he that bindeth sheaves his bosom. ⁸Neither do they which go by say, "The blessing of the LORD be upon you; we bless you in the name of the LORD."

Let Israel hope in the LORD

- 130 ¹Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD. ²LORD, hear my voice; let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.
- ³If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O LORD, who shall stand? ⁴But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.

⁵I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. ⁶My soul waiteth for the LORD more than they that watch for the morning; I say, more than they that watch for the morning.

⁷Let Israel hope in the LORD; for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. ⁸And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Let Israel hope in the LORD

131 ¹LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty; neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me. ²Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother; my soul is even as a weaned child.

³Let Israel hope in the LORD from henceforth and forever.

The LORD has chosen Zion

132 ¹LORD, remember David, and all his afflictions; ²how he swore unto the LORD, and vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob; ³“Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed; ⁴I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids, ⁵until I find out a place for the LORD, a habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.”

⁶Lo, we heard of it at Ephratah; we found it in the fields of the wood. ⁷We will go into his tabernacles, we will worship at his footstool.

⁸Arise, O LORD, into thy rest; thou, and the ark of thy strength. ⁹Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy. ¹⁰For thy servant David’s sake turn not away the face of thine anointed.

¹¹The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; “Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne. ¹²If thy children will keep my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon thy throne forevermore.”

¹³For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. ¹⁴“This is my rest forever; here will I dwell; for I have desired it. ¹⁵I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her poor with bread. ¹⁶I will also clothe her priests with salvation; and her saints shall shout aloud for joy. ¹⁷There will I make the horn of David to bud; I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed. ¹⁸His enemies will I clothe with shame; but upon himself shall his crown flourish.”

Brethren dwell in unity

133 ¹Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! ²It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard; that went down to the skirts of his garments; ³as the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion; for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life forevermore.

Bless the LORD

134 ¹Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD, which by night stand in the house of the LORD. ²Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD. ³The LORD that made heaven and earth bless thee out of Zion.

The LORD is above all gods

- 135** ¹Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the name of the LORD; praise him, O ye servants of the LORD. ²Ye that stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God, ³praise the LORD; for the LORD is good; sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant. ⁴For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure.
- ⁵For I know that the LORD is great, and that our LORD is above all gods. ⁶Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places. ⁷He causeth the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings for the rain; he bringeth the wind out of his treasures.
- ⁸Who smote the first-born of Egypt, both of man and beast. ⁹Who sent tokens and wonders into the midst of thee, O Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his servants. ¹⁰Who smote great nations, and slew mighty kings; ¹¹Sihon king of the Amorites, and Og king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan; ¹²and gave their land for a heritage, a heritage unto Israel his people.
- ¹³Thy name, O LORD, endureth forever; and thy memorial, O LORD, throughout all generations. ¹⁴For the LORD will judge his people, and he will not repent himself concerning his servants.
- ¹⁵The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. ¹⁶They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not; ¹⁷they have ears, but they hear not; neither is there any breath in their mouths. ¹⁸They that make them are like unto them; so is everyone that trusteth in them.
- ¹⁹Bless the LORD, O house of Israel; bless the LORD, O house of Aaron. ²⁰Bless the LORD, O house of Levi; ye that fear the LORD, bless the LORD. ²¹Blessed be the LORD out of Zion; Blessed be the LORD out of Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.

Give thanks unto the LORD

- 136** ¹Oh give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever.
- ²Oh give thanks unto the God of gods; for his mercy endureth forever.
- ³Oh give thanks to the LORD of lords; for his mercy endureth forever.
- ⁴To him who alone doeth great wonders; for his mercy endureth forever.
- ⁵To him that by wisdom made the heavens; for his mercy endureth forever.
- ⁶To him that stretched out the earth above the waters; for his mercy endureth forever.
- ⁷To him that made great lights; for his mercy endureth forever; ⁸the sun to rule by day; for his mercy endureth forever; ⁹the moon and stars to rule by night; for his mercy endureth forever.
- ¹⁰To him that smote Egypt in their first-born; for his mercy endureth forever; ¹¹and brought out Israel from among them; for his mercy endureth forever; ¹²with a strong hand, and with a stretched-out arm; for his mercy endureth forever.
- ¹³To him which divided the Red Sea into parts; for his mercy endureth forever; ¹⁴and made Israel to pass through the midst of it; for his mercy endureth forever; ¹⁵but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea; for his mercy endureth forever.
- ¹⁶To him which led his people through the wilderness; for his mercy endureth forever.
- ¹⁷To him which smote great kings; for his mercy endureth forever; ¹⁸and slew famous kings; for his mercy endureth forever; ¹⁹Sihon king of the Amorites; for his mercy

endureth forever; ²⁰and Og the king of Bashan; for his mercy endureth forever; ²¹and gave their land for a heritage; for his mercy endureth forever; ²²even a heritage unto Israel his servant; for his mercy endureth forever.

²³Who remembered us in our low estate; for his mercy endureth forever; ²⁴and hath redeemed us from our enemies; for his mercy endureth forever.

²⁵Who giveth food to all flesh; for his mercy endureth forever.

²⁶Oh give thanks unto the God of heaven; for his mercy endureth forever.

We wept when we remembered Zion

137 ¹By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. ²We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. ³For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion.”

⁴How shall we sing the LORD’s song in a strange land? ⁵If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its cunning. ⁶If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.

⁷Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, “Raze it, even to the foundation thereof.” ⁸O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us. ⁹Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.

The LORD will perfect me in knowledge

138 ¹I will praise thee with my whole heart; before the gods will I sing praise unto thee. ²I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving-kindness and for thy truth; for that hast magnified thy word above all thy name. ³In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.

⁴All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O LORD, when they hear the words of thy mouth. ⁵Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the LORD; for great is the glory of the LORD. ⁶Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly; but the proud he knoweth afar off.

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me; thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me. ⁸The LORD will perfect me in knowledge, concerning his kingdom. I will praise thee O Lord, forever; for thou art merciful, and wilt not forsake the works of thine own hands.

that which concerneth me: thy mercy O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not

How precious are thy thoughts unto me

139 ¹O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. ²Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. ³Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. ⁴For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. ⁵Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

⁷Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? ⁸If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. ⁹If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; ¹⁰even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. ¹¹If I say, “Surely the darkness shall

cover me; even the night shall be light about me.” ¹²Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

¹³For thou hast possessed my reins; thou hast covered me in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. ¹⁵My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet I knew none of them.

¹⁷How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! ¹⁸If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with thee. ¹⁹Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God; depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. ²⁰For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain. ²¹Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? And am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? ²²I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them mine enemies.

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; ²⁴and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

The LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted

140 ¹Deliver me, O LORD, from the evil man; preserve me from the violent man; ²which imagine mischiefs in their heart; continually are they gathered together for war. ³They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; adders’ poison is under their lips. Selah.

⁴Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked; preserve me from the violent man; who have purposed to overthrow my goings. ⁵The proud have hid a snare for me, and cords; they have spread a net by the wayside; they have set gins for me. Selah.

⁶I said unto the LORD, “Thou art my God; hear the voice of my supplications, O LORD. ⁷O GOD the LORD, the strength of my salvation, thou hast covered my head in the day of battle. ⁸Grant not, O LORD, the desires of the wicked; further not his wicked device; lest they exalt themselves.” Selah.

⁹As for the head of those that compass me about, let the mischief of their own lips cover them. ¹⁰Let burning coals fall upon them; let them be cast into the fire; into deep pits, that they rise not up again. ¹¹Let not an evil speaker be established in the earth; evil shall hunt the violent man to overthrow him.

¹²I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the right of the poor. ¹³Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name; the upright shall dwell in thy presence.

In thee is my trust

141 ¹LORD, I cry unto thee; make haste unto me; give ear unto my voice, when I cry unto thee. ²Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

³Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips. ⁴Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practice wicked works with men that work iniquity; and let me not eat of their dainties.

