**The Book of 2 Kings**

**2 Kings Chapter 1**

Yahweh’s Judgment on Ahaziah

1Now Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab. 2And Ahaziah fell down through the lattice in his upper room that was in Samaria and was injured. So he sent messengers and said to them, “Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I will live through this injury.”

3But the angel of Yahweh said to Elijah the Tishbite, “Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and tell them, ‘Is it because there is no God in Israel that you go to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? 4Therefore, this is what Yahweh says: You will not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but will die, yes, die.’” And Elijah departed.

5And the messengers returned to him and he said to them, “Why is it that you have returned?”

6They said to him, “A man came up to meet us and said to us, ‘Go, return to the king who sent you and tell him, This is what Yahweh says: Is it because there is no God in Israel that you send to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? Therefore you will not come down from the bed on which you have gone up, but die, yes, die.’”

7He said to them, “What sort of man was he who came up to meet you and spoke these words to you?”

8They answered him, “He was a hairy man and wearing a leather belt around his waist.”

He said, “It is Elijah the Tishbite.”

9Then the king sent to him a commander of 50 with his *unit of 50*. He went up to him, and behold, he was sitting on the top of the hill. And he said to him, “O man of God, the king has said, ‘Come down!’”

10Elijah answered and said to the commander of 50, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your 50!” Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his 50.

11Again he sent to him another commander of 50 and his 50. And he spoke to him: “O man of God, the king has said, ‘Come down quickly!’”

12Elijah answered and said to them, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your 50!” And the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his 50.

13Again he sent the commander of a third 50 with his 50. The third commander of 50 went up and came and fell on his knees before Elijah and begged him, and said to him, “O man of God, please let my life and the life of these 50 your servants be valuable in your eyes. 14Behold, fire came down from heaven and consumed the two former commanders of 50 with their fifties. But now let my life be valuable in your eyes.”

15Then an angel of Yahweh said to Elijah, “Go down with him. Do not be afraid of him.” So he arose and went down with him to the king.

16And he said to him, “This is what Yahweh says: ‘Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron—is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of his word?—therefore you will not come down from the bed on which you have gone up, but will die, yes, die.’”

17So he died according to the word of Yahweh that Elijah had spoken. And because he had no son, Jehoram *his brother* began to reign in his place in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah,. 18Now the rest of the acts of Ahaziah that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel?

**2 Kings Chapter 2**

Elijah Carried Off in the Whirlwind

1Now when Yahweh was about to take up Elijah *into* the heavens by a whirlwind, Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. 2And Elijah said to Elisha, “Please stay here, for Yahweh has sent me as far as Bethel.”

But Elisha said, “As Yahweh lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel.

3The sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that Yahweh will take away your lord from your head today?”

And he said, “Yes, I know it; be silent.”

4Elijah said to him, “Elisha, please stay here, for Yahweh has sent me to Jericho.”

But he said, “As Yahweh lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho.

5Then the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came near to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that Yahweh will take away your lord from your head today?”

And he answered, “Yes, I know it. Be silent.”

6Then Elijah said to him, “Please stay here, for Yahweh has sent me to the Jordan.”

And he said, “As Yahweh lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” Then they both went on.

7Fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood opposite them at a distance; and they both stood by the Jordan. 8Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the waters, and they were divided here and there so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground. 9And when they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I can do for you before I am taken from you.”

Elisha said, “Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.”

10He said, “You have made a difficult request. If you see me when I am taken from you, it will be so for you; but if not, it will not be so.”

11And as they continued walking and talking, behold, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated them, and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into the heavens. 12When Elisha saw it, he cried out, “My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more, so he took hold of his clothes and tore them in two pieces.

13And he picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood at the bank of the Jordan. 14Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the waters and said, “Where is Yahweh, the God of Elijah?” And when he struck the waters they were divided here and there and Elisha crossed over.

Elisha Succeeds Elijah

15When the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho opposite him saw him, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” They came to meet him and bowed down to the ground before him.

16And they said to him, “See now, there are with your servants 50 strong men. Please let them go and seek your lord. Perhaps the Spirit of Yahweh has taken him up and put him on some mountain or into some valley.”

He said, “Do not send them.”

17When they urged him until *he* was ashamed, he said, “Send them.” So they sent 50 men and they searched for three days but did not find him. 18They came back to him while he stayed at Jericho, and he said to them, “Did I not tell you, ‘Do not go?’”

The Healing of the Water

19And the men of the city said to Elisha, “Behold, please, the site of this city is good, as my lord can see; but the water is bad and the land is unfruitful.”

20He said, “Bring me a new small bowl and put salt in it.” So they brought it to him. 21He went out to the spring of water and threw salt into it and said, “This is what Yahweh says, ‘I have healed these waters. There will not be any more death or unfruitfulness from there.’” 22So the waters were healed to this day, according to the word of Elisha that he spoke.

Elisha is Mocked

23And he went up from there to Bethel. As he was going up on the road, some youths came out of the city and mocked him and said to him, “Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!” 24He looked behind him and saw them and cursed them in the name of Yahweh. Two female bears came out of the woods and mauled 42 of those youths. 25He went from there to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

**2 Kings Chapter 3**

Jehoram Reigns in Israel

1Now Jehoram the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned 12 years. 2And he did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh, but not like his father and like his mother; for he removed the standing-stone of Baal that his father had made. 3Nevertheless, he clung to the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat with which he made Israel sin; he did not depart from them.

Moab Rebels against Israel

4Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheep breeder, and he had to supply to the king of Israel 100,000 lambs and the wool of 100,000 rams. 5But when Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel. 6Then King Jehoram went out of Samaria at that time and counted all Israel *for war*. 7He went *ahead* and he sent to Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, saying, “The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me against Moab to battle?”

He said, “I will go up. I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses.” 8And he said, “Which way should we go up?”

And he answered, “The Road of the Wilderness of Edom.”

9So the king of Israel went, and the king of Judah, and the king of Edom; and they made a flanking movement of seven days’ journey. Now there was no water for the army or for the animals that followed them.

10And the king of Israel said, “Alas! For Yahweh has called these three kings together to give them into the hand of Moab.”

11But Jehoshaphat said, “Is there not a prophet of Yahweh here that we may inquire of Yahweh by him?”

One of the servants of the king of Israel answered, “Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who poured water on the hands of Elijah.”

12Jehoshaphat said, “The word of Yahweh is with him.” So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.

13Elisha said to the king of Israel, “What do you and I have in common? Go to the prophets of your father and to the prophets of your mother.”

But the king of Israel said to him, “Do not *say that*, because Yahweh has called these three kings together to give them into the hand of Moab.”

14Then Elisha said, “As Yahweh of Armies lives, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I respect the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward you or see you. 15But now bring me a musician.”

And when the musician played, the hand of Yahweh came on him. 16And he said, “This is what Yahweh says: ‘This valley will be full of pools, *many* pools.” 17For this is what Yahweh says, ‘You will not see wind, nor will you see rain; yet that valley will be filled with water and you will drink, both you and your livestock and your animals. 18This is but a light thing in the eyes of Yahweh. He will also give the Moabites into your hand. 19You will strike every fortified city and every choice city and fell every good tree and stop up all springs of water, and spoil with stones every good piece of land.’”

20And in the morning, about the time of offering the grain offering, behold, water came from the direction of Edom, and the land was filled with water.

21Now when all the Moabites heard that the kings had come up to fight against them, they gathered themselves together, all who were *now* able to belt on a *sword* belt and older, and stood on the border. 22They rose up early in the morning and the sun shone upon the water, and the Moabites saw the water across *from them* as red as blood. 23So they said, “This is blood! The kings are slain, yes, slain, and they have struck down each other. So now, Moab, to the spoil!”

24But when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites rose up and struck down the Moabites so that they fled before them, and they came *forward* against the land, striking down the Moabites. 25They wrecked the cities, and on every good piece of land each man cast stones and filled it, and they stopped all the springs of water and felled all the good trees. Only in Kir-hareseth did they leave its stones, however, the men armed with slings went about it and struck it.

26When the king of Moab saw that the battle was too severe for him, he took with him 700 men who drew sword to break through to the king of Edom, but they could not. 27Then he took his firstborn son who would have reigned in his place and offered him for a burnt offering on the wall. There was great wrath against Israel, and they departed from him, and returned to the land.

**2 Kings Chapter 4**

The Widow’s Oil Multiplied

1Now a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, “Your servant my husband is dead. You know that your servant feared Yahweh. Now the creditor has come to take for himself my two children to be slaves.”

2Elisha said to her, “What can I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?”

She said, “Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil.”

3Then he said, “Go, borrow containers from outside, from all your neighbors; empty containers; not just a few. 4Then go in and shut the door behind you and behind your sons and pour *the oil* out into all those containers, and set aside those *containers* that are full.” 5So she went from him and shut the door behind her and behind her sons; they brought the containers to her and she poured out *the oil into them*. 6And when the containers were full she said to her son, “Bring me another container.” He said to her, “There is not another container!” Then the oil stopped *flowing*.

7Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debt, and you and your sons live on the rest.”

Elisha and the Shunammite Woman

8Then one day Elisha traveled to Shunem. And there was a prominent woman there, and she strongly urged him to eat food. So, as often as he traveled by he turned in there to eat food. 9And she said to her husband, “Look, I know that this is a holy man of God that passes by us regularly. 10Let’s make a little walled room on the roof. Let’s put a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp there for him. And when he comes to us he can turn aside to there.”

11One day he came there, and he turned aside to the upper room and lay down there. 12And he said to Gehazi his servant, “Call this Shunammite.” When he had called her, she stood before him. 13And he said to him, “Say to her, ‘Behold, you have cared for us with all this care. What is to be done for you? Would you like to be spoken for to the king or to the commander of the army?’” She answered, “I live among my own people.” 14He said, “So what can be done for her?”

And Gehazi answered, “Well, she has no son, and her husband is old.”

15So he said, “Call her.” When he had called her, she stood in the entrance. 16He said, “At this set time, according to the time of life, you will embrace a son.”

But she said, “No, my lord! O man of God, do not lie to your servant.”

17But the woman conceived and bore a son “at this season, according to the time of life,” just as Elisha had said to her.

Elisha Raises the Shunammite’s Son

18And the boy grew. And one day he went out to his father, to the reapers. 19He said to his father, “My head! My head!”

And he said to his servant, “Carry him to his mother.” 20So he picked him up and brought him to his mother; he sat on her lap until noon and then died. 21Then she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God and shut *the door* on him, and went out.

22She called to her husband and said, “Send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, so that I can run to the man of God and come back again.”

23He said, “Why go to him today? It is not a new moon or a Sabbath.”

She said, “*All is* well.”

24Then she made ready a donkey and said to her servant, “Lead and go! Do not stop for me unless I say *so* to you.” 25So she went and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

And when the man of God saw her afar off he said to Gehazi his servant, “Look, there is the Shunammite! 26Run now to meet her and ask her, ‘Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the boy?’”

She answered, “*All is* well.”

27But when she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught hold of his feet. Gehazi came near to push her away, but the man of God said, “Leave her alone, for her soul is bitter within her and Yahweh has hidden it from me and has not told me.”

28Then she said, “Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not say, ‘Do not deceive me?’”

29Then he said to Gehazi, “Tuck your cloak under your belt, take my staff in your hand and go! If you meet any man, do not greet him; and if anyone greets you, do not answer him. Then lay my staff on the face of the child.”

30The mother of the child said, “As Yahweh lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So he arose and followed her.

