

1 Chronicles 1

Rendered into E-Prime by Dr. David F. Maas

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E-Prime consists of a paraphrase in which we have endeavored to replace all “to be” verbs (is, are, were, was, etc.) with concrete active verbs, eliminating the “is of identity” (instead of “John is a teacher,” we use “John teaches.”), the “is of predication” (instead of “The apple is sweet,” we use “The apple tastes sweet.”), as well as the passive voice and phantom subjects (instead of “Blessed is the man,” we use “God blesses the man.”). By performing these linguistic procedures, we have hoped to create a crisp, direct, and sparkling document.

Genealogy from Adam

^{1(A)}Adam, Seth, Enosh,

²Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared,

³Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech,

⁴Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth.

^{5(B)}The sons of Japheth we identify as Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech and Tiras.

⁶The sons of Gomer we identify as Ashkenaz, Diphath, and Togarmah.

⁷The sons of Javan we identify as Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim and Rodanim.

⁸The sons of Ham we identify as Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

⁹The sons of Cush we identify as Seba, Havilah, Sabta, Raama and Sabteca; and the sons of Raamah we identify as Sheba and Dedan.

¹⁰Cush became the father of Nimrod; he began to act like a mighty one in the earth.

¹¹(C) Mizraim became the father of the people of Lud, Anam, Lehab, Naphtuh,

¹²Pathrus, Casluh, from which the Philistines came, and Caphtor.

¹³Canaan became the father of Sidon, his firstborn, Heth,

¹⁴and the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites,

¹⁵the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites,

¹⁶the Arvadites, the Zemarites and the Hamathites.

¹⁷(D) The sons of Shem we identify as Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, Aram, Uz, Hul, Gether and Meshech.

¹⁸Arpachshad became the father of Shelah and Shelah became the father of Eber.

¹⁹ Eber had two sons , the name of the one we call Peleg, for in his days the earth became divided, and his brother they named Joktan.

²⁰Joktan became the father of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,

²¹Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,

²²Ebal, Abimael, Sheba,

²³Ophir, Havilah and Jobab; all these we identify as the sons of Joktan.

²⁴(E) Shem, Arpachshad, Shelah,

²⁵Eber, Peleg, Reu,

²⁶Serug, Nahor, Terah,

²⁷Abram, namely, Abraham.

Descendants of Abraham

²⁸The sons of Abraham we identify as Isaac and Ishmael.

²⁹(E) These we acknowledge as their genealogies: the firstborn of Ishmael we identify as Nebaioth, then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,

³⁰ Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema,

³¹ Jetur, Naphish and Kedemah; these we identify as the sons of Ishmael.

³²(G) The sons of Keturah, Abraham's concubine, whom she bore, we identify as Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah. And the sons of Jokshan we identify as Sheba and Dedan.

³³ The sons of Midian we identify as Ephah, Ephher, Hanoch, Abida and Eldaah. All these we identify as the sons of Keturah.

³⁴(H) Abraham became the father of Isaac. The sons of Isaac we identify as (I) Esau and Israel.

³⁵(J) The sons of Esau we identify as Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam and Korah.

³⁶ The sons of Eliphaz we identify as Teman, Omar, Zephi, Gatam, Kenaz, Timna and Amalek.

³⁷ The sons of Reuel we identify as Nahath, Zerah, Shammah and Mizzah.

³⁸(K) The sons of Seir we identify as Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer and Dishan.

³⁹ The sons of Lotan we identify as Hori and Homam; and Lotan's sister we identify as Timna.

⁴⁰ The sons of Shobal we identify as Alian, Manahath, Ebal, Shephi and Onam. And the sons of Zibeon we identify as Aiah and Anah.

⁴¹ The son of Anah we identify as Dishon. And the sons of Dishon we identify as Hamran, Eshban, Ithran and Cheran.

⁴² The sons of Ezer we identify as Bilhan, Zaavan and Jaakan. The sons of Dishan we identify as Uz and Aran.

⁴³(L) Now these kings reigned in the land of Edom before any king of the sons of Israel reigned. Bela we identify as the son of Beor, and his city had the name of Dinhabah.

⁴⁴ When Bela died, Jobab the son of Zerah of (M) Bozrah became king in his place.

⁴⁵When Jobab died, Husham of the land of ^(N)the Temanites became king in his place.

⁴⁶When Husham died, Hadad the son of Bedad, who defeated Midian in the field of Moab, became king in his place; and his city has the name of Avith.

⁴⁷When Hadad died, Samlah of Masrekah became king in his place.

⁴⁸When Samlah died, Shaul of Rehoboth by the River became king in his place.

⁴⁹When Shaul died, Baal-hanan the son of Achbor became king in his place.

⁵⁰When Baal-hanan died, Hadad became king in his place; and his city had the name of Pai, and his wife had the name of Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Mezahab.

⁵¹Then Hadad died. Now the chiefs of Edom we identify as: chief Timna, chief Aliah, chief Jetheth,

⁵²chief Oholibamah, chief Elah, chief Pinon,

⁵³chief Kenaz, chief Teman, chief Mibzar,

⁵⁴chief Magdiel, chief Iram. These we identify as the chiefs of Edom.

1 Chronicles 2

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Genealogy: Twelve Sons of Jacob (Israel)

^{1(A)}These we identify as the sons of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun,

²Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad and Asher.

^{3(B)}The sons of Judah we identify as Er, Onan and Shelah; these three became born to him by Bath-shua the Canaanitess. And Er, Judah's firstborn, did wickedly in the sight of the LORD, so He put him to death.

⁴(C)Tamar his daughter-in-law bore him Perez and Zerah. Judah had five sons in all.

⁵The sons of Perez we identify as Hezron and Hamul.

⁶The sons of Zerah we identify as Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Calcol and Dara; five of them in all.

⁷The son of Carmi we identify as (D)Achar, the troubler of Israel, who violated the ban.

⁸The son of Ethan we identify as Azariah.

Genealogy of David

⁹Now the sons of Hezron, who became born to him we identify as Jerahmeel, Ram and Chelubai.

¹⁰Ram became the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, leader of the sons of Judah;

¹¹Nahshon became the father of Salma, Salma became the father of Boaz,

¹²Boaz became the father of Obed, and Obed became the father of Jesse;

¹³and Jesse became the father of Eliab his firstborn, then Abinadab the second, Shimea the third,

¹⁴Nethanel the fourth, Raddai the fifth,

¹⁵Ozem the sixth, David the seventh;

¹⁶and their sisters we identify as Zeruiah and Abigail. And the three sons of Zeruiah we identify as Abshai, Joab and Asahel.

¹⁷Abigail bore Amasa, and the father of Amasa we identify as Jether the Ishmaelite.

¹⁸Now Caleb the son of Hezron had sons by Azubah his wife, and by Jerioth; and these we identify as her sons: Jeshar, Shobab, and Ardon.

¹⁹When Azubah died, Caleb married Ephrath, who bore him Hur.

²⁰Hur became the father of Uri, and Uri became the father of Bezalel.

²¹Afterward Hezron went in to the daughter of Machir the father of Gilead, whom he married when he reached sixty years old; and she bore him Segub.

²²Segub became the father of Jair, who had twenty-three cities in the land of Gilead.

²³But Geshur and Aram took the towns of Jair from them, with Kenath and its villages, even sixty cities. All these we identify as the sons of Machir, the father of Gilead.

²⁴After the death of Hezron in Caleb-ephraim, Abijah, Hezron's wife, bore him Ashhur the father of Tekoa.

²⁵Now the sons of Jerahmeel the firstborn of Hezron we identify as Ram the firstborn, then Bunah, Oren, Ozem and Ahijah.

²⁶Jerahmeel had another wife, who had the name of Atarah; she had a son named Onam.

²⁷The sons of Ram, the firstborn of Jerahmeel, we identify as Maaz, Jamin and Eker.

²⁸The sons of Onam we identify as Shammai and Jada. And the sons of Shammai we identify as Nadab and Abishur.

²⁹Abishur's wife had the name Abihail, and she bore him Ahban and Molid.

³⁰The sons of Nadab we identify as Seled and Appaim, and Seled died without sons.

³¹Appaim's son had the name of Ishi. And Ishi had a son named Sheshan. And Sheshan's son had the name of Ahlai.

³²The sons of Jada the brother of Shammai we identify as Jether and Jonathan, and Jether died without sons.

³³The sons of Jonathan we identify as Peleth and Zaza. These we identify as the sons of Jerahmeel.

³⁴Now Sheshan had no sons, only daughters. And Sheshan had an Egyptian servant who had the name of Jarha.

³⁵Sheshan gave his daughter to Jarha his servant in marriage, and she bore him Attai.

³⁶Attai became the father of Nathan, and Nathan became the father of Zabad,

³⁷and Zabad became the father of Ephlal, and Ephlal became the father of Obed,

³⁸and Obed became the father of Jehu, and Jehu became the father of Azariah,

³⁹and Azariah became the father of Helez, and Helez became the father of Eleasah,

⁴⁰and Eleasah became the father of Sismai, and Sismai became the father of Shallum,

⁴¹and Shallum became the father of Jekamiah, and Jekamiah became the father of Elishama.

⁴²Now the sons of Caleb, the brother of Jerahmeel, we identify as Mesha his firstborn, who we identify as the father of Ziph; and his son had the name of Mareshah, the father of Hebron.

⁴³The sons of Hebron we identify as Korah and Tappuah and Rekem and Shema.

⁴⁴Shema became the father of Raham, the father of Jorkeam; and Rekem became the father of Shammai.

⁴⁵The son of Shammai had the name of Maon, and Maon we identify as the father of Bethzur.

⁴⁶Ephah, Caleb's concubine, bore Haran, Moza and Gazez; and Haran became the father of Gazez.

⁴⁷The sons of Jahdai we identify as Regem, Jotham, Geshan, Pelet, Ephah and Shaaph.

⁴⁸Maacah, Caleb's concubine, bore Sheber and Tirhanah.

⁴⁹She also bore Shaaph the father of Madmannah, Sheva the father of Machbena and the father of Gibeaz; and the daughter of Caleb we identify as Achsah.

⁵⁰These we identify as the sons of Caleb. The sons of Hur, the firstborn of Ephrathah, we identify as Shobal the father of Kiriath-jearim,

⁵¹Salma the father of Bethlehem and Hareph the father of Beth-gader.

⁵²Shobal the father of Kiriath-jearim had sons: Haroeh, half of the Manahathites,

⁵³and the families of Kiriath-jearim: the Ithrites, the Puthites, the Shumathites and the Mishraitites; from these came the Zorathites and the Eshtaolites.

⁵⁴The sons of Salma we identify as Bethlehem and the Netophathites, Atroth-beth-joab and half of the Manahathites, the Zorites.

⁵⁵The families of scribes who lived at Jabez we identify as the Tirathites, the Shimeathites and the Sucathites. Those we identify as the Kenites who came from Hammath, the father of the house of Rechab.

1 Chronicles 3

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Family of David

¹^(A)Now these we identify as the sons of David who became born to him in Hebron: the firstborn was Amnon, by Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; the second was Daniel, by Abigail the Carmelitess;

²the third we identify as Absalom the son of Maacah, the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; the fourth we identify as Adonijah the son of Haggith;

³the fifth we identify as Shephatiah, by Abital; the sixth we identify as Ithream, by his wife Eglah.

⁴Six began their nativity in Hebron, and ^(B)there he reigned seven years and six months. And in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years.

