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1 Chronicles

Chapter 1

These are the descendants of Adam

¹The first person God created was Adam. Seth was Adam's son. Enosh was Seth's son. ²Kenan was Enosh's son. Mahalalel was Kenan's son. Jared was Mahalalel's son. ³Enoch was Jared's son. Methuselah was Enoch's son. Lamech was Methuselah's son. ⁴Noah was Lamech's son. Shem, Ham, and Japheth were Noah's sons.

⁵Japheth's sons were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

⁶Gomer's sons were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.

⁷Javan's sons were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Rodanim.

⁸Ham's sons were Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan.

⁹Cush's sons were Seba, Havilah, Sabta, Raamah, and Sabteka.

Raamah's sons were Sheba and Dedan.

¹⁰Another son of Cush was Nimrod. When he grew up, he became a mighty warrior on the earth.

¹¹Egypt was the ancestor of the Lud, the Anam, the Lehab, the Naphtuh, ¹²the Pathrus, the Kasluh, and the Caphtor people groups. The Philistines descended from the Kasluh people group.

¹³Canaan's first son was Sidon. He was also the ancestor of the Hittites, ¹⁴the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, ¹⁵the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites, ¹⁶the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites.

¹⁷Shem's sons were Elam, Ashur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram.

Aram's sons were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Meshech.

¹⁸Arphachshad was the father of Shelah. Shelah was the father of Eber.

¹⁹Eber had two sons. The name of the first was Peleg, which sounds like the word that means 'divided' because during the time that he lived, God had divided the people on the earth into various language groups. Peleg's brother was Joktan.

²⁰Joktan was the ancestor of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, ²¹Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, ²²Obal, Abimael, Sheba, ²³Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the descendants of Joktan.

²⁴These are the descendants of Shem, in order from him to Abraham: Arphaxad, Shelah, ²⁵Eber, Peleg, Reu,

²⁶Serug, Nahor, Terah, ²⁷and Abram, whose name God later changed to Abraham.

²⁸Abraham's sons were Isaac and Ishmael.

²⁹These were their family lines: The firstborn son of Ishmael, the son of Abraham's slave wife Hagar, was Nebaioth, then his other sons Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, ³⁰Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema, ³¹Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. Ishmael had twelve sons.

³²After Abraham's wife Sarah died, he took a concubine named Keturah. Her sons with Abraham were Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.

Jokshan's sons were Sheba and Dedan.

³³Midian's sons were Ephah, Epher, Hanok, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were Keturah's descendants.

³⁴Abraham had his son Isaac by his wife Sarah, and Isaac's sons were Esau and Jacob, whose name God later changed to Israel.

³⁵Esau's sons were Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam, and Korah.

³⁶Eliphaz's sons were Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, Kenaz, Timna, and Amalek.

³⁷Reuel's sons were Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.

³⁸Another descendant of Esau was Seir. Seir's sons were Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan.

³⁹Lotan's sons were Hori and Homam, and Lotan's sister was Timna.

⁴⁰Shobal's sons were Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam.

Zibeon's sons were Aiah and Anah.

⁴¹Anah's son was Dishon.

Dishon's sons were Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Keran.

⁴²Ezer's sons were Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan.

Dishan's sons were Uz and Aran.

⁴³These are the kings who ruled the region of Edom (where Seir's descendants lived) before any kings ruled over Israel:

Bela son of Beor, and his city's name was Dinhabah.

⁴⁴When Bela died, Jobab son of Zerah, from the city of Bozrah, became the king.

⁴⁵When Jobab died, Husham became the king. He was from the region where the Teman people group lived.

⁴⁶When Husham died, Hadad son of Bedad, became the king. His city's name was Avith. Hadad's army defeated the army of the Midian people group in the region of Moab.

⁴⁷When Hadad died, Samlah became the king. He was from the city of Masrekah.

⁴⁸When Samlah died, Shaul became the king. He was from the city of Rehoboth Hannahar.

⁴⁹When Shaul died, Baal-Hanan son of Akbor became the king.

⁵⁰When Baal-Hanan died, Hadar became the king. His city's name was Pau. His wife's name was Mehetabel; she was the daughter of Matred and the granddaughter of Me-Zahab. ⁵¹Then Hadad died.

The chiefs of the Edom people group were Chiefs Timna, Alvah, Jetheth, ⁵²Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon, ⁵³Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar, ⁵⁴Magdiel, and Iram. These were the chiefs of Edom.

Chapter 2

¹The following were the sons of Israel (also known as Jacob): Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, ²Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

³Judah's sons were Er, Onan, and Shelah. Judah had them with Bath-Shua from the Canaan people group. When Judah's oldest son Er grew up, he did something that Yahweh considered to be very wicked, so Yahweh caused him to die. ⁴Judah and his daughter-in-law Tamar had twin boys named Perez and Zerah. So altogether Judah had five sons.

⁵Perez's sons were Hezron and Hamul.

⁶Zerah had five sons: Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Kalkol, and Darda.

⁷Zimri had a son named Karmi. Karmi had a son named Achar. Achar (whose name sounds like "trouble") caused the people of Israel to experience much trouble, because he stole some of the things that were to be destroyed because they were dedicated to God.

⁸Ethan's son was Azariah.

⁹Hezron had three sons: Jerahmeel, Ram, and Caleb.

¹⁰Ram was the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab was the father of Nahshon. Nahshon was a leader of the tribe of Judah.

¹¹Nahshon was the father of Salmon. Salmon was the father of Boaz. ¹²Boaz was the father of Obed. Obed was the father of Jesse.

¹³Jesse had his son Eliab first, Abinadab second, Shimea third. ¹⁴Nethanel fourth, Raddai fifth, ¹⁵Ozem sixth, then David last.

¹⁶Their sisters were Zeruah and Abigail. Zeruah's three sons were Abishai, Joab, and Asahel. ¹⁷Abigail had Amasa. Amasa's father was Jether, a descendant of Ishmael.

¹⁸Hezron's third son Caleb had sons with one of his wives, Azubah. The sons were Jeshur, Shobab, and Ardon. (The other wife's name was Jerioth.) ¹⁹When Azubah died, Caleb married Ephrath. They had a son named Hur. ²⁰Hur was the father of Uri. Uri was the father of Bezalel.

²¹Later, when Hezron was sixty years old, he had sexual intercourse with a daughter of Makir from the region of Gilead and married her. Hezron's new wife gave birth to their son Segub. ²²Segub was the father of Jair. Jair controlled 23 cities in the region of Gilead.

²³But the armies of Geshur and Aram captured from Jair the cities of Hawvoth-Jair, Kenath, and the nearby towns; sixty towns altogether. All the people who lived there were descendants of Makir from the region of Gilead.

²⁴Shortly after Hezron died in Caleb-Ephrathah, Abijah, Hezron's widow, gave birth to Ashhur, who became the father of Tekoa.

²⁵Hezron's oldest son was Jerahmeel. His sons were Ram (the oldest), Bunah, Oren, Ozem, and Ahijah. ²⁶Jerahmeel had another wife named Atarah. She was Onam's mother.

²⁷The sons of Ram, Jerahmeel's oldest son, were Maaz, Jamin, and Eker.

²⁸Onam's sons were Shammai and Jada.

Shammai's sons were Nadab and Abishur.

²⁹Abishur's wife was Abihail. Their sons were Ahban and Molid.

³⁰Nadab's sons were Seled and Appaim. Seled died childless. ³¹Appaim's son was Ishi; Ishi's son was Sheshan. Sheshan's son was Ahlai.

³²The sons of Jada (Shammai's brother) were Jether and Jonathan. Jether died childless.

³³Jonathan's sons were Peleth and Zaza.

These were the descendants of Jerahmeel.

³⁴Sheshan did not have any sons; he only had daughters. He had a servant from Egypt whose name was Jarha.

³⁵Sheshan arranged for his daughter to marry Jarha his servant. She and Jarha had a son: Attai.

³⁶Attai was the father of Nathan.

Nathan was the father of Zabad.

³⁷Zabad was the father of Ephlal.

Ephlal was the father of Obed.

³⁸Obed was the father of Jehu.

Jehu was the father of Azariah.

³⁹Azariah was the father of Helez.

Helez was the father of Eleasah.

⁴⁰Eleasah was the father of Sismai.

Sismai was the father of Shallum.

⁴¹Shallum was the father of Jekamiah.

Jekamiah was the father of Elishama.

⁴²Jerahmeel's brother was Caleb.

Caleb's oldest son was Mesha. Mesha was the father of Ziph. Ziph was the father of Mareshah. Mareshah was the father of Hebron. ⁴³Hebron's sons were Korah, Tappuah, Rekem, and Shema. ⁴⁴Shema was the father of Raham. Raham was the father of Jorkeam. Rekem was the father of Shammai.

⁴⁵Shammai's son was Maon. Maon was the father of Beth Zur.

⁴⁶Caleb had a slave wife named Ephah. She gave birth to Haran, Moza, and Gazez. Haran had a son whom he also named Gazez.

⁴⁷Jahdai's sons were: Regem, Jotham, Geshan, Pelet, Ephah, and Shaaph.

⁴⁸Caleb had another slave wife named Maacah. She gave birth to Sheber and Tirhanah. ⁴⁹She also gave birth to Shaaph (who was the father of Madmannah), Sheva (who was the father of Makbenah and Gibeah). Caleb's daughter was Aksah.

⁵⁰These were Caleb's sons. The sons of Hur, Ephrathah's oldest son, were: Shobal (who was the father of Kiriath-jearim), ⁵⁰⁻⁵¹These people were also descendants of Caleb: Caleb had another wife whose name was Ephrathah. Their oldest son was Hur. Hur's sons were Shobal, Salma, and Hareph. Shobal started the city of Kiriath Jearim. Salma started the city of Bethlehem. Hareph started the city of Beth Gader.

⁵¹Salma (who was the father of Bethlehem), and Hareph (who was the father of Beth Gader). ⁵²The descendants of Shobal (who was the father of Kiriath-Jearim) were Haroeh and half of the Manahath people group. ⁵³His descendants also included clans that lived in Kiriath Jearim: Ithri, Put, Shumath, and Mishra. The Zorath clan and the Eshtaol clan came from these other clans.

⁵⁴Salma's descendants were the people of Bethlehem, the clan of Netophath, the clan of Atroth Beth Joab, and the half the clan of Manahath, who were also Zorites. ⁵⁵The families who wrote and copied important documents and who lived in the town of Jabez were the clan of Tirath, the clan of Shimeath, and the clan of Sucath. They were all from the Kenite people group who descended from Hammath, the ancestor of the family of Rekab.

Chapter 3

The sons of King David

¹The following were the sons of King David who were born in the city of Hebron:

His oldest son was Amnon, whose mother Ahinoam was from the city of Jezreel.

His second son was Daniel, whose mother Abigail was from the city of Carmel. ²His third son was Absalom, whose mother was Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, the king who ruled in the city of Geshur.

His fourth son was Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith. ³His fifth son was Shephatiah, whose mother was Abital.

His sixth son was Ithream. David had him with his wife Eglah.

⁴All six were born in Hebron, where David ruled for seven and one-half years.

After that, David ruled in Jerusalem for 33 years. ⁵The following were born to David in Jerusalem.

Bathshua, the daughter of Ammiel, gave birth to four of his sons: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon.

⁶Other sons were Ibhar, Elishua, Elphelet, ⁷Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, ⁸Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet, nine in all.

⁹In addition to all those sons, David's slave wives also gave birth to sons. They all had a sister named Tamar.

¹⁰Solomon's son was King Rehoboam.

Rehoboam's son was King Abijah.

Abijah's son was King Asa.

Asa's son was King Jehoshaphat.

¹¹Jehoshaphat's son was King Joram.

Joram's son was King Ahaziah.

Ahaziah's son was King Joash.

¹²Joash's son was King Amaziah.

Amaziah's son was King Azariah.

Azariah's son was King Jotham.

¹³Jotham's son was King Ahaz.

Ahaz's son was King Hezekiah.

Hezekiah's son was King Manasseh.

¹⁴Manasseh's son was King Amon.

Amon's son was King Josiah.

¹⁵Josiah had four sons. The oldest was Johanan. The second was Jehoiakim. The third was Zedekiah. The fourth was Shallum.

¹⁶The descendants of Jehoiakim included Jehoiakim's son Jeconiah and Jeconiah's son Zedekiah.

¹⁷Jeconiah was taken into exile in Babylon. His sons were Shealtiel, ¹⁸Malkiram, Pedaiah, Shenazzar, Jekamiah, Hoshama, and Nedabiah.

¹⁹Pedaiah's sons were Zerubbabel and Shimei.

Two of Zerubbabel's sons were Meshullam and Hananiah, and their sister was Shelomith. ²⁰Zerubbabel's five other sons were Hashubah, Ohel, Berekiah, Hasadiah, and Jushab-Hesed.

²¹Hananiah's descendants were Pelatiah, Jeshaiah, the sons of Rephaiah, of Arnan, of Obadiah, and of Shecaniah.

²²Shecaniah's six descendants were Shemaiah and Shemaiah's sons Hattush, Igal, Bariah, Neariah, and Shaphat.

²³Neariah's three sons were Elioenai, Hizkiah, and Azrikam.

²⁴Elioenai's seven sons were Hodaviah, Eliashib, Pelaiah, Akkub, Johanan, Delaiah, and Anani.

Chapter 4

Other clans descended from Judah

¹Judah's sons were Perez, Hezron, Karmi, Hur, and Shobal.

²Shobal's son was Reaiah. Reaiah was the father of Jahath, and Jahath was the father of Ahumai and Lahad. They were the ancestors of the Zorath people group.

³What follows are the names of the three men who started the clans that lived in the city of Etam: Jezreel, Ishma, and Idbash—and they had a sister named Hazzelelponi. ⁴Hur was the firstborn son of Ephrathah; he founded the city of Bethlehem. Hur had these descendants: Penuel and Ezer. Penuel started the clans that lived in the city of Gedor, and Ezer started the clans living in the city of Hushah.

⁵Hezron's son Ashhur, the father of Tekoa, had two wives whose names were Helah and Naarah.

⁶Asshur and his wife Naarah had sons named Ahuzzam, Hepher, Temeni, and Haahashtari.

⁷The sons of Ashhur and his wife Helah were Zereth, Zohar, Ethnan, ⁸and Koz. Koz was the father of Anub, Hazzobebah, and the ancestor of the clans descended from Aharhel. Aharhel was the son of Harum.

⁹There was another descendant of Judah whose name was Jabez. He was more respected than his brothers. His mother named him Jabez which means 'pain' because she said, "I was enduring much pain when I gave birth to him." ¹⁰One day he prayed to God whom his fellow Israelites worshiped, saying, "Please greatly bless me and increase the amount of land I own. Remain with me, and keep me from harm, so I will not experience any pain." And God did what Jabez requested.

¹¹Another descendant of Judah was Shuhah. His brother Kelub was the father of Mehir. Mehir was the father of Eshton. ¹²Eshton was the father of Beth Rapha, Paseah, and Tehinnah. Tehinnah started the city of Nahash, but their families lived in a place called Rekah.

¹³Another descendant of Judah was Kenaz. Kenaz's sons were named Othniel and Seraiah. Othniel had a son named Hathath. ¹³⁻¹⁵Another descendant of Judah was Jephunneh. His son was Caleb. Caleb's sons were Iru, Elah, and Naam. Elah's son was Kenaz. The sons of Kenaz were Othniel and Seraiah.

Othniel's sons were Hathath and Meonothai. Meonothai was the father of Ophrah.

Seraiah was the father of Joab. Joab was the ancestor of the people who lived in Craftsmen's Valley. The valley was named that because many of the people who lived there were craftsmen.

¹⁴Another descendant of Judah was Meonothai who was the father of Ophrah. Kenaz's son Seraiah was the father of Joab, who started the clans who lived in the Valley of Craftsmen, so called because the people there were craftsmen. ¹⁵Another descendant of Judah was Jephunneh. Jephunneh's son was Caleb. Caleb's sons were Iru, Elah, and Naam. The son of Elah was Kenaz. ¹⁶Another descendant of Judah was Jehallelel. His sons were Ziph, Ziphah, Tiria, and Asarel.

