

**Open American Standard Version  
The Historical Books  
The Revivalist's Note Taking Edition**

**Compiled by the Revivalist  
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# **Holy Bible**

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## **Introduction**

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The Open American Standard Version is an update of the American Standard Version (ASV) of the Holy Bible, published in 1901. A custom computer program updated the archaic words and word forms to contemporary equivalents, and then a team of volunteers proofread and updated the grammar. The New Testament was updated to conform to the Majority Text reconstruction of the original Greek manuscripts, thus taking advantage of the superior access to manuscripts that we have now compared to when the original ASV was translated. The style of the Open American Standard Version, while fairly literally translated, is in informal, spoken English. The Open American Standard Version is designed to sound good and be accurate when read aloud. It is not formal in its language, just as the original Greek of the New Testament was not formal. The OASV uses contractions rather freely. The Open American Standard Version doesn't capitalize pronouns pertaining to God. The original manuscripts made no such distinction. Hebrew has no such thing as upper and lower case, and the original Greek manuscripts were written in all upper case letters. Attempting to add in such a distinction raises some difficulties in translating dual-meaning Scriptures such as the coronation psalms. The Open American Standard Version main edition translates God's Proper Name in the Old Testament as "Yahweh."

With all of the above and some other places where lack of clarity in the original manuscripts has led to multiple possible readings, significant variants are listed in footnotes. The reading that in our prayerful judgment is best is in the main text. Overall, the Open American Standard Version isn't very much different than several other good contemporary English translations of the Holy Bible. The message of Salvation through Jesus Christ is still the same. The point of this translation was not to be very different (except for legal status), but to update the ASV for readability while retaining or improving the accuracy of that well-respected translation and retaining the public domain status of the ASV.



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## Ruth

### Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup> In the days when the judges judged, there was a famine in the land. A certain man of Bethlehem Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. <sup>2</sup> The name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi. The names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem Judah. They came into the country of Moab, and lived there. <sup>3</sup> Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup> They took for themselves wives of the women of Moab. The name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other was Ruth. They lived there about ten years. <sup>5</sup> Mahlon and Chilion both died, and the woman was bereaved of her two children and of her husband. <sup>6</sup> Then she arose with her daughters-in-law, that she might return from the country of Moab; for she had heard in the country of Moab how Yahweh <sup>\*</sup> had visited his people in giving them bread. <sup>7</sup> She went out of the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her. They went on the way to return to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup> Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May Yahweh deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead, and with me. <sup>9</sup> May Yahweh grant you that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband."

Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices, and wept. <sup>10</sup> They said to her, "No, but we will return with you to your people."

<sup>11</sup> Naomi said, "Go back, my daughters. Why do you want to go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? <sup>12</sup> Go back, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say, 'I have hope,' if I should even have a husband tonight, and

should also bear sons;<sup>13</sup> would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from having husbands? No, my daughters, for it grieves me seriously for your sakes, for Yahweh's hand has gone out against me."

<sup>14</sup> They lifted up their voices, and wept again; then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth joined with her.<sup>15</sup> She said, "Behold,<sup>†</sup> your sister-in-law has gone back to her people, and to her god. Follow your sister-in-law."

<sup>16</sup> Ruth said, "Don't urge me to leave you, and to return from following you, for where you go, I will go; and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God<sup>‡</sup> my God.<sup>17</sup> Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May Yahweh do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me."

<sup>18</sup> When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

<sup>19</sup> So they both went until they came to Bethlehem. When they had come to Bethlehem, all the city was excited about them, and they asked, "Is this Naomi?"

<sup>20</sup> She said to them, "Don't call me Naomi.<sup>§</sup> Call me Mara;<sup>\*</sup> for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.<sup>21</sup> I went out full, and Yahweh has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since Yahweh has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"<sup>22</sup> So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, with her, who returned out of the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

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**\*1:6** "Yahweh" is God's proper Name, sometimes rendered "LORD" (all caps) in other translations.

**†1:15** "Behold", from "הִנֵּה", means look at, take notice,

observe, see, or gaze at. It is often used as an interjection.

‡**1:16** The Hebrew word rendered "God" is "אֱלֹהִים" (Elohim).

§**1:20** "Naomi" means "pleasant".

\***1:20** "Mara" means "bitter".

## Ruth Chapter 2

<sup>1</sup> Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech, and his name was Boaz.<sup>2</sup> Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Let me now go to the field, and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I find favor." She said to her, "Go, my daughter."<sup>3</sup> She went, and came and gleaned in the field after the reapers; and she happened to come to the portion of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

<sup>4</sup> Behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "May Yahweh be with you."

They answered him, "May Yahweh bless you."

<sup>5</sup> Then Boaz said to his servant who was set over the reapers, "Whose young lady is this?"

<sup>6</sup> The servant who was set over the reapers answered, "It is the Moabite lady who came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab."<sup>7</sup> She said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came, and has continued even from the morning until now, except that she rested a little in the house."

<sup>8</sup> Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen, my daughter. Don't go to glean in another field, and don't go from here, but stay here close to my maidens.<sup>9</sup> Let your eyes be on the field that they reap, and go after them.

Haven't I commanded the young men not to touch you? When you are thirsty, go to the vessels, and drink from that which the young men have drawn."

<sup>10</sup> Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your sight, that you should take knowledge of me, since I am a foreigner?"

<sup>11</sup> Boaz answered her, "I have been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother, and the land of your birth, and have come to a people that you didn't know before. <sup>12</sup> May Yahweh repay your work, and a full reward be given to you from Yahweh, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."

<sup>13</sup> Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord, because you have comforted me, and because you have spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not as one of your servants."

<sup>14</sup> At meal time Boaz said to her, "Come here, and eat some bread, and dip your morsel in the vinegar."

She sat beside the reapers, and they passed her parched grain, and she ate, and was satisfied, and left some of it.<sup>15</sup> When she had risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and don't reproach her. <sup>16</sup> Also pull out some for her from the bundles, and leave it. Let her glean, and don't rebuke her."

<sup>17</sup> So she gleaned in the field until evening; and she beat out that which she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah\* of barley. <sup>18</sup> She took it up, and went into the city. Then her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned; and she brought out and gave to her that which she had left after she had enough.

<sup>19</sup> Her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? Where have you

worked? Blessed be he who noticed you.”  
 She told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, “The man’s name with whom I worked today is Boaz.”<sup>20</sup> Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “May he be blessed by Yahweh, who has not abandoned his kindness to the living and to the dead.” Naomi said to her, “The man is a close relative to us, one of our near kinsmen.”

<sup>21</sup> Ruth the Moabite said, “Yes, he said to me, ‘You shall stay close to my young men, until they have finished all my harvest.’ ”

<sup>22</sup> Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, “It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his maidens, and that they not meet you in any other field.”<sup>23</sup> So she stayed close to the maidens of Boaz, to glean to the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and she lived with her mother-in-law.

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\***2:17** 1 ephah is about 22 liters or about 2/3 of a bushel

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## Ruth Chapter 3

<sup>1</sup> Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, shall I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you?<sup>2</sup> Now isn’t Boaz our kinsman, with whose maidens you were? Behold, he will be winnowing barley tonight on the threshing floor.<sup>3</sup> Therefore wash yourself, anoint yourself, get dressed, and go down to the threshing floor, but don’t make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.<sup>4</sup> It shall be, when he lies down, that you shall note the place where he is lying. Then you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lay down. Then he will tell you what to do.”

<sup>5</sup> She said to her, “All that you say, I will do.”<sup>6</sup> She went down to the threshing floor,

and did everything that her mother-in-law told her. <sup>7</sup> When Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. She came softly, uncovered his feet, and laid down. <sup>8</sup> At midnight, the man was startled and turned himself; and behold, a woman lay at his feet. <sup>9</sup> He said, "Who are you?" She answered, "I am Ruth your servant. Therefore spread the corner of your garment over your servant; for you are a near kinsman."

<sup>10</sup> He said, "You are blessed by Yahweh, my daughter. You have shown more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, because you didn't follow young men, whether poor or rich. <sup>11</sup> Now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do to you all that you say; for all the city of my people knows that you are a worthy woman. <sup>12</sup> Now it is true that I am a near kinsman. However, there is a kinsman nearer than I. <sup>13</sup> Stay this night, and in the morning, if he will perform for you the part of a kinsman, good. Let him do the kinsman's duty. But if he will not do the duty of a kinsman for you, then I will do the duty of a kinsman for you, as Yahweh lives. Lie down until the morning."

<sup>14</sup> She lay at his feet until the morning, then she rose up before one could discern another. For he said, "Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." <sup>15</sup> He said, "Bring the mantle that is on you, and hold it." She held it; and he measured six measures of barley, and laid it on her; then he went into the city.

<sup>16</sup> When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "How did it go, my daughter?" She told her all that the man had done for her. <sup>17</sup> She said, "He gave me these six measures of barley; for he said, 'Don't go empty to your mother-in-law.' "

<sup>18</sup> Then she said, "Wait, my daughter, until you know what will happen; for the man will not rest until he has settled this today."



## Ruth

### Chapter 4

<sup>1</sup> Now Boaz went up to the gate, and sat down there. Behold, the near kinsman of whom Boaz spoke came by. He said to him, "Come over here, friend, and sit down!" He came over, and sat down. <sup>2</sup> He took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here," and they sat down. <sup>3</sup> He said to the near kinsman, "Naomi, who has come back out of the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land, which was our brother Elimelech's. <sup>4</sup> I thought I should tell you, saying, 'Buy it before those who sit here, and before the elders of my people.' If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know. For there is no one to redeem it besides you; and I am after you."

He said, "I will redeem it."

<sup>5</sup> Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must buy it also from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead on his inheritance."

<sup>6</sup> The near kinsman said, "I can't redeem it for myself, lest I endanger my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption for yourself; for I can't redeem it."

<sup>7</sup> Now this was the custom in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning exchanging, to confirm all things: a man took off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbor; and this was the way of formalizing transactions in Israel. <sup>8</sup> So the near kinsman said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself," then he took off his shoe.

<sup>9</sup> Boaz said to the elders, and to all the people, "You are witnesses today, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi. <sup>10</sup> Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, I have purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead on his inheritance, that

the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers, and from the gate of his place. You are witnesses today."

<sup>11</sup> All the people who were in the gate, and the elders, said, "We are witnesses. May Yahweh make the woman who has come into your house like Rachel and like Leah, which both built the house of Israel; and treat you worthily in Ephrathah, and be famous in Bethlehem. <sup>12</sup> Let your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, of the offspring\* which Yahweh will give you by this young woman."

<sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife; and he went in to her, and Yahweh enabled her to conceive, and she bore a son. <sup>14</sup> The women said to Naomi, "Blessed be Yahweh, who has not left you today without a near kinsman. Let his name be famous in Israel. <sup>15</sup> He shall be to you a restorer of life, and sustain you in your old age, for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him." <sup>16</sup> Naomi took the child, and laid him in her bosom, and became nurse to it. <sup>17</sup> The women, her neighbors, gave him a name, saying, "A son is born to Naomi". They named him Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

<sup>18</sup> Now this is the history of the generations of Perez: Perez became the father of Hezron, <sup>19</sup> and Hezron became the father of Ram, and Ram became the father of Amminadab, <sup>20</sup> and Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon became the father of Salmon, <sup>21</sup> and Salmon became the father of Boaz, and Boaz became the father of Obed, <sup>22</sup> and Obed became the father of Jesse, and Jesse became the father of David.

\***4:12** or, seed

[illegible]



## 1st Chronicles

### Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup> Adam, Seth, Enosh, <sup>2</sup> Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, <sup>3</sup> Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, <sup>4</sup> Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. <sup>5</sup> The sons of Japheth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. <sup>6</sup> The sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, Diphath, and Togarmah. <sup>7</sup> The sons of Javan: Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Rodanim. <sup>8</sup> The sons of Ham: Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan. <sup>9</sup> The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabta, Raama, Sabteca. The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan. <sup>10</sup> Cush became the father of Nimrod. He began to be a mighty one in the earth. <sup>11</sup> Mizraim became the father of Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, <sup>12</sup> Pathrusim, Casluhim (where the Philistines came from), and Caphtorim. <sup>13</sup> Canaan became the father of Sidon his firstborn, Heth, <sup>14</sup> the Jebusite, and the Amorite, the Girgashite, <sup>15</sup> the Hivite, the Arkite, the Sinite, <sup>16</sup> the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite. <sup>17</sup> The sons of Shem: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, Aram, Uz, Hul, Gether, and Meshech. <sup>18</sup> Arpachshad became the father of Shelah, and Shelah became the father of Eber. <sup>19</sup> To Eber were born two sons: the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan. <sup>20</sup> Joktan became the father of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, <sup>21</sup> Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, <sup>22</sup> Ebal, Abimael, Sheba, <sup>23</sup> Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the sons of Joktan. <sup>24</sup> Shem, Arpachshad, Shelah, <sup>25</sup> Eber, Peleg, Reu, <sup>26</sup> Serug, Nahor, Terah, <sup>27</sup> Abram (also called Abraham). <sup>28</sup> The sons of Abraham: Isaac and Ishmael. <sup>29</sup> These are their generations: the firstborn of Ishmael, Nebaioth; then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, <sup>30</sup> Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema, <sup>31</sup> Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. These are the sons of

Ishmael.<sup>32</sup> The sons of Keturah, Abraham's concubine: she bore Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. The sons of Jokshan: Sheba and Dedan.<sup>33</sup> The sons of Midian: Ephah, Ephher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the sons of Keturah.<sup>34</sup> Abraham became the father of Isaac. The sons of Isaac: Esau and Israel.<sup>35</sup> The sons of Esau: Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam, and Korah.<sup>36</sup> The sons of Eliphaz: Teman, Omar, Zephi, Gatam, Kenaz, Timna, and Amalek.<sup>37</sup> The sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.<sup>38</sup> The sons of Seir: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan.<sup>39</sup> The sons of Lotan: Hori and Homam; and Timna was Lotan's sister.<sup>40</sup> The sons of Shobal: Alian, Manahath, Ebal, Shephi, and Onam. The sons of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah.<sup>41</sup> The son of Anah: Dishon. The sons of Dishon: Hamran, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran.<sup>42</sup> The sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Jaakan. The sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran.

<sup>43</sup> Now these are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom, before any king reigned over the children of Israel: Bela the son of Beor; and the name of his city was Dinhabah.<sup>44</sup> Bela died, and Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his place.<sup>45</sup> Jobab died, and Husham of the land of the Temanites reigned in his place.<sup>46</sup> Husham died, and Hadad the son of Bedad, who struck Midian in the field of Moab, reigned in his place; and the name of his city was Avith.<sup>47</sup> Hadad died, and Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his place.<sup>48</sup> Samlah died, and Shaul of Rehoboth by the River reigned in his place.<sup>49</sup> Shaul died, and Baal Hanan the son of Achbor reigned in his place.<sup>50</sup> Baal Hanan died, and Hadad reigned in his place; and the name of his city was Pai: and his wife's name was Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Mezahab.<sup>51</sup> Then Hadad died. The chiefs of Edom were: chief

Timna, chief Aliah, chief Jetheth,<sup>52</sup> chief Oholibamah, chief Elah, chief Pinon,<sup>53</sup> chief Kenaz, chief Teman, chief Mibzar,<sup>54</sup> chief Magdiel, and chief Iram. These are the chiefs of Edom.

## 1st Chronicles Chapter 2

<sup>1</sup>These are the sons of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, <sup>2</sup>Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. <sup>3</sup>The sons of Judah: Er, Onan, and Shelah; which three were born to him of Shua's daughter the Canaanitess. Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in Yahweh's\* sight; and he killed him. <sup>4</sup>Tamar his daughter-in-law bore him Perez and Zerah. All the sons of Judah were five. <sup>5</sup>The sons of Perez: Hezron and Hamul. <sup>6</sup>The sons of Zerah: Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Calcol, and Dara; five of them in all. <sup>7</sup>The son of Carmi: Achar, the troubler of Israel, who committed a trespass in the devoted thing. <sup>8</sup>The son of Ethan: Azariah. <sup>9</sup>The sons also of Hezron, who were born to him: Jerahmeel, Ram, and Chelubai. <sup>10</sup>Ram became the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, prince of the children of Judah; <sup>11</sup>and Nahshon became the father of Salma, and Salma became the father of Boaz, <sup>12</sup>and Boaz became the father of Obed, and Obed became the father of Jesse; <sup>13</sup>and Jesse became the father of his firstborn Eliab, and Abinadab the second, and Shimea the third, <sup>14</sup>Nethanel the fourth, Raddai the fifth, <sup>15</sup>Ozem the sixth, David the seventh; <sup>16</sup>and their sisters were Zeruiah and Abigail. The sons of Zeruiah: Abishai, Joab, and Asahel, three. <sup>17</sup>Abigail bore Amasa; and the father of Amasa was Jether the Ishmaelite.

<sup>18</sup>Caleb the son of Hezron became the father of children of Azubah his wife, and of Jerioth; and these were her sons: Jesher,

Shobab, and Ardon. <sup>19</sup> Azubah died, and Caleb married Ephrath, who bore him Hur. <sup>20</sup> Hur became the father of Uri, and Uri became the father of Bezalel.

<sup>21</sup> Afterward Hezron went in to the daughter of Machir the father of Gilead, whom he took as wife when he was sixty years old; and she bore him Segub. <sup>22</sup> Segub became the father of Jair, who had twenty-three cities in the land of Gilead. <sup>23</sup> Geshur and Aram took the towns of Jair from them, with Kenath, and its villages, even sixty cities. All these were the sons of Machir the father of Gilead. <sup>24</sup> After Hezron died in Caleb Ephrathah, Abijah Hezron's wife bore him Ashhur the father of Tekoa. <sup>25</sup> The sons of Jerahmeel the firstborn of Hezron were Ram the firstborn, Bunah, Oren, Ozem, and Ahijah. <sup>26</sup> Jerahmeel had another wife, whose name was Atarah. She was the mother of Onam. <sup>27</sup> The sons of Ram the firstborn of Jerahmeel were Maaz, Jamin, and Eker. <sup>28</sup> The sons of Onam were Shammai and Jada. The sons of Shammai: Nadab and Abishur. <sup>29</sup> The name of the wife of Abishur was Abihail; and she bore him Ahban and Molid. <sup>30</sup> The sons of Nadab: Seled and Appaim; but Seled died without children. <sup>31</sup> The son of Appaim: Ishi. The son of Ishi: Sheshan. The son of Sheshan: Ahlai. <sup>32</sup> The sons of Jada the brother of Shammai: Jether and Jonathan; and Jether died without children. <sup>33</sup> The sons of Jonathan: Peleth and Zaza. These were the sons of Jerahmeel. <sup>34</sup> Now Sheshan had no sons, but daughters. Sheshan had a servant, an Egyptian, whose name was Jarha. <sup>35</sup> Sheshan gave his daughter to Jarha his servant as wife; and she bore him Attai. <sup>36</sup> Attai became the father of Nathan, and Nathan became the father of Zabad, <sup>37</sup> and Zabad became the father of Ephlal, and Ephlal became the father of Obed, <sup>38</sup> and Obed became the father of Jehu, and Jehu became the father of Azariah, <sup>39</sup> and Azariah became the father of



Helez, and Helez became the father of Eleasah,<sup>40</sup> and Eleasah became the father of Sismai, and Sismai became the father of Shallum,<sup>41</sup> and Shallum became the father of Jekamiah, and Jekamiah became the father of Elishama.<sup>42</sup> The sons of Caleb the brother of Jerahmeel were Mesha his firstborn, who was the father of Ziph; and the sons of Mareshah the father of Hebron.<sup>43</sup> The sons of Hebron: Korah, Tappuah, Rekem, and Shema.<sup>44</sup> Shema became the father of Raham, the father of Jorkeam; and Rekem became the father of Shammai.<sup>45</sup> The son of Shammai was Maon; and Maon was the father of Beth Zur.<sup>46</sup> Ephah, Caleb's concubine, bore Haran, Moza, and Gazez; and Haran became the father of Gazez.<sup>47</sup> The sons of Jahdai: Regem, Jothan, Geshan, Pelet, Ephah, and Shaaph.<sup>48</sup> Maacah, Caleb's concubine, bore Sheber and Tirhanah.<sup>49</sup> She bore also Shaaph the father of Madmannah, Sheva the father of Machbena, and the father of Gibeaz; and the daughter of Caleb was Achsah.<sup>50</sup> These were the sons of Caleb, the son of Hur, the firstborn of Ephrathah: Shobal the father of Kiriath Jearim,<sup>51</sup> Salma the father of Bethlehem, and Hareph the father of Beth Gader.<sup>52</sup> Shobal the father of Kiriath Jearim had sons: Haroeh, half of the Menuhoth.<sup>53</sup> The families of Kiriath Jearim: the Ithrites, the Puthites, the Shumathites, and the Mishraites; from them came the Zorathites and the Eshtaolites.<sup>54</sup> The sons of Salma: Bethlehem, the Netophathites, Atroth Beth Joab, and half of the Manahathites, the Zorites.<sup>55</sup> The families of scribes who lived at Jabez: the Tirathites, the Shimeathites, and the Sucathites. These are the Kenites who came from Hammath, the father of the house of Rechab.

**\*2:3** "Yahweh" is God's proper Name, sometimes rendered "LORD" (all caps) in other translations.

1st Chronicles  
Chapter 3

<sup>1</sup> Now these were the sons of David, who were born to him in Hebron: the firstborn, Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; the second, Daniel, of Abigail the Carmelitess; <sup>2</sup> the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmi king of Geshur; the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; <sup>3</sup> the fifth, Shephatiah of Abital; the sixth, Ithream by Eglah his wife: <sup>4</sup> six were born to him in Hebron; and he reigned there seven years and six months. He reigned thirty-three years in Jerusalem; <sup>5</sup> and these were born to him in Jerusalem: Shimea, Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon, four, of Bathshua the daughter of Ammiel; <sup>6</sup> and Ibhar, Elishama, Eliphelet, <sup>7</sup> Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, <sup>8</sup> Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet, nine. <sup>9</sup> All these were the sons of David, in addition to the sons of the concubines; and Tamar was their sister.

<sup>10</sup> Solomon's son was Rehoboam, Abijah his son, Asa his son, Jehoshaphat his son, <sup>11</sup> Joram his son, Ahaziah his son, Joash his son, <sup>12</sup> Amaziah his son, Azariah his son, Jotham his son, <sup>13</sup> Ahaz his son, Hezekiah his son, Manasseh his son, <sup>14</sup> Amon his son, and Josiah his son. <sup>15</sup> The sons of Josiah: the firstborn Johanan, the second Jehoiakim, the third Zedekiah, and the fourth Shallum. <sup>16</sup> The sons of Jehoiakim: Jeconiah his son, and Zedekiah his son. <sup>17</sup> The sons of Jeconiah, the captive: Shealtiel his son, <sup>18</sup> Malchiram, Pedaiiah, Shenazzar, Jekamiah, Hoshama, and Nedabiah. <sup>19</sup> The sons of Pedaiiah: Zerubbabel and Shimei.

The sons of Zerubbabel: Meshullam and Hananiah; and Shelomith was their sister;<sup>20</sup> and Hashubah, Ohel, Berechiah, Hasadiah, and Jushab Hesed, five.<sup>21</sup> The sons of Hananiah: Pelatiah and Jeshaiiah; the sons of Rephaiah, the sons of Arnan, the sons of Obadiah, the sons of Shecaniah.<sup>22</sup> The son of Shecaniah: Shemaiah. The sons of Shemaiah: Hattush, Igal, Bariah, Neariah, and Shaphat, six.<sup>23</sup> The sons of Neariah: Elioenai, Hizkiah, and Azrikam, three.<sup>24</sup> The sons of Elioenai: Hodaviah, Eliashib, Pelaiah, Akkub, Johanan, Delaiah, and Anani, seven.

## 1st Chronicles

### Chapter 4

<sup>1</sup> The sons of Judah: Perez, Hezron, Carmi, Hur, and Shobal. <sup>2</sup> Reaiah the son of Shobal became the father of Jahath; and Jahath became the father of Ahumai and Lahad. These are the families of the Zorathites. <sup>3</sup> These were the sons of the father of Etam: Jezreel, Ishma, and Idbash. The name of their sister was Hazzelelponi. <sup>4</sup> Penuel was the father of Gedor and Ezer the father of Hushah. These are the sons of Hur, the firstborn of Ephrathah, the father of Bethlehem. <sup>5</sup> Ashhur the father of Tekoa had two wives, Helah and Naarah. <sup>6</sup> Naarah bore him Ahuzzam, Hepher, Temeni, and Haahashtari. These were the sons of Naarah. <sup>7</sup> The sons of Helah were Zereth, Izhar, and Ethnan. <sup>8</sup> Hakkoz became the father of Anub, Zobebah, and the families of Aharhel the son of Harum.

<sup>9</sup> Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother named him Jabez,\* saying, "Because I bore him with sorrow."

<sup>10</sup> Jabez called on the God<sup>†</sup> of Israel, saying, "Oh that you would bless me indeed, and enlarge my border! May your hand be with me, and may you keep me from evil, that I

may not cause pain!"

God granted him that which he requested. <sup>11</sup>Chelub the brother of Shuhah became the father of Mehir, who was the father of Eshton. <sup>12</sup>Eshton became the father of Beth Rapha, Paseah, and Tehinnah the father of Ir Nahash. These are the men of Recah. <sup>13</sup>The sons of Kenaz: Othniel and Seraiah. The sons of Othniel: Hathath. <sup>14</sup>Meonothai became the father of Ophrah: and Seraiah became the father of Joab the father of Ge Harashim; for they were craftsmen. <sup>15</sup>The sons of Caleb the son of Jephunneh: Iru, Elah, and Naam. The son of Elah: Kenaz. <sup>16</sup>The sons of Jehallelel: Ziph, Ziphah, Tiria, and Asarel. <sup>17</sup>The sons of Ezra: Jether, Mered, Ephraim, and Jalon; and she bore Miriam, Shammai, and Ishbah the father of Eshtemoa. <sup>18</sup>His wife the Jewess bore Jered the father of Gedor, Heber the father of Soco, and Jekuthiel the father of Zanoah. These are the sons of Bithiah the daughter of Pharaoh, whom Mered took. <sup>19</sup>The sons of the wife of Hodiah, the sister of Naham, were the father of Keilah the Garmite, and Eshtemoa the Maacathite. <sup>20</sup>The sons of Shimon: Amnon, Rinnah, Ben Hanan, and Tilon. The sons of Ishi: Zoheth, and Ben Zoheth. <sup>21</sup>The sons of Shelah the son of Judah: Er the father of Lecah, Laadah the father of Mareshah, and the families of the house of those who worked fine linen, of the house of Ashbea; <sup>22</sup>and Jokim, and the men of Cozeba, and Joash, and Saraph, who had dominion in Moab, and Jashubilehem. These records are ancient. <sup>23</sup>These were the potters, and the inhabitants of Netaim and Gederah: they lived there with the king for his work. <sup>24</sup>The sons of Simeon: Nemuel, Jamin, Jarib, Zerah, Shaul; <sup>25</sup>Shallum his son, Mibsam his son, and Mishma his son. <sup>26</sup>The sons of Mishma: Hammuel his son, Zaccur his son, Shimei his son. <sup>27</sup>Shimei had sixteen sons and six daughters; but his brothers didn't have

many children, and all their family didn't multiply like the children of Judah.<sup>28</sup> They lived at Beersheba, Moladah, Hazarshual,<sup>29</sup> at Bilhah, at Ezem, at Tolad,<sup>30</sup> at Bethuel, at Hormah, at Ziklag,<sup>31</sup> at Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susim, at Beth Biri, and at Shaaraim. These were their cities until David's reign.<sup>32</sup> Their villages were Etam, Ain, Rimmon, Tochen, and Ashan, five cities;<sup>33</sup> and all their villages that were around the same cities, to Baal. These were their settlements, and they have their genealogy.<sup>34</sup> Meshobab, Jamlech, Joshah the son of Amaziah,<sup>35</sup> Joel, Jehu the son of Joshibiah, the son of Seraiah, the son of Asiel,<sup>36</sup> Elioenai, Jaakobah, Jeshohaiah, Asaiah, Adiel, Jesimiel, Benaiah,<sup>37</sup> and Ziza the son of Shiphi, the son of Allon, the son of Jedaiah, the son of Shimri, the son of Shemaiah—<sup>38</sup> these mentioned by name were princes in their families. Their fathers' houses increased greatly.

<sup>39</sup> They went to the entrance of Gedor, even to the east side of the valley, to seek pasture for their flocks.<sup>40</sup> They found fat pasture and good, and the land was wide, and quiet, and peaceful; for those who lived there before were descended from Ham.<sup>41</sup> These written by name came in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and struck their tents. The Meunim who were found there, and they destroyed them utterly to this day, and lived in their place; because there was pasture there for their flocks.<sup>42</sup> Some of them, even of the sons of Simeon, five hundred men, went to Mount Seir, having for their captains Pelatiah, Neariah, Rephaiah, and Uzziel, the sons of Ishi.<sup>43</sup> They struck the remnant of the Amalekites who escaped, and have lived there to this day.

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\***4:9** "Jabez" sounds similar to the Hebrew word for "pain".

†**4:10** The Hebrew word rendered

“God” is “אֱלֹהִים” (Elohim).

1st Chronicles  
Chapter 5

<sup>1</sup> The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for he was the firstborn; but, because he defiled his father’s couch, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel; and the genealogy is not to be listed according to the birthright. <sup>2</sup> For Judah prevailed above his brothers, and from him came the prince; but the birthright was Joseph’s)—<sup>3</sup> the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. <sup>4</sup> The sons of Joel: Shemaiah his son, Gog his son, Shimei his son, <sup>5</sup> Micah his son, Reaiah his son, Baal his son, <sup>6</sup> and Beerah his son, whom Tilgath Pilneser king of Assyria carried away captive. He was prince of the Reubenites. <sup>7</sup> His brothers by their families, when the genealogy of their generations was listed: the chief, Jeiel, and Zechariah,<sup>8</sup> and Bela the son of Azaz, the son of Shema, the son of Joel, who lived in Aroer, even to Nebo and Baal Meon; <sup>9</sup> and he lived eastward even to the entrance of the wilderness from the river Euphrates, because their livestock were multiplied in the land of Gilead. <sup>10</sup> In the days of Saul, they made war with the Hagrites, who fell by their hand; and they lived in their tents throughout all the land east of Gilead. <sup>11</sup> The sons of Gad lived beside them, in the land of Bashan to Salecah: <sup>12</sup> Joel the chief, Shapham the second, Janai, and Shaphat in Bashan. <sup>13</sup> Their brothers of their fathers’ houses: Michael, Meshullam, Sheba, Jorai, Jacan, Zia, and Eber, seven. <sup>14</sup> These were the sons of Abihail, the son of Huri, the son of Jaroah, the son of Gilead, the son of Michael, the son of Jeshishai, the son of Jahdo, the son of Buz; <sup>15</sup> Ahi the son of

Abdiel, the son of Guni, chief of their fathers' houses.<sup>16</sup> They lived in Gilead in Bashan, and in its towns, and in all the pasture lands of Sharon, as far as their borders.<sup>17</sup> All these were listed by genealogies in the days of Jotham king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam king of Israel.

<sup>18</sup> The sons of Reuben, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, of valiant men, men able to bear buckler and sword, and to shoot with bow, and skillful in war, were forty-four thousand seven hundred sixty, that were able to go out to war.<sup>19</sup> They made war with the Hagrites, with Jetur, and Naphish, and Nodab.<sup>20</sup> They were helped against them, and the Hagrites were delivered into their hand, and all who were with them; for they cried to God in the battle, and he answered them, because they put their trust in him.<sup>21</sup> They took away their livestock; of their camels fifty thousand, and of sheep two hundred fifty thousand, and of donkeys two thousand, and of men one hundred thousand.<sup>22</sup> For many fell slain, because the war was of God. They lived in their place until the captivity.<sup>23</sup> The children of the half-tribe of Manasseh lived in the land: they increased from Bashan to Baal Hermon, Senir, and Mount Hermon.<sup>24</sup> These were the heads of their fathers' houses: even Ephraim, Ishi, Eliel, Azriel, Jeremiah, Hodaviah, and Jahdiel, mighty men of valor, famous men, heads of their fathers' houses.<sup>25</sup> They trespassed against the God of their fathers, and played the prostitute after the gods of the peoples of the land, whom God destroyed before them.<sup>26</sup> So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, and the spirit of Tilgath Pilneser king of Assyria, and he carried them away, even the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, and brought them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and to the river of Gozan, to this day.

<sup>16</sup> The sons of Levi: Gershom, Kohath, and Merari. <sup>17</sup> These are the names of the sons of Gershom: Libni and Shimei. <sup>18</sup> The sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. <sup>19</sup> The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. These are the families of the Levites according to their fathers' households. <sup>20</sup> Of Gershom: Libni his son, Jahath his son, Zimmah his son, <sup>21</sup> Joah his son, Iddo his son, Zerah his son, and Jeatherai his son. <sup>22</sup> The sons of Kohath: Amminadab his



son, Korah his son, Assir his son,<sup>23</sup> Elkanah his son, and Ebiasaph his son, Assir his son,<sup>24</sup> Tahath his son, Uriel his son, Uziah his son, and Shaul his son.<sup>25</sup> The sons of Elkanah: Amasai and Ahimoth.<sup>26</sup> As for Elkanah, the sons of Elkanah: Zophai his son, Nahath his son,<sup>27</sup> Eliab his son, Jeroham his son, and Elkanah his son.<sup>28</sup> The sons of Samuel: the firstborn, Joel, and the second, Abijah.<sup>29</sup> The sons of Merari: Mahli, Libni his son, Shimei his son, Uzzah his son,<sup>30</sup> Shimea his son, Haggiah his son, Asaiah his son.<sup>31</sup> These are they whom David set over the service of song in Yahweh's house, after the ark came to rest there.<sup>32</sup> They ministered with song before the tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting, until Solomon had built Yahweh's house in Jerusalem. They performed the duties of their office according to their order.<sup>33</sup> These are those who served, and their sons. Of the sons of the Kohathites: Heman the singer, the son of Joel, the son of Samuel,<sup>34</sup> the son of Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Eliel, the son of Toah,<sup>35</sup> the son of Zuph, the son of Elkanah, the son of Mahath, the son of Amasai,<sup>36</sup> the son of Elkanah, the son of Joel, the son of Azariah, the son of Zephaniah,<sup>37</sup> the son of Tahath, the son of Assir, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah,<sup>38</sup> the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, the son of Israel.<sup>39</sup> His brother Asaph, who stood on his right hand, even Asaph the son of Berechiah, the son of Shimea,<sup>40</sup> the son of Michael, the son of Baaseiah, the son of Malchijah,<sup>41</sup> the son of Ethni, the son of Zerah, the son of Adaiah,<sup>42</sup> the son of Ethan, the son of Zimmah, the son of Shimei,<sup>43</sup> the son of Jahath, the son of Gershon, the son of Levi.<sup>44</sup> On the left hand their brothers the sons of Merari: Ethan the son of Kishi, the son of Abdi, the son of Malluch,<sup>45</sup> the son of Hashabiah, the son of Amaziah, the son of Hilkiyah,<sup>46</sup> the son of Amzi, the son of Bani, the son of

Shemer,<sup>47</sup> the son of Mahli, the son of Mushi, the son of Merari, the son of Levi.<sup>48</sup> Their brothers the Levites were appointed for all the service of the tabernacle of God's house.<sup>49</sup> But Aaron and his sons offered on the altar of burnt offering, and on the altar of incense, for all the work of the most holy place, and to make atonement for Israel, according to all that Moses the servant of God had commanded.

<sup>50</sup> These are the sons of Aaron: Eleazar his son, Phinehas his son, Abishua his son,<sup>51</sup> Bukki his son, Uzzi his son, Zerahiah his son,<sup>52</sup> Meraioth his son, Amariah his son, Ahitub his son,<sup>53</sup> Zadok his son, and Ahimaaz his son.<sup>54</sup> Now these are their dwelling places according to their encampments in their borders: to the sons of Aaron, of the families of the Kohathites (for theirs was the first lot),<sup>55</sup> to them they gave Hebron in the land of Judah, and its pasture lands around it;<sup>56</sup> but the fields of the city, and its villages, they gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh.<sup>57</sup> To the sons of Aaron they gave the cities of refuge, Hebron; Libnah also with its pasture lands, Jattir, Eshtemoa with its pasture lands,<sup>58</sup> Hilen with its pasture lands, Debir with its pasture lands,<sup>59</sup> Ashan with its pasture lands, and Beth Shemesh with its pasture lands;<sup>60</sup> and out of the tribe of Benjamin, Geba with its pasture lands, Allemeth with its pasture lands, and Anathoth with its pasture lands. All their cities throughout their families were thirteen cities.

<sup>61</sup> To the rest of the sons of Kohath were given by lot, out of the family of the tribe, out of the half-tribe, the half of Manasseh, ten cities.<sup>62</sup> To the sons of Gershom, according to their families, out of the tribe of Issachar, and out of the tribe of Asher, and out of the tribe of Naphtali, and out of the tribe of Manasseh in Bashan, thirteen cities.<sup>63</sup> To the sons of Merari were given by

lot, according to their families, out of the tribe of Reuben, and out of the tribe of Gad, and out of the tribe of Zebulun, twelve cities.<sup>64</sup> The children of Israel gave to the Levites the cities with their pasture lands.<sup>65</sup> They gave by lot out of the tribe of the children of Judah, and out of the tribe of the children of Simeon, and out of the tribe of the children of Benjamin, these cities which are mentioned by name.<sup>66</sup> Some of the families of the sons of Kohath had cities of their borders out of the tribe of Ephraim.<sup>67</sup> They gave to them the cities of refuge, Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim with its pasture lands; Gezer also with its pasture lands,<sup>68</sup> Jokmeam with its pasture lands, Beth Horon with its pasture lands,<sup>69</sup> Aijalon with its pasture lands, Gath Rimmon with its pasture lands;<sup>70</sup> and out of the half-tribe of Manasseh, Aner with its pasture lands, and Bileam with its pasture lands, for the rest of the family of the sons of Kohath.

<sup>71</sup>To the sons of Gershom were given, out of the family of the half-tribe of Manasseh, Golan in Bashan with its pasture lands, and Ashtaroth with its pasture lands;<sup>72</sup> and out of the tribe of Issachar, Kedesh with its pasture lands, Daberath with its pasture lands,<sup>73</sup> Ramoth with its pasture lands, and Anem with its pasture lands;<sup>74</sup> and out of the tribe of Asher, Mashal with its pasture lands, Abdon with its pasture lands,<sup>75</sup> Hukok with its pasture lands, and Rehob with its pasture lands;<sup>76</sup> and out of the tribe of Naphtali, Kedesh in Galilee with its pasture lands, Hammon with its pasture lands, and Kiriathaim with its pasture lands.

<sup>77</sup>To the rest of the Levites, the sons of Merari, were given, out of the tribe of Zebulun, Rimmono with its pasture lands, Tabor with its pasture lands;<sup>78</sup> and beyond the Jordan at Jericho, on the east side of the Jordan, were given them, out of the tribe of Reuben, Bezer in the wilderness with its pasture lands, and Jahzah with its

pasture lands,<sup>79</sup> Kedemoth with its pasture lands, and Mephaath with its pasture lands;<sup>80</sup> and out of the tribe of Gad, Ramoth in Gilead with its pasture lands, Mahanaim with its pasture lands,<sup>81</sup> Heshbon with its pasture lands, and Jazer with its pasture lands.

