



Arabic Simplified Text

v4.9

Kings 1

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First Kings

even though **That was true** .When King David was very old, he often felt cold¹ 1

His officials told him, “Your Majesty, some² .his servants put many blankets on him people should locate a young female attendant who has never had sex. She will stay near you, and she will take care of you. She will sleep in your bed with you. That will keep you ”.from feeling cold, Your Majesty

So, people searched throughout the country of Israel for a young female attendant³ Abishag. She was from **a woman whose name was** who was pretty. Eventually, they located Abishag was extremely pretty. She⁴ .**David** the town of Shunem. They took her to King .did not have sex with her **David** took care of the king and served him. However, King

after Absalom was Adonijah. His mother’s name was **David’s next son** Now⁵⁻⁶ had never rebuked him **David** Haggith. He was a very handsome man. However, his father for anything that he did. Adonijah decided that he wanted to become king. So, he got a .**as an escort** chariot, soldiers who rode horses, and 50 men to run in front of him

and with ,**and the leader of the army** He made plans with Joab, who was Zeruiah’s son⁷ ,However, Zadok the priest⁸ .**as the next king** Abiathar the priest. They supported Adonijah Nathan, who spoke for ,**and the leader of the king’s guards** Benaiah, who was Jehoiada’s son **as the next** God, Shimei, Rei, and David’s most capable soldiers did not support Adonijah .king

Now Adonijah went to the large rock that people call Zohemoth, which is near the⁹ .spring that people call Rogel. He offered as sacrifices some sheep and oxen and fat animals He invited most of his brothers, King David’s other sons. He also invited most of the king’s ,However, he did not invite Nathan, who spoke for God¹⁰ .officials who were from Judah .brother Solomon **younger** most capable soldiers, or his **David’s** ,Benaiah

Then Nathan went to Solomon’s mother Bathsheba and told her, “You should know¹¹ that Adonijah, Haggith’s son, is trying to become king. Further, King David has not heard So if you want to save yourself and your son Solomon from dying, allow me to¹² !about it ,Leave this place and visit King David. Remind him that he¹³ .tell you what you should do the king, promised you that your son Solomon would rule as the next king. Then, tell him

Then, as you are telling those things to King¹⁴ .that Adonijah is trying to be the next king
”.David, I too will visit. I will tell King David that what you are telling him is true

So Bathsheba visited the king in his bedroom. He was very old, and Abishag, who¹⁵
Bathsheba kneeled before King¹⁶ .was from the town of Shunem, was taking care of him
.David to honor him

”?Then, he asked her, “What do you want

She replied, “Your Majesty, you had Yahweh our God authorize it when you¹⁷
.solemnly promised me that my son Solomon would certainly rule as the next king
However, listen to this: Adonijah is trying to become king. Further, Your Majesty, you¹⁸

He has offered as sacrifices many oxen and fat animals and¹⁹ .have not heard about it
sheep. He has invited most of your sons, Abiathar the priest, and Joab, the leader of the
So, Your Majesty, all the²⁰ .army. However, he has not invited Solomon, who obeys you
If you do²¹ .Israelite people are waiting for you to declare who will rule as the next king
not do that, Your Majesty, when you die, people will punish me and Solomon, my son, as if
”.we had done something wrong

,Then, as Bathsheba was saying that to King David, Nathan, who spoke for God²²
So David’s servants told King David, “Nathan, who speaks for God, is²³ .arrived there
Nathan went to where King David was. He knelt before **Bathsheba left, and here.**” Then
.King David to honor him very much

Then Nathan said, “Your Majesty, you must have declared that Adonijah would rule²⁴
.Rogel spring because this very day Adonijah has visited **I say that**²⁵ .as the next king
he has offered as sacrifices many oxen and fat animals and sheep. He has invited ,**There**
most of your sons, the leaders of the army, and Abiathar the priest. They are feasting with
However, he²⁶ ’!him and declaring, ‘We hope that King Adonijah will live for a long time
,did not invite me, who obeys you, or Zadok the priest, or Benaiah, who is Jehoiada’s son
Did you, Your Majesty, tell Adonijah and the people with²⁷ .or Solomon, who obeys you
him to do those things without informing us who obey you about who will rule as the next
”?king

,So ”.in here again Have Bathsheba come“ ,his servants Then King David told²⁸
.and waited before King David **again** Bathsheba entered in **Nathan left, and**

Then King David declared, “Whenever anything might have hurt me, Yahweh²⁹
that I will do today what I³⁰ **I promise solemnly** ,rescued me. As surely as he lives
previously solemnly promised to you and had Yahweh, the God whom we Israelites

worship, guarantee. I will declare that your son Solomon will certainly rule as the next
”.king

,Then Bathsheba knelt before King David to honor him very much. She declared³¹
”!Your Majesty, I hope that you will live for a long time“

Have Zadok the priest, Nathan, who speaks for“ ,his servants Then King David told³²
So, these three men entered in to ”.in here God, and Benaiah, who is Jehoiada’s son, come
King David commanded them, “Assemble my officials. Have³³ .where King David was
my son Solomon ride on my own mule. Then, all of you must go to the spring that people
There, you two, Zadok the priest and Nathan who speaks for God, must pour³⁴ .call Gihon
.olive oil on Solomon’s head to show that he will be the next king of the Israelite people
Then, you must have people play trumpets loudly. You must declare, ‘We hope that King
After that, you must follow him back here, where he³⁵ ’!Solomon will live for a long time
must sit down on my throne. That way, he will be the next king. Further, I have appointed
”.him to rule over both the region of Israel and the region of Judah

what What you have said is !Benaiah, who was Jehoiada’s son, replied, “May it be so³⁶
,Your Majesty³⁷ .worship, also has declared and I Yahweh, the God whom Your Majesty
Yahweh has helped you. I hope that Yahweh will help Solomon in the same way. I hope that
Yahweh will enable Solomon to become an even greater king than you have been, Your
”.Majesty

After that, Zadok the priest, Nathan who spoke for God, Benaiah who was³⁸
to went ,who were the king’s guards ,Jehoiada’s son, and the Kerethites and Pelethites
They had him ride on King David’s mule. Then, all of them went to the spring .Solomon
Now Zadok the priest had taken olive oil in a special container³⁹ .that people call Gihon
to show that he would be from the sacred tent. He poured the olive oil on Solomon’s head
,Then, some people played trumpets loudly. Everyone who was there declared .the next king
Then, they followed Solomon⁴⁰ ”!We hope that King Solomon will live for a long time“
.They played musical instruments, and they were very happy .into the city of Jerusalem back
!They were extremely loud

While Adonijah and the people he had invited were almost done feasting, they heard⁴¹
When Joab noticed that people were playing trumpets, he asked, “Why are .the loud noise
”?being so loud of Jerusalem people in the city

.As he was asking that, Jonathan, who was Abiathar the priest’s son, arrived⁴²
Adonijah said, “I welcome you! You are a capable man, so you must have something good
”.to tell us

,His Majesty, King David .have something good to tell you not I do“ ,Jonathan replied⁴³
King David :Here is what has happened⁴⁴ !has declared that Solomon will be the next king
told Zadok the priest, Nathan who speaks for God, Benaiah who is Jehoiada’s son, and the
to go with Solomon. They had Solomon ,who are the king’s guards ,Kerethites and Pelethites
to the spring that people call Gihon. There, Zadok They went⁴⁵ .ride on King David’s mule
the priest and Nathan who speaks for God poured olive oil on Solomon’s head to show that
,to the city of Jerusalem he would be the next king. Then, all the people there walked back
and they were very happy. Many people in the city of Jerusalem are shouting. That is why
.Further, Solomon has sat down on the throne as the next king⁴⁶ .you can hear loud noises
for what In addition, the king’s officials visited His Majesty, King David, to praise him⁴⁷
They told King David that they wished that God would make Solomon even .he had done
more famous than he was and that God would enable Solomon to become an even greater
to king than he had been. Then, King David, who was sitting on his bed, bowed down
Even more, King David praised Yahweh, the God whom we Israelites⁴⁸ .honor God
for appointing someone this very day to be the next king while He thanked Yahweh .worship
”.he was still alive

as the Then all the people whom Adonijah had invited and who had supported him⁴⁹
.and each person went to a different place ,Rogel spring were very afraid. They left next king
and held to the sacred tent Adonijah was afraid of what Solomon would do. So, he went⁵⁰
Then⁵¹ .because he thought that no one would kill him there onto the projections of the altar
he has gone to the ,someone informed Solomon, “Adonijah is afraid of you, the king. So
because he thinks that no one will and is holding onto the projections of the altar sacred tent
He asks you, the king, to solemnly promise right now that you will not have .kill him there
”.someone execute him

Solomon replied, “Suppose that he proves that he is trustworthy. In that case, I will⁵²
not punish him at all. However, suppose that he does anything that is wrong. In that case, I
.some men to the sacred tent Then King Solomon sent⁵³ ”.will have someone execute him
They took Adonijah from the altar. Then, Adonijah visited King Solomon and knelt before
”.him to honor him. Solomon told him, “Return home

When David realized that he would soon die, he instructed his son Solomon in¹ 2

:what he should do. Here is what he told him

You must do what Yahweh our³ .I will soon die. You must be bold and courageous“²
God has required. You must behave as he wants you to behave. You must obey everything
that he has directed and instructed us to do, which Moses wrote in the Instruction. That

Also, you must obey Yahweh⁴ .way, wherever you go and whatever you do, you will do well so that he will do what he promised to do. He declared that one of my relatives would always be ruling over the Israelite people as long as my descendants behave properly by .being completely faithful to him

Further, you remember how Joab, Zeruiah's son, acted against me by murdering two⁵ .of the leaders over the Israelite army. I mean Abner, Ner's son, and Amasa, Jether's son Further, when there was no battle, he killed people as if there was a battle. He is responsible You must make sure that he does not become old and die⁶ .for killing those people .peacefully. Do that in whatever way you think is best

In contrast, you must be kind to the children of Barzillai, who was from the region of⁷ ,along with Barzillai ,because You should do that .Gilead. Provide them with food and drink older they helped me by giving me food and drink when I was running away from your .brother Absalom

Next, Gera's son Shimei, who is from the tribe of Benjamin and who used to live in⁸ the town of Bahurim, is staying here. When I was traveling to the town of Mahanaim, he asked God to harm me very much. Later, when he visited me near the Jordan River, I had Yahweh guarantee it when I solemnly promised that I would not have someone execute ,But now, be sure that you punish him. You must make sure that he dies violently⁹ .him ”.even though he is old. You are a wise person, so you can decide how to do that

which is part of the ,Sometime later, David died. People buried him in David's city¹⁰ In all, David had been king of the Israelite people for 40 years. He¹¹ .city of Jerusalem ruled for seven years from the city of Hebron, and he ruled for 33 years from the city of Solomon ruled as the next king after King David, his father. Everyone¹² .Jerusalem .acknowledged and obeyed him

One day, Adonijah, Haggith's son, visited Solomon's mother Bathsheba. She asked¹³ ”.him, “Are you acting peacefully as you visit me?” He replied, “Yes, I am

,Then Adonijah said, “I want to discuss something with you.” Bathsheba replied¹⁴ ”.me about it Tell“

So Adonijah said, “You remember that I almost became the next king. In fact, most¹⁵ of the Israelite people wanted me to be the next king. However, Yahweh decided that my .would be the next king instead of me, and that is what happened Solomon brother younger At this time, I am asking you to do one thing for me. Please do not refuse to do it.” She¹⁶ ”.me replied, “Ask

because King Solomon will not refuse to do what you **I ask you to do this**“ ,He said¹⁷
ask. So, please ask King Solomon to allow me to marry Abishag, who is from the town of
”.Shunem

Bathsheba replied, “Very well, I will talk with King Solomon about what you have¹⁸
”.asked for

.So Bathsheba visited King Solomon to talk with him about what Adonijah asked for¹⁹
to welcome her and knelt before **from his throne** King Solomon got up ,**When she arrived**
her to honor her. Then he sat back down on his throne. He had his attendants bring in a
.and she sat down on it at his right side ,**Bathsheba** ,second throne for his mother

Then Bathsheba said, “I am asking you to do one unimportant thing. Please do not²⁰
”.**me** refuse to do it.” King Solomon replied, “Mother, I will not refuse to do it. Please ask

,brother Adonijah to marry Abishag **older** So Bathsheba said, “Please allow your²¹
”.who is from the town of Shunem

,King Solomon replied, “You should not ask me to allow Adonijah to marry Abishag²²
who is from the town of Shunem. Because he is my older brother, that is like asking me to
instead of make him king. He, Abiathar the priest, and Joab who is Zeruiah’s son would rule
”.**me**

,Then King Solomon had Yahweh authorize it when he solemnly promised²³
May God punish me very .**to marry Abishag** Adonijah risked dying when he asked“
.Yahweh has made me the next king after David, my father²⁴ .severely if that is not true
he ,**David** Further, he has caused everyone to acknowledge and obey me. As he promised
has made sure that my descendants will be the kings over the Israelite people. As surely as
”!that I will have someone execute Adonijah this very day **I promise solemnly** ,he lives
So, Benaiah killed .**to kill Adonijah** ,Then King Solomon told Benaiah, Jehoiada’s son²⁵
.Adonijah

Then Solomon told Abiathar the priest, “You deserve to die. However, you were in²⁶
charge of our Lord Yahweh’s sacred chest when my father David was king. Further, you
suffered with him all the things that he suffered. So, I will not have someone execute you
and stay right now. Instead, I command you to return to your land by the town of Anathoth
,So Solomon forced Abiathar to stop serving Yahweh as a priest. Because of that²⁷ ”.**there**
Abiathar’s ,what Yahweh had said at the town of Shiloh about the descendants of Eli
.came true ,**ancestor**

Now Joab had not supported Absalom as king, but he had supported Adonijah as²⁸
he ran to ,what Solomon had done to Adonijah and Abiathar king. So, when he heard
because he thought that no Yahweh's sacred tent. He held onto the projections of the altar
Someone informed King Solomon, "Joab has run to Yahweh's"²⁹ .one would kill him there
sacred tent. He is standing near the altar." So, Solomon told Benaiah, Jehoiada's son, "Go
".and kill him to where Joab is

So Benaiah walked to Yahweh's sacred tent. He told Joab, "The king commands you"³⁰
to come out." Joab replied, "I prefer to die here. I will not come out." After that, Benaiah
.returned to King Solomon and told him what Joab had said to him

King Solomon replied, "Do what he has requested. Kill him and bury his body. That"³¹
way, I and the rest of my father's family will no longer be guilty for what Joab did when he
Yahweh will punish Joab for that way ,Also"³² .killed people who did not deserve to die
murdering people. King David, my father, did not approve of this, but Joab murdered two
men who did what was right more than he did. I mean Abner, Ner's son, who was the leader
.of the Israelite soldiers, and Amasa, Jether's son, who was the leader of the Judean soldiers
So, because Joab murdered those two men, God will punish him and his descendants"³³
forever. In contrast, Yahweh will forever act peacefully with David, his family, his
".descendants, and the kings who will rule after him

and killed him. Then people to where Joab was So Benaiah, Jehoiada's son, walked"³⁴
Then King Solomon appointed"³⁵ .of Judah buried Joab near his home in the desolate area
Benaiah, Jehoiada's son, to be the leader of the soldiers instead of Joab. King Solomon also
.appointed Zadok to be the priest instead of Abiathar

,When Shimei arrived .After that, King Solomon had a messenger summon Shimei"³⁶
King Solomon told him, "You must live in the city of Jerusalem. You must not leave the
Here is what I want you to understand: Suppose that one day"³⁷ .city to go anywhere else
Then, I will have someone .the city of Jerusalem you cross the Kidron Valley to leave
".execute you. You will be responsible for it when you die

,Shimei replied, "Your Majesty, I agree to that. I will do what you have said." So"³⁸
.and did not leave Shimei lived in Jerusalem for a long time

