1 And Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him, and magnified him exceedingly.

2 Then Solomon spake unto all Israel, to the princes of thousands and of hundreds, and to the judges, and to every governor in all Israel, the heads of the fathers.

3 So Solomon, and all the convocation with him, went to the high place that was at Gibeon; for there was the tent of the assembly of God, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness.

4 But indeed 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.

5 Moreover the brassen altar, that Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made, was there before all the tent of the LORD: and Solomon and the congregation sought unto it.

6 And Solomon went up thither to the brassen altar which was before the LORD, which was at the tent of the assembly, and offered up a thousand burnt offerings upon it.

7 In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, “Ask what I shall give thee.”

8 And Solomon said unto God, “Thou hast shewed great grace unto David my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead.

9 Now, O LORD God, let Thy promise with David my father be established: for Thou hast made me king over a People like the dust of the earth in multitude.

10 Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this People: for who can judge this Thy great People?

6 before. A special various reading called Sevir (Ap. 34) reads "which was before". offered = offered up. Heb. alah. Ap. 43.1. vi.

1: 1-9: 31. SOLOMON.

-1-17. APPEARANCE OF JEHOOAH.

1 was strengthened: i.e. after the events recorded in 1 Chron. 28 and 29. 1 Kings 1 and 2.

2 Solomon spake. This thus beginning his reign as David had ended his (1 Chron. 28. l) by a solemn assembly.

3 congregation = convocation, or muster.

4 But = But indeed.

5 the ark. See note on 1 Chron. 13. 3. Ex. 25. 22.

brought up. Cp. 2 Sam. 6. 2, 17. 1 Chron. 15. 1.

6 the brassen altar. This is additional and supplementary to the account in 1 Kings 3.

he put. So some codices, with two early printed editions; but many codices, with four early printed editions, Sept., and Vulg., read "was there".

the. Sept., Syr., and Vulg. read "all the".

7 In that night. Cp. 1 Kings 3. 5-15.

8 mercy = lovingkindness, or grace.

9 unto = with. like the dust. Figs. Paroemia and Hyperbole.

10 knowledge. Heb. madda’. A rare word = inner consciousness. Occurs only here, vv. 11, 12. Ecc. 10. 20 (“thought”). Dan. 1. 4 ("science"), 17 = knowledge (gained by experience, Gen. 2. 9); while "knowledge" = knowledge (gained by study).


7. God. Appearance and offer.


1: 7-12. APPEARANCE OF GOD.

7. God. Appearance and offer.


11, 12.  Ecc. 10. 20 ("thought"). Dan. 1. 4 ("science").

17 = knowledge (gained by experience, Gen. 2. 9); while "knowledge" = knowledge (gained by study).

who can judge . . .? Fig. Erotesis. People, that is so great? or, this Thy great People?
11 And God said to Solomon, “Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked many days; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge My People, over whom I have made thee king: 12 Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.”

13 Then Solomon came from his journey to the high place that was at Gibeon to Jerusalem, from before the tent of the assembly, and reigned over Israel.

14 And 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.

15 And the king made silver and gold at Jerusalem as plenteous as stones, and cedar trees made he as the sycomore trees that are in the vale for abundance.

16 And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt, and linen yarn: the king's merchants received the linen yarn at a tariff.

17 And they fetched up, and brought forth out of Egypt a hundred and fifty: and so brought they out horses for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, by their means.

And Solomon determined to build an house for the name of the LORD, and an house for his kingdom.

2 And 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.

3 And Solomon sent to Hiram the king of Tyre, saying, “According as thou didst deal with David my father, and didst send him cedars to build him an house to dwell therein, even so deal with me.

4 Behold, I build an house to the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to Him, and to burn before Him incense of spices, and for the continual shewbread, 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. This is an ordinance for ever to Israel.

5 And the house which I build is great: for great is our God above all gods.

6 But who is able to build Him an house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain Him? who am I then, that I should build Him an house, save only to burn sacrifice before Him?

Send me now therefore a man skilful to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, and in iron, and in purple, and crimson, and blue, and that know how to grave with the skilful men that are with me in Judah and in Jerusalem, whom David my father did provide.

Send me also cedar trees, cypress trees, and algum trees, out of Lebanon: for I know that thy servants know how to cut timbers in Lebanon; and, behold, my servants shall be with thy servants,

Even to prepare me timber in abundance: for the house which I am about to build shall be great and wonderful.

And, behold, I will give to thy servants, the hewers that cut timber, twenty thousand measures of wine prepared for food, and twenty thousand measures of barley, and twenty thousand baths of oil.”

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Then Huram 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.”

12 Huram 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 an house for the LORD, and an house for his kingdom.

13 And now I have sent a skilful man, endued with understanding, of Huram my father’s,

14 The son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre, skilful to work in gold, and in silver, in 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 skilful men, and with the skilful men of my lord David thy father.

15 Now therefore the wheat, and the barley, the oil, and the wine, which my lord hath spoken of, let him send to his servants:

16 And we will cut wood out of Lebanon, as much as thou shalt need: and we will carry it up to Jerusalem.”

17 And 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 an hundred and fifty thousand and three thousand and six hundred.

18 And 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 keep the people at work.

3 Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared to David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.

2 And he began to build in the second day of the second month, in the fourth year of his reign.

3 Now 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 threescore cubits, and the breadth twenty cubits.

4 And the porch that was in the front of the house, the length of it was in the front of the breadth of the house, twenty cubits, and the height was an hundred and twenty: and he overlaid it within with pure gold.

5 And the holy of holies he covered with cypress tree, which he overlaid with pure gold, and set thereon palm trees and wreathen work.

12 heaven and earth. See note on Deut. 4. 26.
14 a woman ... of Dan. By birth. In 1 Kings 7. 14, a widow ... of Naphtali. By marriage. No discrepancy, as alleged.
16 floats = rafts.
17 the strangers. See note on 2 Sam. 12. 31, and cp. 1 Chron. 22. 2.
18 set ... a work = keep the people at work.

3: 1-5: 1. EXECUTION.

3: 1, 2. Commencement.
3: 3-17. The house.
4: 10, 11. Their furniture.


mount Moriah. Not mentioned since Gen. 22. 2, nor ever again.

Moriah. Vision of Jah. Refers here to "where Jehovah appeared".

where. See note on 1 Chron. 22. 1.

had prepared. Cp. 1 Chron. 22. 14; 2 Chron. 2. 7.

3: 3-17. THE HOUSE.

3. The house.
4. Its porch.
5-14. The house.
15-17. Its pillars.

3 God. Heb. ha-‘elohi, the [true or triune] God.
4 according to = in the front of.

an hundred and twenty. Read "twenty" by a transposition of letters.

5 the greater house : i.e. the holy of holies.
cieled = covered. Walls as well as roof.
fir = cypress. fine = pure.
palm trees : i.e. artificial.
chains = wreathen work. Only found in connection with Tabernacle and Temple.
7 posts = thresholds.
8 the most holy = the holy of holies. See note on Ex. 3. 5.
9 weight of the nails. These small and simple things not excluded. They held all together; and, though out of sight, are remembered and named by God.
10 image work = carved work. This was no breach of the second commandment, for it was by the Divine Lawgiver’s own direction.

6 And he garnished the house with precious stones for beauty: and the gold was gold of Parvaim.
7 He overlaid also the house, the beams, the thresholds, and the walls thereof, and the doors thereof, with gold; and graved cherubims on the walls.
8 And he made the holy of holies 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 six hundred talents.
9 And the weight of the nails was fifty shekels of gold. And he overlaid the upper chambers with gold.
10 And in the holy of holies house he made two cherubims of carved wood, and overlaid them with gold.
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11 And the wings of the cherubims were twenty cubits long: one wing of the one cherub was five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house: and the other wing was likewise five cubits, reaching to the wing of the other cherub.

12 And 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.

13 The wings of these cherubims spread themselves forth twenty cubits: and they stood on their feet, and their faces were toward the Ark.

14 And he made the vail of blue, and purple, and crimson, and fine linen, and wrought cherubims thereon.

15 Also he made before the house two pillars of thirty cubits high, and the chapiter that was on the top of each of them was five cubits.

16 And he made wreathen work, as in the oracle, and put them on the heads of the pillars; and made an hundred pomegranates, and put them on the chains.

17 And 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.

4 Moreover he made an altar of brass, twenty cubits the length thereof, and twenty cubits the breadth thereof, and ten cubits the height thereof.

2 Also he made a molten sea of ten cubits from brim to brim, round in compass, and five cubits the height thereof; and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about.

3 And under it was the similitude of oxen, which did compass it round about: ten to the height of a cubit, compassing the sea round about. Two rows of oxen were cast, when it was cast.

4 It stood upon twelve oxen, three looking toward the north, and three looking toward the west, and three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east: and the sea was set above upon them, and all their hinder parts were inward.

5 And the thickness of it was an handbreadth, and the brim of it like the work of the brim of a cup, with flowers of lilies; and it received and held three thousand baths.

6 He made also ten lavers, and put five on the right hand, and five on the left, to wash in them: such things as they offered up for the burnt offering they washed in them; but the sea was for the priests to wash in.

7 And he made ten lampstands of gold according to their form, and set them in the temple, five on the right hand, and five on the left.

8 He made also ten tables, and placed them in the temple, five on the right side, and five on the left. And he made an hundred bowls for sprinkling of gold.

9 Furthermore he made the court of the priests, and the great court, and doors for the court, and overlaid the doors of them with brass.

10 And he set the sea on the right side of the east end, over against the south.

11 And Huram made the pots, and the shovels, and the basons. And Huram finished the work that he was to make for king Solomon for the house of God;

12 To wit, the two pillars, and the bowls, and the chapiters which were on the top of the two pillars, and the two networks to cover the two bowls of the chapiters which were on the top of the pillars;

13 And four hundred pomegranates on the two networks; two rows of pomegranates on each wreath, to cover the two bowls of the chapiters which were upon the face of the pillars.