⁵When the righteous smite me with the word of the Lord it is a kindness; and when they reprove me, it shall be an excellent oil, and shall not destroy my faith; for yet my prayer also shall be for them. I delight not in their calamities. ⁶When their judges are overthrown

head

in stony places, they shall hear my words; for they are sweet. ⁷Our bones are scattered at the grave's mouth, as when one cutteth and cleaveth wood upon the earth.

⁸But mine eyes are unto thee, O GOD the LORD; in thee is my trust; leave not my soul destitute. ⁹Keep me from the snares which they have laid for me, and the gins of the workers of iniquity. ¹⁰Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst that I withal escape.

Thou art my refuge

142 *A prayer when he was in the cave.*

¹I cried unto the LORD with my voice; with my voice unto the LORD did I make my supplication. ²I poured out my complaint before him; I showed before him my trouble.

³When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me. ⁴I looked on my right hand, and behold, but there was no man that would know me; refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.

⁵I cried unto thee, O LORD; I said, "Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living. ⁶Attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low; deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I. ⁷Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name; the righteous shall compass me about; for thou shalt deal bountifully with me."

Teach me to do thy will

143 ¹Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications; in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness. ²And enter not into judgment with thy servant; for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

³For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground; he hath made me to dwell in darkness, as those that have long been dead. ⁴Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate.

⁵I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands.

⁶I stretch forth my hands unto thee; my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land. Selah.

⁷Hear me speedily, O LORD; my spirit faileth; hide not thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. ⁸Cause me to hear thy loving-kindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust; cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.

⁹Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies; I flee unto thee to hide me. ¹⁰Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God; thy Spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

¹¹Quicken me, O LORD, for thy name's sake; for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. ¹²And of thy mercy cut off mine enemies, and destroy all them that afflict my soul; for I am thy servant.

Happy is that people whose god is the LORD

144 ¹Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight; ²my goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me.

³LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! Or the son of man, that thou makest account of him! ⁴Man is like to vanity; his days are as a shadow that passeth away.

⁵Bow thy heavens, O LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. ⁶Cast forth lightning, and scatter them; shoot out thine arrows, and destroy them. ⁷Send thine hand from above; rid me, and deliver me out of great waters, from the hand of strange children; ⁸whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

⁹I will sing a new song unto thee, O God; upon a psaltery and an instrument of ten strings will I sing praises unto thee. ¹⁰It is he that giveth salvation unto kings; who delivereth David his servant from the hurtful sword. ¹¹Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood; ¹²that our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as cornerstones, polished after the similitude of a palace; ¹³that our garners may be full, affording all manner of store; that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets; ¹⁴that our oxen may be strong to labor; that there be no breaking in, nor going out; that there be no complaining in our streets. ¹⁵Happy is that people, that is in such a case; yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD.

The LORD is righteous in all his ways

145 ¹I will extol thee, my God, O King; and I will bless thy name forever and ever. ²Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name forever and ever. ³Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.

⁴One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. ⁵I will speak of the glorious honor of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works. ⁶And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts; and I will declare thy greatness. ⁷They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness.

⁸The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. ⁹The LORD is good to all; and his tender mercies are over all his works.

¹⁰All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee. ¹¹They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; ¹²to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. ¹³Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

¹⁴The LORD upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down. ¹⁵The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. ¹⁶Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. ¹⁷The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works. ¹⁸The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. ¹⁹He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him; he also will hear their cry, and will save them. ²⁰The LORD preserveth all them that love him; but all the wicked will he destroy. ²¹My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD; and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

Put not your trust in princes

146 ¹Praise ye the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul. ²While I live will I praise the LORD; I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

³Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. ⁴His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.

⁵Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God. ⁶Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is; which keeps truth forever;

⁷which executeth judgment for the oppressed; which giveth food to the hungry. The LORD looseth the prisoners;

⁸The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind; the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down; the LORD loveth the righteous; ⁹the LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow; but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down. ¹⁰The LORD shall reign forever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the LORD.

The LORD heals the broken in heart

147 ¹Praise ye the LORD; for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely. ²The LORD doth build up Jerusalem; he gathereth together the outcasts of Israel. ³He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. ⁴He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. ⁵Great is our LORD, and of great power; his understanding is infinite. ⁶The LORD lifteth up the meek he casteth the wicked down to the ground.

⁷Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God; ⁸who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains. ⁹He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry. ¹⁰He delighteth not in the strength of the horse; he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man. ¹¹The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.

¹²Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise thy God, O Zion. ¹³For he hath strengthened the bars of thy gates; he hath blessed thy children within thee. ¹⁴He maketh peace in thy borders, and filleth thee with the finest of the wheat. ¹⁵He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth; his word runneth very swiftly. ¹⁶He giveth snow like wool; he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes. ¹⁷He casteth forth his ice like morsels; who can stand before his cold? ¹⁸He sendeth out his word, and melteth them; he causeth his wind to blow, and the waters flow. ¹⁹He showeth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel. ²⁰He hath not dealt so with any nation; and as for his judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the LORD.

Praise ye the LORD

148 ¹Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights. ²Praise ye him, all his angels; praise ye him, all his hosts.

³Praise ye him, sun and moon; praise him, all ye stars of light. ⁴Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded, and they were created. ⁶He hath also stablished them forever and ever; he hath made a decree which shall not pass.

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps; ⁸fire, and hail; snow, and vapor; stormy wind fulfilling his word; ⁹mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars; ¹⁰beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl; ¹¹kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth; ¹²both young men, and maidens; old men, and children; ¹³let them praise the name of the LORD; for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.

¹⁴He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the LORD.

The LORD takes pleasure in his people

149 ¹Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints. ²Let Israel rejoice in him that made him; let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. ³Let them praise his name in the dance; let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp. ⁴For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people; he will beautify the meek with salvation. ⁵Let the saints be joyful in glory; let them sing aloud upon their beds. ⁶Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand; ⁷to execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; ⁸to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; ⁹to execute upon them the judgment written; this honor have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD.

The everything that has breath praise the LORD

150 ¹Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in the firmament of his power. ²Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to his excellent greatness. ³Praise him with the sound of the trumpet; praise him with the psaltery and harp. ⁴Praise him with the timbrel and dance; praise him with stringed instruments and organs. ⁵Praise him upon the loud cymbals; praise him upon the high-sounding cymbals. ⁶Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

PROVERBS

¹The Proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: ²to know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; ³to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; ⁴to give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. ⁵A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels; ⁶to understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

⁷The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

⁸My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother; ⁹for they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

The enticements of sinners

¹⁰My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. ¹¹If they say, "Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause; ¹²let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit; ¹³we shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil; ¹⁴cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse;" ¹⁵my son walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path; ¹⁶for their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood. ¹⁷Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. ¹⁸And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives. ¹⁹So are the ways of everyone that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

Wisdom

²⁰Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets; ²¹she crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates; in the city she uttereth her words, saying, ²²"How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? And the scornors delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? ²³Turn you at my reproof; behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. ²⁴Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; ²⁵but ye have set at naught all my counsel, and would none of my reproof; ²⁶I also will laugh at your calamity; will mock when your fear cometh; ²⁷when your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. ²⁸Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me; ²⁹for that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD; ³⁰they would none of my counsel; they despised all my reproof. ³¹Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. ³²For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. ³³But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil."

Apply thy heart to understanding

2 ¹My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; ²so that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; ³yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; ⁴if thou seekest her as silver, and searcheth for her as for hid treasures; ⁵then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. ⁶For the LORD giveth wisdom; out of his mouth

cometh knowledge and understanding. ⁷He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous; he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. ⁸He keeps the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. ⁹Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.

¹⁰When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; ¹¹discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee; ¹²to deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; ¹³who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness; ¹⁴who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked; ¹⁵whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths; ¹⁶to deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words; ¹⁷which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God. ¹⁸For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead. ¹⁹None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.

²⁰That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous.