¹⁷Another descendant of Judah was Ezrah. Ezrah's sons were Jether, Mered, Epher, and Jalon. Mered and his wife Bithiah had children named Miriam, Shammai, and Ishbah. Ishbah started the clans who lived in the town of Eshtemoa. ¹⁷⁻¹⁸Another descendant of Judah was Ezrah. Ezrah's sons were Jether, Mered, Epher, and Jalon. Mered married Bithiah, who was the daughter of the king of Egypt. The children of Mered and Bithiah were Miriam, Shammai and Ishbah. Ishbah was the father of Eshtemoa. Mered had a wife from Judah. She gave birth to Jered, Heber, and Jekuthiel. Jered was the father of Gedor; Heber was the father of Soko, and Jekuthiel was the father of Zanoah.

¹⁸Those were the descendants of Mered and his wife Bithiah. Bithiah was the daughter of Pharoah. Mered had another wife from the tribe of Judah. Mered and that wife had sons named Jered, Heber, and Jekuthiel. Jered started the clans who lived in the town of Gedor. Heber started the clans who lived in the town of Soco. Jekuthiel started the clans who lived in the town of Zanoah. ¹⁹Hodiah's wife was Naham's sister. Hodiah's wife was the mother of two sons. One of them was the father of Keilah from the Gar people group, and the other one was the father of Eshtemoa from the Maacath people group.

²⁰Another descendant of Judah was Shimon. Shimon's sons were Amnon, Rinnah, Ben-Hanan, and Tilon.

Another descendant of Judah was Ishi. His sons were Zoheth and Ben-Zoheth.

²¹One of Judah's sons was Shelah. Shelah's sons were Er the father of Lekah, Laadah the father of Mareshah and the families of those who made things from linen at Beth Ashbea, ²²and Jokim and the men from the city of Kozeba, and Joash and Saraph, two men who ruled in the region of Moab and Jashubi Lehem. All their names and a record of what they did are written in scrolls. ²³Some of these descendants of Shelah made pottery and lived in the cities of Netaim and Gederah where they worked for the king.

²⁴Simeon's sons were Nemuel, Jamin, Jarib, Zerah, and Shaul.

²⁵Shaul's son was Shallum. Shallum's son was Mibsam. Mibsam's son was Mishma.

²⁶The following are Mishma's descendants: Mishma's son was Hammuel. Hammuel's son was Zaccur. Zaccur's son was Shimei.

²⁷Shimei had 16 sons and six daughters, but none of his brothers had many children. So the descendants of Simeon never were as many as the descendants of his younger brother Judah. ²⁸The descendants of Simeon lived in these cities and towns: Beersheba, Moladah, Hazar Shual, ²⁹Bilhah, Ezem, Tolad, ³⁰Bethuel, Hormah, Ziklag,

³¹Beth Markaboth, Hazar Susim, Beth Biri, and Shaaraim. They lived in those places until David became king.

³²They also lived in villages: Etam, Ain, Rimmon, Token, and Ashan; five in all. ³³There were other villages which were near those towns, as far southwest as the city of Baalath. Those were the places where they lived, and they wrote down the names of their family members.

³⁴Meshobab, Jamlech, Joshah (who was the son of Amaziah), ³⁴⁻³⁸The men in the following list were the leaders of their clans: Meshobab, Jamlech, Joshah son of Amaziah, Joel, and Jehu son of Joshibiah. Joshibiah was son of Seraiah and grandson of Asiel. Other clan leaders were Elioenai, Jaakobah, Jeshohaiah, Asaiah, Adiel, Jesimiel, Benaiah, and Ziza. Ziza was son of Shiphi and grandson of Allon son of Jedaiah, who was the son of Shimri, who was son of Shemaiah.

The members of those families became very numerous. ³⁵Joel, Jehu (who was the son of Joshibiah, who was the son of Seraiah, who was the son of Asiel), ³⁶Elioenai, Jaakobah, Jeshohaiah, Asaiah, Adiel, Jesimiel, Benaiah, ³⁷and Ziza (who was the son of Shiphi, who was the son of Allon, who was the son of Jedaiah, who was the son of Shimri, who was the son of Shemaiah); ³⁸these men just listed were leaders in their clans. The size of their extended families increased greatly. ³⁹They went near the city of Gedor on the east side of the valley to look for pastureland for their flocks of sheep. ⁴⁰They found good pastureland with plenty of grass. The place was expansive, peaceful, and quiet.

In fact, some of the descendants of Noah's son Ham had lived there previously. ⁴¹But while Hezekiah was the king of Judah, those leaders of the tribe of Simeon (whose names were recorded in written accounts) came and fought against the descendants of Ham and destroyed their tents. They also fought against the descendants of Meun who were living there, and they killed all of them. So now there are no descendants of Meun living there. The descendants of Simeon started to live there, because there was good pastureland there for their sheep.

⁴²From that tribe, from Simeon, Ishi's four sons, Pelatiah, Neariah, Rephaiah, and Uzziel, led 500 other men and went to the hill country of Edom called Seir. ⁴³They killed the descendants of Amalek who were still alive. From that time until now, the descendants of Simeon have lived in the region of Edom.

Chapter 5

These are the descendants of Reuben.

¹Reuben was the oldest son of the person named Israel (who was first known as Jacob), and Reuben had sons of his own. Reuben's status of firstborn entitled him to special rights that belonged to firstborn sons. But he slept with his father's slave wife, so his father gave those rights to the sons of Joseph, a younger son of Israel. The family records do not mention Reuben first, as the firstborn sons typically are. ²Although Judah became more influential than his brothers, and a ruler descended from Judah, Joseph's family received the rights that belonged to the firstborn. ³Again, Reuben was the person Israel's oldest son.

Reuben's sons were Hanok, Pallu, Hezron, and Karmi.

⁴Another descendant of Reuben was Joel. Joel had descendants. Joel's son was Shemaiah. Shemaiah's son was Gog. Gog's son was Shimei. ⁵Shimei's son was Micah. Micah's son was Reaiah. Reaiah's son was Baal. ⁶Baal's son was Beerah. Beerah was a leader of the tribe of Reuben. But Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria captured him and took him to Assyria.

⁷The names of these clans are listed here according to what is written in their family records.

The names written were: Jeiel (the leader), then Zechariah, ⁸and then Bela son of Azaz, son of Shema, son of Joel. Reuben's clan lived near the city of Aroer as far north as the city of Nebo and the city of Baal Meon. ⁹Some of them lived further east, as far as the edge of the desert that extends to the Euphrates River. They moved there because the amount of their cattle outgrew the pastureland for them in the region of Gilead.

¹⁰When Saul was king of Israel, the men in the tribe of Reuben fought against the descendants of Hagar and defeated them. After that, they lived in the tents that the descendants of Hagar had lived in previously, in all the area east of the region of Gilead.

¹¹The tribe of Gad lived near the tribe of Reuben in the region of Bashan, all the way east to the city of Salekah.

¹²Joel was their leader; Shapham was second-in-command; other leaders were Janai and Shaphat in Bashan.

¹³Other members of the tribe belonged to seven clans, whose leaders were Michael, Meshullam, Sheba, Jorai, Jakan, Zia, and Eber.

¹⁴They were descendants of Abihail. Abihail was the son of Huri, Huri was the son of Jaroah, Jaroah was the son of Gilead, Gilead was son of Michael, Michael was the son of Jeshishai, Jeshishai was the son of Jahdo, and Jahdo was the son of Buz.

¹⁵Ahi was Abdiel's son. Abdiel was Guni's son. Ahi was the leader of their clan.

¹⁶The descendants of Gad lived in the towns in the regions of Gilead and Bashan, and on all the pastureland throughout the Plain of Sharon. ¹⁷Scribes wrote all of those names in the records of the clans of Gad during the time that Jotham was the king of the southern kingdom, Judah, and Jeroboam was the king of the northern kingdom, Israel.

These are the armies of the tribes that lived east of the Jordan River.

¹⁸There were 44,760 soldiers descended from strong men in the tribes of Reuben and Gad and the eastern half of the tribe of Manasseh. They all carried shields and swords and bows and arrows. They were all trained to fight in battles. ¹⁹They attacked the descendants of Hagar and the people in the cities of Jetur, Naphish, and Nodab. ²⁰God enabled the men from those three tribes to defeat the descendants of Hagar and all those who were helping them because the men from those three tribes prayed to God during the battles, requesting he help them. So he helped them because they trusted in him. ²¹They took the animals that belonged to the descendants of Hagar: 50,000 camels, 250,000 sheep, and 2,000 donkeys. They also captured 100,000 people. ²²But many descendants of Hagar died because God helped the people of the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh defeat the descendants of Hagar. After that, those three tribes lived in that area until the army of Assyria captured them and took them away to the east.

²³There were many people who belonged to the eastern half of the tribe of Manasseh. They lived in the region of Bashan east of the Jordan River, as far north as Baal Hermon, Senir, and Mount Hermon.

²⁴Their clan leaders were Epher, Ishi, Eliel, Azriel, Jeremiah, Hodaviah, and Jahdiel. They were all mighty and famous soldiers and leaders of their clans. ²⁵But they sinned against God, the one whom their ancestors had worshiped. They worshiped the gods that the people of that region had worshiped, the people whom God had enabled them to destroy. ²⁶So the God whom the Israelites worshiped incited Pul, the king of Assyria, to want to conquer those tribes. Pul's other name was Tiglath-Pileser. His army captured the people of the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the eastern half of the tribe of Manasseh, and took them to various places in Assyria: Halah, Habor, Hara and near the Gozan River. They have lived in those places from that time to the present time.

Chapter 6

These are the descendants of Levi.

¹Levi's sons were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

²Kohath's sons were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

³Amram's children were Miriam, Aaron, and Moses.

Aaron's sons were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

⁴Eleazar was the father of Phinehas.

Phinehas was the father of Abishua.

⁵Abishua was the father of Bukki.

Bukki was the father of Uzzi.

⁶Uzzi was the father of Zerahiah.

Zerahiah was the father of Meraioth.

⁷Meraioth was the father of Amariah.

Amariah was the father of Ahitub.

⁸Ahitub was the father of Zadok.

Zadok was the father of Ahimaaz.

⁹Ahimaaz was the father of Azariah.

Azariah was the father of Johanan.

¹⁰Johanan was the father of Azariah. Azariah was a priest in the temple that Solomon commanded to be built in Jerusalem.

¹¹Azariah was the father of Amariah.

Amariah was the father of Ahitub.

¹²Ahitub was the father of Zadok.

Zadok was the father of Shallum.

¹³Shallum was the father of Hilkiah.

Hilkiah was the father of Azariah.

¹⁴Azariah was the father of Seraiah.

Seraiah was the father of Jozadak. ¹⁵Jozadak was forced to leave his home when Yahweh sent King Nebuchadnezzar's army to capture many people in Jerusalem and other places in Judah and compel them to go to Babylonia.

¹⁶Levi's sons were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

¹⁷The names of Gershon's sons were Libni and Shimei.

¹⁸Kohath's sons were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

¹⁹Merari's sons were Mahli and Mushi.

Here is a list of the descendants of Levi, who became leaders of their clans.

²⁰Gershon's oldest son was Libni.

Libni's son was Jahath.

Jahath's son was Zimmah.

²¹Zimmah's son was Joah.

Joah's son was Iddo.

Iddo's son was Zerah.

Zerah's son was Jeatherai.

²²Another line of descendants from Kohath started with Amminadab his son.

Amminadab's son was Korah.

Korah's son was Assir.

²³Assir's son was Elkanah.

Elkanah's son was Ebiasaph.

Ebiasaph's son was Assir.

²⁴Assir's son was Tahath.

Tahath's son was Uriel.

Uriel's son was Uziah.

Uziah's son was Shaul.

²⁵Elkanah's sons were Amasai, Ahimoth,

²⁶and a son also named Elkanah.

Elkanah's son was Zophai.

Zophai's son was Nahath.

²⁷Nahath's son was Eliab.

Eliab's son was Jeroham.

Jeroham's son was Elkanah.

²⁸Samuel had sons: his oldest son (Joel) and his other son Abijah.

²⁹Merari's descendants started with Mahli.

Mahli's son was Libni.

Libni's son was Shimei.

Shimei's son was Uzzah.

³⁰Uzzah's son was Shimea.

Shimea's son was Haggiah.

Haggiah's son was Asaiah.

³¹After the sacred chest was brought to Jerusalem, King David appointed some of the men who were descendants of Levi to be in charge of the music in the place where the people worshiped Yahweh. ³²Those musicians made music in the sacred tent, which was also called the tent of meeting, by singing and playing their instruments, and they continued to do that until Solomon's workers built the temple of Yahweh in Jerusalem. In all their work, they obeyed the instructions that David had given them.

³³Here is a list of the musicians and their sons:

From Kohath's descendants there was Heman, the leader of the singers.

Heman was Joel's son.

Joel was Samuel's son.

³⁴Samuel was Elkanah's son.

Elkanah was Jeroham's son.

Jeroham was Eliel's son.

Eliel was Toah's son.

³⁵Toah was Zuph's son.

Zuph was Elkanah's son.

Elkanah was Mahath's son.

Mahath was Amasai's son.

³⁶Amasai was Elkanah's son.

Elkanah was Joel's son.

Joel was Azariah's son.

Azariah was Zephaniah's son.

³⁷Zephaniah was Tahath's son.

Tahath was Assir's son.

Assir was Ebiasaph's son.

Ebiasaph was Korah's son.

³⁸Korah was Izhar's son.

Izhar was Kohath's son.

Kohath was Levi's son.

Levi was the son of Jacob (who was later named Israel).

³⁹Heman's helper was Asaph. His group stood at the right side of Heman.

Asaph was Berekiah's son.

Berekiah was Shimea's son.

⁴⁰Shimea was Michael's son.

Michael was Baaseiah's son.

Baaseiah was Malkijah's son.

⁴¹Malkijah was Ethni's son.

Ethni was Zerah's son.

Zerah was Adaiah's son.

⁴²Adaiah was Ethan's son.

Ethan was Zimmah's son.

Zimmah was Shimei's son.

⁴³Shimei was Jahath's son.

Jahath was Gershon's son.

Gershon was Levi's son.

⁴⁴A group of singers from Merari's family helped Heman and Asaph. They stood at the left of Heman. The leader of this group was Ethan.

Ethan was Kishi's son.

Kishi was Abdi's son.

Abdi was Malluk's son.

⁴⁵Malluk was Hashabiah's son.

Hashabiah was Uziah's son.

Uziah was Hilkiyah's son.

⁴⁶Hilkiyah was Amzi's son.

Amzi was Bani's son.

Bani was Shemer's son.

⁴⁷Shemer was Mahli's son.

Mahli was Mushi's son.

Mushi was Merari's son.

Merari was Levi's son.

⁴⁸David appointed the other descendants of Levi to do other work in the sacred tent, the place where the people worshiped God.

⁴⁹Aaron and his descendants were the ones who placed on the altar the sacrifices that were to be burned completely, and they burned incense on another altar. Those sacrifices were in order that Yahweh would no longer be angry with the people of Israel for having sinned. Those men also did other work in the very holy place in the sacred tent, obeying the instructions that Moses, who served God well, had given to them.

⁵⁰These were the descendants of Aaron:

Aaron's son was Eleazar.

Eleazar's son was Phinehas.

Phinehas's son was Abishua.

⁵¹Abishua's son was Bukki.

Bukki's son was Uzzi.

Uzzi's son was Zerahiah.

⁵²Zerahiah's son was Meraioth.

Meraioth's son was Amariah.

Amariah's son was Ahitub.

⁵³Ahitub's son was Zadok,

and Zadok's son was Ahimaaz.

⁵⁴Here is a list of the places where Aaron's descendants lived. Those who were descendants of Kohath were the first group to be allotted property.

⁵⁵They received the city of Hebron in Judah and the pastureland around the city, ⁵⁶but Caleb received the fields farther from the city and the villages near the city. Caleb was Jephunneh's son.