14 He made also bases, and lavers made he upon the bases;

15 One sea, and twelve oxen under it.

16 The pots also, and the shovels, and the fleshhooks, and all their instruments, did Huram his father make to king Solomon for the house of the LORD of bright brass.

17 In the plain of Jordan did the king cast them, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zeredathah.

18 Thus Solomon made all these vessels in great abundance: for the weight of the brass could not be searched out.

19 And Solomon made all the vessels that were for the house of God, the golden altar also, and the tables whereon the shewbread was set;

20 Moreover the candlesticks with their lamps, that they should burn after the prescribed order before the oracle, of pure gold;

21 And the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs, made he of gold, and that of purest gold;
22 And the snuffers, and the basins, and the spoons, and the censers, of purified 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 Thus all the work that Solomon made for the house of the LORD was finished: and Solomon brought in all the holy things that David his father had dedicated; ... the silver, and the gold, and ... the instruments, put he in the treasuries of the house of God.

2 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the sons of Israel, unto Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

3 Wherefore all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto the king in the seventh month.

4 And all the elders of Israel came; and the Levites took up the ark.

5 And they brought up the ark, and the tent of the congregation, and all the sanctuary vessels that were in the tabernacle, these did the priests and the Levites bring up.

6 Also king Solomon, and all the convocation of Israel that were assembled unto him before the ark, sacrificed sheep and oxen, which could not be told nor numbered for multitude.

7 And the priests brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, to the oracle of the house, into the holy of holies, even under the wings of the cherubims:

8 For the cherubims spread forth their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above.

9 And 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.

10 There was nothing in the ark save the two tables which Moses put therein at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the sons of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.

11 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy of holies: (for all the priests that were present had sanctified themselves, and did not then wait by course:

12 Also 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 an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:

13 It 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 musick, and praised the LORD, saying, “For He is good; for His mercy endureth for ever.” that then the house was filled with a cloud of the glory of the LORD; so 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 Then said Solomon, “The LORD hath said that He would dwell in the thick darkness.
2 But I have built an house of habitation for Thee, and a place for Thy dwelling for ever.’
3 And the king turned his face, and blessed the whole assembly of Israel: and all the assembly of Israel stood.
4 And 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 an house in, that My name might be there; ‘neither chose I any man to be a ruler over My People Israel:
6 But I have chosen Jerusalem, that My name might be there; and have chosen David to be over My People Israel.
7 Now it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.
8 But the LORD said to David my father, ‘Forasmuch as it is in thine heart to build an house in, that Thy name might be there; the LORD will perform the word that He spake with my father David.
9 Now it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for My name, thou didst well in that it was in thine heart:
10 The 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, according as the LORD promised, and have built the house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.
11 And in it have I put the ark, wherein is the covenant of the LORD, that He made with the sons of Israel.’
12 And he stood [and then knelt down] before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread forth his hands:
13 For Solomon had made a brasen round platform, of five cubits long, and five cubits broad, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court: and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all the assembly of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven,
14 And said, ‘O LORD God of Israel, there is no God like Thee in heaven, nor in the earth; Which keepest covenant, and shewest mercy unto Thy servants, that walk before Thee with all their hearts:
15 Thou 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.
16 Now 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 sitting upon the throne of Israel; if only that thy sons take heed to their way to walk in My law, according as thou hast walked before Me.’
17 Now then, O LORD God of Israel, let Thy word be I beseech Thee, which Thou hast spoken unto Thy servant David.
18 But 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!
19 Have 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:
20 That Thine eyes may be open toward this house day and night, upon the place whereof Thou hast said that Thou wouldst put Thy name there; to hearken unto the prayer which Thy servant prayeth toward this place.
21 Hearken 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.

22 If a man sin against his neighbour, and his neighbour lay an oath upon him to make him swear, and the oath come before Thine altar in this house;

23 Then hear Thou from heaven, and do, and judge Thy servants, by requiting the lawless, by recompensing his way upon his own head; and by acquitting the righteous, by giving him according to his righteousness.

24 And 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;

25 Then 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.

26 When 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;

27 Then hear Thou from heaven, and forgive the sin of Thy servants, and of Thy People Israel, when Thou hast directed them into the good way, wherein they should walk; and send rain upon Thy land, which Thou hast given unto Thy People for an inheritance.

28 If there be dearth in the land, if there be pestilence, if there be blasting, or mildew, locusts, or caterpillers; if there be dearth in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned, we have done amiss, and have dealt lawlessly;'

29 Then what prayer or what supplication soever shall be made of any man, or of all Thy People Israel, when every one shall know his own sore and his own grief, and shall spread forth his hands in this house:

30 Then 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 sons of men:)

31 That they may fear Thee, to walk in Thy ways, so long as they live upon the face of the land which Thou gavest unto our fathers.

32 Moreover 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 toward this house;

33 Then hear Thou from the heavens, even from Thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to Thee for; that all peoples 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 invoked upon Thy name.

34 If 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;

35 Then hear Thou from the heavens their prayer and their supplication, and vindicate their cause.

36 If 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;

37 Yet 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 lawlessly;'

38 If 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:

39 Then 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.
Now, 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.  

Now therefore arise, O LORD God, into Thy resting place, Thou, and the ark of Thy strength: Let Thy priests, O LORD God, be cloathed with salvation, And let Thy gracious ones rejoice in prosperity, well-being and blessedness.  

O LORD God, turn not away the face of Thine Anointed: Remember the mercies, shown and assured to David Thy servant.”

Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the victims; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house.

And all the sons 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 worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, "For He is good; for His mercy endureth for ever.”

Then the king and all the People sacrificed sacrifices before the LORD.

And king Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty and two thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep: so the king and all the People dedicated the house of God.

And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of musick of the LORD, which David the king had made to praise the LORD, because His mercy endureth for ever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood.

Moreover Solomon hallowed the middle of the court that was before the house of the LORD: for there he prepared burnt offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings, because the brasen altar which Solomon had made was not able to receive the burnt offerings, and the meat offerings, and the fat.

Also at the same time Solomon kept the feast of Tabernacles seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt.

And in the eighth day they made a solemn assembly: for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days.

And 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 shewed unto David, and to Solomon, and to Israel His People.

Thus 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.

And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, “I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to be an house of sacrifice.

If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I send pestilence among My People;

If My People, upon whom My name is called, 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.
Now Mine eyes shall be open, and Mine ears attend unto the prayer *that is made* in this place.

For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there for ever: and Mine eyes and Mine heart shall be there perpetually.

And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before Me, *accordingly as* David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe My statues and My judgments;

Then will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have *confirmed by covenant* with David thy father, saying, ‘There shall not be cut off from thee a man to be ruler in Israel.’

But if ye turn away, and forsake My statutes and My commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them;

Then will I pluck them up by the roots out of My land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for My name, will I cast out of My sight, and will make it *to be a proverb* and a byword among all the peoples.

And this house, which is high, shall be *a cause of astonishment to others* that passeth by it; so that he shall say, ‘Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and unto this house?’

And 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 worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath He brought all this evil upon them.’”

And it came to pass at the end of twenty years, wherein Solomon had built the house of the LORD, and his own house,

That the cities which Huram had given to Solomon, Solomon built them, and caused the sons of Israel to dwell there.

And Solomon went to Hamath-zobah, and prevailed against it.

And he built Tadmor in the wilderness, and all the store cities, which he built in Hamath.

Also he rebuilt Beth-horon the upper, and Beth-horon the nether, fenced cities, with walls, *double doors*, and bars;

And 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.

*As 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,

But of their sons, who were left after them in the land, whom the sons of Israel destroyed not, them did Solomon raise a levy of bondmen until this day.

But of the sons 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.

And these were the chief of king Solomon's officers, even two hundred and fifty, that bare rule over the people.

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

Then Solomon offered up burnt offerings unto the LORD on the altar of the LORD, which he had built before the porch,

Even 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.
14 And 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 gatekeepers also by their courses at every gate: for so had David the man of God commanded.

15 And they departed not from the commandments of the king unto the priests and Levites concerning any matter, or concerning the treasuries.

16 Now all the work of Solomon was prepared from the day of the foundation of the house of the LORD, and until it was finished. So the house of the LORD was perfected.

17 Then went Solomon to Ezion-geber, and to Eloth, at the sea side in the land of Edom.

18 And Huram 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 four hundred and fifty talents of gold, and brought them to king Solomon.

9 And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to prove Solomon with hard questions at Jerusalem, with a very great 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.

2 And Solomon told her all her matters: and there was nothing hid from Solomon which he told her not.

3 And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, and the house that he had built, the ascent: and 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.

5 And she said to the king, The word was truth which I heard in mine own land of thine acts, and of thy wisdom: Howbeit 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.

7 Happy are thy men, and happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and hear thy wisdom.

8 Blessed 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 for ever, therefore made He thee king over them, to do judgment and righteousness.

9 And she gave the king an hundred 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.

10 And the servants also of Huram, and the servants of Solomon, which brought gold from Ophir, brought also by their courses at every gate: for so had David the man of God commanded.