²¹For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it. ²²But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

Lean not unto thine own understanding

3 ¹My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments; ²for length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

³Let not mercy and truth forsake thee; bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart; ⁴so shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

⁵Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. ⁷Be not wise in thine own eyes; fear the LORD, and depart from evil. ⁸It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

⁹Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase; ¹⁰so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

¹¹My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction; ¹²for whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

Happy is the man that finds wisdom

¹³Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding; ¹⁴for the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. ¹⁵She is more precious than rubies; and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. ¹⁶Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honor. ¹⁷Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. ¹⁸She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her; and happy is everyone that retaineth her.

¹⁹The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens. ²⁰By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

²¹My son, let not them depart from thine eyes; keep sound wisdom and discretion; ²²so shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck. ²³Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble. ²⁴When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid; yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet. ²⁵Be not afraid of sudden fear,

neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. ²⁶For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

²⁷Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it. ²⁸Say not unto thy neighbor, “Go, and come again, and tomorrow I will give;” when thou hast it by thee. ²⁹Devise not evil against thy neighbor, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee. ³⁰Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm. ³¹Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways. ³²For the froward is abomination to the LORD; but his secret is with the righteous. ³³The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked; but he blesseth the habitation of the just. ³⁴Surely he scorneth the scorners; but he giveth grace unto the lowly. ³⁵The wise shall inherit glory; but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

The instruction of a father

4 ¹Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. ²For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. ³For I was my father’s son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. ⁴He taught me also, and said unto me, “Let thine heart retain my words; keep my commandments, and live. ⁵Get wisdom, get understanding; forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. ⁶Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee; love her, and she shall keep thee. ⁷Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom; and with all thy getting get understanding. ⁸Exalt her, and she shall promote thee; she shall bring thee to honor, when thou dost embrace her. ⁹She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace; a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.”

¹⁰Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many. ¹¹I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. ¹²When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble. ¹³Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go; keep her; for she is thy life. ¹⁴Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. ¹⁵Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. ¹⁶For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall. ¹⁷For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. ¹⁸But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

¹⁹The way of the wicked is as darkness; they know not at what they stumble. ²⁰My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. ²¹Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. ²²For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. ²³Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. ²⁴Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. ²⁵Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. ²⁶Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. ²⁷Turn not to the right hand nor to the left; remove thy foot from evil.

Warning against forbidden women

5 ¹My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding; ²that thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge. ³For the lips of a strange woman drop as a honeycomb, and her mouth is smother than oil; ⁴but her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. ⁵Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. ⁶Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are movable, that thou canst not know them.

⁷Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. ⁸Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house; ⁹lest thou give thine honor unto others, and thy years unto the cruel; ¹⁰lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labors be in the house of a stranger; ¹¹and thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed, ¹²and say, "How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; ¹³and have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me! ¹⁴I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly."

¹⁵Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. ¹⁶Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets. ¹⁷Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee. ¹⁸Let thy fountain be blessed; and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. ¹⁹Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love. ²⁰And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger? ²¹For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings. ²²His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins. ²³He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

6 ¹My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger, ²thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth. ³Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend. ⁴Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids. ⁵Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

⁶Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise; ⁷which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, ⁸provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. ⁹How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? ¹⁰Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep; ¹¹so shall thy poverty come as one that traveleth, and thy want as an armed man.

¹²A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth. ¹³He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers; ¹⁴frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord. ¹⁵Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.

¹⁶These six things doth the LORD hate; yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

- ¹⁷a proud look,
- a lying tongue,
- and hands that shed innocent blood,
- ¹⁸a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations,
- feet that be swift in running to mischief,
- ¹⁹a false witness that speaketh lies,
- and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Warning against adultery

²⁰My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother; ²¹bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. ²²When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

²³For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life; ²⁴to keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a

strange women. ²⁵Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. ²⁶For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread; and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.

²⁷Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? ²⁸Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? ²⁹So he that goeth in to his neighbor's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.

³⁰Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; ³¹but if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house. ³²But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding; he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. ³³A wound and dishonor shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.

³⁴For jealousy is the rage of a man; therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.

³⁵He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.

7 ¹My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee. ²Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye. ³Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart. ⁴Say unto wisdom, "Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman; ⁵that they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words."

⁶For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, ⁷and beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths a young man void of understanding, ⁸passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house. ⁹In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night; ¹⁰and, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of a harlot, and subtile of heart. ¹¹(She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house; ¹²now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)

¹³So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, ¹⁴"I have peace offerings with me; this day have I paid my vows. ¹⁵Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. ¹⁶I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. ¹⁷I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. ¹⁸Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning; let us solace ourselves with loves. ¹⁹For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey; ²⁰he hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed."

²¹With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. ²²He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; ²³till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.

²⁴Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.

²⁵Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths. ²⁶For she hath cast down many wounded; yea, many strong men have been slain by her. ²⁷Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

Wisdom is better than rubies

8 ¹Doth not wisdom cry? And understanding put forth her voice? ²She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths. ³She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors. ⁴Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man. ⁵O ye simple, understand wisdom; and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart. ⁶Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right

things. ⁷For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. ⁸All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them. ⁹They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge. ¹⁰Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. ¹¹For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

¹²I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions. ¹³The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. ¹⁴Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding; I have strength. ¹⁵By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. ¹⁶By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth. ¹⁷I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. ¹⁸Riches and honor are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. ¹⁹My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. ²⁰I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment. ²¹That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.

Wisdom was set up from the beginning

²²The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. ²³I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. ²⁴When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.

²⁵Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth; ²⁶while as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.

²⁷When he prepared the heavens, I was there; when he set a compass upon the face of the depth; ²⁸when he established the clouds above; when he strengthened the fountains of the deep; ²⁹when he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment; when he appointed the foundations of the earth; ³⁰then I was by him, as one brought up with him; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; ³¹rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.

³²Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children; for blessed are they that keep my ways.

³³Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. ³⁴Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. ³⁵For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favor of the LORD. ³⁶But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul; all they that hate me love death.

9 ¹Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars; ²she hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table. ³She hath sent forth her maidens; she crieth upon the highest places of the city. ⁴Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither; as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, ⁵“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine which I have mingled. ⁶Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.”

⁷He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame; and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot. ⁸Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee; rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. ⁹Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. ¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding. ¹¹For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased. ¹²If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself; but if thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it.

¹³A foolish woman is clamorous; she is simple, and knoweth nothing. ¹⁴For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city, ¹⁵to call passengers who go

right on their ways; ¹⁶whoso is simple, let him turn in hither; and as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, ¹⁷“Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.” ¹⁸But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell.

The Proverbs of Solomon

10

¹The proverbs of Solomon:

A wise son maketh a glad father; but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

²Treasures of wickedness profit nothing; but righteousness delivereth from death.

³The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish; but he casteth away the substance of the wicked.

⁴He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand; but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

⁵He that gathereth in summer is a wise son; but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame. ⁶Blessings are upon the head of the just; but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.

⁷The memory of the just is blessed; but the name of the wicked shall rot.

⁸The wise in heart will receive commandments; but a prating fool shall fall.

⁹He that walketh uprightly walketh surely; but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.

¹⁰He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow; but a prating fool shall fall.

¹¹The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life; but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.

¹²Hatred stirreth up strifes; but love covereth all sins.

¹³In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found; but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding.

¹⁴Wise men lay up knowledge; but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.

¹⁵The rich man's wealth is his strong city; the destruction of the poor is their poverty.

¹⁶The labor of the righteous tendeth to life; the fruit of the wicked to sin.

¹⁷He is in the way of life that keeps instruction; but he that refuseth reproof erreth.

¹⁸He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.

¹⁹In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin; but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

²⁰The tongue of the just is as choice silver; the heart of the wicked is little worth.

²¹The lips of the righteous feed many; but fools die for want of wisdom.

²²The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

²³It is as sport to a fool to do mischief; but a man of understanding hath wisdom.

²⁴The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him; but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.

²⁵As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more; but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.

²⁶As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him.