⁵⁷The descendants of Aaron who were descendants of Kohath received Hebron, one of the cities to which people could flee and be protected if they accidentally killed someone. They also received the towns and pastureland near Libnah, Jattir, Eshtemoa, ⁵⁸Hilen, Debir, ⁵⁹Ashan, and Beth Shemesh. ⁶⁰They also received from the tribe of Benjamin the cities of Geba, Alemeth, and Anathoth and their pasturelands.

Altogether, these clans who descended from Kohath received thirteen cities.

⁶¹The other clans descended from Kohath received ten cities from the clans of the tribe of Manasseh that lived west of the Jordan River.

⁶²The clans of the descendants of Gershon received thirteen cities from the tribes of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and the part of the tribe of Manasseh that lived in the region of Bashan on the east side of the Jordan River.

⁶³The clans of the descendants of Merari received twelve cities from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun.

⁶⁴The leaders of Israel allotted those towns and the nearby pasturelands to the descendants of Levi. ⁶⁵They also allotted to them the cities from the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin that were listed previously.

⁶⁶Some of the descendants of Kohath received cities from the tribe of Ephraim.

⁶⁷They received Shechem, which was one of the cities to which people could flee and be protected if they accidentally killed someone, along with the nearby pastureland in the hills of Ephraim. They also received these cities and pastureland near them: Gezer, ⁶⁸Jokmeam, Beth Horon, ⁶⁹Aijalon, and Gath Rimmon.

⁷⁰The other descendants of Kohath received the cities of Aner and Bileam and the nearby pastureland from the part of the tribe of Manasseh that lives west of the Jordan River.

⁷¹The descendants of Gershom, who were part of the tribe of Manasseh, lived east of the Jordan River. They received two cities and pastureland near them: Golan in the regions of Bashan and Ashtaroth.

⁷²From the tribe of Issachar they received cities and pastureland near Kedesh, Daberath, ⁷³Ramoth, and Anem.

⁷⁴From the tribe of Asher they received cities and pastureland near Mashal, Abdon, ⁷⁵Hukok, and Rehob.

⁷⁶From the tribe of Naphtali they received cities and pastureland near Kedesh (in the region of Galilee), Hammon, and Kiriathaim.

⁷⁷The other descendants of Levi, those descended from Merari, received cities and pasturelands from the tribe of Zebulun near Rimmono and Tabor.

⁷⁸From the tribe of Reuben on the east side of the Jordan River, across the Jordan from Jericho, they received cities and pastureland near Bezer in the wilderness, Jahzah, ⁷⁸⁻⁷⁹From the tribe of Reuben they were allotted cities and towns and pastureland near Bezer in the wilderness, Jahzah, Kedemoth, and Mephaath. The tribe of Reuben lived east of the Jordan River, across from Jericho.

⁷⁹Kedemoth, and Mephaath. ⁸⁰From the tribe of Gad, they received cities and pastureland near Ramoth in the region of Gilead, Mahanaim, ⁸¹Heshbon, and Jazer.

Chapter 7

These are the descendants of Issachar.

¹Issachar's four sons were Tola, Puah, Jashub, and Shimron.

²Tola's sons were Uzzi, Rephaiah, Jeriel, Jahmai, Ibsam, and Samuel. They were all leaders of the clans descended from them. In the record of Tola's descendants in each generation were capable men who were in the army.

During the time that David was the king of Israel there were 22,600 such men.

³Uzzi's son was Izrahiah. Izrahiah's five sons were Michael, Obadiah, Joel, and Ishiah. Izrahiah and his sons were all leaders of their clans.

⁴Also, in the record of those descendants were the names of 36,000 men who were in the army. The number was so large because they had many wives and children.

⁵They had relatives from the clans descended from Issachar. Those records from Issachar listed 87,000 capable men who were in the army in all.

⁶The three sons of Benjamin were Bela, Beker, and Jediael.

⁷Bela's five sons were Ezbon, Uzzi, Uzziel, Jerimoth, and Iri. They were leaders of clans.

In their records there were names of 22,034 capable men who were in the army.

⁸Beker's sons were Zemirah, Joash, Eliezer, Elioenai, Omri, Jeremoth, Abijah, Anathoth, and Alemeth. All these were his sons.

⁹In the records of their descendants were the names of 20,200 capable men and leaders of the clans who were in the army.

¹⁰Jediael's son was Bilhan. Bilhan's sons were Jeush, Benjamin, Ehud, Kenaanah, Zethan, Tarshish, and Ahishahar.

¹¹All of these descendants of Jediael were leaders of clans capable men who were in the army.

There were 17,200 men who would go out into battle.

¹²Shuppim and Huppim were the sons of a man named Ir.

Hushim was the son of a man named Aher.

¹³Naphtali's sons were Jahziel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem. They were children of Jacob's slave wife Bilhah.

¹⁴Manasseh had sons by his slave wife who was from Aram. She gave birth to Asriel and Makir.

Makir was the father of Gilead.

¹⁵Makir had a wife who was from the clans of Huppim and Shuppim.

Makir's sister's name was Maacah.

Makir had a son named Zelophehad. Zelophehad had only daughters.

¹⁶Makir's wife (also named Maacah) gave birth to sons whom she named Peresh and Sheresh. Sheresh's sons were Ulam and Rakem.

¹⁷Ulam's son was Bedan.

Those were the descendants of Gilead, the son of Makir and grandson of Manasseh.

¹⁸Gilead's sister was Hammoleketh. She was the mother of Ishhod, Abiezer, and Mahlah.

¹⁹Another son of Gilead was Shemida, whose sons were Ahian, Shechem, Likhi, and Aniam.

²⁰These are the descendants of Ephraim.

One son of Ephraim was Shuthelah.

Shuthelah's son was Bered.

Bered's son was Tahath.

Tahath's son was Eleadah.

Eleadah's son was also named Tahath.

²¹Tahath's son was Zabad.

Zabad's son was Shuthelah.

Ephraim's other sons, Ezer and Elead, went to the city of Gath to steal some cattle. As a result, men from that city, natives of that area, killed Ezer and Elead. ²²Their father Ephraim cried for them for many days, and his family came to comfort him.

²³Then he and his wife slept together again; she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. Ephraim named him Beriah which resembles the word 'trouble' because of the trouble that his family had experienced. ²⁴Ephraim's daughter was Sheerah. Her workers built three towns: Lower Beth Horon, Upper Beth Horon, and Uzen Sheerah.

²⁵Another son of Ephraim was Rephah.

Rephah's son was Resheph.

Resheph's son was Telah.

Telah's son was Tahan.

²⁶Tahan's son was Ladan.

Ladan's son was Ammihud.

Ammihud's son was Elishama.

²⁷Elishama's son was Non.

Non's son was Joshua, the man who led the Israelites after Moses died.

²⁸This is a list of the cities and areas where the descendants of Ephraim lived:

Bethel and the nearby villages;

Naaran to the east;

Gezer to the west and the nearby villages; and

Shechem and the nearby villages. Those villages extended north as far as Ayyah and the nearby villages.

²⁹Along the border of the area where the descendants of Manasseh lived were these towns: Beth Shan, Taanach, Megiddo, Dor, and all the nearby villages.

The people who lived in all those places were descendants of Jacob's son Joseph.

³⁰Asher's sons were Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, and Beriah. Their sister was Serah.

³¹Beriah's sons were Heber and Malkiel.

Malkiel was the father of Birzaith

³²Heber was the father of Japhlet, Shomer, Hotham, and Shua their sister.

³³Japhlet's sons were Pasak, Bimhal, and Ashvath. These were Japhlet's children.

³⁴Shamer's sons were Ahi, Rohgah, Hubbah, and Aram.

³⁵Shomer's younger brother was Helem. Helem's sons were Zophah, Imna, Shelesh, and Amal.

³⁶Zophah's sons were Suah, Harnepher, Shual, Beri, Imrah, ³⁷Bezer, Hod, Shamma, Shilshah, Ithran (whose other name was Jether), and Beera.

³⁸Jether's sons were Jephunneh, Pispah, and Ara.

³⁹Another descendant of Asher was Ulla, whose sons were Arah, Hanniel, and Rizia.

⁴⁰All those men were descendants of Asher, and they were all leaders of their clans. They were capable, brave warriors and leaders of leaders. In the record of the clans that are descended from Asher are the names of 26,000 men who were in the army.

Chapter 8

These are the descendants of Benjamin.

¹Benjamin had sons: Bela, Ashbel, Aharah, ²Nohah, and Rapha, five in all.

³Bela's sons were Addar, Gera, Abihud, ⁴Abishua, Naaman, Ahoah, ⁵Gera, Shephuphan, and Hiram.

⁶One of Gera's sons was Ehud. The descendants of Ehud were leaders of their clans who lived in the city of Geba, but others forced them to move to the city of Manahath. ⁷Ehud's sons were Naaman, Ahijah, and Gera.

Gera was the one who led them when they moved to Manahath. Gera was the father of Uzza and Ahihud.

⁸Another descendant of Benjamin was Shaharaim. Shaharaim had children in the region of Moab after he divorced two wives, Hushim and Baara. ⁸⁻¹¹Another descendant of Benjamin was Shaharaim. He and his wife Hushim had two sons, Abitub and Elpaal. In the region of Moab, Shaharaim divorced Hushim and his other wife Baara. Then he married a woman whose name was Hodesh, and they had seven sons: Jobab, Zibia, Mesha, Malkam, Jeuz, Sakia, and Mirmah. They were all leaders of their clans.

⁹Shaharaim had children with his wife Hodesh: Jobab, Zibia, Mesha, Malkam, ¹⁰Jeuz, Sakia, and Mirmah. These sons were leaders of clans. ¹¹Shaharaim did have children with Hushim before he divorced her. Their names were Abitub and Elpaal. ¹²Elpaal's sons were Eber, Misham, Shemed (who built Ono and Lod and its nearby villages), ¹²⁻¹³Elpaal's sons were Eber, Misham, Shemed, Beriah, and Shema. Shemed built the cities of Ono and Lod and their nearby villages. Beriah and Shema were leaders of their clans, who lived in the city of Aijalon. They forced the people who lived in the city of Gath to leave their city.

¹³Beriah, and Shema. These sons were the leaders of the clans who lived in the city of Aijalon. They chased away the inhabitants of Gath. ¹⁴Ahio, Shashak, Jeremoth, ¹⁴⁻¹⁶Beriah's sons were Ahio, Shashak, Jeremoth, Zebadiah, Arad, Eder, Michael, Ishpah, and Joha.

¹⁵Zebadiah, Arad, Eder, ¹⁶Michael, Ishpah, and Joha were Beriah's sons. ¹⁷Zebadiah, Meshullam, Hizki, Heber, ¹⁷⁻¹⁸Other descendants of Elpaal were also named Zebadiah, Meshullam, Hizki, Heber,

Ishmerai, Izliah, and Jobab.

¹⁸Ishmerai, Izliah, and Jobab were Elpaal's sons. ¹⁹Jakim, Zikri, Zabdi, ¹⁹⁻²¹Another descendant of Benjamin was Shimei. Shimei's descendants included Jakim, Zicri, Zabdi, Elienai, Zillethai, Eliel, Adaiah, Beraiah, and Shimrath.

²⁰Elienai, Zillethai, Eliel, ²¹Adaiah, Beraiah, and Shimrath were Shimei's sons. ²²Ishpan, Eber, Eliel, ²²⁻²⁵Shashak's sons were Ishpan, Eber, Eliel, Abdon, Zicri, Hanan, Hananiah, Elam, Anthothijah, Iphdeiah, and Penuel.

²³Abdon, Zikri, Hanan, ²⁴Hananiah, Elam, Anthothijah, ²⁵Iphdeiah, and Penuel were Shashak's sons. ²⁶Shamsheraï, Shehariah, Athaliah, ²⁶⁻²⁷Another descendant of Benjamin was Jeroham, whose sons were Shamsheraï, Shehariah, Athaliah, Jareshiah, Elijah, and Zicri.

²⁷Jareshiah, Elijah, and Zikri were Jeroham's sons. ²⁸All of these descendants of Elpaal (Shaharaim's son) were leaders of their clans according to their genealogies. They all lived in Jerusalem.

²⁹Another descendant of Benjamin was Jeiel. He lived in the city of Gibeon and was an early settler and leader of those who lived there. Jeiel's wife was Maakah. ³⁰His oldest son was Abdon. His other sons were Zur, Kish, Baal, Nadab, ³¹Gedor, Ahio, and Zeker.

³²Mikloth (another of Jeiel's sons) was the father of Shimeah. All these descendants of Jeiel also lived in Jerusalem near their relatives.

³³Ner was the father of Kish. Kish was the father of King Saul.

Saul was the father of Jonathan, Malki-Shua, Abinadab, and Esh-Baal.

³⁴Jonathan's son was Merib-Baal.

Merib-Baal was the father of Micah.

³⁵Micah's sons were Pithon, Melek, Tarea, and Ahaz.

³⁶Ahaz was the father of Jehoaddah.

Jehoaddah was the father of Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri.

Zimri was the father of Moza.

³⁷Moza was the father of Binea.

Raphah was Binea's son.

Eleasah was Raphah's son.

Azel was Eleasah's son.

³⁸Azel had six sons. Their names were Azrikam, Bokeru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. These were all of Azel's sons.

³⁹Azel had a brother, Eshek.

Eshek's oldest son was Ulam. His other sons were Jeush and Eliphelet.

⁴⁰Ulam's sons were archers, capable men who were in the army. Altogether they had 150 sons and grandsons.

All these were the descendants of Benjamin.

Chapter 9

¹The scroll named "The Record of the Kings of Israel" listed the names of all the people of Israel.

The army of Babylon captured many of the people of Judah and took them to Babylon. That happened because of the sins the people of Judah had committed against God. ²The first people who returned to Judah many years later and lived in their own land and in their own cities and towns were some Israelites, priests, other descendants of Levi, and men who worked in the temple.

³Other people from the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh also returned to Judah and lived in Jerusalem, including the following people.

⁴Uthai son of Ammihud (Ammihud was Omri's son; Omri was Imri's son; Imri was Bani's son; Bani was a descendant of Perez; Perez was Judah's son);

⁵Asaiah and his sons (who were descendants of Shilon. Asaiah was the oldest son in his family);

⁶Jeuel and others of his relatives (who were from Zerah's clan. There were 690 people in this clan);

⁷and from the tribe of Benjamin, Sallu (Meshullam's son; Meshullam was Hodaviah's son; Hodaviah was Hassenuah's son),

⁸Ibneiah (Jeroham's son),

Elah (Uzzi's son; Uzzi was Mikri's son),

Meshullam (Shephatiah's son; Shephatiah was Reuel's son; Reuel was Ibnijah's son).

⁹In all, there were 956 descendants of Benjamin living in Jerusalem. All these were leaders of their clans.

¹⁰Some of the priests who returned to Judah were:

Jedaiah, Jehoiarib, Jakin,

¹¹Azariah, the person in charge of those who took care of the temple (Azariah was Hilkiah's son; Hilkiah was Meshullam's son; Meshullam was Zadok's son; Zadok was Meraioth's son; Meraioth was Ahitub's son),

¹²Adaiah (Jeroham's son; Jeroham was Pashhur's son; Pashhur was Malkijah's son), and Maasai (Adiel's son; Adiel was Jahzerah's son; Jahzerah was Meshullam's son; Meshullam was Meshillemith's son; Meshillemith was Immer's son).

¹³Altogether there were 1,760 priests who returned to Judah. They were leaders of their clans, and they all were capable and responsible for doing work in the temple of God.

¹⁴From the descendants of Levi who returned to Judah there were: Shemaiah (Hasshub's son; Hasshub was Azrikam's son; Azrikam was Hashabiah's son; Hashabiah was a descendant of Levi's youngest son Merari),

¹⁵Bakbakkar, Heresh, Galal, Mattaniah (Mika's son; Mika was Zicri's son; Zicri was Asaph's son),

¹⁶Obadiah (Shemaiah's son; Shemaiah was Galal's son; Galal was Jeduthun's son), and Berekiah who lived in one of the villages where the Netophath people lived (Berekiah was Asa's son; Asa was Elkanah's son).