Then, three years later, two of Shimei's servants ran away. They went to the king of"³⁹
the city of Gath, Achish, who was Maacah's son. Some people informed Shimei that his
he put a saddle on his donkey and got on the donkey"⁴⁰ .servants were in the city of Gath
and went to Gath. He found his slaves staying with King Achish and brought them back
.home

But someone told King Solomon that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and⁴¹
So the king sent a soldier to summon Shimei and said to him, “I told you⁴² .had returned
to solemnly promise, knowing that Yahweh was listening, that you must not leave
Jerusalem. I told you, ‘Be sure that if you ever leave Jerusalem, you will be executed.’ And
So why⁴³ ’.you replied to me, ‘What you have said is good; I will do what you have said
did you not do what you solemnly promised to Yahweh? Why did you disobey what I
”?commanded you

The king also said to Shimei, “You know in your inner being all the evil things that⁴⁴
you did to my father David. So Yahweh will now punish you for the evil things that you
”.But Yahweh will bless me, and he will enable David’s descendants to rule forever⁴⁵ .did

Then the king gave a command to Benaiah son of Jehoiada. He went out and put⁴⁶
.Shimei to death

.So Solomon obtained complete control of the kingdom

Now Solomon made an agreement to marry the daughter of Pharaoh, the king of¹ 3
Egypt. Then Solomon brought the king’s daughter to live in the part of Jerusalem called the
city of David. She lived there until Solomon’s workers had finished building his house, the
At that time the temple of Yahweh had² .temple of Yahweh, and the wall around Jerusalem
not yet been built, so the Israelite people were still offering sacrifices at many other places
Solomon loved Yahweh, and he obeyed all the instructions that his father³ .of worship
.David had given him. But he also offered sacrifices and burned incense at various places

One day the king went to the city of Gibeon to offer a sacrifice there, because that⁴
was where a very famous place of worship was. He offered a thousand whole burnt
That night, Yahweh appeared to him at Gibeon in a dream. He asked⁵ .sacrifices there
”?him, “What would you like me to give to you

Solomon replied, “You always greatly and faithfully loved my father David, who⁶
served you well. You did that because he was faithful to you and acted righteously and
honestly toward you. And you have shown how greatly and faithfully you loved him by
.giving me to him, his son, and now I am ruling as he did before he died

Now, Yahweh my God, you have enabled me to be the king like my father was. But I⁷
I live⁸ .am very young, like a little child. I do not know how to rule my people at all
among the people whom you have chosen. They are a very large group of people. There are
So please enable me to think clearly, in⁹ .very, very many of them; no one can count them

order that I may rule your people well. Enable me to know what is good and what is evil. If you do not do that, I will never be able to rule this great group of people who belong to you.”

God said to him¹¹. Yahweh was very pleased that Solomon had requested that¹² You did not request that you live for many years or that you become very rich or that you be able to kill all your enemies. Instead, you have requested that I enable you to be wise, in order that you will be able to know and to do what is right while you govern these people. So I will certainly do what you requested. I will enable you to be very wise. The result¹² will be that no one who has lived before you or who will live after you will be as wise as I will also give you things that you did not request. I will enable you to become¹³ you are very rich and honored, all of the years that you live. You will be richer and more honored. If you conduct your life as I want you to, and if you obey all my¹⁴ than any other king laws and commandments, as your father David did, I will enable you to live for many years.”

Then Solomon awoke, and he realized that God had spoken to him in a dream. Then¹⁵ he went to Jerusalem and stood in front of the sacred tent where the sacred chest was, and he offered many sacrifices that were completely burned on the altar and offerings to promise friendship with Yahweh. Then he made a feast for all his officials.

One of them¹⁷. One day two prostitutes came and stood in front of King Solomon¹⁶ said, “Your Majesty, this woman and I live in the same house. I gave birth to a baby while On the third day after my baby was born, this woman also¹⁸ she was there in the house gave birth to a baby. Only the two of us were in the house. There was no one else there.

But one night this woman’s baby died because she accidentally rolled on top of her¹⁹ So she got up at midnight and took my baby boy who was lying²⁰ baby and smothered it beside me while I was sleeping. She carried him to her bed and brought her dead baby and When I awoke the next morning and was ready to nurse my baby, I saw²¹ put it in my bed that it was dead. But when I looked at it closely in the morning light, I saw that it was not my baby.”

But the other woman said, “That is not true! The baby that is alive is mine, and the²² baby that is dead is yours!” Then the first woman said, “No, the dead baby is yours, and the one that is alive is mine!” And they continued to argue in front of the king.

Then the king said, “Both of you are saying, ‘My baby is the one that is alive and²³ So he said to one of his servants, “Bring me a sword.” So²⁴ the one that is dead is yours.”

Then the king said to the servant, “Cut the baby²⁵ .the servant brought a sword to the king
”.that is alive into two parts. Give one part to each of the women

,But the woman whose baby was alive greatly loved her baby, so she said to the king²⁶
No, Your Majesty! Do not allow him to kill the baby! Give her the child that is alive!” But“
the other woman said to the king, “No, cut it in half. Then it will not be her baby or my
”.baby

Then the king said to the servant, “Do not kill the baby. Give the baby to the woman²⁷
”.who said, ‘Do not cut the baby in half,’ because she is truly the baby’s mother

All the Israelite people heard about what the king had decided, and they had an²⁸
awesome respect for him. They realized that God had truly enabled him to be very wise, to
.judge people’s matters fairly

these were his most important² ,Now when Solomon was king over all Israel¹ 4
:officials

.Azariah, whose father was Zadok, was the priest

.Shisha’s sons Elihoreph and Ahijah were the official secretaries³

Ahilud’s son Jehoshaphat was the one who announced to the people the king’s
.decisions

.Benaiah was the army commander⁴

.Zadok and Abiathar were also priests

.Azariah, whose father was Nathan, was in charge of the governors⁵

.Another of Nathan’s sons, Zabud, was a priest and the king’s chief advisor

.Ahishar supervised the servants who worked in the palace⁶

.Abda’s son Adoniram supervised the men who were forced to do work for the king

Solomon appointed twelve men to govern the districts in Israel. They also were⁷
.required to provide food for the king and all the others who lived and worked in the palace
Each man was required to provide from his own district the food for one month in each
:Their names were⁸ .year

.Ben-Hur, for the hill area of the tribe of Ephraim

,Ben-Deker, for the cities of Makaz, Shaalbim, Beth Shemesh, and Elon Bethhanan⁹

Ben-Hesed, for the cities of Arubboth and Sokoh and the area near the city of¹⁰
,Hepher

Ben-Abinadab, who was married to Solomon's daughter Taphath, for all the district¹¹
of Dor

Ahilud's son Baana, for the cities of Taanach and Megiddo, for all the region near¹²
the city of Zarethan, and from the city of Beth Shan south of Jezreel as far as the cities
of Abel Meholah and Jokmeam

Ben-Geber, for the city of Ramoth in the region of Gilead, for the villages in Gilead¹³
that belonged to Jair, who was a descendant of Manasseh, and for the area of Argob in
the region of Bashan. There were sixty large cities in that region altogether, each city
with a wall around it and bronze bars across the gates

;Iddo's son Ahinadab, for the city of Mahanaim east of the Jordan River¹⁴

Ahimaaz, who had married Solomon's daughter Basemath, for the territory of the¹⁵
tribe of Naphtali

,Hushai's son Baana, for the territory of the tribe of Asher and for the city of Aloth¹⁶

,Paruah's son Jehoshaphat, for the territory of the tribe of Issachar¹⁷

,Ela's son Shimei, for the territory of the tribe of Benjamin¹⁸

Uri's son Geber, for the region of Gilead, the land that Sihon the king of the Amor¹⁹
people group formerly ruled, and Og who formerly ruled the region of Bashan

In addition to all these, Solomon appointed one governor for the territory of the tribe of
Judah

There were as many people in Judah and Israel as there are grains of sand on the²⁰
Solomon's kingdom²¹ seashore. They had plenty to eat and drink, and they were happy
extended from the Euphrates River in the northeast to the region of Philistia in the west and
to the border of Egypt in the south. The conquered people in those areas paid taxes and
were under Solomon's control all during his life

The people whom Solomon ruled were required to bring to Solomon every day²²
ten head of cattle that²³, thirty donkey-loads of fine flour and sixty donkey-loads of wheat
-had been raised in stalls, twenty head of cattle raised in pastures, one hundred sheep, grain

Solomon ruled over all the²⁴ fed poultry—and wild game: deer, gazelle, and roebucks
area west of the Euphrates River, from the city of Tiphseh in the northeast to the city of
Gaza in the southwest. He ruled over all the kings in that area. There was peace between his
All during the years that Solomon²⁵ government and the governments of nearby countries
ruled, the people of Judah and Israel lived safely

Solomon had forty thousand stalls for the horses that pulled his chariots and twelve²⁶
thousand men who rode on horses

His twelve district governors supplied the food that King Solomon needed for²⁷ himself and for all those who ate in the palace. Each governor supplied food for one month. They also brought stalks of²⁸ .each year. They provided everything that Solomon required .barley and wheat for the fast horses that pulled the chariots and for the other work horses .They brought this fodder to the places where the horses were kept

God enabled Solomon to be extremely wise and to have great understanding. He²⁹ He was wiser than all the wise men in³⁰ .enjoyed learning about a huge number of things Ethan from Ezrah and Heman³¹ .the regions east of Israel, and all the wise men in Egypt and Kalkol and Darda and the sons of Mahol were considered to be very wise, but Solomon He³² .was wiser than all of them. People in all the nearby countries heard about Solomon He talked about various kinds of plants, from³³ .composed more than one thousand songs the huge cedar trees in Lebanon to the tiny hyssop plants that grow in cracks in walls. He People came from all over the³⁴ .also talked about wild animals, birds, reptiles, and fish world to hear the wise things that Solomon said. Many kings sent men to listen to him and .then return and tell them what Solomon said

Hiram, the king of the city of Tyre, had always been a close friend of King¹ **5** David. When he heard that Solomon had been appointed to become the king after his father Solomon gave those messengers this² .was no longer king, he sent messengers to Solomon :message to take back to Hiram

You know that my father David led his soldiers to fight many wars against his³ enemies in the nearby countries. So he could not try to build a temple in which we could worship Yahweh our God, until after Yahweh enabled the Israelite army to defeat But now Yahweh our God has enabled us to have peace with all the⁴ .all his enemies Yahweh promised⁵ .surrounding countries. There is no danger that we will be attacked ,my father David, ‘Your son, whom I will enable to be king after you are no longer king ’.will build a temple for me, Yahweh your God

So I am requesting that you command your workers to cut cedar trees for me. My⁶ men will work with them, and I will pay your workers whatever you decide. But my men cannot do the work alone, because they do not know how to cut down trees like ”.your workers from the city of Sidon do

When Hiram heard the message from Solomon, he was very happy and said, “I praise⁷ ”!Yahweh today for giving David a very wise son to rule that great nation

He sent this message back to Solomon, “I have heard the message that you sent to⁸
My⁹ .me, and I am ready to do what you ask. I will provide cedar and cypress logs
.workers will bring the logs down from the Lebanon mountains to the Mediterranean Sea
Then they will tie them together to make rafts to float them in the water along the coast to
the place that you indicate. Then my workers will untie the logs, and your workers will take
”.them from there. What I want you to do is to supply food for my men

So Hiram arranged for his workers to supply all the cedar and cypress logs that¹⁰
Each year Solomon gave Hiram 3,520 cubic meters of wheat and¹¹ .Solomon wanted
Yahweh enabled Solomon to be¹² .liters of pure olive oil to feed his workers 416,350
.wise, just like he had promised. Solomon and Hiram made a treaty

King Solomon forced thirty thousand men from all over Israel to become his¹³
Adoniram was their boss. Solomon divided the men into three groups. Each¹⁴ .workers
month ten thousand of them went to Lebanon and worked for a month there, and then they
Solomon also forced eighty thousand men to cut¹⁵ .came back home for two months
He¹⁶ .stones in the hill country and seventy thousand men to haul the stones to Jerusalem
The king also commanded his workers¹⁷ .also assigned 3,300 men to supervise their work
to cut huge blocks of stones from the quarries and to smooth the sides of the stones. These
Solomon’s workers and Hiram’s¹⁸ .huge stones were for the foundation of the temple
workers and men from the city of Gebal shaped the stones and prepared the timber to build
.the temple

years after the Israelite people left Egypt, during the fourth year that 480¹ 6
Solomon ruled Israel, in the second month, that of Ziv, Solomon’s workers began to build
.the temple

.Inside, the main part of the temple was twenty-seven meters long, nine meters wide²
The front portico was four and one-half meters³ .and thirteen and one-half meters high
There were⁴ .deep and nine meters wide, just as wide as the main part of the temple
openings like windows in the temple walls. The openings were narrower on the outside
Against the two sides and the back of the temple walls, they built a⁵ .than on the inside
-structure that had rooms in it. This structure had three levels; each level was two and one
.Each room in the lowest level was two and one-third meters wide⁶ .third meters high
Each room in the middle level was two and four-fifths meters wide. The rooms in the top
level were three and one-tenth meters wide. The wall of the temple at the top level was
thinner than the wall at the middle level, and the wall of the middle level was thinner than

;the wall at the bottom level. In this way, the rooms could rest on the wall underneath them
.the rooms did not need wooden beams underneath to support them

The huge stones for the foundation of the temple were cut and shaped at the quarry to⁷
become very smooth. The result was that while the workers were building the temple there
.was no noise, because they did not use hammers or chisels or any other iron tools there

The entrance to the bottom level of this attached structure was on the south side of⁸
So⁹ .the temple. There were stairs from the bottom level to the middle and top levels
Solomon's workers finished building the framework of the temple. They made the ceiling
They built the rooms alongside the main chambers with¹⁰ .from cedar beams and boards
three levels, each two and one-third meters high, and joined them to the temple with cedar
.beams

I want to tell you about this temple that you¹² ,Then Yahweh said this to Solomon¹¹
are building. If you continually obey all my statutes and decrees and commands, I will do
I will live among the Israelite people, in¹³ .for you what I promised to your father David
".this temple, and I will never abandon them

On the inside, they¹⁵ .Solomon's workers worked to finish building the temple¹⁴
.lined the rooms from the floor to the ceiling. They made the floor from cypress boards
Inside the back part of the temple they built an inner room, called the very holy place. It¹⁶
In front¹⁷ .was nine meters long. All the walls of this room were lined with cedar boards
The cedar boards on¹⁸ .of the very holy place was a room that was eighteen meters long
the walls inside the temple were decorated with carvings of gourds and flowers. The walls
were completely covered with cedar boards, with the result that the stones of the walls
.behind them could not be seen

At the back of the temple they made the very holy place, in order to put the sacred¹⁹
.That room was nine meters long, nine meters wide, and nine meters high²⁰ .chest there
They covered the walls with very thin sheets of pure gold. For burning incense they also
Solomon told them to cover the other walls inside the²¹ .made an altar of cedar boards
temple with very thin sheets of pure gold and to fasten gold chains across the entrance to
They covered all the walls of the temple and the altar that was²² .the very holy place
.outside the very holy place with very thin sheets of gold

Inside the very holy place they made from olive tree wood large statues of two²³
They each were the²⁴⁻²⁶ .creatures with wings. Each one was four and one-half meters tall
same size and had the same shape. They each had two wings which were spread out. Each

wing was two and one-third meters long, with the result that the distance between the outer ends of the two wings was four and one-half meters across. The height of each cherub was

They put these statues next to each other in the very holy²⁷ .four and one-half meters place so that the wing of the one touched the one wing of the other in the center of the They covered the statues with very thin²⁸ .room, and the outer wings touched the walls .sheets of gold