²⁷The fear of the LORD prolongeth days; but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

²⁸The hope of the righteous shall be gladness; but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.

²⁹The way of the LORD is strength to the upright; but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

³⁰The righteous shall never be removed; but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth.

³¹The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom; but the froward tongue shall be cut out.

³²The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable; but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness.

¹A false balance is an abomination to the LORD; but a just weight is his delight.

²When pride cometh, then cometh shame; but with the lowly is wisdom.

³The integrity of the upright shall guide them; but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.

⁴Riches profit not in the day of wrath; but righteousness delivereth from death.

⁵The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way; but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.

⁶The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them; but transgressors shall be taken in their own naughtiness.

⁷When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish; and the hope of unjust men perisheth.

⁸The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead.

⁹A hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbor; but through knowledge shall the just be delivered.

¹⁰When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoices; and when the wicked perish, there is shouting.

¹¹By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted; but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

¹²He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbor; but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.

¹³A talebearer revealeth secrets; but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.

¹⁴Where no counsel is, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

¹⁵He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it; and he that hateth suretyship is sure.

¹⁶A gracious woman retaineth honor; and strong men retain riches.

¹⁷The merciful man doeth good to his own soul; but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh.

¹⁸The wicked worketh a deceitful work; but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.

¹⁹As righteousness tendeth to life; so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death.

- ²⁰They that are of a froward heart are an abomination to the LORD; but such as are upright in their way are his delight.
- ²¹Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished; but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.
- ²²As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.
- ²³The desire of the righteous is only good; but the expectation of the wicked is wrath.
- ²⁴There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.
- ²⁵The liberal soul shall be made fat; and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.
- ²⁶He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him; but blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it.
- ²⁷He that diligently seeketh good procureth favor; but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him.
- ²⁸He that trusteth in his riches shall fall; but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.
- ²⁹He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind; and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart.
- ³⁰The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.
- ³¹Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth; much more the wicked and the sinner.

12

- ¹Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge; but he that hateth reproof is brutish.
- ²A good man obtaineth favor of the LORD; but a man of wicked devices will he condemn.
- ³A man shall not be established by wickedness; but the root of the righteous shall not be moved.
- ⁴A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband; but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.
- ⁵The thoughts of the righteous are right; but the counsels of the wicked are deceit.
- ⁶The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood; but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.
- ⁷The wicked are overthrown, and are not; but the house of the righteous shall stand.
- ⁸A man shall be commended according to his wisdom; but he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised.
- ⁹He that is despised, and hath a servant, is better than he that honoreth himself, and lacketh bread.
- ¹⁰A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast; but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.
- ¹¹He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread; but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.
- ¹²The wicked desireth the net of evil men; but the root of the righteous yieldeth fruit.

¹³The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips; but the just shall come out of trouble.

¹⁴A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth; and the recompense of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him.

¹⁵The way of a fool is right in his own eyes; but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

¹⁶A fool's wrath is presently known; but a prudent man covereth shame.

¹⁷He that speaketh truth showeth forth righteousness; but a false witness deceit.

¹⁸There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword; but the tongue of the wise is health.

¹⁹The lip of truth shall be established forever; but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

²⁰Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil; but to the counselors of peace is joy.

²¹There shall no evil happen to the just; but the wicked shall be filled with mischief.

²²Lying lips are abomination to the LORD; but they that deal truly are his delight.

²³A prudent man concealeth knowledge; but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.

²⁴The hand of the diligent shall bear rule; but the slothful shall be under tribute.

²⁵Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop; but a good word maketh it glad.

²⁶The righteous is more excellent than his neighbor; but the way of the wicked seduceth them.

²⁷The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting; but the substance of a diligent man is precious.

²⁸In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.

13 ¹A wise son heareth his father's instruction; but a scorner heareth not rebuke.

²A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth; but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence.

³He that keeps his mouth keeps his life; but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.

⁴The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

⁵A righteous man hateth lying; but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame.

⁶Righteousness keeps him that is upright in the way; but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.

⁷There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing; there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.

⁸The ransom of a man's life are his riches; but the poor heareth not rebuke.

⁹The light of the righteous rejoices; but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.

¹⁰Only by pride cometh contention; but with the well-advised is wisdom.

¹¹Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished; but he that gathereth by labor shall increase.

¹²Hope deferred maketh the heart sick; but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.

¹³Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed; but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.

¹⁴The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

¹⁵Good understanding giveth favor; but the way of transgressors is hard.

¹⁶Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge; but a fool layeth open his folly.

¹⁷A wicked messenger falleth into mischief; but a faithful ambassador is health.

¹⁸Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction; but he that regardeth reproof shall be honored.

¹⁹The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul; but it is an abomination to fools to depart from evil.

²⁰He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

²¹Evil pursueth sinners; but to the righteous good shall be repaid.

²²A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children; and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

²³Much food is in the tillage of the poor; but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment.

²⁴He that spareth his rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

²⁵The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul; but the belly of the wicked shall want.

14 ¹Every wise woman buildeth her house; but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.

²He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD; but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.

³In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride; but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.

⁴Where no oxen are, the crib is clean; but much increase is by the strength of the ox.

⁵A faithful witness will not lie; but a false witness will utter lies.

⁶A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not; but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.

⁷Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.

⁸The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way; but the folly of fools is deceit.

⁹Fools make a mock at sin; but among the righteous there is favor.

¹⁰The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.

¹¹The house of the wicked shall be overthrown; but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish.

¹²There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death.

¹³Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness.

¹⁴The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways; and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.

- ¹⁵The simple believeth every word; but the prudent man looketh well to his going.
- ¹⁶A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil; but the fool rageth, and is confident.
- ¹⁷He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly; and a man of wicked devices is hated.
- ¹⁸The simple inherit folly; but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.
- ¹⁹The evil bow before the good; and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.
- ²⁰The poor is hated even of his own neighbor; but the rich hath many friends.
- ²¹He that despiseth his neighbor sinneth; but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.
- ²²Do they not err that devise evil? But mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good.
- ²³In all labor there is profit; but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.
- ²⁴The crown of the wise is their riches; but the foolishness of fools is folly.
- ²⁵A true witness delivereth souls; but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.
- ²⁶In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence; and his children shall have a place of refuge.
- ²⁷The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.
- ²⁸In the multitude of people is the king's honor; but in the want of people is the destruction of the prince.
- ²⁹He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding; but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.
- ³⁰A sound heart is the life of the flesh; but envy the rottenness of the bones.
- ³¹He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker; but he that honor him hath mercy on the poor.
- ³²The wicked is driven away in his wickedness; but the righteous hath hope in his death.
- ³³Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding; but that which is in the midst of fools is made known.
- ³⁴Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people.
- ³⁵The king's favor is toward a wise servant; but his wrath is against him that causeth shame.

15

- ¹A soft answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger.
- ²The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright; but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.
- ³The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.
- ⁴A wholesome tongue is a tree of life; but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.
- ⁵A fool despiseth his father's instruction; but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.
- ⁶In the house of the righteous is much treasure; but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble.
- ⁷The lips of the wise disperse knowledge; but the heart of the foolish doeth not so.
- ⁸The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD; but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

⁹The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the LORD; but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.

¹⁰Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way; and he that hateth reproof shall die.

¹¹Hell and destruction are before the LORD; how much more then the hearts of the children of men?

¹²A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him; neither will he go unto the wise.

¹³A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance; but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

¹⁴The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge; but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.

¹⁵All the days of the afflicted are evil; but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.

¹⁶Better is little with the fear of the LORD, than great treasure and trouble therewith.

¹⁷Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.

¹⁸A wrathful man stirreth up strife; but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.

¹⁹The way of the slothful man is as a hedge of thorns; but the way of the righteous is made plain.

²⁰A wise son maketh a glad father; but a foolish man despiseth his mother.

²¹Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom; but a man of understanding walketh uprightly.

²²Without counsel purposes are disappointed; but in the multitude of counselors they are established.