31Gehazi went on ahead of them and laid the staff on the face of the child, but there was no sound or response. So he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, “The child did not wake up.”

32When Elisha had come into the house, behold, the child was dead and had been laid on his bed. 33And so he went in and shut the door on the two of them, and prayed to Yahweh. 34He got up *on the bed* and lay down on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth and his eyes on his eyes and his hands on his hands. He bent down over him and the flesh of the child grew warm. 35Then he got down and walked in the house back and forth, and got up *on the bed*, and bent down over him. Then the child sneezed seven times and the child opened his eyes!

36So he called Gehazi, and said, “Call this Shunammite!” So he called her. And when she came to him, he said, “Pick up your son.” 37Then she went in and fell at his feet and bowed down to the ground, and she picked up her son and went out.

Death in the Pot

38When Elisha returned to Gilgal there was a famine in the land. And the sons of the prophets were sitting before him, and he said to his servant, “Put on the large pot and boil stew for the sons of the prophets.”

39One *of them* went out into the field to gather herbs, and he found a wild vine and from it filled *the fold of* his cloak with wild gourds and came and cut them up into the pot of stew, but they did not know *what they were*.

40Then they poured *it* out for the men to eat. And as they were eating the stew they cried out and said, “O Man of God, there is death in the pot!” And they were unable to eat *it*.

41But he said, “Then bring flour.” And he threw it into the pot and said, “Pour *it* out for the people, so that they can eat!” And there was nothing harmful in the pot.

The Multiplied Bread

42And a man from Baal-shalishah came and brought the man of God bread from the firstfruits *of the harvest*, 20 loaves of barley *bread* and fresh ears of grain in his sack. So he said, “Give *it* to the people that they can eat.”

43But his servant said, “What, should I set this before 100 men?”

But he said, “Give *it* to the people so that they can eat, for this is what Yahweh says, ‘They will eat, and will have some left over.’” 44So he set it before them and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of Yahweh.

**2 Kings Chapter 5**

Naaman Healed of Leprosy

1Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his lord, and honorable, because by him Yahweh had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper.

2Now the Syrians had gone out in raiding bands and had taken captive a young girl out of the land of Israel, and she became a servant to Naaman’s wife. 3And she said to her mistress, “I wish that my lord were *standing* before the prophet who is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his leprosy.”

4So *Naaman* went in and told his lord, saying, “Thus and so said the young woman who is from the land of Israel.” 5Then the king of Syria said, “Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.”

So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver[[1]](#footnote-26391) and 6,000 *shekels* of gold[[2]](#footnote-31018) and ten sets of clothing. 6And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, “Now when this letter has come to you, behold, I have sent to you my servant Naaman for you to cure him of his leprosy.”

7And when the king of Israel had read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends to me to cure a man of his leprosy? But consider now, and see how he is seeking an occasion *to fight* against me.”

8But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, “Why have you torn your clothes? Have him come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.” 9So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariots and stood at the door of the house of Elisha.

10And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean.”

11But Naaman was angry and went away and said, “Behold, I thought he would come out, yes, come out to me and stand and call on the name of Yahweh his God and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. 12Aren’t the Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn’t I wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage.

13But his servants came near and spoke to him and said, “My father, if the prophet had asked you do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more so, when he says to you, ‘Wash and be clean?’” 14So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, in accordance with the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean!

Gehazi's Greed and Punishment

15Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came and stood before him, and he said, “Behold now, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel. So now please take a gift from your servant.”

16But he said, “As Yahweh lives, before whom I stand, I will not take it.” And he urged him to take it, but he refused.

17So Naaman said, “If not, then please let two muleloads of dirt be given to your servant, for from now on your servant will not offer a burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but *only* to Yahweh. 18But in this thing may Yahweh pardon your servant: when my lord goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there and he leans on my hand and I bow down[[3]](#footnote-23190) in the house of Rimmon, when I bow down in the house of Rimmon, may Yahweh pardon your servant in this thing.”

19And he said to him, “Go in peace.”

So he departed from him a little way. 20But Gehazi the servant of Elisha the man of God said, “Behold, my master has spared this Naaman the Syrian[[4]](#footnote-15120) in not receiving from his hands what he brought. As Yahweh lives, I will run after him and take something from him.”

21So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When Naaman saw someone running after him, he got down from the chariot to meet him and said, “Is all well?”

22And he said, “All is well. My lord has sent me, saying, ‘Behold, two young men of the sons of the prophets have now come to me from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two sets of clothing.’”

23But Naaman said, “Consent to take two talents.” He urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags with two sets of clothing, and he gave *them* to two of his servants, and they carried them before him. 24And when he came to the fortified part *of the city*, he took them from their hand and stored them in the house. Then he sent the men away, and they departed.

25And he went in and stood before his lord, and Elisha said to him, “Where did you come from, Gehazi?”

And he said, “Your servant did not go anywhere.”

26But he said to him, “Didn’t my heart go along *with you* when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Is it the time to take money, and to take clothing, and olive groves, and vineyards, and sheep, and cattle, and male servants, and female servants? 27Therefore the leprosy of Naaman will cling to you and to your seed perpetually.” And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

**2 Kings Chapter 6**

The Axe Head Recovered

1The sons of the prophets said to Elisha, “Look, the place where we live before you is too small for us. 2Let us go to the Jordan and every man take a log from there, and let us make us a place there where we can live.”

And he answered, “Go.”

3One said, “Please consent to go with your servants.”

And he answered, “I will go.”

4So he went with them, and when they came to the Jordan they cut down trees. 5But as one was cutting down the log, the iron *axe head* fell into the water. Then he cried out, and said, “Oh no, my lord! It was borrowed!”

6Then the man of God asked, “Where did it fall?”

So he showed him the place. So he whittled down a stick, threw it in there and made the iron float. 7Then he said, “Pick it up.” So he stretched out his hand and took it.

Horses and Chariots of Fire

8Now the king of Syria was warring against Israel, and he sought advice from his servants, saying, “My camp will be in such and such a place.”

9The man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, “Be careful that you do not pass by this place, for the Syrians are coming down there.” 10The king of Israel sent *word* to the place that the man of God told and warned him about, and he protected himself there not once nor twice.

11Now the heart of the king of Syria was very troubled about this. So he called his servants and said to them, “Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?”

12Then one of his servants said, “No, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.”

13He said, “Go and see where he is, so that I may send and capture him.”

And it was reported to him, saying, “Behold, he is in Dothan.” 14So he sent horses, chariots, and a great army there. They came at night and surrounded the city.

15And when the servant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was surrounding the city. So his servant said to him, “Alas, my lord! What are we to do?”

16But he answered, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

17Elisha prayed and said, “O Yahweh, please open his eyes so that he can see.” So Yahweh opened the eyes of the young man and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire surrounding Elisha.

Arameans Blinded

18And when they came down against him, Elisha prayed to Yahweh and said, “Please strike this people with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. 19Then Elisha said to them, “This is not the way, nor is this the city. Follow me and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” But he led them to Samaria. 20And when they had come into Samaria, Elisha said, “O Yahweh, open the eyes of these men, so that they can see.” So Yahweh opened their eyes and they saw, and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

21When he saw them, the king of Israel said to Elisha, “My father, should I strike them down, should I strike them down?”

22He answered, “Do not strike them down. Would you strike down those whom you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them so that they may eat and drink and go *back* to their lord.”

23So he prepared a great feast for them. When they had finished eating and drinking he sent them away, and they went *back* to their lord. So the raiding bands of Syria stopped coming into the land of Israel.

Famine in Besieged Samaria

24And after this Ben-hadad, king of Syria, gathered all his army and went up and besieged Samaria. 25And there was a great famine in Samaria. Behold, they besieged it until a donkey’s head was sold for 80 *pieces* of silver, and the fourth part of a kab of dove’s dung for five pieces of silver.

26And as the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, saying, “Save *me*, my lord, O king!”

27But he said, “If Yahweh does not save you, how can I save you? From the threshing floor or from the winepress?” 28Then the king said to her, “What is troubling you?”

She answered, “This woman said to me, ‘Give your son, that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.’ 29So we boiled my son and ate him. Then I said to her on another day, ‘Give up your son, so that we can eat him;’ but she has hidden her son.”

30When the king heard the words of the woman, he tore his clothes, and as he was passing by on the wall the people saw that, behold, he had sackcloth underneath on his flesh. 31Then he said, “May God do so to me, and more also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat is left standing on him this day.”

32Now Elisha was sitting in his house and the elders were sitting with him. And the king sent a man from his presence, but before the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, “Do you see how this son of a murderer has sent to take away my head? Behold, when the messenger comes, shut the door and hold the door shut against him. Isn’t the sound of his lord’s feet behind him?”

33While he was still talking with them, behold, the messenger came down to him and said, “Behold, this evil is from Yahweh. Why should I wait for Yahweh any longer?”

**2 Kings Chapter 7**

Elisha Promises Food

1But Elisha said, “Hear the word of Yahweh. This is what Yahweh says: ‘Tomorrow about this time a seah[[5]](#footnote-13340) of fine flour will be sold for a shekel[[6]](#footnote-28968) and two seahs[[7]](#footnote-10809) of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria.’”

2Then the officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, “Behold, if Yahweh makes windows in heaven, could this thing happen?”

And he said, “Behold, you will see it with your eyes but will not eat of it.”

The Syrians Flee

3Now there were four leprous men[[8]](#footnote-20181) at the entrance of the gate. They said one to another, “Why are we *just* sitting here until we die? 4If we say, ‘We will enter into the city,’ then the famine is in the city and we will die there. And if we sit here, we will die. So now, let’s go and surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they let us live, we will live, and if they kill us, then we will die.”

5They rose up in the twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians. But when they came to the edge of the camp of the Syrians, behold, there was no one there. 6For the Lord had made the army of the Syrians hear the sound of chariots and the sound of horses; the sound of a great army, so they said to one another, “Behold, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to come against us.” 7So they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents and their horses and their donkeys—the camp as it was—and fled for their lives.

8So when these lepers came to the edge of the camp, they went into one tent, and ate and drank and carried away from there silver and gold and clothing, and went and hid it. Then they came back and entered into another tent and carried away *things* from there also, and went and hid it. 9Then they said to one another, “We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we are keeping silent. If we wait until the morning light, punishment will overtake us. So now come, let’s go and tell the king’s house.”

10So they came and called to the gatekeepers of the city, and they told them, saying, “We came to the camp of the Syrians, and behold, there was no one there, nor even the sound of a man, only the horses tied and the donkeys tied, and the tents just as they were.” 11Then the gatekeepers called out, and they told it to *those* inside the king’s house.

12Then the king arose in the night and said to his servants, “I will now tell you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we are hungry, so they have gone out of the camp to hide in the field, saying, ‘When they come out of the city, we will take them alive and get into the city.’”

13But one of his servants answered and said, “Please let some *men* take five of the horses that remain, which remain in *the city*. Look, they are like all the people of Israel who are done for.[[9]](#footnote-17931) Let us send and see.”

14So they took two chariots with horses, and the king sent them after the army of the Syrians, saying, “Go and see.” 15So they went after them to the Jordan, and behold, the whole way was full of clothing and *other* items that the Syrians had thrown away in their haste. Then the messengers returned and told the king. 16Then the people went out and plundered the camp of the Syrians.