Solomon told them to decorate the walls of the main room and the very holy place²⁹ They also³⁰ .by carving representations of winged creatures and palm trees and flowers .covered the floor of both rooms with very thin sheets of gold

They made a set of doors from olive tree wood, and placed them at the entrance to³¹ The doors were³² .the very holy place. The lintel and doorposts had five indented sections .decorated by carving on them representations of winged creatures, palm trees, and flowers They made a rectangular³³ .All of these things were covered with very thin sheets of gold doorframe from olive tree wood, with four indented sections, and put it between the They made two folding doors from cypress wood³⁴ .entrance room and the main room The doors were also decorated with wood carvings³⁵ .and fastened them to the doorframe of winged creatures, palm trees, and flowers, and they were also covered evenly with very .thin sheets of gold

They built a courtyard in front of the temple. The walls around the courtyard were³⁶ made of cedar and stone. To make the walls, between each layer of cedar beams they put .down two layers of stone

They laid the foundation of the temple of Yahweh in the month of Ziv, in the fourth³⁷ In the eleventh year that he ruled, in the month of Bul, they³⁸ .year that Solomon ruled finished building the temple and all of its parts, doing exactly what Solomon's told them to .do. It required seven years to build it

.They also built a palace for Solomon, but it required thirteen years to build it¹ 7 One of the buildings they built was a large ceremonial hall. It was called the Palace of the² Forest of Lebanon. It was forty-six meters long, twenty-three meters wide, and fourteen meters high. It was supported by four rows of cedar pillars. There were cedar beams across The carpenters build a roof from cedar planks that were attached to beams. The³ .each row carpenters made pillars to support the cedar beams. There were a total of forty-five pillars On each of the two⁴ .put in place, making fifteen pillars in each row to support the roof All the windows and⁵ .side walls there were three sets of windows facing each other

doorways had rectangular frames. The windows along the long wall on one side faced the
.windows on the other side

They also built a long room with pillars; it was twenty-three meters long and fourteen⁶
.meters wide. In front of it was a covered porch whose roof was supported by pillars

Then they made a building called the Hall of the Throne. It was also called the Hall⁷
of Justice. That was where Solomon decided about people's disputes. The entire floor was
.covered with cedar wood

In the courtyard behind the Hall of Judgment they built a house for Solomon to live⁸
in that was made like the other buildings. They also built the same kind of house for his
.wife, who was the daughter of the king of Egypt

All of these buildings and the walls around the palace courtyard were made from⁹
stones, from the foundations up to the eaves. The stones had been expensive for the
workers to cut at the quarry, according to the sizes that were needed, and the sides of the
The foundations were also¹⁰ .stones were shaped and smoothed by cutting them with saws
made from huge blocks of expensive stones that had been prepared at the quarry. Some of
-them were about three and three-quarters meters long and others were about four and four
On top of the foundation stones were other expensive stones that had¹¹ .fifths meters long

The palace¹² .been cut according to the sizes they needed, as well as cedar beams
courtyard, the inner courtyard in front of the temple, and the portico in front of the temple
had walls made by putting down three layers of cut stones between each layer of cedar
.beams

There was a man who lived in the city of Tyre whose name was Hiram. He was a¹³⁻¹⁴
craftsman. His father had also lived in Tyre and had also been very skilled at making things
from bronze, but Hiram's father was no longer living. His mother was from the tribe of
Naphtali. Hiram was very wise and intelligent and was very skilled at making things from
bronze. Solomon invited him to come to Jerusalem and supervise all the work of making
.things from bronze, and Hiram agreed

He made two bronze pillars. Each one was eight and one-third meters tall and eight¹⁵
He also made two gleaming bronze tops to be put on top of the¹⁶ .and one-half around
Then he made bronze networks of¹⁷ .pillars. Each top was two and one-third meters tall
chains like wreaths to decorate the top of each pillar. There were seven of these networks at
Hiram also made bronze figures that resembled pomegranates. He¹⁸ .the top of each pillar
The top over each pillar was¹⁹ .put two rows of pomegranates over the top of each pillar
These tops were²⁰ .shaped like a lily. Each lily leaf was one and four-fifths meters tall

placed on a bowl shaped section around which were two rows of two hundred figures of His helpers set up the pillars in front of the²¹ .pomegranates around the top of each pillar entrance of the temple. The pillar on the south side was named Jakin, and the pillar on the north side was named Boaz²² .The bronze tops that were shaped like lilies were placed on²² .top of the pillars

.So Hiram and his helpers completed the work of making the bronze pillars

Hiram also made a very large round bronze basin called “The Sea” that was made²³ of metal and cast in a clay mold. It was two and one-third meters tall, four and three-fifths meters around the outer edge of²⁴ .meters across, and thirteen and three-quarters meters around the rim of the “The Sea” were two rows of figures that resembled gourds that were made of bronze. But the gourds were not cast separately. They were cast in the same mold as the rest of the tank. For each meter of length around the rim of the tank there were about eighteen gourds

Hiram also cast twelve bronze statues of oxen. He placed them to face outward. He²⁵ placed three of them to face north, three to face west, three to face south, and three to face east. His helpers put the large bronze tank known as “The Sea” so that it sat on the backs of the statues of the oxen²⁶ .The sides of the tank were eight centimeters thick. The rim was²⁶ .the statues of the oxen like the rim of a cup. It curved outward, like the petals of a lily. When the tank was full, it held about forty-four cubic meters of water

Hiram also made ten bronze carts. Each was one and four-fifths meters long, one²⁷ meter wide, and four-fifths meters wide, and one and one-third meters tall²⁸ .On the sides of the carts²⁸ .and four-fifths meters wide, and one and one-third meters tall On those panels were bronze figures of lions, oxen, and²⁹ .there were panels set in frames of winged creatures. Below and above the lions and bulls there were decorations of bronze Each cart had four bronze wheels and two axles made of bronze. At the top³⁰ .wreaths corners of each cart were bronze supports to hold up a basin. On these supports were also On top of each cart, under each basin, was a frame that³¹ .decorations of bronze wreaths resembled a circular collar. The top of each circular frame was forty-six centimeters above the top of the cart, and the bottom of it was twenty-three centimeters below the top of the

The wheels were sixty-nine³² .centimeters high. They were below the panels. The wheels were connected to axles that had The wheels of the carts were like the³³ .been cast in the same mold as the rest of the cart .wheels of chariots. The axles, the rims, the spokes, and the hubs were all cast from bronze

At the top corners of each cart there were handles. These were molded into the cart³⁴ .There was a bronze band of twenty-three centimeters around the top of each cart³⁵ .itself

There were braces attached to the corners of each cart. The bands and the braces were cast

The braces and the panels on the sides of the³⁶ .in the same mold as the rest of the cart
carts were also decorated with figures of winged creatures, lions, and palm trees, whenever

That is how³⁷ .there was space for them, and there were bronze wreaths all around them
Hiram made the ten carts. They were all cast in the same mold, so they were all alike. They
all were the same size and had the same shape

Hiram also made ten bronze basins, one basin for each of the ten stands. Each basin³⁸
Hiram placed five of³⁹ .was one and four-fifths meters across and held 880 liters of water
the carts on the right side of the temple and five on the left side of the temple. He put the
large tank known as “The Sea” on the corner that was toward the east and in the direction
Hiram also made pots, shovels for carrying ashes, and bowls for carrying⁴⁰ .of the south
the blood of the animals that would be sacrificed. He completed all the work that King
:Solomon requested him to do for the temple. This is a list of the bronze things he made

,the two pillars⁴¹

,the two tops to be put on top of the pillars

,the two wreaths of chains to decorate the tops of the pillars

the four hundred figures of pomegranates in four rows, with one hundred in each⁴²

,row; two of these rows were placed over the head of each pillar

,the ten carts⁴³

,the ten basins

”,the big tank known as “The Sea”⁴⁴

,the twelve statues of oxen on whose backs the tank was placed

.the pots, shovels for the ashes of the altar, and bowls⁴⁵

Hiram and his workers made all these things for King Solomon and put them outside
the temple. They were all made of bronze that the workmen polished for it to gleam
.brightly

They made them by pouring melted bronze into the clay molds that Hiram had set⁴⁶
.up near the Jordan River valley, between the cities of Succoth and Zarethan

Solomon did not tell his workers to weigh those bronze objects, because there were⁴⁷
.many items. So no one ever knew what they weighed

:Solomon’s workers also made all the gold items for the temple of Yahweh⁴⁸

,the altar
,the table where the bread of the presence was kept before God
the ten lampstands that were put in front of the very holy place, five on the south⁴⁹
,side and five on the north side
,the decorations that resembled flowers
,the lamps
,the tongs to grasp the hot coals
,the cups, the gold lamp wick snuffers, the small lamp bowls, the dishes for incense⁵⁰
the pans for carrying the hot coals, and the sockets for the doors at the entrance to the
.very holy place and for the doors at the entrance to the main room of the temple
.Those things were all made of gold

So Solomon's workers finished all the work for the temple. Then they placed in the⁵¹
temple storerooms all the things that his father David had dedicated to Yahweh—all the
.silver and gold, and the other valuable items

Solomon then summoned to Jerusalem all the elders of Israel, all the leaders of¹ 8
the tribes and the leaders of the clans. He arranged for them to join in bringing to the
temple Yahweh's sacred chest from Mount Zion, where it was in the part of the city called
So all the Israelite leaders came to King Solomon during the Festival² .the city of David
.of Shelters, in the month of Ethanim

and brought it to the⁴ When they had all arrived, the priests lifted up the sacred chest³
temple. Then the descendants of Levi who assisted the priests helped them to carry to the

Then King⁵ .temple the sacred tent and all the sacred things that had been in the tent
Solomon and many of the Israelite people gathered in front of Yahweh's sacred chest. And
they sacrificed a huge amount of sheep and oxen. No one was able to count the sacrifices
.because there were very many

Then the priests brought the sacred chest into the very holy place in the temple, and⁶
The wings of those⁷ .they placed it under the wings of the statues of the winged creatures
The⁸ .statues spread out over the sacred chest and over the poles by which it was carried
poles were very long, with the result that the ends of the poles could be seen by people who
were standing at the entrance to the very holy place, but they could not be seen by people
The only things that were in the⁹ .standing outside the temple. Those poles are still there
sacred chest were the two stone tablets that Moses had put there at Mount Sinai, where
.Yahweh made a covenant with the people after they left Egypt

,The priests put the sacred chest in the temple. When they came out of the holy place¹⁰
The glory of Yahweh filled the temple, with the¹¹ .suddenly it was filled with a cloud
.result that the priests were not able to continue their work

:Then Solomon prayed this¹²

,Yahweh, you have placed the sun in the sky“
.but you have decided that you would live in very dark clouds

,I have built for you a splendid temple¹³

”.a place for you to live in forever

Then, while all the people stood there, the king turned around and faced them, and¹⁴
He said, “Praise Yahweh, the God to whom we Israelites¹⁵ .he asked God to bless them
belong! By his own power he has done what he promised to my father David. What he
:promised was this

From the time that I brought my people out of Egypt, I have never chosen any¹⁶
city in Israel in which a temple should be built for my people to worship me there. But I
”.chose you, David, to rule my people

Then Solomon said, “My father David wanted to build a temple in order that we¹⁷
But Yahweh said to him, ‘You¹⁸ .Israelite people could worship Yahweh our God there
,However¹⁹ .have wanted to build a temple for me, and what you wanted to do was good
you are not the one who I want to build it. It is one of your sons who I want to build a
,temple for me

And now Yahweh has done what he promised to do. I have become the king of Israel²⁰
to succeed my father, and I am ruling my people, as Yahweh promised. I have arranged for
this temple to be built for us Israelites to worship Yahweh, the God to whom we Israelites
I have also provided a place in the temple for the sacred chest in which are the²¹ .belong
two stone tablets of the covenant that Yahweh made with our ancestors when he brought
”.them out of Egypt

Then Solomon stood in front of the altar which was in front of the Israelite people²²
,and he prayed²³ ,who had gathered there. He spread out his arms toward heaven

Yahweh, the God whom we Israelite people worship, there is no god like you up in“
heaven or down here on the earth. You solemnly promised that you would faithfully
love us. And that is what you have done for us who earnestly do what you want us to
.do

You have done the things that you promised my father David, who served you²⁴ very well, that you would do. Truly, you promised to do these things for him, and today .we see that by your power you have done them

So now, Yahweh, the God whom we Israelites worship, I am requesting that you²⁵ do the other things that you promised my father that you would do. You told him that there would always be some of his descendants who would be kings in Israel, if they So now, God of us Israelite people, cause what²⁶ .would conduct their lives as he did .you promised to do for my father David, who served you well, to happen

But God, will you really live on the earth among people? There is not enough²⁷ space in heaven for you to have enough space to live there. So this temple that I have But²⁸ .commanded my workers to build is certainly too small for you to live in I pray that²⁹ .Yahweh, my God, please listen to me while I am praying to you this day you would protect this temple night and day. This is the place about which you have said, 'I will always be there.' I request that you listen to me whenever I turn my face I request that when I pray to you and your people pray³⁰ .toward this temple and pray to you while they turn their faces toward this place, that in your home in heaven you .will hear us and forgive us for the sins that we have committed

Suppose that people accuse someone of doing something wrong to another³¹ person, and they bring him to your altar outside this holy temple. And suppose that he In that³² '.says, 'I did not do that; may God punish me if I am not telling the truth case, listen from heaven and decide who is telling the truth. Then punish the person who is guilty as he deserves to be punished, and declare that the other person is .innocent

Or suppose that your Israelite people are defeated by their enemies in a battle³³ because they have sinned against you. Suppose also that they are forced to go to some distant country. Then suppose that they stop acting in a sinful way. Suppose that they .face in the direction of this temple and acknowledge you have justly punished them In that case, listen to them³⁴ .And suppose that they plead that you will forgive them from heaven, forgive your Israelite people for the sins that they have committed, and .bring them back to this land that you gave to our ancestors

Or suppose that you do not allow any rain to fall because your people have³⁵ sinned against you. Suppose that they face in the direction of this place and admit that you have justly punished them. Suppose also that they stop acting sinfully and humbly In that case, listen to them in heaven and forgive your Israelite people³⁶ .pray to you ,for the sins that they have committed. Teach them the right way to conduct their lives

and then send rain on this land that you have given to your people to belong to them
.permanently

Suppose that the people of this land experience famine, or suppose that there is a³⁷
plague by mildew or by locusts or grasshoppers. Or suppose that their enemies surround
any of their cities in order to attack them. Suppose that any of those bad things happen
And suppose that your Israelite people earnestly plead with you, because³⁸ .to them
.they know in their inner beings that they are suffering because they have sinned
,In that case³⁹ .Suppose that they stretch out their arms toward this temple and pray
listen to them from your home in heaven, and forgive them, and help them. You are the
,only one who knows what people are thinking, so act toward each person as he needs
in order that your people may then have an awesome respect for you all the years⁴⁰
.that they live in this land that you gave to our ancestors

There will be some foreigners who do not belong to your Israelite people who⁴¹⁻⁴²
will have come here from countries far away because they have heard that you are very
great, and because they have heard about the great things that you have done for your
.people. Suppose that people like that come here to this temple to worship you and pray
In that case, in your home in heaven listen to their prayer, and do for them what they⁴³
request you to do. Do that in order that all the people groups in the world will know
about you and revere you, as we your Israelite people do. Then they will know that this
temple that I have caused to be built to honor you belongs to you and is where you
.should be worshiped

Suppose that you send your people to go to fight against their enemies. And⁴⁴
suppose that your people pray to you, wherever they are, and that they turn toward this
.city that you have chosen and toward this temple that I have caused to be built for you
,In that case, listen in heaven to their prayers. Listen to what they plead for you to do⁴⁵
.and assist them