**1st Chronicles**  
**Chapter 7**

<sup>1</sup> Of the sons of Issachar: Tola, and Puah, Jashub, and Shimron, four. <sup>2</sup> The sons of Tola: Uzzi, Rephaiah, Jeriel, Jahmai, Ibsam, and Shemuel, heads of their fathers' houses, of Tola; mighty men of valor in their generations. Their number in the days of David was twenty-two thousand six hundred. <sup>3</sup> The son of Uzzi: Izrahiah. The sons of Izrahiah: Michael, Obadiah, Joel, and Isshiah, five; all of them chief men. <sup>4</sup> With them, by their generations, after their fathers' houses, were bands of the army for war, thirty-six thousand; for they had many wives and sons. <sup>5</sup> Their brothers among all the families of Issachar, mighty men of valor, listed in all by genealogy, were eighty-seven thousand. <sup>6</sup> The sons of Benjamin: Bela, Becher, and Jediael, three. <sup>7</sup> The sons of Bela: Ezbon, Uzzi, Uzziel, Jerimoth, and Iri, five; heads of fathers' houses, mighty men of valor; and they were listed by genealogy twenty-two thousand thirty-four. <sup>8</sup> The sons of Becher: Zemirah, Joash, Eliezer, Elioenai, Omri, Jeremoth, Abijah, Anathoth, and Alemeth. All these were the sons of Becher. <sup>9</sup> They were listed by genealogy, after their generations, heads of their fathers' houses, mighty men of valor, twenty thousand two hundred. <sup>10</sup> The son of Jediael: Bilhan. The sons of Bilhan: Jeush, Benjamin, Ehud, Chenaanah, Zethan, Tarshish, and Ahishahar. <sup>11</sup> All these were sons of Jediael, according to the heads of their fathers' households, mighty men of

valor, seventeen thousand two hundred, who were able to go out in the army for war. <sup>12</sup> So were Shupim, Hupim, the sons of Ir, Hushim, and the sons of Aher.

<sup>13</sup> The sons of Naphtali: Jahziel, Guni, Jezer, Shallum, and the sons of Bilhah. <sup>14</sup> The sons of Manasseh: Asriel, whom his concubine the Aramitess bore. She bore Machir the father of Gilead. <sup>15</sup> Machir took a wife of Hupim and Shupim, whose sister's name was Maacah. The name of the second was Zelophehad; and Zelophehad had daughters. <sup>16</sup> Maacah the wife of Machir bore a son, and she named him Peresh. The name of his brother was Sheresh; and his sons were Ulam and Rakem. <sup>17</sup> The sons of Ulam: Bedan. These were the sons of Gilead the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh. <sup>18</sup> His sister Hammolecheth bore Ishhod, Abiezer, and Mahlah. <sup>19</sup> The sons of Shemida were Ahian, Shechem, Likhi, and Aniam. <sup>20</sup> The sons of Ephraim: Shuthelah, Bered his son, Tahath his son, Eleadah his son, Tahath his son, <sup>21</sup> Zabad his son, Shuthelah his son, Ezer, and Elead, whom the men of Gath who were born in the land killed, because they came down to take away their livestock. <sup>22</sup> Ephraim their father mourned many days, and his brothers came to comfort him. <sup>23</sup> He went in to his wife, and she conceived, and bore a son, and he named him Beriah,\* because there was trouble with his house. <sup>24</sup> His daughter was Sheerah, who built Beth Horon the lower and the upper, and Uzzen Sheerah. <sup>25</sup> Rephah was his son, and Resheph, and Telah his son, Tahan his son, <sup>26</sup> Ladan his son, Ammihud his son, Elishama his son, <sup>27</sup> Nun his son, and Joshua his son. <sup>28</sup> Their possessions and settlements were Bethel and its towns, and eastward Naaran, and westward Gezer, with its towns; Shechem also and its towns, to Azzah and its towns; <sup>29</sup> and by the borders of the children of Manasseh, Beth Shean and its towns, Taanach and its towns,

Megiddo and its towns, and Dor and its towns. The children of Joseph the son of Israel lived in these.<sup>30</sup> The sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, and Beriah. Serah was their sister.<sup>31</sup> The sons of Beriah: Heber and Malchiel, who was the father of Birzaith.<sup>32</sup> Heber became the father of Japhlet, Shomer, Hotham, and Shua their sister.<sup>33</sup> The sons of Japhlet: Pasach, Bimhal, and Ashvath. These are the children of Japhlet.<sup>34</sup> The sons of Shemer: Ahi, Rohgah, Jehubbah, and Aram.<sup>35</sup> The sons of Helem his brother: Zophah, Imna, Shelesh, and Amal.<sup>36</sup> The sons of Zophah: Suah, Harnepher, Shual, Beri, Imrah,<sup>37</sup> Bezer, Hod, Shamma, Shilshah, Ithran, and Beera.<sup>38</sup> The sons of Jether: Jephunneh, Pispah, and Ara.<sup>39</sup> The sons of Ulla: Arah, Hanniel, and Rizia.<sup>40</sup> All these were the children of Asher, heads of the fathers' houses, choice and mighty men of valor, chief of the princes. The number of them listed by genealogy for service in war was twenty-six thousand men.

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\*7:23 "Beriah" is similar to the Hebrew word for "misfortune".

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**1st Chronicles**  
**Chapter 8**

<sup>1</sup> Benjamin became the father of Bela his firstborn, Ashbel the second, Aharah the third,<sup>2</sup> Nohah the fourth, and Rapha the fifth.<sup>3</sup> Bela had sons: Addar, Gera, Abihud,<sup>4</sup> Abishua, Naaman, Ahoah,<sup>5</sup> Gera, Shephuphan, and Hiram.<sup>6</sup> These are the sons of Ehud. These are the heads of fathers' households of the inhabitants of Geba, who were carried captive to Manahath: <sup>7</sup> Naaman, Ahijah, and Gera, who carried them captive; and he became the

father of Uzza and Ahihud.

<sup>8</sup>Shaharaim became the father of children in the field of Moab, after he had sent them away. Hushim and Baara were his wives. <sup>9</sup>By Hodesh his wife, he became the father of Jobab, Zibia, Mesha, Malcam, <sup>10</sup>Jeuz, Shachia, and Mirmah. These were his sons, heads of fathers' households. <sup>11</sup>By Hushim, he became the father of Abitub and Elpaal. <sup>12</sup>The sons of Elpaal: Eber, Misham, and Shemed, who built Ono and Lod, with its towns; <sup>13</sup>and Beriah, and Shema, who were heads of fathers' households of the inhabitants of Aijalon, who put to flight the inhabitants of Gath; <sup>14</sup>and Ahio, Shashak, Jeremoth, <sup>15</sup>Zebadiah, Arad, Eder, <sup>16</sup>Michael, Ishpah, Joha, the sons of Beriah, <sup>17</sup>Zebadiah, Meshullam, Hizki, Heber, <sup>18</sup>Ishmerai, Izliah, Jobab, the sons of Elpaal, <sup>19</sup>Jakim, Zichri, Zabdi, <sup>20</sup>Elienai, Zillethai, Eliel, <sup>21</sup>Adaiah, Beraiah, Shimrath, the sons of Shimei, <sup>22</sup>Ishpan, Eber, Eliel, <sup>23</sup>Abdon, Zichri, Hanan, <sup>24</sup>Hananiah, Elam, Anthothijah, <sup>25</sup>Iphdeiah, Penuel, the sons of Shashak, <sup>26</sup>Shamsherai, Shehariah, Athaliah, <sup>27</sup>Jaareshiah, Elijah, Zichri, and the sons of Jeroham. <sup>28</sup>These were heads of fathers' households throughout their generations, chief men. These lived in Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup>The father of Gibeon, whose wife's name was Maacah, lived in Gibeon, <sup>30</sup>with his firstborn son Abdon, Zur, Kish, Baal, Nadab, <sup>31</sup>Gedor, Ahio, and Zecher. <sup>32</sup>Mikloth became the father of Shimeah. They also lived with their brothers in Jerusalem, near their brothers. <sup>33</sup>Ner became the father of Kish. Kish became the father of Saul. Saul became the father of Jonathan, Malchishua, Abinadab, and Eshbaal. <sup>34</sup>The son of Jonathan was Merib Baal. Merib Baal became the father of Micah. <sup>35</sup>The sons of Micah: Pithon, Melech, Tarea, and Ahaz. <sup>36</sup>Ahaz became the father of Jehoaddah. Jehoaddah became the father of Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri. Zimri

became the father of Moza. <sup>37</sup> Moza became the father of Binea. Raphah was his son, Eleasah his son, and Azel his son. <sup>38</sup> Azel had six sons, whose names are these: Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. All these were the sons of Azel. <sup>39</sup> The sons of Eshek his brother: Ulam his firstborn, Jeush the second, and Eliphelet the third. <sup>40</sup> The sons of Ulam were mighty men of valor, archers, and had many sons, and sons' sons, one hundred fifty. All these were of the sons of Benjamin.

**1st Chronicles**  
**Chapter 9**

<sup>1</sup> So all Israel were listed by genealogies; and behold,\* they are written in the book of the kings of Israel. Judah was carried away captive to Babylon for their disobedience. <sup>2</sup> Now the first inhabitants who lived in their possessions in their cities were Israel, the priests, the Levites, and the temple servants. <sup>3</sup> In Jerusalem lived of the children of Judah, of the children of Benjamin, and of the children of Ephraim and Manasseh: <sup>4</sup> Uthai the son of Ammihud, the son of Omri, the son of Imri, the son of Bani, of the children of Perez the son of Judah. <sup>5</sup> Of the Shilonites: Asaiah the firstborn, and his sons. <sup>6</sup> Of the sons of Zerah: Jeuel and their brothers, six hundred ninety. <sup>7</sup> Of the sons of Benjamin: Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Hodaviah, the son of Hassenuah, <sup>8</sup> and Ibneiah the son of Jeroham, and Elah the son of Uzzi, the son of Michri, and Meshullam the son of Shephatiah, the son of Reuel, the son of Ibnijah; <sup>9</sup> and their brothers, according to their generations, nine hundred fifty-six. All these men were heads of fathers' households by their fathers' houses. <sup>10</sup> Of the priests: Jedaiah, Jehoiarib, Jachin, <sup>11</sup> and Azariah the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son



of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, the ruler of God's house;<sup>12</sup> and Adaiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pashhur, the son of Malchijah, and Maasai the son of Adiel, the son of Jahzerah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Meshillemith, the son of Immer;<sup>13</sup> and their brothers, heads of their fathers' houses, one thousand seven hundred sixty; very able men for the work of the service of God's house.

<sup>14</sup>Of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, of the sons of Merari;<sup>15</sup> and Bakbakkar, Heresh, Galal, and Mattaniah the son of Mica, the son of Zichri, the son of Asaph,<sup>16</sup> and Obadiah the son of Shemaiah, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun, and Berechiah the son of Asa, the son of Elkanah, who lived in the villages of the Netophathites.

<sup>17</sup>The gatekeepers: Shallum, Akkub, Talmon, Ahiman, and their brothers (Shallum was the chief),<sup>18</sup> who previously served in the king's gate eastward. They were the gatekeepers for the camp of the children of Levi.<sup>19</sup> Shallum the son of Kore, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah, and his brothers, of his father's house, the Korahites, were over the work of the service, keepers of the thresholds of the tent. Their fathers had been over Yahweh's camp, keepers of the entry.<sup>20</sup> Phinehas the son of Eleazar was ruler over them in time past, and Yahweh was with him.<sup>21</sup> Zechariah the son of Meshelemiah was gatekeeper of the door of the Tent of Meeting.<sup>22</sup> All these who were chosen to be gatekeepers in the thresholds were two hundred twelve. These were listed by genealogy in their villages, whom David and Samuel the seer ordained in their office of trust.<sup>23</sup> So they and their children had the oversight of the gates of Yahweh's house, even the house of the tent, by wards.<sup>24</sup> On the four sides were the gatekeepers, toward the east, west, north, and south.<sup>25</sup> Their brothers, in their villages,

were to come in every seven days from time to time to be with them: <sup>26</sup> for the four chief gatekeepers, who were Levites, were in an office of trust, and were over the rooms and over the treasuries in God's house. <sup>27</sup> They stayed around God's house, because that duty was on them; and to their duty was its opening morning by morning. <sup>28</sup> Certain of them were in charge of the vessels of service; for these were brought in by count, and these were taken out by count. <sup>29</sup> Some of them also were appointed over the furniture, and over all the vessels of the sanctuary, over the fine flour, the wine, the oil, the frankincense, and the spices.

<sup>30</sup> Some of the sons of the priests prepared the mixing of the spices. <sup>31</sup> Mattithiah, one of the Levites, who was the firstborn of Shallum the Korahite, had the office of trust over the things that were baked in pans. <sup>32</sup> Some of their brothers, of the sons of the Kohathites, were over the show bread, to prepare it every Sabbath. <sup>33</sup> These are the singers, heads of fathers' households of the Levites, who lived in the rooms and were free from other service; for they were employed in their work day and night. <sup>34</sup> These were heads of fathers' households of the Levites, throughout their generations, chief men. These lived at Jerusalem. <sup>35</sup> Jeiel the father of Gibeon, whose wife's name was Maacah, lived in Gibeon with <sup>36</sup> his firstborn son Abdon, Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner, Nadab, <sup>37</sup> Gedor, Ahio, Zechariah, and Mikloth. <sup>38</sup> Mikloth became the father of Shimeam. They also lived with their brothers in Jerusalem, near their brothers. <sup>39</sup> Ner became the father of Kish. Kish became the father of Saul. Saul became the father of Jonathan, Malchishua, Abinadab, and Eshbaal. <sup>40</sup> The son of Jonathan was Merib Baal. Merib Baal became the father of Micah. <sup>41</sup> The sons of Micah: Pithon, Melech, Tahrea, and Ahaz. <sup>42</sup> Ahaz became the father of Jarah. Jarah became the father of Alemeth,

Azmaveth, and Zimri. Zimri became the father of Moza. <sup>43</sup> Moza became the father of Binea; and Rephaiah his son, Eleasah his son, and Azel his son. <sup>44</sup> Azel had six sons, whose names are these: Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. These were the sons of Azel.

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**\*9:1** "Behold", from "הִנֵּה", means look at, take notice, observe, see, or gaze at. It is often used as an interjection.

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## 1st Chronicles

### Chapter 10

<sup>1</sup> Now the Philistines fought against Israel, and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain on Mount Gilboa. <sup>2</sup> The Philistines followed hard after Saul and after his sons; and the Philistines killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, the sons of Saul. <sup>3</sup> The battle went hard against Saul, and the archers overtook him; and he was distressed by reason of the archers. <sup>4</sup> Then Saul said to his armor bearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and abuse me."

But his armor bearer would not; for he was terrified. Therefore Saul took his sword, and fell on it. <sup>5</sup> When his armor bearer saw that Saul was dead, he likewise fell on his sword, and died. <sup>6</sup> So Saul died with his three sons; and all his house died together. <sup>7</sup> When all the men of Israel who were in the valley saw that they fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their cities, and fled; and the Philistines came and lived in them.

<sup>8</sup> On the next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they found Saul and his sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. <sup>9</sup> They stripped

him, and took his head and his armor, and sent into the land of the Philistines all around, to carry the news to their idols, and to the people. <sup>10</sup>They put his armor in the house of their gods, and fastened his head in the house of Dagon. <sup>11</sup>When all Jabesh Gilead heard all that the Philistines had done to Saul, <sup>12</sup>all the valiant men arose, and took away the body of Saul, and the bodies of his sons, and brought them to Jabesh, and buried their bones under the oak in Jabesh, and fasted seven days. <sup>13</sup>So Saul died for his trespass which he committed against Yahweh, because of Yahweh's word, which he didn't keep; and also because he asked counsel of one who had a familiar spirit, to inquire, <sup>14</sup>and didn't inquire of Yahweh. Therefore he killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse.

### 1st Chronicles Chapter 11

<sup>1</sup>Then all Israel gathered themselves to David to Hebron, saying, "Behold, we are your bone and your flesh. <sup>2</sup>In times past, even when Saul was king, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. Yahweh your God said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over my people Israel.' "

<sup>3</sup>So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and David made a covenant with them in Hebron before Yahweh; and they anointed David king over Israel, according to Yahweh's word by Samuel. <sup>4</sup>David and all Israel went to Jerusalem (also called Jebus); and the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, were there. <sup>5</sup>The inhabitants of Jebus said to David, "You will not come in here." Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion. The same is David's city. <sup>6</sup>David said, "Whoever strikes the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain." Joab the son of Zeruiah went up first, and was made chief. <sup>7</sup>David lived in the stronghold; therefore they called

it David's city. <sup>8</sup> He built the city all around, from Millo even around; and Joab repaired the rest of the city. <sup>9</sup> David grew greater and greater; for Yahweh of Armies was with him. <sup>10</sup> Now these are the chief of the mighty men whom David had, who showed themselves strong with him in his kingdom, together with all Israel, to make him king, according to Yahweh's word concerning Israel.

<sup>11</sup> This is the number of the mighty men whom David had: Jashobeam, the son of a Hachmonite, the chief of the thirty; he lifted up his spear against three hundred and killed them at one time. <sup>12</sup> After him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, who was one of the three mighty men. <sup>13</sup> He was with David at Pasdammim, and there the Philistines were gathered together to battle, where there was a plot of ground full of barley; and the people fled from before the Philistines. <sup>14</sup> They stood in the middle of the plot, defended it, and killed the Philistines; and Yahweh saved them by a great victory. <sup>15</sup> Three of the thirty chief men went down to the rock to David, into the cave of Adullam; and the army of the Philistines were encamped in the valley of Rephaim. <sup>16</sup> David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was in Bethlehem at that time. <sup>17</sup> David longed, and said, "Oh that one would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!"

<sup>18</sup> The three broke through the army of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David; but David would not drink any of it, but poured it out to Yahweh, <sup>19</sup> and said, "My God forbid me, that I should do this! Shall I drink the blood of these men who have put their lives in jeopardy?" For they risked their lives to bring it. Therefore he would not drink it. The three mighty men did these things.

<sup>20</sup> Abishai, the brother of Joab, he was chief

of the three; for he lifted up his spear against three hundred and killed them, and had a name among the three.<sup>21</sup> Of the three, he was more honorable than the two, and was made their captain; however he wasn't included in the three.<sup>22</sup> Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel, who had done mighty deeds, killed the two sons of Ariel of Moab. He also went down and killed a lion in the middle of a pit on a snowy day.<sup>23</sup> He killed an Egyptian, a man of great stature, five cubits\* high. In the Egyptian's hand was a spear like a weaver's beam; and he went down to him with a staff, plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear.<sup>24</sup> Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did these things, and had a name among the three mighty men.<sup>25</sup> Behold, he was more honorable than the thirty, but he didn't attain to the three; and David set him over his guard.

<sup>26</sup> The mighty men of the armies also include Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,<sup>27</sup> Shammoth the Harorite, Helez the Pelonite,<sup>28</sup> Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, Abiezer the Anathothite,<sup>29</sup> Sibbecai the Hushathite, Ilai the Ahohite,<sup>30</sup> Maharai the Netophathite, Heled the son of Baanah the Netophathite,<sup>31</sup> Ithai the son of Ribai of Gibeah of the children of Benjamin, Benaiah the Pirathonite,<sup>32</sup> Hurai of the brooks of Gaash, Abiel the Arbathite,<sup>33</sup> Azmaveth the Baharumite, Eliahba the Shaalbonite,<sup>34</sup> the sons of Hashem the Gizonite, Jonathan the son of Shagee the Hararite,<sup>35</sup> Ahiam the son of Sacar the Hararite, Eliphal the son of Ur,<sup>36</sup> Hopher the Mecherathite, Ahijah the Pelonite,<sup>37</sup> Hezro the Carmelite, Naarai the son of Ezbai,<sup>38</sup> Joel the brother of Nathan, Mibhar the son of Hagri,<sup>39</sup> Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Berothite, the armor bearer of Joab the son of Zeruiah,<sup>40</sup> Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite,<sup>41</sup> Uriah the Hittite, Zabab the son of Ahlai,<sup>42</sup> Adina the son of

Shiza the Reubenite, a chief of the Reubenites, and thirty with him,<sup>43</sup> Hanan the son of Maacah, and Joshaphat the Mithnite,<sup>44</sup> Uzzia the Ashterathite, Shama and Jeiel the sons of Hotham the Aroerite,<sup>45</sup> Jediahel the son of Shimri, and Joha his brother, the Tizite,<sup>46</sup> Eliel the Mahavite, and Jeribai, and Joshaviah, the sons of Elnaam, and Ithmah the Moabite,<sup>47</sup> Eliel, and Obed, and Jaasiel the Mezobaite.

**\*11:23** A cubit is the length from the tip of the middle finger to the elbow on a man's arm, or about 18 inches or 46 centimeters. Therefore this Egyptian was about 7 feet and 6 inches or 2.28 meters tall.

## 1st Chronicles Chapter 12

<sup>1</sup> Now these are those who came to David to Ziklag, while he was a fugitive from Saul the son of Kish. They were among the mighty men, his helpers in war. <sup>2</sup> They were armed with bows, and could use both the right hand and the left in slinging stones and in shooting arrows from the bow. They were of Saul's relatives of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>3</sup> The chief was Ahiezer, then Joash, the sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite; Jeziel and Pelet, the sons of Azmaveth; Beracah; Jehu the Anathothite; <sup>4</sup> Ishmaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the thirty and a leader of the thirty; Jeremiah; Jahaziel; Johanan; Jozabad the Gederathite; <sup>5</sup> Eluzai; Jerimoth; Bealiah; Shemariah; Shephatiah the Haruphite; <sup>6</sup> Elkanah, Isshiah Azarel, Joezer, and Jashobeam, the Korahites; <sup>7</sup> and Joelah and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham of

Gedor. <sup>8</sup> Some Gadites joined David in the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty men of valor, men trained for war, who could handle shield and spear; whose faces were like the faces of lions, and they were as swift as the gazelles on the mountains: <sup>9</sup> Ezer the chief, Obadiah the second, Eliab the third, <sup>10</sup> Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth, <sup>11</sup> Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh, <sup>12</sup> Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth, <sup>13</sup> Jeremiah the tenth, and Machbannai the eleventh. <sup>14</sup> These of the sons of Gad were captains of the army: he who was least was equal to one hundred, and the greatest to one thousand. <sup>15</sup> These are those who went over the Jordan in the first month, when it had overflowed all its banks; and they put to flight all who lived in the valleys, both toward the east and toward the west. <sup>16</sup> Some of the children of Benjamin and Judah came to the stronghold to David. <sup>17</sup> David went out to meet them, and answered them, "If you have come peaceably to me to help me, my heart will be united with you; but if you have come to betray me to my adversaries, since there is no wrong in my hands, may the God of our fathers see this and rebuke it." <sup>18</sup> Then the Spirit came on Amasai, who was chief of the thirty, and he said, "We are yours, David, and on your side, you son of Jesse. Peace, peace be to you, and peace be to your helpers; for your God helps you." Then David received them, and made them captains of the band. <sup>19</sup> Some of Manasseh also joined David, when he came with the Philistines against Saul to battle; but they didn't help them; for the lords of the Philistines sent him away after consultation, saying, "He will desert to his master Saul to the jeopardy of our heads."

<sup>20</sup> As he went to Ziklag, some from Manasseh joined him: Adnah, Jozabad, Jediahel, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai, captains of thousands who were of Manasseh. <sup>21</sup> They helped David against the



band of rovers; for they were all mighty men of valor, and were captains in the army.<sup>22</sup> For from day to day men came to David to help him, until there was a great army, like God's army.

<sup>23</sup> These are the numbers of the heads of those who were armed for war, who came to David to Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to Yahweh's word. <sup>24</sup> The children of Judah who bore shield and spear were six thousand eight hundred, armed for war. <sup>25</sup> Of the children of Simeon, mighty men of valor for the war, seven thousand one hundred. <sup>26</sup> Of the children of Levi four thousand six hundred. <sup>27</sup> Jehoiada was the leader of the household of Aaron; and with him were three thousand seven hundred, <sup>28</sup> and Zadok, a young man mighty of valor, and of his father's house twenty-two captains. <sup>29</sup> Of the children of Benjamin, Saul's relatives, three thousand: for until then, the greatest part of them had kept their allegiance to Saul's house. <sup>30</sup> Of the children of Ephraim twenty thousand eight hundred, mighty men of valor, famous men in their fathers' houses. <sup>31</sup> Of the half-tribe of Manasseh eighteen thousand, who were mentioned by name, to come and make David king. <sup>32</sup> Of the children of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their heads were two hundred; and all their brothers were at their command. <sup>33</sup> Of Zebulun, such as were able to go out in the army, who could set the battle in array, with all kinds of instruments of war, fifty thousand, and who could command and were not of double heart. <sup>34</sup> Of Naphtali one thousand captains, and with them with shield and spear thirty-seven thousand. <sup>35</sup> Of the Danites who could set the battle in array, twenty-eight thousand six hundred. <sup>36</sup> Of Asher, such as were able to go out in the army, who could set the battle in array, forty thousand. <sup>37</sup> On the other side of the Jordan, of the

Reubenites, the Gadites, and of the half-tribe of Manasseh, with all kinds of instruments of war for the battle, one hundred twenty thousand.<sup>38</sup> All these were men of war, who could order the battle array, and came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest also of Israel were of one heart to make David king.<sup>39</sup> They were there with David three days, eating and drinking; for their brothers had supplied provisions for them.<sup>40</sup> Moreover those who were near to them, as far as Issachar, Zebulun, and Naphtali, brought bread on donkeys, on camels, on mules, and on oxen: supplies of flour, cakes of figs, clusters of raisins, wine, oil, cattle, and sheep in abundance; for there was joy in Israel.

**1st Chronicles**  
**Chapter 13**

<sup>1</sup>David consulted with the captains of thousands and of hundreds, even with every leader.<sup>2</sup>David said to all the assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you, and if it is of Yahweh our God, let's send word everywhere to our brothers who are left in all the land of Israel, with whom the priests and Levites are in their cities that have pasture lands, that they may gather themselves to us."<sup>3</sup>Also, let's bring the ark of our God back to us again; for we didn't seek it in the days of Saul."  
<sup>4</sup>All the assembly said that they would do so; for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.<sup>5</sup>So David assembled all Israel together, from the Shihor the brook of Egypt even to the entrance of Hamath, to bring God's ark from Kiriath Jearim.  
<sup>6</sup>David went up with all Israel to Baalah, that is, to Kiriath Jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up from there God Yahweh's ark that sits above the cherubim, that is called by the Name.<sup>7</sup>They carried God's ark on a new cart, and brought it out of

Abinadab's house; and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart. <sup>8</sup>David and all Israel played before God with all their might, even with songs, with harps, with stringed instruments, with tambourines, with cymbals, and with trumpets. <sup>9</sup>When they came to Chidon's threshing floor, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled. <sup>10</sup>Yahweh's anger burned against Uzza, and he struck him, because he put his hand on the ark; and he died there before God. <sup>11</sup>David was displeased, because Yahweh had broken out against Uzza. He called that place Perez Uzza, to this day. <sup>12</sup>David was afraid of God that day, saying, "How can I bring God's ark home to me?" <sup>13</sup>So David didn't move the ark with him into David's city, but carried it aside into Obed-Edom the Gittite's house. <sup>14</sup>God's ark remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house three months; and Yahweh blessed Obed-Edom's house and all that he had.

## 1st Chronicles

### Chapter 14

<sup>1</sup>Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David with cedar trees, masons, and carpenters, to build him a house. <sup>2</sup>David perceived that Yahweh had established him king over Israel; for his kingdom was exalted on high, for his people Israel's sake. <sup>3</sup>David took more wives at Jerusalem, and David became the father of more sons and daughters. <sup>4</sup>These are the names of the children whom he had in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, <sup>5</sup>Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet, <sup>6</sup>Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, <sup>7</sup>Elishama, Beeliada, and Eliphelet.

<sup>8</sup>When the Philistines heard that David was anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went out against them. <sup>9</sup>Now the Philistines had come and

made a raid in the valley of Rephaim.<sup>10</sup> David inquired of God, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hand?"

Yahweh said to him, "Go up; for I will deliver them into your hand."

<sup>11</sup> So they came up to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there. David said, God has broken my enemies by my hand, like waters breaking out. Therefore they called the name of that place Baal Perazim.\* <sup>12</sup> They left their gods there; and David gave a command, and they were burned with fire.

<sup>13</sup> The Philistines made a another raid in the valley. <sup>14</sup> David inquired again of God; and God said to him, "You shall not go up after them. Turn away from them, and come on them opposite the mulberry trees. <sup>15</sup> When you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then go out to battle; for God has gone out before you to strike the army of the Philistines."

<sup>16</sup> David did as God commanded him; and they attacked the army of the Philistines from Gibeon even to Gezer. <sup>17</sup> The fame of David went out into all lands; and Yahweh brought the fear of him on all nations.

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\***14:11** "Baal Perazim" means "The Lord who breaks out".

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## 1st Chronicles Chapter 15

<sup>1</sup> David made himself houses in David's city; and he prepared a place for God's ark, and pitched a tent for it. <sup>2</sup> Then David said, "No one ought to carry God's ark but the Levites. For Yahweh has chosen them to carry God's ark, and to minister to him forever."

<sup>3</sup> David assembled all Israel at Jerusalem, to bring up Yahweh's ark to its place, which he

had prepared for it.<sup>4</sup> David gathered together the sons of Aaron and the Levites:<sup>5</sup> of the sons of Kohath, Uriel the chief, and his brothers one hundred twenty;<sup>6</sup> of the sons of Merari, Asaiah the chief, and his brothers two hundred twenty;<sup>7</sup> of the sons of Gershon, Joel the chief, and his brothers one hundred thirty;<sup>8</sup> of the sons of Elizaphan, Shemaiah the chief, and his brothers two hundred;<sup>9</sup> of the sons of Hebron, Eliel the chief, and his brothers eighty;<sup>10</sup> of the sons of Uzziel, Amminadab the chief, and his brothers one hundred twelve.<sup>11</sup> David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab,<sup>12</sup> and said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' households of the Levites. Sanctify yourselves, both you and your brothers, that you may bring the ark of Yahweh, the God of Israel, up to the place that I have prepared for it.<sup>13</sup> For because you didn't carry it at first, Yahweh our God broke out in anger against us, because we didn't seek him according to the ordinance."<sup>14</sup> So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of Yahweh, the God of Israel.<sup>15</sup> The children of the Levites bore God's ark on their shoulders with its poles, as Moses commanded according to Yahweh's word.<sup>16</sup> David spoke to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brothers as singers with instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals, sounding aloud and lifting up their voices with joy.<sup>17</sup> So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brothers, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of the sons of Merari their brothers, Ethan the son of Kushaiah;<sup>18</sup> and with them their brothers of the second rank, Zechariah, Ben, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, and Jeiel, the doorkeepers.<sup>19</sup> So the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were given cymbals of

bronze to sound aloud;<sup>20</sup> and Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah, with stringed instruments set to Alamothe;<sup>21</sup> and Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah, with harps tuned to the eight-stringed lyre, to lead.<sup>22</sup> Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was over the singing. He taught the singers, because he was skillful.<sup>23</sup> Berechiah and Elkanah were doorkeepers for the ark.<sup>24</sup> Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, blew the trumpets before God's ark; and Obed-Edom and Jehiah were doorkeepers for the ark.

<sup>25</sup> So David, the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands, went to bring the ark of Yahweh's covenant up out of the house of Obed-Edom with joy.<sup>26</sup> When God helped the Levites who bore the ark of Yahweh's covenant, they sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams.<sup>27</sup> David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who bore the ark, the singers, and Chenaniah the choir master with the singers; and David had an ephod of linen on him.<sup>28</sup> Thus all Israel brought the ark of Yahweh's covenant up with shouting, with sound of the cornet, with trumpets, and with cymbals, sounding aloud with stringed instruments and harps.<sup>29</sup> As the ark of Yahweh's covenant came to David's city, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out at the window, and saw king David dancing and playing; and she despised him in her heart.

### 1st Chronicles Chapter 16

<sup>1</sup> They brought in God's ark, and set it in the middle of the tent that David had pitched for it; and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God.<sup>2</sup> When David had finished offering the burnt offering and

the peace offerings, he blessed the people in Yahweh's name. <sup>3</sup> He gave to everyone of Israel, both man and woman, to everyone a loaf of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. <sup>4</sup> He appointed some of the Levites to minister before Yahweh's ark, and to commemorate, to thank, and to praise Yahweh, the God of Israel: <sup>5</sup> Asaph the chief, and second to him Zechariah, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-Edom, and Jeiel, with stringed instruments and with harps; and Asaph with cymbals, sounding aloud; <sup>6</sup> with Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests with trumpets continually, before the ark of the covenant of God.

<sup>7</sup> Then on that day David first ordained to give thanks to Yahweh, by the hand of Asaph and his brothers. <sup>8</sup> Oh give thanks to Yahweh. Call on his name. Make what he has done known among the peoples. <sup>9</sup> Sing to him. Sing praises to him. Tell of all his marvelous works. <sup>10</sup> Glory in his holy name. Let the heart of those who seek Yahweh rejoice. <sup>11</sup> Seek Yahweh and his strength. Seek his face forever more. <sup>12</sup> Remember his marvelous works that he has done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth, <sup>13</sup> you offspring\* of Israel his servant, you children of Jacob, his chosen ones. <sup>14</sup> He is Yahweh our God. His judgments are in all the earth. <sup>15</sup> Remember his covenant forever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations, <sup>16</sup> the covenant which he made with Abraham, his oath to Isaac. <sup>17</sup> He confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant, <sup>18</sup> saying, "I will give you the land of Canaan, The lot of your inheritance," <sup>19</sup> when you were but a few men in number, yes, very few, and foreigners were in it. <sup>20</sup> They went about from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people. <sup>21</sup> He allowed no man to do them wrong. Yes, he reproofed kings for their sakes, <sup>22</sup> "Don't touch my anointed ones! Do my prophets no

harm!" <sup>23</sup> Sing to Yahweh, all the earth!  
Display his salvation from day to day.

<sup>24</sup> Declare his glory among the nations, and  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.

<sup>25</sup> For great is Yahweh, and greatly to be  
praised. He also is to be feared above all  
gods. <sup>26</sup> For all the gods of the peoples are  
idols, but Yahweh made the heavens.

<sup>27</sup> Honor and majesty are before him.  
Strength and gladness are in his place.

<sup>28</sup> Ascribe to Yahweh, you relatives of the  
peoples, ascribe to Yahweh glory and  
strength! <sup>29</sup> Ascribe to Yahweh the glory due  
to his name. Bring an offering, and come  
before him. Worship Yahweh in holy array.

<sup>30</sup> Tremble before him, all the earth. The  
world also is established that it can't be  
moved. <sup>31</sup> Let the heavens be glad, and let  
the earth rejoice! Let them say among the  
nations, "Yahweh reigns!" <sup>32</sup> Let the sea  
roar, and its fullness! Let the field exult, and  
all that is in it! <sup>33</sup> Then the trees of the forest  
will sing for joy before Yahweh, for he  
comes to judge the earth. <sup>34</sup> Oh give thanks  
to Yahweh, for he is good for his loving  
kindness endures forever. <sup>35</sup> Say, "Save us,  
God of our salvation! Gather us together  
and deliver us from the nations, to give  
thanks to your holy name, to triumph in  
your praise." <sup>36</sup> Blessed be Yahweh, the God  
of Israel, from everlasting even to  
everlasting. All the people said, "Amen," and  
praised Yahweh.

<sup>37</sup> So he left Asaph and his brothers there  
before the ark of Yahweh's covenant, to  
minister before the ark continually, as every  
day's work required; <sup>38</sup> and Obed-Edom with  
their brothers, sixty-eight; Obed-Edom also  
the son of Jeduthun and Hosah to be  
doorkeepers; <sup>39</sup> and Zadok the priest, and  
his brothers the priests, before Yahweh's  
tabernacle in the high place that was at  
Gibeon, <sup>40</sup> to offer burnt offerings to Yahweh  
on the altar of burnt offering continually  
morning and evening, even according to all  
that is written in Yahweh's law, which he



commanded to Israel;<sup>41</sup> and with them Heman and Jeduthun, and the rest who were chosen, who were mentioned by name, to give thanks to Yahweh, because his loving kindness endures forever;<sup>42</sup> and with them Heman and Jeduthun with trumpets and cymbals for those that should sound aloud, and with instruments for the songs of God; and the sons of Jeduthun to be at the gate.<sup>43</sup> All the people departed, each man to his house; and David returned to bless his house.

\***16:13** or, seed

## 1st Chronicles Chapter 17

<sup>1</sup> When David lived in his house, David said to Nathan the prophet, "Behold, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of Yahweh's covenant is in a tent."

<sup>2</sup> Nathan said to David, "Do all that is in your heart; for God is with you."

<sup>3</sup> That same night, the word of God came to Nathan, saying, <sup>4</sup> "Go and tell David my servant, 'Yahweh says, "You shall not build me a house to dwell in; <sup>5</sup> for I have not lived in a house since the day that I brought up Israel to this day, but have gone from tent to tent, and from one tent to another. <sup>6</sup> In all places in which I have walked with all Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to be shepherd of my people, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' " " "

<sup>7</sup> "Now therefore, you shall tell my servant David, 'Yahweh of Armies says, "I took you from the sheep pen, from following the sheep, to be prince over my people Israel. <sup>8</sup> I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you. I will make you a

name, like the name of the great ones who are in the earth. <sup>9</sup>I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place, and be moved no more. The children of wickedness will not waste them any more, as at the first, <sup>10</sup>and from the day that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel. I will subdue all your enemies. Moreover I tell you that Yahweh will build you a house. <sup>11</sup>It will happen, when your days are fulfilled that you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up your offspring after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>12</sup>He will build me a house, and I will establish his throne forever. <sup>13</sup>I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will not take my loving kindness away from him, as I took it from him that was before you; <sup>14</sup>but I will settle him in my house and in my kingdom forever. His throne will be established forever." " <sup>15</sup>According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

<sup>16</sup>Then David the king went in, and sat before Yahweh; and he said, "Who am I, Yahweh God, and what is my house, that you have brought me this far? <sup>17</sup>This was a small thing in your eyes, God; but you have spoken of your servant's house for a great while to come, and have respected me according to the standard of a man of high degree, Yahweh God. <sup>18</sup>What can David say yet more to you concerning the honor which is done to your servant? For you know your servant. <sup>19</sup>Yahweh, for your servant's sake, and according to your own heart, you have done all this greatness, to make known all these great things. <sup>20</sup>Yahweh, there is no one like you, neither is there any God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. <sup>21</sup>What one nation in the earth is like your people Israel, whom God went to redeem to himself for a people, to make you a name by great and awesome things, in driving out nations from before

your people, whom you redeem out of Egypt? <sup>22</sup> For you made your people Israel your own people forever; and you, Yahweh, became their God. <sup>23</sup> Now, Yahweh, let the word that you have spoken concerning your servant, and concerning his house, be established forever, and do as you have spoken. <sup>24</sup> Let your name be established and magnified forever, saying, 'Yahweh of Armies is the God of Israel, even a God to Israel. The house of David your servant is established before you.' <sup>25</sup> For you, my God, have revealed to your servant that you will build him a house. Therefore your servant has found courage to pray before you. <sup>26</sup> Now, Yahweh, you are God, and have promised this good thing to your servant. <sup>27</sup> Now it has pleased you to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever before you; for you, Yahweh, have blessed, and it is blessed forever."

## 1st Chronicles

### Chapter 18

<sup>1</sup> After this, David defeated the Philistines and subdued them, and took Gath and its towns out of the hand of the Philistines. <sup>2</sup> He defeated Moab; and the Moabites became servants to David, and brought tribute. <sup>3</sup> David defeated Hadadezer king of Zobah to Hamath, as he went to establish his dominion by the river Euphrates. <sup>4</sup> David took from him one thousand chariots, seven thousand horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen; and David hamstringed all the chariot horses, but reserved of them enough for one hundred chariots. <sup>5</sup> When the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David struck twenty-two thousand men of the Syrians. <sup>6</sup> Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus; and the Syrians became servants to David, and brought tribute. Yahweh gave victory to David wherever he

went. <sup>7</sup>David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem. <sup>8</sup>From Tibhath and from Cun, cities of Hadadezer, David took very much bronze, with which Solomon made the bronze sea, the pillars, and the vessels of bronze.