So a seah[[10]](#footnote-11205) of fine flour was sold for a shekel and two seahs of barley for a shekel according to the word of Yahweh. 17Now the king had appointed the officer on whose hand he leaned to be in charge of the gate, and the people trampled on him in the gate and he died, just as the man of God had spoken, just as he had spoken when the king came down to him. 18It happened just like the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, “Two seahs[[11]](#footnote-17306) of barley for a shekel and a seah[[12]](#footnote-19605) of fine flour for a shekel, will be *sold* tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria,” 19and that officer answered the man of God and said, “Now, behold, if Yahweh makes windows in heaven, could such a thing happen?” And Elisha[[13]](#footnote-12799) said, “Behold, you will see it with your eyes, but will not eat of it.” 20And it happened like that to him. The people trampled him in the gate, and he died.

**2 Kings Chapter 8**

The Shunammite’s Land Restored

1Now Elisha had spoken to the woman whose son he had restored to life, saying, “Arise and go, you and your household, and stay for a while wherever you can stay, for Yahweh has called for a famine for seven years, and it has *now* come on the land.”

2And the woman arose and did according to the word of the man of God. She went with her household and stayed in the land of the Philistines for seven years. 3And at the end of seven years, the woman returned from the land of the Philistines. Then she went to cry out to the king for her house and for her land.

4Now the king was talking with Gehazi the servant of the man of God, saying, “Please tell me all the great things that Elisha has done.”

5And as he was telling the king how he had restored the dead to life, behold, the woman whose son he had restored to life cried out to the king for her house and for her land. Then Gehazi said, “My lord the king! This is the woman, and this is her son whom Elisha restored to life!”

6So the king asked the woman, and she told him. Then the king assigned a certain officer to her, saying, “Restore all that was hers and all the income from the field since the day that she left the land until now.”

Hazael Murders Ben Hadad

7Elisha came to Damascus, and Ben-hadad the king of Syria was sick. It was told to him, saying, “The man of God has come here.” 8The king said to Hazael, “Take a gift in your hand and go, meet the man of God and inquire of Yahweh by him, saying, ‘Will I live through this sickness?’”

9So Hazael went to meet him and took a gift in his hand, even of every good thing of Damascus, 40 camel-loads, and came and stood before him and said, “Your son Ben-hadad king of Syria has sent me to you, saying, ‘Will I live through this sickness?’”

10Elisha said to him, “Go, tell him, ‘You will live, yes, live.’ But Yahweh has shown me that he will die, yes, die.” 11Then he fixed his gaze steadfastly on him until he was embarrassed.

Then the man of God wept. 12Hazael said, “Why are you weeping, my lord?”

And he answered, “Because I know the evil that you will do to the children of Israel. Their strongholds you will set on fire, their young men you will kill with the sword, their little ones you will dash in pieces, and their pregnant women you will split open.”

13Then Hazael said, “But what is your servant who is a *mere* dog, that he could accomplish this mighty thing?”

Elisha answered, “Yahweh has shown me that you will be king over Syria.”

14Then he departed from Elisha and came to his lord, who said to him, “What did Elisha say to you?”

He answered, “he said to me, ‘you will live, yes, live.’” 15But on the next day he took a thick cloth and dipped it in water and spread it on his face so that he died. Then Hazael reigned in his place.

Jehoram Reigns in Judah

16In the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Jehoshaphat then being king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah began to reign. 17He was 32 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. 18He walked in the way of the kings of Israel just as the house of Ahab had done because he had the daughter of Ahab as a wife. He did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh. 19However Yahweh was not willing to destroy Judah for the sake of David his servant, since he had promised to give to him a lamp for his children always.

20In his days Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah and enthroned a king over themselves. 21Then Joram[[14]](#footnote-22279) crossed over to Zair, and all his chariots with him, and he rose up by night and struck down the Edomites who surrounded him and the commanders of the chariots, but his army fled to their tents. 22So Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah to this day. Then Libnah revolted at the same time.

23The rest of the acts of Joram and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Judah? 24So Joram slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David, and Ahaziah his son reigned in his place.

Ahaziah Reigns in Judah

25In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah began to reign. 26Ahaziah was 22 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Athaliah a *grand*daughter of Omri king of Israel. 27He walked in the way of the house of Ahab and did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh, as did the house of Ahab, for he was the son-in-law of the house of Ahab.

28He went with Joram the son of Ahab to war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramoth-gilead, and the Syrians wounded Joram. 29King Joram returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds that the Syrians had given him at Ramah when he fought against Hazael king of Syria. And Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Joram the son of Ahab in Jezreel because he was sick *from his wounds*.

**2 Kings Chapter 9**

Jehu Anointed King of Israel

1Elisha the prophet called one of the sons of the prophets and said to him, “Tuck your cloak under your belt and take this vial of oil in your hand and go to Ramoth-gilead. 2When you arrive there, find Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi; and when you have come, have him rise up from among his brothers and take him to an inner room. 3Then take the flask of oil and pour it on his head and say, ‘This is what Yahweh says: “I have anointed you king over Israel.”’ Then open the door and flee; do not linger.” 4So the young man, the young man the prophet, went to Ramoth-gilead.

5When he came, behold, the commanders of the army were sitting. Then he said, “I have a message for you, O commander.”

And Jehu said, “To which one of us?”

He said, “To you, O commander.”

6So he arose and went into the house. Then he poured the oil on his head and said to him, “This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: ‘I have anointed you king over the people of Yahweh; over Israel. 7You are to strike down the house of Ahab your lord so that I avenge the blood of my servants the prophets and the blood of all the servants of Yahweh at the hand of Jezebel. 8For the whole house of Ahab will perish. I will cut off from Ahab everyone who pisses against a wall, both him who is slave or free in Israel. 9I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah. 10As for Jezebel, the dogs will eat her on the plot of ground of Jezreel and there will be no one to bury her!’” Then he opened the door and fled.

11Then Jehu came out to the servants of his lord, and one said to him, “Is it peace? Why did this madman come to you?”

So he said to them, “You know the man and his talk!”

12They said, “That is not true! Now tell us.”

So he said, “Like this and like that he said to me, saying, ‘This is what Yahweh says: I have anointed you king over Israel.’”

13Then they hurried and each man took his cloak and put it under him on the bare stairs and blew the shofar, saying, “Jehu reigns as king!”

Jehu Kills Joram and Ahaziah

14So Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi conspired against Joram. (Now Joram had been defending Ramoth-gilead, he and all Israel, because of Hazael king of Syria; 15but King Joram had returned to be healed in Jezreel from the wounds with which the Syrians had wounded him when he fought with Hazael king of Syria). Jehu said, “If that is your desire, then do not let anyone escape and go out of the city to go to tell it in Jezreel.”

16Then Jehu rode in a chariot and went to Jezreel, for Joram was lying there. And Ahaziah king of Judah had come down to see Joram. 17Now the watchman was standing on the tower in Jezreel, and he saw the company of Jehu as he came and said, “I see a company!”

Joram said, “Take a horseman and send him to meet them and have him say, ‘Is it peace?’”

18So one went on horseback to meet him and said, “This is what the king says, ‘Is it peace?’”

And Jehu said, “What do you have to do with peace? Fall in behind me!”

The watchman said, “The messenger went to them, but he is not coming back.”

19Then he sent out a second one on horseback who came to them and said, “This is what the king says, ‘Is it peace?’”

And Jehu answered, “What do you have to do with peace? Fall in behind me!”

20Then the watchman said, “He came to them but is not coming back. And the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi, for he drives furiously.”

21Joram said, “Harness *my chariot*!” And they harnessed his chariot. Then Joram king of Israel went out, and Ahaziah king of Judah, each in his chariot. And they went out toward Jehu and met him on the property of Naboth the Jezreelite. 22And when Joram saw Jehu, he said, “Is it peace, Jehu?”

And he answered, “How can there be peace so long as the prostitutions of your mother Jezebel and her witchcraft abound?”

23Joram turned his hands about and fled, and said to Ahaziah, “Treason, Ahaziah!”

24Jehu drew his bow with his full strength and struck Joram between his shoulders, and the arrow came out through his heart and he slumped down in his chariot. 25Then Jehu said to Bidkar his officer, “Pick him up and throw him on the plot of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite, for remember how when you and I rode together after Ahab his father, Yahweh laid this pronouncement on him: 26‘Surely yesterday I have seen the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons, declares Yahweh, and I will repay you on this plot of ground, says Yahweh.’ So now take him and throw him onto the plot of ground, in accordance with the word of Yahweh.”

27Now when Ahaziah the king of Judah saw this, he fled by the road to Beth-haggan. But Jehu followed after him and said, “*Kill* him too!” And they struck him in his chariot at the ascent of Gur that is by Ibleam, and he fled to Megiddo and died there. 28His servants brought him in a chariot to Jerusalem and buried him in his tomb with his fathers in the city of David. 29In the eleventh year of Joram the son of Ahab, Ahaziah had begun to reign over Judah.

Jehu Kills Jezebel

30When Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard about it and she prepared her eyes with eye makeup and adorned her head and looked out of the window. 31As Jehu entered the gate, she said, “Do you come in peace, Zimri, killer of his lord?”

32But he lifted up his face to the window and said, “Who is on my side? Who?” And two or three eunuchs looked out at him. 33And he said, “Throw her down!” So they threw her down, and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall and on the horses. Then he trampled her.

34Then he came in and ate and drank. Then he said, “Take care of this cursed woman and bury her, for she is a king’s daughter.” 35And they went to bury her, but they found no more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands. 36So they came back and told him. And he said, “This is the word of Yahweh that he spoke by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ‘The dogs will eat the flesh of Jezebel on the plot of ground in Jezreel 37and the corpse of Jezebel will be like dung on the face of the field in the plot of ground in Jezreel so that no one will be able to say, “This is Jezebel.”’”

**2 Kings Chapter 10**

Jehu Kills the House of Ahab

1Now Ahab had 70 sons in Samaria. Jehu wrote letters and sent them to Samaria, to the rulers of Jezreel, the elders, and to the guardians of *the sons* of Ahab, saying,

2“Now as soon as this letter comes to you, since the sons of your lord are with you and you have chariots, and horses, and a fortified city, and armor, 3select the best and most capable of the sons of your lord and set him on his father’s throne and fight for the house of your lord.”

4But they were very, very afraid, and said, “Behold, the two kings could not stand before him! How then can we stand?”

5And the one who was Over the House, and the one who was Over the City, and the elders, and the guardians of the children sent to Jehu, saying, “We are your servants and will do all that you ask us. We will not make anyone king. Do what is good in your eyes.”

6Then he wrote to them a second letter, saying,

“If you are on my side and if you will listen to my voice, then take the heads of the men, your lord’s sons, and come to me at Jezreel by tomorrow at this time.”

Now the king’s sons, being 70 persons, were with the prominent men of the city who brought them up. 7And when the letter came to them, they took the king’s sons and slaughtered them, 70 persons. And they put their heads in baskets and sent them to him, to Jezreel. 8And a messenger came and told him, “They have brought the heads of the king’s sons.” He said, “Place them in two piles at the entrance of the gate until the morning.”

9And in the morning he went out and stood and said to all the people, “You are innocent. Behold, I conspired against my lord and killed him; but who struck down all these? 10Know now that no word of Yahweh will fall to the ground that Yahweh spoke concerning the house of Ahab. For Yahweh has done what he spoke by his servant Elijah.” 11Then Jehu struck down all that remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, along with all his prominent men and his close friends and his priests until he left him no one remaining.

