**The Book of 1 Kings**

**1 Kings Chapter 1**

David’s Last Days

1Now King David was old, advanced in years, and they covered him with garments, but he could not get warm. 2So his servants said to him, “Let them search for a young virgin for my lord the king. Let her stand before the king and be in his service, and let her lie in your bosom so that my lord the king may keep warm.” 3So they searched for a beautiful young woman throughout all the territory of Israel and found Abishag the Shunammite and brought her to the king. 4The young woman was very beautiful, and she became his attendant and served the king, but the king did not know her *sexually*.

Adonijah Sets Himself Up as King

5Now Adonijah, the son of Haggith, was exalting himself, saying, “I will be king.” Then he prepared chariots and horsemen for himself, and 50 men to run before him. 6His father had never rebuked him at any time by saying, “Why did you do that?” And he was also a very handsome man, and he was born *next* after Absalom. 7He conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest, and they gave help, *following* after Adonijah. 8But Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and Nathan the prophet, and Shimei, and Rei, and the mighty men who belonged to David, were not with Adonijah.

9And Adonijah killed sheep and cattle and fatlings by the stone of Zoheleth which is beside En-rogel, and he called all his brothers, the king’s sons, and all the men of Judah, the king’s servants; 10but Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah, and the mighty men, and Solomon his brother, he did not call.

Nathan and Bathsheba Before David

11Then Nathan spoke to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, “Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith reigns, and David our lord does not know it? 12So now come, let me give you counsel so that you can save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. 13Go to King David and tell him, “Didn’t you yourself, my lord king, swear to your servant, saying, ‘Indeed, Solomon your son is to reign as king after me, and he will sit on my throne?’ Why then does Adonijah reign?” 14Behold, while you are still there speaking with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words.”

15So Bathsheba went to the king into the inner room. Now the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was serving the king. 16And Bathsheba kneeled and bowed down to the king. And the king said, “What can I do for you?”

17So she said to him, “My lord, you yourself swore by Yahweh your God to your servant, ‘Indeed, Solomon your son is to reign as king after me, and he will sit on my throne.’ 18But now, behold, Adonijah reigns, but you, my lord the king, do not know it. 19He has slain cattle and fatlings and sheep in abundance and has called all the sons of the king and Abiathar the priest and Joab the commander of the army, but he has not called Solomon your servant. 20And as for you, my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to tell them who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. 21Otherwise, it will be that when my lord the king lies down with his fathers that I and my son Solomon will be considered guilty.”

22Now behold, while she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet came. 23So they told the king, saying, “Behold, Nathan the prophet!” When he had come in before the king, he bowed down to the king with his face to the ground.

24And Nathan said, “My lord king, have you said, ‘Adonijah is to reign as king after me and he will sit on my throne?’ 25For he has gone down this day and has slain cattle and fatlings and sheep in abundance, and has called all the king’s sons and the commanders of the army, and Abiathar the priest. Behold, they are eating and drinking before him and are saying, ‘Long live King Adonijah!’ 26But he has not called me, me your servant, nor Zadok the priest, nor Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, nor your servant Solomon. 27Is this thing done by my lord the king, and you have not made known to your servants who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?”

Solomon Anointed King

28Then king David answered and said, “Call Bathsheba to me.” So she came into the king’s presence and stood before the king. 29The king swore and said, “As Yahweh lives who has redeemed my soul out of all adversity, 30just as I swore to you by Yahweh, the God of Israel, saying, ‘Indeed, Solomon your son will reign as king after me, and he will sit on my throne in my place,’ indeed, so I will do this day.”

31Then Bathsheba kneeled and bowed down with her face to the earth before the king and said, “Let my lord King David live forever!”

32Then King David said, “Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada.” So they came before the king. 33And the king said to them, “Take with you the servants of your lord and have Solomon my son ride on my mule and bring him down to Gihon. 34Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet will anoint him king over Israel there. Then blow the shofar and say, ‘Long live King Solomon!’ 35Then you are to come up after him and he is to come and to sit on my throne, for he is to reign as king in my place. He *is the one* I have appointed to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.”

36Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king and said, “Amen. So says Yahweh, the God of my lord the king! 37As Yahweh has been with my lord the king, so may he be with Solomon and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David.”

38So Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and the Cherethites and the Pelethites went down; and they had Solomon ride on King David’s mule and brought him to Gihon. 39Then Zadok the priest took the horn of oil *that he had taken* from the Tent, and anointed Solomon. They blew the shofar and all the people said, “Long live King Solomon!” 40All the people went up after him, and the people piped with pipes and rejoiced with great joy so that the earth split with their sound.

Adonijah Hears of Solomon’s Coronation

41Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they finished eating. When Joab heard the sound of the shofar, he said, “Why is the city making such an uproar?” 42While he was still speaking, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came. And Adonijah said, “Come in, for you are an honorable man and bring good news.”

43Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, “The truth is that our lord King David has made Solomon king. 44The king has sent with him Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and they have had him ride on the king’s mule. 45And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king in Gihon. They have come up from there rejoicing so that the city is in an uproar. This is the noise that you have heard. 46Also, Solomon sits on the throne of the kingdom.

47“Also, the king’s servants came to bless our lord King David, saying, ‘May your God make the name of Solomon better than your name and make his throne greater than your throne,’ and the king bowed down on the bed. 48The king also said this: ‘Blessed be Yahweh, the God of Israel, who has given one to sit on my throne this day, and my eyes see it!’”

49Then all those who were called, who were for Adonijah, were afraid and rose up and each one went his way. 50Adonijah was afraid because of Solomon, and he arose and went and took hold of the horns of the altar.

51And it was told to Solomon, saying, “Behold, Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon, for behold, he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, ‘Let King Solomon swear to me this day that he will not kill his servant with the sword.’”

52Then Solomon said, “If he proves to be an honorable man, not a hair of his will fall to the earth, but if evil is found in him, he will die.” 53So King Solomon sent and they brought him down from the altar, and he came and bowed down to King Solomon. And Solomon said to him, “Go to your house.”

**1 Kings Chapter 2**

David's Instructions to Solomon

1Now the days drew near for David to die, and he commanded Solomon his son, saying, 2“I am going the way of all the earth. So be strong and be a man, 3and keep the injunction of Yahweh your God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, his commandments, his ordinances and his testimonies according to that which is written in the Law of Moses, so that you will prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, 4so that Yahweh will establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, ‘If your sons guard their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,’ he said, ‘there will not be cut off from you a man on the throne of Israel.’

5“Now also you know what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me; what he did to the two commanders of the armies of Israel, to Abner the son of Ner and to Amasa the son of Jether whom he killed, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war on his belt that was around his waist and on his sandals that were on his feet. 6So act according to your wisdom and do not let his gray head go down to Sheol in peace.

7“But show loyalty to the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite and let them be among those who eat at your table, for with such *loyalty* they came to me when I fled from Absalom your brother.

8“And behold, you have with you Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjamite of Bahurim, who cursed me with a malicious curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim; but he came down to meet me at the Jordan and I swore to him by Yahweh, saying, ‘I will not put you to death with the sword.’ 9So now do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man and you will know what you ought to do to him, and you will bring his gray head down to Sheol with blood.”

The Death of David

10And David laid down with his fathers and was buried in the City of David. 11The days that David reigned over Israel were 40 years; he reigned seven years in Hebron and he reigned 33 years in Jerusalem. 12And Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established.

Solomon's Reign Established

13Now Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. And she said, “Do you come peaceably?”

He said, “Peaceably.” 14He said, “I have something to say to you.”

She said, “Speak.”

15He said, “You know that the kingship was mine and that all Israel set their faces on me to reign. However, the kingship has turned around and has become my brother’s, for it was his from Yahweh. 16Now one request I request of you. Do not turn me down.”

She said to him, “Speak.”

17He said, “Please speak to Solomon the king (for he will not turn you down) that he give me Abishag the Shunammite as a wife.”

18And Bathsheba said, “Very well. I will speak about you to the king.”

19So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him about Adonijah. The king rose up to meet her and bowed down before her, and sat down on his throne and had a throne placed for the king’s mother; she sat on his right hand. 20Then she said, “One small request I request of you; do not turn me down.”

The king said to her, “*Make your* request, my mother, for I will not turn you down.”

21And she said, “Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah your brother as a wife.”

22Then King Solomon answered his mother, “Why are you requesting Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask the kingship for him also, for he is my elder brother; *ask* for him, and for Abiathar the priest and for Joab the son of Zeruiah.” 23Then King Solomon swore by Yahweh, saying, “God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah has not spoken this word against his own life. 24So now, as Yahweh lives who has established me and set me on the throne of David my father and who has made me a house as he promised, surely Adonijah will be put to death this day!” 25And King Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he struck him and he died.

26Then to Abiathar the priest the king said, “Go to Anathoth, to your own fields, for you are deserving of death. But I will not put you to death at this time because you carried the ark of the Lord Yahweh before David my father and because you were afflicted in everything in which my father was afflicted.” 27So Solomon expelled Abiathar from being priest to Yahweh, fulfilling the word of Yahweh that he spoke concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.

28The report came to Joab (for Joab had inclined after Adonijah though he had not inclined after Absalom) and Joab fled to the Tent of Yahweh and took hold on the horns of the altar.

29And King Solomon was told, “Joab has fled to the Tent of Yahweh, and behold, he is beside the altar.” Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, “Go strike him.”

30So Benaiah came to the Tent of Yahweh and said to him, “This is what the king says: ‘Come out!’”

He said, “No, but I will die here.”

Benaiah brought back word to the king, saying, “Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me.”

31The king said to him, “Do as he has said and strike him and bury him so that you take away from me and from my father’s house the innocent blood that Joab shed. 32Yahweh will return his blood on his own head because he struck two men more righteous and better than he, and killed them with the sword, and my father David did not know it: Abner the son of Ner, commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, commander of the army of Judah. 33So their blood will return on the head of Joab and on the head of his seed forever. But to David and to his seed and to his house and to his throne there will be peace forever from Yahweh.”

34Then Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up and struck him down and killed him, and he was buried in his own house in the wilderness. 35And the king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada over the army in Joab’s place, and the king put Zadok the priest in the place of Abiathar.

36Then the king sent and called for Shimei and said to him, “Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and dwell there, and do not go out from there to anywhere *else*. 37For on the day you go out and cross over the Brook Kidron, know, yes, know that you will die, yes, die; your blood will be on your own head.”

38And Shimei said to the king, “*Your* word is good. As my lord the king has said, so your servant will do.” And Shimei lived in Jerusalem many days.

39But at the end of three years, two of the slaves of Shimei ran away to Achish son of Maacah, king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, “Behold, your slaves are in Gath.” 40So Shimei arose and saddled his donkey and went to Gath to Achish, to seek his servants; and Shimei went and brought his slaves from Gath.

41And Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and had returned. 42Then the king sent and called for Shimei and said to him, “Did I not have you swear by Yahweh, and warn you, saying, ‘Know, yes, know that on the day you leave and walk anywhere, you will die, yes, die?’ And you said to me, ‘The word I have heard is good.’ 43Why then have you not kept the oath of Yahweh and the commandment that I have commanded you?” 44And the king said to Shimei, “You knew all the wickedness that your heart knew that you did to David my father. So Yahweh will return your wickedness on your own head. 45But King Solomon is blessed and the throne of David will be established before Yahweh forever.”

46So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he went out and struck him so that he died. And the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.

**1 Kings Chapter 3**

Solomon Asks for Wisdom

1Solomon made a marriage alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt and took Pharaoh’s daughter and brought her into the city of David until he had finished building his own house and the house of Yahweh, and the wall around Jerusalem. 2Only the people were still sacrificing at the *local* shrines because there was no house built for the name of Yahweh until those days. 3And Solomon loved Yahweh, walking in the statutes of David his father; only he sacrificed and burned incense into smoke at the *local* shrines.

4The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the most important shrine. Solomon offered 1,000 burnt offerings on that altar. 5At Gibeon Yahweh appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask, what should I give you.”

6And Solomon said, “You have shown to your servant David my father great covenant faithfulness because he walked before you in truth and in righteousness and in uprightness of heart with you. You have kept this great covenant faithfulness to him by giving him a son to sit on his throne as it is this day.