<sup>9</sup>When Tou king of Hamath heard that David had struck all the army of Hadadezer king of Zobah, <sup>10</sup>he sent Hadoram his son to king David, to Greet him, and to bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer and struck him (for Hadadezer had wars with Tou); and he had with him all kinds of vessels of gold and silver and bronze. <sup>11</sup>King David also dedicated these to Yahweh, with the silver and the gold that he carried away from all the nations; from Edom, from Moab, from the children of Ammon, from the Philistines, and from Amalek. <sup>12</sup>Moreover Abishai the son of Zeruiah struck eighteen thousand of the Edomites in the Valley of Salt. <sup>13</sup>He put garrisons in Edom; and all the Edomites became servants to David. Yahweh gave victory to David wherever he went.

<sup>14</sup>David reigned over all Israel; and he executed justice and righteousness for all his people. <sup>15</sup>Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder; <sup>16</sup>Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Abimelech the son of Abiathar, were priests; Shavsha was scribe; <sup>17</sup>and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and the sons of David were chief officials serving the king.

**1st Chronicles**  
**Chapter 19**

<sup>1</sup>After this, Nahash the king of the children of Ammon died, and his son reigned in his place. <sup>2</sup>David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, because his father showed kindness to me."

So David sent messengers to comfort him concerning his father. David's servants came into the land of the children of Ammon to Hanun, to comfort him.<sup>3</sup> But the princes of the children of Ammon said to Hanun, "Do you think that David honors your father, in that he has sent comforters to you? Haven't his servants come to you to search, to overthrow, and to spy out the land?"<sup>4</sup> So Hanun took David's servants, shaved them, and cut off their garments in the middle at their buttocks, and sent them away.<sup>5</sup> Then some people went and told David how the men were treated. He sent to meet them; for the men were greatly humiliated. The king said, "Stay at Jericho until your beards have grown, and then return."

<sup>6</sup>When the children of Ammon saw that they had made themselves odious to David, Hanun and the children of Ammon sent one thousand talents\* of silver to hire chariots and horsemen out of Mesopotamia, out of Aram-maacah, and out of Zobah.<sup>7</sup> So they hired for themselves thirty-two thousand chariots, and the king of Maacah with his people, who came and encamped near Medeba. The children of Ammon gathered themselves together from their cities, and came to battle.<sup>8</sup> When David heard of it, he sent Joab with all the army of the mighty men.<sup>9</sup> The children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array at the gate of the city; and the kings who had come were by themselves in the field.<sup>10</sup> Now when Joab saw that the battle was set against him before and behind, he chose some of all the choice men of Israel, and put them in array against the Syrians.<sup>11</sup> The rest of the people he committed into the hand of Abishai his brother; and they put themselves in array against the children of Ammon.<sup>12</sup> He said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you are to help me; but if the children of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will help you."<sup>13</sup> Be courageous, and let's be strong for our people and for the cities of

our God. May Yahweh do that which seems good to him.”

<sup>14</sup> So Joab and the people who were with him came near to the front of the Syrians to the battle; and they fled before him. <sup>15</sup> When the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians had fled, they likewise fled before Abishai his brother, and entered into the city. Then Joab came to Jerusalem.

<sup>16</sup> When the Syrians saw that they were defeated by Israel, they sent messengers, and called out the Syrians who were beyond the River,<sup>†</sup> with Shophach the captain of the army of Hadadezer leading them. <sup>17</sup> David was told that; so he gathered all Israel together, passed over the Jordan, came to them, and set the battle in array against them. So when David had put the battle in array against the Syrians, they fought with him. <sup>18</sup> The Syrians fled before Israel; and David killed of the Syrian men seven thousand chariots, and forty thousand footmen, and also killed Shophach the captain of the army. <sup>19</sup> When the servants of Hadadezer saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with David, and served him. The Syrians would not help the children of Ammon any more.

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**\*19:6** A talent is about 30 kilograms or 66 pounds, so 1000 talents is about 30 metric tons

**†19:16** or, the Euphrates River

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**1st Chronicles  
Chapter 20**

<sup>1</sup> At the time of the return of the year, at the time when kings go out, Joab led out the army, and wasted the country of the children of Ammon, and came and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem.

Joab struck Rabbah, and overthrew it. <sup>2</sup> David took the crown of their king from off his head, and found it to weigh a talent of gold,\* and there were precious stones in it. It was set on David's head, and he brought very much plunder out of the city. <sup>3</sup> He brought out the people who were in it, and had them cut with saws, with iron picks, and with axes. David did so to all the cities of the children of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> After this, war arose at Gezer with the Philistines. Then Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Sippai, of the sons of the giant; and they were subdued.

<sup>5</sup> Again there was war with the Philistines; and Elhanan the son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. <sup>6</sup> There was again war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, who had twenty-four fingers and toes, six on each hand, and six on each foot; and he also was born to the giant. <sup>7</sup> When he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea David's brother killed him. <sup>8</sup> These were born to the giant in Gath; and they fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.

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\***20:2** A talent is about 30 kilograms or 66 pounds or 965 Troy ounces

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## 1st Chronicles Chapter 21

<sup>1</sup> Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to take a census of Israel. <sup>2</sup> David said to Joab and to the princes of the people, "Go, count Israel from Beersheba even to Dan; and bring me word, that I may know how many there are."

<sup>3</sup> Joab said, "May Yahweh make his people a

hundred times as many as they are. But, my lord the king, aren't they all my lord's servants? Why does my lord require this thing? Why will he be a cause of guilt to Israel?"

<sup>4</sup>Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Therefore Joab departed, and went throughout all Israel, then came to Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup>Joab gave up the sum of the census of the people to David. All those of Israel were one million one hundred thousand men who drew a sword; and in Judah were four hundred seventy thousand men who drew a sword. <sup>6</sup>But he didn't count Levi and Benjamin among them; for the king's word was abominable to Joab.

<sup>7</sup>God was displeased with this thing; therefore he struck Israel. <sup>8</sup>David said to God, "I have sinned greatly, in that I have done this thing. But now put away, I beg you, the iniquity of your servant; for I have done very foolishly."

<sup>9</sup>Yahweh spoke to Gad, David's seer, saying, <sup>10</sup>"Go and speak to David, saying, 'Yahweh says, "I offer you three things. Choose one of them, that I may do it to you."'"

<sup>11</sup>So Gad came to David, and said to him, "Yahweh says, 'Take your choice: <sup>12</sup>either three years of famine; or three months to be consumed before your foes, while the sword of your enemies overtakes you; or else three days the sword of Yahweh, even pestilence in the land, and Yahweh's angel destroying throughout all the borders of Israel. Now therefore consider what answer I shall return to him who sent me.'"

<sup>13</sup>David said to Gad, "I am in distress. Let me fall, I pray, into Yahweh's hand; for his mercies are very great. Don't let me fall into man's hand."

<sup>14</sup>So Yahweh sent a pestilence on Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell. <sup>15</sup>God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it. As he was about to destroy, Yahweh saw, and he relented of the



disaster, and said to the destroying angel, "It is enough. Now withdraw your hand." Yahweh's angel was standing by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. <sup>16</sup> David lifted up his eyes, and saw Yahweh's angel standing between earth and the sky, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem.

Then David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces. <sup>17</sup> David said to God, "Isn't it I who commanded the people to be counted? It is even I who have sinned and done very wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Please let your hand, O Yahweh my God, be against me, and against my father's house; but not against your people, that they should be plagued."

<sup>18</sup> Then Yahweh's angel commanded Gad to tell David that David should go up and raise an altar to Yahweh on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. <sup>19</sup> David went up at the saying of Gad, which he spoke in Yahweh's name.

<sup>20</sup> Ornan turned back, and saw the angel; and his four sons who were with him hid themselves. Now Ornan was threshing wheat. <sup>21</sup> As David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David, and went out of the threshing floor, and bowed himself to David with his face to the ground.

<sup>22</sup> Then David said to Ornan, "Give me the place of this threshing floor, that I may build an altar to Yahweh on it. You shall sell it to me for the full price, that the plague may be stopped from afflicting the people."

<sup>23</sup> Ornan said to David, "Take it for yourself, and let my lord the king do that which is good in his eyes. Behold, I give the oxen for burnt offerings, and the threshing instruments for wood, and the wheat for the meal offering. I give it all."

<sup>24</sup> King David said to Ornan, "No; but I will most certainly buy it for the full price. For I will not take that which is yours for Yahweh, nor offer a burnt offering that costs me nothing."

<sup>25</sup> So David gave to Ornan six hundred shekels\* of gold by weight for the place. <sup>26</sup> David built an altar to Yahweh there, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called on Yahweh; and he answered him from the sky by fire on the altar of burnt offering.

<sup>27</sup> Then Yahweh commanded the angel, and he put his sword back into its sheath. <sup>28</sup> At that time, when David saw that Yahweh had answered him in the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, then he sacrificed there. <sup>29</sup> For Yahweh’s tabernacle, which Moses made in the wilderness, and the altar of burnt offering, were at that time in the high place at Gibeon. <sup>30</sup> But David couldn’t go before it to inquire of God; for he was afraid because of the sword of Yahweh’s angel.

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**\*21:25** A shekel is about 10 grams or about 0.32 Troy ounces, so 600 shekels was about 6 kilograms or about 192 Troy ounces.

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**1st Chronicles**  
**Chapter 22**

<sup>1</sup> Then David said, "This is the house of Yahweh God, and this is the altar of burnt offering for Israel."

<sup>2</sup> David gave orders to gather together the foreigners who were in the land of Israel; and he set masons to cut dressed stones to build God’s house. <sup>3</sup> David prepared iron in abundance for the nails for the doors of the gates, and for the couplings; and bronze in abundance without weight;<sup>4</sup> and cedar trees without number, for the Sidonians and the people of Tyre brought cedar trees in abundance to David. <sup>5</sup> David said, "Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be built for Yahweh must be

exceedingly magnificent, of fame and of glory throughout all countries. I will therefore make preparation for it." So David prepared abundantly before his death. <sup>6</sup> Then he called for Solomon his son, and commanded him to build a house for Yahweh, the God of Israel. <sup>7</sup> David said to Solomon his son, "As for me, it was in my heart to build a house to the name of Yahweh my God. <sup>8</sup> But Yahweh's word came to me, saying, 'You have shed blood abundantly, and have made great wars. You shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in my sight. <sup>9</sup> Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of peace. I will give him rest from all his enemies all around; for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days. <sup>10</sup> He shall build a house for my name; and he will be my son, and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.' <sup>11</sup> Now, my son, may Yahweh be with you and prosper you, and build the house of Yahweh your God, as he has spoken concerning you. <sup>12</sup> May Yahweh give you discretion and understanding, and put you in charge of Israel; that so you may keep the law of Yahweh your God. <sup>13</sup> Then you will prosper, if you observe to do the statutes and the ordinances which Yahweh gave Moses concerning Israel. Be strong and courageous. Don't be afraid, and don't be dismayed. <sup>14</sup> Now, behold, in my affliction I have prepared for Yahweh's house one hundred thousand talents\* of gold, one million talents<sup>†</sup> of silver, and bronze and iron without weight; for it is in abundance. I have also prepared timber and stone; and you may add to them. <sup>15</sup> There are also workmen with you in abundance, cutters and workers of stone and timber, and all kinds of men who are skillful in every kind of work; <sup>16</sup> of the gold, the silver, the bronze, and the iron, there is no number. Arise and

be doing, and may Yahweh be with you.”  
<sup>17</sup>David also commanded all the princes of Israel to help Solomon his son, saying, <sup>18</sup>“Isn’t Yahweh your God with you? Hasn’t he given you rest on every side? For he has delivered the inhabitants of the land into my hand; and the land is subdued before Yahweh, and before his people. <sup>19</sup>Now set your heart and your soul to follow Yahweh your God. Arise therefore, and build the sanctuary of Yahweh God, to bring the ark of Yahweh’s covenant and the holy vessels of God into the house that is to be built for Yahweh’s name.”

**\*22:14** A talent is about 30 kilograms or 66 pounds or 965 Troy ounces, so 100,000 talents is about 3 metric tons  
**†22:14** about 30,000 metric tons

1st Chronicles  
Chapter 23

<sup>1</sup>Now David was old and full of days; and he made Solomon his son king over Israel. <sup>2</sup>He gathered together all the princes of Israel, with the priests and the Levites. <sup>3</sup>The Levites were counted from thirty years old and upward; and their number by their polls, man by man, was thirty-eight thousand. <sup>4</sup>David said, “Of these, twenty-four thousand were to oversee the work of Yahweh’s house, six thousand were officers and judges, <sup>5</sup>four thousand were doorkeepers, and four thousand praised Yahweh with the instruments which I made for giving praise.”  
<sup>6</sup>David divided them into divisions according to the sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.  
<sup>7</sup>Of the Gershonites: Ladan and

Shimei.<sup>8</sup> The sons of Ladan: Jehiel the chief, Zetham, and Joel, three.<sup>9</sup> The sons of Shimei: Shelomoth, Haziel, and Haran, three. These were the heads of the fathers' households of Ladan.<sup>10</sup> The sons of Shimei: Jahath, Zina, Jeush, and Beriah. These four were the sons of Shimei.<sup>11</sup> Jahath was the chief, and Zizah the second; but Jeush and Beriah didn't have many sons; therefore they became a fathers' house in one reckoning.

<sup>12</sup> The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel, four.<sup>13</sup> The sons of Amram: Aaron and Moses; and Aaron was separated, that he should sanctify the most holy things, he and his sons, forever, to burn incense before Yahweh, to minister to him, and to bless in his name, forever.<sup>14</sup> But as for Moses the man of God, his sons were named among the tribe of Levi.<sup>15</sup> The sons of Moses: Gershom and Eliezer.<sup>16</sup> The sons of Gershom: Shebuel the chief.<sup>17</sup> The sons of Eliezer were: Rehabiah the chief; and Eliezer had no other sons; but the sons of Rehabiah were very many.<sup>18</sup> The sons of Izhar: Shelomith the chief.<sup>19</sup> The sons of Hebron: Jeriah the chief, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth.<sup>20</sup> The sons of Uzziel: Micah the chief, and Isshiah the second.<sup>21</sup> The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. The sons of Mahli: Eleazar and Kish.<sup>22</sup> Eleazar died, and had no sons, but daughters only: and their brothers the sons of Kish took them as wives.<sup>23</sup> The sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder, and Jeremoth, three.

<sup>24</sup> These were the sons of Levi after their fathers' houses, even the heads of the fathers' houses of those who were counted individually, in the number of names by their polls, who did the work for the service of Yahweh's house, from twenty years old and upward.<sup>25</sup> For David said, "Yahweh, the God of Israel, has given rest to his people; and he dwells in Jerusalem forever."<sup>26</sup> Also the Levites will no longer need to carry the

tabernacle and all its vessels for its service.”<sup>27</sup> For by the last words of David the sons of Levi were counted, from twenty years old and upward.<sup>28</sup> For their office was to wait on the sons of Aaron for the service of Yahweh’s house, in the courts, and in the rooms, and in the purifying of all holy things, even the work of the service of God’s house;<sup>29</sup> for the show bread also, and for the fine flour for a meal offering, whether of unleavened wafers, or of that which is baked in the pan, or of that which is soaked, and for all measurements of quantity and size;<sup>30</sup> and to stand every morning to thank and praise Yahweh, and likewise in the evening;<sup>31</sup> and to offer all burnt offerings to Yahweh, on the Sabbaths, on the new moons, and on the set feasts, in number according to the ordinance concerning them, continually before Yahweh;<sup>32</sup> and that they should keep the duty of the Tent of Meeting, the duty of the holy place, and the duty of the sons of Aaron their brothers, for the service of Yahweh’s house.

### 1st Chronicles Chapter 24

<sup>1</sup> These were the divisions of the sons of Aaron. The sons of Aaron: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.<sup>2</sup> But Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and had no children: therefore Eleazar and Ithamar executed the priest’s office.<sup>3</sup> David with Zadok of the sons of Eleazar and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, divided them according to their ordering in their service.<sup>4</sup> There were more chief men found of the sons of Eleazar than of the sons of Ithamar; and they were divided like this: of the sons of Eleazar there were sixteen, heads of fathers’ houses; and of the sons of Ithamar, according to their fathers’ houses, eight.<sup>5</sup> Thus were they divided impartially by drawing lots; for there were princes of

the sanctuary, and princes of God, both of the sons of Eleazar, and of the sons of Ithamar. <sup>6</sup> Shemaiah the son of Nethanel the scribe, who was of the Levites, wrote them in the presence of the king, the princes, Zadok the priest, Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, and the heads of the fathers' households of the priests and of the Levites; one fathers' house being taken for Eleazar, and one taken for Ithamar. <sup>7</sup> Now the first lot came out to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah, <sup>8</sup> the third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim, <sup>9</sup> the fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin, <sup>10</sup> the seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah, <sup>11</sup> the ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah, <sup>12</sup> the eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim, <sup>13</sup> the thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab, <sup>14</sup> the fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer, <sup>15</sup> the seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Happizzetz, <sup>16</sup> the nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezkel, <sup>17</sup> the twenty-first to Jachin, the twenty-second to Gamul, <sup>18</sup> the twenty-third to Delaiah, and the twenty-fourth to Maaziah. <sup>19</sup> This was their ordering in their service, to come into Yahweh's house according to the ordinance given to them by Aaron their father, as Yahweh, the God of Israel, had commanded him.

<sup>20</sup> Of the rest of the sons of Levi: of the sons of Amram, Shubael; of the sons of Shubael, Jehdeiah. <sup>21</sup> Of Rehabiah: of the sons of Rehabiah, Isshiah the chief. <sup>22</sup> Of the Izharites, Shelomoth; of the sons of Shelomoth, Jahath. <sup>23</sup> The sons of Hebron: Jeriah, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth. <sup>24</sup> The sons of Uzziel: Micah; of the sons of Micah, Shamir. <sup>25</sup> The brother of Micah: Isshiah; of the sons of Isshiah, Zechariah. <sup>26</sup> The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. The son of Jaaziah: Beno. <sup>27</sup> The sons of Merari: of Jaaziah, Beno, Shoham, Zaccur, and Ibri. <sup>28</sup> Of Mahli: Eleazar, who had no sons. <sup>29</sup> Of Kish, the son of Kish:

Jerahmeel.<sup>30</sup> The sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder, and Jerimoth. These were the sons of the Levites after their fathers' houses.<sup>31</sup> These likewise cast lots even as their brothers the sons of Aaron in the presence of David the king, Zadok, Ahimelech, and the heads of the fathers' households of the priests and of the Levites; the fathers' households of the chief even as those of his younger brother.

**1st Chronicles**  
**Chapter 25**

<sup>1</sup> Moreover, David and the captains of the army set apart for the service certain of the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who were to prophesy with harps, with stringed instruments, and with cymbals. The number of those who did the work according to their service was: <sup>2</sup> of the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asharelah. The sons of Asaph were under the hand of Asaph, who prophesied at the order of the king. <sup>3</sup> Of Jeduthun; the sons of Jeduthun: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the hands of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied in giving thanks and praising Yahweh with the harp. <sup>4</sup> Of Heman; the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, Romamti-Ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth. <sup>5</sup> All these were the sons of Heman the king's seer in the words of God, to lift up the horn. God gave to Heman fourteen sons and three daughters. <sup>6</sup> All these were under the hands of their father for song in Yahweh's house, with cymbals, stringed instruments, and harps, for the service of God's house; Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman being under the order of the king. <sup>7</sup> The number of them, with their brothers who were instructed in singing to Yahweh, even all who were skillful, was two



hundred eighty-eight.<sup>8</sup> They cast lots for their offices, all alike, the small as well as the great, the teacher as well as the student.

<sup>9</sup> Now the first lot came out for Asaph to Joseph; the second to Gedaliah, he and his brothers and sons were twelve; <sup>10</sup> the third to Zaccur, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>11</sup> the fourth to Izri, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>12</sup> the fifth to Nethaniah, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>13</sup> the sixth to Bukkiah, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>14</sup> the seventh to Jesharelah, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>15</sup> the eighth to Jeshaiiah, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>16</sup> the ninth to Mattaniah, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>17</sup> the tenth to Shimei, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>18</sup> the eleventh to Azarel, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>19</sup> the twelfth to Hashabiah, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>20</sup> for the thirteenth, Shubael, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>21</sup> for the fourteenth, Mattithiah, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>22</sup> for the fifteenth to Jeremoth, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>23</sup> for the sixteenth to Hananiah, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>24</sup> for the seventeenth to Joshbekashah, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>25</sup> for the eighteenth to Hanani, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>26</sup> for the nineteenth to Mallothi, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>27</sup> for the twentieth to Eliathah, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>28</sup> for the twenty-first to Hothir, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>29</sup> for the twenty-second to Giddalti, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>30</sup> for the twenty-third to Mahazioth, his sons and his brothers, twelve; <sup>31</sup> for the twenty-fourth to Romanti-Ezer, his sons and his brothers, twelve.

## 1st Chronicles

### Chapter 26

<sup>1</sup> For the divisions of the doorkeepers: of the Korahites, Meshelemiah the son of Kore, of the sons of Asaph. <sup>2</sup> Meshelemiah had sons: Zechariah the firstborn, Jediahel the second, Zebadiah the third, Jathniel the fourth, <sup>3</sup> Elam the fifth, Jehohanan the sixth, and Eliehoenai the seventh. <sup>4</sup> Obed-Edom had sons: Shemaiah the firstborn, Jehozabad the second, Joah the third, Sacar the fourth, Nethanel the fifth, <sup>5</sup> Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh, and Peullethai the eighth; for God blessed him. <sup>6</sup> Sons were also born to Shemaiah his son, who ruled over the house of their father; for they were mighty men of valor. <sup>7</sup> The sons of Shemaiah: Othni, Rephael, Obed, and Elzabad, whose brothers were valiant men, Elihu, and Semachiah. <sup>8</sup> All these were of the sons of Obed-Edom: they and their sons and their brothers, able men in strength for the service; sixty-two of Obed-Edom. <sup>9</sup> Meshelemiah had sons and brothers, valiant men, eighteen. <sup>10</sup> Also Hosah, of the children of Merari, had sons: Shimri the chief (for though he was not the firstborn, yet his father made him chief), <sup>11</sup> Hilkiyah the second, Tebaliah the third, and Zechariah the fourth: all the sons and brothers of Hosah were thirteen. <sup>12</sup> Of these were the divisions of the doorkeepers, even of the chief men, having offices like their brothers, to minister in Yahweh's house. <sup>13</sup> They cast lots, the small as well as the great, according to their fathers' houses, for every gate. <sup>14</sup> The lot eastward fell to Shelemiah. Then for Zechariah his son, a wise counselor, they cast lots; and his lot came out northward. <sup>15</sup> To Obed-Edom southward; and to his sons the storehouse. <sup>16</sup> To Shuppim and Hosah westward, by the gate of Shallecheth, at the causeway that goes up, watchman opposite watchman. <sup>17</sup> Eastward were six Levites,

northward four a day, southward four a day, and for the storehouse two and two.<sup>18</sup> For Parbar westward, four at the causeway, and two at Parbar.<sup>19</sup> These were the divisions of the doorkeepers; of the sons of the Korahites, and of the sons of Merari.

<sup>20</sup>Of the Levites, Ahijah was over the treasures of God's house and over the treasures of the dedicated things.<sup>21</sup> The sons of Ladan, the sons of the Gershonites belonging to Ladan, the heads of the fathers' households belonging to Ladan the Gershonite: Jehieli.<sup>22</sup> The sons of Jehieli: Zetham, and Joel his brother, over the treasures of Yahweh's house.<sup>23</sup> Of the Amramites, of the Izharites, of the Hebronites, of the Uzzielites:<sup>24</sup> and Shebuel the son of Gershom, the son of Moses, was ruler over the treasures.<sup>25</sup> His brothers: of Eliezer, Rehabiah his son, and Jeshaiiah his son, and Joram his son, and Zichri his son, and Shelomoth his son.<sup>26</sup> This Shelomoth and his brothers were over all the treasures of the dedicated things, which David the king, and the heads of the fathers' households, the captains over thousands and hundreds, and the captains of the army, had dedicated.<sup>27</sup> They dedicated some of the plunder won in battles to repair Yahweh's house.<sup>28</sup> All that Samuel the seer, and Saul the son of Kish, and Abner the son of Ner, and Joab the son of Zeruiah, had dedicated, whoever had dedicated anything, it was under the hand of Shelomoth, and of his brothers.<sup>29</sup> Of the Izharites, Chenaniah and his sons were for the outward business over Israel, for officers and judges.<sup>30</sup> Of the Hebronites, Hashabiah and his brothers, men of valor, one thousand seven hundred, had the oversight of Israel beyond the Jordan westward, for all the business of Yahweh, and for the service of the king.<sup>31</sup> Of the Hebronites was Jerijah the chief, even of the Hebronites, according to their generations by fathers' households. They were sought for in the fortieth year of

the reign of David, and mighty men of valor were found among them at Jazer of Gilead.<sup>32</sup> His brothers, men of valor, were two thousand seven hundred, heads of fathers' households, whom king David made overseers over the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of the Manassites, for every matter pertaining to God, and for the affairs of the king.

**1st Chronicles**  
**Chapter 27**

<sup>1</sup> Now the children of Israel after their number, the heads of fathers' households and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and their officers who served the king, in any matter of the divisions which came in and went out month by month throughout all the months of the year—of every division were twenty-four thousand.<sup>2</sup> Over the first division for the first month was Jashobeam the son of Zabdiel: and in his division were twenty-four thousand.<sup>3</sup> He was of the children of Perez, the chief of all the captains of the army for the first month.<sup>4</sup> Over the division of the second month was Dodai the Ahohite, and his division; and Mikloth the ruler: and in his division were twenty-four thousand.<sup>5</sup> The third captain of the army for the third month was Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada the priest, chief: and in his division were twenty-four thousand.<sup>6</sup> This is that Benaiah who was the mighty man of the thirty, and over the thirty: and of his division was Ammizabad his son.<sup>7</sup> The fourth captain for the fourth month was Asahel the brother of Joab, and Zebadiah his son after him: and in his division were twenty-four thousand.<sup>8</sup> The fifth captain for the fifth month was Shamhuth the Izrahite: and in his division were twenty-four thousand.<sup>9</sup> The sixth captain for the sixth month was Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite: and in his division were twenty-four thousand.<sup>10</sup> The seventh

captain for the seventh month was Helez the Pelonite, of the children of Ephraim: and in his division were twenty-four thousand.<sup>11</sup> The eighth captain for the eighth month was Sibbecai the Hushathite, of the Zerahites: and in his division were twenty-four thousand.<sup>12</sup> The ninth captain for the ninth month was Abiezer the Anathothite, of the Benjamites: and in his division were twenty-four thousand.<sup>13</sup> The tenth captain for the tenth month was Maharai the Netophathite, of the Zerahites: and in his division were Twenty-four thousand.<sup>14</sup> The eleventh captain for the eleventh month was Benaiah the Pirathonite, of the children of Ephraim: and in his division were twenty-four thousand.<sup>15</sup> The twelfth captain for the twelfth month was Heldai the Netophathite, of Othniel: and in his division were twenty-four thousand.<sup>16</sup> Furthermore over the tribes of Israel: of the Reubenites was Eliezer the son of Zichri the ruler; of the Simeonites, Shephatiah the son of Maacah;<sup>17</sup> of Levi, Hashabiah the son of Kemuel; of Aaron, Zadok;<sup>18</sup> of Judah, Elihu, one of the brothers of David; of Issachar, Omri the son of Michael;<sup>19</sup> of Zebulun, Ishmaiah the son of Obadiah; of Naphtali, Jeremoth the son of Azriel;<sup>20</sup> of the children of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Azaziah; of the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joel the son of Pedaiiah;<sup>21</sup> of the half-tribe of Manasseh in Gilead, Iddo the son of Zechariah; of Benjamin, Jaasiel the son of Abner;<sup>22</sup> of Dan, Azarel the son of Jeroham. These were the captains of the tribes of Israel.<sup>23</sup> But David didn't take the number of them from twenty years old and under, because Yahweh had said he would increase Israel like the stars of the sky.<sup>24</sup> Joab the son of Zeruiah began to take a census, but didn't finish; and wrath came on Israel for this. The number wasn't put into the account in the chronicles of king David.

<sup>25</sup> Over the king's treasures was Azmaveth

the son of Adiel: and over the treasures in the fields, in the cities, and in the villages, and in the towers, was Jonathan the son of Uzziah; <sup>26</sup> Over those who did the work of the field for tillage of the ground was Ezri the son of Chelub; <sup>27</sup> and over the vineyards was Shimei the Ramathite; and over the increase of the vineyards for the wine cellars was Zabdi the Shiphmite; <sup>28</sup> and over the olive trees and the sycamore trees that were in the lowland was Baal Hanan the Gederite; and over the cellars of oil was Joash; <sup>29</sup> and over the herds that fed in Sharon was Shitrai the Sharonite; and over the herds that were in the valleys was Shaphat the son of Adlai; <sup>30</sup> and over the camels was Obil the Ishmaelite; and over the donkeys was Jehdeiah the Meronothite; and over the flocks was Jaziz the Hagrite. <sup>31</sup> All these were the rulers of the property which was king David's.

<sup>32</sup> Also Jonathan, David's uncle, was a counselor, a man of understanding, and a scribe; and Jehiel the son of Hachmoni was with the king's sons. <sup>33</sup> Ahithophel was the king's counselor: and Hushai the Archite was the king's friend. <sup>34</sup> After Ahithophel was Jehoiada the son of Benaiah, and Abiathar. Joab was the captain of the king's army.

### 1st Chronicles Chapter 28

<sup>1</sup> David assembled all the princes of Israel, the princes of the tribes, the captains of the companies who served the king by division, the captains of thousands, the captains of hundreds, and the rulers over all the substance and possessions of the king and of his sons, with the officers and the mighty men, even all the mighty men of valor, to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> Then David the king stood up on his feet, and said, "Hear me, my brothers, and my people! As for me, it was in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of Yahweh's covenant, and for the

footstool of our God; and I had prepared for the building. <sup>3</sup> But God said to me, 'You shall not build a house for my name, because you are a man of war, and have shed blood.'<sup>4</sup> However Yahweh, the God of Israel, chose me out of all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever. For he has chosen Judah to be prince; and in the house of Judah, the house of my father; and among the sons of my father he took pleasure in me to make me king over all Israel. <sup>5</sup> Of all my sons (for Yahweh has given me many sons), he has chosen Solomon my son to sit on the throne of Yahweh's kingdom over Israel. <sup>6</sup> He said to me, 'Solomon, your son, shall build my house and my courts; for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father. <sup>7</sup> I will establish his kingdom forever if he continues to do my commandments and my ordinances, as it is today.'

<sup>8</sup> Now therefore, in the sight of all Israel, Yahweh's assembly, and in the audience of our God, observe and seek out all the commandments of Yahweh your God; that you may possess this good land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children after you forever. <sup>9</sup> You, Solomon my son, know the God of your father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind; for Yahweh searches all hearts, and understands all the imaginations of the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever. <sup>10</sup> Take heed now; for Yahweh has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary. Be strong, and do it."

<sup>11</sup> Then David gave to Solomon his son the plans for the porch of the temple, for its houses, for its treasures, for its upper rooms, for its inner rooms, for the place of the mercy seat; <sup>12</sup> and the plans of all that he had by the Spirit, for the courts of Yahweh's house, for all the surrounding rooms, for the treasures of God's house, and for the treasures of the dedicated

things; <sup>13</sup> also for the divisions of the priests and the Levites, for all the work of the service of Yahweh's house, and for all the vessels of service in Yahweh's house; <sup>14</sup> of gold by weight for the gold, for all vessels of every kind of service; for all the vessels of silver by weight, for all vessels of every kind of service; <sup>15</sup> by weight also for the lamp stands of gold, and for its lamps, of gold, by weight for every lamp stand and for its lamps; and for the lamp stands of silver, by weight for every lamp stand and for its lamps, according to the use of every lamp stand; <sup>16</sup> and the gold by weight for the tables of show bread, for every table; and silver for the tables of silver; <sup>17</sup> and the forks, the basins, and the cups, of pure gold; and for the golden bowls by weight for every bowl; and for the silver bowls by weight for every bowl; <sup>18</sup> and for the altar of incense refined gold by weight; and gold for the plans for the chariot, and the cherubim that spread out and cover the ark of Yahweh's covenant. <sup>19</sup> "All this", said David, "I have been made to understand in writing from Yahweh's hand, even all the works of this pattern."

<sup>20</sup> David said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous, and do it. Don't be afraid, nor be dismayed; for Yahweh God, even my God, is with you. He will not fail you, nor forsake you, until all the work for the service of Yahweh's house is finished. <sup>21</sup> Behold, there are the divisions of the priests and the Levites, for all the service of God's house. Every willing man who has skill, for any kind of service, shall be with you in all kinds of work. Also the captains and all the people will be entirely at your command."

### 1st Chronicles Chapter 29

<sup>1</sup> David the king said to all the assembly, "Solomon my son, whom alone God has chosen, is yet young and tender, and the



work is great; for the palace is not for man, but for Yahweh God.<sup>2</sup> Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, the bronze for the things of bronze, iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood; also onyx stones, stones to be set, stones for inlaid work, of various colors, all kinds of precious stones, and marble stones in abundance.<sup>3</sup> In addition, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, since I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, I give it to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house,<sup>4</sup> even three thousand talents of gold,\* of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents<sup>†</sup> of refined silver, with which to overlay the walls of the houses;<sup>5</sup> of gold for the things of gold, and of silver for the things of silver, and for all kinds of work to be made by the hands of artisans. Who then offers willingly to consecrate himself today to Yahweh?"

<sup>6</sup>Then the princes of the fathers' households, and the princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers over the king's work, offered willingly;<sup>7</sup> and they gave for the service of God's house of gold five thousand talents<sup>†</sup> and ten thousand darics,<sup>§</sup> of silver ten thousand talents, of bronze eighteen thousand talents, and of iron one hundred thousand talents.<sup>8</sup> People with whom precious stones were found gave them to the treasure of Yahweh's house, under the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite.<sup>9</sup> Then the people rejoiced, because they offered willingly, because with a perfect heart they offered willingly to Yahweh; and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.<sup>10</sup> Therefore David blessed Yahweh before all the assembly; and David said, "You are blessed, Yahweh, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever.<sup>11</sup> Yours, Yahweh, is the greatness, the power, the

glory, the victory, and the majesty! For all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, Yahweh, and you are exalted as head above all. <sup>12</sup> Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all! In your hand is power and might! It is in your hand to make great, and to give strength to all! <sup>13</sup> Now therefore, our God, we thank you, and praise your glorious name. <sup>14</sup> But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. <sup>15</sup> For we are strangers before you, and foreigners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is no remaining. <sup>16</sup> Yahweh our God, all this store that we have prepared to build you a house for your holy name comes from your hand, and is all your own. <sup>17</sup> I know also, my God, that you try the heart, and have pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things. Now I have seen with joy your people, who are present here, offer willingly to you. <sup>18</sup> Yahweh, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this desire forever in the thoughts of the heart of your people, and prepare their heart for you; <sup>19</sup> and give to Solomon my son a perfect heart, to keep your commandments, your testimonies, and your statutes, and to do all these things, and to build the palace, for which I have made provision."

<sup>20</sup> Then David said to all the assembly, "Now bless Yahweh your God!"

All the assembly blessed Yahweh, the God of their fathers, and bowed down their heads and prostrated themselves before Yahweh and the king. <sup>21</sup> They sacrificed sacrifices to Yahweh, and offered burnt offerings to Yahweh, on the next day after that day, even one thousand bulls, one thousand rams, and one thousand lambs, with their drink offerings and sacrifices in

abundance for all Israel,<sup>22</sup> and ate and drank before Yahweh on that day with great gladness. They made Solomon the son of David king the second time, and anointed him before Yahweh to be prince, and Zadok to be priest.

<sup>23</sup> Then Solomon sat on the throne of Yahweh as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him. <sup>24</sup> All the princes, the mighty men, and also all of the sons of king David submitted themselves to Solomon the king. <sup>25</sup> Yahweh magnified Solomon exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and gave to him such royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel. <sup>26</sup> Now David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel. <sup>27</sup> The time that he reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and he reigned thirty-three years in Jerusalem. <sup>28</sup> He died at a good old age, full of days, riches, and honor; and Solomon his son reigned in his place. <sup>29</sup> Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they are written in the history of Samuel the seer, and in the history of Nathan the prophet, and in the history of Gad the seer, <sup>30</sup> with all his reign and his might, and the times that went over him, and over Israel, and over all the kingdoms of the countries.

\***29:4** A talent is about 30 kilograms or 66 pounds or 965 Troy ounces, so 3000 talents is about 90 metric tons

†**29:4** about 21 metric tons

‡**29:7** A talent is about 30 kilograms or 66 pounds or 965 Troy ounces, so 5000 talents is about 150 metric tons

§**29:7** a daric was a gold coin issued by a Persian king, weighing

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup> Solomon the son of David was firmly established in his kingdom, and Yahweh \* his God<sup>†</sup> was with him, and made him exceedingly great. <sup>2</sup> Solomon spoke to all Israel, to the captains of thousands and of hundreds, to the judges, and to every prince in all Israel, the heads of the fathers' households. <sup>3</sup> So Solomon, and all the assembly with him, went to the high place that was at Gibeon; for God's Tent of Meeting was there, which Yahweh's servant Moses had made in the wilderness. <sup>4</sup> But David had brought God's ark up from Kiriath Jearim to the place that David had prepared for it; for he had pitched a tent for it at Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> Moreover the bronze altar that Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made was there before Yahweh's tabernacle; and Solomon and the assembly were seeking counsel there. <sup>6</sup> Solomon went up there to the bronze altar before Yahweh, which was at the Tent of Meeting, and offered one thousand burnt offerings on it.

<sup>7</sup> That night, God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask for what you want me to give you."

<sup>8</sup> Solomon said to God, "You have shown great loving kindness to David my father, and have made me king in his place. <sup>9</sup> Now, Yahweh God, let your promise to David my father be established; for you have made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude.<sup>10</sup> Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of yours?"

<sup>11</sup> God said to Solomon, "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches, wealth, honor, or the life of those who hate you, nor yet have you asked for long life; but have asked for wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge my people, over whom I have made you

king, <sup>12</sup> therefore wisdom and knowledge is granted to you. I will give you riches, wealth, and honor, such as none of the kings have had who have been before you had, and none after you will have."

<sup>13</sup> So Solomon came from the high place that was at Gibeon, from before the Tent of Meeting, to Jerusalem; and he reigned over Israel.

<sup>14</sup> Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen. He had one thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen that he placed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem.<sup>15</sup> The king made silver and gold to be as common as stones in Jerusalem, and he made cedars to be as common as the sycamore trees that are in the lowland. <sup>16</sup> The horses which Solomon had were brought out of Egypt and from Kue. The king's merchants purchased them from Kue. <sup>17</sup> They brought up and brought out of Egypt a chariot for six hundred pieces of silver, and a horse for one hundred fifty.<sup>†</sup> They also exported them to the Hittite kings and the Syrian<sup>§</sup> kings.

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**\*1:1** "Yahweh" is God's proper Name, sometimes rendered "LORD" (all caps) in other translations.

**†1:1** The Hebrew word rendered "God" is "אֱלֹהִים" (Elohim).

**‡1:17** The pieces of silver were probably shekels, so 600 pieces would be about 13.2 lbs. or 6 kg. of silver, and 150 would be about 3.3 lbs. or 1.5 kg. of silver.