⁵^(C)These became born to him in Jerusalem: Shimea, Shobab, Nathan and ^(D)Solomon, four, by ^(E)Bath-shua the daughter of Ammiel;

⁶and Ibhar, Elishama, Eliphelet,

⁷Nogah, Nepheg and Japhia,

⁸Elishama, Eliada and Eliphelet, nine.

⁹All these we identify as the sons of David, besides the sons of the concubines; and ^(E)Tamar we identify as their sister.

¹⁰Now Solomon's son had the name of Rehoboam, Abijah we identify as his son, Asa his son, Jehoshaphat his son,

¹¹Joram his son, Ahaziah his son, Joash his son,

¹²Amaziah his son, Azariah his son, Jotham his son,

¹³Ahaz his son, Hezekiah his son, Manasseh his son,

¹⁴Amon his son, Josiah his son.

¹⁵The sons of Josiah we identify Johanan the firstborn, and the second we identify as Jehoiakim, the third Zedekiah, the fourth Shallum.

¹⁶The sons of Jehoiakim we identify as Jeconiah his son, Zedekiah his son.

¹⁷The sons of Jeconiah, the prisoner, we identify as Shealtiel his son,

¹⁸and Malchiram, Pedaiah, Shenazzar, Jekamiah, Hoshama and Nedabiah.

¹⁹The sons of Pedaiah we identify as Zerubbabel and Shimei. And the sons of Zerubbabel we identify as Meshullam and Hananiah, and Shelomith we identify as their sister;

²⁰and Hashubah, Ohel, Berechiah, Hasadiah and Jushab-hesed, five.

²¹The sons of Hananiah we identify as Pelatiah and Jeshaiiah, the sons of Rephaiah, the sons of Arnan, the sons of Obadiah, the sons of Shecaniah.

²²The ^[a]descendants of Shecaniah were Shemaiah, and the sons of Shemaiah: Hattush, Igal, Bariah, Neariah and Shaphat, six.

²³The sons of Neariah we identify as Elioenai, Hizkiah and Azrikam, three.

²⁴The sons of Elioenai we identify as Hodaviah, Eliashib, Pelaiah, Akkub, Johanan, Delaiah and Anani, seven.

1 Chronicles 4

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Line of Hur, Asher

^{1(A)}The sons of Judah we identify as Perez, Hezron, Carmi, Hur and Shobal.

²Reaiah the son of Shobal became the father of Jahath, and Jahath became the father of Ahumai and Lahad. These we identify as the families of the Zorathites.

³These we identify as the sons of Etam: Jezreel, Ishma and Idbash; and their sister had the name of Hazzelponi.

⁴Penuel we identify as the father of Gedor, and Ezer the father of Hushah. These we identify as the sons of Hur, the firstborn of Ephrathah, the father of Bethlehem.

⁵Ashhur, the father of Tekoa, had two wives, Helah and Naarah.

⁶Naarah bore him Ahuzzam, Hephher, Temeni and Haahashtari. These we identify as the sons of Naarah.

⁷The sons of Helah we identify as Zereth, Izhar and Ethnan.

⁸Koz became the father of Anub and Zobebah, and the families of Aharhel the son of Harum.

⁹Jabez behaved more honorably than his brothers, and his mother named him Jabez saying, "Because I bore him with pain."

¹⁰Now Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might remain with me, and that You would keep me from harm that it may not pain me!" And God granted him what he requested.

¹¹Chelub the brother of Shuhah became the father of Mehir, who we identify as the father of Eshton.

¹²Eshton became the father of Beth-rapha and Paseah, and Tehinnah the father of Ir-nahash. These we identify as the men of Recah.

¹³Now the sons of Kenaz we identify as Othniel and Seraiah. And the sons of Othniel we identify as Hathath and Meonothai.

¹⁴Meonothai became the father of Ophrah, and Seraiah became the father of Joab the father of Ge-harashim, for they served as craftsmen.

¹⁵The sons of Caleb the son of Jephunneh we identify as Iru, Elah and Naam; and Elah had a son named Kenaz.

¹⁶The sons of Jehallelel we identify as Ziph and Ziphah, Tiria and Asarel.

¹⁷The sons of Ezra we identify as Jether, Mered, Epher and Jalon. (And these we identify as the sons of Bithia the daughter of Pharaoh, whom Mered took) and she conceived and bore Miriam, Shammai and Ishbah the father of Eshtemoa.

¹⁸His Jewish wife bore Jered the father of Gedor, and Heber the father of Soco, and Jekuthiel the father of Zanoah.

¹⁹The sons of the wife of Hodiah, the sister of Naham, we identify as the fathers of Keilah the Garmite and Eshtemoa the Maacathite.

²⁰The sons of Shimon we identify as Amnon and Rinnah, Benhanan and Tilon. And the sons of Ishi we identify as Zoheth and Ben-zoheth.

²¹The sons of Shelah the son of Judah we identify as Er the father of Lecah and Laadah the father of Mareshah, and the families of the house of the linen workers at Beth-ashbea;

²²and Jokim, the men of Cozeba, Joash, Saraph, who ruled in Moab, and Jashubi-lehem. And the records seem ancient.

²³These served as the potters and the inhabitants of Netaim and Gederah; they lived there with the king for his work.

Descendants of Simeon

²⁴The sons of Simeon we identify as Nemuel and Jamin, Jarib, Zerah, Shaul;

²⁵Shallum his son, Mibsam his son, Mishma his son.

²⁶The sons of Mishma we identify as Hammuel his son, Zaccur his son, Shimei his son.

²⁷Now Shimei had sixteen sons and six daughters; but his brothers did not have many sons, nor did all their family multiply like the sons of Judah.

²⁸They lived at Beersheba, Moladah and Hazar-shual,

²⁹at Bilhah, Ezem, Tolad,

³⁰Bethuel, Hormah, Ziklag,

³¹Beth-marcaboth, Hazar-susim, Beth-biri and Shaaraim. These we identify as their cities until the reign of David.

³²Their villages we identify as Etam, Ain, Rimmon, Tochen and Ashan, five cities;

³³and all their villages that surrounded the same cities as far as Baal. These they considered their settlements, and they have their genealogy.

³⁴Meshobab and Jamlech and Joshah the son of Amaziah,

³⁵and Joel and Jehu the son of Joshibiah, the son of Seraiah, the son of Asiel,

³⁶and Elioenai, Jaakobah, Jeshohaiah, Asaiah, Adiel, Jesimiel, Benaiah,

³⁷Ziza the son of Shiphi, the son of Allon, the son of Jedaiah, the son of Shimri, the son of Shemaiah;

³⁸these mentioned by name served as leaders in their families; and their fathers' houses increased greatly.

³⁹They went to the entrance of Gedor, even to the east side of the valley, to seek pasture for their flocks.

⁴⁰They found rich and good pasture, and ^(B)the land seemed broad and quiet and peaceful; for those who lived there formerly consisted of Hamites.

⁴¹^(C)These, recorded by name, came in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and attacked their tents and the Meunites who lived there, and destroyed them utterly to this day, and lived in their place, because they had pasture there for their flocks.

⁴²From them, from the sons of Simeon, five hundred men went to ^(D)Mount Seir, with Pelatiah, Neariah, Rephaiah and Uzziel, the sons of Ishi, as their leaders.

⁴³(E) They destroyed the remnant of the Amalekites who escaped, and have lived there to this day.

1 Chronicles 5

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Genealogy from Reuben

¹Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for people recognized him as the firstborn, but because ^(B)he defiled his father's bed, ^(C)his birthright fell to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel; so that he does not appear in the genealogy according to the birthright.

²(D) Though Judah prevailed over his brothers, and ^(E)from him came the leader, yet the birthright belonged to Joseph),

³(E) the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel we identify as Hanoch and Pallu, Hezron and Carmi.

⁴The sons of Joel we identify as Shemaiah his son, Gog his son, ^(G)Shimei his son,

⁵Micah his son, Reaiah his son, Baal his son,

⁶Beerah his son, whom Tilgath-pilneser king of Assyria carried away into exile; he served as leader of the Reubenites.

⁷His kinsmen by their families, ^(H)in the genealogy of their generations, included Jeiel the chief, then Zechariah

⁸and Bela the son of Azaz, the son of Shema, the son of Joel, who lived in ^(I)Aroer, even to Nebo and Baal-meon.

⁹To the east he settled as far as the entrance of the wilderness from the river Euphrates, ^(J)because their cattle had increased in the land of Gilead.

¹⁰In the days of Saul ^(K)they made war with the Hagrites, who fell by their hand, so that they occupied their tents throughout all the land east of Gilead.

¹¹Now the sons of Gad lived opposite them in the land of ^(L)Bashan as far as ^(M)Salecah.

¹²Joel served as the chief and Shapham the second, then Janai and Shaphat in Bashan.

¹³Their kinsmen of their fathers' households we identify as Michael, Meshullam, Sheba, Jorai, Jacan, Zia and Eber, seven.

¹⁴These we identify as the sons of Abihail, the son of Huri, the son of Jaroah, the son of Gilead, the son of Michael, the son of Jeshishai, the son of Jahdo, the son of Buz;

¹⁵Ahi the son of Abdiel, the son of Guni, served as head of their fathers' households.

¹⁶They lived in Gilead, in Bashan and in its towns, and in all the pasture lands of ^(N)Sharon, as far as their borders.

¹⁷All of these appeared in the genealogies in the days of ^(Q)Jotham king of Judah and in the days of ^(P)Jeroboam king of Israel.

¹⁸The sons of Reuben and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, consisting of valiant men, men who bore shield and sword and shot with bow and proved skillful in battle, numbered 44,760, who ^(Q)went to war.

¹⁹They made war against ^(R)the Hagarites, ^(S)Jetur, Naphish and Nodab.

²⁰They were helped against them, and the Hagarites and all who lived with them fell into their hand; for ^(I)they cried out to God in the battle, and He answered their prayers because ^(U)they trusted in Him.

²¹They took away their cattle: their 50,000 camels, 250,000 sheep, 2,000 donkeys; and 100,000 men.

²²For many fell slain, because ^(V)the war emanated from God And ^(W)they settled in their place until the ^(X)exile.

²³Now the sons of the half-tribe of Manasseh lived in the land; from Bashan to Baal-hermon and ^(Y)Senir and Mount Hermon they grew numerous.

²⁴These served as the heads of their fathers' households, even Epher, Ishi, Eliel, Azriel, Jeremiah, Hodaviah and Jahdiel, mighty men of valor, famous men, heads of their fathers' households.

²⁵But they ^(Z)acted treacherously against the God of their fathers and ^(AA)played the harlot ^(AB)after the gods of the peoples of the land, whom God had destroyed before them.

²⁶So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of ^(AC)Pul, king of Assyria, even the spirit of Tilgath-pilneser king of Assyria, and he ^(AD)carried them away into exile, namely the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, and brought them to Halah, Habor, Hara and to the river of Gozan, to this day.

1 Chronicles 6

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Genealogy: The Priestly Line

^{1(A)}The sons of Levi we identify as Gershon, Kohath and Merari.

²The sons of Kohath we identify as Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel.