²³A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth; and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!

²⁴The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.

²⁵The LORD will destroy the house of the proud; but he will establish the border of the widow.

²⁶The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD; but the words of the pure are pleasant words.

²⁷He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.

²⁸The heart of the righteous studieth to answer; but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.

²⁹The LORD is far from the wicked; but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

³⁰The light of the eyes rejoices the heart; and a good report maketh the bones fat.

³¹The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise.

³²He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul; but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.

³³The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility.

16 ¹The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.

²All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.

³Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

⁴The LORD hath made all things for himself; yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

⁵Everyone that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

⁶By mercy and truth iniquity is purged; and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

⁷When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

⁸Better is a little with righteousness, than great revenues without right.

⁹A man's heart deviseth his way; but the LORD directeth his steps.

¹⁰A divine sentence is in the lips of the king; his mouth transgresseth not in judgment.

¹¹A just weight and balance are the LORD's; all the weights of the bag are his work.

¹²It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness; for the throne is established by righteousness.

¹³Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speaketh right.

¹⁴The wrath of a king is as messengers of death; but a wise man will pacify it.

¹⁵In the light of the king's countenance is life; and his favor is as a cloud of the latter rain.

¹⁶How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

¹⁷The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; he that keeps his way preserveth his soul.

¹⁸Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

¹⁹Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

²⁰He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good; and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he.

²¹The wise in heart shall be called prudent; and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.

²²Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it; but the instruction of fools is folly.

²³The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.

²⁴Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

²⁵There is a way that seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death.

²⁶He that laboreth, laboreth for himself; for his mouth craveth it of him.

²⁷An ungodly man diggeth up evil; and in his lips there is as a burning fire.

²⁸A froward man soweth strife; and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

²⁹A violent man enticeth his neighbor, and leadeth him into a way that is not good.

- ³⁰He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things; moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass.
- ³¹The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.
- ³²He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.
- ³³The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.
- 17** ¹Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than a house full of sacrifices with strife.
- ²A wise servant shall have rule over a son that causeth shame, and shall have part of the inheritance among the brethren.
- ³The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold; but the LORD trieth the hearts.
- ⁴A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue.
- ⁵Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker; and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished.
- ⁶Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.
- ⁷Excellent speech becometh not a fool; much less do lying lips a prince.
- ⁸A gift is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it; whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth.
- ⁹He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.
- ¹⁰A reproof entereth more into a wise man than a hundred stripes into a fool.
- ¹¹An evil man seeketh only rebellion; therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.
- ¹²Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly.
- ¹³Whoso rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house.
- ¹⁴The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water; therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.
- ¹⁵He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.
- ¹⁶Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it?
- ¹⁷A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.
- ¹⁸A man void of understanding striketh hands, and becometh surety in the presence of his friend.
- ¹⁹He loveth transgression that loveth strife; and he that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction.
- ²⁰He that hath a froward heart findeth no good; and he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief.
- ²¹He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow; and the father of a fool hath no joy.
- ²²A merry heart doeth good like a medicine; but a broken spirit drieth the bones.
- ²³A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment.

²⁴Wisdom is before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth.

²⁵A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.

²⁶Also to punish the just is not good, nor to strike princes for equity.

²⁷He that hath knowledge spareth his words; and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

²⁸Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise; and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.

18 ¹Through desire, a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom.

²A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.

³When the wicked cometh, then cometh also contempt, and with ignominy reproach.

⁴The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.

⁵It is not good to accept the person of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgment.

⁶A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.

⁷A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.

⁸The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

⁹He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.

¹⁰The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

¹¹The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as a high wall in his own conceit.

¹²Before destruction the heart of man is haughty; and before honor is humility.

¹³He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.

¹⁴The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

¹⁵The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

¹⁶A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

¹⁷He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbor cometh and searcheth him.

¹⁸The lot causeth contentions to cease, and parteth between the mighty.

¹⁹A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city; and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.

²⁰A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.

²¹Death and life are in the power of the tongue; and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

²²Whoso findeth a good wife hath obtained favor of the LORD.

²³The poor useth entreaties; but the rich answereth roughly.

a wife findeth a good thing
and

²⁴A man that hath friends must show himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

19 ¹Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

²Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth.

³The foolishness of man perverteth his way; and his heart fretteth against the LORD.

⁴Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbor.

⁵A false witness shall not be unpunished; and he that speaketh lies shall not escape.

⁶Many will entreat the favor of the prince; and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts.

⁷All the brethren of the poor do hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him? He pursueth them with words, yet they are wanting to him.

⁸He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul; he that keeps understanding shall find good.

⁹A false witness shall not be unpunished; and he that speaketh lies shall perish.

¹⁰Delight is not seemly for a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes.

¹¹The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.

¹²The king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion; but his favor is as dew upon the grass.

¹³A foolish son is the calamity of his father; and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.

¹⁴House and riches are the inheritance of fathers; and a prudent wife is from the LORD.

¹⁵Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

¹⁶He that keeps the commandment keeps his own soul; but he that despiseth his ways shall die.

¹⁷He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

¹⁸Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

¹⁹A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment; for if thou deliver him, yet thou must do it again.

²⁰Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

²¹There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

²²The desire of a man is his kindness; and a poor man is better than a liar.

²³The fear of the LORD tendeth to life; and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.

²⁴A slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

²⁵Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware; and reprove one that hath understanding, and he will understand knowledge.

²⁶He that wasteth his father, and chaseth away his mother, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach.

²⁷Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.

²⁸An ungodly witness scorneth judgment; and the mouth of the wicked devoureth iniquity.

²⁹Judgments are prepared for scorers, and stripes for the back of fools.

20 ¹Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

²The fear of a king is as the roaring of a lion; whoso provoketh him to anger sinneth against his own soul.

³It is an honor for a man to cease from strife; but every fool will be meddling.

⁴The sluggard will not plough by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.

⁵Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.

⁶Most men will proclaim everyone his own goodness; but a faithful man who can find?

⁷The just man walketh in his integrity; his children are blessed after him.

⁸A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his eyes.

⁹Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?

¹⁰Divers weights, and divers measures, both of them are alike abomination to the LORD.

¹¹Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.

¹²The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.

¹³Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread.

¹⁴“It is naught, it is naught,” saith the buyer; but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth.

¹⁵There is gold, and a multitude of rubies; but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.

¹⁶Take his garment that is surety for a stranger; and take a pledge of him for a strange women.

¹⁷Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.

¹⁸Every purpose is established by counsel; and with good advice make war.

¹⁹He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets; therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.

²⁰Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.

²¹An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed.

²²Say not thou, “I will recompense evil;” but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee.

²³Divers weights are an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance is not good.

²⁴Men’s goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?

²⁵It is a snare to the man who devoureth that which is holy, and after vows to make inquiry.

²⁶A wise king scattereth the wicked, and bringeth the wheel over them.

²⁷The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.

²⁸Mercy and truth preserve the king; and his throne is upholden by mercy.

²⁹The glory of young men is their strength; and the beauty of old men is the gray head.

³⁰The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil; so do stripes the inward parts of the belly.

21 ¹The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water; he turneth it whithersoever he will.

²Every way of a man is right in his own eyes; but the LORD pondereth the hearts.

³To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

⁴A high look, and a proud heart, and the ploughing of the wicked, is sin.

⁵The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of everyone that is hasty only to want.

⁶The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.

⁷The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them; because they refuse to do judgment.

⁸The way of man is froward and strange; but as for the pure, his work is right.

⁹It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

¹⁰The soul of the wicked desireth evil; his neighbor findeth no favor in his eyes.

¹¹When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise; and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge.

¹²The righteous man wisely considereth the house of the wicked; but God overthroweth the wicked for their wickedness.

¹³Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

¹⁴A gift in secret pacifieth anger; and a reward in the bosom, strong wrath.

¹⁵It is joy to the just to do judgment; but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

¹⁶The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead.

¹⁷He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man; he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.