7“Now, Yahweh my God, you have made your servant king instead of David my father, yet I am a young lad. I do not know how to go out or come in. 8Your servant is in the midst of your people that you have chosen, a great people that are too many to be numbered or counted. 9So give your servant an understanding heart to judge your people, that I may discern between good and evil; for who is able to judge this great people of yours?”

10And the word was good in the eyes of the Lord; that Solomon had asked this thing. 11God said to him, “Because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for discernment for yourself to understand justice, 12behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart so that there has been none like you before you, and after you, none will arise like you. 13I have also given you what you have not asked for, both riches and honor, so that there will not be anyone among the kings like you all your days. 14And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

15Then Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of Yahweh and offered up burnt offerings, offered peace offerings, and made a banquet for all his servants.

Solomon’s Wisdom

16Then two women who were prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. 17The one woman said, “Oh, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house. And I gave birth to a child while she was in the house. 18Then on the third day after I gave birth, this woman gave birth also. We were together. There was no stranger with us in the house, just the two of us were in the house. 19And this woman’s son died in the night because she lay on him. 20So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me while your servant slept and laid him in her bosom, while her son, the dead one, she laid in my bosom. 21But when I arose in the morning to nurse my son, behold, he was dead. But when I had looked at him in the morning, behold, he was not my son whom I had borne.”

22But the other woman said, “No! The living one is my son and the dead one is your son!”

But this one kept on saying, “No! For the dead one is your son and the living one is my son.” And they continued speaking *that way* before the king.

23Then the king said, “The one says, ‘This is my son, the living one, and your son is the dead one,’ and the other says, ‘No, but your son is the dead one and my son is the living one.’” 24The king said, “Get me a sword.” So they brought a sword before the king. 25And the king said, “Cut the living child in two and give half to the one and half to the other.”

26Then the woman whose son was the living one spoke to the king, for her heart yearned for her son, and she said, “Oh, my lord, give her the living child and do not kill him!”

But the other said, “He will not be either mine or yours. Cut *it*!”

27Then the king answered and said, “Give the first woman the living child and do not kill him. She is his mother.” 28All Israel heard of the judgment that the king had rendered, and they feared the king for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to carry out justice.

**1 Kings Chapter 4**

Solomon’s Officials and Governors

1And King Solomon was king over all Israel. 2These were the officials whom he had:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Azariah the son of Zadok the priest; |
| 3 | Elihoreph and Ahijah, the sons of Shisha, scribes;  Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, the recorder; |
| 4 | and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the army;  and Zadok and Abiathar were priests; |
| 5 | and Azariah the son of Nathan was over the officers;  and Zabud the son of Nathan was chief minister, the king’s friend; |
| 6 | and Ahishar was Over the House;  and Adoniram the son of Abda was over the forced labor. |

7And Solomon had 12 officers over all Israel who provided food for the king and his household; each having to provide for one month out of the year. 8These are their names:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Ben-hur in the hill country of Ephraim; |
| 9 | Ben-deker in Makaz and in Shaalbim and Beth-shemesh and Elon-beth-hanan; |
| 10 | Ben-hesed in Arubboth (he had Socoh and all the land of Hepher); |
| 11 | Ben-abinadab in all the height of Dor (he had Taphath the daughter of Solomon as a wife); |
| 12 | Baana the son of Ahilud in Taanach and Megiddo and all Beth-shean which is near Zarethan, below Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah as far as beyond Jokmeam; |
| 13 | Ben-geber in Ramoth-gilead (he had the towns of Jair the son of Manasseh, which are in Gilead; he had the region of Argob which is in Bashan, 60 large cities with walls and bronze bars); |
| 14 | Ahinadab the son of Iddo in Mahanaim; |
| 15 | Ahimaaz in Naphtali (he also took Basemath the daughter of Solomon as a wife); |
| 16 | Baana the son of Hushai in Asher and Bealoth; |
| 17 | Jehoshaphat the son of Paruah in Issachar; |
| 18 | Shimei the son of Ela in Benjamin; |
| 19 | Geber the son of Uri in the land of Gilead, the country of Sihon king of the Amorites and of Og king of Bashan; and one officer who was in the land. |

Solomon’s Daily Provisions

20Judah and Israel were as many as the sand that is by the sea in abundance, eating and drinking and rejoicing. 21Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt; they brought tribute, and served Solomon all the days of his life.

22Solomon’s provision for one day was 30 cors[[1]](#footnote-31636) of fine flour and 60 cors of flour, 2310 fattened cattle and 20 cattle out of the pastures and 100 sheep, besides harts and gazelles and roebucks and fattened fowl. 24For he had dominion over everything on this side of the River, from Tiphsah to Gaza, over all the kings on this side the River, and he had peace on all sides around him. 25Judah and Israel lived safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan to Beer-sheba, all the days of Solomon. 26Solomon had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots and 12,000 horsemen. 27Those officers provided food for king Solomon and for all who came to king Solomon’s table, each man in his month; they let nothing be lacking. 28They also brought barley and hay for the horses and the swift steeds to the place where it was required, each man according to his turn.

Solomon’s Wisdom

29And God gave Solomon wisdom and very great understanding, and depth of knowledge as vast as the sand on the seashore. 30Solomon’s wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the Children of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. 31For he was wiser than all men, than Ethan the Ezrahite and Heman and Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was in all the nations all around.

32And he spoke 3,000 proverbs and his songs were 1,005. 33And he spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of the wall; and he spoke of animals and of birds and of creeping things and of fish. 34And they came from all peoples to hear the wisdom of Solomon; from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom.

**1 Kings Chapter 5**

Preparations for Building the Temple

1And Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, for he had heard that they had anointed him king in the place of his father, for Hiram had always been a friend to David.

2Solomon sent to Hiram, saying, 3“You know that David my father could not build a house for the name of Yahweh his God because of the wars that surrounded him, until Yahweh put them under the soles of his feet. 4But now Yahweh my God has given me rest on every side. There is no adversary or evil incident. 5Behold, I intend to build a house for the name of Yahweh my God, as Yahweh spoke to David my father, saying, ‘Your son whom I will set on your throne in your place, he will build the house for my name.’

6“So now command that they cut down cedar trees from Lebanon for me. My servants will be with your servants, and I will give you wages for your servants according to whatever you say. For you know that there is not any among us who knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians.”

7And when Hiram heard the words of Solomon, he rejoiced greatly and said, “Blessed is Yahweh this day, who has given to David a wise son over this numerous people.” 8And Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, “I have heard *the message* that you have sent to me. I will do all that you desire concerning cedar timber and concerning cypress timber. 9My servants will bring them down from Lebanon to the sea. I will make them into rafts to go by sea to the place where you direct me, and I will have them separated there, and you can carry them up. As for you, you can fulfill my desire by giving food for my household.”

10So Hiram gave Solomon cedar timber and cypress timber according to all his desire. 11Solomon gave Hiram 20,000 cors[[2]](#footnote-26075) of wheat to his household for food, and 20 cors of pure oil. Solomon gave this to Hiram year after year.

12Yahweh gave Solomon wisdom as he promised him, and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them cut a covenant together.

Solomon’s Work Force

13King Solomon conscripted forced laborers out of all Israel, and the forced laborers numbered 30,000 men. 14He sent them to Lebanon, 10,000 a month in shifts; a month they were in Lebanon and two months at home, and Adoniram was over the forced labor. 15And Solomon had 70,000 burden bearers, and 80,000 stone cutters in the mountains; 16besides Solomon’s chief officers who were over the work, 3300, who ruled over the people doing the work. 17The king commanded, and they transported large stones, costly stones, to lay the foundation of the house with hewn stone. 18And Solomon’s builders and Hiram’s builders and the Gebalites carved them and prepared the timber and the stones to build the house.

**1 Kings Chapter 6**

Solomon Builds the Temple

1In the four hundred eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, in the month Ziv, which is the second month, he began to build the house of Yahweh. 2The house[[3]](#footnote-17493) that King Solomon built for Yahweh was 60 cubits long[[4]](#footnote-23524) and 20 cubits wide[[5]](#footnote-11635) and 30 cubits high.[[6]](#footnote-30092) 3The vestibule at the front of the Holy Place of the house[[7]](#footnote-16295) was 20 cubits wide,[[8]](#footnote-21581) equal to the width of the house, *and* it was ten cubits deep,[[9]](#footnote-18203) *and it was* at the front of the house. 4And he made framed niches for the house.

5Against the wall of the house he built stories all around, against the walls of the house around both the Holy Place and of the Holy of Holies; he made side rooms all around. 6The lowest story was five cubits wide and the middle one was six cubits wide and the third one was seven cubits wide, for on the outside of the house he made offsets in the wall all around, so that the beams would not have to be inserted into the walls of the house. 7The house, when it was being built, was built of stone prepared at the quarry, and there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard at the house while it was being built.

8The entrance for the lowest side rooms[[10]](#footnote-21455) was in the right side of the house, and they went up by winding stairs into the middle story and out of the middle *story* into the third *story*. 9So he built the house and finished it, and he roofed the house with beams and planks of cedar. 10And he built the stories along the entire house, each five cubits high,[[11]](#footnote-28177) and they were attached to the house with cedar timber.

11Now the word of Yahweh came to Solomon, saying, 12“As for this house that you are building, if you will walk in my statutes and execute my judgments and keep all my commandments, walking in them, then I will establish my word with you that I spoke to David your father. 13I will dwell among the children of Israel and will not forsake my people Israel.”

14So Solomon built the house and finished it. 15He built the interior walls of the house with boards of cedar; from the floor of the house to the rafters of the ceiling he covered them on the inside with wood, and he covered the floor of the house with boards of cypress. 16And 20 cubits from the back of the house he built *a wall* with boards of cedar from the floor to the rafters; he built it on the interior *of the Temple* as the inner sanctuary; the Holy of Holies. 17In front *of the Holy of Holies* was the Holy Place, which was 40 cubits.[[12]](#footnote-20932) 18There was cedar on the interior of the house, carved with gourds and open flowers; all was cedar, there was no stone seen.

19Now the inner sanctuary inside the house, in the interior, he prepared in order to set the ark of the covenant of Yahweh there. 20The interior of the inner sanctuary was 20 cubits in length[[13]](#footnote-24328) and 20 cubits in width and 20 cubits in its height, and he overlaid it with pure gold and he overlaid the altar of cedar. 21And Solomon overlaid the house inside with pure gold and he drew chains of gold across the front of the inner sanctuary, and he overlaid it with gold. 22The whole house he overlaid with gold until all the house was finished; also the whole altar that belonged to the inner sanctuary he overlaid with gold.

23In the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim of pinewood, each ten cubits high.[[14]](#footnote-29734) 24Five cubits[[15]](#footnote-23194) was the one wing of the cherub and five cubits was the other wing of the cherub; from the tip of the one wing to the tip of the other was ten cubits.[[16]](#footnote-11968) 25The other cherub was *also* ten cubits. Both of the cherubim were the same size and the same shape. 26The height of the one cherub was ten cubits and so was that of the second cherub. 27He set the cherubim inside the inner house, and the wings of the cherubim were stretched out so that the wing of the one touched one wall and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall, and their wings touched one another in the middle of the house. 28He overlaid the cherubim with gold.

29And he carved all around the walls of the house with carved figures of cherubim and palm trees and open flowers, *both* the inner and outer *rooms*. 30The floor of the house he overlaid with gold, *both* the inner and outer *rooms*.

31For the entrance of the inner sanctuary he made doors of pinewood; the doorframes had five recesses. 32And he made two doors of pinewood and he carved on them carvings of cherubim and palm trees and open flowers and overlaid them with gold, and he hammered the gold on the cherubim and on the palm trees. 33And also he made door frames of pinewood with four recesses for the entrance of the Holy Place, 34and two doors of cypress wood, one door pivoted on sockets and the other door pivoted on sockets. 35He carved cherubim and palm trees and open flowers and he overlaid them with gold fitted on the engraved work. 36He built the *wall of the* inner courtyard with three courses of cut stone and a course of cedar beams.