¹⁷From the descendants of Levi who returned to Judah who guarded the temple gates there were Shallum, Akkub, Talmon, Ahiman, and some of their relatives. Shallum was their leader. ¹⁸Up until the time of this writing, those gatekeepers from the tribe of Levi stood at the King's Gate on the east side of the city.

¹⁹Shallum was Kore's son; Kore was Ebiasaph's son;

Ebiasaph was Korah's son.

Shallum and his relatives from his clan, the people descended from Korah, had the duty of being gatekeepers, responsible to guard the entrances to the temple of Yahweh, as their ancestors had done.

²⁰Previously Phinehas (Eleazar's son) had supervised the gatekeepers. Yahweh was with Phinehas.

²¹Zechariah (Meshelemiah's son) was a gatekeeper at the temple's entrance.

²²Altogether, there were 212 men chosen to guard the gates. The records of the clans in their villages listed their names. King David and the prophet Samuel appointed those men because those men were dependable. ²³The work of those gatekeepers and their descendants was to guard the gates of Yahweh's temple, also known as the sacred tent. ²⁴There were gatekeepers on each of the four sides of the temple, toward the east, west, north, and south. ²⁵Sometimes it was necessary for the relatives of the gatekeepers who lived in those villages to come and help them. Each time some of them came, they helped the gatekeepers for seven days. ²⁶There were four descendants of Levi who worked every day, and they supervised the gatekeepers. They also took care of the storerooms and other rooms in the temple of God. ²⁷They stayed at the temple because their job was to guard it. Each morning they opened the gates.

²⁸Some of the gatekeepers took care of the various items used in the daily duties of the temple. Their job was to bring those items out for sacrifices each day and to store them again each night. ²⁹Other gatekeepers had the job to take care of the other things in the temple including the flour, wine, olive oil, incense, and spices that were used in the sacrifices. ³⁰But some of the priests had the work of mixing the spices. ³¹There was a descendant of Levi named Mattithiah, the oldest son of Shallum, who was a descendant of Korah. His official duty was to bake the bread that was used in the offerings on the altar. ³²Some of the gatekeepers who were descended from Kohath prepared the new loaves of bread to display before God that were placed on the table inside the temple every Sabbath day.

³³Some of the descendants of Levi were musicians who worked in the temple. The leaders of those families stayed in the rooms of the temple. They did not do any other work in the temple because they they were responsible to serve as musicians day and night.

³⁴Those are the names of the leaders of the clans descended from Levi, according to their genealogies. They all lived in Jerusalem.

³⁵Another descendant of Benjamin was Jeiel. He lived in the city of Gibeon and was an early settler and leader of those who lived there. Jeiel's wife was Maakah.

³⁶His oldest son was Abdon.

His other sons were Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner, Nadab, ³⁷Gedor, Ahio, Zechariah, and Mikloth.

³⁸Mikloth (another of Jeiel's sons) was the father of Shimeah. All these descendants of Jeiel also lived in Jerusalem near their relatives.

³⁹Ner was the father of Kish. Kish was the father of King Saul.

Saul was the father of Jonathan, Malki-Shua, Abinadab, and Esh-Baal.

⁴⁰Jonathan's son was Merib-Baal. Merib-Baal was the father of Micah.

⁴¹Micah's sons were Pithon, Melek, and Tahrea.

⁴²Ahaz was the father of Jarah.

Jarah was the father of Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri.

Zimri was the father of Moza. ⁴³Moza was the father of Binea.

Rephaiah was Binea's son. Eleasah was Rephaiah's son. Azel was Eleasah's son.

⁴⁴Azel had six sons. Their names were Azrikam, Bokeru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. These were all of Azel's sons.

Chapter 10

¹Now, the Philistine army battled the Israelites. The Israelite soldiers ran away from them, and many Israelites died on Mount Gilboa. ²The Philistine soldiers caught up with Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malki-Shua. ³The fighting was very fierce around Saul. The archers shot Saul, and they wounded him severely.

⁴Saul said to his armor bearer, "Take out your sword and kill me with it, so that these heathen Philistines will not be able to torture me." But his armor bearer refused to do that because he was very scared. So Saul grabbed his own sword and stabbed himself with it and died.

⁵When his armor bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also stabbed himself with his own sword and died. ⁶So Saul and his three sons died. So his whole dynasty ended together.

⁷When all the Israelites living in the valley saw that their army had run away and that Saul and his sons were dead, they left their towns and ran away. Then the Philistine soldiers came and occupied those towns.

⁸The next day, when the Philistine soldiers came to take away the possessions of the dead Israelite soldiers, they found Saul and his sons dead on Mount Gilboa. ⁹They took everything from Saul's corpse; they cut off his head and took his equipment. Then they sent messengers throughout their own land, to proclaim the news to their idols and to their people. ¹⁰They put Saul's equipment in the temple to their gods, and they hung his severed head in the temple to their god Dagon.

¹¹Everyone who lived in Jabesh in the region of Gilead heard about everything the Philistines had done to Saul's corpse. ¹²So all the brave men of Jabesh went and got the corpses of Saul and his sons and brought them back to Jabesh. They buried their bodies under the big tree in Jabesh. Then the people of Jabesh fasted for seven days.

¹³Now, Saul died because of his treachery; he betrayed Yahweh by not doing what Yahweh said. Saul even went to a woman who talks to the spirits of dead people and asked her what he should do, ¹⁴instead of asking Yahweh what he should do. So Yahweh caused him to die and appointed David son of Jesse, to be the king of Israel.

Chapter 11

¹Then the people of Israel came to David at the city of Hebron and said to him, "Listen, we have the same ancestors as you. ²In the past, when Saul was our king, you were the one who led our Israelite soldiers in battle. You are the one to whom Yahweh our God promised, 'You will care for my people; you will lead Israel.'"

³So all the Israelite elders came to David at Hebron. There David made an agreement with them with Yahweh as witness. The elders anointed David with oil to set him apart to be the king of the Israelite people, just as Yahweh had previously told the prophet Samuel would happen.

⁴David and all the Israelite soldiers went to Jerusalem. Another name for the city was Jebus because the Jebus people group lived in the area. ⁵The people in the city said to David, "You will not get in here!" But David and his soldiers captured the fortress there named Zion. Another name for it since then is the City of David.

⁶Now, David had said to his soldiers, "Whoever leads our soldiers to defeat the people in Jebus will become the commander of all my army." Joab son of Zeruiah led the soldiers, so he became the commander.

⁷So David moved into the fortress. That is why they named it the City of David. ⁸David's workers rebuilt the city, starting where the land was filled in and extending to the wall that was around the city. Joab's men repaired the other parts of the city. ⁹David became more and more powerful because Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, helped him.

¹⁰Together with all Israel, the leaders of David's warriors helped establish David's reign and supported him in becoming king, just as Yahweh had told Israel. ¹¹David's warriors included:

Jashobeam was from the Hachmon clan. He was the leader of the officers. One time he fought against 300 enemies and killed them all with his spear.

¹²Next was Eleazar son of Dodo, from the clan of Ahoh. He was one of David's three elite warriors. ¹³Once he was with David at Pas Dammim when the Philistine soldiers gathered for the battle. There was a field of barley there. At first the Israelite soldiers ran away from the Philistine soldiers, ¹⁴but then they stopped in the middle of the field and fought to defend it. They killed the Philistine soldiers. Yahweh enabled them to win a great victory.

¹⁵One time three of David's 30 greatest warriors came to David when he was camping next to the huge rock outside the cave near Adullam. At that same time, the Philistine army had camped in the Valley of Rephaim.

¹⁶David was then in a fortress, and some of the Philistine soldiers were occupying Bethlehem. ¹⁷One day David longingly said, "I wish that someone would bring me some water from the well near the gate at Bethlehem." ¹⁸So the three greatest warriors forced their way through the Philistine camp and drew some water from that well, and brought it to David. But he would not drink it. Instead, he poured it out on the ground as an offering to Yahweh.

¹⁹He said, "God would consider it wrong for me to drink this water! That would be like drinking the blood of these men and taking their lives, since they were willing to give their lives for me!" So he refused to drink it.

That was one of the things that David's three greatest warriors did.

²⁰Now Joab's brother Abshai was the leader of the three elite warriors, and he gained fame among those three.

One time Abshai fought 300 enemies with his spear, and he killed them all. ²¹Among a second group of three elite warriors, he was honored and became their leader, but he was not considered part of the first group of three elite warriors.

²²Jehoiada's son Benaiah was a brave soldier from the city of Kabzeel who did great deeds. He killed two of the best warriors from the Moab people group. One day he went down into a pit in snowy weather and killed a lion. ²³He also killed an Egyptian soldier who was two and one-third meters tall. The Egyptian carried a spear that was as long as a weaver's rod, but Benaiah fought him with a club. Benaiah grabbed the Egyptian's spear and killed him with it.

²⁴Those are some of the things that Benaiah son of Jehoiada did. So he became famous along with the three elite warriors. ²⁵Indeed, he was more honored than the remainder of the 30 warriors, but he did not become a member of the first group of three warriors. David appointed him to be the leader of his bodyguards.

²⁶These are the names of the great warriors:

Asahel, brother of Joab;

Elhanan son of Dodo, from Bethlehem;

²⁷Shammoth, from Haror;

Helez, from Pelon;

²⁸Ira son of Ikkesh, from Tekoa;

Abiezer, from Anathoth;

²⁹Sibbekai, from Hushah;

Ilai from Ahoh;

³⁰Maharai, from Netophah;

Heled son of Baanah, from Netophah;

³¹Ithai, son of Ribai, from Gibeah which belonged to the descendants of Benjamin;

Benaiah, from Pirathon;

³²Hurai, from the valleys near Mount Gaash;

Abiel from Arabah;

³³Azmaveth, from Baharum;

Eliabba, from Shaalbon;

³⁴the sons of Hashem from Gizon;

Jonathan son of Shagee from Harar;

³⁵Ahiam son of Sakar from Harar;

Eliphai son of Ur;

³⁶Hepher from Mekerath;

Ahijah from Pelon;

³⁷Hezro from Carmel;

Naarai son of Ezbai;

³⁸Joel the brother of Nathan;

Mibhar son of Hagri;

³⁹Zeleg from the Ammon people group;

Naharai from Beeroth, the armor bearer of Joab son of Zeruah;

⁴⁰Ira from Jattir; Gareb from Jattir;

⁴¹Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, from the Heth people group;

Zabad son of Ahlai;

⁴²Adina son of Shiza from the tribe of Reuben, a leader from that tribe, who had 30 soldiers with him;

⁴³Hanan son of Maacah;

Joshaphat from Mithna;

⁴⁴Uzzia from Ashterath;

Shama and Jeiel, sons of Hotham, from Aroer.

⁴⁵Jediael son of Shimri

and his brother Joha, from Tiz;

⁴⁶Eliel from Mahavah;

Jeribai and Joshaviah, sons of Elnaam;

Ithmah from Moab;

⁴⁷Eliel and Obed,

and Jaasiel from Zobah.

Chapter 12

¹David stayed in the city of Ziklag when he was escaping from King Saul (Kish's son) and waiting to ascend the throne. While David was there, many warriors came and joined him, and they helped David when he fought battles. These warriors are listed below. ²They carried bows. They were able to shoot arrows and to sling stones. They could use either their right arms or their left arms. They were relatives of Saul from the tribe of Benjamin.

³Their leader was Ahiezer. Next in command was Joash. They were both Shemaah's sons from the city of Gibeah. Others were:

Jeziel and Pelet, Azmaveth's sons;

Berakah;

Jehu from the city of Anathoth;

⁴Ishmaiah from the city of Gibeon, who was the leader of the thirty greatest warriors;

Jeremiah; Jahaziel; Johanan; Jozabad from the city of Gederah;

⁵Eluzai; Jerimoth; Bealiah; Shemariah; Shephatiah from the city of Haruph;

⁶Elkanah, Isshiah, Azarel, Joezer, and Jashobeam, who were all descendants of Korah;

⁷and Joelah and Zebadiah, Jeroham's sons, from the city of Gedor.

⁸Some men from the tribe of Gad east of the Jordan River joined David when he was at his garrison in the caves in the desert. They were brave warriors who were trained for fighting battles and able to use shields and spears well. They were as fierce as lions, and they could run as fast as deer on the hills.

⁹Ezer was their leader.

Next in command was Obadiah.

Next was Eliab.

¹⁰Next was Mishmannah.

Next was Jeremiah.

¹¹Next was Attai.

Next was Eliel.

¹²Next was Johanan.

Next was Elzabad.

¹³Next was another man whose name was Jeremiah.

The last was Macbannai.

¹⁴Those men from the tribe of Gad were commanders in the army. The least warrior could fight 100, and the greatest could fight 1,000. ¹⁵They crossed to the west side of the Jordan River during a certain month in spring, at the time of the year when the river floods. They chased from there all the people who lived in the valleys on both sides of the river.

¹⁶Some other men from the tribes of Benjamin and Judah also came to David in his garrison. ¹⁷David went out of the cave to meet them and said to them, "If you have come peacefully to help me, I am eager to have you join with me. But if you have come to enable my enemies to capture me, even though I have not done anything to harm you, I hope that the God whom our ancestors worshiped will see it and condemn you."

¹⁸Then God's Spirit came on Amasai, who was the leader of the thirty greatest warriors, and Amasai said,

"David, we want to be with you;

you who are the son of Jesse, we will join you.

We do come in peace. We hope you will experience peace and that those helping you will experience peace,

because your God is helping you." So David welcomed those men, and he appointed them to be leaders of his soldiers.

¹⁹Some men from the tribe of Manasseh also joined David when he went with the soldiers of Philistia to fight against Saul's army. But David and his men did not help the army of Philistia because the leaders of Philistia talked about David and his soldiers and sent David and his men away. The leaders of Philistia said, "If David joins his master Saul again, we will all be killed." ²⁰When David went to Ziklag, these were the men from the tribe of Manasseh who went with him: Adnah, Jozabad, Jedaiel, Michael, another man whose name was Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai. Each of them had been a commander of one thousand men from the tribe of Manasseh in Saul's army.

²¹They helped David to fight against the groups of men who roamed throughout the country robbing people because these men from the tribe of Manasseh were all brave soldiers and became commanders in David's army.

²²Every day more men joined David's men to support David, and his army became large, like the army of God.

²³These are the numbers of soldiers who were ready for battle who joined David at the city of Hebron. They came to help him to become the king of Israel instead of Saul, as Yahweh had promised would happen.

²⁴There were 6,800 men from Judah ready for battle, carrying shields and spears.

²⁵There were 7,100 men from the tribe of Simeon. They were all strong warriors trained to fight battles.

²⁶There were 4,600 men from the tribe of Levi.

²⁷Jehoiada, a leader descended from Aaron, was in that group of descendants of Levi, and there were 3,700 men with him.

²⁸Zadok, a strong young soldier, was also in that group, and there were 22 other leaders from his clan who came with him.

²⁹There were 3,000 men from the tribe of Benjamin who were Saul's relatives. Most of them had previously given their allegiance to Saul and his descendants.

³⁰There were 20,800 men from the tribe of Ephraim who were all brave warriors and famous in their own clans.

³¹There were 18,000 men from the half of the tribe of Manasseh who lived west of the Jordan River. Their half-tribe chose them to go and help David become the king.

³²There were 200 men who were leaders from the tribe of Issachar along with their relatives. They always knew what the Israelites should do, and they knew the right time to do it. The leaders commanded their relatives.

³³There were 50,000 men from the tribe of Zebulun. They were experienced warriors and knew how to use all kinds of weapons well. They were completely loyal to David.

³⁴There were 1,000 officers from the tribe of Naphtali with 37,000 soldiers, each carrying shields and spears.

³⁵There were 28,600 soldiers from the tribe of Dan, all trained to fight battles.

³⁶There were 40,000 soldiers from the tribe of Asher, all trained to fight battles.