12Then he arose and departed and went to Samaria. On the way, when he was at Beth-eked of the Shepherds, 13Jehu met *some* brothers of Ahaziah king of Judah and said, “Who are you?”

They answered, “We are the brothers of Ahaziah. We are going down to pay our respects to the sons of the king and the sons of the queen mother.”

14He said, “Take them alive!” So they took them alive and slaughtered them at the cistern of Beth-eked, 42 men. He did not leave any of them.

15When he had departed from there, he met Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him. He blessed him *in greeting*, and he said to him, “Is your heart right *with mine*, as my heart is with your heart?”

Jehonadab answered, “It is.”

“If it is, give me your hand.”

He gave him his hand and he took him up with him in the chariot. 16Then he said, “Come with me and see my zeal for Yahweh.” So they had him ride in his chariot. 17When he came to Samaria, he struck down all who remained to Ahab in Samaria until he had destroyed him, in accordance with the word of Yahweh that he spoke to Elijah.

Jehu Kills the Servants of Baal

18Then Jehu gathered all the people together and said to them, “Ahab served Baal a little, but Jehu will serve him a lot. 19So now call to me all the prophets of Baal, all of his worshipers, and all of his priests. Let none be absent, for I have a great sacrifice to Baal. Whoever is absent will not live.” But Jehu did it cunningly, in order to destroy the worshipers of Baal. 20And Jehu said, “Sanctify a solemn assembly for Baal!” And they proclaimed it.

21Then Jehu sent throughout all Israel, and all the worshipers of Baal came so that there was not a man left that did not come. They came into the house of Baal, and the house of Baal was filled from one end to the other. 22And he said to the one who was Over the Wardrobe, “Bring out apparel for all the worshipers of Baal!” So he brought the apparel out to them.

23And Jehu and Jehonadab the son of Rechab went into the house of Baal. Then he said to the worshipers of Baal, “Search and see that none of the worshipers of Yahweh are here with you, but only the worshipers of Baal.” 24Then they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings.

Now Jehu had appointed 80 men outside and said, “The one who lets *anyone* escape of the men whom I am bringing into your hand—his own life will be for his life.” 25And as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, Jehu said to the guards and to the officers, “Go in and strike them down! Let none escape!” So they struck them down with the mouth of the sword and the guards and the officers cast them *aside* and went into the interior of the house of Baal, 26and they brought out the standing-stones that were in the house of Baal and burned them. 27So they demolished the standing-stone of Baal and demolished the house of Baal and made it a latrine to this day.

28So Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel. 29However, from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat with which he made Israel sin, from these Jehu did not depart—*that is*, the golden calves which were in Bethel and in Dan. 30And Yahweh said to Jehu, “Because you have done well, doing what is right in my eyes, and you have done to the house of Ahab according to all that was in my heart, your sons will sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation.”

31But Jehu was not careful to walk in the law of Yahweh the God of Israel with all his heart. He did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam, with which he made Israel sin.

32In those days Yahweh began to cut off *territory* from Israel. And Hazael struck them down throughout all the territory of Israel 33from the Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead—the Gadites and the Reubenites, and the Manassites—from Aroer, which is by the valley of the Arnon, *that is,* Gilead and Bashan.

34Now the rest of the acts of Jehu, and all that he did and all his mighty acts, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel? 35And Jehu slept with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria. And Jehoahaz his son reigned in his place. 36The time that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was 28 years.

**2 Kings Chapter 11**

Athaliah Reigns in Judah

1Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she set out to destroy all the royal seed. 2But Jehosheba the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, he and his nurse, and stole him away from among the king’s sons who were being put to death and *hid* them in a bedroom, and they hid him from Athaliah so that he was not killed. 3And he was with her, hiding in the house of Yahweh for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land.

Jehoash Anointed King in Judah

4And in the seventh year, Jehoiada sent and brought the commanders over hundreds of the Carites and of the guards and brought them to him into the house of Yahweh, and he cut a covenant with them and had them take an oath in the house of Yahweh and he showed them the king’s son. 5And he commanded them, saying, “This is the thing that you are to do: a third part of you, of those who are coming in on the Sabbath are to keep watch over the king’s house, 6a third part are to be at the Sur Gate and a third part *are to be* at the gate behind the guards, and you are to keep watch over the house to defend *the child*.

7The two companies of you, all who go off duty on the Sabbath, are to keep watch over the house of Yahweh on behalf of the king. 8You must surround the king, every man with his weapons in his hand, and he who comes inside the ranks is to be put to death. Be with the king when he goes out and when he comes in.”

9So the commanders over hundreds did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded, and each one of them took his men, those who were going on duty on the Sabbath and those who were going off duty on the Sabbath, and came to Jehoiada the priest. 10The priest gave to the commanders over hundreds the spears and shields that had been King David’s, which were in the house of Yahweh. 11The guards took a stand, each man with his weapons in his hand, from the south side of the house to the north side of the house, in front of the altar and in front of the house, all around the king.

12Then he brought out the king’s son and put the crown on him and *gave him* the testimony. And they made him king and anointed him and clapped their hands and said, “*Long* live the king!”

13When Athaliah heard the noise of the guards and of the people, she went to the people in the house of Yahweh. 14And she looked, and behold, the king stood by the pillar as the custom was, with the commanders and the trumpeters by the king, and all the people of the land rejoiced and blew trumpets. Then Athaliah tore her clothes and cried out, “Treason! Treason!”

15Jehoiada the priest commanded the commanders of hundreds who were set over the army and said to them, “Bring her outside of the Temple, to the ranks, and put to death by the sword anyone who follows.” For the priest said, “Let her not be put to death in the house of Yahweh.” 16So they seized her and when she went through the way that horses enter the king’s house, she was put to death there.

Jehoiada’s Reforms

17Then Jehoiada cut a covenant between Yahweh and the king and the people, to be Yahweh’s people, and *another* between the king and the people. 18All the people went to the house of Baal and broke it down and completely smashed his altars and his images into pieces, and they killed Mattan the priest of Baal in front of the altars. And *Jehoiada* the priest arranged for oversight of the house of Yahweh. 19He took the commanders over hundreds, and the Carites, and the guards, and all the people of the land, and they brought the king down from the house of Yahweh and went by the way of the Gate of the Guard to the king’s house. Then he sat on the throne of the kings. 20So all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet now that they had killed Athaliah with the sword at the king’s house.

Jehoash Reigns in Judah

21Jehoash was seven years old when he began to reign.

**2 Kings Chapter 12**

Jehoash Repairs the Temple

1In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash[[15]](#footnote-24243) began to reign, and he reigned 40 years in Jerusalem, and his mother’s name was Zibiah of Beer-sheba. 2Jehoash did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh all his days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him, 3only the *local* shrines were not taken away; the people were still sacrificing and burning incense at the shrines.

4And Jehoash said to the priests, “All the silver[[16]](#footnote-13406) for the holy things that is brought into the house of Yahweh, the silver from each person’s being counted *in the census*—the silver from the assessment of persons—and all the silver that comes into any man’s heart to bring into the house of Yahweh, 5let the priests take it for themselves, each man from his treasurer, however, they are to repair the damages to the house wherever any damage is found.”

6But by the twenty-third year of King Jehoash, the priests had not repaired the damage to the house. 7Then King Jehoash called for Jehoiada the priest and for the other priests and said to them, “Why are you not repairing the damage to the house? So now do not take any more money from your treasurers, but hand it over for the damage of the house.” 8So the priests agreed that they would take no more silver from the people, and that they would not repair the damage to the house.

9Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest and bored a hole in its lid and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one comes into the house of Yahweh, and the priests who guarded the threshold put in it all the silver that was brought into the house of Yahweh. 10And whenever they saw that there was a lot of silver in the chest, the king’s scribe and the high priest came and tied up *in bags* and counted the silver that was found in the house of Yahweh. 11And they gave the silver that was weighed out into the hands of those who did the work, who had the oversight of the house of Yahweh. And they paid it out to the carpenters and the builders who worked on the house of Yahweh, 12and to the masons and the stone cutters, and for buying timber and cut stone to repair the damage to the house of Yahweh, and for any *other* expense for the repairs to the house.

13But no silver bowls, snuffers, sprinkling basins, trumpets, or any utensils of gold or utensils of silver for the house of Yahweh were made from the money[[17]](#footnote-18508) that was brought into the house of Yahweh, 14because they gave that to those who did the work and repaired the house of Yahweh with it. 15And they did not demand an accounting from the men into whose hand they gave the silver to give to those who did the work, for they dealt faithfully. 16The silver for the guilt offerings and the silver for the sin offerings was not brought into the house of Yahweh; it was for the priests.

Hazael of Syria attacks Judah

17At that time Hazael king of Syria went up and fought against Gath and captured it, then Hazael set his face to go up against Jerusalem. 18Jehoash king of Judah took all the holy things that Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah his fathers, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own holy things and all the gold that was found in the treasures of the house of Yahweh and the king’s house, and sent it to Hazael king of Syria, so that he went away from Jerusalem.

The Death of Jehoash

19Now the rest of the acts of Joash and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Judah? 20His servants arose and made a conspiracy and struck down Joash at Beth-millo, which goes down to Silla. 21It was Jozacar the son of Shimeath and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, who struck him down. So he died, and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David, and Amaziah his son reigned in his place.

**2 Kings Chapter 13**

Jehoahaz Reigns in Israel

1In the twenty-third year of Joash the son of Ahaziah, king of Judah, Jehoahaz the son of Jehu began to reign over Israel in Samaria for 17 years. 2He did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat who made Israel sin; he did not turn aside from it. 3So the anger of Yahweh was kindled against Israel and he gave them into the hand of Hazael king of Syria and into the hand of Ben-hadad the son of Hazael, all *their* days.

4And Jehoahaz entreated the face of Yahweh, and Yahweh listened to him, for he saw the oppression of Israel, for the king of Syria oppressed them. 5So Yahweh gave Israel a savior so that they escaped from under the hand of the Syrians, and the children of Israel lived in their tents as before. 6Nevertheless, they did not depart from the sins of the house of Jeroboam with which he made Israel sin, but walked in them. And the Asherah also remained in Samaria. 7For he did not leave to Jehoahaz an army except for 50 horsemen and ten chariots and 10,000 footmen, because the king of Syria had destroyed them and made them like the dust at threshing *time*.

8Now the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz, and all that he did and his mighty acts, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel? 9And Jehoahaz slept with his fathers and they buried him in Samaria, and Joash his son reigned in his place.

Jehoash Reigns in Israel

10In the thirty-seventh year of Joash king of Judah, Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz began to reign over Israel in Samaria, *and he reigned* for 16 years. 11He did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat who made Israel sin, but he walked in them.

12Now the rest of the acts of Joash[[18]](#footnote-20943) and all that he did, and his mighty acts when he fought against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel? 13And Joash slept with his fathers and Jeroboam sat on his throne, and Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.

The Death of Elisha

14Now when Elisha had fallen sick with his sickness from which he died, Joash the king of Israel came down to him and wept in his presence and said, “My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!”

15And Elisha said to him, “Take a bow and arrows,” so he took for himself a bow and arrows. 16Then he said to the king of Israel, “Have your hand mount on the bow,” and he had his hand mount on it. Then Elisha laid his hands on the king’s hands. 17And he said, “Open the window *facing* to the east,” and he opened it. Then Elisha said, “Shoot!” and he shot. He said, “Yahweh’s arrow of victory, and an arrow of victory over Syria! For you are to strike down the Syrians in Aphek until you have finished them off.”