37In the fourth year *of Solomon’s reign* the foundation of the house of Yahweh was laid in the month Ziv. 38In the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, the house was finished in all its parts and according to all its specifications. So he was building it for seven years.

**1 Kings Chapter 7**

Solomon Builds His Palace

1Solomon was building his own house 13 years, and he finished all his house. 2For he built the House of the Forest of Lebanon; its length was 100 cubits[[17]](#footnote-21675) and its width 50 cubits[[18]](#footnote-26812) and its height 30 cubits[[19]](#footnote-30558) on four rows of cedar pillars with cedar *roof* beams on the pillars. 3It was roofed with cedar *planks* *that were set* on the roof beams, which were set on top of the pillars; 45 roof beams, 15 *groups of three* in the row. 4And there were framed windows in three rows, and opening opposite opening three times. 5All the doorways and doorposts had a square frame, and opening was opposite opening three times. 6And he made the Hall of Pillars; its length was 50 cubits and its width 30 cubits; and a vestibule in front of it and with pillars *supporting* a canopy. 7He made the Hall of the Throne where he was to judge, the Hall of Judgment, and it was covered with cedar from floor to floor. 8His house where he was to live, *which* had another courtyard behind this Hall, was of similar construction. He also made a house for Pharaoh’s daughter (whom Solomon had taken as a wife) like this Hall.

9All these were made of costly stones, even of cut stone, *cut* according to measure, sawed with saws inside and outside, from the foundation to the coping,[[20]](#footnote-13497) and from the outside to the great courtyard. 10The foundation was of costly stones, even large stones, stones of ten cubits[[21]](#footnote-16664) and stones of eight cubits.[[22]](#footnote-22500) 11And above *these* were costly stones, cut stone, *cut* according to measure, and cedar wood. 12The great court had three courses of cut stone *all* around, and a course of cedar beams, just like the inner court of the house of Yahweh and the vestibule of the house.

The Temple Furnishings

13King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre. 14He was the son of a widow of the tribe of Naphtali and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in bronze. And he was filled with wisdom and understanding and skill to make all kinds of works in bronze. He came to King Solomon and made all his works.

15For he formed the two pillars of bronze; 18 cubits high was the one column,[[23]](#footnote-29176) and the circumference was 12 cubits,[[24]](#footnote-14708) and the second column was the same. 16He made two capitals of cast bronze to set on the tops of the pillars; the height of the one capital was five cubits[[25]](#footnote-17529) and the height of the other capital was five cubits. 17There were lattices of latticework and wreaths of chainwork for the capitals that were on the top of the pillars, seven for the one capital and seven for the other capital.

18And he made the two pillars, and he made two rows of pomegranates around the latticework, covering the capital that was on the top of the one, and he did the same with the other capital. 19The capitals that were on the top of the pillars at the vestibule were of lily design, four cubits.[[26]](#footnote-21293) 20There were capitals on the two pillars, which were also above the rounded projection that was beside the latticework. And there were 200 pomegranates in rows around it, *and* on the other capital. 21He set up the pillars for the vestibule of the Temple, and he set up the right pillar and called its name Jachin, and he set up the left pillar and called its name Boaz. 22On the top of the pillars was lily design. Thus the work of the pillars was finished.

23He made the cast metal sea of ten cubits[[27]](#footnote-10008) from brim to brim, circular in form, and its height was five cubits,[[28]](#footnote-23475) and it was 30 cubits[[29]](#footnote-22374) in circumference. 24Under its brim around there were gourds that encircled it, ten to a cubit,[[30]](#footnote-11552) encircling the sea; the gourds were in two rows, cast when it was cast. 25It stood on 12 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 top of them, and all their hindquarters were inward. 26It was a handbreadth thick[[31]](#footnote-25360) and its brim was worked like the brim of a cup, like the flower of a lily, *and* it held 2,000 baths.

27He made ten stands of bronze; four cubits[[32]](#footnote-16259) was the length of each stand and four cubits its width, and three cubits its height.[[33]](#footnote-27312) 28The design of the stands was like this: they had frames, and the frames were between the crosspieces, 29and in the frames that were between the crosspieces were lions, oxen, and cherubim, and on the crosspieces, both above and beneath the lions and oxen, there were wreaths of hammered work. 30Every stand had four bronze wheels with axles of bronze, and the four legs of it had supports *for the basin*; beneath the basin were the cast supports with wreaths at the side of each *leg*. 31And the opening of it *was* on the inside of the crown that *went* above *the stand* for a cubit[[34]](#footnote-24337) and its opening was round, resembling the workmanship of the stand, a cubit and a half;[[35]](#footnote-23426) and also on its opening were engravings, and their frames were square, not round. 32The four wheels were underneath the frames, and the axle struts of the wheels were in the stand, and the height of a wheel was a cubit and a half.[[36]](#footnote-17366) 33The design of the wheels was like the design of a chariot wheel; their axle struts and their rims and their spokes and their hubs were all cast metal. 34There were four supports at the four corners of each stand; its supports were part of the stand itself. 35And at the top of the stand there was a circular band half a cubit high; and on the top of the stand its supports and its frames were of one piece with it. 36On the panels of its supports and on its frame he engraved cherubim, lions and palm trees, according to the space on each, with wreaths all around. 37This was how he made the ten stands: all of them had the same casting, the same measurements, and the same shape.

38And he made ten basins of bronze: each basin contained 40 baths and each basin was four cubits,[[37]](#footnote-11071) and on every one of the ten stands was one basin. 39He set the stands, five on the right side of the house and five on the left side of the house, and he set the sea on the right side of the house, east *of it*, but toward the south. 40And Hiram *also* made the pots and the shovels and the sprinkling bowls.

So Hiram finished doing all the work that he did for King Solomon on the house of Yahweh: 41the two pillars and the two bowl-shaped capitals that were on the top of the pillars, and the two latticeworks for covering the two bowl-shaped capitals that were on the top of the pillars; 42and the 400 pomegranates for the two latticeworks, two rows of pomegranates for each latticework for covering the two bowl-shaped capitals that were on the pillars, 43and the ten stands, and the ten basins on the stands; 44and the one sea, and the 12 oxen under the sea, 45and the pots and the shovels and the sprinkling bowls: all these accessories that Hiram made for King Solomon in the house of Yahweh were of burnished bronze. 46The king cast them in the plain of the Jordan, in the thickness of the ground between Sukkoth and Zarethan. 47Solomon left all the utensils unweighed because there were so many of them; the weight of the bronze was not measured.

48And Solomon made all the articles that were for the house of Yahweh: the golden altar and the table that had the Bread of the Presence were of gold, 49and the menorahs, five on the right side and five on the left in front of the inner sanctuary, of pure gold; and the floral work and the lamps and the tongs, of gold; 50and the cups and the snuffers and the sprinkling bowls and the spoons and the firepans of pure gold; and the panels, both for the doors of the inner house, the Holy of Holies, and for the doors of the house, that is the Holy Place, of gold.

51Thus all the work that King Solomon did for the house of Yahweh was finished. And Solomon brought in the holy objects of David his father, the silver and the gold and the utensils, and put them in the treasuries of the house of Yahweh.

**1 Kings Chapter 8**

The Dedication of the Temple

1Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers’ households of the children of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the covenant of Yahweh out of the city of David, which is Zion. 2All the men of Israel came together to King Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month.

3All the elders of Israel came, and the priests lifted up the ark. 4Then they brought up the ark of Yahweh and the Tent of Meeting and all the holy utensils that were in the Tent; these *things* the priests and the Levites brought up. 5King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel that had assembled to him were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be counted or numbered. 6The priests brought in the ark of the covenant of Yahweh to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the house, to the Holy of Holies, under the wings of the cherubim. 7For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim covered the ark and its poles from above. 8But the poles were so long that the ends of the poles could be seen from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen *from* outside *the Temple*; and there they are to this day. 9There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses put there at Horeb when Yahweh cut a covenant with the children of Israel when they came out of the land of Egypt.

10And when the priests had come out of the holy *place*, the cloud filled the house of Yahweh 11so that the priests were not able to stand up to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of Yahweh filled the house of Yahweh.

Solomon Blesses the Lord

12Then Solomon said,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “Yahweh has said that he would dwell in the thick cloud. |
| 13 | I have built, yes, built you a magnificent house,  a place for you to dwell in forever.” |

14The king turned his face around and blessed all the assembly of Israel, and all the assembly of Israel stood. 15And he said,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “Blessed is Yahweh, the God of Israel,  who with his hand has fulfilled what he spoke with his mouth to my father David  saying, |
| 16 | ‘Since the day that I brought my people Israel out of Egypt,  I have not chosen any city out of all the tribes of Israel to build a house  for my name to be there,  but I chose David to be over my people Israel.’ |
| 17 | Now it was in the heart of David my father  to build a house for the name of Yahweh, the God of Israel. |
| 18 | But Yahweh said to David my father,  ‘Because it was in your heart to build a house for my name,  you did well that it was in your heart. |
| 19 | Nevertheless, you are not to build the house,  but your son who will come from your body,  he will build the house for my name.’ |
| 20 | Yahweh has established his word that he spoke,  for I have risen up in the place of David my father  and I sit on the throne of Israel as Yahweh promised,  and have built the house for the name of Yahweh, the God of Israel. |
| 21 | I have made a place for the ark.  *In* there is the covenant of Yahweh,  which he cut with our fathers  when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.” |

Solomon's Prayer of Dedication

22Then Solomon stood before the altar of Yahweh in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven. 23Then he said,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “O Yahweh, the God of Israel,  there is no God like you  in heaven above or on earth beneath,  who keeps the covenant and covenant faithfulness with your servants  who walk before you with all their heart. |
| 24 | You have kept what you spoke to your servant David my father.  You spoke with your mouth  and have fulfilled it with your hand,  as it is this day. |
| 25 | So now may Yahweh the God of Israel  keep for your servant David my father  what you have spoken to him, saying,  ‘You will not fail to have a man sit in my presence on the throne of Israel,  if only your sons guard their way, to walk before me  as you have walked before me.’ |
| 26 | So now, O God of Israel,  let your word be confirmed,  which you spoke to your servant David my father. |
| 27 | “But will God actually dwell on the earth?  Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain you,  how much less this house that I have built! |
| 28 | Yet have respect for the prayer of your servant and for his supplication,  O Yahweh my God,  to listen to the cry and to the prayer  that your servant is praying before you this day, |
| 29 | that your eyes may be open toward this house night and day—  toward the place of which you said,  ‘My name will be there’—  to listen to the prayer  that your servant will pray toward this place. |
| 30 | Listen to the supplication of your servant  and of your people Israel  when they pray toward this place.  Yes, hear in heaven, your dwelling place,  and when you hear, forgive. |
| 31 | “If a person sins against his neighbor  and he lifts up an oath-curse upon him,  to put him under the oath-curse,  and he comes with the oath-curse  before your altar in this house, |
| 32 | then hear in heaven, and act,  and judge your servants,  condemning the wicked person by bringing his way on his own head  and declaring the righteous person *to be* righteous  by giving to him according to his righteousness. |
| 33 | “When your people Israel are struck down before the enemy  because they have sinned against you,  if they return to you and praise your name  and pray and make supplication to you  in this house, |
| 34 | then hear in heaven  and forgive the sin of your people Israel  and bring them again to the land  that you gave to their fathers. |
| 35 | “When heaven is shut up and there is no rain  because they have sinned against you,  if they pray toward this place  and praise your name  and turn from their sin  because you afflict them, |
| 36 | then hear in heaven  and forgive the sin of your servants  and of your people Israel—  since you teach them the good way  in which they should walk—  and send rain on your land  that you have given to your people as an inheritance. |
| 37 | “If there is famine in the land,  if there is pestilence,  if there is blight, mildew, locust or caterpillar,  if their enemy besieges them  in the land of their cities,  whatever affliction, whatever sickness there is, |
| 38 | whatever prayer and supplication is made  by any person, or by all your people Israel,  everyone who knows the affliction of his heart  and spreads out his hands toward this house, |
| 39 | then you hear in heaven your dwelling place,  and forgive, and act, and give to every person, whose heart you know,  according to all his ways  (because you, you only, know the hearts of all the children of men), |
| 40 | that they may fear you  all the days that they live in the land  that you gave to our fathers. |
| 41 | “Also, concerning the foreigner who is not of your people Israel,  when he comes out of a far away country  because of your name |
| 42 | (for they will hear of your great name,  and of your mighty hand, and of your outstretched arm),  and he comes and prays toward this house, |
| 43 | *then* you hear in heaven, your dwelling place,  and do according to all that the foreigner asks you,  so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name,  to fear you like your people Israel,  and so that they know that this house that I have built  is called by your name. |
| 44 | “If your people go out to battle against their enemy  by whatever way you send them,  and they pray to Yahweh  toward the city that you have chosen  and toward the house that I have built for your name, |
| 45 | then in heaven, hear their prayer and their supplication  and do what is right *for* them. |
| 46 | “If they sin against you  (for there is no person who does not sin)  and you are angry with them  and give them to the enemy  so that they carry them away captive to the land of the enemy,  *whether it is* far away or near; |
| 47 | yet if they will turn their heart  in the land where they are carried captive  and repent and plead to you for mercy  in the land of those who carried them captive, saying,  ‘We have sinned and have committed iniquity;  we have acted wickedly,’ |
| 48 | if they return to you with all their heart and with all their soul  in the land of their enemies who carried them captive,  and they pray to you toward their land  that you gave to their fathers,  the city that you have chosen  and the house that I have built for your name, |
| 49 | then hear their prayer and their supplication in heaven  your dwelling place and do what is right *for* them. |
| 50 | and forgive your people  who have sinned against you  and all their transgressions  in which they have transgressed against you;  and grant them compassion  before those who carried them captive,  that they may have compassion on them |
| 51 | (for they are your people and your inheritance  that you brought out of Egypt,  from the midst of the iron furnace) |
| 52 | that your eyes may be open to the plea of your servant  and to the plea of your people Israel,  to listen to them whenever they cry out to you. |
| 53 | For you separated them  from among all the peoples of the earth  to be your inheritance,  as you spoke by the hand of Moses your servant  when you brought our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord Yahweh.” |