**§1:17** or, Aramean

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## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 2

<sup>1</sup> Now Solomon decided to build a house for Yahweh's name, and a house for his kingdom.<sup>2</sup> Solomon counted out seventy thousand men to bear burdens, eighty thousand men who were stone cutters in the mountains, and three thousand six hundred to oversee them. <sup>3</sup> Solomon sent to Hiram the king of Tyre, saying, "As you dealt with David my father, and sent him cedars to build him a house in which to dwell, so deal with me. <sup>4</sup> Behold,\* I am about to build a house for the name of Yahweh my God, to dedicate it to him, to burn before him incense of sweet spices, for the continual show bread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, on the new moons, and on the set feasts of Yahweh our God. This is an ordinance forever to Israel.

<sup>5</sup> "The house which I am building will be great; for our God is greater than all gods. <sup>6</sup> But who is able to build him a house, since heaven and the heaven of heavens can't contain him? Who am I then, that I should build him a house, except just to burn incense before him?

<sup>7</sup> "Now therefore send me a man skillful to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in iron, and in purple, crimson, and blue, and who knows how to engrave engravings, to be with the skillful men who are with me in Judah and in Jerusalem, whom David my father provided.

<sup>8</sup> "Send me also cedar trees, cypress trees, and algum trees out of Lebanon; for I know that your servants know how to cut timber in Lebanon. Behold, my servants will be with your servants,<sup>9</sup> even to prepare me timber in abundance; for the house which I am about to build will be great and wonderful. <sup>10</sup> Behold, I will give to your servants, the cutters who cut timber, twenty thousand cors<sup>†</sup> of beaten wheat, twenty



thousand baths<sup>†</sup> of barley, twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil.”

<sup>11</sup> Then Hiram the king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon, “Because Yahweh loves his people, he has made you king over them.” <sup>12</sup> Hiram continued, “Blessed be Yahweh, the God of Israel, who made heaven and earth, who has given to David the king a wise son, endowed with discretion and understanding, who would build a house for Yahweh, and a house for his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> Now I have sent a skillful man, endowed with understanding, of Hiram my father’s, <sup>14</sup> the son of a woman of the daughters of Dan; and his father was a man of Tyre, skillful to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in iron, in stone, in timber, and in purple, in blue, in fine linen, and in crimson, also to engrave any kind of engraving and to devise any device; that there may be a place appointed to him with your skillful men, and with the skillful men of my lord David your father.

<sup>15</sup> “Now therefore the wheat the barley, the oil and the wine, which my lord has spoken of, let him send to his servants; <sup>16</sup> and we will cut wood out of Lebanon, as much as you need. We will bring it to you in floats by sea to Joppa; and you shall carry it up to Jerusalem.”

<sup>17</sup> Solomon counted all the foreigners who were in the land of Israel, after the census with which David his father had counted them; and they found one hundred fifty-three thousand six hundred. <sup>18</sup> He set seventy thousand of them to bear burdens, eighty thousand who were stone cutters in the mountains, and three thousand six hundred overseers to assign the people their work.

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\***2:4** “Behold”, from “הִנֵּה”, means look at, take notice, observe, see, or gaze at. It is often used as an

interjection.

†2:10 1 cor is the same as a homer, or about 55.9 U. S. gallons (liquid) or 211 liters or 6 bushels, so 20,000 cors of wheat would weigh about 545 metric tons

‡2:10 1 bath is one tenth of a cor, or about 5.6 U. S. gallons or 21 liters or 2.4 pecks. 20,000 baths of barley would weigh about 262 metric tons.

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## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 3

<sup>1</sup> Then Solomon began to build Yahweh’s house at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where Yahweh appeared to David his father, which he prepared in the place that David had appointed, on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. <sup>2</sup> He began to build in the second day of the second month, in the fourth year of his reign. <sup>3</sup> Now these are the foundations which Solomon laid for the building of God’s house. The length by cubits\* after the first measure was sixty cubits, and the width twenty cubits. <sup>4</sup> The porch that was in front, its length, according to the width of the house, was twenty cubits, and the height one hundred twenty; and he overlaid it within with pure gold. <sup>5</sup> He made the larger room with a ceiling of cypress wood, which he overlaid with fine gold, and ornamented it with palm trees and chains. <sup>6</sup> He decorated the house with precious stones for beauty. The gold was gold from Parvaim. <sup>7</sup> He also overlaid the house, the beams, the thresholds, its walls, and its doors with gold; and engraved cherubim on the walls. <sup>8</sup> He made the most holy place. Its length, according to the width of the house, was twenty cubits, and its width twenty cubits;

and he overlaid it with fine gold, amounting to six hundred talents.<sup>† 9</sup> The weight of the nails was fifty shekels<sup>‡</sup> of gold. He overlaid the upper rooms with gold.

<sup>10</sup> In the most holy place he made two cherubim by carving; and they overlaid them with gold.<sup>11</sup> The wings of the cherubim were twenty cubits long: the wing of the one was five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house; and the other wing was five cubits, reaching to the wing of the other cherub.<sup>12</sup> The wing of the other cherub was five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house; and the other wing was five cubits, joining to the wing of the other cherub.<sup>13</sup> The wings of these cherubim spread themselves out twenty cubits. They stood on their feet, and their faces were toward the house.<sup>14</sup> He made the veil of blue, purple, crimson, and fine linen, and ornamented it with cherubim.

<sup>15</sup> Also he made before the house two pillars of thirty-five cubits height, and the capital that was on the top of each of them was five cubits.<sup>16</sup> He made chains in the inner sanctuary, and put them on the tops of the pillars; and he made one hundred pomegranates, and put them on the chains.<sup>17</sup> He set up the pillars before the temple, one on the right hand, and the other on the left; and called the name of that on the right hand Jachin, and the name of that on the left Boaz.

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**\*3:3** A cubit is the length from the tip of the middle finger to the elbow on a man's arm, or about 18 inches or 46 centimeters.

**†3:8** A talent is about 30 kilograms or 66 pounds or 965 Troy ounces, so 600 talents is about 18 metric tons

**‡3:9** A shekel is about 10 grams or about 0.32 Troy ounces, so 50

shekels was about 0.5 kilograms or about 16 Troy ounces.

2nd Chronicles  
Chapter 4

<sup>1</sup> Then he made an altar of bronze, twenty cubits\* long, twenty cubits wide, and ten cubits high. <sup>2</sup> Also he made the molten sea<sup>†</sup> of ten cubits from brim to brim. It was round, five cubits high, and thirty cubits in circumference. <sup>3</sup> Under it was the likeness of oxen, which encircled it, for ten cubits, encircling the sea. The oxen were in two rows, cast when it was cast. <sup>4</sup> It stood on 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 on them above, and all their hindquarters were inward. <sup>5</sup> It was a handbreadth thick; and its brim was made like the brim of a cup, like the flower of a lily. It received and held three thousand baths.<sup>‡</sup> <sup>6</sup> He also made ten basins, and put five on the right hand, and five on the left, to wash in them. The things that belonged to the burnt offering were washed in them; but the sea was for the priests to wash in. <sup>7</sup> He made the ten lamp stands of gold according to the ordinance concerning them; and he set them in the temple, five on the right hand, and five on the left. <sup>8</sup> He made also ten tables, and placed them in the temple, five on the right side, and five on the left. He made one hundred basins of gold. <sup>9</sup> Furthermore he made the court of the priests, the great court, and doors for the court, and overlaid their doors with bronze. <sup>10</sup> He set the sea on the right side of the house eastward, toward the south. <sup>11</sup> Hiram made the pots, the shovels, and the basins. So Hiram finished doing the work that he

did for king Solomon in God's house: <sup>12</sup> the two pillars, the bowls, the two capitals which were on the top of the pillars, the two networks to cover the two bowls of the capitals that were on the top of the pillars, <sup>13</sup> and the four hundred pomegranates for the two networks; two rows of pomegranates for each network, to cover the two bowls of the capitals that were on the pillars. <sup>14</sup> He also made the bases, and he made the basins on the bases; <sup>15</sup> one sea, and the twelve oxen under it. <sup>16</sup> Hiram his father also made the pots, the shovels, the forks, and all its vessels for king Solomon, for Yahweh's house, of bright bronze. <sup>17</sup> The king cast them in the plain of the Jordan, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zeredah. <sup>18</sup> Thus Solomon made all these vessels in great abundance; for the weight of the bronze could not be determined.

<sup>19</sup> Solomon made all the vessels that were in God's house, the golden altar also, and the tables with the show bread on them; <sup>20</sup> and the lamp stands with their lamps, to burn according to the ordinance before the inner sanctuary, of pure gold; <sup>21</sup> and the flowers, the lamps, and the tongs of gold that was perfect gold; <sup>22</sup> and the snuffers, the basins, the spoons, and the fire pans of pure gold. As for the entry of the house, its inner doors for the most holy place and the doors of the main hall of the temple were of gold.

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**\*4:1** A cubit is the length from the tip of the middle finger to the elbow on a man's arm, or about 18 inches or 46 centimeters.

**†4:2** or, pool, or, reservoir

**‡4:5** A bath is about 5.6 U. S. gallons or 21.1 liters, so 3,000 baths is about 16,800 gallons or 63.3 kiloliters.

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<sup>1</sup> Thus all the work that Solomon did for Yahweh's house was finished. Solomon brought in the things that David his father had dedicated, even the silver, the gold, and all the vessels, and put them in the treasuries of God's house.

<sup>11</sup>When the priests had come out of the

holy place (for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, and didn't keep their divisions; <sup>12</sup> also the Levites who were the singers, all of them, even Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun, and their sons and their brothers, arrayed in fine linen, with cymbals and stringed instruments and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them one hundred twenty priests sounding with trumpets); <sup>13</sup> when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking Yahweh; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised Yahweh, saying, "For he is good; for his loving kindness endures forever!" then the house was filled with a cloud, even Yahweh's house, <sup>14</sup> so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud; for Yahweh's glory filled God's house.

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 6

<sup>1</sup> Then Solomon said, "Yahweh has said that he would dwell in the thick darkness. <sup>2</sup> But I have built you a house and home, a place for you to dwell in forever."

<sup>3</sup> The king turned his face, and blessed all the assembly of Israel: and all the assembly of Israel stood.

<sup>4</sup> He said, "Blessed be Yahweh, the God of Israel, who spoke with his mouth to David my father, and has with his hands fulfilled it, saying, <sup>5</sup> 'Since the day that I brought my people out of the land of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build a house in, that my name might be there and I chose no man to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>6</sup> but now I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and I have chosen David to be over my people Israel.' <sup>7</sup> Now it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of Yahweh, the God of Israel. <sup>8</sup> But Yahweh



said to David my father, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for my name, you did well that it was in your heart; <sup>9</sup>nevertheless you shall not build the house; but your son who will come out of your body, he shall build the house for my name.'

<sup>10</sup>"Yahweh has performed his word that he spoke; for I have risen up in the place of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as Yahweh promised, and have built the house for the name of Yahweh, the God of Israel. <sup>11</sup>There I have set the ark, in which is Yahweh's covenant, which he made with the children of Israel."

<sup>12</sup>He stood before Yahweh's altar in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands <sup>13</sup>(for Solomon had made a bronze scaffold, five cubits\* long, and five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in the middle of the court; and he stood on it, and knelt down on his knees before all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven) <sup>14</sup>and he said, "Yahweh, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth; you who keep covenant and loving kindness with your servants who walk before you with all their heart; <sup>15</sup>who have kept with your servant David my father that which you promised him. Yes, you spoke with your mouth, and have fulfilled it with your hand, as it is today.

<sup>16</sup>"Now therefore, Yahweh, the God of Israel, keep with your servant David my father that which you have promised him, saying, 'There shall not fail you a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children take heed to their way, to walk in my law as you have walked before me.' <sup>17</sup>Now therefore, Yahweh, the God of Israel, let your word be verified, which you spoke to your servant David.

<sup>18</sup>"But will God indeed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens can't contain you; how much



less this house which I have built! <sup>19</sup>Yet have respect for the prayer of your servant, and to his supplication, Yahweh my God, to listen to the cry and to the prayer which your servant prays before you; <sup>20</sup>that your eyes may be open toward this house day and night, even toward the place where you have said that you would put your name; to listen to the prayer which your servant will pray toward this place. <sup>21</sup>Listen to the petitions of your servant, and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Yes, hear from your dwelling place, even from heaven; and when you hear, forgive.

<sup>22</sup>"If a man sins against his neighbor, and an oath is laid on him to cause him to swear, and he comes and swears before your altar in this house; <sup>23</sup>then hear from heaven, act, and judge your servants, bringing retribution to the wicked, to bring his way on his own head; and justifying the righteous, to give him according to his righteousness.

<sup>24</sup>"If your people Israel are struck down before the enemy because they have sinned against you, and they turn again and confess your name, and pray and make supplication before you in this house; <sup>25</sup>then hear from heaven, and forgive the sin of your people Israel, and bring them again to the land which you gave to them and to their fathers.

<sup>26</sup>"When the sky is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against you; if they pray toward this place, and confess your name, and turn from their sin, when you afflict them; <sup>27</sup>then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of your servants of your people Israel, when you teach them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on your land, which you have given to your people for an inheritance.

<sup>28</sup>"If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence, if there is blight or mildew, locust or caterpillar; if their enemies besiege them in the land of their cities; whatever plague

or whatever sickness there is; <sup>29</sup> whatever prayer and supplication is made by any man, or by all your people Israel, who will each know his own plague and his own sorrow, and shall spread out his hands toward this house; <sup>30</sup> then hear from heaven your dwelling place and forgive, and render to every man according to all his ways, whose heart you know (for you, even you only, know the hearts of the children of men) <sup>31</sup> that they may fear you, to walk in your ways, so long as they live in the land which you gave to our fathers.

<sup>32</sup> "Moreover concerning the foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, when he comes from a far country for your great name's sake, and your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm; when they come and pray toward this house; <sup>33</sup> then hear from heaven, even from your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you for; that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house which I have built is called by your name.

<sup>34</sup> "If your people go out to battle against their enemies, by whatever way you send them, and they pray to you toward this city which you have chosen, and the house which I have built for your name; <sup>35</sup> then hear from heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

<sup>36</sup> "If they sin against you (for there is no man who doesn't sin), and you are angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captive to a land far off or near; <sup>37</sup> yet if they come to their senses in the land where they are carried captive, and turn again, and make supplication to you in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned, we have done perversely, and have dealt wickedly;' <sup>38</sup> if they return to you with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, where they have carried

them captive, and pray toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, and the city which you have chosen, and toward the house which I have built for your name; <sup>39</sup>then hear from heaven, even from your dwelling place, their prayer and their petitions, and maintain their cause, and forgive your people who have sinned against you.

<sup>40</sup>"Now, my God, let, I beg you, your eyes be open, and let your ears be attentive, to the prayer that is made in this place.

<sup>41</sup>"Now therefore arise, Yahweh God, into your resting place, you, and the ark of your strength. Let your priests, Yahweh God, be clothed with salvation, and let your saints rejoice in goodness.

<sup>42</sup>"Yahweh God, don't turn away the face of your anointed. Remember your loving kindnesses to David your servant."

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**\*6:13** A cubit is the length from the tip of the middle finger to the elbow on a man's arm, or about 18 inches or 46 centimeters.

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## 2nd Chronicles Chapter 7

<sup>1</sup>Now when Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and Yahweh's glory filled the house. <sup>2</sup>The priests could not enter into Yahweh's house, because Yahweh's glory filled Yahweh's house. <sup>3</sup>All the children of Israel looked on, when the fire came down, and Yahweh's glory was on the house. They bowed themselves with their faces to the ground on the pavement, worshiped, and gave thanks to Yahweh, saying,  
"For he is good;  
for his loving kindness endures forever."

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<sup>4</sup>Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before Yahweh. <sup>5</sup>King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand head of cattle and a hundred twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated God's house. <sup>6</sup>The priests stood, according to their positions; the Levites also with instruments of music of Yahweh, which David the king had made to give thanks to Yahweh, when David praised by their ministry, saying "For his loving kindness endures forever." The priests sounded trumpets before them; and all Israel stood.

<sup>7</sup>Moreover Solomon made the middle of the court that was before Yahweh's house holy; for there he offered the burnt offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar which Solomon had made was not able to receive the burnt offering, the meal offering, and the fat.

<sup>8</sup>So Solomon held the feast at that time for seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly, from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of Egypt.

<sup>9</sup>On the eighth day, they held a solemn assembly; for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days. <sup>10</sup>On the twenty-third day of the seventh month, he sent the people away to their tents, joyful and glad of heart for the goodness that Yahweh had shown to David, and to Solomon, and to Israel his people.

<sup>11</sup>Thus Solomon finished Yahweh's house and the king's house; and he successfully completed all that came into Solomon's heart to make in Yahweh's house and in his own house.

<sup>12</sup>Yahweh appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him, "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for myself for a house of sacrifice.

<sup>13</sup>"If I shut up the sky so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; <sup>14</sup>if my people, who are called by

my name, will humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. <sup>15</sup> Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to prayer that is made in this place. <sup>16</sup> For now I have chosen and made this house holy, that my name may be there forever; and my eyes and my heart will be there perpetually.

<sup>17</sup> "As for you, if you will walk before me as David your father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded you, and will keep my statutes and my ordinances; <sup>18</sup> then I will establish the throne of your kingdom, according as I covenanted with David your father, saying, 'There shall not fail you a man to be ruler in Israel.'

<sup>19</sup> But if you 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; <sup>20</sup> then I will pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have made holy for my name, I will cast out of my sight, and I will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples. <sup>21</sup> This house, which is so high, everyone who passes by it shall be astonished, and shall say, 'Why has Yahweh done this to this land and to this house?' <sup>22</sup> They shall answer, 'Because they abandoned Yahweh, the God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and took other gods, worshiped them, and served them. Therefore he has brought all this evil on them.' "

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 8

<sup>1</sup> At the end of twenty years, in which Solomon had built Yahweh's house and his own house, <sup>2</sup> Solomon built the cities which Hiram had given to Solomon, and caused

the children of Israel to dwell there.

<sup>3</sup> Solomon went to Hamath Zobah, and prevailed against it. <sup>4</sup> He built Tadmor in the wilderness, and all the storage cities, which he built in Hamath. <sup>5</sup> Also he built Beth Horon the upper and Beth Horon the lower, fortified cities, with walls, gates, and bars; <sup>6</sup> and Baalath, and all the storage cities that Solomon had, and all the cities for his chariots, the cities for his horsemen, and all that Solomon desired to build for his pleasure in Jerusalem, in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion.

<sup>7</sup> As for all the people who were left of the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, who were not of Israel; <sup>8</sup> of their children who were left after them in the land, whom the children of Israel didn't consume, of them Solomon conscripted forced labor to this day. <sup>9</sup> But of the children of Israel, Solomon made no servants for his work; but they were men of war, and chief of his captains, and rulers of his chariots and of his horsemen. <sup>10</sup> These were the chief officers of king Solomon, even two-hundred fifty, who ruled over the people.

<sup>11</sup> Solomon brought up Pharaoh's daughter out of David's city to 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 where Yahweh's ark has come are holy."

<sup>12</sup> Then Solomon offered burnt offerings to Yahweh on Yahweh's altar, which he had built before the porch, <sup>13</sup> even as the duty of every day required, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the Sabbaths, on the new moons, and on the set feasts, three times per year, during the feast of unleavened bread, during the feast of weeks, and during the feast of booths.\*

<sup>14</sup> He appointed, according to the ordinance of David his father, the divisions of the priests to their service, and the Levites to their offices, to praise and to minister before

the priests, as the duty of every day required; the doorkeepers also by their divisions at every gate, for David the man of God had so commanded.<sup>15</sup> They didn't depart from the commandment of the king to the priests and Levites concerning any matter, or concerning the treasures.

<sup>16</sup> Now all the work of Solomon was prepared from the day of the foundation of Yahweh's house until it was finished. So Yahweh's house was completed.

<sup>17</sup> Then Solomon went to Ezion Geber and to Eloth, on the seashore in the land of Edom.<sup>18</sup> Hiram sent him ships and servants who had knowledge of the sea by the hands of his servants; and they came with the servants of Solomon to Ophir, and brought from there four hundred fifty talents<sup>†</sup> of gold, and brought them to king Solomon.

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\***8:13** or, feast of tents (sukkot)

†**8:18** A talent is about 30 kilograms or 66 pounds or 965 Troy ounces, so 450 talents is about 13.5 metric tons

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## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 9

<sup>1</sup> When the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to test Solomon with hard questions at Jerusalem, with a very great caravan, including camels that bore spices, gold in abundance, and precious stones. When she had come to Solomon, she talked with him about all that was in her heart. <sup>2</sup> Solomon answered all her questions. There wasn't anything hidden from Solomon which he didn't tell her. <sup>3</sup> When the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, <sup>4</sup> the food of his table, the seating

of his servants, the attendance of his ministers, their clothing, his cup bearers also, their clothing, and his ascent by which he went up to Yahweh's house; there was no more spirit in her.\*

<sup>5</sup> She said to the king, "It was a true report that I heard in my own land of your acts and of your wisdom. <sup>6</sup> However I didn't believe their words until I came, and my eyes had seen it; and behold, the half of the greatness of your wisdom wasn't told me. You exceed the fame that I heard! <sup>7</sup> Happy are your men, and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you, and hear your wisdom. <sup>8</sup> Blessed be Yahweh your God, who delighted in you, to set you on his throne, to be king for Yahweh your God; because your God loved Israel, to establish them forever. Therefore he made you king over them, to do justice and righteousness."

<sup>9</sup> She gave the king one hundred and twenty talents<sup>†</sup> of gold, spices in great abundance, and precious stones. There was never before such spice as the queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon.<sup>10</sup> The servants of Hiram and the servants of Solomon, who brought gold from Ophir, also brought alnum trees<sup>‡</sup> and precious stones. <sup>11</sup> The king used alnum tree wood to make terraces for Yahweh's house and for the king's house, and harps and stringed instruments for the singers. There were none like these seen before in the land of Judah. <sup>12</sup> King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatever she asked, in addition to that which she had brought to the king. So she turned, and went to her own land, she and her servants.

<sup>13</sup> Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred sixty-six talents<sup>§</sup> of gold, <sup>14</sup> in addition to that which the traders and merchants brought. All the kings of Arabia and the governors of the country brought gold and silver to Solomon. <sup>15</sup> King Solomon made two



hundred bucklers of beaten gold. Six hundred shekels\* of beaten gold went to one buckler.<sup>16</sup> He made three hundred shields of beaten gold. Three hundred shekels† of gold went to one shield. The king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.<sup>17</sup> Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold.<sup>18</sup> There were six steps to the throne, with a footstool of gold, which were fastened to the throne, and armrests on either side by the place of the seat, and two lions standing beside the armrests.<sup>19</sup> Twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other on the six steps. There was nothing like it made in any other kingdom.<sup>20</sup> All king Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were of pure gold. Silver was not considered valuable in the days of Solomon.<sup>21</sup> For the king had ships that went to Tarshish with Hiram's servants. Once every three years, the ships of Tarshish came bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.

<sup>22</sup> So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.<sup>23</sup> All the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.<sup>24</sup> They each brought tribute, vessels of silver, vessels of gold, clothing, armor, spices, horses, and mules every year.<sup>25</sup> Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, that he stationed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem.<sup>26</sup> He ruled over all the kings from the River even to the land of the Philistines, and to the border of Egypt.<sup>27</sup> The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedars to be as abundant as the sycamore trees that are in the lowland.<sup>28</sup> They brought horses for Solomon out of Egypt and out of all lands.

<sup>29</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, first

and last, aren't they written in the history of Nathan the prophet, and in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer concerning Jeroboam the son of Nebat? <sup>30</sup> Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years. <sup>31</sup> Solomon slept with his fathers, and he was buried in his father David's city: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

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**\*9:4** or, she was breathless.

**†9:9** A talent is about 30 kilograms or 66 pounds or 965 Troy ounces, so 120 talents is about 3.6 metric tons

**‡9:10** possibly Indian sandalwood, which has nice grain and a pleasant scent and is good for woodworking

**§9:13** A talent is about 30 kilograms or 66 pounds or 965 Troy ounces, so 666 talents is about 20 metric tons

**\*9:15** A shekel is about 10 grams or about 0.32 Troy ounces, so 600 shekels was about 6 kilograms or about 192 Troy ounces.

**†9:16** A shekel is about 10 grams or about 0.32 Troy ounces, so 300 shekels was about 3 kilograms or about 96 Troy ounces.

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**2nd Chronicles**  
**Chapter 10**

<sup>1</sup> Rehoboam went to Shechem; for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. <sup>2</sup> When Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was in Egypt, where he

had fled from the presence of king Solomon), Jeroboam returned out of Egypt.<sup>3</sup> They sent and called him; and Jeroboam and all Israel came, and they spoke to Rehoboam, saying,<sup>4</sup> "Your father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make the grievous service of your father, and his heavy yoke which he put on us, lighter, and we will serve you."

<sup>5</sup> He said to them, "Come again to me after three days."

So the people departed.<sup>6</sup> King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, who had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, saying, "What counsel do you give me about how to answer these people?"

<sup>7</sup> They spoke to him, saying, "If you are kind to these people, please them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

<sup>8</sup> But he abandoned the counsel of the old men which they had given him, and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him.<sup>9</sup> He said to them, "What counsel do you give, that we may give an answer to these people, who have spoken to me, saying, 'Make the yoke that your father put on us lighter?' "

<sup>10</sup> The young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you shall tell the people who spoke to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but make it lighter on us;' thus you shall say to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist.<sup>11</sup> Now whereas my father burdened you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.' "

<sup>12</sup> So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king asked, saying, "Come to me again the third day."<sup>13</sup> The king answered them roughly; and king Rehoboam abandoned the counsel of the old men,<sup>14</sup> and spoke to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, "My

father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to it. My father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.”

<sup>15</sup> So the king didn't listen to the people; for it was brought about by God, that Yahweh might establish his word, which he spoke by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat. <sup>16</sup> When all Israel saw that the king didn't listen to them, the people answered the king, saying, “What portion have we in David? We don't have an inheritance in the son of Jesse! Every man to your tents, Israel! Now see to your own house, David.” So all Israel departed to their tents.

<sup>17</sup> But as for the children of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them. <sup>18</sup> Then king Rehoboam sent Hadoram, who was over the men subject to forced labor; and the children of Israel stoned him to death with stones. King Rehoboam hurried to get himself up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem. <sup>19</sup> So Israel rebelled against David's house to this day.

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 11

<sup>1</sup> When Rehoboam had come to Jerusalem, he assembled the house of Judah and Benjamin, one hundred eighty thousand chosen men who were warriors, to fight against Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam. <sup>2</sup> But Yahweh's word came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying, <sup>3</sup> “Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all Israel in Judah and Benjamin, saying, <sup>4</sup> “Yahweh says, “You shall not go up, nor fight against your brothers! Every man return to his house; for this thing is of me.” ’ ’ So they listened to Yahweh's words, and returned from going against Jeroboam.

<sup>5</sup> Rehoboam lived in Jerusalem, and built cities for defense in Judah. <sup>6</sup> He built Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa, <sup>7</sup> Beth Zur, Soco, Adullam, <sup>8</sup> Gath, Mareshah, Ziph, <sup>9</sup> Adoraim,

Lachish, Azekah,<sup>10</sup> Zorah, Aijalon, and Hebron, which are fortified cities in Judah and in Benjamin.<sup>11</sup> He fortified the strongholds, and put captains in them, and stores of food, oil and wine.<sup>12</sup> He put shields and spears in every city, and made them exceedingly strong. Judah and Benjamin belonged to him.

<sup>13</sup> The priests and the Levites who were in all Israel stood with him out of all their territory.<sup>14</sup> For the Levites left their pasture lands and their possession, and came to Judah and Jerusalem; for Jeroboam and his sons cast them off, that they should not execute the priest's office to Yahweh.<sup>15</sup> He himself appointed priests for the high places, for the male goats, and for the calves which he had made.<sup>16</sup> After them, out of all the tribes of Israel, those who set their hearts to seek Yahweh, the God of Israel, came to Jerusalem to sacrifice to Yahweh, the God of their fathers.<sup>17</sup> So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong for three years; for they walked three years in the way of David and Solomon.

<sup>18</sup> Rehoboam took a wife for himself, Mahalath the daughter of Jerimoth the son of David and of Abihail the daughter of Eliab the son of Jesse.<sup>19</sup> She bore him sons: Jeush, Shemariah, and Zaham.<sup>20</sup> After her, he took Maacah the daughter of Absalom; and she bore him Abijah, Attai, Ziza, and Shelomith.<sup>21</sup> Rehoboam loved Maacah the daughter of Absalom above all his wives and his concubines; for he took eighteen wives and sixty concubines, and became the father of twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters.<sup>22</sup> Rehoboam appointed Abijah the son of Maacah to be chief, the prince among his brothers; for he intended to make him king.<sup>23</sup> He dealt wisely, and dispersed of all his sons throughout all the lands of Judah and Benjamin, to every fortified city. He gave them food in abundance and he sought many wives for

them.

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 12

<sup>1</sup> When the kingdom of Rehoboam was established and he was strong, he abandoned Yahweh's law, and all Israel with him. <sup>2</sup> In the fifth year of king Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had trespassed against Yahweh, <sup>3</sup> with twelve hundred chariots, and sixty thousand horsemen. The people were without number who came with him out of Egypt: the Lubim, the Sukkiim, and the Ethiopians. <sup>4</sup> He took the fortified cities which belonged to Judah, and came to Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> Now Shemaiah the prophet came to Rehoboam, and to the princes of Judah, who were gathered together to Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said to them, "Yahweh says, 'You have forsaken me, therefore I have also left you in the hand of Shishak.'"

<sup>6</sup> Then the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, "Yahweh is righteous."

<sup>7</sup> When Yahweh saw that they humbled themselves, Yahweh's word came to Shemaiah, saying, "They have humbled themselves. I will not destroy them; but I will grant them some deliverance, and my wrath won't be poured out on Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak. <sup>8</sup> Nevertheless they will be his servants, that they may know my service, and the service of the kingdoms of the countries."

<sup>9</sup> So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem and took away the treasures of Yahweh's house and the treasures of the king's house. He took it all away. He also took away the shields of gold which Solomon had made. <sup>10</sup> King Rehoboam made shields of bronze in their place, and committed them to the hands of the captains of the guard, who kept the door of

the king's house.<sup>11</sup> As often as the king entered into Yahweh's house, the guard came and bore them, then brought them back into the guard room.<sup>12</sup> When he humbled himself, Yahweh's wrath turned from him, so as not to destroy him altogether. Moreover, there were good things found in Judah.

<sup>13</sup> So king Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem and reigned; for Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which Yahweh had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel to put his name there. His mother's name was Naamah the Ammonitess.<sup>14</sup> He did that which was evil, because he didn't set his heart to seek Yahweh.

<sup>15</sup> Now the acts of Rehoboam, first and last, aren't they written in the histories of Shemaiah the prophet and of Iddo the seer, in the genealogies? There were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually.<sup>16</sup> Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried in David's city; and Abijah his son reigned in his place.

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 13

<sup>1</sup> In the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam, Abijah began to reign over Judah.<sup>2</sup> He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Micaiah the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah. There was war between Abijah and Jeroboam.<sup>3</sup> Abijah joined battle with an army of valiant men of war, even four hundred thousand chosen men; and Jeroboam set the battle in array against him with eight hundred thousand chosen men, who were mighty men of valor.<sup>4</sup> Abijah stood up on Mount Zemaraim, which is in the hill country of Ephraim, and said, "Hear me, Jeroboam and all Israel:<sup>5</sup> Ought you not to know that Yahweh, the God of Israel, gave the kingdom over Israel to David

forever, even to him and to his sons by a covenant of salt? <sup>6</sup> Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, rose up, and rebelled against his lord. <sup>7</sup> Worthless men were gathered to him, wicked fellows who strengthened themselves against Rehoboam the son of Solomon, when Rehoboam was young and tender hearted, and could not withstand them.

<sup>8</sup> "Now you intend to withstand the kingdom of Yahweh in the hand of the sons of David. You are a great multitude, and the golden calves which Jeroboam made you for gods are with you. <sup>9</sup> Haven't you driven out the priests of Yahweh, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and made priests for yourselves according to the ways of the peoples of other lands? Whoever comes to consecrate himself with a young bull and seven rams may be a priest of those who are no gods.

<sup>10</sup> "But as for us, Yahweh is our God, and we have not forsaken him. We have priests serving Yahweh, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites in their work; <sup>11</sup> and they burn to Yahweh every morning and every evening burnt offerings and sweet incense. They also set the show bread in order on the pure table; and the lamp stand of gold with its lamps, to burn every evening; for we keep the instruction of Yahweh our God, but you have forsaken him. <sup>12</sup> Behold, God is with us at our head, and his priests with the trumpets of alarm to sound an alarm against you. Children of Israel, don't fight against Yahweh, the God of your fathers; for you will not prosper."

<sup>13</sup> But Jeroboam caused an ambush to come about behind them; so they were before Judah, and the ambush was behind them. <sup>14</sup> When Judah looked back, behold, the battle was before and behind them; and they cried to Yahweh, and the priests sounded with the trumpets. <sup>15</sup> Then the men of Judah gave a shout. As the men of Judah shouted, God struck Jeroboam and all Israel



before Abijah and Judah. <sup>16</sup> The children of Israel fled before Judah, and God delivered them into their hand. <sup>17</sup> Abijah and his people killed them with a great slaughter, so five hundred thousand chosen men of Israel fell down slain. <sup>18</sup> Thus the children of Israel were brought under at that time, and the children of Judah prevailed, because they relied on Yahweh, the God of their fathers. <sup>19</sup> Abijah pursued Jeroboam, and took cities from him, Bethel with its villages, Jeshanah with its villages, and Ephron with its villages.

<sup>20</sup> Jeroboam didn't recover strength again in the days of Abijah. Yahweh struck him, and he died. <sup>21</sup> But Abijah grew mighty, and took for himself fourteen wives, and became the father of twenty-two sons, and sixteen daughters. <sup>22</sup> The rest of the acts of Abijah, his ways, and his sayings are written in the commentary of the prophet Iddo.

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 14

<sup>1</sup> So Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in David's city; and Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days, the land was quiet ten years. <sup>2</sup> Asa did that which was good and right in Yahweh his God's eyes; <sup>3</sup> for he took away the foreign altars and the high places, broke down the pillars, cut down the Asherah poles, <sup>4</sup> and commanded Judah to seek Yahweh, the God of their fathers, and to obey his law and command. <sup>5</sup> Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the sun images; and the kingdom was quiet before him. <sup>6</sup> He built fortified cities in Judah; for the land was quiet, and he had no war in those years, because Yahweh had given him rest. <sup>7</sup> For he said to Judah, "Let's build these cities, and make walls around them, with towers, gates, and bars. The land is yet before us, because we have sought Yahweh our God. We have sought him, and he has

given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered.

<sup>8</sup>Asa had an army of three hundred thousand out of Judah who bore bucklers and spears, and two hundred eighty thousand out of Benjamin who bore shields and drew bows. All these were mighty men of valor.

<sup>9</sup>Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million troops and three hundred chariots, and he came to Mareshah. <sup>10</sup>Then Asa went out to meet him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. <sup>11</sup>Asa cried to Yahweh his God, and said, "Yahweh, there is no one besides you to help, between the mighty and him who has no strength. Help us, Yahweh our God; for we rely on you, and in your name are we come against this multitude. Yahweh, you are our God. Don't let man prevail against you."

<sup>12</sup>So Yahweh struck the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled. <sup>13</sup>Asa and the people who were with him pursued them to Gerar: and so many of the Ethiopians fell that they could not recover themselves; for they were destroyed before Yahweh and before his army; and they carried away very much booty. <sup>14</sup>They struck all the cities around Gerar; for the fear of Yahweh came on them, and they plundered all the cities; for there was much plunder in them. <sup>15</sup>They also struck the tents of livestock, and carried away sheep in abundance, and camels, and returned to Jerusalem.

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 15

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of God came on Azariah the son of Oded: <sup>2</sup>and he went out to meet Asa, and said to him, "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin! Yahweh is with you, while you are with him; and if you seek him,

he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.<sup>3</sup> Now for a long time Israel was without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law.<sup>4</sup> But when in their distress they turned to Yahweh, the God of Israel, and sought him, he was found by them.<sup>5</sup> In those times there was no peace to him who went out, nor to him who came in; but great troubles were on all the inhabitants of the lands.<sup>6</sup> They were broken in pieces, nation against nation, and city against city; for God troubled them with all adversity.<sup>7</sup> But you be strong, and don't let your hands be slack; for your work will be rewarded."

<sup>8</sup> When Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominations out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from the hill country of Ephraim; and he renewed Yahweh's altar that was before Yahweh's porch.<sup>9</sup> He gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and those who lived with them out of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon; for they came to him out of Israel in abundance when they saw that Yahweh his God was with him.<sup>10</sup> So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of Asa's reign.<sup>11</sup> They sacrificed to Yahweh in that day, of the plunder which they had brought, seven hundred head of cattle and seven thousand sheep.<sup>12</sup> They entered into the covenant to seek Yahweh, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and with all their soul;<sup>13</sup> and that whoever would not seek Yahweh, the God of Israel, should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.<sup>14</sup> They swore to Yahweh with a loud voice, with shouting, with trumpets, and with cornets.<sup>15</sup> All Judah rejoiced at the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found by them. Then Yahweh gave them rest all around.

<sup>16</sup> Also Maacah, the mother of Asa the king, he removed from being queen, because she had made an abominable image for an Asherah; so Asa cut down her image, ground it into dust, and burned it at the brook Kidron. <sup>17</sup> But the high places were not taken away out of Israel; nevertheless the heart of Asa was perfect all his days. <sup>18</sup> He brought the things that his father had dedicated, and that he himself had dedicated, silver, gold, and vessels into God's house. <sup>19</sup> There was no more war to the thirty-fifth year of Asa's reign.

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 16

<sup>1</sup> In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign, Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah, and built Ramah, that he might not allow anyone to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. <sup>2</sup> Then Asa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of Yahweh's house and of the king's house, and sent to Ben Hadad king of Syria, who lived at Damascus, saying, <sup>3</sup> "Let there be a treaty between me and you, as there was between my father and your father. Behold, I have sent you silver and gold. Go, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me."

<sup>4</sup> Ben Hadad listened to king Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel; and they struck Ijon, Dan, Abel Maim, and all the storage cities of Naphtali. <sup>5</sup> When Baasha heard of it, he stopped building Ramah, and let his work cease. <sup>6</sup> Then Asa the king took all Judah, and they carried away the stones of Rama, and its timber, with which Baasha had built; and he built Geba and Mizpah with them.

<sup>7</sup> At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said to him, "Because you have relied on the king of Syria, and have not relied on Yahweh your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has

escaped out of your hand.<sup>8</sup> Weren't the Ethiopians and the Lubim a huge army, with chariots and exceedingly many horsemen? Yet, because you relied on Yahweh, he delivered them into your hand.<sup>9</sup> For Yahweh's eyes run back and forth throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. You have done foolishly in this; for from now on you will have wars."

<sup>10</sup> Then Asa was angry with the seer, and put him in the prison; for he was in a rage with him because of this thing. Asa oppressed some of the people at the same time.

<sup>11</sup> Behold, the acts of Asa, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. <sup>12</sup> In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa was diseased in his feet. His disease was exceedingly great: yet in his disease he didn't seek Yahweh, but just the physicians. <sup>13</sup> Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the forty-first year of his reign. <sup>14</sup> They buried him in his own tomb, which he had dug out for himself in David's city, and laid him in the bed which was filled with sweet odors and various kinds of spices prepared by the perfumers' art; and they made a very great fire for him.