³The children of Amram we identify as Aaron, Moses and Miriam. And the sons of Aaron we identify as Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

⁴Eleazar became the father of Phinehas, and Phinehas became the father of Abishua,

⁵and Abishua became the father of Bukki, and Bukki became the father of Uzzi,

⁶and Uzzi became the father of Zerahiah, and Zerahiah became the father of Meraioth,

⁷Meraioth became the father of Amariah, and Amariah became the father of Ahitub,

⁸and ^(B)Ahitub became the father of Zadok, and Zadok ^(C)became the father of Ahimaaz,

⁹and Ahimaaz became the father of Azariah, and Azariah became the father of Johanan,

¹⁰and Johanan became the father of Azariah (he served as the priest in the house ^(E)which Solomon built in Jerusalem),

¹¹and ^(E)Azariah became the father of Amariah, and Amariah became the father of Ahitub,

¹²and Ahitub became the father of Zadok, and Zadok became the father of Shallum,

¹³and Shallum became the father of Hilkiah, and Hilkiah became the father of Azariah,

¹⁴and Azariah became the father of ^(G)Seraiah, and Seraiah became the father of Jehozadak;

¹⁵and Jehozadak went along when the LORD carried Judah and Jerusalem away into exile by Nebuchadnezzar.

¹⁶^(H)The sons of Levi we identify as Gershon, Kohath and Merari.

¹⁷These are the names of the sons of Gershon: Libni and Shimei.

¹⁸The sons of Kohath we identify as Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel.

¹⁹The sons of ^(I)Merari we identify as Mahli and Mushi. And these we identify as the families of the Levites according to their fathers' households.

²⁰Of Gershon: Libni his son, Jahath his son, Zimmah his son,

²¹Joah his son, Iddo his son, Zerah his son, Jeatherai his son.

²²The sons of Kohath we identify as Amminadab his son, Korah his son, Assir his son,

²³Elkanah his son, Ebiasaph his son and Assir his son,

²⁴Tahath his son, Uriel his son, Uzziyah his son and Shaul his son.

²⁵The sons of Elkanah we identify as Amasai and Ahimoth.

²⁶As for Elkanah, the sons of Elkanah we identify as Zophai his son and Nahath his son,

²⁷Eliab his son, Jeroham his son, Elkanah his son.

²⁸The sons of Samuel we identify as ^(J)Joel the firstborn, and Abijah the second.

²⁹The sons of Merari we identify as Mahli, Libni his son, Shimei his son, Uzzah his son,

³⁰Shimea his son, Haggiah his son, Asaiah his son.

³¹^(K)Now these David appointed over the service of song in the house of the LORD, ^(L)after the ark rested there.

³²They ministered with song before the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, until Solomon had built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem; and they served in their office according to their order.

³³These served with their sons: From the sons of the Kohathites we identify as Heman the singer, the son of Joel, the son of Samuel,

³⁴the son of Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Eliel, the son of Toah,

³⁵the son of Zuph, the son of Elkanah, the son of Mahath, the son of Amasai,

³⁶the son of Elkanah, the son of Joel, the son of Azariah, the son of Zephaniah,

³⁷the son of Tahath, the son of Assir, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah,

³⁸the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, the son of Israel.

³⁹Heman's brother Asaph stood at his right hand, even Asaph the son of Berechiah, the son of Shimea,

⁴⁰the son of Michael, the son of Baaseiah, the son of Malchijah,

⁴¹the son of Ethni, the son of Zerah, the son of Adaiah,

⁴²the son of Ethan, the son of Zimmah, the son of Shimei,

⁴³the son of Jahath, the son of Gershon, the son of Levi.

⁴⁴On the left hand we identify their kinsmen the sons of Merari: Ethan the son of Kishi, the son of Abdi, the son of Malluch,

⁴⁵the son of Hashabiah, the son of Amaziah, the son of Hilkiah,

⁴⁶the son of Amzi, the son of Bani, the son of Shemer,

⁴⁷the son of Mahli, the son of Mushi, the son of Merari, the son of Levi.

⁴⁸Their kinsmen the Levites received appointment for all the service of the tabernacle of the house of God.

⁴⁹But Aaron and his sons ^(M)offered on the altar of burnt offering and ^(N)on the altar of incense, for all the work of the most holy place, and ^(O)to make atonement for Israel, according to all that Moses the servant of God had commanded.

⁵⁰^(P)These we identify as the sons of Aaron: Eleazar his son, Phinehas his son, Abishua his son,

⁵¹Bukki his son, Uzzi his son, Zerahiah his son,

⁵²Meraioth his son, Amariah his son, Ahitub his son,

⁵³Zadok his son, Ahimaaz his son.

⁵⁴Now these we identify as their settlements according to their camps within their borders. To the sons of Aaron of the families of the Kohathites (for theirs became the ^(Q)first lot),

⁵⁵to them they gave ^(R)Hebron in the land of Judah and its pasture lands around it;

⁵⁶^(S)but the fields of the city and its villages, they gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh.

⁵⁷^(T)To the sons of Aaron they gave the following cities of refuge: Hebron, Libnah also with its pasture lands, Jattir, Eshtemoa with its pasture lands,

⁵⁸Hilen with its pasture lands, Debir with its pasture lands,

⁵⁹Ashan with its pasture lands and Beth-shemesh with its pasture lands;

⁶⁰and from the tribe of Benjamin: Geba with its pasture lands, Allemeth with its pasture lands, and Anathoth with its pasture lands. All their cities throughout their families consisted of thirteen cities.

⁶¹^(U)Then to the rest of the sons of Kohath they gave by lot, from the family of the tribe, from the half-tribe, the half of Manasseh, ten cities.

⁶²To the sons of Gershom, according to their families, they received from the tribe of Issachar and from the tribe of Asher, the tribe of Naphtali, and the tribe of Manasseh, thirteen cities in Bashan.

⁶³^(V)To the sons of Merari they gave by lot, according to their families, from the tribe of Reuben, the tribe of Gad and the tribe of Zebulun, twelve cities.

⁶⁴^(W)So the sons of Israel gave to the Levites the cities with their pasture lands.

⁶⁵They gave by lot from the tribe of the sons of Judah, the tribe of the sons of Simeon and the tribe of the sons of Benjamin, ^(X)these cities which they have mentioned by name.

⁶⁶^(Y)Now some of the families of the sons of Kohath had cities of their territory from the tribe of Ephraim.

⁶⁷They gave to them the following cities of refuge: Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim with its pasture lands, Gezer also with its pasture lands,

⁶⁸Jokmeam with its pasture lands, Beth-horon with its pasture lands,

⁶⁹Aijalon with its pasture lands and Gath-rimmon with its pasture lands;

⁷⁰and from the half-tribe of Manasseh: Aner with its pasture lands and Bileam with its pasture lands, for the rest of the family of the sons of Kohath.

⁷¹To the sons of Gershom they gave, from the family of the half-tribe of Manasseh: Golan in Bashan with its pasture lands and Ashtaroth with its pasture lands;

⁷²and from the tribe of Issachar: Kedesh with its pasture lands, Daberath with its pasture lands

⁷³and Ramoth with its pasture lands, Anem with its pasture lands;

⁷⁴and from the tribe of Asher: Mashal with its pasture lands, Abdon with its pasture lands,

⁷⁵Hukok with its pasture lands and Rehob with its pasture lands;

⁷⁶and from the tribe of Naphtali: Kedesh in Galilee with its pasture lands, Hammon with its pasture lands and Kiriathaim with its pasture lands.

⁷⁷To the rest of the Levites, the sons of Merari, they gave, from the tribe of Zebulun: Rimmono with its pasture lands, Tabor with its pasture lands;

⁷⁸and beyond the Jordan at Jericho, on the east side of the Jordan, they gave them, from the tribe of Reuben: Bezer in the wilderness with its pasture lands, Jahzah with its pasture lands,

⁷⁹Kedemoth with its pasture lands and Mephaath with its pasture lands;

⁸⁰and from the tribe of Gad: Ramoth in Gilead with its pasture lands, Mahanaim with its pasture lands,

⁸¹Heshbon with its pasture lands and Jazer with its pasture lands.

1 Chronicles 7

NASB E-Prime DFM

Genealogy from Issachar

¹Now the sons of Issachar we count four: Tola, Puah, Jashub and Shimron.

²The sons of Tola we identify as Uzzi, Rephaiah, Jeriel, Jahmai, Ibsam and Samuel, heads of their fathers' households. The sons of Tola served as mighty men of valor in their generations; ^(A)their number in the days of David reached 22,600.

³ Uzzi's son had the name of Izrahiah. And the sons of Izrahiah we identify as Michael, Obadiah, Joel, Isshiah; all five of them served as ^(B)chief men.

⁴With them by their generations according to their fathers' households numbered 36,000 troops of the army for war, for they had many wives and sons.

⁵Their relatives among all the families of Issachar proved mighty men of valor, enrolled by genealogy, in all 87,000.

Descendants of Benjamin

⁶(C)The sons of Benjamin we count as three: Bela and Becher and Jediael.

⁷The sons of Bela were five: Ezbon, Uzzi, Uzziel, Jerimoth and Iri. They served as heads of fathers' households, mighty men of valor, and numbered 22,034 enrolled by genealogy.

⁸The sons of Becher we identify as Zemirah, Joash, Eliezer, Elioenai, Omri, Jeremoth, Abijah, Anathoth and Alemeth. All these we identify as the sons of Becher.

⁹They became enrolled by genealogy, according to their generations, heads of their fathers' households, 20,200 mighty men of valor.

¹⁰ Jediael had a son named Bilhan. And the sons of Bilhan we identify as Jeush, Benjamin, Ehud, Chenaanah, Zethan, Tarshish and Ahishahar.

¹¹All these we identify as sons of Jediael, according to the heads of their fathers' households, 17,200 mighty men of valor, who would go out with the army to war.

¹²Shuppim and Huppim we identify as the sons of Ir; Hushim we identify as the son of Aher.

Sons of Naphtali

¹³The sons of Naphtali we identify as Jahziel, Guni, Jezer, and Shallum, the sons of Bilhah.

Descendants of Manasseh

¹⁴The sons of Manasseh we identify as Asriel, whom his Aramean concubine bore; she bore Machir the father of Gilead.

¹⁵Machir took a wife for Huppim and Shuppim, whose sister had the name of Maacah. And the second had the name of Zelophehad, and Zelophehad had daughters.

¹⁶Maacah the wife of Machir bore a son, and she named him Peresh; and the brother had the name of Sheresh, and his sons we identify as Ulam and Rakem.

¹⁷Ulam's son had the name of Bedan. These we identify as the sons of Gilead the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh.

¹⁸His sister Hammolecheth bore Ishhod and Abiezer and Mahlah.

¹⁹The sons of Shemida we identify as Ahian and Shechem and Likhi and Aniam.

Descendants of Ephraim

²⁰^(D)The sons of Ephraim we identify as Shuthelah and Bered his son, Tahath his son, Eleadah his son, Tahath his son,

²¹Zabad his son, Shuthelah his son, and Ezer and Elead whom the men of Gath who had become born in the land killed, because they came down to take their livestock.

²²Their father Ephraim ^(E)mourned many days, and his relatives ^(E)came to comfort him.

²³Then he went in to his wife, and she conceived and bore a son, and he named him Beriah, because misfortune had come upon his house.

²⁴His daughter had the name of Sheerah, ^(G)who built lower and upper Beth-horon, also Uzen-sheerah.

²⁵ His son had the name of Rephah along with Resheph, Telah his son, Tahan his son,

²⁶Ladan his son, Ammihud his son, Elishama his son,

²⁷Non his son and ^(H)Joshua his son.