Solomon’s Blessing

54And when Solomon finished praying all this prayer and supplication to Yahweh, he arose from in front of the altar of Yahweh, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread out toward heaven. 55And he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying, 56“Blessed be Yahweh who has given rest to his people Israel in accordance with all that he promised. There has not failed one word of all his good promise that he promised by the hand of Moses his servant. 57May Yahweh our God be with us as he was with our fathers. May he not leave us or forsake us, 58inclining our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments that he commanded our fathers. 59Let these words of mine, with which I have made supplication before Yahweh, be near to Yahweh our God day and night, that he may render justice for his servant and render justice for his people Israel as each day requires, 60so that all the peoples of the earth may know that Yahweh, he is God. There is no other! 61So, let your heart be wholly devoted to Yahweh our God, to walk in his statutes and to keep his commandments, as it is today.”

62The king and all Israel with him were offering sacrifices before Yahweh, 63and Solomon offered the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to Yahweh, 22,000 head of cattle and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of Yahweh.

64On that day the king consecrated the middle of the court that was in front of the house of Yahweh, for there he offered the burnt offering and the grain offering and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar that was before Yahweh was too small to receive the burnt offering and the grain offering and the fat of the peace offerings.

65So Solomon held the feast at that time and all Israel with him, a great assembly from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of Egypt before Yahweh our God, seven days and seven *more* days; 14 days. 66On the eighth day he sent the people away, and they blessed the king and went to their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the good things that Yahweh had done for David his servant and for Israel his people.

**1 Kings Chapter 9**

Yahweh Appears to Solomon

1And when Solomon had finished the building of the house of Yahweh and the king’s house and all Solomon’s desire that he was pleased to do, 2that Yahweh appeared to Solomon a second time like he had appeared to him at Gibeon. 3And Yahweh said to him,

“I have heard your prayer and your supplication that you have made before me. I have made this house holy that you have built to put my name there forever; and my eyes and my heart will be there perpetually.

4“As for you, if you will walk before me as David your father walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you, keeping my statutes and my ordinances, 5then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, just as I promised to David your father, saying, ‘You will never fail to have a descendant on the throne of Israel.’

6“But if you turn, yes, turn away from following me, you or your children, and not keep my commandments and my statutes that I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, 7then I will cut off Israel from the face of the land that I have given them, and this house that I have made holy for my name I will cast out of my sight, and Israel will be a proverb and a taunt among all peoples. 8And this house, which is now so exalted, everyone passing by it will be astonished and will whistle, and they will say, ‘Why has Yahweh done this to this land and to this house?’ 9And they will answer, ‘Because they forsook Yahweh their God who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and they embraced other gods and worshiped them and served them. That is why Yahweh has brought all this evil on them.’”

King Hiram’s 20 Towns

10Now it was at the end of 20 years, during which time Solomon had built the two houses, the house of Yahweh and the king’s house 11(now Hiram the king of Tyre had supplied Solomon with cedar trees and fir trees and with gold; as much as he desired), that then King Solomon gave Hiram 20 towns in the land of Galilee. 12And Hiram came out from Tyre to see the towns that Solomon had given him, but they did not please him. 13So he said, “What towns are these that you have given me, my brother?” So he called them the land of Cabul to this day. 14Now Hiram had sent to the king 120 talents of gold.

Solomon’s Forced Labor

15Now this is the account of the forced labor that King Solomon conscripted to build the house of Yahweh and his own house, and the Millo, and the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor and Megiddo and Gezer. 16Pharaoh king of Egypt had gone up and captured Gezer and burned it with fire, and killed the Canaanites who lived in the city and gave it for a dowry to his daughter, Solomon’s wife. 17Solomon built up Gezer and Lower Beth-horon 18and Baalath and *also* Tamar in the wilderness, in the land, 19and all the storage cities that Solomon had, and the cities for his chariots and the cities for his horsemen and for whatever Solomon desired to build for his pleasure in Jerusalem, and in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion.

20As for all the people who remained of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, who were not of the children of Israel, 21their children who were left after them in the land whom the children of Israel were not able to devote to destruction, from them Solomon conscripted forced laborers to this day. 22But Solomon did not make any slaves of the children of Israel, but they were the men of war, and his servants, and his officials, and his captains, and commanders of his chariots and of his horsemen. 23These were the commanders of the officers who were over Solomon’s work, 550 *men* who ruled over the people who were doing the work.

Solomon’s Other Activities

24As soon as Pharaoh’s daughter came up out of the city of David to her house that Solomon had built for her, then he built Millo.

25Solomon offered burnt offerings and peace offerings on the altar that he built to Yahweh three times a year, and burned incense into smoke along with them on the altar that was before Yahweh. So Solomon gave completeness to the house.

26And King Solomon made a fleet of ships in Ezion-geber that is beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red Sea in the land of Edom. 27Hiram sent *some of* his servants in the fleet, sailors who had knowledge of the sea, along with the servants of Solomon. 28They came to Ophir and took gold from there, 420 talents, and brought it to King Solomon.

**1 Kings Chapter 10**

The Queen of Sheba Visits Solomon

1Now the Queen of Sheba had been hearing of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of Yahweh, and she came to test him with difficult questions. 2She came to Jerusalem with a very large entourage; with camels carrying spices and gold in great abundance, and precious stones. And when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about everything that was on her heart. 3Solomon told her *the answer to* all her questions; there was not anything hidden from the king that he did not tell her. 4When the Queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, and the house that he had built 5and the food of his table, and the seating of his servants,[[38]](#footnote-21300) and the attendance of his waiters and their clothing, and his cupbearers, and his burnt offering that he offered up at the house of Yahweh, she was left breathless.

6And she said to the king, “It was a true report that I heard in my own land of your words and of your wisdom. 7But I did not believe the words until I came and my eyes had seen it. But behold, the half was not told to me! You exceed in wisdom and prosperity the report that I heard. 8Happy are your men, happy are these your servants who stand continually before you, who hear your wisdom. 9May Yahweh your God be blessed, who has delighted in you, to set you on the throne of Israel. Because Yahweh loved Israel forever, therefore he made you king to carry out justice and righteousness.”

10She gave the king 120 talents of gold, and spices in great abundance, and precious stones. There never came again such an abundance of spices as these that the Queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

11Also, the fleet of Hiram that brought gold from Ophir brought from Ophir a great abundance of almug trees and precious stones. 12The king made staircases for the house of Yahweh and for the king’s house from the almug wood, also harps and lyres for the singers; no such almug wood had come *before*, and none has been seen *again* until to this day.

13King Solomon gave to the Queen of Sheba all her desire, whatever she asked, in addition to what Solomon gave her of his royal bounty. So she turned and went to her own land, she and her servants.

Solomon's Great Wealth

14Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in a single year was 666 talents of gold, 15in addition to *what came from* the traders, and *from* the merchandise of the *traveling* merchants, and *what came* from all the kings of Arabia, and from the governors of the country.

16And King Solomon made 200 large shields of beaten gold; 600 shekels of gold[[39]](#footnote-17363) went to each large shield. 17And he made 300 shields of beaten gold; three minas of gold went into each shield. And the king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.

18And the king made a large throne of ivory and overlaid it with refined gold. 19The throne had six steps, and there was a rounded top at the back *of the throne*, and there were armrests on either side of the seat and two lions standing beside the armrests. 20Twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other on the six steps: there was nothing like it made in any kingdom.

21All king Solomon’s drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the House in the Forest of Lebanon were of pure gold. None were of silver; it was not considered of any *value* in the days of Solomon. 22For the king had at sea a fleet of Tarshish *ships*, with the fleet of Hiram; once every three years the fleet of Tarshish ships came, bringing gold and silver, ivory and apes and peacocks.

23So King Solomon was greater than all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom. 24And all the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom that God had put in his heart. 25And each one of them brought his tribute, articles of silver, and articles of gold, and clothing, and armor, and spices, horses and mules—that which was due year after year.

26And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen, and he had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen that he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king at Jerusalem. 27The king made silver to be *as abundant* in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedars to be as abundant as the sycamore trees that are in the Shephelah. 28And the import source of horses for Solomon was from Egypt and from Kue, and the king’s merchants would get them from Kue at a *fixed* price. 29A chariot was imported from Egypt for 600 shekels of silver,[[40]](#footnote-22627) and a horse for 150,[[41]](#footnote-28601) and likewise they exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and to the kings of the Syrians.

**1 Kings Chapter 11**

Solomon Turns from Yahweh

1And King Solomon loved many foreign women *along* with the daughter of Pharaoh; *including* Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, Hittites— 2*women* from the nations of which Yahweh had said to the children of Israel, “You are not to go among them, and they are not to go among you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love. 3And he had 700 wives, princesses, and 300 concubines, and his wives turned away his heart.

4For it came to pass when Solomon was old that his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly devoted to Yahweh his God as was the heart of David his father. 5For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. 6Solomon did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh and did not fully *follow* after Yahweh as did David his father.

7Then Solomon built a shrine for Chemosh the abomination of Moab on the mountain that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable *god* of the children of Ammon. 8And he did this for all his foreign wives who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

9So Yahweh was angry with Solomon because he had turned his heart away from Yahweh the God of Israel who had appeared to him twice, 10and had commanded him concerning this matter, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what Yahweh commanded.

11Therefore Yahweh said to Solomon, “Since this is what was in your mind, and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will tear, yes tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant. 12However, I will not do it in your days for David your father’s sake, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. 13Yet, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son for David my servant’s sake, and for Jerusalem’s sake, which I have chosen.”

Solomon’s Adversaries

14And Yahweh raised up an adversary to Solomon, Hadad the Edomite; he was a descendant of the king of Edom. 15For when David had been in Edom and Joab the captain of the army had gone up to bury the slain, and had struck down every male in Edom 16(for Joab and all Israel remained there six months, until he had cut off every male in Edom), 17that Hadad fled, he and certain Edomites of his father’s servants with him, to go into Egypt. Hadad was then a little child. 18And they arose out of Midian and came to Paran, and they took men with them out of Paran, and they came to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave him a house and appointed him food and gave him land. 19And Hadad found great favor in the eyes of Pharaoh, so he gave him as a wife the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the queen. 20The sister of Tahpenes bore him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh’s house; and Genubath was in Pharaoh’s house among the sons of Pharaoh.