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 17

<sup>1</sup> Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place, and strengthened himself against Israel. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Yahweh was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and didn't seek the Baals, <sup>4</sup> but sought to the God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not in the ways of Israel. <sup>5</sup> Therefore Yahweh established the kingdom in his hand. All Judah brought tribute to Jehoshaphat, and

he had riches and honor in abundance.<sup>6</sup> His heart was lifted up in the ways of Yahweh. Furthermore, he took away the high places and the Asherah poles out of Judah.<sup>7</sup> Also in the third year of his reign he sent his princes, even Ben Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Micaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah;<sup>8</sup> and with them the Levites, even Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah, the Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, the priests.<sup>9</sup> They taught in Judah, having the book of Yahweh's law with them. They went about throughout all the cities of Judah and taught among the people.<sup>10</sup> The fear of Yahweh fell on all the kingdoms of the lands that were around Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat.<sup>11</sup> Some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents and silver for tribute. The Arabians also brought him flocks, seven thousand seven hundred rams, and seven thousand seven hundred male goats.<sup>12</sup> Jehoshaphat grew great exceedingly; and he built fortresses and store cities in Judah.<sup>13</sup> He had many works in the cities of Judah; and men of war, mighty men of valor, in Jerusalem.<sup>14</sup> This was the numbering of them according to their fathers' houses: From Judah, the captains of thousands: Adnah the captain, and with him three hundred thousand mighty men of valor;<sup>15</sup> and next to him Jehohanan the captain, and with him two hundred eighty thousand;<sup>16</sup> and next to him Amasiah the son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself to Yahweh, and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valor.<sup>17</sup> From Benjamin: Eliada, a mighty man of valor, and with him two hundred thousand armed with bow and shield;<sup>18</sup> and next to him Jehozabad, and with him one hundred eighty thousand ready and prepared for war.<sup>19</sup> These were those who waited on the king, in addition to those whom the king put

in the fortified cities throughout all Judah.

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 18

<sup>1</sup> Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance; and he allied himself with Ahab.<sup>2</sup> After some years, he went down to Ahab to Samaria. Ahab killed sheep and cattle for him in abundance, and for the people who were with him, and moved him to go up with him to Ramoth Gilead. <sup>3</sup> Ahab king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, "Will you go with me to Ramoth Gilead?"

He answered him, "I am as you are, and my people as your people. We will be with you in the war." <sup>4</sup> Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Please inquire first for Yahweh's word."

<sup>5</sup> Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, four hundred men, and said to them, "Shall we go to Ramoth Gilead to battle, or shall I forbear?"

They said, "Go up; for God will deliver it into the hand of the king."

<sup>6</sup> But Jehoshaphat said, "Isn't there here a prophet of Yahweh besides, that we may inquire of him?"

<sup>7</sup> The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of Yahweh; but I hate him, for he never prophesies good concerning me, but always evil. He is Micaiah the son of Imla."

Jehoshaphat said, "Don't let the king say so."

<sup>8</sup> Then the king of Israel called an officer, and said, "Get Micaiah the son of Imla quickly."

<sup>9</sup> Now the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah each sat on his throne, arrayed in their robes, and they were sitting in an open place at the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets were prophesying before them. <sup>10</sup> Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made himself horns of

iron and said, "Yahweh says, 'With these you shall push the Syrians, until they are consumed.' "

<sup>11</sup> All the prophets prophesied so, saying, "Go up to Ramoth Gilead, and prosper; for Yahweh will deliver it into the hand of the king."

<sup>12</sup> The messenger who went to call Micaiah spoke to him, saying, "Behold, the words of the prophets declare good to the king with one mouth. Let your word therefore, please be like one of theirs, and speak good."

<sup>13</sup> Micaiah said, "As Yahweh lives, I will say what my God says."

<sup>14</sup> When he had come to the king, the king said to him, "Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth Gilead to battle, or shall I forbear?"

He said, "Go up, and prosper. They shall be delivered into your hand."

<sup>15</sup> The king said to him, "How many times shall I adjure you that you speak to me nothing but the truth in Yahweh's name?"

<sup>16</sup> He said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. Yahweh said, 'These have no master. Let them each return to his house in peace.' "

<sup>17</sup> The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Didn't I tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?"

<sup>18</sup> Micaiah said, "Therefore hear Yahweh's word: I saw Yahweh sitting on his throne, and all the army of heaven standing on his right hand and on his left. <sup>19</sup> Yahweh said, 'Who will entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth Gilead?' One spoke saying in this way, and another saying in that way. <sup>20</sup> A spirit came out, stood before Yahweh, and said, 'I will entice him.'

"Yahweh said to him, 'How?'

<sup>21</sup> "He said, 'I will go, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.'

"He said, 'You will entice him, and will prevail also. Go and do so.'

<sup>22</sup> "Now therefore, behold, Yahweh has put a lying spirit in the mouth of these your



prophets; and Yahweh has spoken evil concerning you."

<sup>23</sup> Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near, and struck Micaiah on the cheek, and said, "Which way did Yahweh's Spirit go from me to speak to you?"

<sup>24</sup> Micaiah said, "Behold, you shall see on that day, when you go into an inner room to hide yourself."

<sup>25</sup> The king of Israel said, "Take Micaiah, and carry him back to Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; <sup>26</sup> and say, 'Thus says 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." ' ' "

<sup>27</sup> Micaiah said, "If you return at all in peace, Yahweh has not spoken by me." He said, "Listen, you people, all of you!"

<sup>28</sup> So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth Gilead. <sup>29</sup> The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself, and go into the battle; but you put on your robes." So the king of Israel disguised himself; and they went into the battle. <sup>30</sup> Now the king of Syria had commanded the captains of his chariots, saying, "Don't fight with small nor great, except only with the king of Israel."

<sup>31</sup> When the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, they said, "It is the king of Israel!" Therefore they turned around to fight against him. But Jehoshaphat cried out, and Yahweh helped him; and God moved them to depart from him. <sup>32</sup> When the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back from pursuing him. <sup>33</sup> A certain man drew his bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joints of the armor. Therefore he said to the driver of the chariot, "Turn your hand, and carry me out of the army; for I am severely wounded."<sup>34</sup> The battle increased that day. However the king of Israel propped himself up in his chariot against the Syrians until the evening; and at

about sunset, he died.

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 19

<sup>1</sup> Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, "Should you help the wicked, and love those who hate Yahweh? Because of this, wrath is on you from before Yahweh." <sup>3</sup> Nevertheless there are good things found in you, in that you have put away the Asheroth out of the land, and have set your heart to seek God."

<sup>4</sup> Jehoshaphat lived at Jerusalem; and he went out again among the people from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim, and brought them back to Yahweh, the God of their fathers. <sup>5</sup> He set judges in the land throughout all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city, <sup>6</sup> and said to the judges, "Consider what you do, for you don't judge for man, but for Yahweh; and he is with you in the judgment. <sup>7</sup> Now therefore let the fear of Yahweh be on you. Take heed and do it; for there is no iniquity with Yahweh our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of bribes."

<sup>8</sup> Moreover in Jerusalem Jehoshaphat appointed Levites and priests, and of the heads of the fathers' households of Israel, for the judgment of Yahweh, and for controversies. They returned to Jerusalem. <sup>9</sup> He commanded them, saying, "You shall do this in the fear of Yahweh, faithfully, and with a perfect heart. <sup>10</sup> Whenever any controversy comes to you from your brothers who dwell in their cities, between blood and blood, between law and commandment, statutes and ordinances, you must warn them, that they not be guilty towards Yahweh, and so wrath come on you and on your brothers. Do this, and you will not be guilty. <sup>11</sup> Behold, Amariah the chief priest is over you in all

matters of Yahweh; and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, in all the king's matters. Also the Levites shall be officers before you. Deal courageously, and may Yahweh be with the good."

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 20

<sup>1</sup>After this, the children of Moab, the children of Ammon, and with them some of the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. <sup>2</sup>Then some came who told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea from Syria. Behold, they are in Hazazon Tamar" (that is, En Gedi). <sup>3</sup>Jehoshaphat was alarmed, and set himself to seek to Yahweh. He proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. <sup>4</sup>Judah gathered themselves together to seek help from Yahweh. They came out of all the cities of Judah to seek Yahweh.

<sup>5</sup>Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in Yahweh's house, before the new court; <sup>6</sup>and he said, "Yahweh, the God of our fathers, aren't you God in heaven? Aren't you ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in your hand, so that no one is able to withstand you. <sup>7</sup>Didn't you, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it to the offspring\* of Abraham your friend forever? <sup>8</sup>They lived in it, and have built you a sanctuary in it for your name, saying, <sup>9</sup>'If evil comes on us—the sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this house, and before you (for your name is in this house), and cry to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.'<sup>10</sup> Now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned away from them, and didn't destroy them; <sup>11</sup>behold, how they reward

us, to come to cast us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. <sup>12</sup> Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no might against this great company that comes against us. We don't know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

<sup>13</sup> All Judah stood before Yahweh, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

<sup>14</sup> Then Yahweh's Spirit came on Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite, of the sons of Asaph, in the middle of the assembly; <sup>15</sup> and he said, "Listen, all Judah, and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, king Jehoshaphat. Yahweh says to you, 'Don't be afraid, and don't be dismayed because of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. <sup>16</sup> Tomorrow, go down against them. Behold, they are coming up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, before the wilderness of Jeruel. <sup>17</sup> You will not need to fight this battle. Set yourselves, stand still, and see the salvation of Yahweh with you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Don't be afraid, nor be dismayed. Go out against them tomorrow, for Yahweh is with you.' "

<sup>18</sup> Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground; and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before Yahweh, worshiping Yahweh. <sup>19</sup> The Levites, of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites, stood up to praise Yahweh, the God of Israel, with an exceedingly loud voice.

<sup>20</sup> They rose early in the morning, and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. As they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah, and you inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in Yahweh your God, so you will be established! Believe his prophets, so you will prosper."

<sup>21</sup> When he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to Yahweh, and give praise in holy array, as they go out before the army, and

say, "Give thanks to Yahweh; for his loving kindness endures forever."<sup>22</sup> When they began to sing and to praise, Yahweh set ambushers against the children of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were struck.<sup>23</sup> For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them: and when they had finished the inhabitants of Seir, everyone helped to destroy another.

<sup>24</sup> When Judah came to the place overlooking the wilderness, they looked at the multitude; and behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and there were none who escaped.<sup>25</sup> When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their plunder, they found among them in abundance both riches and dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away. They took plunder for three days, it was so much.<sup>26</sup> On the fourth day, they assembled themselves in Berakah Valley, for there they blessed Yahweh. Therefore the name of that place was called "Berakah Valley" to this day.<sup>27</sup> Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat in front of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for Yahweh had made them to rejoice over their enemies.<sup>28</sup> They came to Jerusalem with stringed instruments, harps, and trumpets to Yahweh's house.<sup>29</sup> The fear of God was on all the kingdoms of the countries, when they heard that Yahweh fought against the enemies of Israel.<sup>30</sup> So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.

<sup>31</sup> Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah. He was thirty-five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.<sup>32</sup> He walked in the way of Asa his father, and didn't turn away from it, doing that which was right in Yahweh's eyes.<sup>33</sup> However the high places

were not taken away, and the people had still not set their hearts on the God of their fathers.<sup>34</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first and last, behold, they are written in the history of Jehu the son of Hanani, which is included in the book of the kings of Israel.<sup>35</sup> After this, Jehoshaphat king of Judah joined himself with Ahaziah king of Israel. The same did very wickedly.<sup>36</sup> He joined himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish. They made the ships in Ezion Geber.<sup>37</sup> Then Eliezer the son of Dodavahu of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, "Because you have joined yourself with Ahaziah, Yahweh has destroyed your works." The ships were wrecked, so that they were not able to go to Tarshish.

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**2nd Chronicles**  
**Chapter 21**

<sup>1</sup> Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in David's city, and Jehoram his son reigned in his place.<sup>2</sup> He had brothers, the sons of Jehoshaphat: Azariah, Jehiel, Zechariah, Azariah, Michael, and Shephatiah. All these were the sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel.<sup>3</sup> Their father gave them great gifts of silver, of gold, and of precious things, with fortified cities in Judah; but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram, because he was the firstborn.<sup>4</sup> Now when Jehoram had risen up over the kingdom of his father, and had strengthened himself, he killed all his brothers with the sword, and also some of the princes of Israel.<sup>5</sup> Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.<sup>6</sup> He walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as

did Ahab's house; for he had Ahab's daughter as his wife. He did that which was evil in Yahweh's sight.<sup>7</sup> However Yahweh would not destroy David's house, because of the covenant that he had made with David, and as he promised to give a lamp to him and to his children always.

<sup>8</sup>In his days Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah, and made a king over themselves.<sup>9</sup> Then Jehoram went there with his captains and all his chariots with him. He rose up by night and struck the Edomites who surrounded him, along with the captains of the chariots.<sup>10</sup> So Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah to this day. Then Libnah revolted at the same time from under his hand, because he had forsaken Yahweh, the God of his fathers.

<sup>11</sup>Moreover he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and made the inhabitants of Jerusalem play the prostitute, and led Judah astray.<sup>12</sup> A letter came to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, "Yahweh, the God of David your father, says, 'Because you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father, nor in the ways of Asa king of Judah,<sup>13</sup> but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and have made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to play the prostitute like Ahab's house did, and also have slain your brothers of your father's house, who were better than yourself,<sup>14</sup> behold, Yahweh will strike your people with a great plague, including your children, your wives, and all your possessions;<sup>15</sup> and you will have great sickness with a disease of your bowels, until your bowels fall out by reason of the sickness, day by day.' "

<sup>16</sup>Yahweh stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines, and of the Arabians who are beside the Ethiopians;<sup>17</sup> and they came up against Judah, broke into it, and carried away all the possessions that were found in the king's house, including his sons and his wives; so that there was no son left

him, except Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons.

<sup>18</sup>After all this Yahweh struck him in his bowels with an incurable disease.<sup>19</sup>In process of time, at the end of two years, his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness, and he died of severe diseases. His people made no burning for him, like the burning of his fathers.<sup>20</sup>He was thirty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years. He departed without being missed; and they buried him in David's city, but not in the tombs of the kings.

## 2nd Chronicles Chapter 22

<sup>1</sup>The inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his place, because the band of men who came with the Arabians to the camp had slain all the oldest. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned.<sup>2</sup>Ahaziah was forty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athaliah the daughter of Omri.<sup>3</sup>He also walked in the ways of Ahab's house, because his mother was his counselor in acting wickedly.<sup>4</sup>He did that which was evil in Yahweh's sight, as did Ahab's house, for they were his counselors after the death of his father, to his destruction.<sup>5</sup>He also followed their counsel, and went with Jehoram the son of Ahab king of Israel to war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramoth Gilead, and the Syrians wounded Joram.<sup>6</sup>He returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which they had given him at Ramah, when he fought against Hazael king of Syria. Azariah the son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Jehoram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was sick.

<sup>7</sup>Now the destruction of Ahaziah was of God, in that he went to Joram; for when he



had come, he went out with Jehoram against Jehu the son of Nimshi, whom Yahweh had anointed to cut off Ahab's house.<sup>8</sup> When Jehu was executing judgment on Ahab's house, he found the princes of Judah and the sons of the brothers of Ahaziah, serving Ahaziah, and killed them.<sup>9</sup> He sought Ahaziah, and they caught him (now he was hiding in Samaria), and they brought him to Jehu, and killed him; and they buried him, for they said, "He is the son of Jehoshaphat, who sought Yahweh with all his heart." The house of Ahaziah had no power to hold the kingdom.

<sup>10</sup> Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal offspring of the house of Judah.<sup>11</sup> But Jehoshabeath, the king's daughter, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stealthily rescued him from among the king's sons who were slain, and put him and his nurse in the bedroom. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of king Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest (for she was the sister of Ahaziah), hid him from Athaliah, so that she didn't kill him.<sup>12</sup> He was with them hidden in God's house six years while Athaliah reigned over the land.

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 23

<sup>1</sup> In the seventh year, Jehoiada strengthened himself, and took the captains of hundreds, Azariah the son of Jeroham, Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, Azariah the son of Obed, Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri, into a covenant with him.<sup>2</sup> They went around in Judah, and gathered the Levites out of all the cities of Judah, and the heads of fathers' households of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem.<sup>3</sup> All the assembly made a covenant with the king in God's house. He said to them, "Behold, the king's son must reign, as Yahweh has spoken concerning the

sons of David. <sup>4</sup>This is the thing that you must do. A third part of you, who come in on the Sabbath, of the priests and of the Levites, shall be gatekeepers of the thresholds. <sup>5</sup>A third part shall be at the king's house; and a third part at the gate of the foundation. All the people will be in the courts of Yahweh's house. <sup>6</sup>But let no one come into Yahweh's house, except the priests and those who minister of the Levites. They shall come in, for they are holy, but all the people shall follow Yahweh's instructions. <sup>7</sup>The Levites shall surround the king, every man with his weapons in his hand. Whoever comes into the house, let him be slain. Be with the king when he comes in, and when he goes out."

<sup>8</sup>So the Levites and all Judah did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded: and they each took his men, those who were to come in on the Sabbath; with those who were to go out on the Sabbath; for Jehoiada the priest didn't dismiss the shift. <sup>9</sup>Jehoiada the priest delivered to the captains of hundreds the spears, and bucklers, and shields, that had been king David's, which were in God's house. <sup>10</sup>He set all the people, every man with his weapon in his hand, from the right side of the house to the left side of the house, near the altar and the house, around the king. <sup>11</sup>Then they brought out the king's son, and put the crown on him, and gave him the covenant, and made him king. Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and they said, "Long live the king!"

<sup>12</sup>When Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she came to the people into Yahweh's house. <sup>13</sup>Then she looked, and, behold, the king stood by his pillar at the entrance, and the captains and the trumpets by the king. All the people of the land rejoiced, and blew trumpets. The singers also played musical instruments, and led the singing of praise. Then Athaliah tore her clothes, and said,

"Treason! treason!"

<sup>14</sup> Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of hundreds who were set over the army, and said to them, "Bring her out between the ranks; and whoever follows her, let him be slain with the sword." For the priest said, "Don't kill her in Yahweh's house." <sup>15</sup> So they made way for her. She went to the entrance of the horse gate to the king's house; and they killed her there.

<sup>16</sup> Jehoiada made a covenant between himself, all the people, and the king, that they should be Yahweh's people. <sup>17</sup> All the people went to the house of Baal, broke it down, broke his altars and his images in pieces, and killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. <sup>18</sup> Jehoiada appointed the officers of Yahweh's house under the hand of the priests the Levites, whom David had distributed in Yahweh's house, to offer the burnt offerings of Yahweh, as it is written in the law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, as David had ordered. <sup>19</sup> He set the gatekeepers at the gates of Yahweh's house, that no one who was unclean in anything should enter in. <sup>20</sup> He took the captains of hundreds, the nobles, the governors of the people, and all the people of the land, and brought the king down from Yahweh's house. They came through the upper gate to the king's house, and set the king on the throne of the kingdom. <sup>21</sup> So all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet. They had slain Athaliah with the sword.

## 2nd Chronicles Chapter 24

<sup>1</sup> Joash was seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah, of Beersheba. <sup>2</sup> Joash did that which was right in Yahweh's eyes all the days of Jehoiada the priest. <sup>3</sup> Jehoiada took for him two wives, and he became the father of sons

and daughters.

<sup>4</sup>After this, Joash intended to restore Yahweh's house. <sup>5</sup>He gathered together the priests and the Levites, and said to them, "Go out to the cities of Judah, and gather money to repair the house of your God from all Israel from year to year. See that you expedite this matter." However the Levites didn't do it right away. <sup>6</sup>The king called for Jehoiada the chief, and said to him, "Why haven't you required of the Levites to bring in the tax of Moses the servant of Yahweh, and of the assembly of Israel, out of Judah and out of Jerusalem, for the Tent of the Testimony?" <sup>7</sup>For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up God's house; and they also gave all the dedicated things of Yahweh's house to the Baals.

<sup>8</sup>So the king commanded, and they made a chest, and set it outside at the gate of Yahweh's house. <sup>9</sup>They made a proclamation through Judah and Jerusalem, to bring in for Yahweh the tax that Moses the servant of God laid on Israel in the wilderness. <sup>10</sup>All the princes and all the people rejoiced, and brought in, and cast into the chest, until they had filled it. <sup>11</sup>Whenever the chest was brought to the king's officers by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, the king's scribe and the chief priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it, and carried it to its place again. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance. <sup>12</sup>The king and Jehoiada gave it to those who did the work of the service of Yahweh's house. They hired masons and carpenters to restore Yahweh's house, and also those who worked iron and bronze to repair Yahweh's house. <sup>13</sup>So the workmen worked, and the work of repairing went forward in their hands. They set up God's house as it was designed, and strengthened it. <sup>14</sup>When they had finished, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada, from

which were made vessels for Yahweh's house, even vessels with which to minister and to offer, including spoons and vessels of gold and silver. They offered burnt offerings in Yahweh's house continually all the days of Jehoiada.

<sup>15</sup> But Jehoiada grew old and was full of days, and he died. He was one hundred thirty years old when he died. <sup>16</sup> They buried him in David's city among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, and toward God and his house.

<sup>17</sup> Now after the death of Jehoiada, the princes of Judah came, and bowed down to the king. Then the king listened to them. <sup>18</sup> They abandoned the house of Yahweh, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherah poles and the idols, so wrath came on Judah and Jerusalem for this their guiltiness. <sup>19</sup> Yet he sent prophets to them, to bring them again to Yahweh, and they testified against them; but they would not listen.

<sup>20</sup> The Spirit of God came on Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest; and he stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God, 'Why do you disobey Yahweh's commandments, so that you can't prosper? Because you have forsaken Yahweh, he has also forsaken you.' "

<sup>21</sup> They conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of Yahweh's house. <sup>22</sup> Thus Joash the king didn't remember the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but killed his son. When he died, he said, "May Yahweh look at it, and repay it."

<sup>23</sup> At the end of the year, the army of the Syrians came up against him: and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people, and sent all their plunder to the king of Damascus. <sup>24</sup> For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men; and Yahweh delivered a very great army into their hand, because they had

forsaken Yahweh, the God of their fathers. So they executed judgment on Joash.

<sup>25</sup> When they had departed from him (for they left him very sick), his own servants conspired against him for the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and killed him on his bed, and he died. They buried him in David's city, but they didn't bury him in the tombs of the kings. <sup>26</sup> These are those who conspired against him: Zabad the son of Shimeath the Ammonitess and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith the Moabitess. <sup>27</sup> Now concerning his sons, the greatness of the burdens laid on him, and the rebuilding of God's house, behold, they are written in the commentary of the book of the kings. Amaziah his son reigned in his place.

## **2nd Chronicles**

### **Chapter 25**

<sup>1</sup> Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jehoaddan, of Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> He did that which was right in Yahweh's eyes, but not with a perfect heart. <sup>3</sup> Now when the kingdom was established to him, he killed his servants who had killed his father the king. <sup>4</sup> But he didn't put their children to death, but did according to that which is written in the law in the book of Moses, as Yahweh commanded, saying, "The fathers shall not die for the children, neither shall the children die for the fathers; but every man shall die for his own sin."

<sup>5</sup> Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together, and ordered them according to their fathers' houses, under captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, even all Judah and Benjamin. He counted them from twenty years old and upward, and found that there were three hundred thousand chosen men, able to go out to war, who could handle spear and shield. <sup>6</sup> He also hired one hundred

thousand mighty men of valor out of Israel for one hundred talents\* of silver. <sup>7</sup> A man of God came to him, saying, "O king, don't let the army of Israel go with you, for Yahweh is not with Israel, with all the children of Ephraim. <sup>8</sup> But if you will go, take action, and be strong for the battle. God will overthrow you before the enemy; for God has power to help, and to overthrow."

<sup>9</sup> Amaziah said to the man of God, "But what shall we do for the hundred talents<sup>†</sup> which I have given to the army of Israel?"

The man of God answered, "Yahweh is able to give you much more than this."

<sup>10</sup> Then Amaziah separated them, the army that had come to him out of Ephraim, to go home again. Therefore their anger was greatly kindled against Judah, and they returned home in fierce anger. <sup>11</sup> Amaziah took courage, and led his people out, and went to the Valley of Salt, and struck ten thousand of the children of Seir. <sup>12</sup> The children of Judah carried away ten thousand alive, and brought them to the top of the rock, and threw them down from the top of the rock, so that they all were broken in pieces. <sup>13</sup> But the men of the army whom Amaziah sent back, that they should not go with him to battle, fell on the cities of Judah, from Samaria even to Beth Horon, and struck of them three thousand, and took much plunder.

<sup>14</sup> Now after Amaziah had come from the slaughter of the Edomites, he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense to them. <sup>15</sup> Therefore Yahweh's anger burned against Amaziah, and he sent to him a prophet, who said to him, "Why have you sought after the gods of the people, which have not delivered their own people out of your hand?"

<sup>16</sup> As he talked with him, the king said to him, "Have we made you one of the king's counselors? Stop! Why should you be struck

down?"

Then the prophet stopped, and said, "I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this, and have not listened to my counsel."

<sup>17</sup> Then Amaziah king of Judah consulted his advisers, and sent to Joash, the son of Jehoahaz the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, "Come! Let's look one another in the face."

<sup>18</sup> Joash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, "The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son as his wife. Then a wild animal that was in Lebanon passed by, and trampled down the thistle. <sup>19</sup> You say to yourself that you have struck Edom; and your heart lifts you up to boast. Now stay at home. Why should you meddle with trouble, that you should fall, even you, and Judah with you?' "

<sup>20</sup> But Amaziah would not listen; for it was of God, that he might deliver them into the hand of their enemies, because they had sought after the gods of Edom. <sup>21</sup> So Joash king of Israel went up, and he and Amaziah king of Judah looked one another in the face at Beth Shemesh, which belongs to Judah. <sup>22</sup> Judah was defeated by Israel; and they every man fled to his tent.

<sup>23</sup> Joash king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash the son of Jehoahaz, at Beth Shemesh, and brought him to Jerusalem, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of Ephraim to the corner gate, four hundred cubits. <sup>24</sup> He took all the gold and silver, and all the vessels that were found in God's house with Obed-Edom, and the treasures of the king's house, the hostages also, and returned to Samaria.

<sup>25</sup> Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah lived for fifteen years after the death of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel. <sup>26</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, first and last, behold, aren't they written in the book



of the kings of Judah and Israel? <sup>27</sup> Now from the time that Amaziah turned away from following Yahweh, they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem. He fled to Lachish, but they sent after him to Lachish, and killed him there. <sup>28</sup> They brought him on horses, and buried him with his fathers in the City of Judah.

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\***25:6** A talent is about 30 kilograms or 66 pounds

†**25:9** A talent is about 30 kilograms or 66 pounds

‡**25:23** A cubit is the length from the tip of the middle finger to the elbow on a man's arm, or about 18 inches or 46 centimeters, so 400 cubits is about 200 yards or 184 meters.

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## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 26

<sup>1</sup> All the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the place of his father Amaziah. <sup>2</sup> He built Eloth, and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers. <sup>3</sup> Uzziah was sixteen years old when he began to reign; and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jechiliah, of Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He did that which was right in Yahweh's eyes, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. <sup>5</sup> He set himself to seek God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the vision of God; and as long as he sought Yahweh, God made him prosper.

<sup>6</sup> He went out and fought against the Philistines, and broke down the wall of Gath, the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod;

and he built cities in the country of Ashdod, and among the Philistines.<sup>7</sup> God helped him against the Philistines, and against the Arabians who lived in Gur Baal, and the Meunim.<sup>8</sup> The Ammonites gave tribute to Uzziah. His name spread abroad even to the entrance of Egypt; for he grew exceedingly strong.<sup>9</sup> Moreover Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the corner gate, at the valley gate, and at the turning of the wall, and fortified them.<sup>10</sup> He built towers in the wilderness, and dug out many cisterns, for he had much livestock; in the lowland also, and in the plain. He had farmers and vineyard keepers in the mountains and in the fruitful fields, for he loved farming.<sup>11</sup> Moreover Uzziah had an army of fighting men, who went out to war by bands, according to the number of their reckoning made by Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the officer, under the hand of Hananiah, one of the king's captains.<sup>12</sup> The whole number of the heads of fathers' households, even the mighty men of valor, was two thousand six hundred.<sup>13</sup> Under their hand was an army, three hundred seven thousand five hundred, who made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy.<sup>14</sup> Uzziah prepared for them, even for all the army, shields, spears, helmets, coats of mail, bows, and stones for slinging.<sup>15</sup> In Jerusalem, he made devices, invented by skillful men, to be on the towers and on the battlements, with which to shoot arrows and great stones. His name spread far abroad, because he was marvelously helped until he was strong.

<sup>16</sup> But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up, so that he did corruptly, and he trespassed against Yahweh his God; for he went into Yahweh's temple to burn incense on the altar of incense.<sup>17</sup> Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him eighty priests of Yahweh, who were valiant men.<sup>18</sup> They resisted Uzziah the king, and said to him, "It isn't for you, Uzziah, to burn

incense to Yahweh, but for the priests the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Go out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed. It will not be for your honor from Yahweh God.”

<sup>19</sup>Then Uzziah was angry. He had a censer in his hand to burn incense, and while he was angry with the priests, the leprosy broke out on his forehead before the priests in Yahweh’s house, beside the altar of incense. <sup>20</sup>Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked at him, and behold, he was leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out quickly from there. Yes, he himself also hurried to go out, because Yahweh had struck him. <sup>21</sup>Uzziah the king was a leper to the day of his death, and lived in a separate house, being a leper; for he was cut off from Yahweh’s house. Jotham his son was over the king’s house, judging the people of the land. <sup>22</sup>Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, first and last, Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, wrote. <sup>23</sup>So Uzziah slept with his fathers; and they buried him with his fathers in the field of burial which belonged to the kings, for they said, “He is a leper.” Jotham his son reigned in his place.

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 27

<sup>1</sup>Jotham was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Jerushah the daughter of Zadok. <sup>2</sup>He did that which was right in Yahweh’s eyes, according to all that his father Uzziah had done. However he didn’t enter into Yahweh’s temple. The people still acted corruptly. <sup>3</sup>He built the upper gate of Yahweh’s house, and he built much on the wall of Ophel. <sup>4</sup>Moreover he built cities in the hill country of Judah, and in the forests he built fortresses and towers. <sup>5</sup>He also fought with the king of the children of Ammon, and prevailed against them. The

children of Ammon gave him the same year one hundred talents\* of silver, ten thousand cors† of wheat, and ten thousand cors of barley.‡ The children of Ammon also gave that much to him in the second year, and in the third.⁶ So Jotham became mighty, because he ordered his ways before Yahweh his God.⁷ Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all his wars, and his ways, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.⁸ He was five and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem.⁹ Jotham slept with his fathers, and they buried him in David's city; and Ahaz his son reigned in his place.

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\*27:5 A talent is about 30 kilograms or 66 pounds

†27:5 1 cor is the same as a homer, or about 55.9 U. S. gallons (liquid) or 211 liters or 6 bushels. 10,000 cors of wheat would weigh about 1,640 metric tons.

‡27:5 10,000 cors of barley would weigh about 1,310 metric tons.

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2nd Chronicles  
Chapter 28

¹ Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. He didn't do that which was right in Yahweh's eyes, like David his father, ² but he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and also made molten images for the Baals. ³ Moreover he burned incense in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and burned his children in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom Yahweh cast out before the children of Israel. ⁴ He sacrificed and burned incense in the high

places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.

<sup>5</sup>Therefore Yahweh his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria. They struck him, and carried away from him a great multitude of captives, and brought them to Damascus. He was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who struck him with a great slaughter. <sup>6</sup>For Pekah the son of Remaliah killed in Judah one hundred twenty thousand in one day, all of them valiant men, because they had forsaken Yahweh, the God of their fathers. <sup>7</sup>Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, killed Maaseiah the king's son, Azrikam the ruler of the house, and Elkanah who was next to the king. <sup>8</sup>The children of Israel carried away captive of their brothers two hundred thousand, women, sons, and daughters, and took also away much plunder from them, and brought the plunder to Samaria. <sup>9</sup>But a prophet of Yahweh was there, whose name was Oded; and he went out to meet the army that came to Samaria, and said to them, "Behold, because Yahweh, the God of your fathers, was angry with Judah, he has delivered them into your hand, and you have slain them in a rage which has reached up to heaven. <sup>10</sup>Now you intend to degrade the children of Judah and Jerusalem as male and female slaves for yourselves. Aren't there even with you trespasses of your own against Yahweh your God? <sup>11</sup>Now hear me therefore, and send back the captives that you have taken captive from your brothers, for the fierce wrath of Yahweh is on you." <sup>12</sup>Then some of the heads of the children of Ephraim, Azariah the son of Johanan, Berechiah the son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah the son of Shallum, and Amasa the son of Hadlai, stood up against those who came from the war, <sup>13</sup>and said to them, "You must not bring in the captives here, for you intend that which will bring on us a trespass against Yahweh, to add to our sins and to

our guilt; for our guilt is great, and there is fierce wrath against Israel.”

<sup>14</sup> So the armed men left the captives and the plunder before the princes and all the assembly.<sup>15</sup> The men who have been mentioned by name rose up and took the captives, and with the plunder clothed all who were naked among them, dressed them, gave them sandals, and gave them something to eat and to drink, anointed them, carried all the feeble of them on donkeys, and brought them to Jericho, the city of palm trees, to their brothers. Then they returned to Samaria.

<sup>16</sup> At that time king Ahaz sent to the kings of Assyria to help him.<sup>17</sup> For again the Edomites had come and struck Judah, and carried away captives.<sup>18</sup> The Philistines also had invaded the cities of the lowland, and of the South of Judah, and had taken Beth Shemesh, Aijalon, Gederoth, Soco with its villages, Timnah with its villages, and also Gimzo and its villages; and they lived there.<sup>19</sup> For Yahweh brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel, because he acted without restraint in Judah and trespassed severely against Yahweh.<sup>20</sup> Tilgath Pilneser king of Assyria came to him, and gave him trouble, but didn't strengthen him.<sup>21</sup> For Ahaz took away a portion out of Yahweh's house, and out of the house of the king and of the princes, and gave it to the king of Assyria; but it didn't help him.

<sup>22</sup> In the time of his distress, he trespassed yet more against Yahweh, this same king Ahaz.<sup>23</sup> For he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus, which struck him. He said, "Because the gods of the kings of Syria helped them, so I will sacrifice to them, that they may help me." But they were the ruin of him, and of all Israel.<sup>24</sup> Ahaz gathered together the vessels of God's house, and cut the vessels of God's house in pieces, and shut up the doors of Yahweh's house; and he made himself altars in every corner of

Jerusalem. <sup>25</sup> In every city of Judah he made high places to burn incense to other gods, and provoked Yahweh, the God of his fathers, to anger.

<sup>26</sup> Now the rest of his acts, and all his ways, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. <sup>27</sup> Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, even in Jerusalem, because they didn't bring him into the tombs of the kings of Israel; and Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 29

<sup>1</sup> Hezekiah began to reign when he was twenty-five years old, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah. <sup>2</sup> He did that which was right in Yahweh's eyes, according to all that David his father had done. <sup>3</sup> In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of Yahweh's house, and repaired them. <sup>4</sup> He brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them together into the wide place on the east, <sup>5</sup> and said to them, "Listen to me, you Levites! Now sanctify yourselves, and sanctify Yahweh, the God of your fathers' house, and carry the filthiness out of the holy place. <sup>6</sup> For our fathers were unfaithful, and have done that which was evil in Yahweh our God's sight, and have forsaken him, and have turned away their faces from the habitation of Yahweh, and turned their backs. <sup>7</sup> Also they have shut up the doors of the porch, and put out the lamps, and have not burned incense nor offered burnt offerings in the holy place to the God of Israel. <sup>8</sup> Therefore Yahweh's wrath was on Judah and Jerusalem, and he has delivered them to be tossed back and forth, to be an astonishment, and a hissing, as you see with your eyes. <sup>9</sup> For, behold, our fathers have

fallen by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives are in captivity for this. <sup>10</sup>Now it is in my heart to make a covenant with Yahweh, the God of Israel, that his fierce anger may turn away from us. <sup>11</sup>My sons, don't be negligent now; for Yahweh has chosen you to stand before him, to minister to him, and that you should be his ministers, and burn incense."

<sup>12</sup>Then the Levites arose, Mahath, the son of Amasai, and Joel the son of Azariah, of the sons of the Kohathites; and of the sons of Merari, Kish the son of Abdi, and Azariah the son of Jehallelel; and of the Gershonites, Joah the son of Zimmah, and Eden the son of Joah; <sup>13</sup>and of the sons of Elizaphan, Shimri and Jeuel; and of the sons of Asaph, Zechariah and Mattaniah; <sup>14</sup>and of the sons of Heman, Jehuel and Shimei; and of the sons of Jeduthun, Shemaiah and Uzziel. <sup>15</sup>They gathered their brothers, sanctified themselves, and went in, according to the commandment of the king by Yahweh's words, to cleanse Yahweh's house. <sup>16</sup>The priests went into the inner part of Yahweh's house to cleanse it, and brought out all the uncleanness that they found in Yahweh's temple into the court of Yahweh's house. The Levites took it from there to carry it out to the brook Kidron. <sup>17</sup>Now they began on the first day of the first month to sanctify, and on the eighth day of the month they came to Yahweh's porch. They sanctified Yahweh's house in eight days, and on the sixteenth day of the first month they finished. <sup>18</sup>Then they went in to Hezekiah the king within the palace, and said, "We have cleansed all Yahweh's house, including the altar of burnt offering with all its vessels, and the table of show bread with all its vessels. <sup>19</sup>Moreover have we prepared and sanctified all the vessels which king Ahaz threw away in his reign, when he was unfaithful. Behold, they are before Yahweh's altar."

<sup>20</sup>Then Hezekiah the king arose early,



gathered the princes of the city, and went up to Yahweh's house.<sup>21</sup> They brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs, and seven male goats, for a sin offering for the kingdom, for the sanctuary, and for Judah. He commanded the priests the sons of Aaron to offer them on Yahweh's altar.<sup>22</sup> So they killed the bulls, and the priests received the blood, and sprinkled it on the altar. They killed the rams, and sprinkled the blood on the altar. They also killed the lambs, and sprinkled the blood on the altar.<sup>23</sup> They brought near the male goats for the sin offering before the king and the assembly; and they laid their hands on them.<sup>24</sup> Then the priests killed them, and they made a sin offering with their blood on the altar, to make atonement for all Israel; for the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering should be made for all Israel.

<sup>25</sup> He set the Levites in Yahweh's house with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, of Gad the king's seer, and Nathan the prophet; for the commandment was from Yahweh by his prophets.<sup>26</sup> The Levites stood with David's instruments, and the priests with the trumpets.<sup>27</sup> Hezekiah commanded them to offer the burnt offering on the altar. When the burnt offering began, Yahweh's song also began, along with the trumpets and David king of Israel's instruments.<sup>28</sup> All the assembly worshiped, the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded. All this continued until the burnt offering was finished.

<sup>29</sup> When they had finished offering, the king and all who were present with him bowed themselves and worshiped.<sup>30</sup> Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praises to Yahweh with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. They sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshiped.

<sup>31</sup> Then Hezekiah answered, "Now you have

consecrated yourselves to Yahweh. Come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into Yahweh's house." The assembly brought in sacrifices and thank offerings, and as many as were of a willing heart brought burnt offerings.<sup>32</sup> The number of the burnt offerings which the assembly brought was seventy bulls, one hundred rams, and two hundred lambs. All these were for a burnt offering to Yahweh.<sup>33</sup> The consecrated things were six hundred head of cattle and three thousand sheep.<sup>34</sup> But the priests were too few, so that they could not skin all the burnt offerings. Therefore their brothers the Levites helped them, until the work was ended, and until the priests had sanctified themselves; for the Levites were more upright in heart to sanctify themselves than the priests.<sup>35</sup> Also the burnt offerings were in abundance, with the fat of the peace offerings, and with the drink offerings for every burnt offering. So the service of Yahweh's house was set in order.<sup>36</sup> Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced, because of that which God had prepared for the people; for the thing was done suddenly.