²⁸^(I)Their possessions and settlements consisted of Bethel with its towns, and to the east Naaran, and to the west Gezer with its towns, and Shechem with its towns as far as Ayyah with its towns,

²⁹and along the borders of the sons of Manasseh, Beth-shean with its towns, Taanach with its towns, Megiddo with its towns, Dor with its towns. In these lived the ^(J)sons of Joseph the son of Israel.

Descendants of Asher

³⁰^(K)The sons of Asher we identify as Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi and Beriah, and Serah their sister.

³¹The sons of Beriah we identify as Heber and Malchiel, who had Birzaith as a son.

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

³³The sons of Japhlet we identify as Pasach, Bimhal and Ashvath. These consisted of Japhlet's sons.

³⁴The sons of Shemer we identify as Ahi and Rohgah, Jehubbah and Aram.

³⁵The sons of his brother Helem we identify as Zophah, Imna, Shelesh and Amal.

³⁶The sons of Zophah we identify as Suah, Harnepher, Shual, Beri and Imrah,

³⁷Bezer, Hod, Shamma, Shilshah, Ithran and Beera.

³⁸The sons of Jether we identify as Jephunneh, Pispah and Ara.

³⁹The sons of Ulla we identify as Arah, Hanniel and Rizia.

⁴⁰All these we identify as the sons of Asher, heads of the fathers' houses, choice and mighty men of valor, heads of the princes. And the number of them enrolled by genealogy for service in war consisted of 26,000 men

1 Chronicles 8

NASB E-Prime DFM

Genealogy from Benjamin

¹And ^(A)Benjamin became the father of Bela his firstborn, Ashbel the second, ^(B)Aharah the third,

²Nohah the fourth and Rapha the fifth.

³Bela had sons: Addar, Gera, Abihud,

⁴Abishua, Naaman, Ahoah,

⁵Gera, Shephuphan and Huram.

⁶These we identify as the sons of Ehud: these served as the heads of fathers' households of the inhabitants of Geba, and they carried them into exile to Manahath,

⁷namely, Naaman, Ahijah and Gera--he carried them into exile; and he became the father of Uzza and Ahihud.

⁸Shaharaim became the father of children in the country of Moab after he had sent away Hushim and Baara his wives.

⁹By Hodesh his wife he became the father of Jobab, Zibia, Mesha, Malcam,

¹⁰Jeuz, Sachia, Mirmah. These we identify as his sons, heads of fathers' households.

¹¹By Hushim he became the father of Abitub and Elpaal.

¹²The sons of Elpaal we identify as Eber, Misham, and Shemed, who built Ono and Lod, with its towns;

¹³and Beriah and Shema, who served as heads of fathers' households of the inhabitants of Aijalon, who put to flight the inhabitants of Gath;

¹⁴and Ahio, Shashak and Jeremoth.

¹⁵Zebadiah, Arad, Eder,

¹⁶Michael, Ishpah and Joha we identify as the sons of Beriah.

¹⁷Zebadiah, Meshullam, Hizki, Heber,

¹⁸Ishmerai, Izliah and Jobab we identify as the sons of Elpaal.

¹⁹Jakim, Zichri, Zabdi,

²⁰Elienai, Zillethai, Eliel,

²¹Adaiah, Beraiah and Shimrath we identify as the sons of Shimei.

²²Ishpan, Eber, Eliel,

²³Abdon, Zichri, Hanan,

²⁴Hananiah, Elam, Anthothijah,

²⁵Iphdeiah and Penuel we identify as the sons of Shashak.

²⁶Shamsherai, Shehariah, Athaliah,

²⁷Jaareshiah, Elijah and Zichri we identify as the sons of Jeroham.

²⁸These served as heads of the fathers' households according to their generations, chief men who lived in Jerusalem.

²⁹(C) Now in Gibeon, Jeiel, the father of Gibeon lived, and his wife had the name of Maacah;

³⁰and his firstborn son we identify as Abdon, then Zur, Kish, Baal, Nadab,

³¹Gedor, Ahio and Zecher.

³²Mikloth became the father of Shimeah. And they also lived with their relatives in Jerusalem opposite their other relatives.

Genealogy from King Saul

³³(D) Ner became the father of Kish, and Kish became the father of Saul, and Saul became the father of Jonathan, Malchi-shua, Abinadab and Eshbaal.

³⁴The son of Jonathan we identify as Merib-baal, and Merib-baal became the father of Micah.

³⁵The sons of Micah we identify as Pithon, Melech, Tarea and Ahaz.

³⁶Ahaz became the father of Jehoaddah, and Jehoaddah became the father of Alemeth, Azmaveth and Zimri; and Zimri became the father of Moza.

³⁷Moza became the father of Binea; Raphah we identify as his son, Eleasah his son, Azel his son.

³⁸Azel had six sons, and they had the names of: Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah and Hanan. All these we identify as the sons of Azel.

³⁹The sons of Eshek his brother we identify as Ulam his firstborn, Jeush the second and Eliphelet the third.

⁴⁰The sons of Ulam we identify as mighty men of valor, archers, and had many sons and grandsons, 150 of them. All these we identify as the sons of Benjamin.

1 Chronicles 9

NASB E-Prime DFM

People of Jerusalem

¹So all Israel became enrolled by genealogies; and behold, we read them in the Book of the Kings of Israel. And ^(A)Judah fell into exile to Babylon for their unfaithfulness.

²^(B)Now the first who lived in their possessions in their cities consisted of Israel, the priests, the Levites and ^(C)the temple servants.

³Some of the sons of Judah, of the sons of Benjamin and of the sons of Ephraim and Manasseh lived in ^(D)Jerusalem:

⁴Uthai the son of Ammihud, the son of Omri, the son of Imri, the son of Bani, from the sons of Perez the ^(E)son of Judah.

⁵From the Shilonites we identify as Asaiah the firstborn and his sons.

⁶From the sons of Zerah we identify as Jeuel and their relatives, 690 of them.

⁷From the sons of Benjamin we identify as Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Hodaviah, the son of Hassenuah,

⁸and Ibneiah the son of Jeroham, and Elah the son of Uzzi, the son of Michri, and Meshullam the son of Shephatiah, the son of Reuel, the son of Ibrijah;

⁹and their relatives according to their generations, ^(F)956. All these served as heads of fathers' households according to their fathers' houses.

¹⁰^(G)From the priests we identify Jedaiah, Jehoiarib, Jachin,

¹¹and Azariah the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, ^(H)the chief officer of the house of God;

¹²and Adaiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pashhur, the son of Malchijah, and Maasai the son of Adiel, the son of Jahzerah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Meshillemith, the son of Immer;

¹³and their relatives, heads of their fathers' households, 1,760 very able men for the work of the service of the house of God.

^{14(I)}Of the Levites we identify as Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, of the sons of Merari;

¹⁵and Bakbakkar, Heresh and Galal and Mattaniah the son of Mica, the son of Zichri, the son of Asaph,

¹⁶and Obadiah the son of Shemaiah, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun, and Berechiah the son of Asa, the son of Elkanah, who lived in the villages of the Netophathites.

¹⁷Now the gatekeepers we identify as Shallum and Akkub and Talmon and Ahiman and their relatives (Shallum the chief

stationed until now at ^(J)the king's gate to the east). These served as the gatekeepers for the camp of the sons of Levi.

¹⁹Shallum the son of Kore, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah, and his relatives of his father's house, the Korahites, presided over the work of the service, keepers of the thresholds of the tent; and their fathers had presided over the camp of the LORD, keepers of the entrance.

^{20(K)}Phinehas the son of Eleazar served as ruler over them previously, and the LORD remained with him.

^{21(L)}Zechariah the son of Meshelemiah served as gatekeeper of the entrance of the tent of meeting.

²²All these who they had chosen to serve as gatekeepers at the thresholds numbered 212. These became enrolled by genealogy in their villages, ^(M)whom David and Samuel the seer appointed ^(N)in their office of trust.

²³So they and their sons had charge of the gates of the house of the LORD, even the house of the tent, as guards.

²⁴The gatekeepers served on the four sides, to the east, west, north and south.

²⁵Their relatives in their villages would come in every seven days from time to time to remain with them;

²⁶for the four chief gatekeepers who served as Levites, served in an office of trust, and served over the chambers and over the treasuries in the house of God.

²⁷They spent the night around the house of God, ^(P)because the watch had become committed to them; and they found themselves in charge of opening it morning by morning.

²⁸Now some of them had charge of the utensils of service, for they counted them when they brought them in and when they took them out.

²⁹Some of them also had received appointment over the furniture and over all the utensils of the sanctuary and ^(Q)over the fine flour and the wine and the oil and the frankincense and the spices.

³⁰Some of ^(R)the sons of the priests prepared the mixing of the spices.

³¹Mattithiah, one of the Levites, Shallum the Korahite's firstborn, had ^(S)the responsibility over the things which they baked in pans.

³²Some of their relatives of the sons of the Kohathites presided over the showbread to prepare it every sabbath.

³³Now these we identify as ^(U)the singers, heads of fathers' households of the Levites, who lived in the chambers of the temple free from other service; for they engaged themselves in their work day and night.

³⁴These served as heads of fathers' households of the Levites according to their generations, chief men, who lived in Jerusalem.

Ancestry and Descendants of Saul

³⁵^(W)In Gibeon Jeiel the father of Gibeon lived, and his wife had the name of Maacah,

³⁶and his firstborn son was Abdon, then Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner, Nadab,

³⁷Gedor, Ahio, Zechariah and Mikloth.

³⁸Mikloth became the father of Shimeam. And they also lived with their relatives in Jerusalem opposite their other relatives.

³⁹(X) Ner became the father of Kish, and Kish became the father of Saul, and Saul became the father of Jonathan, Malchi-shua, Abinadab and Eshbaal.

⁴⁰ Merib-baal , the son of Jonathan, had a son named Jonathan and a son named Micah.

⁴¹The sons of Micah we identify as Pithon, Melech, Tahrea (Y)and Ahaz.

⁴²Ahaz became the father of Jarah, and Jarah became the father of Alemeth, Azmaveth and Zimri; and Zimri became the father of Moza,

⁴³and Moza became the father of Binea and Rephaiah his son, Eleasah his son, Azel his son.

⁴⁴Azel had six sons who had the names : Azrikam, Bocheru and Ishmael and Sheariah and Obadiah and Hanan. These we identify as the sons of Azel.

1 Chronicles 10

NASB E-Prime DFM

Defeat and Death of Saul and His Sons

¹(A) Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled before the Philistines and fell slain on Mount Gilboa.

²The Philistines closely pursued Saul and his sons, and the Philistines struck down Jonathan, (B)Abinadab and Malchi-shua, the sons of Saul.

³The battle became heavy against Saul, and the archers overtook him; and the archers wounded him.

⁴Then Saul said to his armor bearer, "Draw your sword and thrust me through with it, otherwise these uncircumcised will come and abuse me." But his armor bearer would not, for he felt greatly afraid. (C)Therefore Saul took his sword and fell on it.

⁵When his armor bearer saw that Saul had died, he likewise fell on his sword and died.

⁶^(D)Thus Saul died with his three sons, and all those of his house died together.

⁷When all the men of Israel in the valley saw that they had fled, and that Saul and his sons had died, they forsook their cities and fled; and the Philistines came and lived in them.

⁸It came about the next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.

⁹^(E)So they stripped him and took his head and his armor and sent messengers around the land of the Philistines to carry the good news to their idols and to the people.