21When Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers and that Joab the captain of the army was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, “Let me depart, that I can go to my own country.”

22Then Pharaoh said to him, “But what have you lacked with me that, behold, you are asking to go to your own country?”

He answered, “Nothing. But let me go.”

23And God raised up *another* adversary to him, Rezon the son of Eliada who had fled from his lord Hadadezer king of Zobah. 24When David killed the people *of Zobah,* Rezon gathered men to himself and became the leader over a raiding band, and they went to Damascus and lived in it and they ruled in Damascus. 25He was an adversary to Israel all the days of Solomon, besides the evil of Hadad; and he loathed Israel and reigned over Syria.

26And Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, whose mother’s name was Zeruah, a widow, he was a servant of Solomon; but he lifted up his hand against the king. 27This was the account of how he came to lift up *his* hand against the king: When Solomon built Millo and repaired the breach of the city of David his father, 28the man Jeroboam was a very capable man, and Solomon saw the young man, that he was someone who could get work done, and he put him in charge of all the labor of the house of Joseph.

29And at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met him on the road. Now Ahijah had covered himself with a new garment, and the two of them were alone in the field. 30Ahijah took hold of the new garment that he had on and tore it into 12 pieces. 31Then he said to Jeroboam, “Take ten pieces for yourself, for this is what Yahweh the God of Israel says, ‘Behold, I am about to tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you 32(but he will have one tribe for my servant David’s sake and for Jerusalem’s sake, the city that I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel), 33because that they have forsaken me and have worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon. They have not walked in my ways to do what is right in my eyes and to keep my statutes and my ordinances, like David his father did.

34“‘However I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, but I will make him leader all the days of his life for David my servant’s sake whom I chose, who kept my commandments and my statutes; 35but I will take the kingship out of his son’s hand and will give it to you; the ten tribes. 36But to his son I will give one tribe so that there will be a lamp of David my servant always before me in Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen for myself to put my name there. 37And I will take you, and you may reign over all that your soul desires, and you will be king over Israel.

38“‘It will be, if you will listen to all that I command you and will walk in my ways and do what is right in my eyes, to keep my statutes and my commandments as David my servant did, that I will be with you and will build you a sure house as I built for David, and will give Israel to you. 39I will afflict the seed of David because of this, but not forever.’”

40So Solomon was seeking to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam arose and fled into Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and he was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

The Death of Solomon

41Now the rest of the acts of Solomon and all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the Book of the Acts of Solomon? 42Now the days that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was 40 years. 43And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David his father, and Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

**1 Kings Chapter 12**

Rehoboam Chooses Poorly

1Rehoboam went to Shechem, because all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king. 2And when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was still in Egypt where he had fled from the presence of King Solomon, and Jeroboam lived in Egypt, 3so they sent and called him), that Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, 4“Your father made our yoke hard, but now lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke that he put on us, and we will serve you.”

5And he said to them, “Depart for three days, then come back to me.” So the people departed. 6Then King Rehoboam sought advice from the old men who had stood before Solomon his father while he was still alive, saying, “How do you advise *me* to answer this people?”

7They spoke to him, saying, “If today you will be a servant to this people and will serve them, then answer them and speak good words to them, and they will always be your servants.”

8But he rejected the advice that the old men had given him, and he asked the advice of the young men who had grown up with him and who stood before him. 9He said to them, “How do you advise that we should answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, ‘Lighten the yoke that your father put on us’?”

10The young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, “This is what you should tell this people who spoke to you, saying, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, but lighten it for us.’” You should say to them, ‘My little *thing* is thicker than my father’s waist. 11And now, *although* my father loaded a heavy yoke upon you, I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.’”

12So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day as the king had spoken, saying, “Come back to me on the third day.” 13And the king answered the people harshly and rejected the advice of the old men that they had advised him, 14and spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.”

The Kingdom Divided

15So the king did not listen to the people, for it was a turn of events brought about from Yahweh in order to establish his word that Yahweh spoke by the hand of Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat. 16When all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king a word, saying,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “What portion do we have in David?  And there is no inheritance in the son of Jesse.  To your tents, O Israel!  Now see to your own house, David.” |

So Israel departed to their tents.

17But as for the children of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.

18Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was in charge of the forced labor, but all Israel pelted him with stones so that he died. But King Rehoboam managed to get up into his chariot to flee to Jerusalem. 19So Israel rebelled against the house of David to this day.

20And when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel; there was none that followed the house of David except the tribe of Judah only. 21When Rehoboam had come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin, 180,000 chosen men who were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingship again to Rehoboam the son of Solomon. 22But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying, 23“Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all the house of Judah and Benjamin and to the rest of the people, saying, 24‘This is what Yahweh says: “You are not to go up, nor fight against your brothers the children of Israel. Everyone return to his house, because this thing is from me.”’”

So they listened to the word of Yahweh and returned and went *home*, according to the word of Yahweh.

Jeroboam’s Idolatry

25Then Jeroboam built up Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived in it. And he went out from there and built up Penuel. 26And Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the kingdom will return to the house of David. 27If this people goes up to offer sacrifices in the house of Yahweh at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.”

28So the king sought advice and made two calves of gold, and he said to them, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, that brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” 29He set the one in Bethel and the other he put in Dan. 30This thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one, even to Dan.

31He made temple shrines, and he made priests from all sorts of the people *of Israel* who were not of the sons of Levi. 32Jeroboam made a pilgrimage festival in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast that is in Judah, and he went up to the altar; thus he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the shrines that he had made. 33He went up to the altar that he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month that he had devised in his own heart, and he made a festival for the children of Israel and went up on the altar to burn incense.

**1 Kings Chapter 13**

A Man of God Confronts Jeroboam

1And behold, a man of God came out of Judah to Bethel by the word of Yahweh, and Jeroboam was standing by the altar to burn incense. 2And he cried out against the altar by the word of Yahweh and said, “O Altar, altar, this is what Yahweh says: ‘Behold, a son will be born to the house of David, Josiah by name. On you he will sacrifice the priests of the shrines who burn incense on you, and they will burn human bones on you.’” 3And he gave a sign the same day, saying, “This is the sign that Yahweh has spoken: Behold, the altar will be split apart and the ash heap that is on it will be spilled out.”

4And when the king heard the words that the man of God had cried out against the altar in Bethel, that Jeroboam stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, “Seize him!” But his hand, which he stretched out against him, dried up so that he could not bring it back to himself. 5Also, the altar was split apart and the ash heap spilled out from the altar according to the sign that the man of God had given by the word of Yahweh.

6Then the king answered and said to the man of God, “Please appease the face of Yahweh your God and pray for me that my hand will be restored to me again.”

So the man of God appeased the face of Yahweh, and the king’s hand was restored to him again and became as it was before.

7Then the king said to the man of God, “Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a gift.”

8But the man of God said to the king, “Even if you gave me half of your house I would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink water in this place, 9for this is what I was commanded by the word of Yahweh, saying, ‘You must not eat bread, nor drink water, nor return by the road on which you came.’” 10So he went on another road and did not return by the road on which he came to Bethel.

The Old Prophet and the Man of God

11Now an old prophet lived in Bethel, and one of his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel. They also told their father the words that he had spoken to the king. 12And their father said to them, “Which road did he take?” Now his sons had seen which road the man of God who came from Judah had gone. 13Then he said to his sons, “Saddle the donkey for me.” So they saddled the donkey for him and he rode on it. 14He went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak. And he said to him, “Are you the man of God who came from Judah?”

He said, “I am.”

15Then he said to him, “Come home with me and eat bread.”

16But he said, “I am not to return with you, nor go with you, nor will I eat bread or drink water with you in this place. 17For the word to me, by the word of Yahweh, was, ‘You are not to eat bread and you are not to drink water there, *and* you are not to return by the road on which you came.’”

18But he said to him, “I also am a prophet, like you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of Yahweh, saying, ‘Bring him back with you into your house, so that he can eat bread and drink water’” (but he lied to him). 19So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house and drank water.

20And it came to pass as they sat at the table that the word of Yahweh came to the prophet who brought him back, 21and he cried out to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, “This is what Yahweh says: ‘Because you rebelled against the mouth of Yahweh and have not kept the commandment that Yahweh your God commanded you, 22but came back and have eaten bread and drank water in the place of which he said to you, “Do not eat bread, and do not drink water,” your corpse will not come to the tomb of your fathers.’”

23And after his eating and after his drinking, that he saddled the donkey for the prophet whom he had brought back. 24When he went, a lion found him on the road and killed him. His corpse was thrown on the road and the donkey stood by it. The lion also stood by the corpse.

25And behold, men passed by and saw the corpse thrown on the road and the lion standing by the corpse, and they went and reported it in the city where the old prophet lived. 26When the prophet who had brought him back from the road heard about it, he said, “It is the man of God who rebelled against the mouth of Yahweh so Yahweh has given him to the lion, which has mauled him and slain him according to the word of Yahweh that he spoke to him.”

27So he spoke to his sons, saying, “Saddle the donkey for me.” And they saddled it. 28Then he went and found his corpse thrown on the road, and the donkey and the lion standing by the corpse. The lion had not eaten the corpse, nor mauled the donkey. 29Then the prophet lifted up the corpse of the man of God and laid it on the donkey, and brought it back. He came to the city of the old prophet to mourn and to bury him. 30He laid his corpse in his own grave and they mourned over him, *saying,* “Alas, my brother!”

31And after he had buried him he spoke to his sons, saying, “When I die, bury me in the tomb where the man of God is buried. Lay my bones beside his bones, 32because the word that he cried out by the word of Yahweh against the altar in Bethel and against all the temples at the shrines that are in the cities of Samaria will come, yes, come to pass.”

33Even after this incident, Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but again made priests for the shrines from among all the people. Whoever wanted to, he ordained him, so that there would be priests for the shrines. 34And in this thing was the sin of the house of Jeroboam, for which it was cut off and destroyed from the face of the earth.

**1 Kings Chapter 14**

Ahijah’s Prophecy Against Jeroboam

1At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam became sick. 2So Jeroboam said to his wife, “Arise now, and disguise yourself, so that they will not know you are the wife of Jeroboam, and go to Shiloh. Behold, Ahijah the prophet is there, the one who spoke about me, that I would be king over this people. 3Take with you ten loaves, and biscuits, and a jar of honey, and go to him. He will tell you what will happen to the boy.”

4Jeroboam’s wife did so, and arose and went to Shiloh and came to the house of Ahijah. Now Ahijah could not see, for his eyesight was gone because of his age. 5Now Yahweh had said to Ahijah, “Behold, the wife of Jeroboam is coming to request a word from you about her son, for he is sick. Thus and thus you are to tell her, for when she comes she will pretend to be another *woman*.”

6And so, when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet as she came in the door, that he said, “Come in, O wife of Jeroboam! Why do you pretend to be another *woman*? For I am sent to you with a hard *message*. 7Go, tell Jeroboam, ‘This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: “Because I exalted you from among the people and made you ruler over my people Israel, 8and tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it you, and yet you have not been like my servant David, who kept my commandments and who followed me with all his heart to do only that which was right in my eyes, 9but have done more evil than all who were before you and have gone and made yourself other gods and cast *metal* images, making me angry, and have cast me behind your back; 10therefore, behold, I will bring evil on the house of Jeroboam.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “I will cut off from Jeroboam everyone who pisses against a wall,  he who is slave or free in Israel,  and will utterly burn up the house of Jeroboam  as a man burns up dung until it is all gone. |
| 11 | He who dies of Jeroboam in the city  the dogs will eat,  and he who dies in the field  the birds of the heavens will eat;  for Yahweh has spoken!”’ |

12“As for you, get up and go to your house. When your feet enter the city, the boy will die. 13All Israel will mourn for him and bury him, for he only of Jeroboam will come to a tomb, because in him there has been found some good thing toward Yahweh, the God of Israel, in the house of Jeroboam. 14And Yahweh will raise up for himself a king over Israel who will cut off the house of Jeroboam. This is the day! What *day*? Even now! 15For Yahweh will strike Israel as a reed is shaken in the water, and he will root up Israel out of this good land that he gave to their fathers and will scatter them beyond the *Euphrates* River, because they have made their Asherah poles, making Yahweh angry. 16And he will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he has sinned and with which he has made Israel sin.”