It is true that everyone sins. So, suppose that your people sin against you and⁴⁶
,that you become angry with them. You might allow their enemies to defeat them
capture them, and take them away to their own countries, even to countries that are far
And suppose that, while your people are in those countries to which they had⁴⁷ .away
to go, they sincerely repent and plead with you there saying, ‘We have sinned and have
Suppose that they very truly and sincerely repent⁴⁸ ’.done things that are very wicked
while in the land of their enemies who captured them. And they turn toward this land
that you gave to our ancestors. Suppose that they turn toward this city that you have
chosen to be the place where we should worship you, and toward this temple that I have
In that case, from⁴⁹ .caused to be built for you. Suppose that they then pray to you

.your home in heaven listen to them while they plead for your help, and help them
Forgive them for all the sins that they have committed against you and cause their⁵⁰
.Do not forget that the Israelites are your people⁵¹ .enemies to act kindly toward them
They are your special possession. You brought our ancestors out of Egypt where they
.were greatly suffering as though they were in a blazing furnace

I request that you always listen to your Israelite people and to their king, and⁵²
You chose them from⁵³ .heed their prayers whenever they call out to you to help them
all the other people groups in the world to belong to you, which is what you told Moses
”.to tell them when you brought our ancestors out of Egypt

After Solomon had finished praying this and pleading to Yahweh for his help, he⁵⁴
Then he⁵⁵ .stood up in front of the altar where he had been kneeling. He lifted up his arms
,asked God to bless all the Israelite people. He prayed loudly, saying

Praise Yahweh, who has given us his people peace, like he promised that he⁵⁶
would do. He has done every one of the good things that he promised to Moses, the
I pray that our God will be with us like he was with⁵⁷ .man who served him very well
I pray that he will cause us⁵⁸ .our ancestors, and that he will never, never abandon us
to loyally serve him, to conduct our lives as he wants us to, and to obey all his
I pray that⁵⁹ .commandments and statutes and decrees that he gave to our ancestors
.Yahweh our God will never forget these words that I have prayed, pleading for his help
I pray that he will think about them by day and by night. I pray that he will always act
mercifully toward us Israelite people and toward our king, giving us the things that we
If you do that, all the people groups in the world will know that⁶⁰ .need day by day
.you, Yahweh, are the only one who is God, and that there is no other one who is God
I pray that you, his people, will always be fully committed to Yahweh, and that you⁶¹
”.will obey all his statutes and commands, like you are doing now

Then the king and all the Israelite people who were there offered sacrifices to⁶²
They sacrificed twenty-two thousand cattle and 120,000 sheep to restore⁶³ .Yahweh
.fellowship with Yahweh. Then the king and all the people dedicated the temple

On that day, the king also dedicated the middle part of the courtyard that was in⁶⁴
front of the temple. Then he offered there sacrifices that would be completely burned on the
altar, the offerings of flour and the fat of the animals that were sacrificed to restore
fellowship with Yahweh. They sacrificed them there because the bronze altar was not big
.enough for all those sacrifices to be burned on it that day

Then Solomon and all the Israelite people celebrated the Festival of Shelters for⁶⁵
.seven days and then for another seven days, before the Lord, for a total of fourteen days
There was a huge crowd of people there, some of whom had come from distant places like
,On the final day⁶⁶ .Hamath in the far north and the border of Egypt in the far south
Solomon sent the people to their homes. They all praised him and went home happy
.because of all the things that Yahweh had done to bless David and his Israelite people

After Solomon's workers had finished building the temple and his palace and¹ 9
Yahweh appeared to him in a dream² ,everything else that Solomon wanted them to build
,Yahweh said to him³ .a second time, like he had appeared to him at the city of Gibeon

I heard what you prayed and what you pleaded for me to do. I have set this house“
.apart for myself, for me to be present in it forever

And as for you, if you conduct your life as I want you to, like your father David⁴
did, and if you very sincerely obey all the statutes and decrees that I have commanded
I will do what I promised your father that I would do. I promised him⁵ ,you to obey
.that Israel would always be ruled by his descendants

But suppose that you or your descendants stop worshiping me; suppose that you⁶
disobey the commands and decrees that I have given to you; suppose that you start to
Then I will remove my Israelite people from the land that I have⁷ .worship other gods
given to them. I will also abandon this temple that I have dedicated. Then people
Despite the fact that this temple is⁸ .everywhere will despise Israel and make fun of it
very beautiful, there will come a time when everyone who passes by will be astonished
when they see it, and they will hiss and say, ‘Why has Yahweh done this to this land and
Other people will reply, ‘It happened because the Israelite people⁹ ’?to this temple
abandoned Yahweh their God, the one who brought their ancestors out of Egypt. They
started to accept and worship other gods. And that is why Yahweh has caused them to
””.experience all these disasters

.Solomon's workers worked for twenty years to build the temple and the palace¹⁰
Hiram, the king of the city of Tyre, had arranged for his workers to give Solomon all the¹¹
,cedar and pine logs and all the gold that he needed for this work. After it was all finished
But when Hiram¹² .King Solomon gave to Hiram twenty cities in the region of Galilee
went from Tyre to Galilee to see the cities that Solomon had given to him, he was not
He said to Solomon, “My friend, those cities that you gave me are¹³ .pleased with them

Hiram gave Solomon¹⁴ .worthless.” Because of that, Hiram called that region Worthless
.only 4,000 kilograms of gold for those cities

This is a record of the work that King Solomon forced men to do. He forced them to¹⁵
build the temple and his palace and the landfill on the east side of the city, and the wall
The reason¹⁶ .around Jerusalem, and to rebuild the cities of Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer
they needed to rebuild Gezer was that the army of the king of Egypt had attacked Gezer and
captured it. Then they had burned the houses in the city and killed all the people of the
Canaan people group who lived there. The king of Egypt gave that city to his daughter for a
.,So Solomon’s workers also rebuilt the city of Gezer¹⁷ .gift when she married Solomon
They also rebuilt the cities of¹⁸ .and they also rebuilt the city of Lower Beth Horon
They also built the¹⁹ .Baalath and Tamar in the wilderness in the southern part of Judah
cities where they kept the supplies for Solomon, the places where his horses and chariots
were kept. They also built everything else that he wanted them to build, in Jerusalem and in
.Lebanon, and in other places in the area over which he ruled

There were many people groups who belonged to the Amor, the Heth, the Periz , the²⁰
Their²¹ .Hiv, and the Jebus, who were not killed when the Israelites captured their land
descendants still lived in Israel. It was those people whom Solomon forced to become his
But Solomon did not force any²² .slaves to build all those places, and they are still slaves
Israelite people to become slaves. Some of them became soldiers, servants, officials, army
There were²³ .officers, commanders of his chariot forces, and men who rode on his horses
.officials who supervised the slaves who worked to build all those places 550

After Solomon’s wife, who was the daughter of the king of Egypt, moved from the²⁴
part of Jerusalem called the city of David to the palace that Solomon’s workers built for
.her, Solomon told his workers to fill in the land on the east side of the city

Three times each year Solomon brought to the temple offerings that the priests²⁵
burned completely on the altar and offerings to promise friendship with Yahweh. He also
.brought incense to be burned in the presence of Yahweh

.And that is how his men finished building the temple

King Solomon’s workers also built a fleet of ships at the city of Ezion Geber, which²⁶
is near the city of Elath, on the shore of the Sea of Reeds, in the land belonging to the
King Hiram sent some expert sailors to go on the ships with²⁷ .Edom people group
They sailed to the region of Ophir and brought back to Solomon²⁸ .Solomon’s workers
.about fourteen metric tons of gold

The queen who ruled the land of Sheba heard that Yahweh had caused¹ 10

Solomon to become famous, so she traveled to Jerusalem to ask him questions that were

She came with a large group of wealthy people, and she brought² .difficult to answer
camels that were loaded with spices, precious gems, and much gold. When she met
.Solomon, she asked him questions about all the things in which she was interested

Solomon answered all her questions. He explained everything that she asked about, even³

The queen realized that Solomon was very wise. She saw⁴ .things that were very difficult
she saw the food that was served on his table every day, she saw where his⁵ ,his palace
officials lived, their uniforms, the servants who served the food and wine, and the sacrifices
.that he took to the temple to be offered. She was extremely amazed

She said to the king, “Everything that I heard in my own country about you and about⁶

But I did not believe it was true until I came here and saw it⁷ !how wise you are is true
myself. But really, what they told me is only half of what they could have told me about
How fortunate are⁸ .you. You are extremely wise and rich, more than what people told me
your wives! And how fortunate are your servants, who are waiting to serve you, who are
Praise Yahweh, your God, who has shown that⁹ !listening to the wise things that you say
he is pleased with you by causing you to become the king of Israel! God has always loved
the Israelite people, and therefore he has appointed you to be their king, in order that you
”.will rule them fairly and righteously

Then the queen gave to the king the things that she had brought. She gave him over¹⁰
kilograms of gold and a large amount of spices and gems. Never again did King 4,000
.Solomon receive more spices than the queen gave him at that time

In the ships that belong to King Hiram, in which they had previously brought gold¹¹
.from Ophir, they also brought a large amount of almug wood and precious gem stones
King Solomon told his workers to use that wood to make pillars in the temple and in his¹²
palace, and also to make harps and lyres for the musicians. That wood was the largest
.amount of fine wood that had ever been brought to or seen in Israel

King Solomon gave to the queen from Sheba everything that she wanted. He gave¹³
.her those gifts in addition to the gifts that he always gave to other rulers who visited him
.Then she and the people who came with her returned to her own land

.Each year there was brought to Solomon a total of twenty-two metric tons of gold¹⁴

That was in addition to the taxes paid to him by the merchants and traders, and the¹⁵
.annual taxes paid by the kings of Arabia and by the governors of the districts in Israel

King Solomon's workers took this gold and hammered it into thin sheets and¹⁶
covered two hundred large shields with those thin sheets of gold. They put six and one-half
His workers made three hundred smaller shields. They¹⁷ .kilograms of gold on each shield
covered each of them with one and three-quarters kilograms of gold. Then the king put
.those shields in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon

His workers also made for him a large throne. Part of it was covered with ivory, and¹⁸
.There were six steps in front of the throne¹⁹⁻²⁰ .part of it was covered with very fine gold

There was a statue of a lion on both sides of each step. So altogether there were twelve
statues of lions. The back of the throne was rounded at the top. At each side of the throne
there was an armrest and alongside each armrest there was a small statue of a lion. No

All of Solomon's cups were²¹ .throne like that had ever existed in any other kingdom
made of gold, and all the various dishes in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon were made
of gold. They did not make things from silver, because during the years that Solomon ruled

The king had a fleet of ships that sailed with²² .silver was not considered to be valuable
the ships that King Hiram owned. Every three years the ships returned from the places to
.which they had sailed bringing gold, silver, ivory, monkeys, and baboons

People from all over²⁴ .King Solomon became richer and wiser than any other king²³
the world wanted to come and listen to the wise things that Solomon said, things that God
All the people who came to him brought presents. They brought²⁵ .had put into his mind
things made from silver or gold, or robes, or weapons, or spices, or horses, or mules. The
.people continued to do this every year

.Solomon acquired 1,400 chariots and twelve thousand men who rode on the horses²⁶
Solomon put some of them in Jerusalem and some of them in other cities where he kept his

During the years that Solomon was king, silver became as common in²⁷ .chariots
Jerusalem as stones, and lumber from cedar trees in the foothills of Judah were as plentiful
Solomon's agents bought horses and supervised the bringing of²⁸ .as lumber from fig trees
.them into Israel from the areas of Egypt and Kue that were famous for breeding horses

In Egypt they bought chariots and horses. They paid six and one-half kilograms of silver²⁹
for each chariot and one and three-fifths kilograms of silver for each horse. They brought
them to Israel. Then they sold many of them to the kings of the Hittite people group and the
.kings of Aram

King Solomon married many foreign women. First he married the daughter of¹ 11
,the king of Egypt. He also married women from the Heth people group and from the Moab
He married them even² .Ammon, and Edom people groups, and from the city of Sidon

though Yahweh had commanded the Israelite people saying, “Do not marry people from those areas, because if you do that, they will surely persuade you to worship the gods that Solomon married seven hundred women who were kings’ daughters. He³ ”!they worship also had three hundred wives who were his slaves. And his wives caused him to stop By the time that Solomon became old, they had persuaded him to⁴ .worshiping God worship the gods from their countries. He was not completely dedicated to Yahweh his God Solomon worshiped Asherah, the goddess that the people⁵ .like his father David had been of Sidon worshiped, and he worshiped Molech, the disgusting god that the Ammon people Thus Solomon did many things that Yahweh said were evil. He did not⁶ .group worshiped conduct his life as his father David had done; he did not conduct his life as Yahweh wanted .him to

On the hill to the east of Jerusalem he built a place to worship Chemosh, the⁷ disgusting god that the Moab people group worshiped, and a place to worship Molech, the He also built places where all⁸ .disgusting god that the Ammon people group worshiped his foreign wives could burn incense and offer sacrifices to the gods from their own .countries

Even though Yahweh, the God whom the Israelites worshiped, had appeared to⁹⁻¹⁰ Solomon two times, and had commanded him to not worship foreign gods, Solomon ,Yahweh said to him¹¹ .refused to obey Yahweh. So Yahweh was angry with Solomon You have chosen to disobey the covenant that I made with you and to disobey what I“ commanded you. So I am certainly not going to allow you to rule all of your kingdom. I am But because of what I promised your father¹² .going to allow one of your officials to rule David, I will allow you to rule all your kingdom while you are still living. After you die, I But I will not stop him from ruling¹³ .will not allow your son to rule the whole kingdom some of the kingdom. I will allow him to rule one tribe, because of what I promised to ,David, who served me well, and because I want David’s descendants to rule in Jerusalem ”.where my temple is located

Yahweh caused Hadad, from the family of the kings in the Edom people group, to¹⁴ What happened was that previously, when David’s army had¹⁵⁻¹⁶ .rebel against Solomon conquered Edom, his army commander Joab had gone there to help bury the Israelite soldiers who had been killed in the battle. Joab and his army remained in Edom for six Hadad was a young¹⁷ .months, and during that time they killed all the males of that area child at that time, and he had escaped to Egypt, along with some of his father’s servants They went to the region of Midian, and then they went to the desert area at¹⁸ .from Edom Paran. Some other men joined them there. Then they all traveled to Egypt and went to the king of Egypt. The king gave Hadad some land and ordered his servants to give him some

,The king liked Hadad. As a result he gave him the sister of his own wife¹⁹ .food regularly
 .Queen Tahpenes, to be Hadad's wife

Later Hadad's wife gave birth to a son named Genubath. The sister of Tahpenes²⁰
 .raised him in the palace, where he lived with the king's sons

While Hadad was in Egypt, he heard that David had died, and that Joab, the²¹
 commander of David's army, was also dead. So he said to the king of Egypt, "Please allow
 ".me to return to my own country

But the king said to him, "Why do you want to go back to your country? Is there²²
 something that you lack that you want me to give to you?" Hadad replied, "No, but please
 just allow me to go." So the king allowed him to leave, and he returned to his own country
 .and became the king of Edom

.God also caused another man named Rezon son of Eliada, to rebel against Solomon²³

Rezon had run away from his master, King Hadadezer of the area of Zobah, north of
 Rezon then became the leader of a group of outlaws. That happened after²⁴ .Damascus
 David's army had defeated Hadadezer and had also killed all his soldiers. Rezon and his
 men went to Damascus and started to live there, and the people there appointed him to be
 All during the time that Solomon was alive, while Rezon was ruling not only²⁵ .their king
 Damascus but all of Aram, he was an enemy of Israel and caused trouble for Israel like
 .Hadad did

Another man who rebelled against Solomon was one of his officials named²⁶
 Jeroboam son of Nebat. He was from the city of Zeredah in the region where the tribe of
 .Ephraim lives. His mother was a widow named Zeruah