¹⁰They put his armor in the house of their gods and fastened his head in the house of Dagon.

Jabesh-gilead's Tribute to Saul

¹¹When all Jabesh-gilead heard all that the Philistines had done to Saul,

¹²^(E)all the valiant men arose and took away the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons and brought them to Jabesh, and they buried their bones under the oak in Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

¹³^(G)So Saul died for his trespass which he committed against the LORD, because of the word of the LORD which he did not keep; and also ^(H)because he asked counsel of a medium, making inquiry of it,

¹⁴and did not inquire of the LORD. Therefore He killed him and ^(I)turned the kingdom to David the son of Jesse.

1 Chronicles 11

NASB E-Prime DFM

David Made King over All Israel

¹^(A)Then all Israel gathered to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we consider ourselves your bone and your flesh.

²"In times past, even when Saul was king, you led out and brought in Israel; and the LORD your God said to you, ^(B)"You shall shepherd My people Israel, and you shall serve as prince over My people Israel."

³So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them in Hebron before the LORD; and ^(C)they anointed David king over Israel, ^(D)according to the word of the LORD through Samuel.

Jerusalem, Capital City

⁴Then David and all Israel went to Jerusalem (namely, Jebus); and the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, lived there.

⁵The inhabitants of Jebus said to David, "You shall not enter here." Nevertheless David captured the stronghold of Zion (namely, the city of David).

⁶Now David had said, "Whoever strikes down a Jebusite first shall become chief and commander." ^(E)Joab the son of Zeruiah went up first, so he became chief.

⁷Then David dwelt in the stronghold; therefore it received the name the city of David.

⁸He built the city all around, from the ^[a]Millo even to the surrounding area; and Joab repaired the rest of the city.

⁹^(G)David became greater and greater, for the LORD of hosts dwelled with him.

David's Mighty Men

¹⁰^(H)Now these serve as the heads of the mighty men whom David had, who gave him strong support in his kingdom, together with all Israel, to make him king, ^(I)according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel.

¹¹These constitute the list of the mighty men whom David had:
^(J)Jashobeam, the son of a Hachmonite, ^(K)the chief of the thirty; he lifted up his spear against three hundred whom he killed at one time.

¹²After him came Eleazar the son of ^(L)Dodo, the Ahohite, who served as one of the three mighty men.

¹³He served with David at Pasdammim ^(M)when the Philistines gathered together there to battle, and there he found a plot of ground full of barley; and the people fled before the Philistines.

¹⁴They took their stand in the midst of the plot and defended it, and struck down the Philistines; and the LORD saved them by a great victory.

¹⁵Now three of the thirty chief men went down to the rock to David, into the cave of Adullam, while ^(N)the army of the Philistines camped in the valley of Rephaim.

¹⁶David remained then in the stronghold, while ^(O)the garrison of the Philistines lay in Bethlehem.

¹⁷David had a craving and said, "Oh that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem, which stands by the gate!"

¹⁸So the three broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water from the well of Bethlehem which stood by the gate, and took it and brought it to David; nevertheless David would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD;

¹⁹and he said, " May it stay from me before my God that I should do this. Shall I drink the blood of these men who went at the risk of their lives? For at the risk of their lives they brought it." Therefore he would not drink it. These things the three mighty men did.

²⁰As for Abshai the brother of Joab, he served as chief of the thirty, and he swung his spear against three hundred and killed them; and he had a name as well as the thirty.

²¹Of the three in the second rank he had the most honor and became their commander; however, he did not attain to the first three.

²²^(P)Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel, mighty in deeds, struck down the two sons of Ariel of Moab. He also went down and killed a lion inside a pit on a snowy day.

²³He killed an Egyptian, a man of great stature five cubits tall. Now in the Egyptian's hand he held ^(Q)a spear like a weaver's beam, but he went down to him with a club and snatched the spear from the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear.

²⁴These things Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and had a name as well as the three mighty men.

²⁵Behold, he received honor among the thirty, but he did not attain to the three; and David appointed him over his guard.

²⁶Now the mighty men of the armies we identify as Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,

²⁷Shammoth the Harorite, Helez the Pelonite,

²⁸Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, Abiezer the Anathothite,

²⁹Sibbecai the Hushathite, Ilai the Ahohite,

³⁰Maharai the Netophathite, Heled the son of Baanah the Netophathite,

³¹Ithai the son of Ribai of Gibeah of the sons of Benjamin, Benaiah the Pirathonite,

³²Hurai of the brooks of Gaash, Abiel the Arbathite,

³³Azmaveth the Baharumite, Eliahba the Shaalbonite,

³⁴the sons of Hashem the Gizonite, Jonathan the son of Shagee the Hararite,

³⁵Ahiam the son of Sacar the Hararite, Eliphai the son of Ur,

³⁶Hepher the Mecherathite, Ahijah the Pelonite,

³⁷Hezro the Carmelite, Naarai the son of Ezbai,

³⁸Joel the brother of Nathan, Mibhar the son of Hagri,

³⁹Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Berothite, the armor bearer of Joab the son of Zeruiah,

⁴⁰Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite,

⁴¹Uriah the Hittite, Zabad the son of Ahlai,

⁴²Adina the son of Shiza the Reubenite, a chief of the Reubenites, and thirty with him,

⁴³Hanan the son of Maacah and Joshaphat the Mithnite,

⁴⁴Uzzia the Ashterathite, Shama and Jeiel the sons of Hotham the Aroerite,

⁴⁵Jediael the son of Shimri and Joha his brother, the Tizite,

⁴⁶Eliel the Mahavite and Jeribai and Joshaviah, the sons of Elnaam, and Ithmah the Moabite,

⁴⁷Eliel and Obed and Jaasiel the Mezobaite.

1 Chronicles 12

NASB E-Prime DFM

David's Supporters in Ziklag

¹(A) Now these came to David at Ziklag, while he felt still restricted because of Saul the son of Kish; and they served among the mighty men who helped him in war.

²They equipped themselves with bows, (B) using both the right hand and the left to sling stones and to shoot arrows from the bow; we knew them as Saul's kinsmen from Benjamin.

³The chief we identify as Ahiezer, then Joash, the sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite; and Jeziel and Pelet, the sons of Azmaveth, and Beracah and Jehu the Anathothite,

⁴and Ishmaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the thirty, and over the thirty. Then Jeremiah, Jahaziel, Johanan, Jozabad the Gederathite,

⁵Eluzai, Jerimoth, Bealiah, Shemariah, Shephatiah the Haruphite,

⁶Elkanah, Isshiah, Azarel, Joezer, Jashobeam, the Korahites,

⁷and Joelah and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham of Gedor.

⁸From the Gadites there came over to David in the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty men of valor, men trained for war, who could handle

shield and spear, and whose faces resembled the faces of lions, and ^(D)they seemed as swift as the gazelles on the mountains.

⁹Ezer became the first, Obadiah the second, Eliab the third,

¹⁰Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth,

¹¹Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh,

¹²Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth,

¹³Jeremiah the tenth, Machbannai the eleventh.

¹⁴These of the sons of Gad became captains of the army; ^(E)he who seemed least proved equal to a hundred and the greatest to a thousand.

¹⁵^(E)These we identify as the ones who crossed the Jordan in the first month when it overflowed all its banks and they put to flight all those in the valleys, both to the east and to the west.

¹⁶Then some of the sons of Benjamin and Judah came to the stronghold to David.

¹⁷David went out to meet them, and said to them, "If you come peacefully to me to help me, my heart shall unite with you; but if to betray me to my adversaries, since I have done no wrong in my hands, may the God of our fathers look on it and decide."

¹⁸Then ^(G)the Spirit came upon ^(H)Amasai, who served as the chief of the thirty, and he said,

"We belong to you, O David,
And with you, O son of Jesse!

^(I)Peace, peace to you,
And peace to him who helps you;
Indeed, your God helps you!"

Then David received them and made them captains of the band.

¹⁹^(J)From Manasseh also some defected to David when he would go to battle with the Philistines against Saul. But they did not help them, for the lords of the Philistines after consultation sent him away, saying, "At the cost of our heads he may defect to his master Saul."

²⁰As he went to Ziklag there defected to him from Manasseh: Adnah, Jozabad, Jediahel, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu and Zillethai, captains of thousands who belonged to Manasseh.

²¹They helped David against ^(K)the band of raiders, for they proved all mighty men of valor, and served as captains in the army.

²²For day by day men came to David to help him, until there came a great army ^(L)like the army of God.

Supporters Gathered at Hebron

²³Now these we count as the numbers of the divisions equipped for war, ^(M)who came to David at Hebron, ^(N)to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, ^(O)according to the word of the LORD.

²⁴The sons of Judah who bore shield and spear numbered 6,800, equipped for war.

²⁵Of the sons of Simeon, mighty men of valor for war, 7,100.

²⁶Of the sons of Levi 4,600.

²⁷Now Jehoiada served as the leader of the house of Aaron, and with him numbered 3,700,

²⁸also ^(P)Zadok, a young man mighty of valor, and of his father's house twenty-two captains.

²⁹Of the sons of Benjamin, ^(Q)Saul's kinsmen, 3,000; for until now ^(R)the greatest part of them had kept their allegiance to the house of Saul.

³⁰Of the sons of Ephraim 20,800, mighty men of valor, famous men in their fathers' households.

³¹Of the half-tribe of Manasseh 18,000, who received the designation by name to come and make David king.

³²Of the sons of Issachar, ^(S)men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs added up to two hundred; and all their kinsmen served at their command.

³³Of Zebulun, there numbered 50,000 who went out in the army, who could draw up in battle formation with all kinds of weapons of war and helped David with ^(T)an undivided heart.

³⁴Of Naphtali there numbered 1,000 captains, and with them 37,000 with shield and spear.

³⁵Of the Danites who could draw up in battle formation, there numbered 28,600.

³⁶Of Asher there numbered 40,000 who went out in the army to draw up in battle formation.

³⁷From the other side of the Jordan, of the Reubenites and the Gadites and of the half-tribe of Manasseh, there numbered 120,000 with all kinds of weapons of war for the battle.

³⁸All these, being men of war who could draw up in battle formation, came to Hebron with ^(U)a perfect heart to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest also of Israel had one mind to make David king.

³⁹They remained there with David three days, eating and drinking, for their kinsmen had prepared for them.

⁴⁰Moreover those who remained near to them, even as far as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, ^(V)brought food on donkeys, camels, mules and on oxen, great quantities of flour cakes, fig cakes and bunches of raisins, wine, oil, oxen and sheep. There came joy indeed in Israel.

1 Chronicles 13

NASB E-Prime DFM

Peril in Transporting the Ark

¹Then David consulted with the captains of the thousands and the hundreds, even with every leader.

²David said to all the assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you, and if it has come from the LORD our God, let us send everywhere to our kinsmen who remain in all the land of Israel, also to the priests and Levites who remain with them in their cities with pasture lands, that they may meet with us;

³and let us bring back the ark of our God to us, ^(A)for we did not seek it in the days of Saul."

⁴Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for the thing seemed right in the eyes of all the people.

⁵^(B)So David assembled all Israel together, from the Shihor of Egypt even to the entrance of Hamath, ^(C)to bring the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim.

⁶^(D)David and all Israel went up to ^(E)Baalath, namely, to Kiriath-jearim, which belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, the LORD ^(E)who enthrones Himself above the cherubim, where they call His name .