11 And the king made of the algum trees stairs 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.

12 And king Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, beside that which she had brought unto the king. So she turned, and went away to her own land, she and her servants.
13 Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred and threescore and six talents of gold;  
14 Beside that which travelers and merchants brought. And all the kings of Arabia and governors of the country brought gold and silver to Solomon.  
15 And king Solomon made two hundred bossed shields of beaten gold: six hundred shekels of beaten gold went to one shield.  
16 And three hundred protecting shields made he of beaten gold: three hundred shekels of gold went to one shield. And the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.  
17 Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold.  
18 And there were six steps to the throne, with a footstool on each side of the sitting place, and two lions standing by the stays:  
19 And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps. There was not the like made in any kingdom.  
20 And all the drinking vessels of king Solomon were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of purified gold: none were of silver; it was not any thing accounted of in the days of Solomon.  
21 For the king’s ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Huram: every three years once came ships of Tarshish bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.  
22 And king Solomon passed all the kings in the earth in riches and wisdom.  
23 And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom, that God had put in his heart.  
24 And they brought every man his present, vessels of silver; it was not any thing accounted of in the days of Solomon.  
25 And Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen; whom he bestowed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem.  
26 And he reigned over all the kings from the Euphrates even unto the land of the Philistines, and to the border of Egypt.  
27 And the king made silver in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar trees made he as the sycomore trees that are in the low plains in abundance.  
28 And they brought unto Solomon horses out of Egypt, and out of all lands.  
29 Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, first and last, are not written in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of
5 And he said unto them, “Come again unto me after three days.” And the People departed.
6 And king Rehoboam took counsel with the old men that had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, saying, “What counsel give ye me to return answer to this People?”
7 And they spake unto him, saying, “If thou be kind to this People, and please them, and speak good words to them, they will be thy servants for ever.”
8 But he forsook the counsel which the old men gave him, and took counsel with the young men who were brought up with him, that stood before him.
9 And he said unto them, “What counsel give ye that we may return answer to this People, which have spoken to me, saying, ‘Ease somewhat the yoke that thy father did put upon us?’ ”
10 And 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 I will add thereto: my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.’ ”
11 For 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.
12 So Jeroboam and all the People came to Rehoboam on the third day, according as the king bade, saying, “Come again to me on the third day.”
13 And the king answered them roughly; and king Rehoboam forsook the counsel of the old men,
14 And answered them after the counsel of the young men, saying, “My father made our yoke heavy, but I will add thereto: my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.”
15 So the king hearkened not unto the People: for 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.
16 And 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 homes, O Israel: and now, David, see to thine own house.” So all Israel went to their tents.
17 But as for the sons of Israel that dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.
18 Then king Rehoboam sent Hadoram that was over the tribute; and the sons 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.

5 after three days: i.e. the third day (cp. v. 12).
9 advice = counsel. 12 as = according as.
14 made. Some so-called, with six early printed editions, Sept., Syr., and Vulg. (as 1 Kings 12. 14); but the current Heb. text reads “I will make”.
15 word, which He spake. Our acquaintance with 1 Kings 11. 29-39 is taken for granted.
16 saw. Some codices, with seven early printed editions, read this word “saw”, in the text. your tents. Primitive text reads “your gods”. One of the emendations of the Sopherim. See Ap. 33, cp. 2 Sam. 20. 1. tents = homes. Cpt 2 Sam. 18. 17; 19. 8; 20. 1.
17 children = sons.

11. 1 Benjamin. See 1 Kings 11. 36.
2 Shemaiah. Cp. 12. 5 and 1 Kings 12. 22. See note on Ps. 90, title.
3 the man of God. See Ap. 49.
4 this thing is done of Me. As a chastisement for the apostasy of Solomon, and the arrogance of Rehoboam.

11: 2–12: 1. PERSONAL EVENTS.
11: 5-12. Residence.
18-23. Marriage.
12: 1. Apostasy.

5-12 These particulars are complementary. Ap. 56.
5 built = rebuilt. for defence. Evidently these fifteen cities were for defence against Egypt, because of Jeroboam’s influence there (10. 2). His fears were well grounded (12. 2, 4 and 1 Kings 14. 25).
19 And Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.
11 And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he gathered of the house of Judah and Benjamin an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against Israel, that he might bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam.
2 But the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying,
3 “Speak unto Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all Israel in Judah and Benjamin, saying,
4 ‘Thus saith 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.
5 And Rehoboam dwelt in Jerusalem, and rebuilt cities for defence in Judah.
6 He built even Bethelhem, and Etam, and Tekoa,
7 And Beth-zur, and Shoco, and Adullam,
8 And Gath, and Mareshah, and Ziph,
9 And Adoram, and Lachish, and Azekah,
10 And Zorah, and Aijalon, and Hebron, which are in Judah and in Benjamin fenced cities.
11 And he fortified the strong holds, and put captains in them, and store of victual, and of oil and wine.
12 And in every several city put shields and spears, and made them exceeding strong, having Judah and Benjamin on his side.

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13 And the priests and the Levites that were in all Israel resorted to him out of all their borders.
14 For 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:
15 And he ordained him priests for the high places, and for the goats representing demons, and for the calves which Jeroboam had made.
16 And following them out of all the tribes of Israel such as gave their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the LORD God of their fathers.
17 So 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.
18 And Rehoboam took him Malalah the daughter of Jerimoth the son of David to wife, and Abihail the daughter of Eliab the son of Jesse;
19 Which later bare him sons; Jeush, and Shamariah, and Zaham.
20 And after her he took Maachah the daughter of Absalom; which bare him Abijah, and Attai, and Ziza, and Shelomith.
21 And 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.)
22 And Rehoboam made Abijah the son of Maachah the head, to be ruler among his brethren: for he thought to make him king.
23 And he dealt wisely, and dispersed of all his sons throughout all the countries of Judah and Benjamin, unto every fenced city: and he gave them victual in abundance. And he desired many wives for them.

12 And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the LORD, and part of the ten tribes of Israel with him.
2 And 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,
3 With twelve hundred chariots, and threescore thousand horsemen: and the people were without number that came with him out of Egypt; the Lubims, the Sukkiims, and the Ethiopians.
4 And he took the fenced cities which pertained to Judah, and came to Jerusalem.
5 Then 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.’ ”
6 Whereupon the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, “The LORD is righteous.”
7 And 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 for a little while deliverance; and My wrath shall not be poured out upon Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak.
8 Nevertheless they shall be his servants; that they may know My service, and the service of the kingdoms of the countries.”
9 So 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.
10 Instead of which king Rehoboam made...
shields of brass, and committed them to the hands of the princes of the runners, that kept the entrance of the king's house.

11 And when the king entered into the house of the LORD, the 10 runners came and fetched them, and brought them again into the 10 runners chamber.

12 And when he humbled himself, the wrath of the LORD turned from him that he would not destroy him altogether: and also in Judah there were congratulations.

13 So 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 the Ammonitess.

14 And he did evil, because he fixed not his heart to seek the LORD.

15 Now the acts of Rehoboam, first and last, are they not written in the words of Shemaiah the prophet, and of Iddo the seer concerning genealogies? And there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually.

16 And Jeroboam slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David: and Abijah his son reigned in his stead.

13 Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam began Abijah to reign over Judah.

2 He 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.

3 And Abijah set the battle in array with an army of valiant men of war, four hundred thousand chosen men: Jeroboam also set the battle in array against him with eight hundred thousand thousand chosen men, being mighty men of valour.

4 And Abijah stood up upon mount Zemaraim, which is in the hill country of Ephraim, and said, Hear me, thou Jeroboam, and all Israel;

5 Ought ye not to know that the LORD God of Israel gave the kingdom over Israel to David for ever, even to him and to his sons by a covenant of salt?

6 Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, is risen up, and hath rebelled against his lord.

7 And there are gathered unto him vain men, the sons of Belial, and have strengthened themselves against Rehoboam the son of Solomon, when Rehoboam showed himself to be young and weak, and could not withstand them.

8 And now ye think to withstand the kingdom of the LORD in the hand of the sons of David; and ye be a great multitude, and there are with you golden calves, which Jeroboam made you for gods.
10 But 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:

11 And they burn as incense unto the LORD every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and sweet incense: the shewbread also set they in order upon the pure table; and the lampstand of gold with the lamps thereof, to burn every evening: for we keep the charge of the LORD our God; but ye have forsaken Him.

12 And, behold, God Himself is with us for our captain, and His priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O sons of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper.”

13 But Jeroboam caused an ambushment to come about behind them: so they were before Judah, and the ambushment was behind them.

14 And when Judah looked back, behold, the battle was before and behind: and they cried unto the LORD, and the priests sounded with the trumpets.

15 Then the men of Judah gave a shout: and as the men of Judah shouted, it came to pass, that God smote Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.

16 And the sons of Israel were brought under at that time, and the sons of Judah prevailed, because they relied upon the LORD God of their fathers.

17 And Abijah and his People slew them with a great slaughter: so there fell down slain of Israel five hundred thousand chosen men.

18 Thus the sons of Israel were brought under at that time, and the sons of Judah prevailed, because they relied upon the LORD God of their fathers.

19 And Abijah pursued after Jeroboam, and took cities from him, Bethel with the towns thereof, and Jeshanah with the towns thereof, and Ephrain with the towns thereof.

20 Neither did Jeroboam recover strength again in the days of Abijah: and the LORD struck him, and he died.

21 But Abijah waxed mighty, and married fourteen wives, and begat twenty and two sons, and sixteen daughters.

22 And the rest of the acts of Abijah, and his ways, and his sayings, are written in the story of the prophet Iddo.

14: -16: 14. ASA.

14: -1, 2. Introduction.

1 slept, &c. See note on Deut. 31. 16.
quiet ten years. There was only border fighting (1 Kings 15. 19, 32), but no actual campaign. See note on 15. 19.

3 took away . . . the high places. No "discrepancy" between this and 15. 17; for the high places referred to there belonged to "Israel", not Judah. Asia could do nothing in Israel.

4 And commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment.
5 Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images: and the kingdom was quiet before him.
6 And 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.
7 Therefore he said unto Judah, “Let us build these cities, and make about them walls, and towers, double doors, 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.

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And Asa had a force 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 valour.

And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah.

Then Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.

And in those times Israel was a teaching priest, and without law.

But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found of them.

And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great consternations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries.

And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for there was exceeding much spoil in them.

And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for there was exceeding much spoil in them.

And the prophecy, &c. Render: "and the prophecy (Oded was the prophet) he took", &c. abominable idols = abominations. Referring specially to the 'Asherim. Ap. 42. the cities . . . taken. Probably by Abijah (13. 19). mount = the hill country.

and out of the cities which he had taken from the hill country of Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that was before the porch of the LORD.
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15. 9.