18Then he said, “Take the arrows,” and he took them. Then he said to the king of Israel, “Strike the ground *with them*,” and he struck three times and stopped. 19And the man of God became angry with him and said, “You should have struck five or six times, then you would have struck down Syria until you had finished it off, but now you will strike Syria *only* three times.” 20And Elisha died, and they buried him.

Now the raiding bands of the Moabites would invade the land in the spring of the year. 21And when they were burying a man, behold, they saw a band of raiders, so they threw the man into the tomb of Elisha. And when the man came into contact with the bones of Elisha, he came alive and stood up on his feet.

22Now Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz. 23But Yahweh was gracious to them and had compassion on them and turned his face toward them because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and until this day he was not willing to destroy them, nor did he cast them from his presence.

24And Hazael king of Syria died, and Ben-hadad his son reigned in his place. 25Then Jehoash[[19]](#footnote-20262) the son of Jehoahaz returned and took out of the hand of Ben-hadad the son of Hazael the cities that he had taken out of the hand of Jehoahaz his father in war. Joash[[20]](#footnote-30411) struck him three times and recovered the cities of Israel.

**2 Kings Chapter 14**

Amaziah Reigns in Judah

1In the second year of Joash son of Joahaz king of Israel, Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah began to reign. 2He was 25 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 29 years in Jerusalem; and his mother’s name was Jehoaddin of Jerusalem. 3He did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh, yet not like David his father. He did according to all that Joash his father had done, 4only the *local* shrines were not taken away; the people were still sacrificing and burning incense at the shrines.

5And as soon as the kingdom was firmly in his hand, he killed his servants who had killed his father the king, 6but the children of those who killed him, he did not put to death, according to what is written in the book of the Law of Moses which Yahweh commanded, saying, “The fathers are not to be put to death for the children, nor are the children to be put to death for the fathers, but every person is to be put to death for his own sin.”

7He struck down Edom in the Valley of Salt, 10,000 *men*, and took Sela in the war and called its name Joktheel to this day. 8Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash, the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, “Come, let’s look one another in the face.”

9Then Jehoash the king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, “The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, ‘Give your daughter to my son as a wife.’ Then a wild animal that was in Lebanon passed by and trampled down the thistle. 10You have struck down, yes, struck down Edom, and your heart has lifted you up. Enjoy the glory of it and stay at home, for why should you stir up evil for yourself and fall, you, and Judah with you?”

11But Amaziah would not listen. So Jehoash king of Israel went up, he and Amaziah king of Judah, and they looked one another in the face at Beth-shemesh that belongs to Judah. 12And Judah was defeated by Israel and they fled, each man to his tent. 13And Jehoash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Jehoash, the son of Ahaziah, at Beth-shemesh, then he came to Jerusalem and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate, 400 cubits.[[21]](#footnote-16145) 14And he took all the gold and silver and all the articles that were found in the house of Yahweh and in the treasures of the king’s house, along with the hostages, then he returned to Samaria.

The Death of Jehoash

15Now the rest of the acts of Jehoash that he did, and his mighty acts, and how he fought against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel? 16And Jehoash slept with his fathers and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel, and Jeroboam his son reigned in his place.

The Death of Amaziah

17Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah lived 15 years after the death of Jehoash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel. 18Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Judah? 19Now they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem. So he fled to Lachish, but they sent after him to Lachish and killed him there. 20They carried him *back* on horses and he was buried at Jerusalem with his fathers in the city of David.

21Then all the people of Judah took Azariah, who was 16 years old, and made him king in the place of his father Amaziah. 22He built Elath and restored it to Judah after King *Amaziah* slept with his fathers.

Jeroboam II Reigns in Israel

23In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel began to reign in Samaria, *and reigned* for 41 years. 24He did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat with which he made Israel sin.

25He restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath to the sea of the Arabah, according to the word of Yahweh the God of Israel that he spoke by his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet who was from Gath-hepher. 26For Yahweh saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter, for there was no one, slave or free, and no helper for Israel. 27but Yahweh did not say that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, so he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.

28Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, and all that he did and his mighty acts, how he fought, and how he recovered Damascus and Hamath (which had *once* belonged to Judah) into Israel, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel? 29And Jeroboam slept with his fathers, with the kings of Israel, and Zechariah his son reigned in his place.

**2 Kings Chapter 15**

Azariah (Uzziah) Reigns in Judah

1In the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Azariah son of Amaziah king of Judah began to reign. 2He was 16 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 52 years in Jerusalem, and his mother’s name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem. 3He did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh just as all that his father Amaziah had done, 4only the *local* shrines were not taken away; the people were still sacrificing and burning incense at the shrines.

5Yahweh struck the king so that he was a leper to the day of his death, and he lived in a separate house. Jotham, the king’s son, was Over the House, judging the people of the land.

6Now the rest of the acts of Azariah and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Judah? 7Azariah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David; and Jotham his son reigned in his place.

Zechariah Reigns in Israel

8In the thirty-eighth year of Azariah king of Judah, Zechariah the son of Jeroboam reigned over Israel in Samaria six months. 9He did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh as his fathers had done; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat who made Israel sin.

10Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him and struck him down in the presence of the people, and killed him and reigned in his place. 11Now the rest of the acts of Zechariah, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel. 12This was the word of Yahweh that he spoke to Jehu, saying, “Your sons will sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation.” And so it came to be.

Shallum Reigns in Israel

13Shallum the son of Jabesh began to reign in the thirty-ninth year of Uzziah king of Judah, and he reigned in Samaria for one month of days. 14Menahem the son of Gadi went up from Tirzah and came to Samaria and struck down Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria and killed him and reigned in his place. 15Now the rest of the acts of Shallum and his conspiracy that he made, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel.

16Then Menahem struck Tiphsah and all who were in it and its territory from Tirzah, because they would not open *their gates* to him. So he struck it, and he split open all the women in it who were pregnant.

Menahem Reigns in Israel

17In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah king of Judah, Menahem the son of Gadi began to reign over Israel, *and he reigned* for ten years in Samaria. 18He did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat who made Israel sin all his days.

19Then Pul the king of Assyria came against the land, and Menahem gave Pul 1,000 talents of silver[[22]](#footnote-29560) so that his hand might be with him to hold the kingdom in his *own* hand. 20Menahem took the silver *payment* from Israel, from all the mighty men of wealth, from each man 50 shekels of silver[[23]](#footnote-16451) to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back and did not stay there in the land.

21Now the rest of the acts of Menahem and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel? 22And Menahem slept with his fathers, and Pekahiah his son reigned in his place.

Pekahiah Reigns in Israel

23In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekahiah the son of Menahem began to reign over Israel in Samaria, *and he reigned* for two years. 24He did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat who made Israel sin.

25Pekah the son of Remaliah, his officer, conspired against him and struck him down in Samaria in the stronghold of the king’s house, with Argob and Arieh; and with him were 50 men of the Gileadites, and he killed him and reigned in his place.

26Now the rest of the acts of Pekahiah and all that he did, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel.

Pekah Reigns in Israel

27In the fifty-second year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekah the son of Remaliah began to reign over Israel in Samaria, *and he reigned* for 20 years. 28He did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat who made Israel sin.

29In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser, king of Assyria, came and captured Ijon and Abel-beth-maacah and Janoah and Kedesh and Hazor and Gilead and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali; and he carried them captive to Assyria.

30Then Hoshea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah and struck him down and killed him and reigned in his place in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah.

31Now the rest of the acts of Pekah and all that he did, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel.

Jotham Reigns in Judah

32In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah king of Israel, Jotham the son of Uzziah king of Judah began to reign. 33He was 25 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 16 years in Jerusalem; and his mother’s name was Jerusha the daughter of Zadok. 34He did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh; he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done, 35only the *local* shrines were not taken away, the people were still sacrificing and burning incense at the shrines.

He built the Upper Gate of the house of Yahweh. 36Now the rest of the acts of Jotham and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Judah? 37In those days Yahweh began to send Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah against Judah. 38And Jotham slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father, and Ahaz his son reigned in his place.

**2 Kings Chapter 16**

Ahaz Reigns in Judah

1In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham king of Judah began to reign. 2Ahaz was 20 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 16 years in Jerusalem; and he did not do what was right in the eyes of Yahweh his God like David his father. 3He walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and even made his son pass through the fire just like the abominations of the nations that Yahweh had driven out from before the children of Israel. 4He offered sacrifices and burned incense at the *local* shrines and on the hills and under every green tree.

5Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel came up to Jerusalem for battle, and they besieged Ahaz but could not conquer him. 6At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria and drove the Jews from Elath, and the Edomites[[24]](#footnote-17299) came to Elath and lived there to this day.

7So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, saying, “I am your servant and your son. Come up and save me out of the hand of the king of Syria and out of the hand of the king of Israel who have risen up against me!” 8And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of Yahweh and in the treasuries of the king’s house and sent it as a gift to the king of Assyria. 9The king of Assyria listened to him. So the king of Assyria went up against Damascus and captured it and carried its people captive to Kir and killed Rezin.

Ahaz’s Idolatry

10Then King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria and he saw the altar that was at Damascus. And King Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest a likeness of the altar and its pattern, according to all its workmanship. 11So Urijah the priest built an altar in accordance with everything that King Ahaz had sent from Damascus, and Urijah the priest made it before Ahaz the king came from Damascus. 12When the king had come from Damascus, the king saw the altar, and the king approached the altar and offered on it. 13He burned his burnt offering and his grain offering into smoke, and poured out his drink offerings and threw the blood of his peace offerings on the altar. 14The bronze altar that was in the presence of Yahweh he brought from the front of the house, from between his altar and the house of Yahweh, and put it on the north side of his altar.

15And King Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, “Burn the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering on the great altar, along with the king’s burnt offering and his grain offering, and with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their grain offering and their drink offerings; and threw on it all the blood of the burnt offering and all the blood of the sacrifices; but the bronze altar will be for me to inquire by.” 16So Urijah the priest did according to all that King Ahaz commanded.

17King Ahaz cut off the panels of the bases and removed the basin from off them, and took down the sea from off the bronze oxen that were under it and put it on a pavement of stone. 18The covered place for the Sabbath that they had built in the house and the king’s entry outside, he removed from the house of Yahweh because of the king of Assyria.

The Death of Ahaz

19Now the rest of the acts of Ahaz that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Judah? 20And Ahaz slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David, and Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.

**2 Kings Chapter 17**

Hoshea Reigns in Israel

1In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah began to reign in Samaria, *and he reigned* over Israel for nine years. 2He did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh, yet not like the kings of Israel who were before him.

3Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against him, and Hoshea became his servant and paid him tribute. 4But the king of Assyria found out Hoshea was in a conspiracy, for he had sent messengers to So king of Egypt and did not send up tribute to the king of Assyria as *he had done* year after year, so the king of Assyria seized him and bound him in prison. 5Then the king of Assyria went up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years.

The Fall of Samaria and Exile of Israel

6In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria and placed them in Halah and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. 7Now this came about because the children of Israel had sinned against Yahweh their God who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and *because* they had feared other gods 8and walked in the statutes of the nations that Yahweh drove out from before the children of Israel, and *in the statutes* of the kings of Israel, which they had made. 9The children of Israel attributed words[[25]](#footnote-21523) that were not so to Yahweh their God, and they built *pagan* shrines for themselves in all their cities from watchtower to fortified city 10and they set up for themselves standing-stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every green tree. 11And they burned incense at all the shrines, like the nations did that Yahweh had driven out from before them. And they did evil things, making Yahweh angry, 12and they served the *disgusting* idols, about which Yahweh had said to them, “You must not do this thing.” 13Yet Yahweh warned Israel and Judah by the hand of every prophet and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes in accordance with all the law that I commanded your fathers and that I sent to you by the hand of my servants the prophets.”