⁷They carried the ark of God on a new cart from ^(G)the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart.

⁸David and all Israel celebrated before God with all their might, ^(H)even with songs and with lyres, harps, tambourines, cymbals and with trumpets.

⁹When they came to ^(I)the threshing floor of Chidon, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, because the oxen nearly upset it.

¹⁰The anger of the LORD burned against Uzza, so He struck him down ^(J)because he put out his hand to the ark; ^(K)and he died there before God.

¹¹Then David became angry because of the LORD'S outburst against Uzza; and he called that place ^[a]Perez-uzza to this day.

¹²David felt afraid of God that day, saying, "How can I bring the ark of God home to me?"

¹³So David did not take the ark with him to the city of David, but took it aside ^(L)to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.

¹⁴Thus the ark of God remained with the family of Obed-edom in his house three months; and ^(M)the LORD blessed the family of Obed-edom with all that he had.

1 Chronicles 14

NASB E-Prime DFM

David's Family Enlarged

¹^(A)Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David with cedar trees, masons and carpenters, to build a house for him.

²And David realized that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that his kingdom had become highly exalted, for the sake of His people Israel.

³Then David took more wives at Jerusalem, and David became the father of more sons and daughters.

⁴^(B)These we identify as the names of the children born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon,

⁵Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet,

⁶Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia,

⁷Elishama, Beeliada and Eliphelet.

Philistines Defeated

⁸When the Philistines heard that the people had anointed David king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up in search of David; and David heard of it and went out against them.

⁹Now the Philistines had come and ^(C)made a raid in the valley of Rephaim.

¹⁰David inquired of God, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? And will You give them into my hand?" Then the LORD said to him, "Go up, for I will give them into your hand."

¹¹So they came up to Baal-perazim, and David defeated them there; and David said, "God has broken through my enemies by my hand, like the breakthrough of waters." Therefore they named that place ^[a]Baal-perazim.

¹²They abandoned their gods there; so David gave the order and they burned them with fire.

¹³The Philistines made ^(D)yet another raid in the valley.

¹⁴David inquired again of God, and God said to him, "You shall not go up after them; circle around behind them and come at them in front of the balsam trees.

¹⁵"It shall come to pass when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then you shall go out to battle, for God will have gone out before you to strike the army of the Philistines."

¹⁶David did just as God had commanded him, and they struck down the army of the Philistines from Gibeon even as far as Gezer.

¹⁷Then the fame of David went out into all the lands; and ^(E)the LORD brought the fear of him on all the nations.

1 Chronicles 15

NASB E-Prime DFM

Plans to Move the Ark to Jerusalem

¹Now David built houses for himself in the city of David; and he prepared a place for the ark of God and ^(A)pitched a tent for it.

²Then David said, "^(B)No one will carry the ark of God but the Levites; for the LORD chose them to carry the ark of God and to minister to Him forever."

³And ^(C)David assembled all Israel at Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the LORD ^(D)to its place which he had prepared for it.

⁴David gathered together the sons of Aaron and ^(E)the Levites:

⁵of the sons of Kohath, Uriel the chief, and 120 of his relatives;

⁶of the sons of Merari, Asaiah the chief, and 220 of his relatives;

⁷of the sons of Gershon, Joel the chief, and 130 of his relatives;

⁸of the sons of Elizaphan, Shemaiah the chief, and 200 of his relatives;

⁹of the sons of Hebron, Eliel the chief, and 80 of his relatives;

¹⁰of the sons of Uzziel, Amminadab the chief, and 112 of his relatives.

¹¹Then David called for ^(F)Zadok and ^(G)Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel and Amminadab,

¹²and said to them, "You represent the heads of the fathers' households of the Levites; ^(H)consecrate yourselves both you and your relatives, that you

may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel ^(I)to the place that I have prepared for it.

¹³^(J)Because you did not carry it at the first, the LORD our God made an outburst on us, for we did not seek Him according to the ordinance."

¹⁴^(K)So the priests and the Levites consecrated themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁵The sons of ^(L)the Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles thereon, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD.

¹⁶Then David spoke to the chiefs of the Levites ^(M)to appoint their relatives the singers, with instruments of music, harps, lyres, loud-sounding cymbals, to raise sounds of joy.

¹⁷So ^(N)the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel, and from his relatives, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and from the sons of Merari their relatives, Ethan the son of Kushaiah,

¹⁸and with them their relatives of the second rank, Zechariah, Ben, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-edom and Jeiel, the gatekeepers.

¹⁹So the singers, Heman, Asaph and Ethan received appointment to sound aloud cymbals of bronze;

²⁰and Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah and Benaiah, with harps tuned to ^(O)alamoth;

²¹and Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-edom, Jeiel and Azaziah, to lead with lyres tuned to ^(P)the sheminith.

²²Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, took charge of the singing; he gave instruction in singing because he had skill.

²³Berechiah and Elkanah served as gatekeepers for the ark.

²⁴Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah and Eliezer, the priests, ^(Q)blew the trumpets before the ark of God. Obed-edom and Jehiah also served as gatekeepers for the ark.

²⁵(R) So David, with the elders of Israel and the captains over thousands, who went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from ^(S)the house of Obed-edom with joy.

²⁶Because God helped the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, they sacrificed ^(I)seven bulls and seven rams.

²⁷Now David clothed himself with a robe of fine linen with all the Levites who carried the ark, and the singers and Chenaniah the leader of the singing with the singers. ^(U)David also wore an ephod of linen.

²⁸Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting, and with sound of the horn, with trumpets, with loud-sounding cymbals, with harps and lyres.

²⁹It happened when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the city of David, that ^(V)Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and celebrating; and she despised him in her heart.

1 Chronicles 16

NASB E-Prime DFM

A Tent for the Ark

¹And they brought in the ark of God and ^(A)placed it inside the tent which David had pitched for it, and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God.

²When David had finished offering the burnt offering and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD.

³He distributed to everyone of Israel, both man and woman, to everyone a loaf of bread and a portion of meat and a raisin cake.

⁴He appointed some of the Levites as ministers before the ark of the LORD, even to celebrate and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel:

⁵Asaph the chief, and second to him Zechariah, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-edom and Jeiel, with musical instruments, harps, lyres; also Asaph played loud-sounding cymbals,

⁶and Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests blew trumpets continually before the ark of the covenant of God.

⁷Then on that day David ^(B)first assigned Asaph and his relatives to give thanks to the LORD.

Psalm of Thanksgiving

⁸^(C)Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name;

^(D)Make known His deeds among the peoples.

⁹Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;

^[a]Speak of all His wonders.

¹⁰Glory in His holy name;

Let the heart of those who seek the LORD receive gladness.

¹¹^(E)Seek the LORD and His strength;

Seek His face continually.

¹²^(E)Remember His wonderful deeds which He has done,

^(G)His marvels and the judgments from His mouth,

¹³O seed of Israel His servant,

Sons of Jacob, His chosen ones!

¹⁴We acknowledge Him as the LORD our God;

^(H)His judgments resound in all the earth.

¹⁵Remember His covenant forever,

The word which He commanded to a thousand generations,

¹⁶^(I)The covenant which He made with Abraham,

And His oath to Isaac.

¹⁷^(J)He also confirmed it to Jacob for a statute,

To Israel as an everlasting covenant,

¹⁸Saying, "^(K)To you I will give the land of Canaan,

As the portion of your inheritance."

¹⁹^(L)When they had only a few in number,

Very few, and strangers in it,

²⁰And they wandered about from nation to nation,

And from one kingdom to another people,

²¹He permitted no man to oppress them,

And ^(M)He reproved kings for their sakes, saying,

²²"Do not touch My anointed ones,

And ^(N)do My prophets no harm."

²³^(O)Sing to the LORD, all the earth;

Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.

²⁴Tell of His glory among the nations,

His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.

²⁵For we acknowledge the Lord as ^(P)great and praiseworthy;

We also fear Him above all gods.

²⁶For the peoples have idols as their gods,
(S)But the LORD made the heavens.
²⁷Splendor and majesty go before Him,
Strength and joy appear in His place.
²⁸Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
²⁹Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;
Bring an offering, and come before Him;
(I)Worship the LORD in holy array.
³⁰Tremble before Him, all the earth;
Indeed, the world has become firmly established, it will not move.
³¹(U)Let the heavens have gladness, and let the earth rejoice;
And let them say among the nations, "(V)The LORD reigns."
³²(W)Let the sea roar, and all it contains;
Let the field exult, and all that grows in it.
³³Then the trees of the forest will sing for joy before the LORD;
For He comes to judge the earth.
³⁴(X)O give thanks to the LORD, for He displays goodness;
For His lovingkindness extends to everlasting.
³⁵(Y)Then say, "Save us, O God of our salvation,
And gather us and deliver us from the nations,
To give thanks to Your holy name,
And glory in Your praise."
³⁶(Z)We bless the LORD, the God of Israel,
From everlasting even to everlasting
Then all the people (AA)said, "Amen," and praised the LORD.

Worship before the Ark

³⁷So he left Asaph and his relatives there (AB)before the ark of the covenant of the LORD to minister before the ark continually, (AC)as every day's work required;

³⁸and (AD)Obed-edom with his 68 relatives; Obed-edom, also the son of Jeduthun, and (AE)Hosah as gatekeepers.

³⁹He left (AF)Zadok the priest and his relatives the priests (AG)before the tabernacle of the LORD in the high place which stood at Gibeon,

⁴⁰to offer burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of burnt offering continually morning and evening, (AH)even according to all that we read in the law of the LORD, which He commanded Israel.

⁴¹With them stood ^(AI)Heman and Jeduthun, and ^(AJ)the rest who they chose, who we designate by name, to ^(AK)give thanks to the LORD, because His lovingkindness extends to everlasting.

⁴²And with them stood Heman and Jeduthun with trumpets and cymbals for those who should sound aloud, and with instruments for ^(AL)the songs of God, and the sons of Jeduthun for the gate.

⁴³^(AM)Then all the people departed each to his house, and David returned to bless his household.

1 Chronicles 17

NASB E-Prime DFM

God's Covenant with David

¹^(A)And it came about, when David dwelt in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, "Behold, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD lies under curtains."

²Then Nathan said to David, "Do all in your heart, for God remains with you."

³It came about the same night that the word of God came to Nathan, saying,

⁴"Go and tell David My servant, 'Thus says the LORD, "^(B)You shall not build a house for Me to dwell in;

⁵for I have not dwelt in a house since the day that I brought up Israel to this day, ^(C)but I have gone from tent to tent and from one dwelling place to another.

⁶"In all places where I have walked with all Israel, have I spoken a word ^(D)with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people, saying, 'Why have you not built for Me a house of cedar?'"

⁷"Now, therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to serve as leader over My people Israel.

⁸"I have dwelled with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a name like the name of the great ones who dwell in the earth.

⁹"I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and they will not move again; and the wicked will not waste them anymore as formerly,

¹⁰even from the day that I commanded judges to serve over My people Israel. And I will subdue all your enemies. Moreover, I tell you that the LORD will build a house for you.

¹¹"When your days reach fulfillment that you must go to die with your fathers, that I will set up one of your descendants after you, one of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom.

¹²"He shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever.

¹³^(E)I will behave as his father and he shall behave as My son; and I will not take My lovingkindness away from him, ^(E)as I took it from him who lived before you.

¹⁴"But I will settle him in My house and in My kingdom forever, and his throne shall last forever.""