This is what happened. Solomon's workers were filling in the land on the east side²⁷
 Jeroboam was a very capable²⁸ .of Jerusalem and repairing the walls around the city
 young man. So, when Solomon saw that he worked very hard, he appointed him to
 supervise all the men who were forced to work in the areas where the tribes of Manasseh
 .and Ephraim live

One day when Jeroboam was walking alone along the road outside of Jerusalem, the²⁹
 which³⁰ ,prophet Ahijah from the city of Shiloh met him. Ahijah was wearing a new robe
 He said to Jeroboam, "Take ten of these pieces³¹ .he took off and tore into twelve pieces
 for yourself, because Yahweh, the God whom we Israelites worship, says to you, 'I am
 going to tear the kingdom from Solomon, and I am going to enable you to become the ruler
 Solomon's descendants will still rule one tribe, because of³² .of ten of the tribes of Israel

what I promised David, a man who served me very well, and because of Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen from all the cities in Israel to be the city where my people will worship

I am going to do this because Solomon has rejected me and has been worshipping³³ .me Asherah, the goddess that the people of Sidon worship, Chemosh, the god that the Moab people group worships, and Molech, the god that the Ammon people group worships. He ,has not conducted his life as I wanted him to. He has not obeyed my statutes and decrees .as his father David did

But I will not take the entire kingdom away from him. I will enable him to rule³⁴ Judah all during the years that he is alive. I will do that because of what I promised to do for David, whom I chose to be the king, and who served me well, and who always obeyed

But I will take the other ten tribes of his kingdom and³⁵ .my commandments and laws

I will allow Solomon's son to rule one tribe, in order that³⁶ .give them to you to rule descendants of David will always rule in Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen to be the

I will enable you to become the king of Israel, and³⁷ .place where my people worship me

If you obey all that I command you³⁸ .you will rule over all the territory that you want to to do, and conduct your life as I want you to, and if you do what I say is right by obeying my laws and commandments like David did, I will help you. I will make sure that your

Because of³⁹ .descendants will rule after you die, like I promised to do for David Solomon's sins, I will punish David's descendants, but I will not continue to punish them ""forever

Solomon found out what Ahijah told Jeroboam, so he tried to kill Jeroboam. But⁴⁰ Jeroboam escaped and went to Egypt. He went to Shishak, the king of Egypt, and stayed .with him until after Solomon died

,A record of all the other things that Solomon did, and all the wise things that he said⁴¹

He was king in Jerusalem and ruled⁴² .was written in the book of the events of Solomon

Then Solomon died and was buried in the part of⁴³ .over all of Israel for forty years .Jerusalem called the city of David. Then his son Rehoboam became the king

All the people of northern Israel went to the city of Shechem in order to¹ 12

When Jeroboam, who² .appoint Rehoboam to be their king. So Rehoboam also went there

The leaders of the³ .was still in Egypt, heard about that, he returned from Egypt to Israel northern tribes summoned him, and they went together to talk to Rehoboam. They said to ,Your father Solomon forced us to work very hard, and if you allow us to work less⁴ ,him ""we will serve you faithfully

He replied, “Go away, and come back three days from now and I will give you my⁵
answer.” So those leaders and Jeroboam left

Then King Rehoboam consulted his older men who had advised his father Solomon⁶
”?while he was still living. He asked them, “What should I say to answer these men

They replied, “If you want to serve these people well, speak kindly to them when you⁷
”.reply to them. If you do that, they will always serve you faithfully

But he ignored what the older men advised him to do. Instead, he consulted the⁸
,He said to them⁹ .younger men who had grown up with him, who were now his advisors
What do you say that I should answer the men who are asking me to reduce the work that“
”?my father required from them

They replied, “This is what you should tell them: ‘My little finger is thicker than my¹⁰
What I mean is that my father required you to work hard. But I will make¹¹ .father’s waist
those loads heavier. It was as though my father whipped you, but I will whip you with
””.scorpions

So three days later, Jeroboam and all the leaders came to Rehoboam again, which is¹²
The king ignored the advice of the older men and spoke¹³ .what he had told them to do
He told them what the younger men had advised. He¹⁴ .harshly to the Israelite leaders
said, “My father put heavy burdens of work on you, but I will put heavier burdens on you
So the¹⁵ ”!It was as though he beat you with whips, but I will beat you with scorpions
king did not pay any attention to the Israelite leaders. Now all this happened in order that
what Yahweh wanted would occur, what he had told the prophet Ahijah about Jeroboam
.becoming king of the ten tribes

When the Israelite leaders realized that the king did not pay any attention to what¹⁶
,they said, they shouted

!We do not want anything to do with this descendant of King David“

!We will not pay attention to what this grandson of Jesse says

!You people of Israel, let us go home

”!As for this descendant of David, he can rule his own tribe

And after that, the only Israelite¹⁷ .So the Israelite leaders returned to their homes
people whom Rehoboam ruled over were those who lived in the territory of the tribe of
.Judah

Then King Rehoboam went with Adoniram to talk to the Israelite people. Adoniram¹⁸ was the man who supervised all the men who were forced to work for Rehoboam. But the Israelite people killed him by throwing stones at him. When that happened, King Ever since that time, the¹⁹ Rehoboam quickly got in his chariot and escaped to Jerusalem people of the northern tribes of Israel have been rebelling against the descendants of King David.

When the Israelite people heard that Jeroboam had returned from Egypt, they invited²⁰ him to come to a meeting, and there they appointed him to be the king of Israel. Only the people of the tribe of Judah continued to be loyal to the kings descended from King David.

When Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem, he gathered 180,000 of the best soldiers from²¹ the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. He wanted them to fight against the northern tribes of Israel and defeat them, in order that he could rule all the tribes of his kingdom again.

Go and tell this to²³ :But God spoke to the prophet Shemaiah and said this to him²² Solomon's son Rehoboam, the king of Judah, and to all the people of the tribes of Judah Yahweh says²⁴ :and Benjamin and the people from the northern tribe who live in Judah that you must not go to fight against your own relatives, the people of Israel. All of you must go home. What has happened is what Yahweh wanted to happen.” So Shemaiah went and told that to them, and they all listened what Yahweh had commanded them to do, and they went home.

Then Jeroboam's workers built walls around the city of Shechem in the hill country²⁵ where the descendants of Ephraim lived, and he ruled from there for a while. He and his workers then left there and went to the city of Peniel, and they built walls around that city.

Then Jeroboam said to himself, “If my people continue to go to Jerusalem and²⁶⁻²⁷ offer sacrifices to Yahweh at the temple there, soon they will again become loyal to Rehoboam, the king of Judah, and they will kill me

So he consulted his advisors, and then he did what they suggested. He told his²⁸ workers to make gold statues of two calves. Then he said to the people, “You have been going to Jerusalem to worship for a long time. You are making too big an effort to keep going there. You people of Israel, look! These statues are the gods that brought our He told his workers to place²⁹ ”!ancestors up from Egypt! So you can worship these, here one of the statues in the city of Bethel in the south and one in the city of Dan in the north So what Jeroboam did caused the people to sin. Some of them went and worshiped the³⁰ calf at Bethel, and others went and worshiped the other calf at Dan

Moses had declared that only men from the tribe of Levi would be priests, but³¹, Jeroboam also told his workers to build places on the hills where they could worship idols .and then he appointed men who were not from the tribe of Levi to be priests for the idols They had a celebration in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day, like the celebration of³² living in temporary shelters that occurred in Judah each year. On the altar that they built at Bethel, he offered sacrifices to the gold statues of calves that they had made, and he stationed the priests on the hills where idols were worshiped, where his workers built Jeroboam went up to that altar on that day in the eighth month³³ .houses used for idolatry that he himself had chosen. There on that altar he burned incense to be a sacrifice. And he .declared that the people should celebrate that festival on that same day every year

One day a prophet, obeying what Yahweh commanded him to do, went from¹ 13 Judah north to Bethel. He arrived there right at the time that Jeroboam was standing at the .Saying what Yahweh told him to say, the prophet shouted² .altar, ready to burn incense This is what Yahweh says about this altar, ‘I want you to know that some day a descendant“ of King David will be born. His name will be Josiah, and he will come here. He will slaughter at this altar the priests who are burning incense for sacrifices on the hills in this Then the prophet also³ ”.area, and he will burn the bones of dead people on this altar ,said, “This is what will prove to you that Yahweh has said this: This altar will be split apart ”.and the ashes that are on it will be scattered

When King Jeroboam heard what the prophet said about the altar at Bethel, he⁴ pointed his finger at him and said to his servants, “Seize that man!” But immediately the The altar split⁵ .king’s arm became paralyzed, with the result that he could not move it apart, and the ashes spilled out on the ground, which is what the prophet said that Yahweh (.had predicted would happen

Then the king said to the prophet, “Please pray that Yahweh will be merciful to me⁶ .and heal my arm!” So the prophet prayed, and Yahweh completely healed the king’s arm

Then the king said to the prophet, “Come home with me and eat some food. And I⁷ ”!will also give you a reward for what you have done

But the prophet replied, “Even if you would promise to give me half of everything⁸ ,that you own, I will not go with you, and I will not eat or drink anything with you here because Yahweh commanded me not to eat or drink anything here. He also commanded⁹ ,So he started to return home¹⁰ ”.me not to return home on the road on which I came here .but he did not go on the road on which he came to Bethel. He went on a different road

At that time there was an old man living in Bethel who was also a prophet. His sons¹¹ came and told him what the prophet from Judah had done there on that day, and they also Their father said, “On which road did he¹² .told him what the prophet had said to the king go?” So his sons showed him the road on which the prophet from Judah had gone when he Then he said to his sons, “Put a saddle on my donkey.” So they did that, and¹³ .left Bethel He went along the road to find the prophet from Judah. He found¹⁴ .he got on the donkey ”?him sitting under an oak tree. He said to him, “Are you the prophet who came from Judah ”.He replied, “Yes, I am

”.The old prophet said to him, “Come home with me and eat some food¹⁵

He replied, “No, I am not allowed to go with you into your house, or to eat or drink¹⁶ because Yahweh told me, ‘Do not eat or drink anything here, and do¹⁷ ,anything with you ””.not return home on the road on which you came

Then the old prophet said to him, “I also am a prophet, like you are. Yahweh sent an¹⁸ ”.angel to tell me that I should take you home with me and give you some food and drink ,But because of what the old prophet said¹⁹ .But the old man was lying when he said that the prophet from Judah returned with him to his home and ate some food and drank some .water with him

Then he cried²¹ .While they were sitting at the table, Yahweh spoke to the old man²⁰ out to the prophet from Judah, “This is what Yahweh says: ‘You have disobeyed him, and Instead, you have come back here²² .you have not done what he commanded you to do and had things to eat and drink in a place where he commanded you not to do that. As a result, you will be killed, and your body will not be buried in the grave where your ””.ancestors are buried

When they had finished eating, the old man put a saddle on the donkey for the²³ But as he was going, a lion met²⁴ .prophet from Judah, and the prophet from Judah left him and killed him. The prophet’s corpse was lying on the road; the donkey was standing Some men passed by and²⁵ .beside it, and the lion was also standing beside the corpse were surprised to see the corpse on the road and the lion standing next to the corpse. So .they went into Bethel and reported what they had seen

When the old man who had brought the prophet from Judah to his home heard about²⁶ it, he said, “That is the prophet who disobeyed what Yahweh told him to do! That is why Yahweh allowed the lion to attack him and kill him. That is what Yahweh said would ”!happen

Then he²⁸ .Then he said to his sons, “Put a saddle on my donkey.” So they did that²⁷ rode on the donkey and found the prophet’s corpse on the road, and his donkey and the lion were still standing there alongside the corpse. But the lion had not eaten any of the flesh of The old man picked up the corpse of the²⁹ .the prophet and had not attacked the donkey prophet and put it on his donkey and brought it back to Bethel, in order to mourn for him He buried the prophet’s corpse in the grave where other people³⁰ .and to bury his corpse in his family had been buried. Then he and his sons mourned about him, saying, “We are ”!very sorry, my brother

After they had buried him, the old man said to his sons, “When I die, bury my³¹ corpse in the grave where we buried the prophet from Judah. Lay my corpse next to his And do not forget what he said, things that Yahweh told him to say about the³² .corpse altar in Bethel, and what Yahweh told him to say about the places where they worshiped ”.idols on the hills around the towns in Samaria. Those things will surely happen

But King Jeroboam still did not stop continuing to do the evil things that he was³³ doing. Instead, he appointed more priests from men who were not descended from Levi. He appointed as priest anyone who agreed to become one, in order that he could offer Because he committed that sin, a few years later God got rid³⁴ .sacrifices on the hilltops .of most of Jeroboam’s descendants and did not allow them to become kings of Israel

Jeroboam said to his² .At that time, Jeroboam’s son Abijah became very sick¹ 14 wife, “Disguise yourself in order that no one will recognize that you are my wife. Then go to the city of Shiloh, where the prophet Ahijah lives. He is the one who predicted that I Take with you ten loaves of bread and some small flat³ .would become the king of Israel cakes, and a jar of honey, and give them to him. Tell him about our son, and he will tell you So his wife went to Shiloh, to Ahijah’s house. Ahijah was⁴ ”.what will happen to him .unable to see, because he was very old and had become blind

But before she got there, Yahweh told Ahijah that Jeroboam’s wife was coming to⁵ inquire about their son, who was very sick. And Yahweh told Ahijah what he should tell .her

But when Ahijah heard⁶ .When she came to him, she pretended to be another woman her footsteps as she entered the doorway, he said to her, “Come in, wife of Jeroboam! Why .do you pretend that you are someone else? Yahweh has given me bad news to tell you ,Go and tell Jeroboam that this is what Yahweh, the God whom we Israelites worship⁷ says to you: ‘I chose you from among the common people and enabled you to become the I took most of the kingdom of Israel away from David’s⁸ .king of my Israelite people

descendants and gave it to you. But you have not been like David, who served me very well. He obeyed all my commandments very sincerely, doing only things that I considered good. But you have done more evil things than all those who ruled before you. You⁹ .to be right have rejected me, and you have caused me to become very angry by making metal images .of other gods so that you and others could worship them

So, I am going to cause terrible things to happen to your family. I will cause all your¹⁰ male descendants to die, young ones and old ones. I will completely get rid of your family. The corpses of any members of¹¹ .just like a man completely burns dung to cook his food your family who die in cities will be eaten by dogs. And the corpses of any members of your family who die out in the open fields will be eaten by vultures. This will surely .happen because I, Yahweh, have said that it will happen

All the¹³ .So go back home. And as soon as you enter the city, your son will die¹² Israelite people will mourn for him and bury him. He is the only one of Jeroboam's family who will be buried properly, because he is the only one of Jeroboam's family with whom .Yahweh is at all pleased

Furthermore, Yahweh will appoint for himself a king to rule over Israel who will get¹⁴ Yahweh will punish¹⁵ !rid of Jeroboam's descendants. And that will start to happen today the people of Israel. He will shake them like the wind shakes the reeds that grow in a .stream. He will expel the Israelite people from this good land that he gave to our ancestors. He will scatter them into countries east of the Euphrates River, because they have caused Yahweh will¹⁶ .him to become very angry by worshiping statues of the goddess Asherah abandon the Israelite people because of the sins that Jeroboam committed, sins which .induced the Israelite people to commit them

Jeroboam's wife returned home to the city of Tirzah, the new capital of Israel. And¹⁷ All the Israelite people mourned for him and¹⁸ .just as she entered her house, her son died .buried him, which is what Yahweh had told his servant, the prophet Ahijah, would happen

Everything else that Jeroboam did, and the record of wars that his army fought, and¹⁹ Jeroboam ruled²⁰ .how he ruled, is written in the book of the events of the Kings of Israel .for twenty-two years. Then he died, and his son Nadab became king