14But they would not listen, but stiffened their neck like the neck of their fathers who did not trust in Yahweh their God. 15They rejected his statutes and his covenant that he cut with their fathers, and his warnings with which he warned them, and they followed after the worthless *idols* and became worthless, and they followed the nations that were around them concerning whom Yahweh had commanded them that they were not to do like them.

16They forsook all the commandments of Yahweh their God and made cast *metal* images for themselves—two calves—and made an Asherah and worshiped all the army of heaven and served Baal. 17And they made their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire and used divination and interpreted omens and sold themselves to do what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh, making him angry.

18Therefore Yahweh became very angry with Israel and he removed them from his presence; none was left but the tribe of Judah alone. 19Also, Judah did not keep the commandments of Yahweh their God, but walked in the practices that Israel did. 20So Yahweh rejected all the seed of Israel and afflicted them, and gave them into the hand of plunderers until he had cast them out of his presence.

21For he had torn Israel from the house of David, and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king, and Jeroboam drove Israel from *following* after Yahweh and made them sin a great sin. 22So the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam that he did. They did not depart from it 23until Yahweh removed Israel from his presence, as he had spoken by all his servants the prophets. So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria to this day.

Assyria Resettles Samaria

24And the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon and from Cuthah and from Avva and from Hamath and Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and lived in its cities. 25But when they began to settle there they did not fear Yahweh, so Yahweh sent lions among them that killed some of them. 26So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, “The nations that you have exiled and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the law of the god of the land. So he has sent lions among them, and behold, they kill them because they do not know the law of the god of the land.”

27Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, “Send back there one of the priests whom you exiled from there, and let him go and live there, and have him teach them the law of the god of the land.” 28So one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and lived in Bethel and began teaching them how they should fear Yahweh.

29But each nation still made gods of their own and put them in the temples of the shrines that the Samaritans had made, each nation in their cities where they lived. 30The people from Babylon made Sukkoth-benoth, and the people from Cuth made Nergal, and the people from Hamath made Ashima, 31and the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. 32So they feared Yahweh, but made for themselves from among themselves priests for the shrines who sacrificed for them in the temples of the shrines. 33So they feared Yahweh and served their own gods after the manner of the nations from among whom they had been carried away.

34To this day they do according to their former manner. They do not fear Yahweh, and they do not follow their statutes or their ordinances or the law or the commandment that Yahweh commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel. 35But Yahweh had cut a covenant and commanded them, saying, “You are not to fear other gods; you are not to bow down to them;[[26]](#footnote-25405) you are not to serve them; and you are not to sacrifice to them! 36But Yahweh, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt with great power and with an outstretched arm, him you are to fear, and you are to bow down to him and you are to sacrifice to him. 37The statutes and the ordinances and the law and the commandment that he wrote for you, you are to be careful to do forevermore. Do not worship[[27]](#footnote-23309) other gods. 38Do not forget the covenant that I have made with you, and do not fear other gods. 39But you are to fear Yahweh your God, and he will rescue you from the hand of all your enemies.”

40However they did not listen, but they kept doing according to their former manner. 41So these nations feared Yahweh and kept serving their carved images. Their children *did* likewise, and their children’s children; as their fathers did, so they do to this day.

**2 Kings Chapter 18**

Hezekiah Reigns in Judah

1Now in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. 2He was 25 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 29 years in Jerusalem, and his mother’s name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah. 3He did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh according to all that David his father had done. 4He removed the *local* shrines and broke the standing-stones and cut down the Asherah, and he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for in those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and he called it Nehushtan.

5He trusted in Yahweh the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah *that came* after him, nor among those that were before him. 6For he held fast to Yahweh; he did not depart from following him but kept his commandments, which Yahweh commanded Moses.

7So Yahweh was with him; wherever he went he succeeded, and he rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him. 8He struck down the Philistines to Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.

9Now in the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it. 10And at the end of three years they captured it; in the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was captured. 11And the king of Assyria exiled Israel to Assyria and put them in Halah and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes, 12because they did not obey the voice of Yahweh their God but transgressed his covenant, all that Moses the servant of Yahweh commanded. They would not listen nor do it.

Sennacherib Attacks Judah

13In the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. 14Then Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, “I have done wrong. Withdraw from me. Whatever you impose upon me, I will bear.” And the king of Assyria required of Hezekiah king of Judah 300 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold. 15So Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of Yahweh and in the treasuries of the king’s house.

16At that time Hezekiah cut off the gold from the doors of the Temple of Yahweh and from the doorposts that Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid and gave it to the king of Assyria.

17Then the king of Assyria sent Tartan and Rab-saris and Rab-shakeh from Lachish to king Hezekiah with a large army to Jerusalem. They went up and came to Jerusalem, and when they had come up, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is on the highway of the Launderer’s Field. 18And when they had called for the king, Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was Over the House, and Shebnah the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, went out to them.

19And Rab-shakeh said to them, “Say now to Hezekiah, ‘This is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says: “What is this trust in which you are trusting? 20Do you think that only words from the lips are counsel and strength for war? Now in whom do you trust, that you have rebelled against me? 21Now, behold, you trust in that broken reed of a staff, on Egypt, on which if any man leans on it, it will go into his hand and pierce it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him. 22But if you say to me, ‘We trust in Yahweh our god,’ isn’t he the one whose shrines and whose altars Hezekiah has taken away and has said to Judah and to Jerusalem, “You must worship before this altar in Jerusalem’?”

23“Come now, make a wager with my lord the king of Assyria. I will give you 2,000 horses if you are able on your part to set riders on them. 24How then will you *be able to* turn away the face of one captain of the least of my lord’s servants when you put your trust in Egypt for chariots and for horsemen? 25Have I now come up without Yahweh against this place to destroy it? Yahweh said to me, ‘Go up against this land and destroy it.’”

26Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and Shebnah and Joah said to Rab-shakeh, “Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it, and do not speak with us *in* Judean within earshot of the people who are on the wall.”

27But Rab-shakeh said to them, “Has my lord sent me to your lord and to you to speak these words? Is it not to the men who sit on the wall, *who will have* to eat their own dung and drink their own urine with you?”

28Then Rab-shakeh stood and cried out in a loud voice in Judean, and spoke, saying, “Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria. 29This is what the king says, ‘Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to rescue you out of his hand. 30And do not let Hezekiah cause you to trust in Yahweh, saying, “Yahweh will rescue, yes, rescue us, and this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.”’

31“Do not listen to Hezekiah. For this is what the king of Assyria says, ‘Make your peace with me and come out to me. Then each one of you will eat from his own vine, and each one from his own fig tree, and each one will drink the waters of his own cistern 32until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and of honey, so that you will live and not die. Do not listen to Hezekiah when he misleads you, saying, “Yahweh will rescue us.” 33Did the gods of the nations rescue, yes, rescue their land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? 34Where are the gods of Hamath and of Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, of Hena, and Ivvah? Have they rescued Samaria out of my hand? 35Who are they among all the gods of the countries that have rescued their country out of my hand, that Yahweh should rescue Jerusalem out of my hand?’”

36But the people were silent and answered him not a word, for the king’s command was, “Do not answer him.” 37Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah who was Over the House, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn and told him the words of Rab-shakeh.

**2 Kings Chapter 19**

Hezekiah Seeks Isaiah’s Counsel

1And when King Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes and covered himself with sackcloth and went into the house of Yahweh. 2Then he sent Eliakim who was Over the House, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz. 3And they said to him, “This is what Hezekiah says, ‘This day is a day of trouble, and of rebuke and of disgrace, for the children have come to the point of birth and there is no strength for giving birth. 4It may be Yahweh your God will hear all the words of Rab-shakeh, whom the king of Assyria his lord has sent to defy the living God, and will rebuke the words that Yahweh your God has heard. Therefore lift up a prayer for the remnant that is left.’”

5So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah. 6And Isaiah said to them, “Tell your lord this: ‘This is what Yahweh says, “Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the servant boys of the king of Assyria have reviled me. 7Behold, I will put a spirit in him so that he will hear a rumor and will return to his own land, and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.”’”

Sennacherib Defies Yahweh

8And Rab-shakeh returned and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah, for he had heard that he had departed from Lachish. 9Now Sennacherib had heard *a report* concerning Tirhakah king of Ethiopia saying, “Behold, he has come out to fight against you.” So he sent messengers back to Hezekiah, saying, 10“This is what you are to say to Hezekiah king of Judah: ‘Do not let your god in whom you trust deceive you, saying, “Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.” 11Behold, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the *other* lands, devoting them to destruction. So will you be rescued? 12Have the gods of the nations rescued those whom my fathers have destroyed, *such as* Gozan and Haran and Rezeph, and the children of Eden that were in Telassar? 13Where is the king of Hamath, and the king of Arpad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah?’”

Hezekiah’s Prayer

14And Hezekiah took the letters from the hand of the messengers and read them. Then he went up to the house of Yahweh and Hezekiah spread it out before Yahweh. 15Then Hezekiah prayed before Yahweh and said,

“O Yahweh, God of Israel, who sits *enthroned* between the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made the heavens and the earth. 16Incline your ear, O Yahweh, and hear! Open your eyes, O Yahweh, and see! And hear the words of Sennacherib that he has sent to defy the living God. 17It is true, O Yahweh, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands 18and have put their gods in the fire, for they were not gods, but the work of men’s hands, wood and stone, so they have destroyed them. 19But now, Yahweh our God, save us, I beg you, out of his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O Yahweh, are God, you alone!”

Isaiah Prophesies Sennacherib’s Fall

20Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, “This is what Yahweh the God of Israel says: ‘Because you have prayed to me concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard *you*.’ 21This is the word that Yahweh has spoken concerning him:

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|  | “The virgin Daughter Zion  has despised you and ridiculed you.  Daughter Jerusalem  has shaken her head at you. |
| 22 | Whom have you defied and blasphemed?  Against whom have you exalted your voice  and lifted up your eyes on high?  Against the Holy One of Israel. |
| 23 | Through the hand of your messengers you have defied the Lord  and have said,  ‘With the multitude of my chariots  I have come up to the height of the mountains,  to the innermost parts of Lebanon,  and I have cut down its tall cedars  and its choice fir trees,  and I have entered into its farthest lodging place,  the forest of its fruitful field. |
| 24 | I have dug *wells* and drank the waters of foreigners,  and with the sole of my feet  I will dry up all the rivers of Egypt.’ |
| 25 | “Have you not heard?  Long ago I made it  and I formed it in ancient times.  Now I have brought it to pass,  crashing fortified cities into ruinous heaps. |
| 26 | Therefore their inhabitants had little power.  They were dismayed and put to shame.  They were like the plants of the field  and like the green vegetation,  like the grass on the housetops  and like standing grain scorched  before it has grown up. |
| 27 | “But I know your sitting down,  and your going out and your coming in  and your raging against me. |
| 28 | Because of your raging against me  and because your arrogance has come up into my ears,  therefore I will put my hook in your nose  and my bridle in your lips,  and I will make you return  by the road on which you came. |

29“And this will be the sign to you, *Hezekiah*: this year you will eat what grows on its own, and in the second year what springs up that same way, but in the third year sow and reap and plant vineyards, and eat their fruit. 30The remnant of the house of Judah that has escaped will again take root downward and bear fruit upward. 31For out of Jerusalem will come a remnant, and survivors will come from Mount Zion. The zeal of Yahweh of Armies will accomplish this!”’