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 30

<sup>1</sup> Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to Yahweh's house at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover to Yahweh, the God of Israel.<sup>2</sup> For the king had taken counsel with his princes and all the assembly in Jerusalem to keep the Passover in the second month.<sup>3</sup> For they could not keep it at that time, because the priests had not sanctified themselves in sufficient number, and the people had not gathered themselves together to Jerusalem.<sup>4</sup> The thing was right in the eyes of the king and of all the assembly.<sup>5</sup> So they established a decree to make proclamation throughout all

Israel, from Beersheba even to Dan, that they should come to keep the Passover to Yahweh, the God of Israel, at Jerusalem, for they had not kept it in great numbers in the way it is written.

<sup>6</sup> So the couriers went with the letters from the king and his princes throughout all Israel and Judah, and according to the commandment of the king, saying, "You children of Israel, turn again to Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, that he may return to the remnant of you that have escaped out of the hand of the kings of Assyria. <sup>7</sup> Don't be like your fathers and like your brothers, who trespassed against Yahweh, the God of their fathers, so that he gave them up to desolation, as you see. <sup>8</sup> Now don't be stiff-necked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to Yahweh, and enter into his sanctuary, which he has sanctified forever, and serve Yahweh your God, that his fierce anger may turn away from you. <sup>9</sup> For if you turn again to Yahweh, your brothers and your children will find compassion before those who led them captive, and will come again into this land, because Yahweh your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if you return to him."

<sup>10</sup> So the couriers passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, even to Zebulun, but people ridiculed them and mocked them. <sup>11</sup> Nevertheless some men of Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem. <sup>12</sup> Also the hand of God came on Judah to give them one heart, to do the commandment of the king and of the princes by Yahweh's word.

<sup>13</sup> Many people assembled at Jerusalem to keep the feast of unleavened bread in the second month, a very great assembly. <sup>14</sup> They arose and took away the altars that were in Jerusalem, and they took away all the altars for incense and threw

them into the brook Kidron.<sup>15</sup> Then they killed the Passover on the fourteenth day of the second month. The priests and the Levites were ashamed, and sanctified themselves, and brought burnt offerings into Yahweh's house.<sup>16</sup> They stood in their place after their order, according to the law of Moses the man of God. The priests sprinkled the blood which they received of the hand of the Levites.<sup>17</sup> For there were many in the assembly who had not sanctified themselves: therefore the Levites were in charge of killing the Passovers for everyone who was not clean, to sanctify them to Yahweh.<sup>18</sup> For a multitude of the people, even many of Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet they ate the Passover other than the way it is written. For Hezekiah had prayed for them, saying, "May the good Yahweh pardon everyone<sup>19</sup> who sets his heart to seek God, Yahweh, the God of his fathers, even if they aren't clean according to the purification of the sanctuary."

<sup>20</sup>Yahweh listened to Hezekiah, and healed the people.<sup>21</sup> The children of Israel who were present at Jerusalem kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with great gladness. The Levites and the priests praised Yahweh day by day, singing with loud instruments to Yahweh.<sup>22</sup> Hezekiah spoke encouragingly to all the Levites who had good understanding in the service of Yahweh. So they ate throughout the feast for the seven days, offering sacrifices of peace offerings, and making confession to Yahweh, the God of their fathers.

<sup>23</sup>The whole assembly took counsel to keep another seven days, and they kept another seven days with gladness.<sup>24</sup> For Hezekiah king of Judah gave to the assembly for offerings one thousand bulls and seven thousand sheep; and the princes gave to the assembly a thousand bulls and ten thousand sheep: and a great number of priests sanctified themselves.<sup>25</sup> All the

assembly of Judah, with the priests and the Levites, and all the assembly who came out of Israel, and the foreigners who came out of the land of Israel, and who lived in Judah, rejoiced.<sup>26</sup> So there was great joy in Jerusalem; for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there was nothing like this in Jerusalem.<sup>27</sup> Then the priests the Levites arose and blessed the people. Their voice was heard, and their prayer came up to his holy habitation, even to heaven.

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 31

<sup>1</sup> Now when all this was finished, all Israel who were present went out to the cities of Judah, and broke the pillars in pieces, cut down the Asherah poles, and broke down the high places and the altars out of all Judah and Benjamin, also in Ephraim and Manasseh, until they had destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned, every man to his possession, into their own cities.

<sup>2</sup> Hezekiah appointed the divisions of the priests and the Levites after their divisions, every man according to his service, both the priests and the Levites, for burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister, to give thanks, and to praise in the gates of Yahweh's camp.<sup>3</sup> He also appointed the king's portion of his possessions for the burnt offerings, for the morning and evening burnt offerings, and the burnt offerings for the Sabbaths, for the new moons, and for the set feasts, as it is written in Yahweh's law.<sup>4</sup> Moreover he commanded the people who lived in Jerusalem to give the portion of the priests and the Levites, that they might give themselves to Yahweh's law.<sup>5</sup> As soon as the commandment went out, the children of Israel gave in abundance the first fruits of grain, new wine, oil, honey, and of all the increase of the field; and they brought in

the tithe of all things abundantly.<sup>6</sup> The children of Israel and Judah, who lived in the cities of Judah, also brought in the tithe of cattle and sheep, and the tithe of dedicated things which were consecrated to Yahweh their God, and laid them in heaps.

<sup>7</sup>In the third month they began to lay the foundation of the heaps, and finished them in the seventh month.<sup>8</sup> When Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed Yahweh and his people Israel.<sup>9</sup> Then Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites about the heaps.<sup>10</sup> Azariah the chief priest, of the house of Zadok, answered him and said, "Since people began to bring the offerings into Yahweh's house, we have eaten and had enough, and have plenty left over, for Yahweh has blessed his people; and that which is left is this great store."

<sup>11</sup>Then Hezekiah commanded them to prepare rooms in Yahweh's house, and they prepared them.<sup>12</sup> They brought in the offerings, the tithes, and the dedicated things faithfully. Conaniah the Levite was ruler over them, and Shimei his brother was second.<sup>13</sup> Jehiel, Azariah, Nahath, Asahel, Jerimoth, Jozabad, Eliel, Ismachiah, Mahath, and Benaiah were overseers under the hand of Conaniah and Shimei his brother, by the appointment of Hezekiah the king and Azariah the ruler of God's house.<sup>14</sup> Kore the son of Imnah the Levite, the gatekeeper at the east gate, was over the freewill offerings of God, to distribute Yahweh's offerings and the most holy things.<sup>15</sup> Under him were Eden, Miniamin, Jeshua, Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah, in the cities of the priests, in their office of trust, to give to their brothers by divisions, to the great as well as to the small;<sup>16</sup> in addition to those who were listed by genealogy of males, from three years old and upward, even everyone who entered into Yahweh's house, as the duty of every day required, for their service in their offices according to their

divisions;<sup>17</sup> and those who were listed by genealogy of the priests by their fathers' houses, and the Levites from twenty years old and upward, in their offices by their divisions;<sup>18</sup> and those who were listed by genealogy of all their little ones, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, through all the congregation; for in their office of trust they sanctified themselves in holiness.<sup>19</sup> Also for the sons of Aaron the priests, who were in the fields of the pasture lands of their cities, in every city, there were men who were mentioned by name, to give portions to all the males among the priests, and to all who were listed by genealogy among the Levites.

<sup>20</sup> Hezekiah did so throughout all Judah; and he did that which was good, right, and faithful before Yahweh his God.<sup>21</sup> In every work that he began in the service of God's house, in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered.

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 32

<sup>1</sup> After these things and this faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came, entered into Judah, and encamped against the fortified cities, and intended to win them for himself.<sup>2</sup> When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come, and that he was planning to fight against Jerusalem,<sup>3</sup> he took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the springs which were outside of the city, and they helped him.<sup>4</sup> So, many people gathered together and they stopped all the springs and the brook that flowed through the middle of the land, saying, "Why should the kings of Assyria come, and find abundant water?"

<sup>5</sup> He took courage, built up all the wall that was broken down, and raised it up to the towers, with the other wall outside, and strengthened Millo in David's city, and made

weapons and shields in abundance. <sup>6</sup> He set captains of war over the people, and gathered them together to him in the wide place at the gate of the city, and spoke encouragingly to them, saying, <sup>7</sup> "Be strong and courageous. Don't be afraid or dismayed because of the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude who is with him; for there is a greater one with us than with him. <sup>8</sup> An arm of flesh is with him, but Yahweh our God is with us to help us and to fight our battles." The people rested themselves on the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

<sup>9</sup> After this, Sennacherib king of Assyria sent his servants to Jerusalem, (now he was before Lachish, and all his power with him), to Hezekiah king of Judah, and to all Judah who were at Jerusalem, saying, <sup>10</sup> Thus says Sennacherib king of Assyria, "In whom do you trust, that you remain under siege in Jerusalem? <sup>11</sup> Doesn't Hezekiah persuade you, to give you over to die by famine and by thirst, saying, 'Yahweh our God will deliver us out of the hand of the king of Assyria?' <sup>12</sup> Hasn't the same Hezekiah taken away his high places and his altars, and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, saying, 'You shall worship before one altar, and you shall burn incense on it?' <sup>13</sup> Don't you know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of the lands? Were the gods of the nations of the lands in any way able to deliver their land out of my hand? <sup>14</sup> Who was there among all the gods of those nations which my fathers utterly destroyed, that could deliver his people out of my hand, that your God should be able to deliver you out of my hand? <sup>15</sup> Now therefore don't let Hezekiah deceive you, nor persuade you in this way. Don't believe him, for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people out of my hand, and out of the hand of my fathers. How much less will your God deliver you out of my hand?"



<sup>16</sup> His servants spoke yet more against Yahweh God, and against his servant Hezekiah. <sup>17</sup> He also wrote letters insulting Yahweh, the God of Israel, and speaking against him, saying, "As the gods of the nations of the lands, which have not delivered their people out of my hand, so shall the God of Hezekiah not deliver his people out of my hand." <sup>18</sup> They called out with a loud voice in the Jews' language to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall, to frighten them, and to trouble them; that they might take the city. <sup>19</sup> They spoke of the God of Jerusalem as of the gods of the peoples of the earth, which are the work of men's hands.

<sup>20</sup> Hezekiah the king and Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz, prayed because of this, and cried to heaven.

<sup>21</sup> Yahweh sent an angel, who cut off all the mighty men of valor, and the leaders and captains, in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. When he had come into the house of his god, those who came out of his own bowels<sup>\*</sup> killed him there with the sword. <sup>22</sup> Thus Yahweh saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria and from the hand of all others, and guided them on every side. <sup>23</sup> Many brought gifts to Yahweh to Jerusalem, and precious things to Hezekiah king of Judah; so that he was exalted in the sight of all nations from then on.

<sup>24</sup> In those days Hezekiah was terminally ill, and he prayed to Yahweh; and he spoke to him, and gave him a sign. <sup>25</sup> But Hezekiah didn't reciprocate appropriate to the benefit done for him, because his heart was lifted up. Therefore there was wrath on him, and on Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>26</sup> Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that Yahweh's wrath didn't come on them in the days of Hezekiah.

<sup>27</sup> Hezekiah had exceedingly much riches and honor. He provided himself with treasuries for silver, for gold, for precious stones, for spices, for shields, and for all kinds of valuable vessels;<sup>28</sup> also storehouses for the increase of grain, new wine, and oil; and stalls for all kinds of animals, and flocks in folds. <sup>29</sup> Moreover he provided for himself cities, and possessions of flocks and herds in abundance; for God had given him abundant possessions. <sup>30</sup> This same Hezekiah also stopped the upper spring of the waters of Gihon, and brought them straight down on the west side of David's city. Hezekiah prospered in all his works.

<sup>31</sup> However concerning the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent to 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.

<sup>32</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and his good deeds, behold, they are written in the vision of Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz, in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.<sup>33</sup> Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the ascent of the tombs of the sons of David. All Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem honored him at his death. Manasseh his son reigned in his place.

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\***32:21** i.e., his own sons

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**2nd Chronicles**  
**Chapter 33**

<sup>1</sup> Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> He did that which was evil in Yahweh's sight, after the abominations of the nations whom Yahweh cast out before the children of Israel. <sup>3</sup> For

he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; and he raised up altars for the Baals, made Asheroth, and worshiped all the army of the sky, and served them.<sup>4</sup> He built altars in Yahweh's house, of which Yahweh said, "My name shall be in Jerusalem forever."<sup>5</sup> He built altars for all the army of the sky in the two courts of Yahweh's house.<sup>6</sup> He also made his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom. He practiced sorcery, divination, and witchcraft, and dealt with those who had familiar spirits, and with wizards. He did much evil in Yahweh's sight, to provoke him to anger.<sup>7</sup> He set the engraved image of the idol, which he had made, in God's house, of which God said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my name forever."<sup>8</sup> I will not any more remove the foot of Israel from off the land which I have appointed for your fathers, if only they will observe to do all that I have commanded them, even all the law, the statutes, and the ordinances given by Moses."<sup>9</sup> Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that they did more evil than did the nations whom Yahweh destroyed before the children of Israel.

<sup>10</sup>Yahweh spoke to Manasseh, and to his people; but they didn't listen.<sup>11</sup> Therefore Yahweh brought on them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh in chains, bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon.

<sup>12</sup>When he was in distress, he begged Yahweh his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.<sup>13</sup> He prayed to him; and he was entreated by him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that Yahweh was God.

<sup>14</sup>Now after this, he built an outer wall to

David's city, on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, even to the entrance at the fish gate. He encircled Ophel with it, and raised it up to a very great height; and he put valiant captains in all the fortified cities of Judah. <sup>15</sup> He took away the foreign gods, and the idol out of Yahweh's house, and all the altars that he had built in the mountain of Yahweh's house, and in Jerusalem, and cast them out of the city. <sup>16</sup> He built up Yahweh's altar, and offered sacrifices of peace offerings and of thanksgiving on it, and commanded Judah to serve Yahweh, the God of Israel. <sup>17</sup> Nevertheless the people sacrificed still in the high places, but only to Yahweh their God.

<sup>18</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, and his prayer to his God, and the words of the seers who spoke to him in the name of Yahweh, the God of Israel, behold, they are written among the acts of the kings of Israel. <sup>19</sup> His prayer also, and how God was entreated of him, and all his sin and his trespass, and the places in which he built high places, and set up the Asherah poles and the engraved images, before he humbled himself: behold, they are written in the history of Hozai. <sup>20</sup> So Manasseh slept with his fathers, and they buried him in his own house; and Amon his son reigned in his place.

<sup>21</sup> Amon was twenty-two years old when he began to reign; and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> He did that which was evil in Yahweh's sight, as did Manasseh his father; and Amon sacrificed to all the engraved images which Manasseh his father had made, and served them. <sup>23</sup> He didn't humble himself before Yahweh, as Manasseh his father had humbled himself; but this same Amon trespassed more and more. <sup>24</sup> His servants conspired against him, and put him to death in his own house. <sup>25</sup> But the people of the land killed all those who had conspired against king Amon; and the people of the land made Josiah his son king

in his place.

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\***33:19** or, the seers

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## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 34

<sup>1</sup> Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> He did that which was right in Yahweh's eyes, and walked in the ways of David his father, and didn't turn away to the right hand or to the left. <sup>3</sup> 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, the Asherah poles, the engraved images, and the molten images. <sup>4</sup> They broke down the altars of the Baals in his presence; and he cut down the incense altars that were on high above them. He broke the Asherah poles, the engraved images, and the molten images in pieces, made dust of them, and scattered it on the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. <sup>5</sup> He burned the bones of the priests on their altars, and purged Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> He did this in the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, even to Naphtali, around in their ruins. <sup>7</sup> He broke down the altars, and beat the Asherah poles and the engraved images into powder, and cut down all the incense altars throughout all the land of Israel, then returned to Jerusalem.

<sup>8</sup> 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 Yahweh his God's house. <sup>9</sup> They came to Hilkiah the high priest, and delivered the

money that was brought into God's house, which the Levites, the keepers of the threshold, had gathered from the hands of Manasseh, Ephraim, of all the remnant of Israel, of all Judah and Benjamin, and of the inhabitants of Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup> They delivered it into the hands of the workmen who had the oversight of Yahweh's house; and the workmen who labored in Yahweh's house gave it to mend and repair the house. <sup>11</sup> They gave it to the carpenters and to the builders, to buy cut stone and timber for couplings, and to make beams for the houses which the kings of Judah had destroyed. <sup>12</sup> The men did the work faithfully. Their overseers were Jahath and Obadiah, the Levites, of the sons of Merari; and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to give direction; and others of the Levites, who were all skillful with musical instruments. <sup>13</sup> Also they were over the bearers of burdens, and directed all who did the work in every kind of service. Of the Levites, there were scribes, officials, and gatekeepers.

<sup>14</sup> When they brought out the money that was brought into Yahweh's house, Hilkiah the priest found the book of Yahweh's law given by Moses. <sup>15</sup> Hilkiah answered Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the book of the law in Yahweh's house." So Hilkiah delivered the book to Shaphan.

<sup>16</sup> Shaphan carried the book to the king, and moreover brought back word to the king, saying, "All that was committed to your servants, they are doing. <sup>17</sup> They have emptied out the money that was found in Yahweh's house, and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers, and into the hand of the workmen." <sup>18</sup> Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, "Hilkiah the priest has delivered me a book." Shaphan read from it to the king.

<sup>19</sup> When the king had heard the words of the law, he tore his clothes. <sup>20</sup> The king commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam the son of

Shaphan, Abdon the son of Micah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying, <sup>21</sup> "Go inquire of Yahweh for me, and for those who are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found; for great is Yahweh's wrath that is poured out on us, because our fathers have not kept Yahweh's word, to do according to all that is written in this book."

<sup>22</sup> So Hilkiah, and they whom the king had commanded, went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tokhath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe (now she lived in Jerusalem in the second quarter), and they spoke to her to that effect.

<sup>23</sup> She said to them, "Yahweh, the God of Israel says: 'Tell the man who sent you to me,' <sup>24</sup> "Yahweh says, 'Behold, I will bring evil on this place, and on its inhabitants, even all the curses that are written in the book which they have read before the king of Judah. <sup>25</sup> Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath is poured out on this place, and it will not be quenched.' " " <sup>26</sup> But to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of Yahweh, you shall tell him this, 'Yahweh, the God of Israel says: "About the words which you have heard, <sup>27</sup> because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before God, when you heard his words against this place, and against its inhabitants, and have humbled yourself before me, and have torn your clothes, and wept before me, I also have heard you," says Yahweh. <sup>28</sup> "Behold, I will gather you to your fathers, and you will be gathered to your grave in peace. Your eyes won't see all the evil that I will bring on this place and on its inhabitants." " " "

They brought back word to the king.

<sup>29</sup> Then the king sent and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>30</sup> The king went up to Yahweh's house, with all

the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests, the Levites, and all the people, both great and small; and he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in Yahweh's house.<sup>31</sup> The king stood in his place, and made a covenant before Yahweh, to walk after Yahweh, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book.<sup>32</sup> He caused all who were found in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand. The inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.<sup>33</sup> Josiah took away all the abominations out of all the countries that belonged to the children of Israel, and made all who were found in Israel to serve, even to serve Yahweh their God. All his days they didn't depart from following Yahweh, the God of their fathers.

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 35

<sup>1</sup> Josiah kept a Passover to Yahweh in Jerusalem. They killed the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month. <sup>2</sup> He set the priests in their offices, and encouraged them in the service of Yahweh's house. <sup>3</sup> He said to the Levites who taught all Israel, who were holy to Yahweh, "Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of Israel built. It will no longer be a burden on your shoulders. Now serve Yahweh your God, and his people Israel. <sup>4</sup> Prepare yourselves after your fathers' houses by your divisions, according to the writing of David king of Israel, and according to the writing of Solomon his son. <sup>5</sup> Stand in the holy place according to the divisions of the fathers' houses of your brothers the children of the people, and let there be for each a portion of a fathers'



house of the Levites. <sup>6</sup>Kill the Passover, sanctify yourselves, and prepare for your brothers, to do according to Yahweh's word by Moses."

<sup>7</sup>Josiah gave to the children of the people, of the flock, lambs and young goats, all of them for the Passover offerings, to all who were present, to the number of thirty thousand, and three thousand bulls. These were of the king's substance. <sup>8</sup>His princes gave for a freewill offering to the people, to the priests, and to the Levites. Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, the rulers of God's house, gave to the priests for the Passover offerings two thousand six hundred small livestock, and three hundred head of cattle. <sup>9</sup>Conaniah also, and Shemaiah and Nethanel, his brothers, and Hashabiah, Jeiel, and Jozabad, the chiefs of the Levites, gave to the Levites for the Passover offerings five thousand small livestock and five hundred head of cattle.

<sup>10</sup>So the service was prepared, and the priests stood in their place, and the Levites by their divisions, according to the king's commandment. <sup>11</sup>They killed the Passover, and the priests sprinkled the blood which they received of their hand, and the Levites skinned them. <sup>12</sup>They removed the burnt offerings, that they might give them according to the divisions of the fathers' houses of the children of the people, to offer to Yahweh, as it is written in the book of Moses. They did the same with the cattle. <sup>13</sup>They roasted the Passover with fire according to the ordinance. They boiled the holy offerings in pots, in cauldrons, and in pans, and carried them quickly to all the children of the people. <sup>14</sup>Afterward they prepared for themselves and for the priests, because the priests the sons of Aaron were busy with offering the burnt offerings and the fat until night. Therefore the Levites prepared for themselves and for the priests the sons of Aaron. <sup>15</sup>The singers the sons of Asaph were in their place, according to the

commandment of David, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer; and the gatekeepers were at every gate. They didn't need to depart from their service, because their brothers the Levites prepared for them.

<sup>16</sup> So all the service of Yahweh was prepared the same day, to keep the Passover, and to offer burnt offerings on Yahweh's altar, according to the commandment of king Josiah. <sup>17</sup> The children of Israel who were present kept the Passover at that time, and the feast of unleavened bread seven days. <sup>18</sup> There was no Passover like that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet, nor did any of the kings of Israel keep such a Passover as Josiah kept, with the priests, the Levites, and all Judah and Israel who were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. <sup>19</sup> This passover was kept in the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah.

<sup>20</sup> After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Neco king of Egypt went up to fight against Carchemish by the Euphrates, and Josiah went out against him. <sup>21</sup> But he sent ambassadors to him, saying, "What have I to do with you, you king of Judah? I come not against you today, but against the house with which I have war. God has commanded me to make haste. Beware that it is God who is with me, that he not destroy you."

<sup>22</sup> Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and didn't listen to the words of Neco from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo. <sup>23</sup> The archers shot at king Josiah; and the king said to his servants, "Take me away, because I am seriously wounded!"

<sup>24</sup> So his servants took him out of the chariot, and put him in the second chariot that he had, and brought him to Jerusalem; and he died, and was buried in the tombs of his fathers. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah. <sup>25</sup> Jeremiah lamented

for Josiah, and all the singing men and singing women spoke of Josiah in their lamentations to this day; and they made them an ordinance in Israel. Behold, they are written in the lamentations.<sup>26</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and his good deeds, according to that which is written in Yahweh's law,<sup>27</sup> and his acts, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.

## 2nd Chronicles

### Chapter 36

<sup>1</sup> Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and made him king in his father's place in Jerusalem.<sup>2</sup> Joahaz was twenty-three years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months in Jerusalem.<sup>3</sup> The king of Egypt removed him from office at Jerusalem, and fined the land one hundred talents of silver and a talent\* of gold.<sup>4</sup> The king of Egypt made Eliakim his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. Neco took Joahaz his brother, and carried him to Egypt.

<sup>5</sup> Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. He did that which was evil in Yahweh his God's sight.<sup>6</sup> Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him, and bound him in fetters to carry him to Babylon.<sup>7</sup> Nebuchadnezzar also carried some of the vessels of Yahweh's house to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.<sup>8</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and his abominations which he did, and that which was found in him, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah; and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.

<sup>9</sup> Jehoiachin was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem. He did

that which was evil in Yahweh's sight.<sup>10</sup> At the return of the year, king Nebuchadnezzar sent and brought him to Babylon, with the valuable vessels of Yahweh's house, and made Zedekiah his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>11</sup> Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.<sup>12</sup> He did that which was evil in Yahweh his God's sight. He didn't humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from Yahweh's mouth.<sup>13</sup> He also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God; but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart against turning to Yahweh, the God of Israel.<sup>14</sup> Moreover all the chiefs of the priests, and the people, trespassed very greatly after all the abominations of the nations; and they polluted Yahweh's house which he had made holy in Jerusalem.<sup>15</sup> Yahweh, the God of their fathers, sent to them by his messengers, rising up early and sending, because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place;<sup>16</sup> but they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and scoffed at his prophets, until Yahweh's wrath arose against his people, until there was no remedy.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore he brought on them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or gray-headed. He gave them all into his hand.<sup>18</sup> All the vessels of God's house, great and small, and the treasures of Yahweh's house, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes, all these he brought to Babylon.<sup>19</sup> They burned God's house, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all of its valuable vessels.<sup>20</sup> He carried those who had escaped from the sword away to Babylon, and they were servants to him and his sons

until the reign of the kingdom of Persia, <sup>21</sup> to fulfill Yahweh's word by Jeremiah's mouth, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. As long as it lay desolate, it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

<sup>22</sup> Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that Yahweh's word by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, Yahweh stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, <sup>23</sup> "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'Yahweh, the God of heaven, has given all the kingdoms of the earth to me; and he has commanded me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, Yahweh his God be with him, and let him go up.' "

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**\*36:3** A talent is about 30 kilograms or 66 pounds or 965 Troy ounces

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## Ezra

### Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup> Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that Yahweh's word \* by Jeremiah's mouth might be accomplished, Yahweh stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'Yahweh, the God<sup>†</sup> of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he has commanded me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. <sup>3</sup> Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of Yahweh, the God of Israel (he is God), which is in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> Whoever is left, in any place where he lives, let the men of his place help him with silver, with gold, with goods, and with animals, in addition to the freewill offering for God's house which is in Jerusalem.' "

<sup>5</sup> Then the heads of fathers' households of Judah and Benjamin, the priests, and the Levites, all whose spirit God had stirred to go up rose up to build Yahweh's house which is in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> All those who were around them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, with animals, and with precious things, in addition to all that was willingly offered. <sup>7</sup> Also Cyrus the king brought out the vessels of Yahweh's house, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought out of Jerusalem, and had put in the house of his gods; <sup>8</sup> even those, Cyrus king of Persia brought out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and counted them out to Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah. <sup>9</sup> This is the number of them: thirty platters of gold, one thousand platters of silver, twenty-nine knives, <sup>10</sup> thirty bowls of gold, four hundred ten silver bowls of a second sort, and one thousand other vessels. <sup>11</sup> All the vessels of

gold and of silver were five thousand four hundred. Sheshbazzar brought all these up when the captives were brought up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

\*1:1 "Yahweh" is God's proper Name, sometimes rendered "LORD" (all caps) in other translations.

†1:2 The Hebrew word rendered "God" is "אֱלֹהִים" (Elohim).

Ezra  
Chapter 2

<sup>1</sup> Now these are the children of the province, who went up out of the captivity of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his city; <sup>2</sup> who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel: <sup>3</sup> The children of Parosh, two thousand one hundred seventy-two. <sup>4</sup> The children of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy-two. <sup>5</sup> The children of Arah, seven hundred seventy-five. <sup>6</sup> The children of Pahathmoab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred twelve. <sup>7</sup> The children of Elam, one thousand two hundred fifty-four. <sup>8</sup> The children of Zattu, nine hundred forty-five. <sup>9</sup> The children of Zaccai, seven hundred sixty. <sup>10</sup> The children of Bani, six hundred forty-two. <sup>11</sup> The children of Bebai, six hundred twenty-three. <sup>12</sup> The children of Azgad, one thousand two hundred twenty-two. <sup>13</sup> The children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty-six. <sup>14</sup> The children of Bigvai, two thousand fifty-six. <sup>15</sup> The children of Adin, four



hundred fifty-four.<sup>16</sup> The children of Ater, of Hezekiah, ninety-eight.<sup>17</sup> The children of Bezai, three hundred twenty-three.<sup>18</sup> The children of Jorah, one hundred twelve.<sup>19</sup> The children of Hashum, two hundred twenty-three.<sup>20</sup> The children of Gibbar, ninety-five.<sup>21</sup> The children of Bethlehem, one hundred twenty-three.<sup>22</sup> The men of Netophah, fifty-six.<sup>23</sup> The men of Anathoth, one hundred twenty-eight.<sup>24</sup> The children of Azmaveth, forty-two.<sup>25</sup> The children of Kiriath Arim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred forty-three.<sup>26</sup> The children of Ramah and Geba, six hundred twenty-one.<sup>27</sup> The men of Michmas, one hundred twenty-two.<sup>28</sup> The men of Bethel and Ai, two hundred twenty-three.<sup>29</sup> The children of Nebo, fifty-two.<sup>30</sup> The children of Magbish, one hundred fifty-six.<sup>31</sup> The children of the other Elam, one thousand two hundred fifty-four.<sup>32</sup> The children of Harim, three hundred twenty.<sup>33</sup> The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty-five.<sup>34</sup> The children of Jericho, three hundred forty-five.<sup>35</sup> The children of Senaah, three thousand six hundred thirty.

<sup>36</sup> The priests: the children of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy-three.<sup>37</sup> The children of Immer, one thousand fifty-two.<sup>38</sup> The children of Pashhur, one thousand two hundred forty-seven.<sup>39</sup> The children of Harim, one thousand seventeen.

<sup>40</sup> The Levites: the children of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the children of Hodaviah, seventy-four.<sup>41</sup> The singers: the children of Asaph, one hundred twenty-eight.<sup>42</sup> The children of the gatekeepers: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai, in all one hundred thirty-nine.

<sup>43</sup> The temple servants: the children of Ziha, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaoth,<sup>44</sup> the children of Keros, the

children of Siaha, the children of Padon,<sup>45</sup> the children of Lebanah, the children of Hagabah, the children of Akkub,<sup>46</sup> the children of Hagab, the children of Shamlai, the children of Hanan,<sup>47</sup> the children of Giddel, the children of Gahar, the children of Reaiah,<sup>48</sup> the children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda, the children of Gazzam,<sup>49</sup> the children of Uzza, the children of Paseah, the children of Besai,<sup>50</sup> the children of Asnah, the children of Meunim, the children of Nephisim,<sup>51</sup> the children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur,<sup>52</sup> the children of Bazluth, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha,<sup>53</sup> the children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Temah,<sup>54</sup> the children of Neziaha, the children of Hatipha.

<sup>55</sup> The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Hassophereth, the children of Peruda,<sup>56</sup> the children of Jaalah, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel,<sup>57</sup> the children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth Hazzebaim, the children of Ami.<sup>58</sup> All the temple servants, and the children of Solomon's servants, were three hundred ninety-two.

<sup>59</sup> These were those who went up from Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer; but they could not show their fathers' houses, and their offspring,\* whether they were of Israel:<sup>60</sup> the children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred fifty-two.<sup>61</sup> Of the children of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Hakkoz, and the children of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name.<sup>62</sup> These sought their place among those who were registered by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they deemed disqualified and removed from the priesthood.<sup>63</sup> The

governor told them that they should not eat of the most holy things until a priest stood up to serve with Urim and with Thummim.

<sup>64</sup>The whole assembly together was forty-two thousand three hundred sixty, <sup>65</sup>in addition to their male servants and their female servants, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty-seven; and they had two hundred singing men and singing women. <sup>66</sup>Their horses were seven hundred thirty-six; their mules, two hundred forty-five; <sup>67</sup>their camels, four hundred thirty-five; their donkeys, six thousand seven hundred twenty.

<sup>68</sup>Some of the heads of fathers' households, when they came to Yahweh's house which is in Jerusalem, offered willingly for God's house to set it up in its place. <sup>69</sup>They gave according to their ability into the treasury of the work sixty-one thousand darics of gold,<sup>†</sup> and five thousand minas<sup>‡</sup> of silver, and one hundred priests' garments.

<sup>70</sup>So the priests and the Levites, with some of the people, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the temple servants, lived in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

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\***2:59** or, seed

†**2:69** a daric was a gold coin issued by a Persian king, weighing about 8.4 grams or about 0.27 troy ounces each.

‡**2:69** A mina is about 600 grams or 1.3 U. S. pounds, so 5,000 minas is about 3 metric tons.

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## Ezra

### Chapter 3

<sup>1</sup>When the seventh month had come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one

man to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak stood up with his brothers the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brothers, and built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God. <sup>3</sup>In spite of their fear because of the peoples of the surrounding lands, they set the altar on its base; and they offered burnt offerings on it to Yahweh, even burnt offerings morning and evening. <sup>4</sup>They kept the feast of booths, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number, according to the ordinance, as the duty of every day required; <sup>5</sup>and afterward the continual burnt offering, the offerings of the new moons, of all the set feasts of Yahweh that were consecrated, and of everyone who willingly offered a freewill offering to Yahweh. <sup>6</sup>From the first day of the seventh month, they began to offer burnt offerings to Yahweh; but the foundation of Yahweh's temple was not yet laid. <sup>7</sup>They also gave money to the masons, and to the carpenters. They also gave food, drink, and oil to the people of Sidon and Tyre, to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the grant that they had from Cyrus King of Persia.

<sup>8</sup>Now in the second year of their coming to God's house at Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the rest of their brothers the priests and the Levites, and all those who had come out of the captivity to Jerusalem, began the work and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to have the oversight of the work of Yahweh's house. <sup>9</sup>Then Jeshua stood with his sons and his brothers, Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together, to have the oversight of the workmen in God's house: the sons of Henadad, with their sons and their brothers the Levites. <sup>10</sup>When the builders laid the foundation of Yahweh's temple, they set the

priests in their clothing with trumpets, with the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise Yahweh, according to the directions of David king of Israel.<sup>11</sup> They sang to one another in praising and giving thanks to Yahweh, "For he is good, for his loving kindness endures forever toward Israel." All the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised Yahweh, because the foundation of Yahweh's house had been laid.

<sup>12</sup> But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' households, the old men who had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice. Many also shouted aloud for joy,<sup>13</sup> so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people; for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard far away.

## Ezra

### Chapter 4

<sup>1</sup> Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity were building a temple to Yahweh, the God of Israel;<sup>2</sup> they came near to Zerubbabel, and to the heads of fathers' households, and said to them, "Let us build with you; for we seek your God, as you do; and we have been sacrificing to him since the days of Esar Haddon king of Assyria, who brought us up here."

<sup>3</sup> But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of fathers' households of Israel, said to them, "You have nothing to do with us in building a house to our God; but we ourselves together will build to Yahweh, the God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us."

<sup>4</sup> Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building.<sup>5</sup> They hired counselors

against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia. <sup>6</sup>In the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>7</sup>In the days of Artaxerxes, Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of his companions, wrote to Artaxerxes king of Persia; and the writing of the letter was written in Syrian, and delivered in the Syrian language. <sup>8</sup>Rehum the chancellor and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king as follows, <sup>9</sup>then Rehum the chancellor, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their companions, the Dinaites, and the Apharsathchites, the Tarpelites, the Apharsites, the Archevites, the Babylonians, the Shushanchites, the Dehaites, the Elamites, <sup>10</sup>and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Osnappar brought over, and set in the city of Samaria, and in the rest of the country beyond the River, and so forth, wrote.

<sup>11</sup>This is the copy of the letter that they sent:

To King Artaxerxes,  
From your servants the men beyond the River.

<sup>12</sup>Be it known to the king that the Jews who came up from you have come to us to Jerusalem. They are building the rebellious and bad city, and have finished the walls, and repaired the foundations. <sup>13</sup>Be it known now to the king that if this city is built and the walls finished, they will not pay tribute, custom, or toll, and in the end it will be hurtful to the kings. <sup>14</sup>Now because we eat the salt of the palace, and it is not appropriate for us to see the king's dishonor, therefore we have sent and informed the king, <sup>15</sup>that search may be made in the book of the records of your

fathers. You will see in the book of the records, and know that this city is a rebellious city, and hurtful to kings and provinces, and that they have started rebellions within it in the past. That is why this city was destroyed.<sup>16</sup> We inform the king that, if this city is built and the walls finished, then you will have no possession beyond the River.

<sup>17</sup> Then the king sent an answer to Rehum the chancellor, and to Shimshai the scribe, and to the rest of their companions who live in Samaria, and in the rest of the country beyond the River:

Peace.

<sup>18</sup> The letter which you sent to us has been plainly read before me.<sup>19</sup> I decreed, and search has been made, and it was found that this city has made insurrection against kings in the past, and that rebellion and revolts have been made in it.<sup>20</sup> There have also been mighty kings over Jerusalem, who have ruled over all the country beyond the River; and tribute, custom, and toll, was paid to them.<sup>21</sup> Make a decree now to cause these men to cease, and that this city not be built, until a decree is made by me.<sup>22</sup> Be careful that you not be slack doing so. Why should damage grow to the hurt of the kings?

<sup>23</sup> Then when the copy of king Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went in haste to Jerusalem to the Jews, and made them to cease by force of arms.<sup>24</sup> Then work stopped on God's house which is at Jerusalem. It stopped until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

<sup>8</sup> Be it known to the king that we went into the province of Judah, to the house of the great God, which is built with great stones, and timber is laid in the walls. This work goes on with diligence and prospers in their hands. <sup>9</sup> Then we asked those elders, and said to them thus, "Who gave you a decree to build this house, and to finish this wall?" <sup>10</sup> We asked them their names also, to inform you that we might write the names of the men who were at their head. <sup>11</sup> Thus they returned us answer, saying, "We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and are building the house that was



built these many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished.<sup>12</sup> But after our fathers had provoked the God of heaven to wrath, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house, and carried the people away into Babylon.<sup>13</sup> But in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, Cyrus the king made a decree to build this house of God.<sup>14</sup> The gold and silver vessels of God's house, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that was in Jerusalem, and brought into the temple of Babylon, those Cyrus the king also took out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered to one whose name was Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor.<sup>15</sup> He said to him, 'Take these vessels, go, put them in the temple that is in Jerusalem, and let God's house be built in its place.'<sup>16</sup> Then the same Sheshbazzar came and laid the foundations of God's house which is in Jerusalem. Since that time even until now it has been being built, and yet it is not completed.

<sup>17</sup> Now therefore, if it seems good to the king, let a search be made in the king's treasure house, which is there at Babylon, whether it is so, that a decree was made of Cyrus the king to build this house of God at Jerusalem; and let the king send his pleasure to us concerning this matter."

## Ezra

### Chapter 6

<sup>1</sup> Then Darius the king made a decree, and the house of the archives, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon, was searched.<sup>2</sup> A scroll was found at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of Media, and in it this was written for a record:

<sup>3</sup> In the first year of Cyrus the king, Cyrus the king made a decree: Concerning God's

house at Jerusalem, let the house be built, the place where they offer sacrifices, and let its foundations be strongly laid; with its height sixty cubits,\* and its width sixty cubits; <sup>4</sup>with three courses of great stones and a course of new timber. Let the expenses be given out of the king's house. <sup>5</sup>Also let the gold and silver vessels of God's house, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple which is at Jerusalem, and brought to Babylon, be restored and brought again to the temple which is at Jerusalem, everything to its place. You shall put them in God's house.