Solomon's son Rehoboam ruled Judah. He was forty-one years old when he started²¹ to rule, and he ruled for seventeen years. He ruled in Jerusalem, which is the city that .Yahweh chose out of all the tribes of Israel to be the place where he should be worshiped .Rehoboam's mother's name was Naamah. She was from the Ammon people group

The people of Judah did many things that Yahweh said were evil. They caused him²² to become angry because they committed more sins than their ancestors had committed. They built places²³. They worshiped many other gods instead of worshiping only Yahweh to worship those gods. On high hills and under big trees they set up pillars and poles for Also, there were male prostitutes at these places of worship. The²⁴. worshiping Asherah Israelite people did the same disgraceful things that had been done by the people whom Yahweh had expelled while the Israelites were advancing through the land

When Rehoboam had been ruling for almost five years, King Shishak of Egypt came²⁵ They took away all the valuable things in the temple²⁶. with his army to attack Jerusalem and in the king's palace, including the gold shields that Solomon's workers had made King Rehoboam's workers made bronze shields to replace them and put them into the²⁷ Every time that the king²⁸. hands of officers who guarded the entrance to the king's palace went into the temple, those guards carried those shields, and when he left the temple they returned the shields to the storeroom

Everything else that Rehoboam did is written in the book of the events of the Kings²⁹. There were wars continually between the armies of Rehoboam and Jeroboam³⁰. of Judah Then Rehoboam died, and he was buried in the part of Jerusalem called the city of³¹ David, where his ancestors were buried. His mother's name was Naamah the Ammonite woman. Then his son Abijah became the king

After Jeroboam had been the king of Israel for almost eighteen years, Abijah¹ 15 He ruled for three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was². became the king of Judah Maacah, the daughter of Abishalom

Abijah committed the same kind of sins that his father had committed. He was not³ But, because of what⁴. fully dedicated to Yahweh his God, as his ancestor David had been Yahweh his God had promised to David, Yahweh gave Abijah a son to rule in Jerusalem Yahweh did that because⁵. after him, and in order to protect Jerusalem from their enemies David had always done what pleased Yahweh and because David had always obeyed Yahweh. The only time when he disobeyed Yahweh was when he caused Uriah to be killed due to his sin with Bathsheba

There were wars between the armies of Rehoboam and Jeroboam all during the time⁶ Everything else that Abijah did is written in the book of the events of⁷. that Abijah ruled Abijah died and was⁸. the Kings of Judah. There was war between Abijah and Jeroboam buried in the part of Jerusalem called the city of David, and his son Asa became king

After Jeroboam had been the king of Israel for almost twenty years, Asa started to⁹
He ruled in Jerusalem for forty-one years. His grandmother was Maacah, the¹⁰ .rule Judah
.daughter of Abishalom

He got rid¹² .Asa did what was pleasing to Yahweh, as his ancestor David had done¹¹
of the male prostitutes who were at the places where the people worshiped idols, and he

He also removed his¹³ .also got rid of all the idols that his ancestors had made
grandmother Maacah so that she no longer had influence in the government because of
being the mother of a previous king. He did that because she had made a disgusting
wooden statue of the goddess Asherah. Asa told his workers to cut down the statue and

He was not able to destroy all the places where the¹⁴ .burned it in the Kidron Valley
people worshiped Yahweh, but he continued to be dedicated to Yahweh all during the time
He told his workers to place in the temple all the items that his father had¹⁵ .that he lived
.dedicated to God, and all the gold and silver things that he had dedicated to God

There were wars between the armies of Asa and Baasha, the king of Israel, all during¹⁶
Baasha's army invaded Judah. They captured the city of Ramah¹⁷ .the time that they ruled
north of Jerusalem. Then they started to build a wall around it in order to prevent people
.from entering or leaving the area in Judah that King Asa ruled

So Asa told his workers to take all the silver and gold that was still in the storerooms¹⁸
in the temple and in the palace and gave it to some of his officials. He told them to take it to
Damascus and give it to King Ben Hadad who ruled Aram. Ben Hadad was son of
I¹⁹ :Tabrimmon and grandson of Hezion. He told the officials to say this to Ben Hadad
want there to be a peace treaty between me and you, like there was between my father and
your father. For that purpose, I am giving you this silver and gold. So now please cancel the
treaty that you made with Baasha, the king of Israel, in order that he will take his soldiers

So the officials²⁰ ”.away from attacking mine, because he will be afraid of your army
went and gave the message to Ben Hadad, and he did what Asa suggested. He sent his army
,commanders and their soldiers to attack some of the towns in Israel. They captured Ijon
Dan, Abel of Beth Maacah, the area near the Sea of Galilee, and all the land of the tribe of
.When Baasha heard about that, he told his soldiers to stop working at Ramah²¹ .Naphtali
Then King Asa sent a message²² .He and his soldiers returned to Tirzah and stayed there
to all the people in the towns in Judah, stating that they all were required to go to Ramah
and carry away the stones and timber that Baasha's soldiers had been using to build a wall
around the city. With those stones and timber they fortified the city of Mizpah north of
.Jerusalem, and Geba, a town in the territory of the tribe of Benjamin

Everything else that Asa did, the armies that his soldiers defeated, and the names of²³ the cities that he caused to be fortified, are all written in the book of the events of the Kings. He died and was buried²⁴ .of Judah. But when Asa became old, he got a disease in his feet where his ancestors were buried in the part of Jerusalem called the city of David. Then his .son Jehoshaphat became king

After Asa had been the king of Judah for almost two years, King Jeroboam's son²⁵ He did many things that Yahweh²⁶ .Nadab started to rule Israel. He ruled for two years said were evil. His behavior was sinful like his father's behavior had been, and what he did .induced the people of Israel to sin

A man named Baasha, from the tribe of Issachar, planned to harm him. He killed²⁷ Nadab when Nadab and his army had surrounded the city of Gibbethon in the region of .That was when Asa had been the king ruling Judah for almost three years²⁸ .Philistia .Then Baasha became the king of Israel

As soon as he became king, he commanded his soldiers to kill all of Jeroboam's²⁹ family. Doing what Yahweh had told the prophet Ahijah from Shiloh would happen, they That happened because Yahweh³⁰ .killed all of Jeroboam's family. None of them were left had become very angry with Jeroboam because of all the sins that Jeroboam had .committed, and because of the sins that he had persuaded the people of Israel to commit

Everything else that Nadab did is written in Book of the Events of the Kings of³¹ There were wars between the armies of King Asa and King Baasha all the time³² .Israel .that they ruled

,After Asa had been the king of Judah for almost three years, Baasha son of Ahijah³³ Baasha did³⁴ .started to rule Israel at the city of Tirzah. He ruled for twenty-four years .many things that Yahweh said were evil, and he lived a sinful life just like Jeroboam lived Baasha's sinful life set an example for the people of Israel that encouraged them to commit .sins that were like his sins

During the time that Baasha was king of Israel, the prophet Jehu, Hanani's¹ **16**
You were very² :son, gave Baasha this message that he had received from Yahweh insignificant when I caused you to become the ruler of my Israelite people. But you have .caused me to become very angry by doing the kinds of evil things that King Jeroboam did So now I will get³ .You have also caused me to become angry by causing my people to sin .rid of you and your family. I will do to you just like I did to Jeroboam and his family

The bodies of those in your family who die in this city will not be buried. They will be⁴
".eaten by dogs, and the bodies of those who die in the fields will be eaten by vultures

The other things that Baasha did during the time that he ruled Israel, and the great⁵
When⁶ .things that his army did, are written in Book of the Events of the Kings of Israel
.Baasha died, he was buried in Tirzah, the capital city. Then his son Elah became king

Yahweh gave that message about Baasha and his family to the prophet Jehu. Baasha⁷
.had done many deeds that Yahweh said were evil, which caused Yahweh to become angry
.Baasha did the same kind of deeds that King Jeroboam and his family had done previously
.Yahweh was also angry with Baasha because he had killed all of Jeroboam's family

After Asa had been the king of Judah for almost twenty-six years, Elah became the⁸
.king of Israel. Elah ruled in Tirzah for only two years

A man named Zimri was one of Elah's army officers. He commanded the drivers of⁹
half of Elah's army's chariots. He made plans to kill Elah while Elah was in Tirzah, getting
drunk at the house of a man named Arza. Arza was the man who took care of the things in
Zimri went into Arza's house and killed Elah. Then he became the¹⁰ .the king's palace
.king of Israel. That was when Asa had been the king of Judah for twenty-seven years

As soon as Zimri became king, he killed all of Baasha's family. He killed every male¹¹
So he got rid of all of Baasha's¹² .in Baasha's family and all of Baasha's male friends
Baasha and his¹³ .family. That was just what Yahweh told the prophet Jehu would happen
son Elah had sinned and induced the Israelite people to sin. They caused Yahweh, the God
whom the Israelite people worshiped, to become angry, because they both urged the people
.to worship worthless idols

.Everything else that Elah did is written in Book of the Events of the Kings of Israel¹⁴

-So Zimri became the king of Israel after Asa had been king of Judah for twenty¹⁵
seven years. But Zimri ruled in Tirzah for only seven days. The Israelite army was
The men in the¹⁶ .beseiging Gibeah, a town that belonged to the Philistine people group
Israelite army camp heard that Zimri had secretly planned to kill King Elah, and then had
killed him. So on that day the soldiers chose Omri, the commander of their army, to become

The Israelite army was camped near Gibbethon. When they heard¹⁷ .the king of Israel
When¹⁸ .what Zimri had done, they left there and went to Tirzah, and surrounded the city
Zimri realized that the city was about to be captured, he went into his palace and set it on
He died because he had sinned¹⁹ .fire. So the palace burned down, and he died in the fire

by doing many things that Yahweh said were evil. Jeroboam had induced the Israelite people to sin, and Zimri sinned just like Jeroboam had sinned

All the other things that Zimri did, and the record of how he rebelled against King²⁰ Elah, are written in Book of the Events of the Kings of Israel

After Zimri died, the Israelite people were divided among themselves. One group²¹ wanted Tibni son of Ginath, to be their king. The other group wanted Omri to be the king. Those who supported Omri were stronger than those who supported Tibni. So Tibni was²² killed, and Omri became king

Omri became king when Asa had been king of Judah for almost thirty-one years²³. Then he²⁴ Omri ruled Israel for twelve years. For the first six years he ruled in Tirzah. He bought a hill from a man named Shemer and paid him about sixty-six kilograms of silver for it. Then Omri ordered his men to build a city on that hill, and he called it Samaria, to honor Shemer, the man who owned it previously

But Omri did many things that Yahweh said were evil. He did more evil deeds than²⁵ any of the kings who ruled Israel before he did. When Jeroboam was previously the²⁶ king, he had induced the Israelite people to sin, and Omri committed the same kind of sins that Jeroboam did. The Israelite people caused Yahweh, the God the Israelite people had worshiped, to become very angry, because they worshiped worthless idols

Everything that Omri did, and the record of the victories that his army won, are²⁷ written in Book of the Events of the Kings of Israel. After Omri died, he was buried in²⁸ Samaria, and his son Ahab became king

Ahab became king of Israel when Asa had ruled Judah for almost thirty-eight years²⁹. Ahab did many things that³⁰ Yahweh said were evil. He did more evil deeds than any of the kings who ruled Israel before he did³¹. He committed the same kind of sins that Jeroboam did, but he did things before he did that were worse than the things that Jeroboam did. He married a woman named Jezebel, the daughter of Ethbaal, the king of the city of Sidon. Then Ahab started to worship Baal, the god that the Canaan people group worshiped. He built a temple in Samaria in order that³² the Israelite people could worship Baal there, and he put an altar there for making sacrifices. He also made an idol that represented Asherah, Baal's wife. He did many more³³ things that caused Yahweh to become angry. He did more evil things than any of the previous kings of Israel had done

During the years that Ahab ruled, Hiel, a man from the city of Bethel, rebuilt the city³⁴ of Jericho. But when he started to rebuild the city, his oldest son Abiram died. And when the city was finished, while Hiel was building the city gates, his youngest son Segub died. They died just as Yahweh had told Joshua would happen to the sons of anyone who would rebuild Jericho.

Elijah was a prophet who lived in the city of Tishbe in the region of Gilead¹ 17

One day he went to King Ahab and said to him, “Yahweh is the God whom we Israelites worship and the God whom I worship and serve. Just as certainly as Yahweh lives, there will be no dew or rain for the next few years, unless I command it to fall

Because you have made the king angry with you³, Then Yahweh said to Elijah² escape from the king and, go to the east, to the Kerith Brook, east of where it flows into the Jordan River. You will be able to drink water from the brook, and you will be able to eat⁴. Jordan River what the crows bring to you, because I have commanded them to bring food to you

So Elijah did what Yahweh commanded him to do. He went and camped alongside⁵ Crows brought bread and meat to him every⁶. Kerith Brook, east of the Jordan River morning and every evening, and he drank water from the brook

But after a while, the water in the brook dried up, because rain did not fall anywhere⁷. Go and live in the village of Zarephath, near⁹, Then Yahweh said to Elijah⁸. in the land the city of Sidon. There is a widow there who will give you food to eat. I have already told So Elijah did what God said. He went to Zarephath. As he¹⁰. her what to do about that, arrived at the gates of the village, he saw a widow who was gathering sticks. He said to her While she was going to get it, he called¹¹. “Would you please bring me a cup of water?”!out to her, “Bring me a piece of bread, too

But she replied, “Your God knows that what I am telling you is true. I do not have¹² even one piece of bread in my house. I have only a handful of flour in a jar, and a little olive oil in a jug. I was gathering a few sticks to use these to make a fire and cook one more meal, and then after my son and I eat that, we will die from hunger

But Elijah said to her, “Do not be worried! Go home and do what you said that you¹³ were going to do. But first, bake me a little loaf of bread and bring it to me. After you do I know that you will¹⁴. that, take what is left and prepare some food for you and your son be able to do that, because Yahweh, the God whom we Israelites worship, says this, ‘There will always be plenty of flour and olive oil left in your containers, until the time when I send rain again and the crops grow again

So the woman did exactly what Elijah told her to do. And she and her son and Elijah¹⁵ because the flour in the jar was never finished, and the jug¹⁶ ,had enough food every day of oil was never empty. That happened just like Yahweh had told Elijah that it would .happen

Some time later, the woman's son became sick. He continued to get worse, and¹⁷ So the woman went to Elijah and said to him, "You are a prophet; so¹⁸ .finally he died why have you done this to me? Have you come here to punish me for my sins by causing ""my son to die

But Elijah replied, "Give your son to me." So she gave her son to him, and he took¹⁹ the boy's body from her and carried it up the steps to the room where he stayed. He laid the Then Elijah cried out to Yahweh, "O Yahweh my God, this²⁰ .boy's body on his bed widow has kindly allowed me to stay in her home. So why have you brought this tragedy to Then Elijah stretched himself on top of the boy's body²¹ ""her and caused her son to die and called out to Yahweh saying, "Yahweh my God, please allow this boy to become alive .again!" He did this three times

.Yahweh heard what Elijah prayed, and he caused the boy to become alive again²² Elijah carried the boy down the steps and gave him to his mother. He said, "Look, your²³ ""!son is alive

The woman said to Elijah, "Now I know for certain that you are a prophet and that²⁴ ""!the words that you speak are truly from Yahweh

For almost three years there was no rain in Samaria. Then Yahweh said this to¹ 18 So Elijah² ".Elijah: "Go and meet with King Ahab and tell him that I will soon send rain .went to talk to Ahab

There was a man there named³ .In Samaria there was almost no food for anyone to eat One time⁴ .Obadiah. He was in charge of the king's palace. He greatly revered Yahweh when Queen Jezebel had tried to kill all Yahweh's prophets, Obadiah hid a hundred of them .in two caves. He put fifty prophets in each cave, and he brought food and water to them

By this time, the famine had become very severe in Samaria. So Ahab summoned⁵ Obadiah and said to him, "We must look near every spring and in every valley to see if we ".can find enough grass to give to some of my horses and mules, so that they will not all die ,So they both started walking through the land. Obadiah went by himself in one direction⁶ .and Ahab went in another direction by himself