9 (And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the sojourners 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.

10 So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa.

11 And they sacrificed unto the LORD the same time, of the spoil [taken from the Ethiopians] which they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep.

12 And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;

13 That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.

14 And they swore unto the LORD with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets.

15 And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart and with all their soul; and He was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about.

16 And also concerning Maachah the grandmother of Asa the king, he removed her from being queen, because she had made a monstrous Asherah for a grove: and Asa cut down her Asherah, and beat it small, and burnt it at the brook Kidron.

17 But the high places were not taken away out of Israel: nevertheless the heart of Asa was perfect all his days.

18 And he brought into the house of God the holy things that his father had dedicated, and that he himself had dedicated, silver, and gold, and vessels.)

19 And there was no more war unto the five and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa.


Simeon. Always more or less reckoned with Judah.

fell to him out of Israel. See note on 1 Kings 12. 17.

10 third month. The feast of Pentecost. fifteenth year. The dates of vv. 9-19 refer to the parenthesis which concern 14. 9-15.


the spoil. Taken from the Ethiopians, &c. (14. 13-15).


13 should be put to death. Cp. Deut. 17. 2-6.

14 Maachah. See note on 13. 2. mother = the queen-mother. Put by Fig. Synecdoche (of Genus) for grandmother (1 Kings 15. 2). idol in a grove = a monstrous Asherah for a grove. Cp. 1 Kings 15. 13.

See Ap. 42. stamped it = beat it small.

17 not taken away. Not from "Israel" (15. 17), but from Judah (14. 3). Fig. Palinodia. Ap. 6. perfect : i.e. so far as idolatry was concerned.

18 things . . . dedicated = holy things. See note on Ex. 3. 5.

no more war = no actual campaign (as in 16. 1). There was quiet between the two kings (14. 1), but there was border fighting (as in 1 Kings 15. 16, 32). See note on 14. 1. reign = kingdom. Cp. Num. 24. 7. I Sam. 20. 31. 1 Kings 2. 12. 1 Chron. 11. 10; 14. 2; 17. 14; 22. 10; 28. 5.

16. 1 In the, &c. This chapter is complementary to 1 Kings 15. 17-24.

six and thirtieth. The thirty-sixth year of the kingdom : i.e. from the disputation of the kingdom of Judah. This agrees with all the other dates and lengths of reigns. See Ap. 50. V, and note on p. 57.

reign. See note on 15. 19.
came up against. There had been quiet between the two kingdoms as such (14.1; 15. 19), though there had been border fighting (1 Kings 15. 16, 32).

let none go out. This shows that there was a tide of population streaming into Judah from Israel. See note on i Kings 12. 17.

2 treasures = treasuries.

3 There is. Supply ellipsis (Ap. 6) by "Let there be".

4 store cities = the storehouses of the cities. Sept. reads "the surrounding cities".


8 Were not . . . ? Fig. Erotesis.

9 the eyes of the LORD. Fig. Anthropopatheia. Cp. Prov. 15. 3. Job 34. 21. Ps. 139. 2. Jer. 16. 17. Zech. 4. 10.

perfect = whole, as in Deut. 27. 6.

building of Ramah, and let his work cease.

6 Then Asa the king took all Judah; and they carried away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha was building; and he built therewith Geba and Mizpah.

7 And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand.

8 Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, He delivered them into thine hand.

9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is whole toward Him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.”
Then 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. And, behold, the acts of Asa, first and last, lo, they are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. Moreover in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was Asa diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the healers. And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign. And they buried him in his own great sepulchre, which he had made for himself in the city of David, and laid him in the bed which was filled with sweet odours and divers kinds ... prepared by the apothecaries' art: and they made a very great burning for him.

And Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead, and strengthened himself against Israel. And he placed forces in all the fortified cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken.

And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim; But sought to the LORD God of his father, and walked in His commandments, and not after the doings of Israel. Therefore the LORD stablished the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance. And his heart was encouraged in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the high places and the Asherim out of Judah.

Also in the third year of his reign he sent to his princes, even Shemaiah, and Nathaniah, and Zebadiah, and Asahel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehonathan, and Adonijah, and Tobijah, and Tob-adonijah, Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, priests. And 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.

And the dread of the LORD came upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat.

Also 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. And Jehoshaphat waxed great exceedingly; and he built in Judah castles, and cities of store.
13 And he was busily engaged in the cities of Judah: and the men of war, mighty men of valour, were in Jerusalem.

14 And 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 3 mighty men of valour three hundred thousand.

15 And under his direction was Jehohanan the captain, and with him two hundred and fourscore thousand.

16 And next him was Amasiah the son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself unto the LORD; and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valour.

17 And of Benjamin; Eliada a mighty man of valour, and with him armed men with bow and shield two hundred thousand.

18 And next him was Jehozabad, and with him an hundred and fourscore thousand ready prepared for the war.

19 These waited on the king, beside those whom the king put in the fenced cities throughout all Judah.


4 Enquire, &c. This shows his consciousness that he was not doing right. Jehoshaphat. Inquiry.

5 Ahab. Compliance.

6 Jehoshaphat. Further inquiry.

7 Ahab. Reply.

8 True prophet sent for. Micaiah.

9, 10 False prophets. Zedekiah.

11 False prophets. All.

12, 13 True prophets brought. Micaiah.

14 Inquiry made. Ahab.

15-16 Micaiah’s answer. Ironical.

17 Inquiry adjured. Ahab.

18-27 Micaiah’s answer. Serious.

4 Enquire, &c. This shows his consciousness that he was not doing right. the LORD. Heb. Jehovah. God. Elohim. They knew not experimental relationship with Jehovah.

13 had much business was busily engaged.

14 three hundred thousand So far from these numbers being exaggerated, they are a token of Jehovah’s prospering grace. Jehoshaphat could muster 1,600,000; David, 1,300,000.

15 next to him = under his direction. Heb. "at his hand" (1 Chron. 25. 2).

17 With bow and shield. Fig. Zeugma (Ap. 6), by which the second verb is omitted. If we supply the first, the second follows: "[armed] with bow and [using] shield".

19 throughout all Judah. Cp. v. 2.

18:1-34. Alliances with Ahab.

1 Alliance. Matrimonial.

2 Jehoshaphat’s consent.

3 Alliance. Military.

4-27 Jehoshaphat’s anxiety.

28 The expedition.

29 Ahab’s device.

30-31 Jehoshaphat’s concern.

32-34 Ahab’s death.

1 Now, &c. This chapter is complementary to 1 Kings 22.

riches and honour in abundance. This is repeated from 17. 5, to show that there was no need for any alliance of any kind.


Note the three alliances or unequal yokes: (1) Marriage (18. 1; 21. 6); (2) War (18. 2-34); (3) Commerce (20. 35, 36). The consequence of this alliance was that Jerusalem ran with blood. The same was seen when James I of England married his son Charles I to Henrietta of France. England ran with blood, Charles lost his head, and his son James II lost his throne.

2 And. Note the Fig. Polysyndeton (Ap. 6), emphasizing the consequent details.

after certain years. The third year of the peace between Ahab and Syria (1 Kings 22. 1, 2).

And Ahab killed, &c. Ahab’s "sheep and oxen" did what all his men of war could never have done (17. 2. 10-19).


Rarnoth-gilead. Now, probably Reium, in Gilead. One of the cities of refuge (Deut. 4. 43). God’s gift to Israel.

3 we will be with thee. Jehoshaphat was deceived by its seeming to be a "good work". But "good" works are only "prepared" works (Eph. 2. 10). It could not be "good" if done "with thee" (cp. 19. 2). "Better is he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city" (Prov. 16. 32).

But Jehoshaphat did not "take it".
6 But Jehoshaphat said, “Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might inquire of him?”
7 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, “There is yet one man, by whom we may inquire of the LORD: but I have always hated 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.”
8 And [Ahab] the king of Israel called for one of his officers, and said, “Fetch quickly Micaiah the son of Imla.”
9 And 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.
10 And 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.’”
11 And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, “Go up to Ramoth-gilead, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king.”
12 And the messenger that went to call Micaiah spake to him, saying, “Behold, the words of the prophets declare good to the king with one mouth; let thy word therefore, I pray thee, be like one of theirs, and speak thou good.”
13 And Micaiah said, “As the LORD liveth, even what my God saith, that will I speak.”
14 And when he was come to the king, the king said unto him, “Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth-gilead, and battle, or shall I forbear?” And he said, “Go ye up, and prosper, and they shall be delivered into your hand.”
15 And the king said to him, “How many times shall I adjure thee that thou say nothing but the truth to me in the name of the LORD?”
16 Then 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.’”
17 And [Ahab] the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “Did I not tell thee that he would not prophesy good unto me, but evil?”
18 Again 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.
19 And the LORD said, ‘Who shall entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?’ And one spake saying after this manner, and another saying after that manner.
20 Then there came out a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, ‘I will entice him.’ And the LORD said unto him, ‘Wherewith?’
21 And 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.’
22 Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil against thee.”
23 Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near, and smote Micaiah upon the cheek, and said, “Which way went the 20 spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee?”
24 And Micaiah said, “Behold, thou shalt soon see on that day when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself.”
25 Then 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;
26 And say, ‘Thus saith the king, “Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction, and with water of affliction, until I return in peace.”’
27 And Micaiah said, “If thou certainly return in peace, then hath not the LORD spoken by me.” And he said, “Hearken, all ye Peoples.”
28 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead.
29 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, “I will disguise myself, and will go to the battle; but put thou on thy robes.”

MICAIAH'S ANSWER.