17Then Jeroboam’s wife arose and departed and came to Tirzah. As she came to the threshold of the house, the child died. 18All Israel buried him and mourned for him, according to the word of Yahweh that he spoke by his servant Ahijah the prophet.

The Death of Jeroboam

19The rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he waged war and how he reigned, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel. 20The days that Jeroboam reigned were 22 years; and he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his place.

Rehoboam King of Judah

21Now Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was 41 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 17 years in Jerusalem, the city that Yahweh had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel to put his name there; and his mother’s name was Naamah the Ammonite.

22Judah did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh and they made him jealous by the sins that they committed, *which were* more than all their fathers had done. 23For they also built for themselves shrines and standing-stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every green tree; 24and there were also male cult prostitutes in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations that Yahweh drove out before the children of Israel.

25And in the fifth year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, 26and he took away the treasures of the house of Yahweh and the treasures of the king’s house. He took it all away. He *also* took away all the shields of gold that Solomon had made. 27So King Rehoboam made shields of bronze to replace them and committed them to the hands of the commanders of the guard who protected the entrance of the king’s house. 28And whenever the king entered the house of Yahweh, the guard carried them and *then* brought them back into the guard’s room.

29Now the rest of the acts of Rehoboam and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Judah? 30And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually. 31Rehoboam slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David, and his mother’s name was Naamah the Ammonite. And Abijam his son reigned in his place.

**1 Kings Chapter 15**

Abijam Reigns in Judah

1Now in the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam the son of Nebat, Abijam became king over Judah. 2He reigned three years in Jerusalem, and his mother’s name was Maacah the daughter of Absalom.

3He walked in all the sins that his father before him had committed, and his heart was not wholly devoted to Yahweh his God as the heart of David his father *had been*. 4Nevertheless, for David’s sake Yahweh his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, setting up his son after him and establishing Jerusalem, 5because David did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh and did not turn aside from anything that he commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

6And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life. 7The rest of the acts of Abijam and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Judah? There was war between Abijam and Jeroboam. 8And Abijam slept with his fathers and they buried him in the city of David, and Asa his son reigned in his place.

Asa Reigns In Judah

9In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Asa became king over Judah. 10He reigned 41 years in Jerusalem, and his mother’s name[[42]](#footnote-32387) was Maacah the daughter of Absalom.

11Asa did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh, like his father David did. 12He removed the male *and female* cult prostitutes out of the land and got rid of all the idols that his fathers had made. 13Also Maacah his mother he removed from being queen mother because she had made a horrid thing as an Asherah; and Asa cut down her horrid thing and burned it at the Brook Kidron. 14But the shrines were not taken away, even though the heart of Asa was wholly devoted to Yahweh all his days. 15He brought into the house of Yahweh the things that his father had dedicated and the things that he had dedicated, silver and gold and *other* articles.

16And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days. 17Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and fortified Ramah in order to prevent anyone from going out or coming in to Asa king of Judah. 18Then Asa took all the silver and the gold that were left in the treasures of the house of Yahweh and the treasures of the king’s house and gave them into the hand of his servants, and King Asa sent them to Ben-hadad the son of Tabrimmon the son of Hezion, king of Syria, who lived at Damascus, saying, 19“There is a treaty between me and you, *as there was* between my father and your father. Behold, I have sent to you a gift of silver and gold. Go, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel, so that he will depart from me.”

20Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel, and struck Ijon and Dan and Abel-beth-maacah, and all Chinneroth, along with all the land of Naphtali. 21And when Baasha heard of it, he quit fortifying Ramah and stayed in Tirzah. 22Then King Asa made a proclamation to all Judah, no one was exempt, and they carried away the stones of Ramah, and the timber that Baasha had been building it with, and with them King Asa built up Geba of Benjamin, and Mizpah.

23Now the rest of all the acts of Asa, and all his might and all that he did and the cities that he built, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Judah? But in the time of his old age he was diseased in his feet. 24And Asa slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father, and Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place.

Nadab Reigns in Israel

25Nadab the son of Jeroboam became king over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel for two years. 26He did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh and walked in the way of his father and in his sin with which he made Israel sin.

27Baasha the son of Ahijah of the house of Issachar conspired against him, and Baasha struck him down at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines, for Nadab and all Israel were laying siege to Gibbethon. 28In the third year of Asa king of Judah, Baasha killed him and reigned in his place.

29And as soon as he became king he struck down all the house of Jeroboam. He did not leave anyone breathing who belonged to Jeroboam, until he had destroyed him according to the word of Yahweh that he spoke by his servant Ahijah the Shilonite 30because of the sins of Jeroboam that he sinned and with which he made Israel sin; because of his provocation with which he made Yahweh the God of Israel angry.

31Now the rest of the acts of Nadab and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel? 32There was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.

Baasha Reigns in Israel

33In the third year of Asa king of Judah, Baasha the son of Ahijah became king over all Israel *and reigned* in Tirzah for 24 years. 34He did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh and walked in the way of Jeroboam and in his sin with which he made Israel sin.

**1 Kings Chapter 16**

1The word of Yahweh came to Jehu the son of Hanani against Baasha, saying, 2“Because I raised you up out of the dust and made you ruler over my people Israel, but you have walked in the way of Jeroboam and have made my people Israel sin, making me angry by their sins, 3behold, I will burn up what remains of Baasha and what remains of his house, and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 4 | The dogs will eat anyone belonging to Baasha who dies in the city,  and the birds of heaven will eat anyone of his who dies in the field!” |

5Now the rest of the acts of Baasha and what he did, and his might, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel? 6And Baasha slept with his fathers and was buried in Tirzah, and Elah his son became king in his place. 7And also, by the prophet Jehu the son of Hanani the word of Yahweh came against Baasha and against his house because of all the evil that he did in the eyes of Yahweh, making him angry by the work of his hands in being like the house of Jeroboam, and *also* because he struck it down.

Elah Reigns in Israel

8In the twenty-sixth year of Asa king of Judah, Elah the son of Baasha became king over Israel in Tirzah *and he reigned* for two years.

9His servant Zimri, commander of half his chariots, conspired against him. Now Elah was in Tirzah drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza who was Over the House in Tirzah, 10and Zimri went in and struck him down and killed him in the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and became king in his place.

11And when he began to reign, as soon as he sat on his throne, he struck down all the house of Baasha; he did not leave him a single one who pisses against a wall, or *any* of his kinsman-redeemers or his friends. 12Thus Zimri destroyed all the house of Baasha according to the word of Yahweh that he spoke against Baasha by Jehu the prophet, 13for all the sins of Baasha and the sins of Elah his son that they sinned and with which they made Israel sin, making Yahweh the God of Israel angry by their worthless *idols*.

14Now the rest of the acts of Elah and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel?

Zimri Reigns in Israel

15In the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, Zimri became king *and reigned* seven days in Tirzah. Now the people were encamped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines. 16The people who were encamped heard it said, “Zimri has conspired and has also struck down the king.” So all Israel made Omri, the commander of the army, king over Israel that day in the camp. 17And Omri went up from Gibbethon, and all Israel with him, and they besieged Tirzah. 18And when Zimri saw that the city was captured, he went into the citadel of the king’s house and burned down the king’s house over him with fire, and he died 19for his sins that he sinned in doing what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh by walking in the way of Jeroboam and in his sin that he did, making Israel sin.

20Now the rest of the acts of Zimri and his conspiracy that he instigated, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel? 21Then were the people of Israel divided into two parts: half of the people followed Tibni the son of Ginath to make him king, and half followed Omri. 22But the people who followed Omri were stronger than the people who followed Tibni the son of Ginath, so Tibni died and Omri reigned.

Omri Reigns in Israel

23In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel for 12 years. He reigned six years in Tirzah. 24He bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver, and he built on the hill and called the name of the city that he built “Samaria,” after the name of Shemer, the lord of the hill.

25And Omri did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh; he did more evil than all who were before him. 26For he walked in all the ways of Jeroboam the son of Nebat and in his sins with which he made Israel sin, making Yahweh the God of Israel angry by their worthless *idols*. 27Now the rest of the acts of Omri that he did, and his might that he achieved, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel? 28And Omri slept with his fathers and was buried in Samaria, and Ahab his son became king in his place.

Ahab Reigns in Israel

29In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria 22 years. 30And Ahab the son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of Yahweh than all who were before him. 31And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians as a wife, and went and served Baal and worshiped him. 32He erected an altar for Baal at the temple of Baal that he built in Samaria. 33And Ahab made the Asherah, and Ahab continued to do more to make Yahweh the God of Israel angry than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

34In his days Hiel the Bethelite rebuilt Jericho. With Abiram his firstborn he laid its foundation and with his youngest son Segub he set up its gates, in accordance with the word of Yahweh that he had spoken by the hand of Joshua the son of Nun.

**1 Kings Chapter 17**

Elijah Announces a Drought

1Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As Yahweh the God of Israel lives before whom I stand, there will not be dew or rain these years except by my word.”

2And the word of Yahweh came to him, saying, 3“Go from here, turn eastward and hide yourself in the Wadi Cherith that is east of the Jordan, 4and you will drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to sustain you there.”

5So he went and did according to the word of Yahweh, for he went and lived in the Wadi Cherith that is east of the Jordan. 6The ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning and bread and flesh in the evening, and he drank from the brook. 7It came to pass after a while that the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

Elijah and the Widow

8Then the word of Yahweh came to him, saying, 9“Arise, go to Zarephath that belongs to Sidon, and stay there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to sustain you.” 10So he arose and went to Zarephath, and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks, and he called to her, and said, “Please get me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” 11As she was going to get it, he called to her and said, “Please bring me a piece of bread in your hand.”

12She said, “As Yahweh your God lives, I do not have any loaf baked, but *only* a handful of flour in the jar and a little oil in the jug. Behold, I am gathering two sticks so that I can go in and bake it for me and my son, that we may eat it and die.”

13Then Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid. Go and do as you have said, but make me a little loaf from it first, and bring it out to me, and afterward make some for you and for your son. 14For this is what Yahweh the God of Israel says: ‘The jar of flour will not be finished, nor will the jug of oil be lacking, until the day that Yahweh sends rain on the face of the land.’”

15She went and did according to the word of Elijah, and she ate, she and he and her house, for *many* days. 16The jar of flour was not finished, nor did the jug of oil lack, according to the word of Yahweh that he spoke by the hand of Elijah.

Elijah Raises the Widow's Son

17It came to pass after these things that the son of the woman, the owner of the house, became sick; and his sickness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. 18And she said to Elijah, “What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to mind and to kill my son!”

19Then he said to her, “Give me your son.” And he took him from her bosom and carried him up into the upper room where he was staying and laid him on his bed. 20And he cried out to Yahweh and said, “O Yahweh my God, have you also brought evil on the widow with whom I am staying by killing her son?” 21Then he stretched himself out upon the child three times and cried out to Yahweh and said, “O Yahweh my God, please let this child’s life return within him.”

22And Yahweh listened to the voice of Elijah, and the life of the child returned within him, and he lived! 23And Elijah took the child and brought him down out of the upper room into the house and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, “Look! Your son is alive!”

24Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now indeed I know that you are a man of God and that the word of Yahweh in your mouth is truth.”

**1 Kings Chapter 18**

Elijah Confronts Ahab

1Now after many days, in the third year, the word of Yahweh came to Elijah, saying, “Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the face of the land.” 2So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab.