<sup>6</sup>Now therefore, Tattenai, governor beyond the River, Shetharbozenai, and your companions the Apharsachites, who are beyond the River, you must stay far from there.<sup>7</sup> Leave the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in its place. <sup>8</sup>Moreover I make a decree what you shall do for these elders of the Jews for the building of this house of God: that of the king's goods, even of the tribute beyond the River, expenses must be given with all diligence to these men, that they not be hindered. <sup>9</sup>That which they have need of, including young bulls, rams, and lambs, for burnt offerings to the God of heaven; also wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the word of the priests who are at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail; <sup>10</sup>that they may offer sacrifices of pleasant aroma to the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons. <sup>11</sup>I have also made a decree that whoever alters this message, let a beam be pulled out from his house, and let him be lifted up and fastened on it; and let his house be made a dunghill for this. <sup>12</sup>May the God who has caused his name to dwell there overthrow all kings and peoples who stretch out their hand to alter this, to destroy this house of God which is at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree. Let

it be done with all diligence.

<sup>13</sup> Then Tattenai, the governor beyond the River, Shetharbozenai, and their companions did accordingly with all diligence, because Darius the king had sent a decree.

<sup>14</sup> The elders of the Jews built and prospered, through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. They built and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the decree of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. <sup>15</sup> This house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

<sup>16</sup> The children of Israel, the priests, the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of God with joy. <sup>17</sup> They offered at the dedication of this house of God one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve male goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel. <sup>18</sup> They set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of God, which is at Jerusalem, as it is written in the book of Moses.

<sup>19</sup> The children of the captivity kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month. <sup>20</sup> Because the priests and the Levites had purified themselves together, all of them were pure. They killed the Passover for all the children of the captivity, for their brothers the priests, and for themselves. <sup>21</sup> The children of Israel who had returned out of the captivity, and all who had separated themselves to them from the filthiness of the nations of the land, to seek Yahweh, the God of Israel, ate, <sup>22</sup> and kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy; because Yahweh had made them joyful, and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, to strengthen their hands in the work of God,

the God of Israel's house.

**\*6:3** A cubit is the length from the tip of the middle finger to the elbow on a man's arm, or about 18 inches or 46 centimeters.

Ezra  
Chapter 7

<sup>1</sup> Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, <sup>2</sup> the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, <sup>3</sup> the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth, <sup>4</sup> the son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, <sup>5</sup> the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest— <sup>6</sup> this Ezra went up from Babylon. He was a skilled scribe in the law of Moses, which Yahweh, the God of Israel, had given; and the king granted him all his request, according to Yahweh his God's hand on him. <sup>7</sup> Some of the children of Israel, including some of the priests, the Levites, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the temple servants went up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king. <sup>8</sup> He came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king. <sup>9</sup> For on the first day of the first month he began to go up from Babylon; and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God on him. <sup>10</sup> For Ezra had set his heart to seek Yahweh's law, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel. <sup>11</sup> Now this is the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest, the scribe, even the scribe of the words of Yahweh's commandments, and of his

statutes to Israel:

<sup>12</sup> Artaxerxes, king of kings,  
To Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of  
the perfect God of heaven.

Now <sup>13</sup> I make a decree, that all those of the  
people of Israel, and their priests and the  
Levites, in my realm, who intend of their  
own free will to go to Jerusalem, go with  
you. <sup>14</sup> Because you are sent by the king and  
his seven counselors, to inquire concerning  
Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law  
of your God which is in your hand, <sup>15</sup> and to  
carry the silver and gold, which the king and  
his counselors have freely offered to the  
God of Israel, whose habitation is in  
Jerusalem, <sup>16</sup> and all the silver and gold that  
you will find in all the province of Babylon,  
with the freewill offering of the people, and  
of the priests, offering willingly for the  
house of their God which is in  
Jerusalem; <sup>17</sup> therefore you shall with all  
diligence buy with this money bulls, rams,  
lambs, with their meal offerings and their  
drink offerings, and shall offer them on the  
altar of the house of your God which is in  
Jerusalem. <sup>18</sup> Whatever seems good to you  
and to your brothers to do with the rest of  
the silver and the gold, do that according to  
the will of your God. <sup>19</sup> The vessels that are  
given to you for the service of the house of  
your God, deliver before the God of  
Jerusalem. <sup>20</sup> Whatever more will be needed  
for the house of your God, which you may  
have occasion to give, give it out of the  
king's treasure house.

<sup>21</sup> I, even I Artaxerxes the king, make a  
decree to all the treasurers who are beyond  
the River, that whatever Ezra the priest, the  
scribe of the law of the God of heaven,  
requires of you, it shall be done with all  
diligence, <sup>22</sup> up to one hundred talents\* of  
silver, and to one hundred cors<sup>†</sup> of wheat,  
and to one hundred baths<sup>‡</sup> of wine, and to  
one hundred baths of oil, and salt without  
prescribing how much. <sup>23</sup> Whatever is

commanded by the God of heaven, let it be done exactly for the house of the God of heaven; for why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?

<sup>24</sup>Also we inform you that it shall not be lawful to impose tribute, custom, or toll, on any of the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, temple servants, or laborers of this house of God.

<sup>25</sup>You, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God that is in your hand, appoint magistrates and judges, who may judge all the people who are beyond the River, who all know the laws of your God; and teach him who doesn't know them. <sup>26</sup>Whoever will not do the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be executed on him with all diligence, whether it is to death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment.

<sup>27</sup>Blessed be Yahweh, the God of our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify Yahweh's house which is in Jerusalem; <sup>28</sup>and has extended loving kindness to me before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty princes. I was strengthened according to Yahweh my God's hand on me, and I gathered together chief men out of Israel to go up with me.

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**\*7:22** A talent is about 30 kilograms or 66 pounds or 965 Troy ounces

**†7:22** 1 cor is the same as a homer, or about 55.9 U. S. gallons (liquid) or 211 liters or 6 bushels.

**‡7:22** 1 bath is one tenth of a cor, or about 5.6 U. S. gallons or 21 liters or 2.4 pecks. 100 baths would be about 2,100 liters.

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## Ezra

### Chapter 8

<sup>1</sup> Now these are the heads of their fathers' households, and this is the genealogy of those who went up with me from Babylon, in the reign of Artaxerxes the king:

<sup>2</sup> Of the sons of Phinehas, Gershom.

Of the sons of Ithamar, Daniel.

Of the sons of David, Hattush.

<sup>3</sup> Of the sons of Shecaniah, of the sons of Parosh, Zechariah; and with him were listed by genealogy of the males one hundred fifty.

<sup>4</sup> Of the sons of Pahathmoab, Eliehoenai the son of Zerahiah; and with him two hundred males.

<sup>5</sup> Of the sons of Shecaniah, the son of Jahaziel; and with him three hundred males.

<sup>6</sup> Of the sons of Adin, Ebed the son of Jonathan; and with him fifty males.

<sup>7</sup> Of the sons of Elam, Jeshaiiah the son of Athaliah; and with him seventy males.

<sup>8</sup> Of the sons of Shephatiah, Zebadiah the son of Michael; and with him eighty males.

<sup>9</sup> Of the sons of Joab, Obadiah the son of Jehiel; and with him two hundred eighteen males.

<sup>10</sup> Of the sons of Shelomith, the son of Josiphiah; and with him one hundred sixty males.

<sup>11</sup> Of the sons of Bebai, Zechariah the son of Bebai; and with him twenty-eight males.

<sup>12</sup> Of the sons of Azgad, Johanan the son of Hakkatan; and with him one hundred ten males.

<sup>13</sup> Of the sons of Adonikam, who were the last; and these are their names: Eliphelet, Jeuel, and Shemaiah; and with them sixty males.

<sup>14</sup> Of the sons of Bigvai, Uthai and Zabbud; and with them seventy males.

<sup>15</sup> I gathered them together to the river that runs to Ahava; and there we encamped three days: and I looked around at the people and the priests, and found there

were none of the sons of Levi. <sup>16</sup> Then sent I for Eliezer, for Ariel, for Shemaiah, for Elnathan, for Jarib, for Elnathan, for Nathan, for Zechariah, and for Meshullam, chief men; also for Joiarib and for Elnathan, who were teachers. <sup>17</sup> I sent them out to Iddo the chief at the place Casiphia; and I told them what they should tell Iddo, and his brothers the temple servants, at the place Casiphia, that they should bring to us ministers for the house of our God. <sup>18</sup> According to the good hand of our God on us they brought us a man of discretion, of the sons of Mahli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel; and Sherebiah, with his sons and his brothers, eighteen; <sup>19</sup> and Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiah of the sons of Merari, his brothers and their sons, twenty; <sup>20</sup> and of the temple servants, whom David and the princes had given for the service of the Levites, two hundred twenty temple servants. All of them were mentioned by name.

<sup>21</sup> Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a straight way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our possessions. <sup>22</sup> For I was ashamed to ask of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the way, because we had spoken to the king, saying, "The hand of our God is on all those who seek him, for good; but his power and his wrath is against all those who forsake him." <sup>23</sup> So we fasted and begged our God for this: and he granted our request.

<sup>24</sup> Then I set apart twelve of the chiefs of the priests, even Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brothers with them, <sup>25</sup> and weighed to them the silver, the gold, and the vessels, even the offering for the house of our God, which the king, his counselors, his princes, and all Israel there present, had offered. <sup>26</sup> I weighed into their hand six hundred fifty talents of silver,\* one hundred



talents of silver vessels; one hundred talents of gold,<sup>27</sup> twenty bowls of gold weighing one thousand darics;<sup>†</sup> and two vessels of fine bright bronze, precious as gold.<sup>28</sup> I said to them, "You are holy to Yahweh, and the vessels are holy. The silver and the gold are a freewill offering to Yahweh, the God of your fathers.<sup>29</sup> Watch and keep them, until you weigh them before the chiefs of the priests and the Levites, and the princes of the fathers' households of Israel, at Jerusalem, in the rooms of Yahweh's house."

<sup>30</sup> So the priests and the Levites received the weight of the silver and the gold, and the vessels, to bring them to Jerusalem to the house of our God.<sup>31</sup> Then we departed from the river Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go to Jerusalem. The hand of our God was on us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy and the bandit by the way.<sup>32</sup> We came to Jerusalem, and stayed there three days.<sup>33</sup> On the fourth day the silver and the gold and the vessels were weighed in the house of our God into the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest; and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas; and with them was Jozabad the son of Jeshua, and Noadiah the son of Binnui, the Levite;<sup>34</sup> everything by number and by weight; and all the weight was written at that time.

<sup>35</sup> The children of the captivity, who had come out of exile, offered burnt offerings to the God of Israel, twelve bulls for all Israel, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven lambs, and twelve male goats for a sin offering. All this was a burnt offering to Yahweh.<sup>36</sup> They delivered the king's commissions to the king's local governors, and to the governors beyond the River. So they supported the people and God's house.

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**\*8:26** A talent is about 30 kilograms or 66 pounds or 965

Troy ounces

†8:27 a daric was a gold coin issued by a Persian king, weighing about 8.4 grams or about 0.27 troy ounces each.

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Ezra  
Chapter 9

<sup>1</sup> Now when these things were done, the princes came near to me, saying, "The people of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, following their abominations, even those of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. <sup>2</sup> For they have taken of their daughters for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy offspring have mixed themselves with the peoples of the lands. Yes, the hand of the princes and rulers has been chief in this trespass."

<sup>3</sup> When I heard this thing, I tore my garment and my robe, and pulled the hair out of my head and of my beard, and sat down confounded. <sup>4</sup> Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel were assembled to me, because of their trespass of the captivity; and I sat confounded until the evening offering.

<sup>5</sup> At the evening offering I arose up from my humiliation, even with my garment and my robe torn; and I fell on my knees, and spread out my hands to Yahweh my God; <sup>6</sup> and I said, "My God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to you, my God; for our iniquities have increased over our head, and our guiltiness has grown up to the heavens. <sup>7</sup> Since the days of our fathers we have been exceedingly guilty to this day; and for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests, have been delivered into the hand of

the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plunder, and to confusion of face, as it is this day.<sup>8</sup> Now for a little moment grace has been shown from Yahweh our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and revived us a little in our bondage.<sup>9</sup> For we are bondservants; yet our God has not forsaken us in our bondage, but has extended loving kindness to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to revive us, to set up the house of our God, and to repair its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>“Now, our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken your commandments,<sup>11</sup> which you have commanded by your servants the prophets, saying, ‘The land, to which you go to possess it, is an unclean land through the uncleanness of the peoples of the lands, through their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their filthiness.’<sup>12</sup> Now therefore don’t give your daughters to their sons. Don’t take their daughters to your sons, nor seek their peace or their prosperity forever; that you may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children forever.’

<sup>13</sup>“After all that has come on us for our evil deeds, and for our great guilt, since you, our God, have punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and have given us such a remnant,<sup>14</sup> shall we again break your commandments, and join ourselves with the peoples that do these abominations? Wouldn’t you be angry with us until you had consumed us, so that there would be no remnant, nor any to escape?<sup>15</sup> Yahweh, the God of Israel, you are righteous; for we are left a remnant that has escaped, as it is today. Behold,\* we are before you in our guiltiness; for no one can stand before you because of this.”

**\*9:15** "Behold", from "הִנֵּה", means look at, take notice, observe, see, or gaze at. It is often used as an interjection.

Ezra  
Chapter 10

<sup>1</sup> Now while Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and casting himself down before God's house, there was gathered together to him out of Israel a very great assembly of men and women and children; for the people wept very bitterly. <sup>2</sup> Shecaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered Ezra, "We have trespassed against our God, and have married foreign women of the peoples of the land. Yet now there is hope for Israel concerning this thing. <sup>3</sup> Now therefore let's make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and those who are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God. Let it be done according to the law. <sup>4</sup> Arise; for the matter belongs to you, and we are with you. Be courageous, and do it." <sup>5</sup> Then Ezra arose, and made the chiefs of the priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear that they would do according to this word. So they swore. <sup>6</sup> Then Ezra rose up from before God's house, and went into the room of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib. When he came there, he ate no bread, nor drank water; for he mourned because of their trespass of the captivity. <sup>7</sup> They made a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem to all the children of the captivity, that they should gather themselves together to Jerusalem; <sup>8</sup> and that whoever didn't come within three days, according to the

counsel of the princes and the elders, all his possessions should be forfeited, and himself separated from the assembly of the captivity.

<sup>9</sup> Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together to Jerusalem within the three days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month; and all the people sat in the wide place in front of God's house, trembling because of this matter, and because of the great rain.

<sup>10</sup> Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, "You have trespassed, and have married foreign women, to increase the guilt of Israel. <sup>11</sup> Now therefore make confession to Yahweh, the God of your fathers, and do his pleasure; and separate yourselves from the peoples of the land, and from the foreign women."

<sup>12</sup> Then all the assembly answered with a loud voice, "We must do as you have said concerning us. <sup>13</sup> But the people are many, and it is a time of much rain, and we are not able to stand outside. This is not a work of one day or two, for we have greatly transgressed in this matter. <sup>14</sup> Now let our princes be appointed for all the assembly, and let all those who are in our cities who have married foreign women come at appointed times, and with them the elders of every city, and its judges, until the fierce wrath of our God is turned from us, until this matter is resolved."

<sup>15</sup> Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahzeiah the son of Tikvah stood up against this; and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite helped them.

<sup>16</sup> The children of the captivity did so. Ezra the priest, with certain heads of fathers' households, after their fathers' houses, and all of them by their names, were set apart; and they sat down in the first day of the tenth month to examine the matter. <sup>17</sup> They finished with all the men who had married foreign women by the first day of the first month.

<sup>18</sup> Among the sons of the priests there were found who had married foreign women: of the sons of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and his brothers, Maaseiah, and Eliezer, and Jarib, and Gedaliah. <sup>19</sup> They gave their hand that they would put away their wives; and being guilty, they offered a ram of the flock for their guilt.

<sup>20</sup> Of the sons of Immer: Hanani and Zebadiah.

<sup>21</sup> Of the sons of Harim: Maaseiah, and Elijah, and Shemaiah, and Jehiel, and Uziah.

<sup>22</sup> Of the sons of Pashhur: Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethanel, Jozabad, and Elasah.

<sup>23</sup> Of the Levites: Jozabad, and Shimei, and Kelaiah (also called Kelita), Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer.

<sup>24</sup> Of the singers: Eliashib. Of the gatekeepers: Shallum, and Telem, and Uri.

<sup>25</sup> Of Israel: Of the sons of Parosh: Ramiah, and Izziah, and Malchijah, and Mijamin, and Eleazar, and Malchijah, and Benaiah.

<sup>26</sup> Of the sons of Elam: Mattaniah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, and Abdi, and Jeremoth, and Elijah.

<sup>27</sup> Of the sons of Zattu: Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, and Jeremoth, and Zabad, and Aziza.

<sup>28</sup> Of the sons of Bebai: Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, Athlai.

<sup>29</sup> Of the sons of Bani: Meshullam, Malluch, and Adaiah, Jashub, and Sheal, Jeremoth.

<sup>30</sup> Of the sons of Pahathmoab: Adna, and Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, and Binnui, and Manasseh.

<sup>31</sup> Of the sons of Harim: Eliezer, Isshijah, Malchijah, Shemaiah, Shimeon, <sup>32</sup> Benjamin, Malluch, Shemariah.

<sup>33</sup> Of the sons of Hashum: Mattenai, Mattattah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, Shimei.

<sup>34</sup> Of the sons of Bani: Maadai, Amram, and Uel, <sup>35</sup> Benaiah, Bedeiah, Cheluhi, <sup>36</sup> Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib, <sup>37</sup> Mattaniah, Mattenai, and Jaasu, <sup>38</sup> and Bani, and Binnui, Shimei, <sup>39</sup> and Shelemiah, and Nathan, and Adaiah, <sup>40</sup> Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai, <sup>41</sup> Azarel, and Shelemiah, Shemariah, <sup>42</sup> Shallum, Amariah, Joseph.

<sup>43</sup> Of the sons of Nebo: Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Iddo, and Joel, Benaiah.

<sup>44</sup> All these had taken foreign wives; and some of them had wives by whom they had children.





## Nehemiah

### Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup>The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah.

Now in the month Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the palace, <sup>2</sup>Hanani, one of my brothers, came, he and certain men out of Judah; and I asked them about the Jews who had escaped, who were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>They said to me, "The remnant who are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire."

<sup>4</sup>When I heard these words, I sat down and wept, and mourned several days; and I fasted and prayed before the God\* of heaven, <sup>5</sup>and said, "I beg you, Yahweh,<sup>†</sup> the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and loving kindness with those who love him and keep his commandments: <sup>6</sup>Let your ear now be attentive, and your eyes open, that you may listen to the prayer of your servant, which I pray before you at this time, day and night, for the children of Israel your servants, while I confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Yes, I and my father's house have sinned. <sup>7</sup>We have dealt very corruptly against you, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances, which you commanded your servant Moses.

<sup>8</sup>"Remember, I beg you, the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you trespass, I will scatter you among the peoples; <sup>9</sup>but if you return to me, and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts were in the uttermost part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and will bring them to the place that I have chosen, to cause my name to dwell there.'

<sup>10</sup>“Now these are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power, and by your strong hand. <sup>11</sup>Lord,<sup>†</sup> I beg you, let your ear be attentive now to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants, who delight to fear your name; and please prosper your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”  
Now I was cup bearer to the king.

**\*1:4** The Hebrew word rendered “God” is “אֱלֹהִים” (Elohim).

**†1:5** “Yahweh” is God’s proper Name, sometimes rendered “LORD” (all caps) in other translations.

**‡1:11** The word translated “Lord” is “Adonai.”

Nehemiah  
Chapter 2

<sup>1</sup>In the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, when wine was before him, I picked up the wine, and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad before in his presence.<sup>2</sup>The king said to me, “Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing else but sorrow of heart.”  
Then I was very much afraid. <sup>3</sup>I said to the king, “Let the king live forever! Why shouldn’t my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ tombs, lies waste, and its gates have been consumed with fire?”  
<sup>4</sup>Then the king said to me, “What is your request?”  
So I prayed to the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup>I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you would send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ tombs, that I may build it.”

<sup>6</sup>The king said to me (the queen was also sitting by him), "How long will your journey be? When will you return?"

So it pleased the king to send me, and I set a time for him. <sup>7</sup>Moreover I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah; <sup>8</sup>and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple, for the wall of the city, and for the house that I will occupy."

The king granted my requests, because of the good hand of my God on me. <sup>9</sup>Then I came to the governors beyond the River, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me. <sup>10</sup>When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly, because a man had come to seek the welfare of the children of Israel. <sup>11</sup>So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days. <sup>12</sup>I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. I didn't tell anyone what my God put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There wasn't any animal with me, except the animal that I rode on. <sup>13</sup>I went out by night by the valley gate, even toward the jackal's well, then to the dung gate, and inspected the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and its gates were consumed with fire. <sup>14</sup>Then I went on to the spring gate and to the king's pool, but there was no place for the animal that was under me to pass. <sup>15</sup>Then I went up in the night by the brook, and inspected the wall; and I turned back, and entered by the valley gate, and so returned. <sup>16</sup>The rulers didn't know where I went, or what I did. I had not as yet told it to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest who did the work.

<sup>17</sup>Then I said to them, "You see the bad situation that we are in, how Jerusalem lies

waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come, let's build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we won't be disgraced." <sup>18</sup> I told them of the hand of my God which was good on me, as also of the king's words that he had spoken to me.

They said, "Let's rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work.

<sup>19</sup> But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite servant, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they ridiculed us, and despised us, and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?"

<sup>20</sup> Then I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven will prosper us. Therefore we, his servants, will arise and build; but you have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem."

### **Nehemiah Chapter 3**

<sup>1</sup> Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the sheep gate. They sanctified it, and set up its doors. They sanctified it even to the tower of Hammeah, to the tower of Hananel. <sup>2</sup> Next to him the men of Jericho built. Next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.

<sup>3</sup> The sons of Hassenaah built the fish gate. They laid its beams, and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars. <sup>4</sup> Next to them, Meremoth the son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz made repairs. Next to them, Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabel made repairs. Next to them, Zadok the son of Baana made repairs. <sup>5</sup> Next to them, the Tekoites made repairs; but their nobles didn't put their necks to the Lord's work.

<sup>6</sup> Joiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the old gate. They laid its beams, and set up its doors, and its bolts, and its bars. <sup>7</sup> Next to them,

Melatiah the Gibeonite, and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah, repaired the residence of the governor beyond the River.<sup>8</sup> Next to him, Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, goldsmiths, made repairs. Next to him, Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs, and they fortified Jerusalem even to the wide wall.<sup>9</sup> Next to them, Rephaiah the son of Hur, the ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs.<sup>10</sup> Next to them, Jedaiah the son of Harumaph made repairs across from his house. Next to him, Hattush the son of Hashabneiah made repairs.<sup>11</sup> Malchijah the son of Harim, and Hasshub the son of Pahathmoab, repaired another portion, and the tower of the furnaces.<sup>12</sup> Next to him, Shallum the son of Hallohesh, the ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, he and his daughters, made repairs.

<sup>13</sup> Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the valley gate. They built it, and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and one thousand cubits\* of the wall to the dung gate.

<sup>14</sup> Malchijah the son of Rechab, the ruler of the district of Beth Haccherem repaired the dung gate. He built it, and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars.

<sup>15</sup> Shallun the son of Colhozeh, the ruler of the district of Mizpah repaired the spring gate. He built it, and covered it, and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and the wall of the pool of Shelah by the king's garden, even to the stairs that go down from David's city.<sup>16</sup> After him, Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, the ruler of half the district of Beth Zur, made repairs to the place opposite the tombs of David, and to the pool that was made, and to the house of the mighty men.<sup>17</sup> After him, the Levites, Rehum the son of Bani made repairs. Next to him, Hashabiah, the ruler of half the district of Keilah, made repairs for his district.<sup>18</sup> After him, their brothers, Bavvai the son of

Henadad, the ruler of half the district of Keilah made repairs.<sup>19</sup> Next to him, Ezer the son of Jeshua, the ruler of Mizpah, repaired another portion, across from the ascent to the armory at the turning of the wall.<sup>20</sup> After him, Baruch the son of Zabbai earnestly repaired another portion, from the turning of the wall to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.<sup>21</sup> After him, Meremoth the son of Uriah the son of Hakkoz repaired another portion, from the door of the house of Eliashib even to the end of the house of Eliashib.<sup>22</sup> After him, the priests, the men of the Plain made repairs.<sup>23</sup> After them, Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs across from their house. After them, Azariah the son of Maaseiah the son of Ananiah made repairs beside his own house.<sup>24</sup> After him, Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another portion, from the house of Azariah to the turning of the wall, and to the corner.<sup>25</sup> Palal the son of Uzai made repairs opposite the turning of the wall, and the tower that stands out from the upper house of the king, which is by the court of the guard. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh made repairs.<sup>26</sup> (Now the temple servants lived in Ophel, to the place opposite the water gate toward the east, and the tower that stands out.)<sup>27</sup> After him the Tekoites repaired another portion, opposite the great tower that stands out, and to the wall of Ophel.

<sup>28</sup> Above the horse gate, the priests made repairs, everyone across from his own house.<sup>29</sup> After them, Zadok the son of Immer made repairs across from his own house. After him, Shemaiah the son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the east gate made repairs.<sup>30</sup> After him, Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another portion. After him, Meshullam the son of Berechiah made repairs across from his room.<sup>31</sup> After him, Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths to the

house of the temple servants, and of the merchants, made repairs opposite the gate of Hammiphkad, and to the ascent of the corner.<sup>32</sup> Between the ascent of the corner and the sheep gate, the goldsmiths and the merchants made repairs.

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**\*3:13** A cubit is the length from the tip of the middle finger to the elbow on a man's arm, or about 18 inches or 46 centimeters.

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## Nehemiah

### Chapter 4

<sup>1</sup> But when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry, and was very indignant, and mocked the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He spoke before his brothers and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, since they are burned?"

<sup>3</sup> Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, "What they are building, if a fox climbed up it, he would break down their stone wall."

<sup>4</sup> "Hear, our God; for we are despised; and turn back their reproach on their own head, give them up for a plunder in a land of captivity; <sup>5</sup> don't cover their iniquity, and don't let their sin be blotted out from before you; for they have insulted the builders."

<sup>6</sup> So we built the wall; and all the wall was joined together to half its height: for the people had a mind to work.

<sup>7</sup> But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabians, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem went forward, and that the breaches began to be filled, they were very angry; <sup>8</sup> and they all conspired together to come and fight

against Jerusalem, and to cause confusion among us.<sup>9</sup> But we made our prayer to our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.<sup>10</sup> Judah said, "The strength of the bearers of burdens is fading, and there is much rubble; so that we are not able to build the wall."<sup>11</sup> Our adversaries said, "They will not know or see, until we come in among them and kill them, and cause the work to cease."

<sup>12</sup> When the Jews who lived by them came, they said to us ten times from all places, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us."

<sup>13</sup> Therefore I set guards in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in the open places. I set the people by family groups with their swords, their spears, and their bows.<sup>14</sup> I looked, and rose up, and said to the nobles, to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them! Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses."

<sup>15</sup> When our enemies heard that it was known to us, and God had brought their counsel to nothing, all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work.<sup>16</sup> From that time forth, half of my servants did the work, and half of them held the spears, the shields, the bows, and the coats of mail; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah.<sup>17</sup> Those who built the wall, and those who bore burdens loaded themselves; everyone with one of his hands did the work, and with the other held his weapon.<sup>18</sup> Among the builders, everyone wore his sword at his side, and so built. He who sounded the trumpet was by me.<sup>19</sup> I said to the nobles, and to the rulers and to the rest of the people, "The work is great and large, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another."<sup>20</sup> Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally there to us. Our God will fight for us."

<sup>21</sup> So we did the work. Half of the people



held the spears from the rising of the morning until the stars appeared.<sup>22</sup> Likewise at the same time said I to the people, "Let everyone with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and may labor in the day."<sup>23</sup> So neither I, nor my brothers, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us took off our clothes. Everyone took his weapon to the water.

## Nehemiah

### Chapter 5

<sup>1</sup> Then there arose a great cry of the people and of their wives against their brothers the Jews. <sup>2</sup> For there were some who said, "We, our sons and our daughters, are many. Let us get grain, that we may eat and live."<sup>3</sup> There were also some who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, and our vineyards, and our houses. Let us get grain, because of the famine."<sup>4</sup> There were also some who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tribute using our fields and our vineyards as collateral. <sup>5</sup> Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children as their children. Behold,\* we bring our sons and our daughters into bondage to be servants, and some of our daughters have been brought into bondage. It is also not in our power to help it, because other men have our fields and our vineyards."

<sup>6</sup> I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words. <sup>7</sup> Then I consulted with myself, and contended with the nobles and the rulers, and said to them, "You exact usury, everyone of his brother." I held a great assembly against them. <sup>8</sup> I said to them, "We, after our ability, have redeemed our brothers the Jews that were sold to the nations; and would you even sell your brothers, and should they be sold to us?" Then they held their peace, and found not a word to say. <sup>9</sup> Also I said, "The thing that you do is not good. Shouldn't you walk in

the fear of our God, because of the reproach of the nations our enemies? <sup>10</sup> I likewise, my brothers and my servants, lend them money and grain. Please let us stop this usury. <sup>11</sup> Please restore to them, even today, their fields, their vineyards, their olive groves, and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money, and of the grain, the new wine, and the oil, that you are charging them."

<sup>12</sup> Then they said, "We will restore them, and will require nothing of them. We will do so, even as you say."

Then I called the priests, and took an oath of them, that they would do according to this promise. <sup>13</sup> Also I shook out my lap, and said, "So may God shake out every man from his house, and from his labor, that doesn't perform this promise; even may he be shaken out and emptied like this."

All the assembly said, "Amen," and praised Yahweh. The people did according to this promise.

<sup>14</sup> Moreover from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, that is, twelve years, I and my brothers have not eaten the bread of the governor. <sup>15</sup> But the former governors who were before me were supported by the people, and took bread and wine from them, plus forty shekels<sup>†</sup> of silver; yes, even their servants ruled over the people; but I didn't do so, because of the fear of God. <sup>16</sup> Yes, I also continued in the work of this wall. We didn't buy any land. All my servants were gathered there to the work. <sup>17</sup> Moreover there were at my table, of the Jews and the rulers, one hundred fifty men, in addition to those who came to us from among the nations that were around us. <sup>18</sup> Now that which was prepared for one day was one ox and six choice sheep. Also fowls were prepared for me, and once in ten days a store of all sorts of wine. Yet for all

this, I didn't demand the governor's pay, because the bondage was heavy on this people. <sup>19</sup> Remember me, my God, for good, all that I have done for this people.

**\*5:5** "Behold", from "הִנֵּה", means look at, take notice, observe, see, or gaze at. It is often used as an interjection.

**†5:15** A shekel is about 10 grams or about 0.35 ounces.

## Nehemiah Chapter 6

<sup>1</sup> Now when it was reported to Sanballat, Tobiah, and to Geshem the Arabian, and to the rest of our enemies, that I had built the wall, and that there was no breach left in it (though even to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates) <sup>2</sup> Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come! Let's meet together in the villages in the plain of Ono." But they intended to harm me.

<sup>3</sup> I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work, so that I can't come down. Why should the work cease, while I leave it, and come down to you?" <sup>4</sup> They sent to me four times like this; and I answered them the same way. <sup>5</sup> Then Sanballat sent his servant to me the same way the fifth time with an open letter in his hand, <sup>6</sup> in which was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Gashmu says it, that you and the Jews intend to rebel. Because of that, you are building the wall. You would be their king, according to these words. <sup>7</sup> You have also appointed prophets to proclaim of you at Jerusalem, saying, 'There is a king in Judah!' Now it will be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let's take

counsel together."

<sup>8</sup> Then I sent to him, saying, "There are no such things done as you say, but you imagine them out of your own heart." <sup>9</sup> For they all would have made us afraid, saying, "Their hands will be weakened from the work, that it not be done." But now, strengthen my hands.

<sup>10</sup> I went to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabel, who was shut in at his home; and he said, "Let us meet together in God's house, within the temple, and let's shut the doors of the temple; for they will come to kill you. Yes, in the night they will come to kill you."

<sup>11</sup> I said, "Should a man like me flee? Who is there that, being such as I, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in." <sup>12</sup> I discerned, and behold, God had not sent him; but he pronounced this prophecy against me. Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. <sup>13</sup> He hired so that I would be afraid, do so, and sin, and that they might have material for an evil report, that they might reproach me. <sup>14</sup> "Remember, my God, Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and also the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear."

<sup>15</sup> So the wall was finished in the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. <sup>16</sup> When all our enemies heard of it, all the nations that were around us were afraid, and they lost their confidence; for they perceived that this work was done by our God. <sup>17</sup> Moreover in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and Tobiah's letters came to them. <sup>18</sup> For there were many in Judah sworn to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah the son of Arah; and his son Jehohanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah as wife. <sup>19</sup> Also they spoke of his good deeds before me, and reported my words to him. Tobiah sent letters to put me in fear.

## Nehemiah

### Chapter 7

<sup>1</sup> Now when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors, and the gatekeepers and the singers and the Levites were appointed, <sup>2</sup> I put my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the governor of the fortress, in charge of Jerusalem; for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many. <sup>3</sup> I said to them, "Don't let the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot; and while they stand guard, let them shut the doors, and you bar them: and appoint watches of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, everyone in his watch, with everyone near his house."

<sup>4</sup> Now the city was wide and large; but the people were few therein, and the houses were not built.

<sup>5</sup> My God put into my heart to gather together the nobles, and the rulers, and the people, that they might be listed by genealogy. I found the book of the genealogy of those who came up at the first, and I found this written in it:

<sup>6</sup> These are the children of the province, who went up out of the captivity of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and who returned to Jerusalem and to Judah, everyone to his city; <sup>7</sup> who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah.

The number of the men of the people of Israel:

<sup>8</sup> The children of Parosh, two thousand one hundred seventy-two.

<sup>9</sup> The children of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy-two.

<sup>10</sup> The children of Arah, six hundred fifty-two.

<sup>11</sup> The children of Pahathmoab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred eighteen.

<sup>12</sup> The children of Elam, one thousand two hundred fifty-four.

<sup>13</sup> The children of Zattu, eight hundred forty-five.

<sup>14</sup> The children of Zaccai, seven hundred sixty.

<sup>15</sup> The children of Binnui, six hundred forty-eight.

<sup>16</sup> The children of Bebai, six hundred twenty-eight.

<sup>17</sup> The children of Azgad, two thousand three hundred twenty-two.

<sup>18</sup> The children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty-seven.

<sup>19</sup> The children of Bigvai, two thousand sixty-seven.

<sup>20</sup> The children of Adin, six hundred fifty-five.

<sup>21</sup> The children of Ater, of Hezekiah, ninety-eight.

<sup>22</sup> The children of Hashum, three hundred twenty-eight.

<sup>23</sup> The children of Bezai, three hundred twenty-four.

<sup>24</sup> The children of Hariph, one hundred twelve.

<sup>25</sup> The children of Gibeon, ninety-five.

<sup>26</sup> The men of Bethlehem and Netophah, one hundred eighty-eight.

<sup>27</sup> The men of Anathoth, one hundred twenty-eight.

<sup>28</sup> The men of Beth Azmaveth, forty-two.

<sup>29</sup> The men of Kiriath Jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred forty-three.

<sup>30</sup> The men of Ramah and Geba, six hundred twenty-one.

<sup>31</sup> The men of Michmas, one hundred twenty-two.

<sup>32</sup> The men of Bethel and Ai, one hundred twenty-three.

<sup>33</sup> The men of the other Nebo, fifty-two.

<sup>34</sup> The children of the other Elam, one thousand two hundred fifty-four.

<sup>35</sup> The children of Harim, three hundred twenty.

<sup>36</sup> The children of Jericho, three hundred

forty-five.

<sup>37</sup> The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty-one.

<sup>38</sup> The children of Senaah, three thousand nine hundred thirty.

<sup>39</sup> The priests: The children of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy-three.

<sup>40</sup> The children of Immer, one thousand fifty-two.

<sup>41</sup> The children of Pashhur, one thousand two hundred forty-seven.

<sup>42</sup> The children of Harim, one thousand seventeen.

<sup>43</sup> The Levites: the children of Jeshua, of Kadmiel, of the children of Hodevah, seventy-four.

<sup>44</sup> The singers: the children of Asaph, one hundred forty-eight.

<sup>45</sup> The gatekeepers: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai, one hundred thirty-eight.

<sup>46</sup> The temple servants: the children of Ziha, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaoth, <sup>47</sup> the children of Keros, the children of Sia, the children of Padon, <sup>48</sup> the children of Lebana, the children of Hagaba, the children of Salmai, <sup>49</sup> the children of Hanan, the children of Giddel, the children of Gahar, <sup>50</sup> the children of Reaiah, the children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda, <sup>51</sup> the children of Gazzam, the children of Uzza, the children of Paseah. <sup>52</sup> The children of Besai, the children of Meunim, the children of Nephushesim, <sup>53</sup> the children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur, <sup>54</sup> the children of Bazlith, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha, <sup>55</sup> the children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Temah, <sup>56</sup> the children of Neziah, the

children of Hatipha.

<sup>57</sup> The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Perida, <sup>58</sup> the children of Jaala, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel, <sup>59</sup> the children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth Hazzebaim, the children of Amon. <sup>60</sup> All the temple servants, and the children of Solomon's servants, were three hundred ninety-two.

<sup>61</sup> These were those who went up from Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer; but they could not show their fathers' houses, nor their offspring,\* whether they were of Israel:

<sup>62</sup> The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred forty-two.

<sup>63</sup> Of the priests: the children of Hobaiah, the children of Hakkoz, the children of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name.

<sup>64</sup> These searched for their genealogical records, but couldn't find them. Therefore were they deemed disqualified and removed from the priesthood. <sup>65</sup> The governor told that they should not eat of the most holy things until a priest stood up to minister with Urim and Thummim.

<sup>66</sup> The whole assembly together was forty-two thousand three hundred sixty, <sup>67</sup> in addition to their male servants and their female servants, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty-seven; and they had two hundred forty-five singing men and singing women. <sup>68</sup> Their horses were seven hundred thirty-six; their mules, two hundred forty-five; <sup>69</sup> their camels, four hundred thirty-five; their donkeys, six thousand seven hundred twenty.

<sup>70</sup> Some from among the heads of fathers' households gave to the work. The governor gave to the treasury one thousand darics of gold,<sup>†</sup> fifty basins, and five hundred thirty



priests' garments.<sup>71</sup> Some of the heads of fathers' households gave into the treasury of the work twenty thousand darics of gold, and two thousand two hundred minas<sup>†</sup> of silver.<sup>72</sup> That which the rest of the people gave was twenty thousand darics of gold, plus two thousand minas of silver, and sixty-seven priests' garments.

<sup>73</sup> So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants, and all Israel, lived in their cities.

When the seventh month had come, the children of Israel were in their cities.

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\***7:61** or, seed

†**7:70** a daric was a gold coin issued by a Persian king, weighing about 8.4 grams or about 0.27 troy ounces each.

‡**7:71** A mina is about 600 grams or 1.3 U. S. pounds, so 2,200 minas is about 1.3 metric tons.

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## Nehemiah Chapter 8

<sup>1</sup> All the people gathered themselves together as one man into the wide place that was in front of the water gate; and they spoke to Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which Yahweh had commanded to Israel. <sup>2</sup> Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women, and all who could hear with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> He read from it before the wide place that was in front of the water gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women, and of those who could understand. The ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the

law. <sup>4</sup> Ezra the scribe stood on a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam. <sup>5</sup> Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people (for he was above all the people), and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup> Then Ezra blessed Yahweh, the great God.