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20 spirit. Heb. ruach. Ap. 9. 22 these. Some codices, with Sept., Syr., and Vulg., read “all these”. 24 thou shalt see = art going to see; or, art about to see; or, thou wilt soon see.
28 carry him back. Implying that Micaiah was already a prisoner.
26 put this fellow. One of the eleven rulers offended with God's servants. See note on Ex. 10. 28, and Ap. 10. 20 spirit. Genitive of relation. Bread accompanied by, or eaten in, affliction; also because of its quality, or scant allowance. 27 people = Peoples.

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So the king of Israel disguised himself; and he entered to the battle.

30 Now 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.”

31 And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, “It is the king of Israel.” Therefore they compassed about him to fight: but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him; and God moved them to depart from him.

32 For 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.

33 And a certain man drew a bow in his ignorance, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the armour: therefore he said to his chariot man, “Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am sore wounded.”

34 And the battle increased that day: howbeit the king of Israel stayed himself up in his chariot against the Syrians until the even: and about the time of the sun going down he died.

19 And Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem.

2 And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, “Shouldest thou help the lawless one, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD.

3 Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the Asheroth out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God.”

4 And Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem: and he went out again through the People from Beer-sheba to the hill country of Ephraim, and brought them back unto the LORD God of their fathers.

5 And he set judges in the land throughout all the fenced cities of Judah, city by city,

6 And 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 matter of judgment.

7 Wherefore now let the dread 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 bribes.

8 Moreover in Jerusalem did Jehoshaphat set of the Levites, and of the priests, and of the head of the fathers of Israel, for the judgment of the LORD, and for controversies, when they returned to Jerusalem.

9 And he charged them, saying, “Thus shall ye do in the reverence of the LORD, faithfully, and with a perfect heart.

10 And 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.

11 And 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. Be strong, and act courageously, and the LORD shall be with the good.”
20 It came to pass after this also, that the sons of Moab, and the sons of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle.

2 Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, “There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be Hazazon-tamar, which is En-gedi.”

3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

4 And Judah gathered themselves together, to seek counsel of the LORD: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

5 And Jehoshaphat stood [on the platform] in the assembly of Judah in Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court.

6 And said, “O LORD God of our fathers, art not Thou God in heaven? and rulest not Thou over all the kingdoms of the nations? and in Thine hand is there not power and might, and there is none able to withstand Thee?

7 Art not Thou our God, Who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before Thy People Israel, and gavest them up to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?

8 And 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 presence is in this house,) and cry unto Thee in our distress, then Thou wilt hear and help.’

10 And now, behold, the sons 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;

11 Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of Thy possession, which Thou hast given us to inherit.

12 O our God, wilt Thou not bring judgments on them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon Thee.

13 And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their sons.

14 Then 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 assembly;

15 And he said, “Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, ‘Be not ye afraid’ nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God’s.

16 To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the ascent of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the valley, before the wilderness of Jeruel.

17 Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.’ ”

18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.

19 And the Levites, of the sons of the Kohathites, and of the sons of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high.

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II. CHRONICLES. 20. 19.
And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper.”

And when he had consulted with the People, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise in His glorious Sanctuary, as they went out before the army, and to say, “Praise the LORD; for His mercy endureth for ever.”

And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set Angelic powers against the sons of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.

For the sons of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.

And when Jehoshaphat and his People came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with apparel, and precious jewels, which they raked together for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.

And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the valley of Blessing; for there they blessed the LORD: therefore the name of the same place was called, The valley of Berachah, unto this day.

Then 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.

And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the LORD.

And a great dread of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel.

So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about.

And 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.

And he walked in the way of his father Asa, and departed not from it, doing that which was right in the sight of the LORD.

Howbeit the high places were not taken away: for as yet the People had not prepared their hearts unto the God of their fathers.

Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first and last, behold, they are written in the books of the kings of Hanani, who is mentioned in the book of the kings of Israel.

And after this did Jehoshaphat king of Judah join himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who did very wickedly.

This is added to show that the reason against such an alliance was just as strong with Ahaziah as with Ahab.

21. Jehoram. He was designated to be king in the seventeenth year of his father, but crowned in his father's twenty-third year. He reigned eight years in Jerusalem: two with his father, and six after his father's death.

21: -1. Jehoram. See note on Deut. 31. 16; and contrast his ally's end (18. 34).

The beauty of holiness = in His glorious sanctuary. See note on 1 Chron. 16. 29.

Praise the LORD = Praise Jehovah. Ap. 4. II

mercy = lovingkindness, or grace.

22. The LORD. Some think the "Yod" (= J) was an abbreviation for "Judah". The marginal note in A.V. is neither correct nor necessary. The ships did not go, for they were broken (v. 49). And the ships "did not go", for they were "broken" (v. 48). The marginal note in A.V. is neither correct nor necessary.


6, 7. Events. Personal.

1-5. Introduction.


20. Conclusion.

21. Jehoram. See note on Deut. 31. 16; and contrast his ally's end (18. 34).

2 And he had brethren the sons of Jehoshaphat, Azariah, and Jehiel, and Zechariah, and Azariah, and Michael, and Shephatiah: all these were the sons of Jehoshaphat king of Judah.

3 And 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 firstborn.

4 Now 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.

5 Jehoram was thirty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

6 And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, 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."

7 Howbeit the LORD would not destroy the house of David, because of what the covenant that He had made with David, and according as He promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons for ever.

8 In his days "the Edomites revolted from under the dominion of Judah, and made themselves a king." 9 Then 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.

10 So 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.

11 Moreover he made high places in the cities of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit fornication, and compelled Judah thereto.

12 And was brought a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, "Thou 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, 13 But 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:

14 'Behold, with a great plague will the LORD smite thy People, 'and thy sons, and thy wives, and all thy goods: 15 And thou shalt have great sickness by disease of thy bowels, until thy bowels fall out by reason of the sickness day by day." 16 Moreover the LORD stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines, and of the Arabians, that were under the direction of the Ethiopians:

17 And 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.
18 And after all this the LORD smote him in his bowels with an incurable disease.
19 And 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 [of spices] for him, like the burning of his fathers.
20 Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years, and departed unregretted. Howbeit they buried him in the city of David, but not in the sepulchres of the kings.

22 And 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.

2 A son of forty two years [of the house of Omri] was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri.
3 He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly.
4 Wherefore he did the evils in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab: for they were his counsellors after the death of his father to his destruction.
5 He walked also after their counsel, and went with Jehoram the son of Ahab king of Israel to war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramoth-gilead: and the Syrians smote Jehoram.
6 And 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.
7 And 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.
8 And 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.
9 And he sought Ahaziah: and they caught him, (for he was hiding himself 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.
10 But 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.

19 no burning : i.e. of spices.
20 without being desired = unregretted.
23. 1. II. CHRONICLES.

23 7 And in the 7th year Jehoiada 7 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 Elizaphat the son of Zichri, into covenant with him.

2 And they went about in Judah, and gathered the Levites out of all the cities of Judah, and the chief of the fathers of 6Israel, and they came to Jerusalem.

3 And all the assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And he said unto them, “Behold, the king’s son shall reign, according as the LORD hath said of the sons of David.

4 This 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 thresholds;

5 And a third part shall be at the king’s house; and a third part at the gate of the foundation: and all the People shall be in the courts of the house of the LORD.

6 But 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.

7 And 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.”

8 So 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.

9 Moreover 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.

10 And he set all the People, every man having his weapon in his hand, from the right side of the house to the left side of the temple, along by the altar and the house, by the king round about.

11 Then 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.”

12 Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the People running and praising the king, she came to the People into the house of the LORD:

13 And she looked, and, behold, the king standing 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 musick, and such as taught to sing praise. Then Athaliah rent her clothes, and said, “Treason, Treason.”

14 Then Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of hundreds that were set over the force, 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.”

15 So they made way for her; and when she was come to the entering of the horse gate by the king’s house, they slew her there.

16 And Jehoiada made a covenant between him, and between all the People, and between the king, that they should be the LORD’s People.

17 Then 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 house of Baal.

18 Also Jehoiada appointed the offices of the house of the LORD by the hand of the priests and the Levites, whom David had distributed in the house of the LORD, to offer the burnt offerings to the LORD, as it is written in the law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, as it was ordained by the hands of David.

19 And he set the porters at the gates of the house of the LORD, that none which was unclean in any thing should enter in.
20 And he took the captains of hundreds, and the nobles, and the governors of the People, and all the people of the land, and brought down the king from the house of the LORD: and they came through the high gate into the king’s house, and set the king upon the throne of the kingdom.

21 And all the People of the land rejoiced: and the city was quiet, after that they had slain Athaliah with the sword.

24 Joash 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.

2 And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada, the priest.

3 And Jehoiada took for Joash two wives; and he begat sons and daughters.

4 And it came to pass after this, that Joash was minded to repair the house of the LORD.

5 And he gathered together the priests and the Levites, and said to them, “Go out unto the cities of Judah, and gather the tribute of the half-shekel redemption money, according to the commandment of Moses the servant of the LORD, and of the assembly of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness?”

6 And the king called for Jehoiada the chief, and said unto him, “Why hast thou not required of the Levites to bring in out of Judah and out of Jerusalem the tribute of the half-shekel redemption money, according to the commandment of Moses the servant of the LORD, and of the assembly of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness?”

7 For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God; and also all the holy things of the house of the LORD did they bestow upon Baalim.