While Obadiah was walking along, he saw Elijah coming toward him. Obadiah⁷ recognized Elijah and bowed down in front of him and said, “Is it really you, Elijah, my
”?master

”.Elijah replied, “Yes. Now go and tell Ahab your master that I am here⁸

Obadiah objected. He said, “Sir, I have not harmed you at all. So why are you⁹
Yahweh your God knows that I am telling¹⁰ !sending me back to Ahab? He will kill me
the truth when I solemnly declare that King Ahab has searched in every kingdom to find
you. Each time that some king said to him, ‘Elijah is not here,’ Ahab demanded that the
Now you say to¹¹ .king of that country solemnly swear that the king was telling the truth
But as soon as I leave you, the Spirit of¹² ’!me, ‘Go and tell your master that Elijah is here
Yahweh will carry you away, and I will not know where he will take you. So when I tell
!Ahab that you are here and he comes to me and he does not find you here, he will kill me
My¹³ .But I do not deserve to die because I have revered Yahweh since I was a boy
master, have you not heard about what I did when Jezebel wanted to kill all of Yahweh’s
,Now¹⁴ .prophets? I hid a hundred of them in two caves and took food and water to them
sir, you say, ‘Go and tell your master that Elijah is here.’ But if I do that, and he comes and
”!you are not here, he will kill me

,But Elijah replied, “Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, the one whom I serve¹⁵
knows that I am telling the truth as I solemnly declare that I will go to meet with Ahab
”.today

.So Obadiah went to tell Ahab that Elijah had come. Ahab went to meet with him¹⁶
When he saw Elijah, he said to him, “Is that you, the one who causes trouble for the¹⁷
”?people of Israel

Elijah replied, “It is not I who have caused trouble for the people of Israel! You and¹⁸
your family are the ones who have caused trouble! You have refused to obey Yahweh’s
So now, command all the¹⁹ .commands, and you have worshiped the idols of Baal instead
Israelite people to come to Mount Carmel, and be sure to bring all the 450 prophets who
worship Baal and the four hundred prophets who worship the goddess Asherah, the ones to
”.whom your wife Jezebel always invites to eat with her

So Ahab summoned all his prophets and all the other Israelite people to the top of²⁰
Then Elijah stood in front of them and²¹ .Mount Carmel, and Elijah went up there too
,said, “How long are you going to be undecided about who is truly God? If Yahweh is God
then worship him. If Baal is truly God, then worship him!” But the people said nothing in

reply, because they were afraid of what Jezebel would do to them if they admitted that they
.worshipped Yahweh

Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only true prophet of Yahweh who is left, but²²
Bring two bulls. The prophets of Baal may choose the one that²³ .Baal has 450 prophets
they want. They must kill it and cut it into pieces and lay the pieces on the wood that is on
the altar that they made. But they must not light a fire under the wood. I will kill the other
Then they must call²⁴ .bull and cut it in pieces and lay the pieces on the altar that I make
to their god, and I will call to Yahweh. The god who answers by lighting a fire to the wood
”!that is on that altar is the true God

.Then all the people thought that Elijah’s suggestion was good

Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “You call to Baal first, because there are²⁵
many of you. Choose one of the bulls and prepare it, and then call to your god. But do not
So they killed one of the bulls and cut it up and placed the²⁶ ”!light a fire under the wood
pieces on the altar. Then they called out to Baal all morning. They shouted, “Baal, answer
. us!” But no one answered. There was no reply at all

.Then they danced wildly around the altar that they had made

,About noontime, Elijah started to make fun of them. He said, “Surely Baal is a god²⁷
so it seems that you must shout louder! Perhaps he is thinking about something, or perhaps
he has gone to the toilet. Or perhaps he is traveling somewhere, or perhaps he is asleep and
So they shouted louder. Then, doing one of the things that²⁸ ”!you need to wake him up
they frequently did when they worshiped Baal, they slashed themselves with knives and
They continued calling out to Baal all afternoon. But²⁹ .swords until a lot of blood flowed
.there was no voice that gave a reply, no answer, no god who paid attention

Then Elijah called to the people saying, “Come closer!” So they all crowded around³⁰
.him. Then Elijah repaired the altar of Yahweh that had been ruined by the prophets of Baal
Then he took twelve large stones, each one to represent one of the Israelite tribes, whose³¹

.With these stones he rebuilt Yahweh’s altar³² .ancestors were the twelve sons of Jacob
Then around the altar he dug a little ditch that was large enough to hold about fifteen liters
.He piled wood on top of the stones. He killed the bull and cut it in pieces³³ .of water
,Then he laid the pieces on top of the wood. Then he said, “Fill four large jars with water
.and pour the water on top of the pieces of meat and the wood.” So they did that

Then he said, “Do the same thing again!” So they did it again. Then he said, “Do it a³⁴
.third time!” So they did it again

.As a result, the water flowed down below the altar and filled the ditches³⁵

When it was time to offer the evening sacrifices, Elijah walked close to the altar and³⁶ prayed. He said, “Yahweh, you who are the God that our ancestors Abraham and Isaac and Jacob worshiped, prove today that you are the God whom the Israelite people should worship, and prove that I am your servant. Prove that I have done all these things because Yahweh, answer me! Answer me in order that these people will³⁷ .you told me to do them”!know that you, Yahweh, are God and that you have caused them to trust in you again

Immediately a fire from Yahweh flashed down from the sky. The fire burned up the³⁸ pieces of meat, the wood, the stones, and the dirt that was around the altar. It even dried up !all the water in the ditch

,When the people saw that, they prostrated themselves on the ground and shouted³⁹ ”!Yahweh is God! Yahweh is God“

Then Elijah commanded them, “Seize all the prophets of Baal! Do not allow any of⁴⁰ them to escape!” So the people seized all the prophets of Baal, and took them down the .mountain to the river Kishon, and Elijah killed them all there

,Then Elijah said to Ahab, “Go and get something to eat and drink. But do it quickly⁴¹ So Ahab and his men left to prepare a big⁴² ”!because it is soon going to rain very hard .meal. But Elijah went back up to the top of Mount Carmel and prayed

Then he said to his servant, “Go and look out toward the sea, to see if there are any⁴³ rain clouds.” So his servant went and looked, and came back and said, “I do not see But when the servant went the seventh time, he⁴⁴ .anything.” This happened six times came back and said, “I saw a very small cloud above the sea. As I extend my arm, the cloud ”.is about the size of my hand

Then Elijah shouted to him, “Go and tell King Ahab to get his chariot ready and go Very soon the sky⁴⁵ ”!home immediately! If he does not do that, the rain will stop him was full of black clouds. There was a strong wind, and then it began to rain very hard. Ahab Yahweh gave extra⁴⁶ .got into his chariot and started to return to the city of Jezreel strength to Elijah. He tucked his cloak into his belt in order to run fast, and he ran ahead of .Ahab’s chariot all the way to Jezreel

When Ahab got home, he told his wife Jezebel what Elijah had done. He told¹ 19 ,So Jezebel sent this message to Elijah² .her that Elijah had killed all the prophets of Baal

By this time tomorrow I will have killed you, just like you killed all those prophets of“
”.Baal. If I do not do that, I hope the gods will kill me

When Elijah received her message, he was afraid. So taking his servant with him, he³
fled in order that he would not be killed. He went far south to Beersheba, in Judah. He left
Then he went by himself further south into the desert. He walked all⁴ .his servant there
day. He sat down under a broom tree and prayed that Yahweh would allow him to die. He
said, “Yahweh, I cannot endure anymore. So allow me to die, because for me to live is no
”.better than being with my ancestors who have died

Then he lay down under the broom tree and slept. But while he was sleeping, an⁵
”!angel touched him and woke him up and said to him, “Get up and eat some food

Elijah looked around and saw some bread which had been baked on hot stones, and⁶
he also saw a jar of water. So he ate some bread and drank some water and lay down to
.sleep again

,Then the angel who had been sent by Yahweh came again and touched him, and said⁷
”.Get up and eat some more food, because you need more strength to go on a long journey“
So he got up and ate and drank some more; because he did that, he got enough strength to⁸
.travel for forty days and nights to Mount Horeb, the mountain that was dedicated to God
.He went into a cave there and slept there that night⁹

,Elijah replied¹⁰ ”?The next morning, Yahweh said to him, “Elijah, why are you here
I have zealously served you, Yahweh, commander of angel armies. But the Israelite people“
have rejected the agreement that they made with you. They have torn down your altars, and
they have killed all of your prophets. I am the only one whom they have not killed, and
”.now they are trying to kill me, too. So I am running away from them

Yahweh said to him, “Go out and stand in front of me on this mountain while I pass¹¹
by.” So Elijah did that. While he was standing there, a strong windstorm struck the
mountain. As a result, rocks were loosened from the mountainside. But Yahweh was not in
.the wind. Then there was an earthquake, but Yahweh was not in the earthquake

Then there was a fire, but Yahweh was not in the fire. Then there was a sound like¹²
When Elijah heard that, he wrapped his cloak around his¹³ .someone whispering quietly
face. He went out of the cave and stood at its entrance. And he heard Yahweh speaking to
”?him, saying again, “Elijah, why are you here

He replied again, “I have zealously served you, Yahweh, commander of angel¹⁴
armies. But the Israelite people have rejected the agreement that they made with you. They

have torn down your altars, and they have killed all of your prophets. I am the only one whom they have not killed, and now they are trying to kill me, too. So I am running away
”.from them

Then Yahweh told him, “Go back to the wilderness near Damascus. When you¹⁵
arrive there anoint with olive oil a man named Hazael, to appoint him to be the king of
Then anoint Jehu son of Nimshi to be the king of Israel, and also anoint Elisha¹⁶ .Aram
.son of Shaphat, from the city of Abel Meholah, to become my prophet after you are gone
Hazael’s army will kill many people, and those who escape from being killed by his¹⁷
army will be killed by Jehu’s army, and those who escape from being killed by Jehu’s army
But you need to know that there are still seven thousand people¹⁸ .will be killed by Elisha
”.in Israel who have never bowed to worship Baal or kissed his idol

So Elijah went to Aram and found Elisha as he was plowing a field with a team of¹⁹
oxen. There were eleven other men who were in front of him, plowing with teams of oxen
in the same field. Elijah went to Elisha, and took off his own coat and put it on Elisha, to
show Elisha that he wanted Elisha to take his place as a prophet. Then he started to walk
Elisha left the oxen standing there and ran after Elijah, and said to him, “I will go²⁰ .away
”.with you, but first let me kiss my parents goodbye

Elijah replied, “Very well, go home. But do not forget why I have given my cloak to
So Elisha went back home. He killed his oxen and cut them in pieces and used the²¹ ”!you
wood from the plow to build a fire to roast the meat. He distributed the meat to the other
.people in his town, and they all ate some. Then he went with Elijah and became his helper

Ben Hadad, the king of Aram, gathered all his army, and he brought thirty-two¹ 20
lesser kings to join him with their armies and horses and chariots. They marched to the city
Ben Hadad² .of Samaria, the capital of Israel, and surrounded it and prepared to attack it
sent messengers into the city to King Ahab, and they said this to him: “This is what King
You must give to me all your silver and gold, your good-looking wives³ :Ben Hadad says
”.and strongest children

The king of Israel replied to them, “Tell this to King Ben Hadad, ‘I agree to do what⁴
”.you requested. You can have me and everything that I own

:The messengers told that to Ben Hadad, and he sent them back with another message⁵
I sent a message to you saying that you must give me all your silver and gold and your“
But in addition to that, about this time tomorrow, I will send⁶ .wives and your children

some of my officials to search your palace and the houses of your officials, and to bring to
”.me everything that they see is valuable

King Ahab summoned all the leaders of Israel, and said to them, “You can see for⁷
yourselves that this man is trying to cause much trouble. He sent me a message insisting
that I must give him my wives and my children, my silver and my gold, and I agreed to do
”.that

!The leaders and all the other people said to him, “Do not pay any attention to him⁸
”!Do not do what he is requesting

So Ahab said to Ben Hadad’s messengers, “Tell the king that I agree to give him the⁹
things that he first requested, but I do not agree to allow his officials to take anything that
they want from my palace and from the houses of my officials.” So the messengers
.reported that to King Ben Hadad, and they returned with another message from Ben Hadad

In that message he said, “We will destroy your city completely, with the result that¹⁰
there will not be enough ashes left for each of my soldiers to have one handful! I hope that
”!the gods will strike me dead if we do not do that

King Ahab replied to the messengers, “Tell King Ben Hadad this: No one wins a¹¹
”.battle before he fights it, so do not boast before you should

Ben Hadad heard that message while he and the other rulers were drinking wine in¹²
.their temporary shelters. He told his men to prepare to attack the city. So his men did that

At that moment, a prophet came to King Ahab and said to him, “This is what¹³
Yahweh says: ‘Do not be at all afraid of the large enemy army that you see! I will enable
”.your army to defeat them today, and you will know that it is I, Yahweh, who has done it

Ahab asked, “What group of our army will defeat them?” The prophet replied, “The¹⁴
young soldiers whom the district governors command will do it.” The king asked, “Who
”!should lead the attack?” The prophet replied, “You should

So Ahab gathered the young soldiers who were commanded by the district¹⁵
.governors. There were 232 of those men. Then he also summoned all the Israelite army

They started to attack at noon, while Ben¹⁶ .There were only seven thousand soldiers
The young¹⁷ .Hadad and the other rulers were getting drunk in their temporary shelters
,soldiers advanced first. Some scouts who had been sent out by Ben Hadad reported to him
!”There are men coming out of Samaria“

He said, “It does not matter whether they are coming to fight against us or to request¹⁸
”!for peace. Capture them, but do not kill them

The young Israelite soldiers went out of the city to attack the Aramean army, and the¹⁹

Each Israelite soldier killed an²⁰ .other soldiers in the Israelite army followed them
Aramean soldier. The rest of the Aramean army then ran away, and the Israelite soldiers
pursued them. But King Ben Hadad escaped riding his horse, along with some other men
Then the king of Israel went out of the city; he and his soldiers captured²¹ .riding horses
all the other Aramean horses and chariots, and also killed a large number of Aramean
soldiers.