All the people answered, "Amen, Amen," with the lifting up of their hands. They bowed their heads, and worshiped Yahweh with their faces to the ground. <sup>7</sup> Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law; and the people stayed in their place. <sup>8</sup> They read in the book, in the law of God, distinctly; and they gave the sense, so that they understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup> Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people, said to all the people, "Today is holy to Yahweh your God. Don't mourn, nor weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared, for today is holy to our Lord. Don't be grieved, for the joy of Yahweh is your strength."

<sup>11</sup> So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Hold your peace, for the day is holy. Don't be grieved."

<sup>12</sup> All the people went their way to eat, to drink, to send portions, and to celebrate, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

<sup>13</sup> On the second day, the heads of fathers' households of all the people, the priests, and the Levites were gathered together to

Ezra the scribe, to study the words of the law. <sup>14</sup> They found written in the law how Yahweh had commanded by Moses that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month; <sup>15</sup> and that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, "Go out to the mountain, and get olive branches, branches of wild olive, myrtle branches, palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make temporary shelters,\* as it is written."

<sup>16</sup> So the people went out, and brought them, and made themselves temporary shelters,† everyone on the roof of his house, in their courts, in the courts of God's house, in the wide place of the water gate, and in the wide place of Ephraim's gate. <sup>17</sup> All the assembly of those who had come back out of the captivity made temporary shelters,‡ and lived in the booths; for since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun to that day the children of Israel had not done so. There was very great gladness. <sup>18</sup> Also day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read in the book of the law of God. They kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly, according to the ordinance.

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\*8:15 or, booths

†8:16 or, booths

‡8:17 or, booths

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## Nehemiah

### Chapter 9

<sup>1</sup> Now in the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, with sackcloth, and dirt on them. <sup>2</sup> The offspring of Israel separated

themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. <sup>3</sup>They stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of Yahweh their God a fourth part of the day; and a fourth part they confessed, and worshiped Yahweh their God. <sup>4</sup>Then Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani of the Levites stood up on the stairs, and cried with a loud voice to Yahweh their God.

<sup>5</sup>Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, "Stand up and bless Yahweh your God from everlasting to everlasting! Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise! <sup>6</sup>You are Yahweh, even you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their army, the earth and all things that are on it, the seas and all that is in them, and you preserve them all. The army of heaven worships you. <sup>7</sup>You are Yahweh, the God who chose Abram, brought him out of Ur of the Chaldees, gave him the name of Abraham, <sup>8</sup>found his heart faithful before you, and made a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Girgashite, to give it to his offspring, and have performed your words; for you are righteous.

<sup>9</sup>"You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and heard their cry by the Red Sea, <sup>10</sup>and showed signs and wonders against Pharaoh, and against all his servants, and against all the people of his land; for you knew that they dealt proudly against them, and made a name for yourself, as it is today. <sup>11</sup>You divided the sea before them, so that they went through the middle of the sea on the dry land; and you cast their pursuers into the depths, as a stone into the mighty waters. <sup>12</sup>Moreover, in a pillar of cloud you led them by day; and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light in

the way in which they should go.

<sup>13</sup>“You also came down on Mount Sinai, and spoke with them from heaven, and gave them right ordinances and true laws, good statutes and commandments,<sup>14</sup> and made known to them your holy Sabbath, and commanded them commandments, statutes, and a law, by Moses your servant,<sup>15</sup> and gave them bread from the sky for their hunger, and brought water out of the rock for them for their thirst, and commanded them that they should go in to possess the land which you had sworn to give them.

<sup>16</sup>“But they and our fathers behaved proudly, hardened their neck, didn’t listen to your commandments,<sup>17</sup> and refused to obey. They weren’t mindful of your wonders that you did among them, but hardened their neck, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage. But you are a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness, and didn’t forsake them.<sup>18</sup> Yes, when they had made themselves a molded calf, and said, ‘This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,’ and had committed awful blasphemies;<sup>19</sup> yet you in your manifold mercies didn’t forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud didn’t depart from over them by day, to lead them in the way; neither did the pillar of fire by night, to show them light, and the way in which they should go.<sup>20</sup> You gave also your good Spirit to instruct them, and didn’t withhold your manna from their mouth, and gave them water for their thirst.

<sup>21</sup>“Yes, forty years you sustained them in the wilderness. They lacked nothing. Their clothes didn’t grow old, and their feet didn’t swell.<sup>22</sup> Moreover you gave them kingdoms and peoples, which you allotted according to their portions. So they possessed the land of Sihon, even the land of the king of Heshbon, and the land of Og king of Bashan.<sup>23</sup> You also multiplied their children as the stars of

the sky, and brought them into the land concerning which you said to their fathers, that they should go in to possess it.

<sup>24</sup>“So the children went in and possessed the land, and you subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gave them into their hands, with their kings and the peoples of the land, that they might do with them as they pleased. <sup>25</sup>They took fortified cities and a rich land, and possessed houses full of all good things, cisterns dug out, vineyards, olive groves, and fruit trees in abundance. So they ate, were filled, became fat, and delighted themselves in your great goodness.

<sup>26</sup>“Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against you, cast your law behind their back, killed your prophets that testified against them to turn them again to you, and they committed awful blasphemies. <sup>27</sup>Therefore you delivered them into the hand of their adversaries, who distressed them. In the time of their trouble, when they cried to you, you heard from heaven; and according to your manifold mercies you gave them saviors who saved them out of the hands of their adversaries. <sup>28</sup>But after they had rest, they did evil again before you; therefore you left them in the hands of their enemies, so that they had the dominion over them; yet when they returned, and cried to you, you heard from heaven; and many times you delivered them according to your mercies, <sup>29</sup>and testified against them, that you might bring them again to your law. Yet they were arrogant, and didn’t listen to your commandments, but sinned against your ordinances (which if a man does, he shall live in them), turned their backs, stiffened their neck, and would not hear. <sup>30</sup>Yet many years you put up with them, and testified against them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet would they not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.

<sup>31</sup>“Nevertheless in your manifold mercies you didn’t make a full end of them, nor forsake them; for you are a gracious and merciful God.

<sup>32</sup>Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and loving kindness, don’t let all the travail seem little before you, that has come on us, on our kings, on our princes, on our priests, on our prophets, on our fathers, and on all your people, since the time of the kings of Assyria to this day. <sup>33</sup>However you are just in all that has come on us; for you have dealt truly, but we have done wickedly. <sup>34</sup>Also our kings, our princes, our priests, and our fathers have not kept your law, nor listened to your commandments and your testimonies with which you testified against them. <sup>35</sup>For they have not served you in their kingdom, and in your great goodness that you gave them, and in the large and rich land which you gave before them. They didn’t turn from their wicked works.

<sup>36</sup>“Behold, we are servants today, and as for the land that you gave to our fathers to eat its fruit and its good, behold, we are servants in it. <sup>37</sup>It yields much increase to the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins. Also they have power over our bodies and over our livestock, at their pleasure, and we are in great distress. <sup>38</sup>Yet for all this, we make a sure covenant, and write it; and our princes, our Levites, and our priests, seal it.”

## Nehemiah Chapter 10

<sup>1</sup>Now those who sealed were: Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah, and Zedekiah,<sup>2</sup> Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah,<sup>3</sup> Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah,<sup>4</sup> Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch,<sup>5</sup> Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah,<sup>6</sup> Daniel, Ginnethon,

Baruch,<sup>7</sup> Meshullam, Abijah,  
Mijamin,<sup>8</sup> Maaziah, Bilgai, and Shemaiah.  
These were the priests.<sup>9</sup> The Levites:  
namely, Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui  
of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel;<sup>10</sup> and  
their brothers, Shebaniah, Hodiah, Kelita,  
Pelaiah, Hanan,<sup>11</sup> Mica, Rehob,  
Hashabiah,<sup>12</sup> Zaccur, Sherebiah,  
Shebaniah,<sup>13</sup> Hodiah, Bani, and  
Beninu.<sup>14</sup> The chiefs of the people: Parosh,  
Pahathmoab, Elam, Zattu, Bani,<sup>15</sup> Bunni,  
Azgad, Bebai,<sup>16</sup> Adonijah, Bigvai,  
Adin,<sup>17</sup> Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur,<sup>18</sup> Hodiah,  
Hashum, Bezai,<sup>19</sup> Hariph, Anathoth,  
Nobai,<sup>20</sup> Magpiash, Meshullam,  
Hezir,<sup>21</sup> Meshezabel, Zadok,  
Jaddua,<sup>22</sup> Pelatiah, Hanan,  
Anaiah,<sup>23</sup> Hoshea, Hananiah,  
Hasshub,<sup>24</sup> Hallohesh, Pilha,  
Shobek,<sup>25</sup> Rehum, Hashabnah,  
Maaseiah,<sup>26</sup> and Ahiah, Hanan,  
Anan,<sup>27</sup> Malluch, Harim, and Baanah.

<sup>28</sup> The rest of the people, the priests, the  
Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the  
temple servants, and all those who had  
separated themselves from the peoples of  
the lands to the law of God, their wives,  
their sons, and their daughters—everyone  
who had knowledge, and understanding—

<sup>29</sup> joined with their brothers, their nobles,  
and entered into a curse, and into an oath,  
to walk in God's law, which was given by  
Moses the servant of God, and to observe  
and do all the commandments of Yahweh  
our Lord, and his ordinances and his  
statutes;<sup>30</sup> and that we would not give our  
daughters to the peoples of the land, nor  
take their daughters for our sons;<sup>31</sup> and if  
the peoples of the land bring wares or any  
grain on the Sabbath day to sell, that we  
would not buy from them on the Sabbath,  
or on a holy day; and that we would forego  
the seventh year, and the exaction of every  
debt.

<sup>32</sup> Also we made ordinances for ourselves, to  
charge ourselves yearly with the third part



of a shekel\* for the service of the house of our God;<sup>33</sup> for the show bread, for the continual meal offering, for the continual burnt offering, for the Sabbaths, for the new moons, for the set feasts, and for the holy things, and for the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God.<sup>34</sup> We, the priests, the Levites, and the people, cast lots for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at times appointed, year by year, to burn on Yahweh our God's altar, as it is written in the law;<sup>35</sup> and to bring the first fruits of our ground, and the first fruits of all fruit of all kinds of trees, year by year, to Yahweh's house;<sup>36</sup> also the firstborn of our sons, and of our livestock, as it is written in the law, and the firstborn of our herds and of our flocks, to bring to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God;<sup>37</sup> and that we should bring the first fruits of our dough, our wave offerings, the fruit of all kinds of trees, and the new wine and the oil, to the priests, to the rooms of the house of our God; and the tithes of our ground to the Levites; for they, the Levites, take the tithes in all the cities of our tillage.<sup>38</sup> The priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes. The Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes to the house of our God, to the rooms, into the treasure house.<sup>39</sup> For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the wave offering of the grain, of the new wine, and of the oil, to the rooms, where the vessels of the sanctuary are, and the priests who minister, with the gatekeepers and the singers. We will not forsake the house of our God.

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\***10:32** A shekel is about 10 grams or about 0.35 ounces.

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<sup>10</sup> Of the priests: Jedaiah the son of Joiarib, Jachin, <sup>11</sup> Seraiah the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, the ruler of God's house,<sup>12</sup> and their brothers who did the work of the house, eight hundred twenty-two; and Adaiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pelaliah, the son of Amzi, the son of Zechariah, the son of Pashhur, the son of Malchijah,<sup>13</sup> and his brothers, chiefs of

fathers' households, two hundred forty-two; and Amashsai the son of Azarel, the son of Ahzai, the son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer,<sup>14</sup> and their brothers, mighty men of valor, one hundred twenty-eight; and their overseer was Zabdiel, the son of Haggadolim.

<sup>15</sup> Of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Bunni;<sup>16</sup> and Shabbethai and Jozabad, of the chiefs of the Levites, who had the oversight of the outward business of God's house;<sup>17</sup> and Mattaniah the son of Mica, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, who was the chief to begin the thanksgiving in prayer, and Bakbukiah, the second among his brothers; and Abda the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun.<sup>18</sup> All the Levites in the holy city were two hundred eighty-four.

<sup>19</sup> Moreover the gatekeepers, Akkub, Talmon, and their brothers, who kept watch at the gates, were one hundred seventy-two.<sup>20</sup> The residue of Israel, of the priests, the Levites, were in all the cities of Judah, everyone in his inheritance.<sup>21</sup> But the temple servants lived in Ophel: and Ziha and Gishpa were over the temple servants.

<sup>22</sup> The overseer also of the Levites at Jerusalem was Uzzi the son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Mica, of the sons of Asaph, the singers, over the business of God's house.<sup>23</sup> For there was a commandment from the king concerning them, and a settled provision for the singers, as every day required.<sup>24</sup> Pethahiah the son of Meshezabel, of the children of Zerah the son of Judah, was at the king's hand in all matters concerning the people.

<sup>25</sup> As for the villages, with their fields, some of the children of Judah lived in Kiriath Arba and its towns, in Dibon and its towns, in Jekabzeel and its villages,<sup>26</sup> in Jeshua, in Moladah, Beth Pelet,<sup>27</sup> in Hazar Shual, in

Beersheba and its towns,<sup>28</sup> in Ziklag, in Meconah and in its towns,<sup>29</sup> in En Rimmon, in Zorah, in Jarmuth,<sup>30</sup> Zanoah, Adullam, and their villages, Lachish and its fields, and Azekah and its towns. So they encamped from Beersheba to the valley of Hinnom.<sup>31</sup> The children of Benjamin also lived from Geba onward, at Michmash and Aija, and at Bethel and its towns,<sup>32</sup> at Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah,<sup>33</sup> Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim,<sup>34</sup> Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat,<sup>35</sup> Lod, and Ono, the valley of craftsmen.<sup>36</sup> Of the Levites, certain divisions in Judah settled in Benjamin's territory.

### Nehemiah Chapter 12

<sup>1</sup> Now these are the priests and the Levites who went up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra,<sup>2</sup> Amariah, Malluch, Hattush,<sup>3</sup> Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth,<sup>4</sup> Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah,<sup>5</sup> Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah,<sup>6</sup> Shemaiah, and Joarib, Jedaiah.<sup>7</sup> Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah, and Jedaiah. These were the chiefs of the priests and of their brothers in the days of Jeshua.

<sup>8</sup> Moreover the Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, who was over the thanksgiving, he and his brothers. <sup>9</sup> Also Bakbukiah and Unno, their brothers, were close to them according to their offices. <sup>10</sup> Jeshua became the father of Joiakim, and Joiakim became the father of Eliashib, and Eliashib became the father of Joiada,<sup>11</sup> and Joiada became the father of Jonathan, and Jonathan became the father of Jaddua.

<sup>12</sup> In the days of Joiakim were priests, heads of fathers' households: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah;<sup>13</sup> of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan;<sup>14</sup> of Malluchi, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph;<sup>15</sup> of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth,

Helkai; <sup>16</sup> of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam; <sup>17</sup> of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin, of Moadiah, Piltai; <sup>18</sup> of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan; <sup>19</sup> and of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi; <sup>20</sup> of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber; <sup>21</sup> of Hilkiah, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah, Nethanel.

<sup>22</sup> As for the Levites, in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, and Johanan, and Jaddua, there were recorded the heads of fathers' households; also the priests, in the reign of Darius the Persian. <sup>23</sup> The sons of Levi, heads of fathers' households, were written in the book of the chronicles, even until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib. <sup>24</sup> The chiefs of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brothers close to them, to praise and give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of God, watch next to watch. <sup>25</sup> Mattaniah, and Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, Akkub, were gatekeepers keeping the watch at the storehouses of the gates. <sup>26</sup> These were in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor, and of Ezra the priest and scribe.

<sup>27</sup> At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication with gladness, both with giving thanks, and with singing, with cymbals, stringed instruments, and with harps. <sup>28</sup> The sons of the singers gathered themselves together, both out of the plain around Jerusalem and from the villages of the Netophathites; <sup>29</sup> also from Beth Gilgal, and out of the fields of Geba and Azmaveth: for the singers had built themselves villages around Jerusalem. <sup>30</sup> The priests and the Levites purified themselves; and they purified the people, and the gates, and the wall.

<sup>31</sup> Then I brought up the princes of Judah on the wall, and appointed two great

companies who gave thanks and went in procession. One went on the right hand on the wall toward the dung gate;<sup>32</sup> and after them went Hoshaiah, with half of the princes of Judah,<sup>33</sup> and Azariah, Ezra, and Meshullam,<sup>34</sup> Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, Jeremiah,<sup>35</sup> and some of the priests' sons with trumpets: Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph;<sup>36</sup> and his brothers, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God; and Ezra the scribe was before them.<sup>37</sup> By the spring gate, and straight before them, they went up by the stairs of David's city, at the ascent of the wall, above David's house, even to the water gate eastward.

<sup>38</sup> The other company of those who gave thanks went to meet them, and I after them, with the half of the people, on the wall, above the tower of the furnaces, even to the wide wall,<sup>39</sup> and above the gate of Ephraim, and by the old gate, and by the fish gate, and the tower of Hananel, and the tower of Hammeah, even to the sheep gate: and they stood still in the gate of the guard.<sup>40</sup> So the two companies of those who gave thanks in God's house stood, and I, and the half of the rulers with me;<sup>41</sup> and the priests, Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets;<sup>42</sup> and Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. The singers sang loud, with Jezrahiah their overseer.<sup>43</sup> They offered great sacrifices that day, and rejoiced; for God had made them rejoice with great joy; and the women and the children also rejoiced; so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even far away.

<sup>44</sup> On that day, men were appointed over the rooms for the treasures, for the wave offerings, for the first fruits, and for the

tithes, to gather into them, according to the fields of the cities, the portions appointed by the law for the priests and Levites; for Judah rejoiced for the priests and for the Levites who waited. <sup>45</sup>They performed the duty of their God, and the duty of the purification, and so did the singers and the gatekeepers, according to the commandment of David, and of Solomon his son. <sup>46</sup>For in the days of David and Asaph of old there was a chief of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. <sup>47</sup>All Israel in the days of Zerubbabel, and in the days of Nehemiah, gave the portions of the singers and the gatekeepers, as every day required; and they set apart that which was for the Levites; and the Levites set apart that which was for the sons of Aaron.

## Nehemiah

### Chapter 13

<sup>1</sup>On that day they read in the book of Moses in the hearing of the people; and it was found written in it that an Ammonite and a Moabite should not enter into the assembly of God forever, <sup>2</sup>because they didn't meet the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, to curse them; however our God turned the curse into a blessing. <sup>3</sup>It came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated all the mixed multitude from Israel.

<sup>4</sup>Now before this, Eliashib the priest, who was appointed over the rooms of the house of our God, being allied to Tobiah, <sup>5</sup>had prepared for him a great room, where before they laid the meal offerings, the frankincense, the vessels, and the tithes of the grain, the new wine, and the oil, which were given by commandment to the Levites, the singers, and the gatekeepers; and the wave offerings for the priests. <sup>6</sup>But in all this, I was not at Jerusalem; for in the

thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I went to the king; and after some days I asked leave of the king, <sup>7</sup> and I came to Jerusalem, and understood the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, in preparing him a room in the courts of God's house. <sup>8</sup> It grieved me severely. Therefore I threw all Tobiah's household stuff out of the room. <sup>9</sup> Then I commanded, and they cleansed the rooms. I brought into them the vessels of God's house, with the meal offerings and the frankincense again.

<sup>10</sup> I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them; so that the Levites and the singers, who did the work, had each fled to his field. <sup>11</sup> Then I contended with the rulers, and said, "Why is God's house forsaken?" I gathered them together, and set them in their place. <sup>12</sup> Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain, the new wine, and the oil to the treasuries. <sup>13</sup> I made treasurers over the treasuries, Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah: and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah; for they were counted faithful, and their business was to distribute to their brothers.

<sup>14</sup> Remember me, my God, concerning this, and don't wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for its observances.

<sup>15</sup> In those days I saw some men treading wine presses on the Sabbath in Judah, bringing in sheaves, and loading donkeys; also with wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day; and I testified against them in the day in which they sold food. <sup>16</sup> Some men of Tyre also lived there, who brought in fish and all kinds of wares, and sold on the Sabbath to the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem. <sup>17</sup> Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said to them, "What evil thing is this that you do, and profane the Sabbath



day? <sup>18</sup> Didn't your fathers do this, and didn't our God bring all this evil on us, and on this city? Yet you bring more wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath."

<sup>19</sup> It came to pass that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the Sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut, and commanded that they should not be opened until after the Sabbath. I set some of my servants over the gates, so that no burden should be brought in on the Sabbath day. <sup>20</sup> So the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares camped outside of Jerusalem once or twice. <sup>21</sup> Then I testified against them, and said to them, "Why do you stay around the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you." From that time on, they didn't come on the Sabbath. <sup>22</sup> I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the Sabbath day. Remember to me, my God, this also, and spare me according to the greatness of your loving kindness.

<sup>23</sup> In those days I also saw the Jews who had married women of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab; <sup>24</sup> and their children spoke half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people. <sup>25</sup> I contended with them, and cursed them, and struck certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, "You shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor take their daughters for your sons, or for yourselves. <sup>26</sup> Didn't Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations there was no king like him, and he was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless foreign women caused even him to sin. <sup>27</sup> Shall we then listen to you to do all this great evil, to trespass against our God in marrying foreign women?"

<sup>28</sup> One of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son-in-law to

Sanballat the Horonite; therefore I chased him from me.<sup>29</sup> Remember them, my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood and of the Levites.

<sup>30</sup> Thus I cleansed them from all foreigners, and appointed duties for the priests and for the Levites, everyone in his work; <sup>31</sup> and for the wood offering, at times appointed, and for the first fruits. Remember me, my God, for good.



<sup>10</sup> On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcass, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king, <sup>11</sup> to bring Vashti the queen before the king with the royal crown, to show the people and the princes her beauty; for she was

beautiful.<sup>12</sup> But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by the eunuchs. Therefore the king was very angry, and his anger burned in him.

<sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the wise men, who knew the times (for it was the king's custom to consult those who knew law and judgment;<sup>14</sup> and the next to him were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who saw the king's face, and sat first in the kingdom),<sup>15</sup> "What shall we do to the queen Vashti according to law, because she has not done the bidding of the King Ahasuerus by the eunuchs?"

<sup>16</sup> Memucan answered before the king and the princes, "Vashti the queen has not done wrong to just the king, but also to all the princes, and to all the people who are in all the provinces of the King Ahasuerus.<sup>17</sup> For this deed of the queen will become known to all women, causing them to show contempt for their husbands, when it is reported, 'King Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she didn't come.'<sup>18</sup> Today, the princesses of Persia and Media who have heard of the queen's deed will tell all the king's princes. This will cause much contempt and wrath.

<sup>19</sup> "If it pleases the king, let a royal commandment go from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, so that it cannot be altered, that Vashti may never again come before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate to another who is better than she.<sup>20</sup> When the king's decree which he shall make is published throughout all his kingdom (for it is great), all the wives will give their husbands honor, both great and small."

<sup>21</sup> This advice pleased the king and the princes, and the king did according to the word of Memucan:<sup>22</sup> for he sent letters into

all the king’s provinces, into every province according to its writing, and to every people in their language, that every man should rule his own house, speaking in the language of his own people.

**Esther**  
**Chapter 2**

<sup>1</sup> After these things, when the wrath of King Ahasuerus was pacified, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her. <sup>2</sup> Then the king’s servants who served him said, “Let beautiful young virgins be sought for the king. <sup>3</sup> Let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the beautiful young virgins to the citadel of Susa, to the women’s house, to the custody of Hegai the king’s eunuch, keeper of the women. Let cosmetics be given them; <sup>4</sup> and let the maiden who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti.” The thing pleased the king, and he did so.

<sup>5</sup> There was a certain Jew in the citadel of Susa, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite, <sup>6</sup> who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captives who had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away. <sup>7</sup> He brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle’s daughter; for she had neither father nor mother. The maiden was fair and beautiful; and when her father and mother were dead, Mordecai took her for his own daughter.

<sup>8</sup> So, when the king’s commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together to the citadel of Susa, to the custody of Hegai, Esther was taken into the king’s house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women. <sup>9</sup> The maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness from him. He quickly gave her

cosmetics and her portions of food, and the seven choice maidens who were to be given her out of the king's house. He moved her and her maidens to the best place in the women's house.<sup>10</sup> Esther had not made known her people nor her relatives, because Mordecai had instructed her that she should not make it known.<sup>11</sup> Mordecai walked every day in front of the court of the women's house, to find out how Esther was doing, and what would become of her.

<sup>12</sup> Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after her purification for twelve months (for so were the days of their purification accomplished, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet fragrances and with preparations for beautifying women).<sup>13</sup> The young woman then came to the king like this: whatever she desired was given her to go with her out of the women's house to the king's house.<sup>14</sup> In the evening she went, and on the next day she returned into the second women's house, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch, who kept the concubines. She came in to the king no more, unless the king delighted in her, and she was called by name.<sup>15</sup> Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, came to go in to the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's eunuch, the keeper of the women, advised. Esther obtained favor in the sight of all those who looked at her.

<sup>16</sup> So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus into his royal house in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.<sup>17</sup> The king loved Esther more than all the women, and she obtained favor and kindness in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown on her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.

<sup>18</sup> Then the king made a great feast for all his princes and his servants, even Esther's

feast; and he proclaimed a holiday in the provinces, and gave gifts according to the king's bounty.

<sup>19</sup> When the virgins were gathered together the second time, Mordecai was sitting in the king's gate. <sup>20</sup> Esther had not yet made known her relatives nor her people, as Mordecai had commanded her; for Esther obeyed Mordecai, like she did when she was brought up by him. <sup>21</sup> In those days, while Mordecai was sitting in the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh, who were doorkeepers, were angry, and sought to lay hands on the King Ahasuerus. <sup>22</sup> This thing became known to Mordecai, who informed Esther the queen; and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name. <sup>23</sup> When this matter was investigated, and it was found to be so, they were both hanged on a gallows; and it was written in the book of the chronicles in the king's presence.

### Esther Chapter 3

<sup>1</sup> After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes who were with him. <sup>2</sup> All the king's servants who were in the king's gate bowed down, and paid homage to Haman; for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai didn't bow down or pay him homage. <sup>3</sup> Then the king's servants, who were in the king's gate, said to Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's commandment?" <sup>4</sup> Now it came to pass, when they spoke daily to him, and he didn't listen to them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's reason would stand; for he had told them that he was a Jew. <sup>5</sup> When Haman saw that Mordecai didn't bow down, nor pay him homage, Haman was full of wrath. <sup>6</sup> But he scorned the thought of laying hands on Mordecai



alone, for they had made known to him Mordecai's people. Therefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even Mordecai's people.

<sup>7</sup>In the first month, which is the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, and chose the twelfth month, which is the month Adar. <sup>8</sup>Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom, and their laws are different from other people's. They don't keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not for the king's profit to allow them to remain. <sup>9</sup>If it pleases the king, let it be written that they be destroyed; and I will pay ten thousand talents\* of silver into the hands of those who are in charge of the king's business, to bring it into the king's treasuries."

<sup>10</sup>The king took his ring from his hand, and gave it to Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy. <sup>11</sup>The king said to Haman, "The silver is given to you, the people also, to do with them as it seems good to you."

<sup>12</sup>Then the king's scribes were called in on the first month, on the thirteenth day of the month; and all that Haman commanded was written to the king's local governors, and to the governors who were over every province, and to the princes of every people, to every province according to its writing, and to every people in their language. It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus, and it was sealed with the king's ring. <sup>13</sup>Letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to plunder their possessions. <sup>14</sup>A copy of the

letter, that the decree should be given out in every province, was published to all the peoples, that they should be ready against that day.<sup>15</sup> The couriers went out in haste by the king’s commandment, and the decree was given out in the citadel of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city of Susa was perplexed.

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**\*3:9** A talent is about 30 kilograms or 66 pounds or 965 Troy ounces

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**Esther**  
**Chapter 4**

<sup>1</sup> Now when Mordecai found out all that was done, Mordecai tore his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the middle of the city, and wailed loudly and bitterly.<sup>2</sup> He came even before the king’s gate, for no one is allowed inside the king’s gate clothed with sackcloth.<sup>3</sup> In every province, wherever the king’s commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.  
<sup>4</sup> Esther’s maidens and her eunuchs came and told her this, and the queen was exceedingly grieved. She sent clothing to Mordecai, to replace his sackcloth; but he didn’t receive it.<sup>5</sup> Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king’s eunuchs, whom he had appointed to attend her, and commanded him to go to Mordecai, to find out what this was, and why it was.<sup>6</sup> So Hathach went out to Mordecai, to city square which was before the king’s gate.<sup>7</sup> Mordecai told him of all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king’s treasuries for the destruction of the Jews.<sup>8</sup> He also gave him the copy of the

writing of the decree that was given out in Susa to destroy them, to show it to Esther, and to declare it to her, and to urge her to go in to the king, to make supplication to him, and to make request before him, for her people.

<sup>9</sup> Hathach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai. <sup>10</sup> Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a message to Mordecai: <sup>11</sup> "All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, know, that whoever, whether man or woman, comes to the king into the inner court without being called, there is one law for him, that he be put to death, except those to whom the king might hold out the golden scepter, that he may live. I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days."

<sup>12</sup> They told to Mordecai Esther's words. <sup>13</sup> Then Mordecai asked them to return this answer to Esther: "Don't think to yourself that you will escape in the king's house any more than all the Jews. <sup>14</sup> For if you remain silent now, then relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Who knows if you haven't come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

<sup>15</sup> Then Esther asked them to answer Mordecai, <sup>16</sup> "Go, gather together all the Jews who are present in Susa, and fast for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day. I and my maidens will also fast the same way. Then I will go in to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish." <sup>17</sup> So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

## Esther Chapter 5

<sup>1</sup> Now on the third day, Esther put on her royal clothing, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, next to the king's

house. The king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, next to the entrance of the house.<sup>2</sup> When the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor in his sight; and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. So Esther came near, and touched the top of the scepter.<sup>3</sup> Then the king asked her, "What would you like, queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given you even to the half of the kingdom."

<sup>4</sup> Esther said, "If it seems good to the king, let the king and Haman come today to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

<sup>5</sup> Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly, so that it may be done as Esther has said." So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

<sup>6</sup> The king said to Esther at the banquet of wine, "What is your petition? It shall be granted you. What is your request? Even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed."

<sup>7</sup> Then Esther answered and said, "My petition and my request is this.<sup>8</sup> If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I will prepare for them, and I will do tomorrow as the king has said."

<sup>9</sup> Then Haman went out that day joyful and glad of heart, but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he didn't stand up nor move for him, he was filled with wrath against Mordecai.<sup>10</sup> Nevertheless Haman restrained himself, and went home. There, he sent and called for his friends and Zeresh his wife.<sup>11</sup> Haman recounted to them the glory of his riches, the multitude of his children, all the things in which the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.<sup>12</sup> Haman also said, "Yes, Esther the queen let no man come in with the king to the banquet that she had

prepared but myself; and tomorrow I am also invited by her together with the king. <sup>13</sup>Yet all this avails me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate."

<sup>14</sup>Then Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him, "Let a gallows be made fifty cubits\* high, and in the morning speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on it. Then go in merrily with the king to the banquet." This pleased Haman, so he had the gallows made.

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**\*5:14** A cubit is the length from the tip of the middle finger to the elbow on a man's arm, or about 18 inches or 46 centimeters.

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## Esther Chapter 6

<sup>1</sup>On that night, the king couldn't sleep. He commanded the book of records of the chronicles to be brought, and they were read to the king. <sup>2</sup>It was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who were doorkeepers, who had tried to lay hands on the King Ahasuerus. <sup>3</sup>The king said, "What honor and dignity has been given to Mordecai for this?"

Then the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."

<sup>4</sup>The king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had come into the outer court of the king's house, to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

<sup>5</sup>The king's servants said to him, "Behold,\* Haman stands in the court."

The king said, "Let him come in." <sup>6</sup>So Haman came in. The king said to him, "What shall be done to the man whom the

king delights to honor?"

Now Haman said in his heart, "Who would the king delight to honor more than myself?"<sup>7</sup> Haman said to the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor,<sup>8</sup> let royal clothing be brought which the king uses to wear, and the horse that the king rides on, and on the head of which a royal crown is set.<sup>9</sup> Let the clothing and the horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man whom the king delights to honor with them, and have him ride on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him, 'Thus it shall be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!'"

<sup>10</sup> Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry and take the clothing and the horse, as you have said, and do this for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Let nothing fail of all that you have spoken."

<sup>11</sup> Then Haman took the clothing and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and had him ride through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus it shall be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!"

<sup>12</sup> Mordecai came back to the king's gate, but Haman hurried to his house, mourning and having his head covered.<sup>13</sup> Haman recounted to Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and Zeresh his wife said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him, but you will surely fall before him."<sup>14</sup> While they were yet talking with him, the king's eunuchs came, and hurried to bring Haman to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

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**\*6:5** "Behold", from "הִנֵּה", means look at, take notice, observe, see, or gaze at. It is often used as an interjection.

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## Esther

### Chapter 7

<sup>1</sup> So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen. <sup>2</sup> The king said again to Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, "What is your petition, queen Esther? It shall be granted you. What is your request? Even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed."

<sup>3</sup> Then Esther the queen answered, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. <sup>4</sup> For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for male and female slaves, I would have held my peace, although the adversary could not have compensated for the king's loss."

<sup>5</sup> Then King Ahasuerus said to Esther the queen, "Who is he, and where is he who dared presume in his heart to do so?"

<sup>6</sup> Esther said, "An adversary and an enemy, even this wicked Haman!"

Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen. <sup>7</sup> The king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden. Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king. <sup>8</sup> Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman had fallen on the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, "Will he even assault the queen in front of me in the house?" As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

<sup>9</sup> Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs who were with the king said, "Behold, the gallows fifty cubits\* high, which Haman has made for Mordecai, who spoke good for the king, is standing at Haman's house."

The king said, "Hang him on it!"

<sup>10</sup> So they hanged Haman on the gallows

that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king’s wrath pacified.

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**\*7:9** A cubit is the length from the tip of the middle finger to the elbow on a man’s arm, or about 18 inches or 46 centimeters.

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**Esther**  
**Chapter 8**

<sup>1</sup> On that day, King Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman, the Jews’ enemy, to Esther the queen. Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was to her. <sup>2</sup> The king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

<sup>3</sup> Esther spoke yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and begged him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his plan that he had planned against the Jews. <sup>4</sup> Then the king held out to Esther the golden scepter. So Esther arose, and stood before the king. <sup>5</sup> She said, “If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and the thing seem right to the king, and I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the king’s provinces. <sup>6</sup> For how can I endure to see the evil that would come to my people? How can I endure to see the destruction of my relatives?”

<sup>7</sup> Then King Ahasuerus said to Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, “See, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows, because he laid his hand on the



Jews. <sup>8</sup> Write also to the Jews, as it pleases you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring; for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may not be reversed by any man."

<sup>9</sup> Then the king's scribes were called at that time, in the third month, which is the month Sivan, on the twenty-third day of the month; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded to the Jews, and to the local governors, and the governors and princes of the provinces which are from India to Ethiopia, one hundred twenty-seven provinces, to every province according to its writing, and to every people in their language, and to the Jews in their writing, and in their language. <sup>10</sup> He wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by courier on horseback, riding on royal horses that were bred from swift steeds. <sup>11</sup> In those letters, the king granted the Jews who were in every city to gather themselves together, and to defend their life, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, their little ones and women, and to plunder their possessions, <sup>12</sup> on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar. <sup>13</sup> A copy of the letter, that the decree should be given out in every province, was published to all the peoples, that the Jews should be ready for that day to avenge themselves on their enemies. <sup>14</sup> So the couriers who rode on royal horses went out, hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. The decree was given out in the citadel of Susa.

<sup>15</sup> Mordecai went out of the presence of the king in royal clothing of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a robe of fine linen and purple; and the city of Susa shouted and was glad. <sup>16</sup> The Jews had light, gladness, joy, and honor. <sup>17</sup> In every

province, and in every city, wherever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had gladness, joy, a feast, and a good day. Many from among the peoples of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews was fallen on them.

**Esther**  
**Chapter 9**

<sup>1</sup> Now in the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the month, when the king's commandment and his decree came near to be put in execution, on the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to conquer them, (but it was turned out the opposite happened, that the Jews conquered those who hated them), <sup>2</sup> the Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the King Ahasuerus, to lay hands on those who wanted to harm them. No one could withstand them, because the fear of them had fallen on all the people.<sup>3</sup> All the princes of the provinces, the local governors, the governors, and those who did the king's business helped the Jews, because the fear of Mordecai had fallen on them. <sup>4</sup> For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces; for the man Mordecai grew greater and greater. <sup>5</sup> The Jews struck all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and with slaughter and destruction, and did what they wanted to those who hated them.<sup>6</sup> In the citadel of Susa, the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men. <sup>7</sup> They killed Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, <sup>8</sup> Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, <sup>9</sup> Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vaizatha, <sup>10</sup> the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Jews' enemy, but they didn't lay their hand on the plunder. <sup>11</sup> On that day, the number of those who were slain in the citadel of Susa was brought before the king. <sup>12</sup> The king said to

Esther the queen, "The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in the citadel of Susa, including the ten sons of Haman; what then have they done in the rest of the king's provinces! Now what is your petition? It shall be granted you. What is your further request? It shall be done."

<sup>13</sup> Then Esther said, "If it pleases the king, let it be granted to the Jews who are in Susa to do tomorrow also according to today's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged on the gallows."

<sup>14</sup> The king commanded this to be done. A decree was given out in Susa; and they hanged Haman's ten sons. <sup>15</sup> The Jews who were in Susa gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar, and killed three hundred men in Susa; but they didn't lay their hand on the plunder. <sup>16</sup> The other Jews who were in the king's provinces gathered themselves together, defended their lives, had rest from their enemies, and killed seventy-five thousand of those who hated them; but they didn't lay their hand on the plunder.

<sup>17</sup> This was done on the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of that month they rested and made it a day of feasting and gladness. <sup>18</sup> But the Jews who were in Susa assembled together on the thirteenth and on the fourteenth days of the month; and on the fifteenth day of that month, they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. <sup>19</sup> Therefore the Jews of the villages, who live in the unwalled towns, make the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, a good day, and a day of sending presents of food to one another.

<sup>20</sup> Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both near and far, <sup>21</sup> to enjoin them that they should keep the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month Adar yearly, <sup>22</sup> as the days in which the Jews had rest from their enemies,

and the month which was turned to them from sorrow to gladness, and from mourning into a good day; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, and of sending presents of food to one another, and gifts to the needy.<sup>23</sup> The Jews accepted the custom that they had begun, as Mordecai had written to them;<sup>24</sup> because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast "Pur", that is the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them;<sup>25</sup> but when this became known to the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked plan, which he had planned against the Jews, should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

<sup>26</sup> Therefore they called these days "Purim",\* from the word "Pur." Therefore because of all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and that which had come to them,<sup>27</sup> the Jews established, and imposed on themselves, and on their descendants, and on all those who joined themselves to them, so that it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to what was written, and according to its appointed time, every year;<sup>28</sup> and that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor their memory perish from their offspring,<sup>†</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority to confirm this second letter of Purim.<sup>30</sup> He sent letters to all the Jews, to the hundred twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth,<sup>31</sup> to confirm these days of Purim in their appointed times, as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had decreed, and

as they had imposed upon themselves and their descendants, in the matter of the fastings and their cry.<sup>32</sup> The commandment of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim; and it was written in the book.

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\***9:26** Purim is the Hebrew plural for pur, which means lot.

†**9:28** or, seed

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## Esther Chapter 10

<sup>1</sup> King Ahasuerus laid a tribute on the land, and on the islands of the sea. <sup>2</sup> All the acts of his power and of his might, and the full account of the greatness of Mordecai, to which the king advanced him, aren't they written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?<sup>3</sup> For Mordecai the Jew was next to King Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted by the multitude of his brothers, seeking the good of his people, and speaking peace to all his descendants.