8 And all the princes and all the People rejoiced, and brought in, and cast into the chest, until they had made an end.

11 Now 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.

12 And the king and Jehoiada gave it to them who 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.

13 So the workmen wrought, and the work was perfected and they set the house of God in his state, and strengthened it.

14 And 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.

21 rejoiced... quiet. "After" Athaliah was slain! So will it be when the great usurper shall he finally cast down.
15 But Jehoiada waxed old, and was full of days when he died; and an hundred and thirty years old was he when he died.
16 And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God, and toward His house.
17 Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeiscance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them.
18 And they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served groves and grievous images: and wrath came upon them from Jehovah. Cp. vv. 23, 24.
19 Yet He sent prophets to them, to bring them again unto the LORD; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear.
20 And the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the People, and said unto them, “Thus hath said God, ‘Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, He hath also forsaken you.’ ”
21 And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the LORD.
22 Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when Zachariah died, he said, “The LORD look upon it, and require it.”
23 And it came to pass at the end of the year, that the force 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.
24 For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men, and the LORD delivered a very great force into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash.
25 And when they were departed from him, (for they left him in great diseases,) his own servants conspired against him for the blood of the son of Jehoiada the priest, and slew him on his bed, and he died: and they buried him in the city of David, but they buried him not in the sepulchres of the kings.
26 And these are they that conspired against him; Zabad the son of Shimeath an Ammonitess, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith a Moabitess.
27 Now 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.
Now it came to pass, when the kingdom was confirmed to him, that he slew his servants that had killed the king his father.

But 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 sons, neither shall the sons die for the fathers, but every man shall die for his own sin.”

Moreover 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.

He hired also an hundred thousand mighty men of valour out of Israel for an hundred talents of silver.

But there came a man of God to him, saying, “O king, let not the host of Israel go with thee; for the LORD is not with Israel, to wit, with any of the sons of Ephraim.

But 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.”

And Amaziah said to the man of God, “But what shall we do for the hundred talents which I have given to the army? For a similar action see 28. 23.

And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, “Why hast thou sought after the gods of the Edomites? forbear; why shouldest thou be sin.”

Now it came to pass, when the kingdom was confirmed to 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 rescue their own people out of thine hand?”

And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, Have we given thee to be for counselor to the king? forbear; why shouldest thou be smitten?” Then the prophet forbade, and said, “I know that God hath counselled to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel.”

Then Amaziah king of Judah took counsel, and sent to Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, “Come, let us look one another in the face.”

And Joash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, “The thorn 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 thorn.

Thou 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?”

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20 But 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.

21 So Joash the king of Israel went up; and they looked one another in the face, both he and Amaziah king of Judah, at Beth-shemesh, which belongeth to Judah.

22 And Judah was put to the worse before Israel, and they fled every man to his tent.

23 And Joash the king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, 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, four hundred cubits.

24 And 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.

25 And Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah lived after the death of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel fifteen years.

26 Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, first and last, behold, °are they not written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel?

27 Now after the time that Amaziah did turn away from following the LORD they conspired a great conspiracy against him in Jerusalem; and he fled to Lachish: °but they sent to Lachish after him, and slew him there.

28 And they brought him upon horses, and buried him with his fathers in Jerusalem. °Then all the People of Judah took °Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah.

2  He built Elath, and restored it to Judah, after that Amaziah °slept with his fathers.

3 Sixteen 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.

4 And he did °that which was °right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah did.

5 And 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.

6 And he went forth and warred against the Philistines, and brake down the wall of Gath, and the wall of °Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod, and built °fortresses about Ashdod, and among the Philistines.

7 And God helped him against the Philistines, and against the Arabians that dwelt in Gur-baal, and the °Mehunims.

8 And the Ammonites gave gifts to Uzziah: °and his name °spread abroad even to the entering in of Egypt; for he strengthened himself exceedingly.

9 Moreover Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the corner gate, and at the valley gate, and at the turning of the wall, and fortified them.

10 Also 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 vine dressers in the mountains, and in Carmel: °for he loved husbandry.

11 Moreover Uzziah had a force of fighting men, that went out to war °by bands, according to the number of their account under the direction of Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the ruler, under the hand of Hananiah, °one of the king’s captains.

12 The whole number of the °heads of the fathers of the mighty men of valour were °two thousand and six hundred.

13 And under their hand was an army, °three hundred thousand and five hundred, that made war with mighty power, °to help the king against the enemy.
And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the force shields, and spears, and helmets, and bucklers, and bows, and slings to cast stones.

And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by skilful 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 marvelously helped, till he was strong.

But 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.

And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, that were valiant men:

And 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 sanctified to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honour from the LORD God.”

Then 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.

And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he was leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out from thence; yea, himself hasted also to go out, because the LORD had smitten him.

And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a separate 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.

Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, first and last, did he unto the hundred twenty and five years old: i.e. when he began to reign alone. He was twenty when his father was smitten, and when he became co-regent. At his father's death he was twenty-five, and Ahaz was five. See note on Ex. 28. 41.

The chief priest. See note on Lev. 4. 3. behold. Fig. Asterismos. himself hasted. As Haman (Est. 6. 12).

Jotham. Not in the royal sepulchres.
27. 7.


7 Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all his wars, and his ways, 7Io, they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.
8 He was 8five and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem.
9 And Jotham 9slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David: and Ahaz his son reigned in his stead.

28 Ahaz was twenty years old 8when Jotham began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem: but he did 8not that which was right in the sight of the LORD, like David his father:
2 8For he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and made also molten images for Baalim.
3 Moreover he burnt incense in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and burnt his sons in the fire, after the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the sons of Israel.
4 He 8sacrificed also and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.
5 Wherefore the LORD 8his God delivered him into the hand of 8Rezin 8the king of Syria; and 8they 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.
6 For 8Pekah the son of Remaliah slew in Judah an hundred and twenty thousand in one day, which were all sons of valour; because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers.
7 And Zichri, a 8mighty man of Ephraim, slew Maaseiah the king's son, and Azrikam the governor of the house, and Elkanah that was next to the king.
8 And the 8sons of Israel carried away captive of their brethren two hundred thousand, 8women, sons, and daughters, and took also away [from Jerusalem] much spoil from them, and brought the spoil to Samaria.
9 But a prophet of the LORD was there, whose name was 8Oded: and he went out before the host that came to Samaria, and said unto them, 8Behold, 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 8reacheth up unto heaven.
10 And now ye purpose to keep under the 8sons of Judah and Jerusalem for bondmen and bondwomen unto you: but 8are there not with you, even with you, trespasses against the LORD your God?
11 Now 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.”
12 Then 8men of the 8heads of the 8sons of Ephraim,
15 And 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 tothering of them upon asses, and brought them to Jericho, the city of palm trees, to their brethren; then they returned to Samaria.

16 At that time did king Ahaz send unto the great king of Assyria to help him.

17 For again the Edomites had come and smitten Judah, and carried away captives.

18 The 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 Shocho with the villages thereof, and Timnah with the villages thereof, Gimzo also and the villages thereof: and they dwelt there.

19 For the LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel; for he made Judah naked, and acted treacherously against the LORD.

20 And Tilgath-pilneser king of Assyria came unto him, and distressed him, but strengthened him not.

21 For 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.

22 And in the time of his distress did he trespass yet more against the LORD: this is that king Ahaz.

23 For he sacrificed unto the gods of Damascus, which as he believed, 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.

24 And Ahaz gathered together the vessels of the house of God, and cut in pieces the vessels of the house of God, and shut up the doors of the house of the LORD, and he made him altars in every corner of Jerusalem.

25 And 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.

26 Now 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.

27 And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, even in Jerusalem: but they brought him not into the sepulchres of the kings of Israel: and Hezekiah his son reigned in his stead.

29 Hezekiah began to reign when he was 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.

2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD,
5 And 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.

6 For our fathers have acted unfaithfully, and done that which was the evil in the eyes of the LORD our God, and have forsaken Him, and have turned away their faces from the dwelling place of the LORD, and turned their backs.

7 And they have shut up the doors of the porch, and put out the lamps, and have not burned incense nor offered up burnt offerings in the holy place unto the God of Israel.

8 Wherefore the wrath of the LORD came upon Judah and Jerusalem, and He hath delivered them to trouble, to astonishment, and to hissing, according as ye see with your eyes.

9 For, lo, our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives are in captivity for this.

10 Now it is in mine heart to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, that His fierce wrath may turn away from us.

11 My 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.”

12 Then the Levites arose. Mahath the son of Amasai, and Joel the son of Azariah, of the sons of the Kohathites: and of the sons of Merari, Kish the son of Abdi, and Azariah the son of Jehalelel: and of the Gershonites; Joah the son of Zimmah, and Eden the son of Joah:

13 And of the sons of Elizaphan; Shimri, and Jeiel: and of the sons of Asaph; Zechariah, and Mattaniah:

14 And of the sons of Heman; Jehiel, and Shimei: and of the sons of Jeduthun; Shemaiah, and Uzziel.

15 And they gathered their brethren, and sanctified themselves, and came, according to the commandment of the king, in the business of the LORD, to cleanse the house of the LORD.

16 And 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.

17 Now they began on the first day of the first month to sanctify, and on the eighth day of the month came they to the porch of 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.

18 Then they went inside 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 shewbread table, with all the vessels thereof.
So they killed the bullocks, and the priests received the blood, and sprinkled it toward 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.

And they brought near the he goats for the sin offering before the king and the assembly; and they laid their hands upon them:

And the priests killed them, and they made cleansing 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.

And 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 Asaph the seer, and Nathan the prophet: for so was the commandment by the hand of the LORD by the hand of His prophets.

And the Levites stood with the instruments appointed by David, and the priests with the trumpets.

And 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.

And all the assembly worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded: and all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.

And when they had made an end of offering, the king and all that were present with him bowed themselves, and worshipped.

Moreover 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 worshipped.

Then 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 assembly brought in sacrifices and thank offerings; and as many as were of a free heart burnt offerings.

And the number of the burnt offerings, which the assembly brought, was three score and ten bullocks, an hundred rams, and two hundred lambs: all these were for a burnt offering to the LORD.

And the holy things were six hundred oxen and three thousand sheep.

But the priests were too few, so that they could not flay all the burnt offerings: wherefore their brethren the Levites did help them, till the work was ended, and until the other priests had sanctified themselves: for the Levites were more upright in heart to sanctify themselves than the priests.

And 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.

And Hezekiah rejoiced, and all the People, that God had prepared the People: for the thing was done suddenly.

And 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.

For the king had taken counsel, and his princes, and all the assembly in Jerusalem, to keep the passover in the second month.