¹⁸The wicked shall be a ransom for the righteous, and the transgressor for the upright.

¹⁹It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.

²⁰There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.

²¹He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honor.

²²A wise man scaleth the city of the mighty, and casteth down the strength of the confidence thereof.

²³Whoso keeps his mouth and his tongue, keeps his soul from troubles.

²⁴Proud and haughty scorner is his name, who dealeth in proud wrath.

²⁵The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labor.

²⁶He coveteth greedily all the day long; but the righteous giveth and spareth not.

²⁷The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination; how much more when he bringeth it with a wicked mind?

²⁸A false witness shall perish; but the man that heareth speaketh constantly.

²⁹A wicked man hardeneth his face; but as for the upright, he directeth his way.

³⁰There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.

³¹The horse is prepared against the day of battle; but safety is of the LORD.

22 ¹A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold.

²The rich and poor meet together; the LORD is the maker of them all.

³A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished.

⁴By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honor, and life.

⁵Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward; he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.

⁶Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

⁷The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

⁸He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity; and the rod of his anger shall fail.

⁹He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

¹⁰Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.

¹¹He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend.

¹²For the eyes of the LORD preserve knowledge; but he overthroweth the words of the transgressor.

¹³The slothful man saith, "There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets."

¹⁴The mouth of strange women is a deep pit; he that is abhorred of the LORD shall fall therein.

¹⁵Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

¹⁶He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want.

The words of the wise

¹⁷Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge. ¹⁸For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips. ¹⁹That thy trust may be in the LORD, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee. ²⁰Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge,

²¹that I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?

²²Rob not the poor, because he is poor; neither oppress the afflicted in the gate; ²³for the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

²⁴Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go; ²⁵lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.

²⁶Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts. ²⁷If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?

²⁸Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

²⁹Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

23 ¹When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee; ²and put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite. ³Be not desirous of his dainties; for they are deceitful meat.

⁴Labor not to be rich; cease from thine own wisdom. ⁵Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

⁶Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats; ⁷for as he thinketh in his heart, so is he; "Eat and drink," saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee. ⁸The morsel which thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words.

⁹Speak not in the ears of a fool; for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.

¹⁰Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless; ¹¹for their Redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.

¹²Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.

¹³Withhold not correction from the child; for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. ¹⁴Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

¹⁵My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine. ¹⁶Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things.

¹⁷Let not thine heart envy sinners; but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

¹⁸For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.

¹⁹Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way. ²⁰Be not among wine bibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh; ²¹for the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

²²Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.

²³Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. ²⁴The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice; and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him. ²⁵Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.

²⁶My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways. ²⁷For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit. ²⁸She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men.

²⁹Who hath woe? Who hath sorrow? Who hath contentions? Who hath babbling? Who hath wounds without cause? Who hath redness of eyes? ³⁰They that tarry long at the wine;

they that go to seek mixed wine. ³¹Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. ³²At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. ³³Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. ³⁴Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. ³⁵“They have stricken me,” shalt thou say,” and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not; when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.”

24 ¹Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them; ²for their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.

³Through wisdom is a house builded; and buy understanding it is established; ⁴and by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. ⁵A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength. ⁶For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war; and in multitude of counselors there is safety. ⁷Wisdom is too high for a fool; he openeth not his mouth in the gate.

⁸He that deviseth to do evil shall be called a mischievous person. ⁹The thought of foolishness is sin; and the scorner is an abomination to men.

¹⁰If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. ¹¹If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; ¹²if thou sayest, “Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? And he that keeps thy soul, doth not he know it? And shall not he render to every man according to his works?”

¹³My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste; ¹⁴so shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul; when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

¹⁵Lay not wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting-place; ¹⁶for a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again; but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

¹⁷Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth; ¹⁸lest the LORD see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.

¹⁹Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked; ²⁰for there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.

²¹My son, fear thou the LORD and the king; and meddle not with them that are given to change. ²²For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?

²³These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment. ²⁴He that saith unto the wicked, “Thou art righteous; him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him.” ²⁵But to them that rebuke him shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them. ²⁶Every man shall kiss his lips that giveth a right answer.

²⁷Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house.

²⁸Be not a witness against thy neighbor without cause; and deceive not with thy lips. ²⁹Say not, “I will do so to him as he hath done to me; I will render to the man according to his work.”

³⁰I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; ³¹and, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and

the stone wall thereof was broken down. ³²Then I saw, and considered it well; I looked upon it, and received instruction. ³³Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep; ³⁴so shall thy poverty come as one that traveleth; and thy want as an armed man.

More proverbs of Solomon

25

¹These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.

²It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.

³The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings is unsearchable.

⁴Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer.

⁵Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.

⁶Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king and stand not in the place of great men;

⁷for better it is that it be said unto thee, "Come up hither;" than that thou shouldest be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen.

⁸Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbor hath put thee to shame. ⁹Debate thy cause with thy neighbor himself; and discover not a secret to another; ¹⁰Lest he that heareth it put thee to shame, and thine infamy turn not away.

¹¹A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. ¹²As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear. ¹³As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him; for he refresheth the soul of his masters. ¹⁴Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain.

¹⁵By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone.

¹⁶Hast thou found honey? Eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it.

¹⁷Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbor's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee.

¹⁸A man that beareth false witness against his neighbor is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.

¹⁹Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.

²⁰As he that taketh away a garment in cold weather, and as vinegar upon nitre, so is he that singeth songs to a heavy heart.

²¹If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink; ²²for thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee.

²³The north wind driveth away rain; so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.

²⁴It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.

²⁵As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

²⁶A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring.

²⁷It is not good to eat much honey; so for men to search their own glory is not glory.

²⁸He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

26 ¹As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honor is not seemly for a fool.

²As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

³A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back.

⁴Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.

⁵Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

⁶He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool cutteth off the feet, and drinketh damage.

⁷The legs of the lame are not equal; so is a parable in the mouth of fools.

⁸As he that bindeth a stone in a sling, so is he that giveth honor to a fool.

⁹As a thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouth of fools.

¹⁰The great God that formed all things both rewardeth the fool, and rewardeth transgressors.

¹¹As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.

¹²Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? There is more hope of a fool than of him.

¹³The slothful man saith, "There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets."

¹⁴As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed.

¹⁵The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.

¹⁶The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

¹⁷He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears.

¹⁸As a mad man who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death,

¹⁹So is the man that deceiveth his neighbor, and saith, "Am not I in sport?"

²⁰Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out; so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.

²¹As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.

²²The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

²³Burning lips and a wicked heart are like a potsherd covered with silver dross.

²⁴He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him; ²⁵when he speaketh fair, believe him not; for there are seven abominations in his heart.

²⁶Whose hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be showed before the whole congregation.

²⁷Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein; and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him.

²⁸A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

- 27 ¹Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.
- ²Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.
- ³A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath is heavier than them both.
- ⁴Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?
- ⁵Open rebuke is better than secret love.
- ⁶Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.
- ⁷The full soul loatheth a honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.
- ⁸As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place.
- ⁹Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart; so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.
- ¹⁰Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity; for better is a neighbor that is near than a brother far off.
- ¹¹My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproacheth me.
- ¹²A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished.
- ¹³Take his garment that is surety for a stranger, and take a pledge of him for a strange woman.
- ¹⁴He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him.
- ¹⁵A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.
- ¹⁶Whosoever hideth her hideth the wind, and the ointment of his right hand, which bewrayeth itself.
- ¹⁷Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.
- ¹⁸Whoso keeps the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof; so he that waiteth on his master shall be honored.
- ¹⁹As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man.
- ²⁰Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.
- ²¹As the fining pot for silver, and the furnace for gold; so is a man to his praise.
- ²²Though thou shouldest bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him.
- ²³Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds; ²⁴for riches are not forever; and doth the crown endure to every generation? ²⁵The hay appeareth, and the tender grass showeth itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered. ²⁶The lambs are for thy clothing, and the goats are the price of the field. ²⁷And thou shalt have goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and for the maintenance for thy maidens.
- 28 ¹The wicked flee when no man pursueth; but the righteous are bold as a lion.
- ²For the transgression of a land many are the princes thereof; but by a man of understanding and knowledge the state thereof shall be prolonged.
- ³A poor man that oppresseth the poor is like a sweeping rain which leaveth no food.