³⁷There were also 120,000 soldiers from the area east of the Jordan River who joined David. They were from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the eastern half of the tribe of Manasseh. They had all kinds of weapons for battle.

³⁸All those men were soldiers who joined the ranks of David's army. They came to Hebron wanting very much to enable David to be the king of all of the Israelite people. The remainder of the Israelite people were also united in wanting to make David their king. ³⁹The men spent three days there with David, eating and drinking, because their families gave them food to take with them. ⁴⁰Also, their fellow Israelites came from as far away as the area where the tribes of Issachar, Zebulun, and Naphtali lived, bringing food on donkeys, camels, mules, and oxen. They brought a lot of various types of food: flour, fig cakes, raisins, wine, olive oil, cattle and sheep. They brought so much because the people throughout Israel were very joyful.

Chapter 13

¹One day David talked with all his army officers. Some of them were commanders of 100 soldiers and some were commanders of 1,000 soldiers. ²Then David summoned the other Israelite leaders and said to all of them, "If you think it is a good idea, and if it is what Yahweh our God wants, let us send a message to our fellow Israelites throughout our country, including the priests and descendants of Levi who are living among them in their towns and in the nearby pasturelands, to come and join us. ³Let us bring the sacred chest of our God back to us since we did not ask God what he wanted us to do while Saul was the king." ⁴All the people agreed with David to send the messages and bring back the sacred chest because they all thought that it was the right thing to do.

⁵So David gathered all the Israelite people, from the Shihor River in Egypt to the city of Lebo Hamath in the north, and told them that he wanted them to help bring the sacred chest of God back to Jerusalem from the city of Kiriath Jearim. ⁶David went with all the Israelite people to the city of Baalah, which is another name for Kiriath Jearim, to get from that city the sacred chest of God, Yahweh. (Baalah was located in the land belonging to the tribe of Judah). The people believed that God sat like a king on a throne between the statues of winged creatures that was above the lid of the sacred chest. The sacred chest belonged to Yahweh.

⁷The people put the sacred chest of God on a new cart and took it from Abinadab's house. Uzzah and Ahio were guiding the oxen that were pulling the cart. ⁸David and all the Israelite people celebrated with all their strength all around the cart carrying the sacred chest. They were singing, playing lyres, harps, tambourines, and cymbals, and blowing trumpets.

⁹However, when the people and the cart came to the place where Kidon threshed grain, the oxen stumbled. So Uzzah reached out with his hand to prevent the sacred chest from falling off the cart. ¹⁰Yahweh became very angry with Uzzah, and he killed Uzzah because Uzzah had put his hand on the sacred chest. Yahweh had commanded during the time of Moses that no one touch the sacred chest. Uzzah died there in front of the sacred chest.

¹¹David was angry because Yahweh inflicted punishment on Uzzah. David called that place where Uzzah died "The Punishment of Uzzah" (which has continued to be its nickname until the writing of this document).

¹²That day, David was afraid of God. He thought to himself, "{Since God is angry with me,} I cannot bring God's sacred chest to my city." ¹³So David and the people did not take the sacred chest to the portion of Jerusalem named the City of David. Instead, they took it to Obed Edom's house, who was from the city of Gath. ¹⁴The sacred chest of God stayed with Obed Edom's family in his house for three months. During that time Yahweh blessed Obed Edom's family and everything that Obed Edom owned.

Chapter 14

¹One day Hiram, the king of the city of Tyre, sent some messengers to David to talk about making an agreement between their countries. Then Hiram sent cedar logs, bricklayers, and carpenters to build a palace for David.

²When that happened, David knew that Yahweh had truly caused him to be the king of Israel, and that Yahweh had caused the surrounding nations to respect David's kingdom. Yahweh did this because he loved his Israelite people.

³David married more women in Jerusalem, and those women gave birth to more sons and daughters for him. ⁴The names of the children who were born to him in Jerusalem were Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, ⁵Ibhar, Elishama, Elpelet, ⁶Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, ⁷Elishama, Beeliada, and Eliphelet.

⁸When the army of Philistia heard that people in Israel appointed David to be king of all of Israel, they went to try to capture him. But David heard that the army of Philistia was coming, so he and his soldiers went out to fight against them. ⁹Now, the army of Philistia had come to the Valley of Rephaim southwest of Jerusalem and had attacked and robbed the people there. ¹⁰So David asked God, "Should my men and I go and attack the army of Philistia? If we go, will you enable us to defeat them?"

Yahweh replied, "Yes, go, and I will enable you to defeat them."

¹¹The soldiers of Philistia went to a town people now call "Baal Perazim." David and his men met the soldiers of Philistia there and defeated them. Then David said, "God has completely defeated my enemies by using me and my army. God destroyed them like water breaking a dam." So they named that place "Baal Perazim," which meant "The Lord breaks through." ¹²As the soldiers of Philistia fled, they left their idols there. So David commanded his soldiers to burn those idols.

¹³But soon the army of Philistia attacked the people in that valley again. ¹⁴So again David prayed to God to ask him what he should do, and God replied, "Do not attack the army of Philistia from the front. Instead, go around them, and attack them from the rear in front of the balsam trees. ¹⁵When you hear something in the tops of the balsam trees that sounds like soldiers marching, that is when you must attack, because I, God, will have gone ahead of you to enable you to defeat the army of Philistia." ¹⁶So David did what God commanded him to do, and he and his army defeated the army of Philistia, all the way from the city of Gibeon west to the city of Gezer.

¹⁷So David became famous in all the nearby countries, and Yahweh caused the leaders of all the nations to be afraid of him.

Chapter 15

¹David commanded his workers to build houses for himself in the section of Jerusalem named the City of David. He also told them to set up a place in which to put the sacred chest of God. They put up a large tent for the sacred chest. ²Then David said, "No one but the descendants of Levi may carry God's sacred chest, because Yahweh chose them to carry it and to serve him forever."

³David summoned all the people of Israel to come to Jerusalem. He wanted a celebration when the Levites brought the sacred chest of Yahweh to the place his workers set up for it. ⁴David summoned the descendants of Aaron, who was the first high priest, and the other descendants of Levi:

⁵from the descendants of Kohath, Levi's second son, Uriel the leader and his relatives, 120 in all;

⁶from the descendants of Merari, Levi's third son, Asaiah the leader and his relatives, 220 in all;

⁷from the descendants of Gershon, Levi's first son, Joel the leader and his relatives, 130 in all;

⁸from the descendants of Elizaphan, Shemaiah the leader and his relatives, 200 in all;

⁹from the descendants of Hebron, Eliel the leader and his relatives, 80 in all;

¹⁰from the descendants of Uzziel, Amminadab the leader and his relatives, 112 in all.

¹¹David summoned the priests Zadok and Abiathar and these descendants of Levi: Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab. ¹²David said to them, "You are the leaders of the clans descended from Levi. You and your family members must ceremonially purify yourselves, in order to be able to do this special work for Yahweh. You must bring the sacred chest of Yahweh, the God of us Israelites, to the place that I set up for it here in Jerusalem.

¹³The first time that we tried to bring it, you descendants of Levi were not the ones who carried it, since we did not follow Yahweh's command in the law of Moses regarding carrying the sacred chest. So Yahweh our God punished us."

¹⁴Then the priests and the descendants of Levi performed the rituals to purify themselves, in order that it would be proper for them to carry the sacred chest of Yahweh, the God of the Israelite people. ¹⁵Just as the law of Moses said, according to the command of Yahweh, the descendants of Levi fastened poles to God's sacred chest and carried it by putting the poles on their shoulders.

¹⁶David told the leaders of the descendants of Levi to appoint some of their relatives to sing and play lyres, harps, and cymbals, making joyful music while they were carrying the sacred chest.

¹⁷So they appointed Heman and his relatives Asaph and Ethan. Heman was the son of Joel. Asaph was the son of Berechiah. Ethan was the son of Kushaiah and was a descendant of Merari. ¹⁸They also appointed another group of relatives from the descendants of Levi: Zechariah, Ben, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, and two of the temple gatekeepers, Obed Edom and Jeiel.

¹⁹Heman, Asaph and Ethan sang and also played bronze cymbals. ²⁰Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah played harps according to a certain musical style. ²¹Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed Edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah played lyres according to a different musical style. ²²Kenaniah, the leader of the descendants of Levi in music, directed the singing because he was very capable.

²³Berechiah and Elkanah were two of the men who guarded the sacred chest. ²⁴The priests Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer were the ones who blew trumpets in front of God's sacred chest. Obed Edom and Jehiah also guarded the sacred chest.

²⁵So David, the Israelite leaders, and the officers who commanded one thousand soldiers went to get the sacred chest symbolizing the agreement between Yahweh and the people of Israel. They joyfully got the sacred chest from Obed Edom's house. ²⁶Indeed, God helped the descendants of Levi who carried the sacred chest symbolizing the agreement between Yahweh and the people of Israel. Therefore David and the leaders sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams to thank him. ²⁷David, all the descendants of Levi who carried the sacred chest, all the singers, and Kenaniah, the man who directed those who sang, wore robes of fine linen. David also wore a waistcloth made of linen. ²⁸So all of the Israelite people joined in bringing up to Jerusalem the sacred chest symbolizing the agreement between Yahweh and the people of Israel. They shouted joyfully, blew horns and trumpets, and played cymbals, lyres, and harps.

²⁹While they were bringing the sacred chest symbolizing the agreement between Yahweh and the people of Israel to the section of Jerusalem named the city of David, Michal (the first of David's wives and Saul's daughter) watched them, looking out of a window. When she saw King David dancing and celebrating, she despised him.

Chapter 16

¹They brought God's sacred chest to Jerusalem and put it inside the special tent that David's workers set up. Then they brought offerings which they fully burned on the altar and other offerings commemorating friendship between them and God. They offered the offerings in front of the special tent which housed the sacred chest.

²When the priests finished presenting all those offerings, David asked Yahweh to bless the Israelite people. ³David ordered his servants to give a loaf of bread, a baked good with dates, and a baked good with raisins to every Israelite who was there, both men and women.

⁴Then David appointed some of the descendants of Levi to stand in front of the special tent in which the descendants of Levi placed Yahweh's sacred chest, to lead the people who worshiped and thanked and praised Yahweh, the God of the Israelite people. ⁵Asaph was their leader. Zechariah was his assistant. The other descendants of Levi who helped were Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-Edom, and Jeiel. They played harps and lyres, and Asaph played cymbals. ⁶Benaiah and Jahaziel were priests who blew trumpets frequently in front of the special tent in which the descendants of Levi placed the sacred chest symbolizing the agreement between God and the people of Israel.

⁷On that day, David first gave to Asaph and his helpers this song to praise Yahweh:

⁸Thank Yahweh and pray to him.

Tell the people of all nations what he has done.

⁹Sing to him; sing songs to praise him.

Tell about all his miraculous deeds.

¹⁰Be glad that he is holy.

Those who follow Yahweh should rejoice.

¹¹Ask Yahweh to help you and give you his strength.

Frequently pray to him!

¹²Think about the wonderful things that he has done,
the miracles he has done, and the just laws that he has decreed.

¹³We are the offspring of his servant Israel;
we are the descendants of Jacob whom he has chosen.

¹⁴Yahweh is our God.

People throughout the world know his just laws.

¹⁵Think about for all of your life the agreement that he made;
he made a promise that will last for 1,000 generations.

¹⁶That is the agreement that he made with Abraham,

and God repeated that promise to Isaac, Abraham's son.

¹⁷God continued the agreement for Isaac's son, Jacob, as a decree;
as a promise to Israel and his descendants for all time.

¹⁸God said, "I will give the region of Canaan to you,
to belong to you and your descendants."

¹⁹When there were hardly any of your ancestors,
just a tiny group of people who were living in that land like strangers,

²⁰they continued to wander from one place to another,
from one kingdom to another.

²¹God did not allow others to oppress them,
and he warned kings on your ancestors' behalf by saying to them,

²²"Do not harm the people whom I have chosen!
Do not wrong my prophets!"

²³You people throughout the world, sing to Yahweh.
Every day proclaim to others that he has saved us.

²⁴Tell among the nations that he is great;
tell all the people groups the marvelous things that he has done;

²⁵because Yahweh is great, and he deserves praise very much.
Everyone should revere him more than all the gods,

²⁶because all the gods that the other people groups worship are idols with no value,
but Yahweh is truly great; he created the skies.

²⁷Magnificence and grandeur come from where he is.
Power and joy come from the place where he lives.

²⁸You people in nations all over the world, praise Yahweh!
Praise Yahweh for his glorious power!

²⁹Attribute to Yahweh the glory his name deserves.
Come to his place of worship with offerings to give to him!
Bow down and worship Yahweh because he is holy and his holiness shines out from him with wonderful beauty.

³⁰You people throughout the world, be reverent and respectful when you are in his place of worship because of his
sheer power.

As one example, he put the earth firmly in its place; nothing ever will be able to move it.

³¹Everything in the sky should celebrate and everything on the earth should cheer.

Everything in the sky and on the earth declare to all the people groups of the world, "Yahweh is king!"

³²The oceans and all the creatures in the oceans should shout;

the fields and everything in them should rejoice.

³³When that happens, the trees in the forest should cheer in front of Yahweh,

because he will come to judge everyone on the earth.

³⁴Thank Yahweh, because everything he does shows he is good,

because he faithfully loves us always.

³⁵Say to him, "God who provides our liberation, rescue us,

and bring us together and save us from the armies of other nations,

so that we will thank you for your sacred character and reputation,

and revel in giving you praise."

³⁶Yahweh, the God of us Israelite people, deserves praise,

for all time, in the past and in the future.

After the people finished singing that song, they all said "We agree!", and they praised Yahweh. ³⁷Then David left Asaph and the other members of his clan there in front of the tent where the sacred chest symbolizing the agreement between Yahweh and the people of Israel was. David told them that they must do their work there every day. ³⁸David also left Obed Edom and other descendants of Levi to work there, 68 in all. Hosah and Obed Edom, Jeduthun's son, guarded the entrances of the sacred tent.

³⁹David also told Zadok the high priest and the other priests who worked with him to remain in front of Yahweh's sacred tent, at the place where the Israelite people worshiped Yahweh there in the city of Gibeon. ⁴⁰Every morning and every evening they burned offerings to Yahweh on the altar for such offerings, obeying the rules Moses wrote down, the rules that Yahweh gave to the Israelite people. ⁴¹With them were Heman and Jeduthun and the other descendants of Levi whom David chose specifically. They sang songs to praise Yahweh because he faithfully loves his people forever. ⁴²Heman and Jeduthun led the music, including those playing trumpets, cymbals, and other instruments for singing to God. Jeduthun's sons guarded the gates of the sacred tent.

⁴³Then all the people left. They all returned to their homes, and David returned home to ask Yahweh to bless his family.

Chapter 17

¹After David began to live in his palace, he said to the prophet Nathan, "It does not seem right that I am living in a palace made of cedar wood, but the sacred chest symbolizing the agreement between Yahweh and the people of Israel stays inside a tent!"

²Nathan replied to David, "Everything you are thinking about doing, do it, because God is with you."

³But that night God spoke to Nathan. He said,

⁴Go and tell my servant David this is what I, Yahweh, am saying to him: 'You will not build a temple for me to live in, ⁵since I have not lived in any building from the day that I brought the people of Israel up out of Egypt until now. Rather, I have lived in my sacred tent, moving from one place to another when the Israelites moved around.

⁶Wherever I went with all the Israelites as they traveled, I never said to any of their leaders whom I appointed to lead them, "Why have you not built me a temple made of cedar wood?"

⁷Therefore, this is what you should say to my servant David: "Yahweh, the commander of the angel armies, says, 'I took you from a pasture where you were taking care of sheep, and I appointed you to be the ruler of Israel, my people. ⁸I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have removed all your enemies who opposed you. Now, I will cause you to become very famous, as well known as the names of the greatest men who have ever lived on the earth. ⁹Formerly, many violent groups oppressed the people of Israel, my people, but this will not happen anymore. I have chosen a place where I will establish them so they can make their home there. No one will disturb them anymore. ⁹⁻¹⁰Formerly, during the time that I appointed leaders for my Israelite people, many violent groups oppressed them. But this will not happen anymore. I have chosen a place where my Israelite people can live peacefully and no one will disturb them anymore. I will give them rest from being attacked by their enemies. And I will defeat all your enemies.