¹⁵According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

David's Prayer in Response

¹⁶Then David the king went in and sat before the LORD and said, "^(G)Who do you consider me, O LORD God, and what do you consider my house that You have brought me this far?

¹⁷"This seemed a small thing in Your eyes, O God; but You have spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come, and have regarded me according to the standard of a man of high degree, O LORD God.

¹⁸"What more can David still say to You concerning the honor bestowed on Your servant? For You know Your servant.

¹⁹"O LORD, ^(H)for Your servant's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have wrought all this greatness, to make known all these great things.

²⁰"O LORD, we acknowledge none like You, nor do we regard any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

²¹"And what one nation in the earth can compare Your people Israel, whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make You a name by great and terrible things, in driving out nations from before Your people, whom You redeemed out of Egypt?

²²^(I)For Your people Israel You made Your own people forever, and You, O LORD, became their God.

²³"Now, O LORD, let the word that You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house become established forever, and do as You have spoken.

²⁴"Let us establish Your name and magnify it forever, saying, 'The LORD of hosts we acknowledge as the God of Israel, even a God to Israel; and the house of David Your servant has become established before You.'

²⁵"For You, O my God, have revealed to Your servant that You will build for him a house; therefore Your servant has found courage to pray before You.

²⁶"Now, O LORD, We acknowledge You as God, and have promised this good thing to Your servant.

²⁷"And now it has pleased You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue forever before You; for You, O LORD, have blessed, and it has become blessed forever."

1 Chronicles 18

NASB E-Prime DFM

David's Kingdom Strengthened

¹Now after this ^(A)it came about that David defeated the Philistines and subdued them and took Gath and its towns from the hand of the Philistines.

²He defeated Moab, and the Moabites became servants to David, bringing tribute.

³David also defeated Hadadezer king of Zobah as far as Hamath, as he went to establish his rule to the Euphrates River.

⁴David took from him 1,000 chariots and 7,000 horsemen and 20,000 foot soldiers, and David hamstringed all the chariot horses, but reserved enough of them for 100 chariots.

⁵When the Arameans of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king ^(B)of Zobah, David killed 22,000 men of the Arameans.

⁶Then David put garrisons among the Arameans of Damascus; and the Arameans became servants to David, bringing tribute. And the LORD helped David wherever he went.

⁷David took the shields of gold which the servants of Hadadezer carried and brought them to Jerusalem.

⁸Also from Tibhath and from Cun, cities of Hadadezer, David took a very large amount of bronze, with which ^(C)Solomon made the bronze sea and the pillars and the bronze utensils.

⁹Now when Tou king of Hamath heard that David had defeated all the army of Hadadezer king of Zobah,

¹⁰he sent Hadoram his son to King David to greet him and to bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer and had defeated him; for Hadadezer gone to war with Tou. And Hadoram brought all kinds of articles of gold and silver and bronze.

¹¹King David also dedicated these to the LORD with the silver and the gold which he had carried away from all the nations: from Edom, Moab, the sons of Ammon, the Philistines, and from Amalek.

¹²Moreover Abishai the son of Zeruiah defeated 18,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt.

¹³Then he put garrisons in Edom, and all the Edomites became servants to David. And the LORD helped David wherever he went.

¹⁴So David reigned over all Israel; and he administered justice and righteousness for all his people.

¹⁵^(D)Joab the son of Zeruiah commanded the army, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud served as recorder;

¹⁶and Zadok the son of Ahitub and Abimelech the son of Abiathar served as priests, and Shavsha served as secretary;

¹⁷and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada presided over the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and the sons of David served as chiefs at the king's side.

1 Chronicles 19

NASB E-Prime DFM

David's Messengers Abused

^{1(A)}Now it came about after this, that Nahash the king of the sons of Ammon died, and his son became king in his place.

²Then David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, because his father showed kindness to me." So David sent messengers to console him concerning his father. And David's servants came into the land of the sons of Ammon to Hanun to console him.

³But the princes of the sons of Ammon said to Hanun, "Do you think that David honors your father, in that he has sent comforters to you? Have not his servants come to you to search and to overthrow and to spy out the land?"

⁴So Hanun took David's servants and shaved them and cut off their garments in the middle as far as their hips, and sent them away.

⁵Then certain persons went and told David about the men. And he sent to meet them, for the men felt greatly humiliated. And the king said, "Stay at Jericho until your beards grow, and then return."

⁶When the sons of Ammon saw that they had made themselves odious to David, Hanun and the sons of Ammon sent 1,000 talents of silver to hire for themselves chariots and horsemen from Mesopotamia, from Aram-maacah and ^(B)from Zobah.

⁷So they hired for themselves 32,000 chariots, and the king of Maacah and his people, who came and camped before ^(C)Medeba. And the sons of Ammon gathered together from their cities and came to battle.

⁸When David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the army, the mighty men.

⁹The sons of Ammon came out and drew up in battle array at the entrance of the city, and the kings who had come remained by themselves in the field.

Ammon and Aram Defeated

¹⁰Now when Joab saw that the battle had gone against him in front and in the rear, he selected from all the choice men of Israel and they arrayed themselves against the Arameans.

¹¹But the remainder of the people he placed in the hand of Abshai his brother; and they arrayed themselves against the sons of Ammon.

¹²He said, "If the Arameans have grown too strong for me, then you shall help me; but if the sons of Ammon have grown too strong for you, then I will help you.

¹³"Remain strong, and let us show ourselves courageous for the sake of our people and for the cities of our God; and may the LORD do good in His sight."

¹⁴So Joab and the people who accompanied him drew near to the battle against the Arameans, and they fled before him.

¹⁵When the sons of Ammon saw that the Arameans fled, they also fled before Abshai his brother and entered the city. Then Joab came to Jerusalem.

¹⁶When the Arameans saw that they suffered defeat at the hands of Israel, they sent messengers and brought out the Arameans who lived beyond the [\[a\]](#)River, with Shophach the commander of the army of Hadadezer leading them.

¹⁷When David heard it, he gathered all Israel together and crossed the Jordan, and came upon them and drew up in formation against them. And when David drew up in battle array against the Arameans, they fought against him.

¹⁸The Arameans fled before Israel, and David killed of the Arameans 7,000 charioteers and 40,000 foot soldiers, and put to death Shophach the commander of the army.

¹⁹So when the servants of Hadadezer saw that they suffered defeat at the hands Israel, they made peace with David and served him. Thus the Arameans did not want to help the sons of Ammon anymore.

1 Chronicles 20

NASB E-Prime DFM

War with Philistine Giants

^{1(A)}Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle, that Joab led out the army and ravaged the land of the sons of Ammon, and came and besieged Rabbah But David stayed at Jerusalem And ^(B)Joab struck Rabbah and overthrew it.

^{2(C)}David took the crown of their king from his head, and he found it to weigh a talent of gold, and it had a precious stone in it; and David placed it on His head. And he brought out the spoil of the city, a very great amount.

³He brought out the people who lived in it, ^(D)and cut them with saws and with sharp instruments and with axes. And thus David did to all the cities of the sons of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

^{4(E)}Now it came about after this, that war broke out at Gezer with the Philistines; then Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Sippai, one of the descendants of the giants, and they became subdued.

⁵And war broke out with the Philistines again, and Elhanan the son of ^(E)Jair killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the ^(G)shaft of whose spear resembled a weaver's beam.

⁶Again war broke out at Gath, where there lived a man of great stature who had twenty-four fingers and toes, six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot; and he also had descended from the giants.

⁷When he taunted Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea, David's brother, killed him.

⁸These had descended from the giants in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.

1 Chronicles 21

NASB E-Prime DFM

Census Brings Pestilence

^{1(A)}Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel.

²So David said to Joab and to the princes of the people, "^(B)Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan, and bring me word that I may know their number."

³Joab said, "^(C)May the LORD add to His people a hundred times as many as they actually number! But, my lord the king, do we not recognize them as all my lord's servants? Why does my lord seek this thing? Why should he become a cause of guilt to Israel?"

⁴Nevertheless, the king's word prevailed against Joab. Therefore, Joab departed and went throughout all Israel, and came to Jerusalem.

⁵Joab gave the number of the census of all the people to David. And ^(D)all Israel added up to 1,100,000 men who drew the sword; and Judah numbered 470,000 men who drew the sword.

^{6(E)}But he did not number Levi and Benjamin among them, for the king's command seemed abhorrent to Joab.

⁷God felt displeased with this thing, so He struck Israel.

⁸David said to God, "I have sinned greatly, in that I have done this thing. ^(E)But now, please take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly."

⁹The LORD spoke to ^(G)Gad, David's ^(H)seer, saying,

¹⁰"Go and speak to David, saying, 'Thus says the LORD, "I offer you three things; choose for yourself one of them, which I will do to you.'""

¹¹So Gad came to David and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, 'Take for yourself

^{12(I)}either three years of famine, or three months in which your foes will sweep you away before your foes, while the sword of your enemies overtakes you, or else three days of the sword of the LORD, even pestilence in the land, and the angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the territory

of Israel.' Now, therefore, consider what answer I shall return to Him who sent me."

¹³David said to Gad, "I feel in great distress; please let me fall into the hand of the LORD, ^(J)for His mercies I consider very great. But do not let me fall into the hand of man."

¹⁴^(K)So the LORD sent a pestilence on Israel; 70,000 men of Israel fell.

¹⁵And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it; but as he almost destroyed it, the LORD saw and felt sorry over the calamity, and said to the destroying angel, "Enough; now relax your hand." And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

¹⁶Then David lifted up his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, with his drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, ^(M)covered with sackcloth, fell on their faces.

¹⁷David said to God, "I commanded them to count the people? Indeed, I have sinned and done very wickedly, ^(N)but these sheep, what have they done? O LORD my God, please let Your hand fall against me and my father's household, but not against Your people that they should receive plagues."

David's Altar

¹⁸^(O)Then the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up and build an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

¹⁹So David went up at the word of Gad, which he spoke in the name of the LORD.

²⁰Now Ornan turned back and saw the angel, and his four sons who lived with him hid themselves. And Ornan threshed wheat.

²¹As David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David, and went out from the threshing floor and prostrated himself before David with his face to the ground.

²²Then David said to Ornan, "Give me the site of this threshing floor, that I may build on it an altar to the LORD; for the full price you shall give it to me, that you shall restrain the plague from the people."

²³Ornan said to David, "Take it for yourself; and let my lord the king do good in his sight. See, I will give the oxen for burnt offerings and the threshing sledges for wood and the wheat for the grain offering; I will give it all."

²⁴But King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will surely buy it for the full price; for I will not take what belongs to you for the LORD, or offer a burnt offering which costs me nothing."

²⁵So ^(P)David gave Ornan 600 shekels of gold by weight for the site.

²⁶Then David built an altar to the LORD there and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. And he called to the LORD and ^(Q)He answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering.

²⁷The LORD commanded the angel, and he put his sword back in its sheath.

²⁸At that time, when David saw that the LORD had answered him on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he offered sacrifice there.

²⁹^(R)For the tabernacle of the LORD, which Moses had made in the wilderness, and the altar of burnt offering stood in the high place at Gibeon at that time.

³⁰But David could not go before it to inquire of God, for he felt terrified by the sword of the angel of the LORD.

1 Chronicles 22

NASB E-Prime DFM

David Prepares for Temple Building

¹Then David said, "^(A)This we recognize as the house of the LORD God, and this we recognize the altar of burnt offering for Israel."