⁴They that forsake the law praise the wicked; but such as keep the law contend with them.

⁵Evil men understand not judgment; but they that seek the LORD understand all things.

⁶Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

⁷Whoso keeps the law is a wise son; but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father.

⁸He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.

⁹He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

¹⁰Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit; but the upright shall have good things in possession.

¹¹The rich man is wise in his own conceit; but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out.

¹²When righteous men do rejoice, there is great glory; but when the wicked rise, a man is hidden.

¹³He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

¹⁴Happy is the man that feareth always; but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.

¹⁵As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; so is a wicked ruler over the poor people.

¹⁶The prince that wanteth understanding is also a great oppressor; but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days.

¹⁷A man that doeth violence to the blood of any person shall flee to the pit; let no man stay him.

¹⁸Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved; but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once.

¹⁹He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread; but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough.

²⁰A faithful man shall abound with blessings; but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

²¹To have respect of persons is not good; for, for a piece of bread that man will transgress.

²²He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.

²³He that rebuketh a man, afterwards shall find more favor than he that flattereth with the tongue.

²⁴Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, "It is no transgression;" the same is the companion of a destroyer.

²⁵He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife; but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.

²⁶He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool; but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

²⁷He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack; but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

²⁸When the wicked rise, men hide themselves; but when they perish, the righteous increase.

29 ¹He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

²When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

³Whoso loveth wisdom rejoices his father; but he that keeps company with harlots spendeth his substance.

⁴The king by judgment establisheth the land; but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it.

⁵A man that flattereth his neighbor spreadeth a net for his feet.

⁶In the transgression of an evil man there is a snare; but the righteous doth sing and rejoice.

⁷The righteous considereth the cause of the poor; but the wicked regardeth not to know it.

⁸Scornful men bring a city into a snare; but wise men turn away wrath.

⁹If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest.

¹⁰The bloodthirsty hate the upright; but the just seek his soul. ¹¹A fool uttereth all his mind; but a wise man keeps it in till afterwards.

¹²If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked.

¹³The poor and the deceitful man meet together; the LORD lighteneth both their eyes.

¹⁴The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established forever.

¹⁵The rod and reproof give wisdom; but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

¹⁶When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth; but the righteous shall see their fall.

¹⁷Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

¹⁸Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keeps the law, happy is he.

¹⁹A servant will not be corrected by words; for though he understand he will not answer.

²⁰Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than of him.

²¹He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become his son at the length.

²²An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

²³A man's pride shall bring him low; but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit.

²⁴Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul; he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not.

²⁵The fear of man bringeth a snare; but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

²⁶Many seek the ruler's favor; but every man's judgment cometh from the LORD.

²⁷An unjust man is an abomination to the just; and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked.

The words of Agur

30 ¹The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy:

The man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal, ²“Surely I am more brutish than any man, and have not the understanding of a man. ³I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy. ⁴Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? Who hath gathered the wind in his fists? Who hath bound the waters in a garment? Who hath established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son’s name, if thou canst tell?”

⁵Every word of God is pure; he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. ⁶Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

⁷Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die; ⁸remove far from me vanity and lies; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me; ⁹lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, “Who is the LORD?” Or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

¹⁰Accuse not a servant unto his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be found guilty.

¹¹There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. ¹²There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

¹³There is a generation, oh how lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up. ¹⁴There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.

¹⁵The horseleech hath two daughters, crying, “Give, give.” There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, “It is enough”: ¹⁶the grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, “It is enough.”

¹⁷The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

¹⁸There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not; ¹⁹the way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid.

²⁰Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, “I have done no wickedness.”

²¹For three things the earth is disquieted, and for four which it cannot bear; ²²for a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat; ²³for an odious woman when she is married; and a handmaid that is heir to her mistress.

²⁴There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise: ²⁵the ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer; ²⁶the conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks; ²⁷the locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands; ²⁸the spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings’ palaces.

²⁹There be three things which go well, yea, four are comely in going: ³⁰a lion, which is strongest among beasts, and turneth not away from any; ³¹a greyhound; a he goat also; and a king, against whom there is no rising up.

³²If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, lay thine hand upon thy mouth. ³³Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood; so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.

The words of king Lemuel

31 ¹The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.

²What, my son? And what, the son of my womb? And what, the son of my vows? ³Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings. ⁴It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink; ⁵lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted. ⁶Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. ⁷Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more. ⁸Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. ⁹Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

A woman that fears the LORD shall be praised

¹⁰Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. ¹¹The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. ¹²She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. ¹³She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. ¹⁴She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. ¹⁵She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. ¹⁶She considereth a field, and buyeth it; with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. ¹⁷She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. ¹⁸She perceiveth that her merchandise is good; her candle goeth not out by night. ¹⁹She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. ²⁰She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. ²¹She is not afraid of the snow for her household; for all her household are clothed with scarlet. ²²She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. ²³Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. ²⁴She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. ²⁵Strength and honor are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. ²⁶She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. ²⁷She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. ²⁸Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. ²⁹Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. ³⁰Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. ³¹Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

ECCLESIASTES

¹The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

All is vanity

²Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. ³What profit hath a man of all his labor which he taketh under the sun? ⁴One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh; but the earth abideth forever. ⁵The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose. ⁶The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits. ⁷All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again. ⁸All things are full of labor; man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. ⁹The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done; and there is no new thing under the sun. ¹⁰Is there anything whereof it may be said, "See, this is new"? It hath been already of old time, which was before us.

¹¹There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after.

The vanity of wisdom

¹²I the Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven; this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith. ¹⁴I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit. ¹⁵That which is crooked cannot be made straight; and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.

¹⁶I communed with mine own heart, saying, "Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem; yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge." ¹⁷And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly; I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit. ¹⁸For in much wisdom is much grief; and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.

The vanity of self-indulgence

2 ¹I said in mine heart, "Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure;" and, behold, this also is vanity. ²I said of laughter, "It is mad;" and of mirth, "What doeth it?" ³I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life. ⁴I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards; ⁵I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits; ⁶I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees; ⁷I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me; ⁸I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces; I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts.

⁹So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem; also my wisdom remained with me. ¹⁰And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labor; and this was my portion of all my labor. ¹¹Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought,

and on the labor that I had labored to do; and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.

The vanity of trying to live wisely

¹²And I turned myself to behold wisdom, and madness, and folly; for what can the man do that cometh after the king? Even that which hath been already done. ¹³Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness. ¹⁴The wise man's eyes are in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness; and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all. ¹⁵Then said I in my heart, "As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me;" and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart that this also is vanity. ¹⁶For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool forever; seeing that which now is in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? As the fool. ¹⁷Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me; for all is vanity and vexation of spirit.

The vanity of labor

¹⁸Yea, I hated all my labor which I had taken under the sun, because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me. ¹⁹And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? Yet shall he have rule over all my labor wherein I have labored, and wherein I have showed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity. ²⁰Therefore I went about to cause my heart to despair of all the labor which I took under the sun. ²¹For there is a man whose labor is in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in equity; yet to a man that hath not labored therein shall he leave it for his portion. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²For what hath man of all his labor, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath labored under the sun? ²³For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity.

²⁴There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labor. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.

²⁵For who can eat, or who else can hasten hereunto, more than I? ²⁶For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight, wisdom, and knowledge, and joy; but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

A time for everything

3 ¹To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven:

²A time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

³A time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴A time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶A time to get, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

⁷A time to rend, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸A time to love, and a time to hate;

a time of war, and a time of peace.

⁹What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboreth? ¹⁰I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. ¹¹He hath made everything beautiful in his time; also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. ¹²I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and ¹³And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labor, it is the gift of God.