I declare to you that I, Yahweh, will enable your descendants to rule after you die. ¹⁰Since the time that I appointed leaders for my Israelite people, enemies troubled them. But I will defeat all your enemies. I commit to you that I, Yahweh, will enable your descendants to rule after you die. ¹¹When your life ends and you die and go to be with your ancestors who have died, I will appoint one of your descendants, one of your sons, to become king, and I will enable his kingdom to be strong. ¹²He is the one who will lead the building of a temple for me. And I will make his ruling dynasty last forever. ¹³I will be like a father to him, and he will be like a son to me. I stopped giving faithful love to Saul, the one who was the king before you became king, but I will never stop giving faithful love to your son. ¹⁴I will cause him and his descendants to rule over my people and my kingdom forever. His ruling dynasty will last forever."

¹⁵So Nathan reported to David everything that Yahweh had revealed to him.

¹⁶Then King David went into the tent housing the sacred chest, sat in the presence of Yahweh, and prayed this prayer:

"Yahweh my God, I am certainly not worthy for you to have done of all these things for me, and my family is not worthy, either.

¹⁷And O God, now, in addition to everything else, you have spoken about what will happen to my descendants in the future for many generations. Yahweh my God, you have acted toward me as though I was the most important man on the earth!

¹⁸I, David, cannot say anything more to you in exchange for you honoring me. Yahweh, you know what kind of person I am. ¹⁹Yahweh, you have done these great things for my sake, according to the way you wanted, and in order to reveal all of these great things.

²⁰Yahweh, there is no one like you. You are the only true God. This is what we have always heard. ²¹And there is no nation like Israel because Israel is the only nation on the earth whose people you went out to rescue to make them your people, to perform miracles and show how great and awesome you are, and to expel the people of other people groups in Canaan who were before your people, the Israelites, whom you rescued from being slaves in Egypt. ²²You caused us your Israelite people to belong to you as your people forever, and you, Yahweh, became our God!

²³And now Yahweh, I pray that you will cause the things that you have promised about me and my descendants to be fulfilled forever, and do the things that you have said that you would do. ²⁴I pray that those things will happen so people will celebrate your excellent reputation forever. People will exclaim, 'Yahweh, commander of the angel

armies, is the God of Israel. He is the God who rules Israel! You will cause my descendants to be the king of the people you rule,

²⁵because you, my God, have revealed to me that you will cause me to have a ruling dynasty. So I am brave enough to pray like this to you. ²⁶Now, Yahweh, you are God! You have promised to do these good things for me. ²⁷And now you have promised to bless my descendants, in order that they will forever be king over the people you rule. Indeed, you, Yahweh, have given your blessing, and you will keep blessing them forever.”

Chapter 18

¹Some time later, David's army attacked and defeated the army of Philistia, subduing them. They captured the Philistine city of Gath and its surrounding villages.

²His army also defeated the army of the Moab people group, so the Moab people group had to accept David as their ruler. They had to pay money each year to David's government, in order that David's army would protect them.

³David's army also fought and defeated the army of Hadadezer, the king of the region of Zobah in Aram near the city of Hamath, when Hadadezer was trying to establish control over the area near the Euphrates River. ⁴David's army captured 1,000 of Hadadezer's chariots, 7,000 chariot drivers, and 20,000 infantry soldiers. David's army hamstringed most of Hadadezer's horses; there were only 100 horses that they did not cripple.

⁵When the army of Aram came from the city of Damascus to fight alongside Hadadezer's army, David's army killed 22,000 soldiers from the army of Aram. ⁶Then David stationed groups of his soldiers in Damascus. So the people of Aram had to accept David as their ruler. They had to pay money each year to David's government, in order that David's army would protect them. Yahweh enabled David's army to win battles everywhere they went.

⁷David's soldiers took the gold shields that Hadadezer's soldiers carried and brought them to Jerusalem. ⁸They also brought from Tebah and Kun, two cities that belonged to Hadadezer, a lot of bronze, which David's son Solomon later used to make the huge bronze basin called "The Sea" and the pillars and other bronze items for the temple.

⁹When Tou, the king of the city of Hamath in Aram, heard that David's army had defeated the entire army of King Hadadezer of Zobah in Aram, ¹⁰he sent his son Hadoram to King David, to greet him and congratulate him about his fighting and defeating Hadadezer's army because Tou's army had been fighting Hadadezer's. Hadoram brought to David many items made of gold, silver, and bronze,

¹¹and King David dedicated those things to Yahweh, like he had done with the silver and gold that his soldiers had taken from other nations: the Edom, Moab, and Ammon people groups, the people from Philistia, and from the descendants of Amalek.

¹²The army of David's military commander Abishai, whose mother was Zeruiah, killed 18,000 soldiers from Edom in the Valley of Salt. ¹³Then David stationed groups of his soldiers there in Edom, and the people of Edom had to accept David as their ruler. Yahweh protected David and his army wherever they traveled.

¹⁴David ruled over all the Israelite people, and he always did for them what was just and fair. ¹⁵Joab son of Zeruiah was the chief army commander. Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was the record keeper. ¹⁶Zadok son of Ahitub and Ahimelech son of Abiathar were priests. Shavsha was the official secretary. ¹⁷Benaiah son of Jehoiada led the Kereth and Peleth people groups who were David's bodyguards. David's sons were his most important officials.

Chapter 19

¹Some time later, Nahash, the king of the Ammon people group, died. Then his son Hanun became their king.

²When David heard about that, he thought to himself, "Nahash was kind to me, so I will be kind to his son." So David sent some officials there to tell Hanun that David was sorry to hear that Hanun's father had died.

But when David's officials came to Hanun in the land where the Ammonite people group lived to deliver the message, ³the leaders of the Ammon people group said to Hanun, "David is not really honoring your father's memory by sending these men to give his condolences. We think that his men have come to look around our land in order to determine how his army can conquer us."

⁴Hanun believed what the leaders said; so he commanded some soldiers to seize David's officials. Hanun's soldiers insulted the officials by shaving off their beards and cutting off the lower part of their robes. Then Hanun sent David's officials away.

⁵The officials left and were greatly humiliated. When David found out about what had happened to his officials, he sent some messengers to them to tell them, "Stay at Jericho until your beards have grown again, and then return home."

⁶Then the leaders of the Ammon people group realized that they had greatly insulted David. So Hanun and some of his officials sent 33,000 kilograms of silver to hire chariots and chariot drivers from the regions of Aram Naharaim, Aram Maacah and Zobah northeast of Israel. ⁷They hired 32,000 chariots and chariot drivers, as well as the king of the region of Maacah and his army. They came and set up their tents near the city of Medeba in the region of Moab. The soldiers from the Ammon people group also marched out from their cities and were ready for battle.

⁸When David heard about that, he sent Joab and all his army. ⁹The soldiers of the Ammon people group came out of their city and lined up for battle at the entrance of their city. Meanwhile, the other kings who had come with their armies stood in their positions in the open fields.

¹⁰Joab saw that there were groups of enemy soldiers in front of his troops and behind his troops. So he selected some of the best Israelite troops and put them in positions to fight against the soldiers of Aram. ¹¹He appointed his older brother Abishai to be the commander of his other soldiers and he told them to stand in their positions in front of the army of the Ammon people group. ¹²Joab said to them, "If the soldiers from Aram are too strong for us to defeat them, then your soldiers must come and help us. But if the soldiers from the Ammon people group are too strong for you to defeat them, then my soldiers will come and help your men. ¹³We must be strong and fight hard to defend our people and our cities that belong to our God. Yahweh will do what he considers to be good."

¹⁴So Joab and his troops advanced to fight the army of Aram; and the soldiers from Aram ran away from Joab and his soldiers. ¹⁵And when the soldiers of the Ammon people group saw that the soldiers from Aram were running away, they also started to run away from Abishai and his army, and they retreated back inside the city. So Joab and his army returned to Jerusalem.

¹⁶After the leaders of the army of Aram realized that the army of Israel had defeated them, the leaders of the army of Aram sent messengers to another part of Aram on the east side of the Euphrates river, and brought troops from there to the battle area, with Shophak, the commander of Hadadezer's army, leading them.

¹⁷When David heard about that, he gathered all the Israelite soldiers, and they crossed the Jordan River. They advanced against the army of Aram and took their battle positions to attack them. With David's army on the battle field ready to fight, the army of Aram attacked David's army. ¹⁸But the army of Aram ran away from the soldiers of Israel. However, David's soldiers killed 7,000 of their chariot drivers and 40,000 infantry soldiers. They also killed Shophak, their army commander.

¹⁹When the kings who had been subjects of Hadadezer realized that the Israelite army had defeated them, they made peace with David, and agreed to have him rule over them.

So the rulers of Aram did not want to help the rulers of the Ammon people group anymore.

Chapter 20

¹In that region, kings usually went with their armies to fight their enemies in the springtime. But the following year, David did not do that. Instead, he stayed in Jerusalem and sent his commander Joab to lead the army. Joab and his troops ruined the land of the Ammon people group. Then they went to Rabbah, the capital city, and surrounded it. Joab and his troops killed the army in the city of Rabbah and demolished the city. ²David then came to Rabbah, took the crown from the head of the king of Rabbah and put it on his own head. It weighed thirty-three kilograms and was gold. It had a valuable stone in it. They also took many other valuable things from the city. ³Then they brought the people out of the city and forced them to work for their army, using saws and iron picks and axes. David's soldiers did this in all the cities of the Ammon people group. Then David and all of his army returned to Jerusalem.

⁴Some time later, David's army fought with the army of Philistia, at the city of Gezer. During the battle Sibbekai, from the Hushah clan, killed Sippai, one of the descendants of the Rapha giants. So David's army defeated the army of Philistia.

⁵In another battle against the soldiers of Philistia, Elhanan son of Jair, killed Lahmi, the younger brother of the giant Goliath from the city of Gath, who had a spear which was as thick as a weaver's rod.

⁶There was another battle near Gath. A huge man was there who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot. He was also a descendant of the Rapha giants. ⁷When he insulted the soldiers of Israel, Jonathan son of Shimea killed him. Shimea was one of David's older brothers.

⁸Those were some of the descendants of the Rapha giants who had lived in Gath. David and his soldiers killed them.

Chapter 21

¹An opponent decided to cause the Israelite people to have trouble. So he provoked David to find out how many men in Israel were able to be in the army.

²So David commanded Joab and the other army commanders, "Go out and count all the men in Israel who are able to be in the army. Start at Beersheba in the south and go all the way to Dan in the north. Then come back and report to me, in order that I may know how many men there are."

³But Joab replied, "Your Majesty, I hope that Yahweh will make our army a hundred times larger than it is now. But we all serve you. So you should not commit this sin, your Highness, and make Israel suffer for it."

⁴But David would not change his mind. So Joab and his soldiers went everywhere in Israel and in Judah, and counted the people. Then they returned to Jerusalem, ⁵and they reported to David that there were 1,100,000 men in Israel who could be in the army, and 470,000 men in Judah who could be in the army. ⁶However, Joab did not count the men from the tribes of Levi and Benjamin, because he was disgusted with what the king had commanded.

⁷David's command to count the people caused God to become angry, so he told David that he had decided to punish the people of Israel. ⁸Then David prayed to God, "What I did was very foolish. I committed a terrible sin by what I have done. So now I plead with you, please forgive me."

⁹Then Yahweh said to Gad, David's prophet, ¹⁰"Go and tell this to David: 'Yahweh says, " I am allowing you to choose one of three things to punish you. I will do whichever one you choose. ""

¹¹So Gad went to David and said to him, "Yahweh says: 'You can choose one of these punishments: ¹²either three years of famine in Israel, or three months during which your armies will run away from their enemies who will attack and overrun them with swords, or three days of direct punishment from me during which I will send my angel to cause many people in the country to die because of a plague.' So you must decide what I will say to answer Yahweh, the one who sent me."

¹³David replied to Gad, "I am very distressed. Allow Yahweh to punish me, because he is very merciful, and do not allow humans to punish me."

¹⁴So Yahweh sent a plague on the people of Israel, and 70,000 Israelite people died because of the plague. ¹⁵And God sent an angel to kill the people in Jerusalem with the plague. While the angel was killing people, Yahweh saw all the suffering that the people had endured and decided to stop the killing. So he said to the angel when the angel was standing at the place where Ornan, from the Jebus people group, threshed grain, "Stop what you are doing! That is enough!"

¹⁶David looked up and saw the angel whom Yahweh had sent, standing between the sky and the ground. The angel had a sword in his hand that he pointed toward Jerusalem. Then David and the elders of the city, who were wearing clothes made of rough sackcloth, prostrated themselves on the ground.

¹⁷David prayed to God, "I am the one who ordered the census of the men who could be in the army. I am the one who has sinned and done what is wrong, but these people are as innocent as sheep. They have certainly not done anything that is wrong. So Yahweh my God, punish me and my family, but do not allow this plague to continue to cause your people to become sick and die."

¹⁸Then the angel whom Yahweh had sent told Gad to tell David to go up to the place where Ornan threshed grain and build an altar to worship Yahweh there. ¹⁹So after Gad told David, he obeyed the message that Yahweh had given to Gad, and he went up there.

²⁰While Ornan was threshing some wheat, he turned and saw the angel. His four sons who were with him also saw the angel, and they hid themselves. ²¹Then David approached the place where Ornan was. When Ornan saw him, Ornan left the place where he was threshing grain and prostrated himself in front of David, with his face touching the ground.

²²David said to Ornan, "Sell me this threshing place so I can build an altar here to worship Yahweh, in order that he will stop this plague. I will pay the full price."

²³Ornan answered David, "Take it! Your Majesty, do whatever you want to. I will even give you the oxen that thresh the grain for a fully burnt offering on the altar, the threshing boards to use as wood on the altar, and the flour for a flour offering. I will provide everything."

²⁴But King David said to Ornan, "No, I must pay you the full price, because I will not take things that belong to you and offer them to Yahweh as a fully burnt offering when they cost me nothing."

²⁵So David paid Ornan six and one-half kilograms of gold for the whole area. ²⁶David built an altar to worship Yahweh there, and he offered on the altar fully burnt sacrifices and sacrifices to restore fellowship with Yahweh. David prayed to Yahweh, and Yahweh answered by sending a fire from heaven to burn up the offerings on the altar.

²⁷Then Yahweh told the angel to put his sword back into its sheath. So the angel did that. ²⁸And when David saw that Yahweh had answered him there at the place where Ornan threshed grain and had ended the plague, he offered sacrifices there. ²⁹At that time, Yahweh's sacred tent, which Moses had commanded others to build in the wilderness, and the altar for burning sacrifices completely, were on a hill used for worship near the city of Gibeon.

³⁰But David did not want to go there to request God to tell him what he wanted David to do, because he was afraid that the angel sent from Yahweh might strike him with his sword.

Chapter 22

¹David realized that this was the place that Yahweh now wanted sacrifices to be made and announced, "Here, at the edge of Jerusalem, is where we will build the temple for our God Yahweh, and where we will make the altar for fully burning the offerings that the Israelite people will bring."

²So David commanded that the foreigners who lived in Israel must assemble together. When they did that, he appointed some of those men to cut huge stones from the quarries and to smooth their surfaces for use in building the temple of God. ³David provided a lot of iron for making nails and hinges for the doors in the gates of the temple. He also provided a huge amount of bronze for making various things. There was so much bronze, no one could weigh it all. ⁴David also provided money for buying a lot of cedar logs for use in building the temple. Men from the cities of Tyre and Sidon brought the logs to David that he purchased. Because they brought so many logs, no one could count them.

⁵David provided all those things because he thought, "My son Solomon is still young and he does not yet know what he needs to know about building buildings, and the temple constructed for Yahweh must be magnificent. It must be a glorious building that will become famous, and people throughout the world must consider it beautiful. So now I will begin to prepare for its construction." So David collected a great amount of building materials before he died.