Now the famine was severe in Samaria. 3And Ahab called for Obadiah, who was Over the House. (Now Obadiah feared Yahweh greatly, 4for when Jezebel cut off the prophets of Yahweh, Obadiah took 100 prophets and hid them by 50 in a cave, and supplied them with bread and water). 5And Ahab said to Obadiah, “Go throughout the land to all the springs of water and to all the brooks. Perhaps we may find grass and keep the horses and mules alive so that we do not have to slaughter some of the animals.” 6So they divided the land between them in order to go over *all* of it. Ahab went one way by himself and Obadiah went another way by himself.

7As Obadiah was on the road, behold, Elijah met him! And Obadiah recognized him and fell on his face and said, “Is it you, my lord Elijah?”

8He answered him, “It is I. Go, tell your lord, ‘Behold, Elijah is here!’”

9But he said, “How have I sinned, that you would give your servant over into the hand of Ahab to kill me? 10As Yahweh your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my lord has not sent to search for you. And they said, ‘He is not here.’ Then he made the kingdom or nation swear that they had not found you.

11“But now you say, ‘Go, tell your lord, “Behold, Elijah is here.”’ 12But then, as soon as I leave you the spirit of Yahweh will carry you to somewhere that I do not know, and so when I go and tell Ahab, and he cannot find you, he will kill me. But I, your servant, have feared Yahweh from my youth. 13Was my lord not told what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of Yahweh, how I hid 100 men of Yahweh’s prophets, with 50 men to a cave, and supplied them with bread and water? 14But now you say, ‘Go, tell your lord, “Behold, Elijah is here,”’ and he will kill me.”

15Then Elijah said, “As Yahweh of Armies lives, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself to him today.”

16So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah. 17And when Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is that you, O troubler of Israel?”

18And he answered, “I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father’s house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of Yahweh and you have followed the Baals. 19Now send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and *also* the prophets of Baal, 450, and the prophets of the Asherah, 400, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

The Prophets of Baal Defeated

20So Ahab sent to all the children of Israel and gathered the prophets to Mount Carmel. 21And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you leap *back and forth* between the two sides? If Yahweh is God, follow him, but if Baal, then follow him.” But the people answered him not a word.

22Then Elijah said to the people, “I am left of the prophets of Yahweh, I alone, but Baal’s prophets are 450 men. 23Now let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but do not put fire *under it.* And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood but will not put fire *under it*. 24Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of Yahweh. And it will be that the God who answers by fire—he is God!”

And all the people answered, “What you say is good.”

25Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire *under it*.”

26So they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “O Baal, answer us.” But there was no voice, nor any who answered. And they leaped around the altar they had made.

27Then at noon Elijah mocked them, and said, “Shout louder, for he is a god. Either he is thinking, or he stepped out *for a moment*, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened.” 28So they shouted louder and cut themselves according to their custom with knives and spears until the blood spilled out on them. 29And when noon had passed, they prophesied until the *time of* the *evening* offering, but there was no voice, no one answering, no one paying attention.

30Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me!” So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of Yahweh that was broken down. 31Then Elijah took twelve stones according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob to whom the word of Yahweh came, saying, “Israel will be your name,” 32and he built the stones *into* an altar in the name of Yahweh. And he made a trench around the altar large enough to contain two measures of seed. 33And he arranged the wood and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, “Fill four jugs with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.” 34And he said, “Do it a second time,” and they did it the second time. And he said, “Do it a third time,” and they did it the third time. 35And the water ran around the altar, and he also filled the trench with water.

36And at the time of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O Yahweh, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant, and that it is by your word that I have done all these things. 37Answer me, Yahweh, answer me, so that this people will know that you, Yahweh, are God, and that you have turned their heart back *to you*.”

38Then the fire of Yahweh fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. 39When all the people saw it they fell on their faces and said, “Yahweh, he is God! Yahweh, he is God!”

40And Elijah said to them, “Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!”

So they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there. 41And Elijah said to Ahab, “Get up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain.”

Yahweh Sends Rain

42So Ahab went up to eat and to drink, but Elijah went up to the top of Carmel, and he bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees. 43Then he said to his servant, “Go up now, look toward the sea.”

So he went up and looked and said, “There is nothing.”

And he said, “Go again,” seven times.

44And on the seventh time he said, “Behold, a small cloud, like a man’s hand, is rising out of the sea!”

Then he said, “Go up, tell Ahab, ‘Harness *your chariot* and go down so that the rain does not stop you.’”

45And in a little while the sky grew dark with clouds and wind and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel. 46And the hand of Yahweh was on Elijah, and he tucked his cloak into his belt and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

**1 Kings Chapter 19**

Elijah Flees Jezebel to Horeb

1And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and above all, that he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “May the gods do so to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow!”

3And he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beer-sheba that belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. 4But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he would die, and said, “It is enough. Now, O Yahweh, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers.” 5He lay down and slept under a broom tree, and behold, an angel touched him and said to him, “Get up! Eat!” 6He looked, and behold, at his head was a loaf *of bread* baked on the coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again. 7The angel of Yahweh came a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, because the journey is too much for you.” 8So he got up and ate and drank and went in the strength of that food for 40 days and 40 nights to Horeb, the mountain of God. 9He came there to the cave and lodged there.

Yahweh Speaks to Elijah

And behold, the word of Yahweh came to him, and he said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

10And he said, “I have been zealous, yes, zealous for Yahweh, the God of Armies, because the children of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I am left, I alone, and they seek my life, to take it.”

11He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before Yahweh.”

And behold, Yahweh passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before Yahweh, *but* Yahweh was not in the wind. After the wind was an earthquake, *but* Yahweh was not in the earthquake. 12After the earthquake *was* fire, *but* Yahweh was not in the fire, and after the fire a still small voice. 13And when Elijah heard *it*, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

And behold, a voice came to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

14And he said, “I have been zealous, yes, zealous for Yahweh, the God of Armies, because the children of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I am left, I alone, and they seek my life, to take it.”

15Yahweh said to him, “Go, return on your way toward the wilderness of Damascus. When you arrive, you are to anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. 16You are to anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi to be king over Israel, and you are to anoint Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah to be a prophet in your place. 17And he who escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill, and he who escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. 18Yet I will preserve 7,000 in Israel—all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

The Call of Elisha

19So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with 12 pairs of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. And Elijah crossed over to him and threw his cloak on him. 20So he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, “Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.”

And he said to him, “Go back, for what have I done to you?”

21So he returned from following him. Then he took the pair of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen’s *plowing* equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he got up and went after Elijah and served him.

**1 Kings Chapter 20**

Ben-hadad Attacks Samaria

1Now Ben-hadad the king of Syria gathered all his army together, and there were 32 kings with him, and horses and chariots, and he went up and besieged Samaria and fought against it. 2He sent messengers into the city to Ahab king of Israel, and said to him, “This is what Ben-hadad says: 3‘Your silver and your gold is mine. Your wives and your children, the best ones, are mine.’”

4And the king of Israel answered, “It is as you say, my lord, the king. I am yours and all that I have.”

5The messengers came again and said, “Ben-hadad says, ‘I sent to you, saying, “You are to give me your silver and your gold and your wives and your children! 6But at this time tomorrow I will send my servants and they will search your house and the houses of your servants, and it will be that whatever is pleasant in your eyes, they will put it in their hand and take it.”

7Then the king of Israel called all the elders of the land and said, “Notice now, and see that this man is *only* looking for trouble, for he sent to me for my wives and for my children and for my silver and for my gold, and I did not refuse him.”

8All the elders and all the people said to him, “Do not listen *to him*, and do not consent *to his demands*.”

9So he said to the messengers of Ben-hadad, “Tell my lord the king, all that you demanded of your servant the first time I will do, but this thing I cannot do.” So the messengers departed and brought back the message to him.

10Ben-hadad sent to him and said, “The gods do so to me, and more also, if the dust of Samaria will suffice for handfuls for all the people who follow me.”

11The king of Israel answered, “Tell him, ‘He who puts on his armor should not boast like he who takes it off.’”

12And when Ben-hadad heard this message as he was drinking, he and the kings, at Sukkoth, he said to his servants, “Prepare to attack!” So they prepared to attack the city.

Ahab Defeats Ben-hadad

13Behold, a prophet approached Ahab king of Israel and said, “This is what Yahweh says: ‘Have you seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will give it into your hand this day so that you will know that I am Yahweh.’”

14Ahab said, “By whom?”

He said, “This is what Yahweh says: ‘By the young men under the commanders of the provinces.’”

Then he said, “Who is to begin the battle?”

He answered, “You.”

15Then he mustered the young men under the commanders of the provinces, and they were 232. After them he mustered all the people, all the children of Israel: 7,000. 16They went out at noon. But Ben-hadad was drinking himself drunk at Sukkoth, he and the kings, the 32 kings who helped him. 17The young men under the commanders of the provinces went out first. Now Ben-hadad had sent out *scouts*, and they told him, saying, “Men are coming out from Samaria.”

18He said, “If they have come out for peace, take them alive, or if they have come out for war, take them alive.”

19And they went out of the city—the young men under the commanders of the provinces—and the army that followed them, 20and each one struck down his opponent. So the Syrians fled and Israel pursued them. Ben-hadad the king of Syria escaped on a horse with horsemen. 21The king of Israel went out and struck down the horses and the chariots, and struck down the Syrians with a great slaughter.

22The prophet approached the king of Israel and said to him, “Go, strengthen yourself, and know and pay attention to what you do, because at the return of the year the king of Syria will come up against you.”

23Now the servants of the king of Syria said to him, “Their god is a god of the mountains, that is why they were stronger than we. But let us fight against them in the plain and surely we will be stronger than they. 24So do this: take the kings away, every man from his place, and put commanders in their place. 25Muster an army like the army that you have lost, horse for horse and chariot for chariot. We will fight against them in the plain and surely we will be stronger than they.” He listened to their voice and did so.

26And at the return of the year, Ben-hadad mustered the Syrians and went up to Aphek to fight against Israel. 27The children of Israel were mustered and supplied, and went against them. The children of Israel encamped before them like two little *flocks of* goats, but the Syrians filled the land.

28A man of God came near and spoke to the king of Israel and said, “This is what Yahweh says: ‘Because the Syrians have said, “Yahweh is a god of the mountains but he is not a god of the valleys,” therefore I will give all this great multitude into your hand, so that you will know that I am Yahweh.’”

29They encamped one opposite the other for seven days. And then on the seventh day the battle began, and the children of Israel struck down 100,000 Syrian foot soldiers in one day. 30But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city, and the wall fell on 27,000 men who were left.

Ben-hadad *also* had fled and come into the city, into an inner room. 31His servants said to him, “Look, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are merciful kings. Now let’s put sackcloth around our waists and ropes on our heads and go out to the king of Israel. Maybe he will save your life.”

32So they put sackcloth on their waists and ropes on their heads and came to the king of Israel and said, “Your servant Ben-hadad says, ‘Please let me live.’”

He said, “Is he still alive? He is my brother!”

33Now the men were watching for an omen, and they quickly picked it up from him, and they said, “Your brother Ben-hadad.”

Then he[[43]](#footnote-31859) said, “Go, bring him.”

Then Ben-hadad came out to him, and he brought him up into the chariot. 34*Ben-hadad* said to him, “The cities that my father took from your father I will restore. You may make markets for yourself in Damascus as my father made in Samaria.”

*And Ahab said,* “I will set you free with this covenant.” So he cut a covenant with him and set him free.

A Prophet Condemns Ahab

35Now a certain man of the sons of the prophets said to another one, “By the word of Yahweh, strike me!” But the man refused to strike him.

36Then he said to him, “Because you have not obeyed the voice of Yahweh, behold, as soon as you are departed from me, a lion will strike you down.” And as soon as he had departed from him, a lion found him and struck him down.

37Then he found another man and said, “Strike me.” The man struck him, striking and wounding him. 38So the prophet departed and stood *waiting* for the king by the road, and he disguised himself with a bandage over his eyes. 39And as the king passed by, he cried out to the king and said, “Your servant went out into the midst of the battle; and behold, a man turned aside and brought a man to me and said, ‘Guard this man! If he is missing, yes, missing, then your life will be for his life, or else you will have to weigh out a talent of silver.’ 40But as your servant was busy here and there, he was gone.”

And the king of Israel said to him, “That is your sentence; you yourself have decided it.”