¹⁴I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever; nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it; and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. ¹⁵That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been, and God requireth that which is past.

All turn to dust again

¹⁶And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there. ¹⁷I said in mine heart, "God shall judge the righteous and the wicked;" for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work. ¹⁸I said in mine heart concerning the estates of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts. ¹⁹For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them; as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast; for all is vanity. ²⁰All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. ²¹Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth? ²²Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion; for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?

The evil under the sun

4 ¹So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun; and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter. ²Wherefore I praised the dead which are already dead, more than the living, which are yet alive. ³Yea, better is he than both they, which hath not yet been, who hath not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.

⁴Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbor. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit. ⁵The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh.

⁶Better is a handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit.

⁷Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun. ⁸There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother; yet is there no end of all his labor; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith he, "For whom do I labor, and bereave my soul of good?" This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail.

⁹Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. ¹⁰For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. ¹¹Again, if two lie together, then they have heat; but how can one be warm alone? ¹²And if one prevail against him two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

¹³Better is a poor and a wise child, than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished. ¹⁴For out of prison he cometh to reign; whereas also he that is born in his

kingdom becometh poor. ¹⁵I considered all the living which walk under the sun, with the second child that shall stand up in his stead. ¹⁶There is no end of all the people, even of all that have been before them; they also that come after shall not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

5 ¹Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools; for they consider not that they do evil. ²Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God; for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth; therefore let thy words be few. ³For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.

⁴When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools; pay that which thou hast vowed. ⁵Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. ⁶Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error; wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands? ⁷For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities; but fear thou God.

The vanity of wealth and honor

⁸If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter; for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they. ⁹Moreover the profit of the earth is for all; the king himself is served by the field.

¹⁰He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase; this is also vanity. ¹¹When goods increase, they are increased that eat them; and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?

¹²The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much; but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.

¹³There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt. ¹⁴But those riches perish by evil travail; and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand. ¹⁵As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labor, which he may carry away in his hand. ¹⁶And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go; and what profit hath he that hath labored for the wind? ¹⁷All his days also he eateth in darkness, and he hath much sorrow and wrath with his sickness.

¹⁸Behold that which I have seen; it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him; for it is his portion. ¹⁹Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God. ²⁰For he shall not much remember the days of his life; because God answereth him in the joy of his heart.

6 ¹There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men; ²a man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honor, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it; this is vanity, and it is an evil disease. ³If a man beget a hundred children, and live many years, so that the days of his years be many, and his soul be not filled with good, and also that he have no burial; I say, that an untimely birth is better than he. ⁴For he cometh in with vanity, and departeth in darkness, and his name shall be covered with darkness. ⁵Moreover he hath not seen the sun, nor known anything; this hath more rest than the

other. ⁶Yea, though he live a thousand years twice told, yet hath he seen no good; do not all go to one place? ⁷All the labor of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled.

⁸For what hath the wise more than the fool? What hath the poor, that knoweth to walk before the living? ⁹Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire; this is also vanity and vexation of spirit.

¹⁰That which hath been is named already, and it is known that it is man; neither may he contend with him that is mightier than he. ¹¹Seeing there be many things that increase vanity, what is man the better? ¹²For who knoweth what is good for man in this life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow? For who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?

The contrast of wisdom and folly

7 ¹A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth. ²It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting; for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart. ³Sorrow is better than laughter; for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better. ⁴The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. ⁵It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools; ⁶for as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool; this also is vanity.

⁷Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad; and a gift destroyeth the heart. ⁸Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof; and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. ⁹Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry; for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.

¹⁰Say not thou, "What is the cause that the former days were better than these?" For thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this. ¹¹Wisdom is good with an inheritance; and by it there is profit to them that see the sun. ¹²For wisdom is a defense, and money is a defense; but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.

¹³Consider the work of God; for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?

¹⁴In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider; God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.

¹⁵All things have I seen in the days of my vanity; there is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man that longeth his life in his wickedness. ¹⁶Be not righteous overmuch, neither make thyself overwise; why shouldest thou destroy thyself? ¹⁷Be not overmuch wicked, neither be thou foolish; why shouldest thou die before thy time? ¹⁸It is good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand; for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all.

¹⁹Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city.

²⁰For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

²¹Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee;

²²for oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others.

²³All this have I proved by wisdom; I said, "I will be wise;" but it was far from me. ²⁴That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out?

²⁵I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness; ²⁶and I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands;

whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her. ²⁷Behold, this have I found, saith the Preacher, counting one by one, to find out the account; ²⁸which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not; one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found. ²⁹Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

Keep the king's commandment

- 8 ¹Who is as the wise man? And who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? A man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.
- ²I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment, and that in regard of the oath of God. ³Be not hasty to go out of his sight; stand not in an evil thing; for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him. ⁴Where the word of a king is, there is power; and who may say unto him, "What doest thou?" ⁵Whoso keeps the commandment shall feel no evil thing; and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment. ⁶Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him. ⁷For he knoweth not that which shall be; for who can tell him when it shall be?
- ⁸There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death; and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it. ⁹All this have I seen, and applied my heart unto every work that is done under the sun; there is a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt. ¹⁰And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done; this is also vanity.
- ¹¹Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. ¹²Though a sinner do evil a hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him; ¹³but it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.
- ¹⁴There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just men, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked men, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous; I said that this also is vanity. ¹⁵Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry; for that shall abide with him of his labor the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun.
- ¹⁶When I applied mine heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done upon the earth; (for also there is that neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes) ¹⁷then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun; because though a man labor to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea further; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it.

Death comes to all

- 9 ¹For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God; no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them. ²All things come alike to all; there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not; as is the good, so is the sinner; and he that sweareth, as he that feareth an oath. ³This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all; yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead. ⁴For to him

that is joined to all the living there is hope; for a living dog is better than a dead lion. ⁵For the living know that they shall die; but the dead know not anything, neither have they anymore a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. ⁶Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they anymore a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun.

⁷Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.

⁸Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment.

⁹Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity; for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labor which thou takest under the sun. ¹⁰Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

¹¹I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favor to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all. ¹²For man also knoweth not his time; as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.

¹³This wisdom have I seen also under the sun, and it seemed great unto me; ¹⁴there was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it. ¹⁵Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man. ¹⁶Then said I, "Wisdom is better than strength; nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard."

¹⁷The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools. ¹⁸Wisdom is better than weapons of war; but one sinner destroyeth much good.

10 ¹Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savor; so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honor. ²A wise man's heart is at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left. ³Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to everyone that he is a fool. ⁴If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offenses.

⁵There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, as an error which proceedeth from the ruler; ⁶folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place. ⁷I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth.

⁸He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh a hedge, a serpent shall bite him. ⁹Whoso removeth stones shall be hurt therewith; and he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby. ¹⁰If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength; but wisdom is profitable to direct. ¹¹Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babbler is no better.

¹²The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself. ¹³The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness; and the end of his talk is mischievous madness. ¹⁴A fool also is full of words; a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him? ¹⁵The labor of the foolish wearieth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city.

¹⁶Woe to the, O land, when thy king is a child, and thy princes eat in the morning!

¹⁷Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due

season, for strength, and not for drunkenness! ¹⁸By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through. ¹⁹A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry; but money answereth all things. ²⁰Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber; for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.

11 ¹Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days. ²Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth. ³If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth; and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be. ⁴He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.

⁵As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child; even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all. ⁶In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand; for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good. ⁷Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun; ⁸but if a man live many years, and rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh is vanity. ⁹Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes; but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. ¹⁰Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh; for childhood and youth are vanity.

Remember thy creator in thy youth

12 ¹Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; ²while the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain; ³in the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened. ⁴And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low; ⁵also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail; because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets; ⁶or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. ⁷Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. ⁸Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher; all is vanity.

⁹And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs. ¹⁰The Preacher sought to find out acceptable words; and that which was written was upright, even words of truth.

¹¹The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd. ¹²And further, by these, my son, be admonished; of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

¹³Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