For 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.
And the thing was right in the eyes of the king and all the assembly. So they established a decree to make proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beer-sheba even to Dan, that they should come to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel at Jerusalem: for they had not done it of a long time in such sort as it was written. So the couriers went with the letters by the direction of the king and his princes throughout all Israel and Judah, and according to the commandment of the king, saying, “Ye sons 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. And 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. Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers were, but submit yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into His sanctuary, which He hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of His wrath may turn away from you. For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and sons 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.”

So the couriers passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh even unto Zebulun: but they laughed them to scorn, and mocked them. Yet throughout all Israel, from Beer-sheba even to Dan, 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. Nevertheless men of Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem. Also in Judah the hand of God was to give them one heart to do the commandment of the king and of the princes, according to the word of the LORD. And there assembled at Jerusalem much People to keep the feast of unleavened bread in the second month, a very great assembly. And 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 ravine Kidron. Then they killed the passover on the fourteenth day of the second month: and the priests and the Levites were ashamed, and sanctified themselves, and brought in the burnt offerings into the house of the LORD. And they stood in their appointed place 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. For there were many in the assembly that were not sanctified: therefore the Levites had the charge of the killing of the Passover lambs for every one that was not clean, to sanctify them unto the LORD. For a multitude of the people, even many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, “The good LORD pardon every one that prepareth his heart to seek God, the LORD God of Jacob, even one heart.”

And they assembled at Jerusalem much People to keep 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.
22 And 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.

23 And the whole assembly took counsel to keep other seven days: and they kept other seven days with gladness.

24 For Hezekiah king of Judah did give to the assembly a thousand bullocks and seven thousand sheep; and the princes gave to the assembly a thousand bullocks and ten thousand sheep: and a great number of priests sanctified themselves.

25 And all the assembly of Judah, with the priests and the Levites, and all the assembly that came out of Israel, and the sojourners that came out of the land of Israel, and that dwelt in Judah, rejoiced.

26 So there was great joy in Jerusalem: for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there was not the like in Jerusalem.

27 Then the priests the Levites arose and blessed the People: and their voice was heard, and their prayer came up to His holy dwelling place, even unto heaven.

31 Now when all this was finished, all Israel that were found went out to the cities of Judah, and brake the images in pieces, and cut down the Asherim, and threw down the groves, until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the sons of Israel returned, every man to his possession, into their own cities.

2 And Hezekiah appointed the courses of the priests and the Levites after their courses, every man according to his service, 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.

3 He 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.

4 Moreover 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.

5 And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the sons of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the fields; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly.

6 And concerning the sons 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 great heaps.

7 In the third month they began to build up the heaps, and finished them in the seventh month.

8 And when Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD, and His People Israel.

9 Then Hezekiah questioned with the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps.

10 And Azariah the chief priest of the house of Zadok answered him, and said, “Since the People began to bring the 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.”

11 Then Hezekiah commanded to prepare storehouses in the house of the LORD; and they prepared them,
12 And brought in the heave offerings and the tithes and the holy things faithfully: over which Cononiah the Levite was ruler, and Shimei his brother was the next.

13 And Jehiel, and Azaziah, and Nahath, and Asahel, and Jerimoth, and Jozabad, and Eliel, and Ismachiah, and Mahath, and Beniah, 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.

14 And Kore the son of Innah the Levite, the porter toward the east, was over the freewill offerings of God, to distribute the heave offerings of the LORD, and the most holy things.

15 And next him were Eden, and Miniamin, and Jeshua, and Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah, in the cities of the priests, in their office of trust, to give to their brethren by courses, as well to the great as to the small:

16 Beside their genealogy of males, from three years old and upward, even unto every one that entereth into the house of the LORD, his daily portion for their service in their charges according to their courses;

17 Both 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;

18 And to the genealogy of all their little ones, their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, through all the assembly: for in their office of trust they devoted themselves as a holy body:

19 Also of the sons of Aaron the priest, 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 registered themselves by genealogies among the Levites.

20 And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah, and wrought that which was good and right and truth before the LORD his God.

21 And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered.

32 After these things, and the done in faithfulness thereof, Sennacherib king of Assyria came, and entered into Judah, and encamped against the fenced cities, and thought to break them up and annex them for himself.

2 And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib was come, and that he was purposed to fight against Jerusalem,

3 He took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which were without the city: and they did help him.

4 So there was gathered much people together, who stopped all the fountains, and the overflow that ran through the midst of the land, saying, “Why should the great king of Assyria come, and find much water?”

5 Also 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.

6 And he set captains of war over the People, and gathered them together to him in the broad space of the gate of the city, and spake comfortably to them, saying,

7 “Be 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:
8 With 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.

9 After this did Sennacherib king of Assyria send his servants to Jerusalem, (but he himself laid siege against Lachish, and all his royal retinue with him,) unto Hezekiah king of Judah, and unto all Judah that were at Jerusalem, saying, “Thus saith Sennacherib king of Assyria, Whereon do ye confide, that ye abide in the siege in Jerusalem? Doth not Hezekiah persuade you to give over yourselves to die by famine and by thirst, saying, ‘The LORD our God shall rescue us out of the hand of the king of Assyria?’

10 Hath 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?’

11 Know ye not what I and my fathers have done unto all the peoples of other lands? were the gods of the nations of those lands any ways able to rescue their lands out of mine hand?

12 Who was there among all the gods of those nations that my fathers utterly destroyed, that could rescue his people out of mine hand, that your God should be able to deliver you out of mine hand?

13 Know ye not what I and my fathers have done unto all the peoples of other lands? were the gods of the nations of those lands any ways able to rescue their lands out of mine hand?

14 And he spake yet more against the LORD God, and against His servant Hezekiah.

15 He 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 rescued their people out of mine hand, so shall not the God of Hezekiah rescue His people out of mine hand.”

16 Then 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.

17 And 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.

18 And for this cause Hezekiah the king, and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz, prayed and cried to God Himself.

19 And the LORD sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of his own bowels slew him there with the sword.

20 Thus 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.

21 And 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.

22 In those days. While Sennacherib's host was still surrounding Jerusalem. This is a brief summary of what is described in 2 Kings 20 and Isaiah 38.
and prayed unto the LORD: and He spake unto him, and He gave him a sign.
25 But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him; for his heart was lifted up: therefore there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem.
26 Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the lifting up 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.
27 And Hezekiah had exceeding much riches and honour: and he made himself treasures for silver, and for gold, and for precious stones, and for spices, and for shields, and for all manner of pleasant jewels;
28 Storehouses also for the increase of corn, and wine, and oil; and stalls for all manner of beasts, and enclosures for flocks.
29 Moreover he provided him cities, and possessions of flocks and herds in abundance: for God had given him substance very much.
30 This same Hezekiah also stopped the upper watercourse of Gihon, and brought it straight down to the west side of the city of David. And Hezekiah prospered in all his works.
31 Howbeit 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.
32 Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and his kindnesses, behold, they are written in the vision of Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, following upon the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.
33 And Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the chiefest of the sepulchres of the sons of David: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem did him honour at his death. And Manasseh his son reigned in his stead.
34 Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem:
2 But did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, like unto the abominations of the nations, whom the LORD had cast out before the sons of Israel.
3 For he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down, and he reared up altars for Baalim, and made Asheroth, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them.
4 Also he built altars in the house of the LORD, whereof the LORD had said, “In Jerusalem shall My name be for ever.”
5 And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

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7 And he set a carved image, the similitude which he had made, in the house of 7God, of which God had said to David even to Solomon his son, “In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, will I put My 7name for ever:
8 Neither will I any more remove the foot of Israel from out of the land which I have appointed for their fathers; if only 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.”
9 So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the 7nations, whom the LORD had destroyed before the 7sons of Israel.
10 And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his People: but they would not hearken.
11 Wherefore the LORD brought upon them the princes of the host of 7the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh with rings [through his lips], and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon.
12 And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his 7God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers,
13 And prayed unto Him: and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD He was 7God.
14 Now 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 on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, even to the entering into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD He was 7God.
15 And he took away the strange gods, and the 7idol 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.
16 And he repaired the altar of the LORD, and sacrificed thereon peace offerings and thank offerings, and commanded Judah to serve the LORD 7God of Israel.
17 Nevertheless the People did sacrifice still in the high places, yet unto the LORD their God only.
18 Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, and his prayer unto his God, and the words of the seers that spake to him in the name of the LORD God of Israel, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of 7Israel.
19 7His prayer also, and how 7God was intreated of him, and all his sin, and his trespass, and the places wherein he built high places, and set up 7groves and graven 7images, before he was humbled: behold, they are written among the sayings of the chozai.
20 So Manasseh 7slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the garden of his own house: and Amon his son reigned in his stead.
21 7Amon was two and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned two years in Jerusalem. But he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according as did Manasseh his father: for Amon sacrificed unto all the carved 7images which Manasseh his father had made, and served them;
23 And humbled not himself before the LORD, as Manasseh his father had humbled himself; 7but Amon he multiplied trespass more and more.
24 And his servants conspired against him, and slew him in his own house.
25 But the commonality slew all them that had conspired against king Amon; and the People of the land made Josiah his son king in his stead.
24 7Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years.
2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and turned aside neither to the right hand, nor to the left.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7 idol</th>
<th>7 God.</th>
<th>Heb. Elohim (with Art.)</th>
<th>= the [true] God.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 your.</td>
<td>Sept., Syr., and Vulg</td>
<td>read &quot;their&quot;.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Cp. 2 Kings 21. 8.</td>
<td>= if only.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11 captains</td>
<td>princes.</td>
<td>See note on &quot;Gezer&quot;, 1 Kings 9. 15-17.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>the king of Assyria.</td>
<td>Esar-haddon.</td>
<td>among the thorns = with hooks, or rings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A monument has been found showing this king Esar-haddon leading two captives with hooks or rings through their lips. And in an inscription he says: &quot;I transported (from Syria) into Assyria men and women innumerable ... I counted among the vassals of my realm twelve kings of Syria, beyond the mountains, Balou king of Tyre, Manasseh king of Judah&quot;.</td>
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<td>15 Israel.</td>
<td>See note on 1 Kings 12. 17.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 His prayer.</td>
<td>Not recorded. That given in the Apocrypha not considered genuine. images.</td>
<td>Same word as v. 22 and Deut. 7. 5. Always pl. in O.T. the seers = the chozai.</td>
<td>See note on 1 Chron. 29. 29.</td>
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<td>20 slept with his fathers.</td>
<td>See note on Deut. 31. 16.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>in his own house.</td>
<td>The Sept. reads &quot;in the garden of his own house&quot;.</td>
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</table>

**33: 21-25. AMON.**

| 22 as = according as. |
| 23 but Amon = "but he Amon". |
| trespassed more and more = he multiplied trespass. Heb. 'asham. |
| 25 the People of the land = the commonality. |

**34: 1—35: 27. JOSIAH.**

1 Josiah. These two chapters are complementary to 2 Kings 22. 1—23. 30. See Ap. 56. | 2 declined = turned aside or swerved. |

**Notes:****

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25 But the commonality slew all them that had conspired against king Amon; and the People of the land made Josiah his son king in his stead.