41He quickly removed the bandage from his eyes and the king of Israel recognized that he was *one* of the prophets. 42Then he said to him, “This is what Yahweh says: ‘Because you have let go out of your hand the man whom I had devoted to destruction, therefore it will be your life in place of his life and your people in place of his people.’” 43So the king of Israel went to his house sullen and angry and he came to Samaria.

**1 Kings Chapter 21**

Naboth’s Vineyard

1And after these things, Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard that was in Jezreel, next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. 2So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, “Give me your vineyard so that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is nearby, next to my house, and for it I will give you a better vineyard than it *is*. Or, if it seems good in your eyes, I will give you its value in silver.”

3But Naboth said to Ahab, “Yahweh forbid me from giving the inheritance of my fathers to you!”

4So Ahab came into his house sullen and angry because of the word that Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him, for he had said, “I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.” He laid down on his bed and turned away his face and would not eat *any* food.

5But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, “Why is your spirit so sullen, that you do not eat *any* food?”

6And he said to her, “Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, ‘Give me your vineyard for silver; or else, if you like, I will give you another vineyard for it.’ But he answered, ‘I will not give you my vineyard.’”

7Then Jezebel his wife said to him, “Now you will exercise your kingship over Israel! Arise and eat food and let your heart be merry. I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.” 8So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name and sealed them with his seal and sent the letters to the elders and to the nobles who were in his city who lived with Naboth *in his city*. 9She wrote in the letters, saying,

“Proclaim a fast and set Naboth at the head of the people. 10Then seat two men, sons of Belial, before him, and have them testify against him, saying, ‘You cursed God and the king!’ Then bring him out and stone him so that he dies.”

11The men of his city, the elders and the nobles who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent to them *to do*, as it was written in the letters that she had sent to them. 12They proclaimed a fast and set Naboth at the head of the people. 13Then the two men, the sons of Belial, came in and sat before him. The sons of Belial testified against him, against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, “Naboth cursed God and the king!” Then they brought him out of the city and stoned him with stones and he died. 14Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, “Naboth has been stoned and is dead.”

15And when Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, “Arise! Take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite that he refused to give you for silver, for Naboth is not alive, but dead.”

16And when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

Yahweh’s Judgment on Ahab

17But the word of Yahweh came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 18“Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel who *lives* in Samaria. Behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it. 19You are to speak to him, saying, ‘This is what Yahweh says: “Have you murdered and also taken possession?”’ You are to speak to him, saying, ‘This is what Yahweh says: “In the place where the dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs will lick your blood, even yours.”’”

20Ahab said to Elijah, “Have you found me, my enemy?”

He answered, “I have found you because you have sold yourself to do what is evil in the eyes of Yahweh. 21Behold, I will bring evil on you and will utterly burn up *those coming* after you, and I will cut off from Ahab him who pisses against a wall and him who is slave or free in Israel. 22And I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah because of the provocation with which you have provoked me to anger and have made Israel sin.” 23Yahweh also spoke about Jezebel, saying, “The dogs will eat Jezebel by the rampart of Jezreel.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 24 | He who dies of Ahab in the city the dogs will eat  and he who dies in the field the birds of the heavens will eat.” |

Ahab's Repentance

25Surely there was none who sold himself to do what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh like Ahab *did*, urged on by his wife Jezebel. 26He did exceedingly abominably in following idols just as all that the Amorites did, whom Yahweh dispossessed from the presence of the children of Israel.

27And when Ahab heard those words he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his flesh, and fasted and lay down in sackcloth and went around softly. 28The word of Yahweh came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 29“Have you seen that Ahab is humbling himself before me? Because he is humbling himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days; but in his son’s days I will bring the evil on his house.”

**1 Kings Chapter 22**

Jehoshaphat’s Alliance with Ahab

1And they sat *peacefully:* for three years there was no war between Syria and Israel. 2And in the third year Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, went down to the king of Israel. 3The king of Israel said to his servants, “You know that Ramoth-gilead is ours? And yet we keep quiet and do not take it out of the hand of the king of Syria.” 4So he said to Jehoshaphat, “Will you go with me to battle at Ramoth-gilead?”

And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, “I am as you are; my people are as your people, my horses are as your horses.” 5But Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, “Please first seek the word of Yahweh.”

6Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about 400 men, and said to them, “Should I go against Ramoth-gilead to battle, or should I refrain?”

They said, “Go up, for the Lord will give it into the hand of the king.”

7But Jehoshaphat said, “Isn’t there another prophet of Yahweh here, that we may inquire of him?”

8The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “There is one more man by whom we may inquire of Yahweh, Micaiah the son of Imlah; but I hate him, for he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.”

Jehoshaphat said, “The king should not say such a thing.”

9Then the king of Israel called an officer[[44]](#footnote-26137) and said, “Quickly! *Bring* Micaiah the son of Imlah.”

10Now the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah were sitting, each on his throne *and* dressed in *royal* robes, at the threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria, and all the prophets were prophesying before them. 11And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made horns of iron for himself and said, “This is what Yahweh says: ‘With these you will gore the Syrians until they are finished off.’” 12All the prophets prophesied the same, saying, “Go up to Ramoth-gilead and succeed, for Yahweh will give it into the hand of the king!”

Micaiah Prophesies Against Ahab

13The messenger who went to call Micaiah spoke to him, saying, “See now, the words of the prophets are as one mouth declaring good for the king. So, let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak *that which is* good.”

14But Micaiah said, “As Yahweh lives, what Yahweh says to me, that is what I will speak.”

15When he had come to the king, the king said to him, “Micaiah, should we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or should we refrain?”

He answered him, “Go up and succeed, for Yahweh will give it into the hand of the king!”

16But the king said to him, “How many times do I have to make you swear that you are not to speak to me anything but the truth in the name of Yahweh?”

17Then he said,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains  like sheep that have no shepherd.  And Yahweh said,  ‘These have no lord.  Let them each return to his house in peace.’” |

18The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but *only* evil?”

19Micaiah said, “That being the case, hear the word of Yahweh. I saw Yahweh sitting on his throne and all the army of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. 20Yahweh said, ‘Who will entice Ahab so that he will go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?’ One said one thing and another said another.

21“Then a spirit came out and stood before Yahweh, and said, ‘I will entice him.’

22“And Yahweh said to him, ‘How?’

And he said, ‘I will go out and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.’

And he said, ‘You will entice him and will also prevail. Go out and do so.’

23“So now, behold, Yahweh has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all of these prophets of yours, and Yahweh has spoken evil concerning you.”

24Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near and struck Micaiah on the cheek and said, “How did the spirit of Yahweh cross over from me to speak to you?”

25Then Micaiah said, “Behold, you will see on that day when you go into an inner room to hide!”

26Then the king of Israel said, “Take Micaiah and turn him over to Amon the governor of the city and to Joash the son of the king 27and say, ‘This is what the king says, “Put this man in the prison and feed him with only a little bread and water[[45]](#footnote-30615) until I come *back* in peace.”’”

28But Micaiah said, “If you return, yes, return in peace, Yahweh has not spoken by me.” He said, “Listen, all you people!”

The Death of Ahab

29But the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead. 30The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “I will disguise myself and go into the battle, but you put on your *royal* robes.” So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into the battle.

31Now the king of Syria had commanded the 32 commanders of his chariots, saying, “Do not fight with small or great, but only with the king of Israel.”

32And when the commanders of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat they said, “Surely that is the king of Israel!” So they turned toward him to fight. But Jehoshaphat cried out *for help*. 33And when the commanders of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, they turned away from pursuing him.

34A 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 his chariot, “Turn your hand and take me out of the battle, for I am severely wounded.” 35The battle increased that day. The king was propped up in his chariot facing the Syrians. And he died at sunset, and the blood poured out of the wound to the bottom of the chariot. 36A cry went throughout the army as the sun was going down, saying,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “Every man to his city!”  And “Every man to his land!” |

37So the king died and was brought to Samaria, and they buried the king in Samaria. 38They washed the chariot by the pool of Samaria and the dogs licked up his blood and the prostitutes washed *in it*, according to the word of Yahweh that he had spoken.

39Now the rest of the acts of Ahab and all that he did, and the ivory house that he built and all the cities that he built, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel? 40So Ahab slept with his fathers, and Ahaziah his son reigned in his place.

Jehoshaphat Reigns in Judah

41Now Jehoshaphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel. 42Jehoshaphat was 35 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 25 years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi. 43He walked in all the ways of Asa his father; he did not turn aside from it, doing what was right in the eyes of Yahweh. But the *local* shrines were not taken away; the people were still sacrificing and burning incense at the shrines. 44Jehoshaphat made peace with the king of Israel.

45Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat and his mighty acts that he did, and how he waged war, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Judah? 46And the rest of the male cult prostitutes that remained in the days of his father Asa, he purged out of the land. 47Now there was no king in Edom; an *appointed* governor was king. 48Jehoshaphat made ships of Tarshish to go to Ophir for gold, but they did not go because the ships were broken at Ezion-geber. 49Then Ahaziah the son of Ahab said to Jehoshaphat, “Let my servants go with your servants in the ships.” But Jehoshaphat was not willing. 50And Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father, and Jehoram his son reigned in his place.

Ahaziah Reigns in Israel

51Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and he reigned two years over Israel. 52He did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh and walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin. 53He served Baal and worshiped him, and made Yahweh, the God of Israel, angry by doing all the same things that his father had done.

1. A cor is about 6 bushels. [↑](#footnote-ref-31636)
2. A cor is about 6 bushels. [↑](#footnote-ref-26075)
3. The “house” is the Temple. [↑](#footnote-ref-17493)
4. About 90 feet (27.4 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-23524)
5. About 30 feet (9.1 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-11635)
6. About 45 feet (13.7 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-30092)
7. The “house” is the Temple. [↑](#footnote-ref-16295)
8. About 30 feet (9.1 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-21581)
9. About 15 feet (4.6 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-18203)
10. MT reads “middle” [↑](#footnote-ref-21455)
11. 7.5 feet (2.3 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-28177)
12. 60 feet (18.3 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-20932)
13. 30 feet (9.1 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-24328)
14. 15 feet (4.6 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-29734)
15. 7.5 feet (2.3 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-23194)
16. 15 feet (4.6 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-11968)
17. 150 feet (45.7 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-21675)
18. 75 feet (23 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-26812)
19. 45 feet (13.7 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-30558)
20. “Coping.” The uppermost course of stone in a wall [↑](#footnote-ref-13497)
21. 15 feet (4.6 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-16664)
22. 12 feet (3.7 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-22500)
23. 27 feet high (8.2 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-29176)
24. 18 feet in circumference (5.5 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-14708)
25. 7.5 feet (2.3 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-17529)
26. 6 feet (1.8 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-21293)
27. 15 feet (4.6 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-10008)
28. 7.5 feet (2.3 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-23475)
29. 45 feet (13.7 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-22374)
30. 18 inches (45.7 centimeters) [↑](#footnote-ref-11552)
31. About 4 inches (10 centimeters) [↑](#footnote-ref-25360)
32. 6 feet (1.82 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-16259)
33. 4.5 feet (137.1 centimeters) [↑](#footnote-ref-27312)
34. 18 inches (45.7 centimeters) [↑](#footnote-ref-24337)
35. 27 inches (68.6 centimeters) [↑](#footnote-ref-23426)
36. 27 inches (68.6 centimeters) [↑](#footnote-ref-17366)
37. 6 feet (1.8 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-11071)
38. His officials and leaders [↑](#footnote-ref-21300)
39. Roughly 15 pounds (6.8 kilograms) [↑](#footnote-ref-17363)
40. Roughly 15 pounds (6.8 kilograms) [↑](#footnote-ref-22627)
41. Roughly 3.75 pounds (1.7 kilograms) [↑](#footnote-ref-28601)
42. Likely “grandmother” [↑](#footnote-ref-32387)
43. Referring to Ahab, king of Israel [↑](#footnote-ref-31859)
44. Or “eunuch,” the Hebrew word can mean either, or both. [↑](#footnote-ref-26137)
45. Lit. “the bread of oppression and the water of oppression” [↑](#footnote-ref-30615)