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| 32 | “Therefore this is what Yahweh says concerning the king of Assyria,  ‘He will not come into this city  nor shoot an arrow there,  nor will he come before it with shield  nor build up a *siege* ramp against it. |
| 33 | By the road that he came,  by the same he will return,  and he will not come into this city,’  says Yahweh. |
| 34 | ‘For I will defend this city to save it  for my own sake and for my servant David’s sake.’” |

Defeat and Death of Sennacherib

35And that night the angel of Yahweh went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when they got up early in the morning, behold, all of them were corpses; dead *men*. 36So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and he went away and returned *home*, and lived at Nineveh.

37And as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons struck him down with the sword, and they escaped into the land of Ararat. And Esar-haddon his son reigned in his place.

**2 Kings Chapter 20**

Hezekiah’s Illness and Recovery

1In those days Hezekiah was sick to *the point of* death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, came to him and said to him, “This is what Yahweh says: ‘Set your house in order, for you are going to die and will not live.’”

2Then he turned his face to the wall and prayed to Yahweh, saying, 3“Please Yahweh, remember now how I have walked before you in truth and with a wholly devoted heart, and have done what is good in your eyes.” And Hezekiah wept; *it was* a great weeping.

4Now Isaiah had not yet gone out into the middle court *of the palace*, when the word of Yahweh came to him, saying, 5“Turn back and tell Hezekiah the leader of my people: ‘This is what Yahweh, the God of David your father, says: I have heard your prayer. I have seen your tears. Behold, I will heal you. On the third day you will go up to the house of Yahweh. 6I will add 15 years to your days. I will rescue you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my own sake and for my servant David’s sake.’”

7Isaiah said, “Take a cake of *pressed* figs.” They took and laid it on the boil, and he lived.

8Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “What is the sign that Yahweh will heal me and that I will go up to the house of Yahweh on the third day?”

9Isaiah said, “This is the sign to you from Yahweh, that Yahweh will do the thing that he has spoken: should the shadow go forward ten steps, or go back ten steps?”

10Hezekiah answered, “It is an easy thing for the shadow to lengthen ten steps. No, but let the shadow return backward ten steps.”

11So Isaiah the prophet cried out to Yahweh, and he brought the shadow on the sundial back ten steps that it had gone down on the sundial of Ahaz.

Hezekiah and the Babylonian Envoys

12At that time Berodach-baladan[[28]](#footnote-11991) the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, because he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick. 13Hezekiah listened to them and showed them all his treasure house; the silver and the gold and the spices and the fine oil and the house of his armor and all that was found in his treasures; there was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.

14Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah and said to him, “What did these men say and from where did they come to you?”

And Hezekiah said, “They have come from a far country, from Babylon.”

15Then he said, “What have they seen in your house?”

Hezekiah answered, “They have seen all that is in my house. There was nothing among my treasures that I did not show them.”

16Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of Yahweh: 17‘Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house and that your fathers have stored up until this day will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left,’ says Yahweh. 18‘And some of your sons who will come from you, whom you will father, they will take away, and they will be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.’”

19Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “The word of Yahweh that you have spoken is good.” For he said, “Will there not at least be trustworthy peace in my days?”

The Death of Hezekiah

20Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah and all his mighty acts, and how he made the pool and the tunnel, and brought water into the city, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 21And Hezekiah slept with his fathers and Manasseh his son reigned in his place.

**2 Kings Chapter 21**

Manasseh Reigns in Judah

1Manasseh was 12 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 55 years in Jerusalem, and his mother’s name was Hephzibah. 2He did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh, following after the abominations of the nations that Yahweh cast out before the children of Israel. 3For he rebuilt the *local* shrines that Hezekiah his father had destroyed, and he erected altars for Baal and made an Asherah, just as Ahab king of Israel had made, and he worshiped all the army of heaven and served them. 4He built altars in the house of Yahweh about which Yahweh said, “I will put my name in Jerusalem.” 5He built altars for all the army of heaven in the two courts of the house of Yahweh. 6He made his son to pass through the fire, and he practiced sorcery and used enchantments, and made *contact with* spirits and familiar spirits. He did much evil in the eyes of Yahweh, making *him* angry.

7And the carved image of Asherah that he had made, he set inside the house of which Yahweh said to David and to Solomon his son, “In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my name forever; 8nor will I cause the feet of Israel to wander again out of the land that I gave their fathers, if only they will be careful to do according to all that I have commanded them and according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded them.” 9But they did not listen, and Manasseh led them astray to do evil; more than the nations that Yahweh destroyed before the children of Israel.

10Yahweh spoke by his servants the prophets, saying, 11“Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations and has done more wickedly than all that the Amorites did who were before him, and has made Judah also sin with his idols, 12therefore this is what Yahweh the God of Israel says: ‘Behold, I am bringing such evil on Jerusalem and Judah that whoever hears of it, both his ears will tingle. 13I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria and the plumb bob of the house of Ahab, and I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it over on its face. 14I will abandon the remnant of my inheritance and give them into the hand of their enemies so that they become prey and spoil to all their enemies 15because they have done what is evil in my eyes, and they have been making me angry ever since the day their fathers came out of Egypt, until this *very* day.’”

16Furthermore, Manasseh shed innocent blood—very much—until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another, in addition to his sin with which he made Judah sin by doing what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh.

The Death of Manasseh

17Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh and all that he did, and his sin that he sinned, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Judah? 18And Manasseh slept with his fathers, and was buried in the garden of his own house, in the garden of Uzza; and Amon his son reigned in his place.

Amon Reigns in Judah

19Amon was 22 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem; and his mother’s name was Meshullemeth the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah. 20He did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh, as Manasseh his father had done. 21He walked in all the ways that his father had walked in, and served the idols that his father had served, and worshiped them, 22and he forsook Yahweh the God of his fathers and did not walk in the way of Yahweh.

23The servants of Amon conspired against him, and put the king to death in his own house. 24But the people of the land struck down all those who had conspired against King Amon, and the people of the land made Josiah his son king in his place.

25Now the rest of the acts of Amon that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Judah? 26He was buried in his tomb in the garden of Uzza, and Josiah his son reigned in his place.

**2 Kings Chapter 22**

Josiah Reigns in Judah

1Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 31 years in Jerusalem, and his mother’s name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath. 2He did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh and walked in all the ways of David his father, and did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

Josiah Repairs the Temple

3And in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, the king sent the scribe Shaphan, the son of Azaliah the son of Meshullam, to the house of Yahweh, saying, 4“Go up to Hilkiah the high priest and have him count up the money[[29]](#footnote-16841) that has been brought into the house of Yahweh that the guards of the threshold have gathered from the people. 5Have them give it into the hand of the workmen who have the oversight of the house of Yahweh, and let them give it to those doing the work who are in the house of Yahweh in order to repair the damage of the house, 6to the carpenters and to the builders and to the wall masons, and for buying timber and hewn stone to repair the house. 7But no accounting is required to be made with them of the money that was given into their hand, for they are dealing faithfully.”

Hilkiah Finds the Book of the Law

8Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, “I have found the Book of the Law in the house of Yahweh.” Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.

9Shaphan the scribe went to the king and reported to the king and said, “Your servants have emptied out the money[[30]](#footnote-14636) that was present in the house and have given it into the hand of the workmen who have the oversight of the house of Yahweh.” 10Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, “Hilkiah the priest has given me a scroll.” Shaphan read it in the presence of the king.

11And when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes. 12The king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Micaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the king’s servant, saying, 13“Go inquire of Yahweh for me and for the people and for all Judah concerning the words of this scroll that has been found, for great is the wrath of Yahweh that is kindled against us because our fathers have not listened to the words of this scroll to do according to everything that is written concerning us.”

Huldah’s Prophecy of Judgment

14So Hilkiah the priest and Ahikam and Achbor and Shaphan and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe. And she lived in Jerusalem in the second *district*, and they spoke with her.

15She said to them, “This is what Yahweh the God of Israel says: ‘Say to the man who sent you to me, 16This is what Yahweh says: Behold, I will bring evil on this place, and on its inhabitants, all the words of the scroll that the king of Judah has read. 17Because they have forsaken me and have burned incense to other gods, making me angry by all the work of their hands; therefore my wrath will be kindled against this place, and it will not be quenched. 18But to the king of Judah who sent you to inquire of Yahweh, you are to say this to him: This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: *As for* the words that you have heard, 19because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before Yahweh when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard *you*, says Yahweh. 20Therefore behold, I will gather you to your fathers, and you will be gathered to your grave in peace so that your eyes will not see all the evil that I will bring on this place.’”

And they brought back this message to the king.

**2 Kings Chapter 23**

Covenant Renewal

1The king sent, and they gathered all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem to him. 2The king went up to the house of Yahweh, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem *went* with him, and the priests and the prophets and all the people, both small and great, and he read in their ears all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of Yahweh. 3The king stood by the pillar and cut a covenant before Yahweh, to walk after Yahweh and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to confirm the words of this covenant that were written in this book; and all the people took a stand in the covenant.

Josiah’s Reforms

4The king commanded Hilkiah the high priest and the priests of the second rank and the guards of the threshold to bring out of the Temple of Yahweh all the articles that were made for Baal and for the Asherah and for all the army of heaven, and he burned them outside of Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron and carried their ashes to Bethel. 5He did away with the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had appointed to burn incense at the shrines in the cities of Judah and in the surrounding area of Jerusalem, as well as those who burned incense to Baal and to the sun and to the moon and to the constellations and to all the army of heaven. 6He brought out the Asherah from the house of Yahweh to the brook Kidron, outside of Jerusalem, and burned it at the brook Kidron and beat it to dust and cast its dust on the graves of the common people. 7He broke down the houses of the male cult prostitutes that were in the house of Yahweh where the women had been weaving coverings for the Asherah.

8He brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah and defiled the shrines where the priests had burned incense from Geba to Beer-sheba, And he broke down the shrines at the gates that were at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city that were on a person’s left *entering* the gate of the city. 9However, the priests of the shrines did not come up to the altar of Yahweh in Jerusalem, but they ate unleavened bread among their brothers.

10And he defiled Topheth which is in the valley of the sons of Hinnom, so that no one could make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech. 11He put an end to the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun at the entrance of the house of Yahweh, by the room of Nathan-melech the court officer that was in the *Temple* colonnade, and he burned the chariots of the sun with fire.

12The king broke down the altars that were on the roof of the upper room of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars that Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of Yahweh. He hastily removed *them* from there and cast their dust into the brook Kidron. 13The king defiled the shrines that were facing Jerusalem, which were on the south side of the Mountain of Corruption that Solomon the king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians and for Chemosh the abomination of Moab and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon. 14And he broke in pieces the standing-stones and cut down the Asherah poles and filled their sites with human bones.

15And also the altar that was at Bethel and the shrine that Jeroboam the son of Nebat had made—*the man* who made Israel sin—he broke down that altar and the shrine and he burned the shrine and beat it to dust and burned the Asherah. 16As Josiah turned around, he saw the tombs that were there in the mountain, so he sent and took the bones out of the tombs and burned them on the altar and defiled it, in accordance with the word of Yahweh that the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these things. 17Then he said, “What is that monument that I see?”