⁶Then David summoned his son Solomon and told him to arrange for the construction of a temple for Yahweh, the God whom the Israelites worshipped. ⁷David told Solomon, "My son, I wanted to build a temple to honor Yahweh, my God. ⁸But Yahweh told a prophet to tell me, 'You have killed many men in the big battles that you have fought. I have seen all the people you have killed, so you will not be the one who will arrange for the construction of a temple to honor me. ⁹But you will have a son who will be king of Israel after you. He will be a man without war during his reign. I will cause peace between him and his enemies who are in all the nearby lands. That is why his name will be Solomon (which sounds like the word for peace). During the time that he is king, I will provide peace and safety for the people in Israel. ¹⁰He is the one who will arrange for the construction of a temple to honor me. He will be like a son to me, and I will be like his father. I will cause his dynasty to rule over Israel forever.'

¹¹So now, my son, I hope that Yahweh will help you and enable you to succeed in arranging for the construction of a temple for Yahweh, your God, which is what he said that you would do. ¹²I also hope that he will enable you to be wise and to understand what you need to know, and enable you to obey his laws while you rule over Israel. ¹³If you carefully obey all the laws and decrees which Yahweh told Moses to tell Israel to do, then you will do well in constructing a temple and ruling Israel. Now, demonstrate strength and courage. Do not be afraid of anything, and do not become discouraged!

¹⁴I have tried hard to provide materials for building the temple of Yahweh, including 3,300 metric tons of gold, 33,000 metric tons of silver, and a very large amount of iron and bronze (so much that no one can weigh it all). I have also gathered lumber and stone, but you will need to acquire more of those things. ¹⁵There are many men in Israel who have good ability to cut big stones and work with different types of stone, carpenters, and men who are very skilled at making various kinds of things. ¹⁶There are many men who know how to make things from gold, silver, bronze, and iron. So now I say to you, begin the work of building the temple, and I hope that Yahweh will be with you."

¹⁷Then David commanded that all the Israelite leaders must assist his son Solomon: ¹⁸"Yahweh our God is certainly with you. He has allowed you to have peace with all the nearby nations because he has enabled my army to conquer them. Yahweh and my people control them. ¹⁹Now you must obey your God, Yahweh, with your entire lives. Help Solomon to arrange for the construction of the temple for Yahweh God, in order that you can bring the sacred chest symbolizing the agreement between Yahweh and the people of Israel and the other sacred items that belong to God into the temple that you will build to honor him."

Chapter 23

¹David was a very old man when he appointed his son Solomon to be the next king over Israel.

²David gathered the leaders of Israel and the priests and other descendants of Levi. ³He commanded some of his officials to count the descendants of Levi who were at least 30 years old, and they found out that there were 38,000 men. ⁴Then David said, "From those descendants of Levi, I want 24,000 of them to supervise the work at the temple of Yahweh, 6,000 to be officials and judges, ⁵4,000 to be guards at the gates, and 4,000 to praise Yahweh, using the musical instruments that I have provided for them."

⁶David divided the descendants of Levi into three groups; each group consisted of men who were descendants of one of the three sons of Levi—Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

⁷The descendants of Gershon were Ladan and Shimei.

⁸Ladan had three sons: the oldest Jehiel, then Zetham and Joel.

⁹Shimei had three sons: Shelomoth, Haziël, and Haran.

They were leaders of the clans of Ladan.

¹⁰Shimei's sons were Jahath, Zina, Jeush, and Beriah; four in total.

¹¹Jahath was the oldest son. Ziza was the second.

Jeush and Beriah did not have many sons, so the officials counting the descendants of Levi counted the families of Jeush and Beriah as though they were one family.

¹²Kohath had four sons: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

¹³Amram's sons were Aaron and Moses.

Yahweh chose Aaron, that is, Aaron and his descendants perpetually, to dedicate to Yahweh the very holy things, to offer sacrifices to Yahweh, to serve in his presence, and to declare to the people what Yahweh would do to bless them. They were to do those things forever.

¹⁴The officials counting the descendants of Levi counted the descendants of Moses, the man who served God well, as part of the tribe of Levi.

¹⁵Moses' sons were Gershom and Eliezer.

¹⁶The oldest son of Gershom was Shubael.

¹⁷Eliezer's oldest child was Rehabiah.

Eliezer had no other sons, but Rehabiah had many sons.

¹⁸Izhar's oldest son was Shelomith.

¹⁹Hebron had four sons.

Jeriah was his oldest son; Amariah was the second; Jahaziel was the third; and Jekameam was the fourth.

²⁰Uzziel had two sons.

Micah was the older son, and Isshiah was the younger.

²¹Merari had two sons: Mahli and Mushi.

Mahli's sons were Eleazar and Kish.

²²Eleazar died without having sons; he only had daughters. Their cousins, Kish's sons, married them.

²³Mushi had three sons: Mahli, Eder, and Jerimoth.

²⁴Those were the descendants of Levi that the officials counted according to the descendants' families and the leaders of those families, as well as according to the descendants' special jobs and the leaders of those jobs. They all worked in the temple of Yahweh. The officials counted each person who was at least 20 years old. ²⁵David had said previously, "Yahweh, the God to whom we Israelite people belong, has enabled us to have peace, and he has come to live in Jerusalem forever. ²⁶Therefore, the descendants of Levi no longer need to carry the sacred tent and all the items used in the work there." ²⁷Obedying David's final instructions before he died, instructions for doing the work at the temple, the officials counted the descendants of Levi who were at least twenty years old.

²⁸The work of those descendants of Levi was to assist the descendants of Aaron in their work in Yahweh's temple. They were in charge of the temple courtyards and the side rooms, the ceremonies for purifying all the sacred things, and to do other work at the temple. ²⁹They were also in charge of the loaves of bread the priests placed each week on the table in the temple, the flour for the flour offerings, the wafers that were made without yeast, and the baking pans. The descendants of Levi also had to measure the ingredients, mix them, and bake the bread and wafers. ³⁰Another responsibility for the Levites was to stand every morning at the temple and thank Yahweh and praise him. They needed to do the same thing every evening as well. ³¹And they needed to do the same thing at the presentation of fully burnt offerings to Yahweh on Sabbath days and during the new moon celebrations and other religious festivals. There were specific regulations about how many of them should be there and what they should do each time they served at Yahweh's temple.

³²So the descendants of Aaron, their fellow Israelites, assigned the descendants of Levi certain responsibilities at the place where the Israelite people worshiped Yahweh. The descendants of Levi did that work at the sacred tent and in the holy place inside the tent.

Chapter 24

¹These are the divisions of the descendants of Aaron the first high priest: Aaron's four sons were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

²But Nadab and Abihu died before their father died, and they had no children. So their younger brothers Eleazar and Ithamar became priests. ³Zadok, who was a descendant of Eleazar, and Ahimelech, who was a descendant of Ithamar, helped David to separate the family groups into two groups. Each group had certain duties. ⁴There were more leaders among the descendants of Eleazar than there were among the descendants of Ithamar. So they appointed 16 leaders from Eleazar's descendants and eight leaders from Ithamar's descendants. ⁵There were temple officials and priests there, including descendants of both Eleazar and Ithamar, to make sure that the work was equitable between the groups. So they decided what work each group would do by casting lots.

⁶Shemaiah son of Nethanel, who was an official secretary and a descendant of Levi, wrote down the names of the leaders of each group while David and his officials were watching. Zadok, the high priest, and Ahimelech son of Abiathar, and the leaders of the families of the priests and of the families of the other descendants of Levi also watched. The lots alternated between the two groups, starting with a family who descended from Eleazar then a family who descended from Ithamar. Once the eight leaders from families descended from Ithamar received their duties, the remaining duties went to leaders of families descended from Eleazar.

⁷Jehoiarib received the first lot cast.

Jedaiah received the next lot.

⁸Next was Harim,

then Seorim.

⁹Next was Malkijah,
then Mijamin.

¹⁰Next was Hakkoz,
then Abijah.

¹¹Next was Jeshua,
then Shecaniah.

¹²Next was Eliashib.
then Jakim.

¹³Next was Huppah,
then Jeshebeab.

¹⁴Next was Bilgah,
then Immer.

¹⁵The remaining leaders descended from Eleazar. The 17th lot went to Hezir.
Next was Happizzез.

¹⁶Next was Pethahiah,
then Jehezkel.

¹⁷Next was Jakin,
then Gamul.

¹⁸Next was Delaiah,
then Maaziah was the last.

¹⁹Those were the men selected to be the leaders of the groups that would serve in Yahweh's temple, obeying the regulations that Aaron their ancestor gave, regulations which Yahweh, the God the Israelite people worship, had given to him.

²⁰This is a list of some of the other descendants of Levi:

From the sons of Amram there was Shubael.

From the sons of Shubael there was Jehdeiah.

²¹From Rehabiah and from the sons of Rehabiah there was Isshiah, his oldest son.

²²From the descendants of Kohath's son Izhar there was Shelomoth.

From the descendants of Shelomoth there was Jahath.

²³From the descendants of Kohath's son Hebron there was his oldest son Jeriah and Amariah the second-born. Jahaziel was the third son, and Jekameam was the fourth son.

²⁴From the descendants of Kohath's son Uzziel there was Micah.

From the descendants of Micah there was Shamir.

²⁵And Micah's younger brother was Isshiah.

From the descendants of Isshiah there was Zechariah.

²⁶The sons of Merari were Mahli, Mushi, and Jaaziah. Jaaziah's first son was Beno.

²⁷In Merari's family line, from the descendants of Jaaziah, there were Beno, Shoham, Zaccur, and Ibri.

²⁸Mahli's son Eleazar did not have any sons.

²⁹From the descendants of Kish there was his son Jerahmeel.

³⁰The sons of Mushi were Mahli, Eder, and Jerimoth.

Those were descendants of Levi who were listed according to the leaders of their families. ³¹These men also decided the jobs they would do by casting lots just like their fellow Israelites the descendants of Aaron, did. They cast lots while King David, Zadok, Ahimelech, and the leaders of the families of the priests and the other descendants of Levi watched. The families of each oldest brother received the same treatment as those of the youngest.

Chapter 25

¹David and some of the temple officials chose some of the descendants of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun to be in charge of teaching through song with harps, lyres, and cymbals. This is a list of the men whom they chose for that work:

²From Asaph's family, they chose Asaph's sons Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Aserelah. Asaph supervised them. The king appointed Asaph to teach through song.

³From Jeduthun's family, they chose six sons of Jeduthun including Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah. Jeduthun supervised them and also taught through song, playing his harp while he thanked and praised Yahweh.

⁴From Heman's family they chose the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shubael, Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, Romamti-Eze, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth. ⁵They were all sons of Heman, who was King David's prophet. God promised to cause Heman to be strong. God gave him 14 sons and three daughters.

⁶The fathers of all those men supervised the men while they played music in the temple of Yahweh. They played cymbals, harps, and lyres for their temple duty. The king supervised their fathers—Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman.

⁷Those men and their relatives were skilled in playing musical instruments and learned the music for playing songs to Yahweh in the temple. In all, there were 288 of them. ⁸All of them, including younger men and older men and those with experience and those without experience, cast lots to determine what work they would do.

⁹The first lot went to the family of Asaph, to his son Joseph and Joseph's sons and relatives, 12 in all. Next, to Gedaliah and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.

¹⁰Next, to Zaccur and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.

¹¹Next, to Izri and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.

¹²Next, to Nethaniah and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.

- ¹³Next, to Bukkiah and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.
- ¹⁴Next, to Jesarelah and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.
- ¹⁵Next, to Jeshaiiah and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.
- ¹⁶Next, to Mattaniah and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.
- ¹⁷Next, to Shimei and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.
- ¹⁸Next, to Azarel and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.
- ¹⁹Next, to Hashabiah and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.
- ²⁰Next, to Shubael and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.
- ²¹Next, to Mattithiah and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.
- ²²Next, to Jerimoth and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.
- ²³Next, to Hananiah and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.
- ²⁴Next, to Joshbekashah and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.
- ²⁵Next, to Hanani and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.
- ²⁶Next, to Mallothi and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.
- ²⁷Next, to Eliathah and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.
- ²⁸Next, to Hothir and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.
- ²⁹Next, to Giddalti and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.
- ³⁰Next, to Mahazioth and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.
- ³¹Next, to Romamti-Eze and his sons and relatives, 12 in all.

Chapter 26

¹This is a list of the groups of men who guarded the temple gates:

From Korah's descendants, there was Meshelemiah son of Kore, who was one of Asaph's descendants.

²Meshelemiah had seven sons. His oldest son was Zechariah. His other sons were Jediael, Zebadiah, Jathniel, ³Elam, Jehohanan, and Eliehoenai.

⁴Another guard was Obed Edom. He had eight sons.

His oldest son was Shemaiah. His other sons were Jehozabad, Joah, Sakar, Nethanel, ⁵Ammiel, Issachar, and Peullethai. Obed Edom had many sons because God had blessed him.

⁶Obed Edom's son Shemaiah also had sons. They were leaders in their father's family because they were capable warriors.

⁷The sons of Shemaiah were Othni, Rephael, Obed, and Elzabad. Shemaiah's relatives Elihu and Semakiah were also capable men.

⁸All of those descendants of Obed Edom and their sons and relatives were capable people and strong workers. Altogether there were 62 of them.

⁹Another guard was Meshelemiah. He and his sons and relatives were also capable people. There were 18 of them altogether.

¹⁰Another guard was Hosah, a descendant of Merari. Hosah had four sons. Hosah's son Shimri was the leader of that family because Hosah appointed him to be the leader, even though Shimri was not Hosah's oldest son.

¹¹Hosah's other sons were Hilkiah, Tabaliah, and Zechariah. Altogether there were 13 sons and relatives of Hosah.

¹²Those men were leaders of the groups of men who guarded the gates of the temple. They worked at the temple like their relatives did. ¹³By casting lots, the leader of each family chose one gate for their group to guard. All of them, including young men and old men, cast lots. ¹⁴The lot for Shelemiah's group indicated they would guard the east gate. The group of Shelemiah's son Zechariah, who was a wise counselor, cast lots. Those lots indicated Zechariah's group would guard the north gate.

¹⁵The lot for Obed Edom's group indicated they would guard the south gate, and the lot for Obed Edom's sons indicated they would guard the entrances to the temple storerooms.

¹⁶The lots for Shuppim's group and Hosah's group indicated they would guard the west gate and the Shalleketh Gate on the upper road to the temple.

The work for the guards corresponded to what was necessary for each duty. ¹⁷Each day there were six descendants of Levi who guarded the east gate, four who guarded the north gate, four who guarded the south gate, and two at a time who guarded the entrances to the storerooms. ¹⁸At the west gate there were two men who guarded the courtyard and four who guarded the road outside the courtyard.

¹⁹Those were the groups of men who were descendants of Korah and Merari who guarded the gates of the temple.

²⁰A man from the descendants of Levi, Ahijah, oversaw the places where the temple's treasures were as well as the places where the Levites kept the gifts that the people brought to the temple. ²¹The descendants of Ladan were themselves descendants of Gershon. They were leaders among their family groups. A descendant of this Ladan from the descendants of Gershon was Jehiel. ²²From the sons of Jehiel, Zetham and his younger brother Joel were in charge of the places where the temple's treasures were.

²³Others who did that work were descendants of Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel.

²⁴Shubael, a descendant of Moses' son Gershom, was another leader in charge of where the treasures were.

²⁵Others who did that work were the descendants of Gershom's younger brother Eliezer. Those men were Eliezer's son Rehabiah, Rehabiah's son Jeshaiiah, Jeshaiiah's son Joram, Joram's son Zichri, and Zichri's son Shelomith.

²⁶Shelomith and his relatives were in charge of all the valuable things that certain people had dedicated to Yahweh. These people who dedicated things included King David, the leaders of the family groups, the army commanders of 1,000 soldiers and commanders of 100 soldiers, as well as other army commanders. ²⁷They dedicated for the repair of Yahweh's temple some of the valuable things that those army officers had taken from Israel's enemies after Israel's army had defeated enemies in battles. ²⁸Shelomith and his relatives were also in charge of everything that the prophet Samuel, King Saul, and David's two army commanders Abner and Joab had dedicated to Yahweh.