34 7Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years. 2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and turned aside neither to the right hand, nor to the left.
3 For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the Asherim, and the carved images, and the molten images.

4 And they brake down the altars of Baalim in his presence; and the images, that were on high above them, he cut down; and the Asherim, and the carved images, and the molten images, he brake in pieces, and made dust of them, and strowed it upon the graves of them that had sacrificed unto them.

5 And he burnt the bones of the priests upon their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.

6 And so did he in the cities of Manasseh, and Ephraim, and Simeon, even unto Naphtali, in their ruins round about.

7 And when he had broken down the altars and the Asherim, and had beaten the graven images into powder, and cut down all the idols throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem.

8 Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land, and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.

9 And when they came to Hilkiah the high priest, they delivered the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, and have delivered it to the hand of the overseers, and to the hand of the porters.

10 And 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:

11 Even to the artificers and builders gave they it, to buy hewn stone, and timber for couplings, and to floor the houses which the kings of Judah had destroyed.

12 And the men did the work faithfully: and the overseers of them were Jahath and Obadiah, the Levites, of the sons of Merari; and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to set it forward; and other of the Levites, all that had understanding of instruments of musick.

13 Also 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.

14 And 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 the hand of Moses.
19 And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the law, that he rent his clothes.
20 And the king commanded Hilkiah, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Micah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king's, saying,
21 “Go, 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 words of the LORD, to do after all that is written in this book.”
22 And Hilkiah, and they that the king sent, went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the second quarter of the city:) and they spake to her to that effect.
23 And 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:
25 Because they have forsaken Me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke Me to anger with all the workmanship of their hands; therefore My wrath hath been poured out upon this place, and shall not be quenched.’ ”
26 And as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, so shall ye say unto him, ‘Thus hath said the LORD God of Israel concerning the words which thou hast heard;
27 ‘Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou hearest 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, 23thath said the LORD.
28 “Behold, 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.’ ”
29 So they brought the king word again.
30 Then the king sent and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.
31 And the king stood on his stand, and made the statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book.
32 And he caused all that were found in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand to it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.
33 And Josiah 33took away all the abominations out of all the countries that pertained to the sons 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.
35 Moreover 2Josiah kept a passover unto the LORD in Jerusalem: and they killed the passover on the fourteenth day of the first month.
2 And 2he set the priests in their charges, and encouraged them to the service of the house of the LORD.
3 And said unto the Levites "that taught "all Israel, which were "holy unto the LORD, "Put the Sanctuary's 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,
4 And 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.
5 And stand in the "holy place according to the "divisions of the houses of the fathers of your brethren the sons of the People, and after the division of the families of the Levites.
6 So 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."
7 And Josiah gave to "the sons of 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.
8 And his princes gave willingly unto the People, to the priests, and to the Levites: "Hilkiah [the high priest] 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.
9 Conaniah 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.
10 So the service was prepared, and the priests stood in their place, and the Levites in their courses, according to the king's commandment.
11 And the Levites killed the passover, and the priests sprinkled the blood from their hands, and the Levites played them.
12 And they removed the burnt offerings, that they might give according to the divisions of "the houses of "the People, to bring near unto the LORD, as it is written in "the book of Moses [Exodus]. And so did they with the oxen.
13 And they roasted the passover with fire according to the ordinance: but the other "holy offerings boiled they in pots, and in caldrons, and in pans, and divided them speedily among all "the People.
14 And "afterward they made ready for themselves, and for the priests: because the priests the sons of Aaron were busied in offering up of burnt offerings and the fat until night; therefore the Levites prepared for themselves, and for the priests the sons of Aaron.
15 And the singers the sons of Asaph were in their place, according to the commandment of "David, and Asaph, and Heman, and Jeduthun the king's "seer; and the porters waited at every gate; they need not depart from their service; for their brethren the Levites prepared for them.
16 So 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.
17 And the sons of Israel that were present kept the passover at that time, and the feast of unleavened bread seven days.
18 And there was "no passover like to that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet; neither did 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.
19 In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah was this passover "kept.
20 After all this, when Josiah had prepared the house, Pharaoh-necho king of Egypt came up to fight at the fortress of Chemosh by Euphrates: and Josiah went out against him.

21 But Pharaoh-necho 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 not against thee this day, but against the house wherewith I destroy thee from meddling with God, Who is with me, that He destroy thee not.”

22 Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Pharaoh-necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.

23 And the archers shot at king Josiah; and the king said to his servants, “Have me away; for I am sore wounded.”

24 His 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 graves of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

25 And Jeremiah lamented for Josiah: and all the singing women spake of Josiah in their lamentations, and made them an ordinance in Israel: and, behold, they are written in the lamentations of the LORD.

26 Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and his kindnesses, according to that which was written in the law of the LORD, and his works, and how he made the temple of the LORD worshipable, are they not written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.

27 And his deeds, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.

36 Then the People of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and made him king in his father's stead in Jerusalem.

2 Jehoahaz was twenty and three years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem.

3 And the king of Egypt put him down at Jerusalem, and condemned the land in an hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.

4 And the king of Egypt made Eliakim his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem, and turned his name to Jehoiakim.

And Necho took Jehoahaz his brother, and carried him to Egypt,

5 Jehoiakim 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.

6 Against him came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and bound him in fetters, to carry him to Babylon.
Nebuchadnezzar also carried of the vessels of the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon. Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and his abominations which he did, and that which was found upon him, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah: and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead.

Jehoiachin 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. And when the year was expired, king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and had him brought to Babylon, with the goodly vessels of the house of the LORD, and made Zedekiah his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem.

Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And 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.

And 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. Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the People, abounded in treachery after all the abominations of the nations; and polluted the house of the LORD which He had hallowed in Jerusalem.

And 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: But they kept mocking 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.

Therefore 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.

And 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. And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.

And that which was written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah, the same said the king to Jehoiakim. And the rest of the acts of Zedekiah, and all that he did, is it not written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah? This is the thing that was done to the house of David, to Judah, and to Jerusalem; and all the kings of Babylon came, and sat upon the throne, even all of them.

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where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:

21 To fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for all the days she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfill threescore and ten years.

22 Now 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,

23 "Thus 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 an 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.' ”

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SPECIAL NOTE ON 2 Chron. 36. 21.

THE "SERVITUDE", THE "CAPTIVITY", AND THE "DESOLATIONS".

Three Periods of seventy years are assigned to these three respectively, and it is necessary that they should be differentiated.

i. The "SERVITUDE" began in the fourth year of Jehoiakim, and the first of Nebuchadnezzar, when the "KINGDOM" passed under Chaldean rule for seventy years (Jer. 25. 1). This period closed with the capture of BABYLON by Darius the Median (Astyages), and the Decree of Cyrus to rebuild the Temple. It lasted from 496-426 B.C.

ii. The "CAPTIVITY" commenced, and is dated by Ezekiel from the carrying away to BABYLON of Jeconiah, in the eighth year of Nebuchadnezzar (2 Kings 24. 8-16). This was in 489 B.C. Consequently, when the "Servitude" ended in 426 B.C, the "Captivity" had lasted for sixty-three (9 x 7) years.

Seven years later CYRUS died, in 419 B.C. That year (419) is further notable for:
1. The appointment of Nehemiah as Governor of Jerusalem by Cambyses (Neh. 5. 14).
2. The completion of "the wall" in fifty-two days (Neh. 6. 15); and
3. The fact it marks the end of the fifth of the seven sevens of Dan. 9. 25. (See Appendix 60. VI, p. 60; and 50; VII (5), p. 67. The "Captivity" lasting from 489 to 419 B.C)

iii. The "DESOLATIONS " commenced with the beginning of the third and last siege of JERUSALEM by Nebuchadnezzar in 479 B.C, and cover a period of "seventy years", ending in the second year of Darius Hystaspis ; i.e. in 409 B.C.

This "threescore and ten years" which is referred to here (2 Chron. 36. 21), is the fulfillment of Lev. 26. 32-35, and has reference to "the LAND".

It is this period of which Daniel says he "understood by books", as being the number of the years that Jehovah "would accomplish in the Desolations of Jerusalem" (Dan. 9. 2).

The Darius here (Dan. 9. 1) is evidently Cyrus, the son of Astyages (see notes on p. 618, and Ap. 57); and as the first year of his reign was 426 B.C, it follows that seventeen years had, then, yet to run before the "Desolations" of the LAND were ended, in 409 B.C.

Hence, Daniel's prayer, that follows, resulted in the giving to him the famous prophecy of the "seventy sevens" of years contained in Dan. 9. 20-27.