Then that same prophet went to King Ahab and said to him, “Go back and prepare²²
your soldiers, and think carefully about what will be necessary for you to do, because the
”.king of Aram will attack with his army again in the springtime of next year

After the Aramean army was defeated, Ben Hadad’s officials said to him, “The gods²³
that the Israelites worship are gods who live in the hills. Samaria is built on a hill, and that
is why their soldiers were able to defeat us. But if we fight against them in the plains, we
So, this is what you should do: You must remove²⁴ .certainly will be able to defeat them
.the thirty-two kings who are leading your troops and replace them with army commanders
Then gather an army like the army that was defeated. Gather an army that has as many²⁵
horses and chariots as the first army had. Then we will fight the Israelites in the plains, and
”.we will surely defeat them

In the spring of the²⁶ .Ben Hadad agreed with them, and he did what they suggested
following year, he gathered his soldiers and marched with them to the city of Aphek east of

The Israelite army was also²⁷ .the Sea of Galilee, to fight against the Israelite army
gathered together, and they were given the things that they needed for the battle. Then they
marched out and formed two groups facing the Aramean army. Their army was very small
They resembled two small flocks of goats, whereas the Aramean army was very large and
spread all over the countryside

A prophet came to King Ahab and said to him, “This is what Yahweh says: ‘The²⁸
Arameans say that I am a god who lives in the hills, and that I am not a god who lives in
the valleys. So I will show that they are wrong by enabling your men to defeat this huge
’”.army in the valley, and you will know that I, Yahweh, have done it

.The two armies stayed in their tents for seven days, in groups that faced each other²⁹
Then, on the seventh day, they started fighting. The Israelite army killed 100,000 Aramean

The other Aramean soldiers ran away into Aphek. Then the wall of the city³⁰ .soldiers
.collapsed and killed twenty-seven thousand more Aramean soldiers

His³¹ .Ben Hadad also escaped into the city and hid in the back room of a house
officials went to him and said, “We have heard a report that the Israelites act mercifully. So
allow us to go to the king of Israel, wearing coarse sacks around our waists and ropes on
our heads to indicate that we will be his slaves. Perhaps if we do that, he will allow you to
”.remain alive

The king permitted them to do that, so they wrapped coarse sacks around their³²
,waists and put ropes on their heads, and they went to the king of Israel and said to him
Ben Hadad, who greatly respects you, says, ‘Please do not kill me.’” Ahab replied, “Is he“
”!still alive? He is like a brother to me

Ben Hadad’s officials were trying to find out if Ahab would act mercifully, and³³
when Ahab said “brother,” they were optimistic. So they replied, “Yes, he is like your
brother!” Ahab said, “Go and bring him to me.” So they went and brought Ben Hadad to
.him. When Ben Hadad arrived, Ahab told him to get in the chariot and sit with him

Ben Hadad said to him, “I will give back to you the towns that my father’s army³⁴
took from your father. And I will allow you to set up market areas for your merchants in
,Damascus my capital, just as my father did in Samaria your capital.” Ahab replied
Because you agree to do that, I will not execute you.” So Ahab made an agreement with“
.Ben Hadad, and allowed him to go home

Then Yahweh spoke to a member of an association of prophets and told him to³⁵
.request a fellow prophet to strike him. But that man refused to do it

So the prophet said to him, “Because you refused to obey what Yahweh told you to³⁶
do, a lion will kill you as soon as you leave me.” And as soon as he left that prophet, a lion
.suddenly met him and killed him

Then the prophet found another prophet, and said to him, “Strike me!” So that man³⁷
Then the prophet put a large bandage over his face so³⁸ .hit him very hard and injured him
that no one would recognize him. Then he went and stood alongside the road, waiting for

When the king passed by, the prophet cried out to him, saying³⁹ .the king to come by
Your Majesty, after I was wounded while I was fighting in a battle, a soldier brought to me“
,one of our enemies who he had captured, and said to me, ‘Guard this man! If he escapes
you must pay me thirty-three kilograms of silver; if you do not pay that, you will be
But while I was busy doing other things, the man escaped!” The king of⁴⁰ ’!executed

Israel said to him, “That is your problem! You yourself have said that you deserve to be
”.punished

The prophet immediately took off the bandage, and the king of Israel recognized⁴¹
:The prophet said to him, “This is what Yahweh says⁴² .that he was one of the prophets
You have allowed that man Ben Hadad to escape after I commanded you to be sure to‘
execute him! Since you did not do that, you will be killed instead. And your army will be
The king went back home⁴³ ”!destroyed because you allowed some of his army to escape
.to Samaria, very angry and depressed

King Ahab had a palace in the city of Jezreel. Near the palace was a vineyard¹ 21

One day, Ahab went to Naboth and said to him, “Your² .owned by a man named Naboth
vineyard is close to my palace. I would like to buy it, so that I can plant some vegetables
there. I will give you in exchange a better vineyard somewhere else, or if you prefer, I will
”.pay you for your vineyard

But Naboth replied, “That land belonged to my ancestors, so I want to keep it. I hope³
”!that Yahweh will never allow me to give that land to you

So Ahab became very sullen and angry because of what Naboth had said. He went⁴
home and lay down on his bed. He turned his face toward the wall, and he refused to eat
.anything

His wife Jezebel came in and asked him, “Why are you so depressed? Why are you⁵
”?refusing to eat anything

Ahab replied, “I talked to Naboth, that man from Jezreel. I told him that I wanted his⁶
vineyard. I said, ‘I will buy it from you, or I will give you another vineyard for it.’ But he
”.refused to let me have it

His wife replied, “You are the king of Israel, so you can get whatever you want! Get⁷
up, and eat some food and do not worry about what Naboth said. I will get Naboth’s
”.vineyard for you

Then Jezebel wrote some letters, and she signed Ahab’s name on them. She used his⁸
official seal to seal them. Then she sent them to the older leaders and other important men
This is what she wrote⁹ .who lived near Naboth and who decided public matters with him
in the letters: “Proclaim a day when all the people will gather together and fast. Give to
Then find two men who always cause¹⁰ .Naboth an important place to sit among them
trouble. Give them places to sit opposite him. Tell these men to testify that they heard

Naboth say things that criticized God and the king. Then take Naboth out of the city and
”.kill him by throwing stones at him

The leaders received the letters and did what Jezebel had written in the letters for¹¹

They declared a day on which the people would all go without food. And¹² .them to do
Two¹³ .they gave Naboth a seat in a place where honored people sat, in front of the people
men who always caused trouble sat opposite Naboth. While everyone was listening, they
stated that they had heard Naboth say things that criticized God and the king. So the people
..seized Naboth. They took him outside the city and killed him by throwing stones at him
”.Then those leaders sent a message to Jezebel, saying, “We have executed Naboth¹⁴

When Jezebel found out that Naboth had been killed, she told Ahab, “Naboth is¹⁵
”.dead. Now you can go and take possession of the vineyard that he refused to sell to you
When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he got up and went to the vineyard to claim¹⁶
..that he now owned it

Go to Samaria and talk to“¹⁸ ,Then Yahweh spoke to Elijah the prophet. He said¹⁷
Ahab, the king of Israel. He is in the vineyard of a man named Naboth. He has gone there

Tell Ahab that this is what I, Yahweh, say to him, ‘You¹⁹ .to claim that he now owns it
have murdered Naboth and taken his land. So I am telling you this. In the same place where
Naboth died and dogs came and licked up Naboth’s blood, you will die and the dogs will
””!lick up your blood, too

So when Elijah met with Ahab, Ahab said to him, “You, my enemy, have found²⁰
me!” Elijah answered, “Yes, I have found you. You have never stopped doing the things
..that Yahweh says are wrong

So this is what Yahweh says to you, ‘I will soon get rid of you. I will kill you, and I²¹
will also kill every male in your household, including those who are slaves and those who
Your family will all be killed, just like the family of King Jeroboam and²² .are not slaves
like the family of King Baasha were killed. I will get rid of you because you have caused
’.me to become very angry, and you have also induced the Israelite people to sin

Yahweh has also told me that your wife Jezebel will be killed, and dogs in Jezreel²³

The dead bodies of the members of your family who die in this city²⁴ .will eat her body
will not be buried. They will be eaten by dogs, and the bodies of those who die in the fields
”.will be eaten by vultures

There was no man who gave himself as completely to do things that Yahweh said²⁵
The²⁶ .were evil like Ahab did. But his wife Jezebel urged him to do many of those things

most disgusting thing that Ahab did was to worship idols, just like the Amor people group .had done. And that is why Yahweh took their land from them and gave it to the Israelites

After Elijah finished talking to Ahab, Ahab tore his clothes to show that he was²⁷ sorry for all the sins that he had committed. He put on rough clothes that were made from sacks, and he refused to eat anything. He even wore those rough clothes made from sacks .when he slept, to show that he was sorry

I have seen that Ahab is now very sorry for all“²⁹ ,Then Yahweh said this to Elijah²⁸ the evil things that he has done. So the things that I promised to do to his family will not happen while he is still alive. I will cause them to happen after his son becomes king. Then ”.those things will happen to his family

Then² .For almost three years there was no war between Aram and Israel¹ 22

While³ .King Jehoshaphat, who ruled Judah, went to visit King Ahab, who ruled Israel they were talking, Ahab said to his officials, “Do you realize that the Arameans are still occupying our city of Ramoth in the region of Gilead? And we are doing nothing to retake Then he turned toward Jehoshaphat and asked, “Will your army join my army⁴ ”!that city ”?to fight against the people of Ramoth and retake that city

Jehoshaphat replied, “Certainly! I will do whatever you want, and you may command Then he added, “But we should ask⁵ ”.my troops. You may take my horses into battle, also So Ahab summoned about four⁶ ”.Yahweh first, to find out what he wants us to do hundred of his prophets together, and he asked them, “Should my army go to fight the ”?people in Ramoth and retake that city, or not

They answered, “Yes, go and attack them, because God will enable your army to defeat ”.them

But Jehoshaphat asked, “Is there no other prophet of Yahweh here whom we can⁷ ”?ask

The king of Israel replied, “There is one other man we can ask. His name is Micaiah⁸ son of Imlah. But I hate him, because when he prophesies he never says that anything good ”.will happen to me. He always predicts that bad things will happen to me

”!Jehoshaphat replied, “King Ahab, you should not say that

.So the king of Israel told one of his officers to summon Micaiah immediately⁹

The king of Israel and the king of Judah were both wearing their royal robes and¹⁰ sitting on thrones at a gate in the city wall of Samaria. Many prophets were speaking. One of them, whose name was Zedekiah son of Kenaanah, had made¹¹ messages to them from iron something that resembled horns of a bull. Then he proclaimed to Ahab, “This is what Yahweh says, ‘With horns like these your army will keep attacking the Arameans as a
”!bull attacks another animal, until you completely destroy them

All the other prophets of Ahab agreed. They said, “Yes! If you go up to attack¹² ”!Ramoath in Gilead, you will be successful, because Yahweh will enable you to defeat them

Meanwhile, the messenger who went to summon Micaiah said to him, “Listen to¹³ me! All the other prophets are predicting that the king’s army will defeat the Arameans. So
”.be sure that you agree with them and say what will be favorable

But Micaiah replied, “As surely as Yahweh lives, I will tell Ahab only what Yahweh¹⁴
”.tells me to say

When Micaiah came to Ahab, Ahab asked him, “Micaiah, should we go to fight¹⁵
”?against the people of Ramoth, or not

Micaiah replied, “Of course you should go! Yahweh will enable your army to defeat
,But King Ahab realized that Micaiah was being sarcastic, so he said to Micaiah¹⁶ ”!them
I have told you many times that you must always tell only the truth when you say what“
”!Yahweh has revealed to you

So Micaiah said to him, “The truth is that in a vision I saw all the troops of Israel¹⁷ scattered on the mountains. They seemed to be like sheep that did not have a shepherd. And
”.Yahweh said, ‘Their master has been killed. So tell them all to go home peacefully

Ahab said to Jehoshaphat, “I told you that he never predicts that anything good will¹⁸
”.happen to me! He always predicts that bad things will happen to me

But Micaiah continued, saying, “Listen to what Yahweh showed to me! In a vision I¹⁹ saw Yahweh sitting on his throne, with all the armies of heaven surrounding him, on his
And Yahweh said, ‘Who can persuade Ahab to go to fight²⁰ .right side and on his left side
”?against the people of Ramoth, in order that he may be killed there

Finally one spirit²¹ .Some suggested one thing, and others suggested something else
’!came to Yahweh and said, ‘I will deceive him

Yahweh asked him, ‘How will you do it?’ The spirit replied, ‘I will go and inspire all²²
So²³ ’!of Ahab’s prophets to tell lies.’ Yahweh said, ‘You will be successful; go and do it
now I tell you that Yahweh has let all of your prophets lie to you. Yahweh has decided that
”something terrible will happen to you

Then Zedekiah walked over to Micaiah and slapped him on his face. He said, “Do²⁴
”?you think that Yahweh’s Spirit left me in order to speak to you

Micaiah replied, “You will find out for yourself to which of us Yahweh’s Spirit has²⁵
truly spoken on the day when you go into a room of some house to hide from the Aramean
”!troops

King Ahab commanded his soldiers, “Seize Micaiah and take him to Amon, the²⁶
Tell them that I have commanded that they²⁷ .governor of this city, and to my son Joash
should put this man in prison and give him only bread and water. Do not give him anything
”!else to eat until I return safely from the battle

Micaiah replied, “If you return safely, it will be clear that it was not Yahweh who²⁸
told me what to say to you!” Then he said to all those who were standing there, “Do not
”!forget what I have said to King Ahab

.So the king of Israel and the king of Judah led their armies to Ramoth in Gilead²⁹
King Ahab said to Jehoshaphat, “I will put on different clothes, in order that no one will³⁰
recognize that I am the king. But you should wear your royal robe.” So Ahab disguised
.himself, and they both went into the battle

,The King of Aram had said to his thirty-two men who were driving the chariots³¹
So when the men who were driving the Aramean³² ”!Attack only the king of Israel“
chariots saw Jehoshaphat wearing the royal robes, they pursued him. They shouted, “There
they realized that he was not the³³ ,is the king of Israel!” But when Jehoshaphat cried out
.king of Israel. So they stopped pursuing him

.But one Aramean soldier shot an arrow at Ahab, without knowing that it was Ahab³⁴
.The arrow struck Ahab between the places where the parts of his armor joined together
Ahab told the driver of his chariot, “Turn the chariot around and take me out of here! I have
The battle continued all the day. Ahab was sitting propped up³⁵ ”!been severely wounded
in his chariot, facing the Aramean troops. The blood from his wound ran down to the floor
,Just as the sun was going down³⁶ .of the chariot. And late in the afternoon he died
someone among the Israelite troops shouted, “The battle is ended! Everyone should return
”!home

So King Ahab died, and they took his body in the chariot to Samaria and buried his³⁷

They washed his chariot alongside the pool in Samaria, a pool where the³⁸ .body there prostitutes bathed. And dogs came and licked the king's blood, just like Yahweh had .predicted would happen

The account of the other things that happened while Ahab was ruling, and about the³⁹ palace decorated with much ivory that they built for him, and the cities that were built for

When Ahab died, his⁴⁰ .him, was written in Book of the Events of the Kings of Israel .body was buried where his ancestors were buried. Then his son Ahaziah became king

Before King Ahab died, when he had been ruling in Israel for four years, Asa's son⁴¹

Jehoshaphat was thirty-five years old when he⁴² .Jehoshaphat started to rule in Judah started to rule, and he ruled in Jerusalem for twenty-five years. His mother was Azubah, the

Jehoshaphat was a good king, just like his father Asa had been. He⁴³ .daughter of Shilhi did things that pleased Yahweh. But while he was king, he did not remove all the pagan altars that had been built upon the hills. So the people continued to offer sacrifices to idols Jehoshaphat also made a peace treaty with the⁴⁴ .on those altars and burned incense there .king of Israel

All the other things that happened while Jehoshaphat was ruling, and the great⁴⁵ things that he did and the victories his troops won, are written in Book of the Events of the Jehoshaphat removed from the land the male prostitutes that still lived⁴⁶ .Kings of Judah in that region. These were same the male prostitutes who had lived there in the time of his .father Asa

At that time, there was no king in Edom. A ruler who had been appointed by⁴⁷ .Jehoshaphat ruled there

Jehoshaphat ordered some Israelite men to build a fleet of ships to sail south to the⁴⁸ region of Ophir to get gold. But they were wrecked at Ezion Geber, so the ships never ,Before the ships were wrecked, Ahab's son Ahaziah suggested to Jehoshaphat⁴⁹ .sailed .Allow my sailors to go with your sailors," but Jehoshaphat refused"

When Jehoshaphat died, his body was buried where his ancestors were buried in⁵⁰ Jerusalem, the city where King David had ruled. Then Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram became .king

Before King Jehoshaphat died, when he had been ruling in Judah for seventeen⁵¹ .years, Ahab's son Ahaziah began to rule in Israel. Ahaziah ruled in Samaria for two years He did many things that Yahweh said were evil, doing the evil things that his father and⁵²

mother had done and the evil things that Jeroboam had done—the king who had induced all Ahaziah bowed in front of Baal’s idol⁵³ .the Israelite people to sin by worshiping idols and worshiped it. That caused Yahweh, the God who is the true God of the Israelite people as well as all the world, to become very angry, just as Ahaziah’s father had caused Yahweh .to become angry