And the men of the city said to him, “It is the tomb of the man of God who came from Judah and proclaimed these things that you have done against the altar of Bethel.”

18He said, “Let him rest! Let no man move his bones!” So they let his bones be, along with the bones of the prophet who had come out of Samaria.

19And also, all the temples at the shrines that were in the cities of Samaria that the kings of Israel had made, making *Yahweh* angry, Josiah took away and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Bethel. 20He slaughtered on the altars all the priests of the shrines who were there, and he burned human bones on them, and he returned to Jerusalem.

Josiah Restores the Passover

21The king commanded all the people, saying, “Keep the Passover to Yahweh your God as it is written in the Book of the Covenant.” 22For no Passover such as this had been kept since the days of the judges who judged Israel; neither in all the days of the kings of Israel nor of the kings of Judah. 23But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, this Passover was kept in Jerusalem to Yahweh.

24And also Josiah eradicated those who inquired of spirits or had familiar spirits, and the teraphim[[31]](#footnote-26797) and the idols and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, in order to fulfill the words of the law that were written in the scroll that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of Yahweh. 25And before him there was no king like him, who turned to Yahweh with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength in accordance with all the Law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him.

26However, Yahweh did not turn from the fierceness of his great wrath; his anger was kindled against Judah because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had made him angry. 27Yahweh said, “I will also remove Judah out of my sight just as I have removed Israel, and I will reject Jerusalem, this city that I have chosen, and the house of which I said, ‘My name will be there.’”

Josiah’s Death in Battle

28Now the rest of the acts of Josiah and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Judah? 29In his days Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt went up to *help* the king of Assyria at the river Euphrates, but King Josiah went out against him. However, Pharaoh Neco killed him at Megiddo when he saw him. 30His servants carried him, dead, in a chariot from Megiddo and brought him to Jerusalem and buried him in his own tomb. The people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah and anointed him and made him king in his father’s place.

Jehoahaz’s Reign and Captivity

31Jehoahaz was 23 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem; and his mother’s name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. 32He did evil in the eyes of Yahweh, just like all *the evil* that his fathers had done. 33Pharaoh Neco took him prisoner at Riblah in the land of Hamath to keep him from reigning in Jerusalem, and he imposed a fine on the land of 100 talents of silver[[32]](#footnote-23529) and a talent of gold.[[33]](#footnote-21407)

34Pharaoh Neco made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the place of Josiah his father and changed his name to Jehoiakim, and he took Jehoahaz away and brought *him* to Egypt and he died there. 35And Jehoiakim gave the silver and the gold *as payment* to Pharaoh, and at the command of Pharaoh he taxed the land to give the money. He exacted the silver and the gold from the people of the land, from each person according to his assessment, to give it to Pharaoh Neco.

Jehoiakim Reigns in Judah

36Jehoiakim was 25 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 11 years in Jerusalem, and his mother’s name was Zebidah the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah. 37He did evil in the eyes of Yahweh, just like all *the evil* that his fathers had done.

**2 Kings Chapter 24**

Jehoiakim Rebels Against Nebuchadnezzar

1In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up and Jehoiakim became his servant for three years, but then he turned and rebelled against him. 2And Yahweh sent against him raiding bands of the Chaldeans and raiding bands of the Syrians and raiding bands of the Moabites and raiding bands of the children of Ammon; and he sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of Yahweh that he spoke by his servants the prophets. 3Surely at the commandment of Yahweh this came upon Judah in order to remove them out of his sight because of the sins of Manasseh, in accordance with all that he had done, 4and also *because of* the innocent blood that he had shed, for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and Yahweh was not willing to forgive.

5Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Judah? 6So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers, and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.

7The king of Egypt did not come again out of his land *to war*, for the king of Babylon had taken all that belonged to the king of Egypt from the Brook of Egypt to the river Euphrates.

Jehoiachin Reigns in Judah

8Jehoiachin was 18 years old when he began to reign and he reigned in Jerusalem for three months, and his mother’s name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. 9He did evil in the eyes of Yahweh, just like all *the evil* that his fathers had done.

Jerusalem Captured

10At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up to Jerusalem and the city came under siege. 11And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to the city while his servants were besieging it, 12and Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out *in surrender* to the king of Babylon, he and his mother and his servants and his leaders and his officers.

And the king of Babylon took him captive in the eighth year of his[[34]](#footnote-29652) reign. 13And he carried out from there all the treasures of the house of Yahweh and the treasures of the king’s house, and cut in pieces all the accessories of gold in the Temple of Yahweh that Solomon king of Israel had made, as Yahweh had said *would happen*. 14He exiled all Jerusalem and all the officials and all the mighty men of valor, 10,000 captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths; no one remained except the poorest of the people of the land.

15He exiled Jehoiachin to Babylon. And the king’s mother and the king’s wives and his officers, and the chief men of the land he took into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. 16All the men of valor, 7,000, and the craftsmen and the smiths, 1,000, all of them strong and apt for war; the king of Babylon brought them captive to Babylon.

Zedekiah Reigns in Judah

17The king of Babylon made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin’s uncle, king in his place, and changed his name to Zedekiah. 18Zedekiah was 21 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 11 years in Jerusalem, and his mother’s name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. 19And he did evil in the eyes of Yahweh, just like all *the evil* that his fathers had done. 20For because of the anger of Yahweh against Jerusalem and against Judah it came to the point that he cast them out from his presence. And Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

**2 Kings Chapter 25**

Nebuchadnezzar’s Siege of Jerusalem

1And in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, and he encamped against it and they built a siege wall around it. 2So the city was besieged to the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.

3On the ninth day of the *fourth* month the famine was severe in the city so that there was no bread for the people of the land. 4Then a breach was made in the city and all the men of war *fled* at night by the route *that went* through the gate between the two walls that was by the king’s garden (now the Chaldeans were against the city *all* around it); and the king went by the road *that led* to the Arabah. 5But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho, and all his army was scattered from him. 6Then they took the king and carried him up to the king of Babylon to Riblah, and they pronounced judgment on him. 7They killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes and *then* put out the eyes of Zedekiah and he bound him in bronze chains and carried him to Babylon.

Jerusalem Destroyed

8Now in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. 9He burned the house of Yahweh and the king’s house, and *also* all the houses of Jerusalem—every great house—he burned with fire. 10All the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down the walls around Jerusalem. 11Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard exiled the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who had defected to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the multitude. 12But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left some of the poorest of the land as vineyard keepers and farmers.

13The Chaldeans broke into pieces the pillars of bronze that were in the house of Yahweh and the stands and the bronze sea that were in the house of Yahweh and carried the bronze to Babylon. 14They took away the pots, the shovels, the snuffers, the spoons and all the accessories of bronze with which the *priests* ministered. 15The captain of the guard took away the firepans, the sprinkling bowls, *and* whatever was of gold, as gold, and whatever was of silver, as silver.

16The two pillars, the one sea and the stands that Solomon had made for the house of Yahweh, the bronze of all these articles was too much to weigh. 17The height of the one pillar was 18 cubits[[35]](#footnote-21131) and a capital of bronze was on it, and the height of the capital was three cubits with the latticework and pomegranates on the capital around it, all of bronze, and the second pillar had the same with the latticework.

18The captain of the guard took Seraiah the Chief Priest and Zephaniah the second priest and the three guards of the threshold, 19and out of the city he took an officer who was set over the men of war, and five men of Those Who See The King’s Face, who were present in the city, and the scribe of the commander of the army who mustered the people of the land, and 60 men of the people of the land who were present in the city. 20Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. 21The king of Babylon struck them down and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was exiled from off of his land.

Gedaliah Made Governor of Judah

22As for the people who remained in the land of Judah whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had allowed to remain, he appointed over them Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan. 23Now when all the commanders of the forces, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah *over them*, they came to Gedaliah to Mizpah, *that is*, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah the son of the Maacathite, they and their men. 24Gedaliah swore to them and to their men and said to them, “Do not be afraid *to be* servants of the Chaldeans. Dwell in the land and serve the king of Babylon and it will be well with you.”

25But in the seventh month, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama of the royal seed, came, and ten men with him, and struck down Gedaliah so that he died, along with the Jews and the Chaldeans that were with him at Mizpah. 26All the people both small and great and the commanders of the forces arose and went to Egypt because they were afraid of the Chaldeans.

Jehoiachin Pardoned

27It came to pass in the thirty-seventh year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, that Evil-merodach king of Babylon, in the year that he began to reign, lifted up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah out of prison, 28and he spoke kindly to him, and set his throne above the throne of the kings who were with him in Babylon. 29And he changed his prison garments and *Jehoiachin* ate bread in his presence continually all the days of his life, 30and his allowance, a continual allowance, was given to him from the king, a portion for each day all the days of his life.

1. Roughly 750 pounds (340 kilograms) [↑](#footnote-ref-26391)
2. Roughly 150 pounds (68 kilograms) [↑](#footnote-ref-31018)
3. Or “worship” [↑](#footnote-ref-23190)
4. Lit. “Aramean” [↑](#footnote-ref-15120)
5. About 7 quarts (6.6 liters) [↑](#footnote-ref-13340)
6. A shekel was roughly 0.4 ounces (11 grams) [↑](#footnote-ref-28968)
7. About 14 quarts (13.2 liters) [↑](#footnote-ref-10809)
8. Or, “men with skin disease” [↑](#footnote-ref-20181)
9. The Masoretic Hebrew text has some additional wording. [↑](#footnote-ref-17931)
10. A seah is about 7 quarts (6.6 liters) [↑](#footnote-ref-11205)
11. About 14 quarts (13.2 liters) [↑](#footnote-ref-17306)
12. About 7 quarts (6.6 liters) [↑](#footnote-ref-19605)
13. Lit. “he” [↑](#footnote-ref-12799)
14. Heb. “Jehoram” [↑](#footnote-ref-22279)
15. He is called “Joash” in 2 Chronicles 24 [↑](#footnote-ref-24243)
16. Meaning “money” [↑](#footnote-ref-13406)
17. Lit. “silver” [↑](#footnote-ref-18508)
18. Alt. spelling of “Jehoash” [↑](#footnote-ref-20943)
19. Also called “Joash” in this verse [↑](#footnote-ref-20262)
20. The shorter rendition of “Jehoash” [↑](#footnote-ref-30411)
21. Roughly 600 feet (183 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-16145)
22. 75,000 pounds (34,019 kilograms) [↑](#footnote-ref-29560)
23. Roughly 1.25 pounds (567 grams) [↑](#footnote-ref-16451)
24. Masoretic text reads “Syrians” [↑](#footnote-ref-17299)
25. Or “things” [↑](#footnote-ref-21523)
26. Or “worship them” [↑](#footnote-ref-25405)
27. Lit. “fear” [↑](#footnote-ref-23309)
28. Called “Merodach-baladan” in Isa. 39:1 [↑](#footnote-ref-11991)
29. Lit. “silver” [↑](#footnote-ref-16841)
30. Lit. “silver” [↑](#footnote-ref-14636)
31. Teraphim were household gods. [↑](#footnote-ref-26797)
32. 7,500 pounds (3,401 kilograms) of silver [↑](#footnote-ref-23529)
33. 75 pounds (34 kilograms) of gold [↑](#footnote-ref-21407)
34. The eighth year of Nebuchadnezzar’s reign [↑](#footnote-ref-29652)
35. 27 feet (8.2 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-21131)