²⁹From the descendants of Izhar, Kenaniah and his sons worked outside the temple area. They were officials and judges in various places in Israel.

³⁰From the descendants of Hebron, Hashabiah and his relatives were responsible for all the work done for Yahweh and for the king in the area west of the Jordan river. There were 1,700 of them who were able to do their work well.

³¹Scribes recorded in the records of Hebron's descendants that Jeriah was the leader of that family group. When David had been ruling for almost forty years, they searched in those records and found names of capable men descended from Hebron who were at the city of Jazer in the region of Gilead. ³²Jeriah had 2,700 relatives who were

able to do their work well and who were leaders of their families. King David put them in charge of governing the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the eastern half of the tribe of Manasseh, to ensure that all the people did what God commanded and what the king told them to do.

Chapter 27

¹This is a list of the Israelite men who served the king in the army. Some were leaders of families, some were commanders of 1,000 men, some were commanders of 100 men, and some were other officers. There were 24,000 men in each group. Each group served one month of each year.

²Jashobeam, son of Zabdiel, was in charge of the group that served during the first month of each year. ³He was a descendant of Perez, and he was the commander of all the army officers during the first month of each year.

⁴Dodai, from the clan of Ahohi, was the commander of the group that served during the second month of each year. Mikloth was an important leader in that group also.

⁵Benaiah, son of Jehoiada the high priest, was the commander of the group that served during the third month of each year. ⁶Benaiah was a mighty warrior among David's 30 greatest soldiers, and he was their leader. His son Ammizabad was his assistant.

⁷Asahel, Joab's younger brother, was the commander of the group that served during the fourth month of each year. Asahel's son Zebadiah became the commander after Asahel was killed.

⁸Shamhuth, a descendant of Izrah, was the commander for the fifth month.

⁹The commander for the sixth month was Ira son of Ikkesh from the city of Tekoa.

¹⁰The commander for the seventh month was Helez, a member of the clan of Pelon from the tribe of Ephraim.

¹¹The commander for the eighth month was Sibbekai, a descendant of Zerah from the city of Hushah.

¹²The commander for the ninth month was Abiezer from the city of Anathoth in the region belonging to the tribe of Benjamin.

¹³The commander for the tenth month was Maharai, a descendant of Zerah from the city of Netophath.

¹⁴The commander for the 11th month was Benaiah, a descendant of Ephraim from the city of Pirathon.

¹⁵The commander for the 12th month was Heldai, a descendant of Othniel from the city of Netophath.

¹⁶There were certain tribal leaders over each of the tribes of Israel:

Eliezer, son of Zicri, was the leader of the tribe of Reuben.

Shephatiah, son of Maacah, was the leader of the tribe of Simeon.

¹⁷Hashabiah, son of Kemuel, was the leader of the tribe of Levi.

Within the tribe of Levi, Zadok was the leader of Aaron's descendants.

¹⁸Elihu, David's older brother, was the leader of the tribe of Judah.

Omri, son of Michael, was the leader of the tribe of Issachar.

¹⁹Ishmaiah, son of Obadiah, was the leader of the tribe of Zebulun.

Jerimoth, son of Azriel, was the leader of the tribe of Naphtali.

²⁰Hoshea, son of Azaziah, was the leader of the tribe of Ephraim.

Joel, son of Pedaiah, was the leader of the western half of the tribe of Manasseh.

²¹Iddo, son of Zechariah, was the leader of the eastern half of the tribe of Manasseh, in the region of Gilead.

Jaasiel, son of Abner, was the leader of the tribe of Benjamin.

²²Azarel, son of Jeroham, was the leader of the tribe of Dan. These men were the tribal leaders of the 12 tribes of Israel.

²³David did not tell Joab to count the men who were less than twenty years old, because Yahweh had promised many years previously that there would be as many people in Israel as there are stars in the sky. ²⁴Joab and his helpers started to count the men of Israel, but they did not finish counting them because Joab knew that Yahweh was angry about the census. Yahweh punished the people of Israel because of this counting, and as a result the officials did not write the total number of Israelite men able to serve in the army on the scroll about King David's rule.

²⁵Azmaveth, son of Adiel, was in charge of the king's storehouses. son of Uzziah, was in charge of the agriculture storehouses in other towns and villages in Israel, as well as the watchtowers.

²⁶Ezri son of Kelub was in charge of the workers who farmed the land that belonged to the king.

²⁷Shimei from the city of Ramath was in charge of the king's vineyards. from the city of Shepham was in charge of storing the wine from the grapes produced in the vineyards.

²⁸Baal-Hanan from the city of Geder was in charge of the groves of olive and sycamore trees in the western foothills. Joash was in charge of storing the olive oil.

²⁹Shitrai from the Plain of Sharon was in charge of the herds of cattle that grazed there. son of Adlai was in charge of the cattle in the valleys.

³⁰Obil, a descendant of Ishmael, was in charge of the camels. from the city of Meronoth was in charge of the donkeys.

³¹Jaziz, a descendant of Hagar, was in charge of the king's flocks of sheep.

All of those officials were in charge of the things that belonged to King David.

³²David's uncle Jonathan was a wise counselor for him and an official secretary. son of Hacmoni, taught the king's sons.

³³Ahithophel was the king's official counselor. from the Ark people group was the king's friend.

³⁴Benaiah's son Jehoiada became the king's advisor after Ahithophel died, and later Abiathar became his advisor. was the chief commander of the army.

Chapter 28

¹David summoned all the leaders of Israel to come to Jerusalem. He summoned the leaders of the tribes, the leaders of the groups that worked for the king, the commanders of 1,000 soldiers, the commanders of 100 soldiers, those who were in charge of all the king's property and his livestock, those who taught his sons, all the palace officials, and his mighty soldiers and bravest warriors.

²King David stood up and said, "My fellow Israelites, listen to me. I wanted to build a temple to be a place where we would put the sacred chest symbolizing the agreement between Yahweh and the people of Israel, where the sacred

chest would act as the place of God's presence. And I made plans to build the temple. ³But God said to me, 'You are not the one to arrange the building of a temple to honor me, because you have fought battles and have killed people.'

⁴But Yahweh, the God to whom we Israelites belong, had chosen me and my descendants from all my relatives to be the kings of Israel forever. First he chose Judah to be a leader, and then from among the people of Judah and from my relatives, from among all my brothers, he chose me to be the king over all of Israel. ⁵Yahweh has given me many sons, but from them all he chose my son Solomon to be the next king to rule his kingdom of Israel. ⁶He said to me, 'Solomon your son is the one who will arrange to build my temple and the courtyards around it, because I have chosen him to be like my son and I will be like his father. ⁷I will enable his kingdom to endure forever if he continues to obey my laws and decrees, like he is doing now.'

⁸So now, while all you people of Israel, all of you who belong to Yahweh, are watching, and while God is listening, I command all you people to carefully obey all the commands of Yahweh our God, in order that you may continue to possess this good land and enable your descendants to inherit it forever.

⁹And you, my son Solomon, must know God like I know him, and you must serve him faithfully and because you want to. You must do that because he knows what everyone is thinking and he understands the reasons that people do what they do. If you seek to know him, he will heed your prayers. But if you abandon him, he will abandon you forever. ¹⁰Recognize that Yahweh has chosen you to arrange the building of a temple for him. Be strong and do what he wants you to do."

¹¹Then David gave to his son Solomon the scroll which contained the plans for the buildings of the temple, its porch, its storerooms, all the other upper rooms, the holy place, and the very holy place which will contain the sacred chest and its lid. ¹²The scroll also contained the plans that he had for building the courtyards for Yahweh's temple and all the surrounding rooms, including the rooms for the temple's money and the rooms for valuable things that people dedicated to God. ¹³David gave Solomon instructions for the work groups of priests and other descendants of Levi, about all the work that they must do to serve in Yahweh's temple, and about taking care of all the things they would use in the work at the temple. ¹⁴He had written down how much gold and how much silver to use to make all the items in the regular functions of the temple. The measurements of the amount of gold and silver were by weight. ¹⁵There was a list of how much gold to use for making the gold lampstands and the lamps, how much silver to use to make the silver lampstands and lamps, ¹⁶how much gold to use for making the table on which the priests would put the bread to display before God, how much silver to make the silver tables, ¹⁷how much pure gold for the meat forks and the bowls and the cups, how much gold for each gold dish, how much silver for each silver dish, ¹⁸how much refined gold to use to make the altar for burning incense, and how to make the golden statues of winged creatures that would be above the sacred chest symbolizing the agreement between Yahweh and the people of Israel, like a chariot for him.

¹⁹Then David said, "I have written all these plans with Yahweh's direction. He has enabled me to understand all the details of his plan for the temple's construction."

²⁰David also said to his son Solomon, "Be strong and courageous, and do this work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, because Yahweh our God, whom I worship, will be with you. He will not fail to help you or abandon you until you finish all the work of making his temple. ²¹Look, the groups of priests and other descendants of Levi are ready to begin their work at God's temple, and every man who has a special skill will help you in all the work. And my officials and the other people will obey you, whatever you command them to do."

Chapter 29

¹Then King David said to all the people who had gathered there, "My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen to be the next king, is young and does not have much experience. This endeavor of building the temple is large and significant, because this glorious building will not be to honor people, but to honor Yahweh our God. ²From all the things that I possess, I have provided the resources to build the temple of my God—gold for the things made

of gold, silver for the things made of silver, bronze for the things made of bronze, iron for the things made of iron, wood for the things made of wood, and large amounts of onyx for inlays and turquoise and other valuable stones of various colors, and marble. ³In addition to all these things that I have given for the holy temple, I am giving my own treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, because I very earnestly desire the construction of this temple for my God. ⁴I am giving about 100 metric tons of gold from Ophir and 230 metric tons of refined silver to cover the walls of the buildings, ⁵for making the other items of gold and silver, and for the other work the craftsmen will do. So now, I ask you, who is willing to show by contributing other gifts for the building of the temple that he has dedicated himself to Yahweh?"

⁶Then the leaders of the families, the leaders of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of 1,000 soldiers and the commanders of 100 soldiers, and the officials who supervised the work that the king wanted done, gave gifts willingly. ⁷For the work at the temple they gave 165 metric tons and eighty-four kilograms of gold, 330 metric tons of silver, 600 metric tons of bronze, and 3,300 metric tons of iron. ⁸Any people who owned valuable stones donated them to Yahweh's temple. Officials stored the stones in the storeroom of the temple. Jehiel, a descendant of Gershon, was in charge of the stones. ⁹The people were happy to see that their leaders wanted to give those things; they were happy and enthusiastic to give those things to Yahweh. And King David also was very happy.

¹⁰Then, in front of all the people there, David praised Yahweh. He said,

"We praise you, Yahweh,

the God whom our ancestor Jacob worshiped.

We will praise you forever!

¹¹You, Yahweh, are great and powerful;

you are glorious, majestic and wonderful.

All of this is true because everything in heaven and on the earth is yours.

You are the king of all the world

and the exalted ruler of everything.

¹²Wealth and honor come from you;

you reign over all things.

Because you are very powerful,

you are able to cause anyone to be great and be strong.

¹³So now, our God, we thank you,

and we praise you for being majestic.

¹⁴But I and my people are not really able to give anything to you,

because everything that we have comes from you;

the things that we have given to you are only the things that we have received from you.

¹⁵You know that we are like foreigners and strangers to you, as our ancestors were.

Our years here on earth are like a shadow that disappears quickly;

we know that there is nothing that can enable us to escape dying.

¹⁶Yahweh our God, we have gathered all these things to use in building your temple to glorify your reputation as holy,

but all of it really belongs to you, and you have given it to us. We give it all back to you.

¹⁷My God, I know that you test us people,

and you are pleased when we do what is right.

All these things I have given to you because I wanted to.

And now I am pleased to see that your people have gathered in this place and generously given things to you.

¹⁸Yahweh, the God whom our ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob worshiped,

help your people continue to desire to do things like this forever,

and help them be loyal to you.

¹⁹Please enable my son Solomon to faithfully and sincerely obey all of your laws

and do everything that is needed to build this temple

for which I have provided all these things."

²⁰Then David said to all the people who were gathered there, "Praise Yahweh our God!" So they all praised Yahweh the God whom their ancestors also worshiped. They prostrated themselves on the ground in front of Yahweh and in front of the king.

²¹The next day the people offered sacrifices to Yahweh. They presented many animals that they completely burned on the altar: 1,000 bulls, 1,000 rams, 1,000 young sheep, offerings of wine, and many other sacrifices for all the people of Israel to eat. ²²On that day the people were joyful and ate and drank in Yahweh's honor.

Then for the second time they declared that Solomon, David's son, was now the king. They anointed him with olive oil to be the king on behalf of Yahweh, and they anointed Zadok to be the high priest. ²³So Solomon sat on the throne which represented Yahweh's reign over Israel. Solomon became king in the place of his father David. During the following years Solomon prospered, and all the Israelite people obeyed him. ²⁴All the officers and mighty warriors, as well as King David's other sons accepted Solomon as their king and promised to obey him.

²⁵Yahweh caused all the Israelite people to highly respect Solomon. Yahweh gave him a splendid kingdom. No king of Israel who served Yahweh received such a kingdom like Solomon did.

²⁶Jesse's son David was the king who ruled all of Israel. ²⁷He ruled over Israel for 40 years: seven years in the city of Hebron and 33 years in Jerusalem. ²⁸He was very rich and very much honored, and he became an old man. Then he died, and his son Solomon became the king in David's place.

²⁹Take note, a record of all the things that King David did while he ruled, from the beginning to the end, the prophets Samuel, Nathan, and Gad wrote on scrolls. ³⁰They told about his powerful rule, and all the things that happened to him and to the people of Israel and in the kingdoms of other countries while he was ruling Israel.

Contributors

unfoldingWord® Simplified Text Contributors

Nicholas Alsop
Larry T Brooks, M.Div., Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
Matt Carlton
George "Drew" Curley, M.Div., PhD, Professor of Biblical Languages
Paul M Fahnestock, M.Div. Reformed Theological Seminary, D. Min. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Michael Francis
Laura Glassel, MA in Bible Translation
Kailey Gregory
Jesse Griffin, BA Biblical Studies, MA Biblical Languages
C. Harry Harriss, M.Div.
Alrick G. Headley, M.Div., Th.M.
Bram van den Heuvel, M.A.
John Huffman
D. Allen Hutchison, MA in Old Testament, MA in New Testament
Robert Hunt
Demsin Lachin
Jack Messarra
Gene Mullen
Adam W. Nagelvoort, M.Div. Academic Ministries, Columbia International University
Timothy Neu, Ph.D. Biblical Studies
Kristy Nickell
Tom Nickell
Elizabeth Oakes, BA in Religious Studies, Linguistics
Perry Oakes, PhD in Old Testament, MA in Linguistics
James N. Pohlig, M.Div., MA in Linguistics, D. Litt. in Biblical Languages
Ward Pyles, M.Div., Western Baptist Theological Seminary
Susan Quigley, MA in Linguistics
Dean Ropp
Joel D. Ruark, M.A.Th., Th.M., Ph.D. in Old Testament, University of Stellenbosch
Larry Sallee, Th.M Dallas Theological Seminary, D.Min. Columbia Biblical Seminary
Peter Smircich, BA Philosophy
Christopher Smith, M.A.T.S. Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Ph.D. Boston College
Leonard Smith
Dave Statezni, BA Orig langs., M.Div. Fuller Theological Seminary
David Trombold, M. Div.
James Vigen
Hendrik "Henry" de Vries
Thomas Warren, M.Div., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, D.Min, Reformed Theological Seminary
Angela Westmoreland, M.A. in Theological Studies (Biblical Language track)
Henry Whitney, BA Linguistics
Benjamin Wright, MA Applied Linguistics, Dallas International University
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