²So David gave orders to gather ^(B)the foreigners who lived in the land of Israel, and ^(C)he set stonecutters to hew out stones to build the house of God.

³David ^(D)prepared large quantities of iron to make the nails for the doors of the gates and for the clamps, and more ^(E)bronze than they could weigh;

⁴and timbers of cedar logs beyond number, for ^(E)the Sidonians and Tyrians brought large quantities of cedar timber to David.

⁵David said, "My son ^(G)Solomon I consider young and inexperienced, and the house that he will build for the LORD shall appear exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all lands. Therefore now I will make preparation for it." So David made ample preparations before his death.

Solomon Charged with the Task

⁶Then ^(H)he called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build a house for the LORD God of Israel.

⁷David said to Solomon, "^(I)My son, I had intended to build a house to the name of the LORD my God.

⁸"But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, '^(J)You have shed much blood and have waged great wars; you shall not build a house to My name, because you have shed so much blood on the earth before Me.

⁹Behold, a son you will have shall prove himself a man of rest; and ^(K)I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side; for you shall name him ^[a]Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days.

¹⁰^(M)He shall build a house for My name, and I shall consider him My son and he shall consider him as his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.'

¹¹"Now, my son, ^(N)the LORD remain with you that you may have success, and build the house of the LORD your God just as He has spoken concerning you.

¹²^(O)Only the LORD give you discretion and understanding, and give you charge over Israel, so that you may ^(P)keep the law of the LORD your God.

¹³^(Q)Then you will prosper, if you take care to observe the statutes and the ordinances which the LORD commanded Moses concerning Israel. Remain strong and courageous, do not fear nor have dismay.

¹⁴"Now behold, with great pains I have prepared for the house of the LORD ^(S)100,000 talents of gold and 1,000,000 talents of silver, and ^(T)bronze and

iron beyond weight, for they amass in great quantity; also timber and stone I have prepared, and you may add to them.

¹⁵"Moreover, you have many workmen with you, stonecutters and masons of stone and carpenters, and all men who show skill in every kind of work.

¹⁶"Of the gold, the silver and the bronze and the iron you shall not limit. Arise and work, and may ^(U)the LORD go with you."

¹⁷^(V)David also commanded all the leaders of Israel to help his son Solomon, saying,

¹⁸" Does not the LORD your God accompany you? And ^(W)has He not given you rest on every side? For He has given the inhabitants of the land into my hand, and the land has become subdued before the LORD and before His people.

¹⁹"Now ^(X)set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God; arise, therefore, and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, ^(Y)so that you may bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the holy vessels of God into the house that you will build ^(Z)for the name of the LORD."

1 Chronicles 23

NASB E-Prime DFM

Solomon Reigns

¹^(A)Now when David reached old age, ^(B)he made his son Solomon king over Israel.

²And he gathered together all the leaders of Israel with the priests and the Levites.

Offices of the Levites

³^(C)The Levites he had numbered from thirty years old and upward, and ^(D)their number by census of men had reached 38,000.

⁴Of these, 24,000 oversaw the work of the house of the LORD; and 6,000 served as ^(E)officers and judges,

⁵and 4,000 served as gatekeepers, and ^(G)4,000 praised the LORD with the instruments which David made for giving praise.

⁶David divided them into divisions ^(H)according to the sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

Gershonites

⁷Of the Gershonites we identify Ladan and Shimei.

⁸The sons of Ladan we identify as Jehiel the first and Zetham and Joel, three.

⁹The sons of Shimei we identify as Shelomoth and Haziël and Haran, three. These served as the heads of the fathers' households of Ladan.

¹⁰The sons of Shimei we identify as Jahath, Zina, Jeush and Beriah. These four we identify as the sons of Shimei.

¹¹Jahath we identify as the first and Zizah the second; but Jeush and Beriah did not have many sons, so they became a father's household, one class.

Kohathites

¹²The sons of Kohath we count as four: Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel.

^{13(I)}The sons of Amram we identify as Aaron and Moses And ^(J)Aaron became set apart to sanctify him as most holy, he and his sons forever, ^(K)to burn incense before the LORD, to minister to Him and to bless in His name forever.

¹⁴But as for ^(L)Moses the man of God, his sons received names among the tribe of Levi.

¹⁵The sons of Moses we identify as Gershom and Eliezer.

¹⁶The son of Gershom we identify as Shebuel the chief.

¹⁷The son of Eliezer we identify as Rehabiah the chief; and Eliezer had no other sons, but the sons of Rehabiah grew to very many.

¹⁸The son of Izhar we identify as Shelomith the chief.

¹⁹The sons of Hebron we identify as Jeriah the first, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third and Jekameam the fourth.

²⁰The sons of Uzziel we identify as Micah the first and Isshiah the second.

Merarites

²¹The sons of Merari we identify as Mahli and Mushi. The sons of Mahli we identify as Eleazar and Kish.

²²Eleazar died and had no sons, but daughters only, so their brothers, the sons of Kish, took them as wives.

²³The sons of Mushi numbered three: Mahli, Eder and Jeremoth.

Duties Revised

²⁴^(M)These we identify as the sons of Levi according to their fathers' households, even the heads of the fathers' households of those of them who they counted, in the number of names by their census, doing the work for the service of the house of the LORD, ^(N)from twenty years old and upward.

²⁵For David said, "The LORD God of Israel ^(O)has given rest to His people, and He dwells in Jerusalem forever.

²⁶"Also, ^(P)the Levites will no longer need to carry the tabernacle and all its utensils for its service."

²⁷For by the last words of David the sons of Levi had become numbered from twenty years old and upward.

²⁸For their office consisted of assisting the sons of Aaron with the service of the house of the LORD, in the courts and in the chambers and in the purifying of all holy things, even the work of the service of the house of God,

²⁹^(O)and with the showbread, and ^(R)the fine flour for a grain offering, and unleavened wafers, or ^(S)what they baked in the pan or ^(T)what they had mixed well, and ^(U)all measures of volume and size.

³⁰They will stand every morning to thank and to praise the LORD, and likewise at evening,

³¹and to offer all burnt offerings to the LORD, ^(V)on the sabbaths, the new moons and ^(W)the fixed festivals in the number set by the ordinance concerning them, continually before the LORD.

³²Thus ^(X)they would keep charge of the tent of meeting, and charge of the holy place, and ^(Y)charge of the sons of Aaron their relatives, for the service of the house of the LORD.

1 Chronicles 24

NASB E-Prime DFM

Divisions of Levites

¹Now the divisions of the descendants of Aaron we identify as the following: ^(A)the sons of Aaron we identify as Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

²^(B)But Nadab and Abihu died before their father and had no sons. So Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests.

³David, with ^(C)Zadok of the sons of Eleazar and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, divided them according to their offices for their ministry.

⁴Since more chief men we found from the descendants of Eleazar than the descendants of Ithamar, they divided them thus: there appeared sixteen heads of fathers' households of the descendants of Eleazar and eight of the descendants of Ithamar, according to their fathers' households.

⁵^(D)Thus they became divided by lot, the one as the other; for they served as officers of the sanctuary and officers of God, both from the descendants of Eleazar and the descendants of Ithamar.

⁶Shemaiah, the son of Nethanel the scribe, from the Levites, recorded them in the presence of the king, the princes, Zadok the priest, ^(E)Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, and the heads of the fathers' households of the priests and of the Levites; one father's household taken for Eleazar and one taken for Ithamar.

⁷Now the first lot came out for Jehoiarib, the second for Jedaiah,

⁸the third for Harim, the fourth for Seorim,

⁹the fifth for Malchijah, the sixth for Mijamin,

¹⁰the seventh for Hakkoz, the eighth for ^(E)Abijah,

¹¹the ninth for Jeshua, the tenth for Shecaniah,
¹²the eleventh for Eliashib, the twelfth for Jakim,
¹³the thirteenth for Huppah, the fourteenth for Jeshebeab,
¹⁴the fifteenth for Bilgah, the sixteenth for Immer,
¹⁵the seventeenth for Hezir, the eighteenth for Happizzez,
¹⁶the nineteenth for Pethahiah, the twentieth for Jehezkel,
¹⁷the twenty-first for Jachin, the twenty-second for Gamul,
¹⁸the twenty-third for Delaiah, the twenty-fourth for Maaziah.

¹⁹[\(G\)](#) These constituted their offices for their ministry when they came in to the house of the LORD according to the ordinance given to them through Aaron their father, just as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him.

²⁰Now for the rest of the sons of Levi: of the sons of Amram, Shubael; of the sons of Shubael, Jehdeiah.

²¹Of Rehabiah: of the sons of Rehabiah, Isshiah the first.

²²Of the Izharites, Shelomoth; of the sons of Shelomoth, Jahath.

²³The sons [\(H\)](#) of Hebron: Jeriah the first, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, Jekameam the fourth.

²⁴Of the sons of Uzziel, Micah; of the sons of Micah, Shamir.

²⁵The brother of Micah, Isshiah; of the sons of Isshiah, Zechariah.

²⁶The sons of Merari, Mahli and Mushi; the sons of Jaaziah, Beno.

²⁷The sons of Merari: by Jaaziah consisted of Beno, Shoham, Zaccur and Ibri.

²⁸By Mahli: Eleazar, who had no sons.

²⁹By Kish: the sons of Kish, Jerahmeel.

³⁰The sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder and Jerimoth. These we identify as the sons of the Levites according to their fathers' households.

³¹([I](#)) These also cast lots just as their relatives the sons of Aaron in the presence of David the king, ([J](#)) Zadok, Ahimelech, and the heads of the fathers' households of the priests and of the Levites--the head of fathers' households as well as those of his younger brother.

1 Chronicles 25

NASB E-Prime DFM

Number and Services of Musicians

¹Moreover, David and the commanders of the army set apart for the service some of the sons of ([A](#)) Asaph and of Heman and of Jeduthun, who would ([B](#)) prophesy with lyres, ([C](#)) harps and cymbals; and the number of those who performed their service consisted of:

²Of the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah and Asharelah; the sons of Asaph served under the direction of Asaph, who prophesied under the direction of the king.

³([D](#)) Of Jeduthun, the sons of Jeduthun: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah and Mattithiah, six, under the direction of their father Jeduthun with the harp, who prophesied in giving thanks and praising the LORD.

⁴Of Heman, the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel and Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti and Romamti-ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, Mahazioth.

⁵All these we identify as the sons of Heman ([E](#)) the king's seer to exalt him according to the words of God, for God gave fourteen sons and three daughters to Heman.

⁶All these served under the direction of their father to sing in the house of the LORD, ([E](#)) with cymbals, harps and lyres, for the service of the house of God ([G](#)) Asaph, Jeduthun and Heman served under the direction of the king.

⁷Their number who received training in singing to the LORD, with their [[a](#)] relatives, all who demonstrated skill, numbered ([H](#)) 288.

Divisions of Musicians

⁸(I) They cast lots for their duties, all alike, the small as well as the great, the teacher as well as the pupil.

⁹Now the first lot came out for Asaph to Joseph, the second for Gedaliah, he with his relatives and sons numbered twelve;

¹⁰the third to Zaccur, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

¹¹the fourth to Izri, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

¹²the fifth to Nethaniah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

¹³the sixth to Bukkiah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

¹⁴the seventh to Jesharelah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

¹⁵the eighth to Jeshaiiah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

¹⁶the ninth to Mattaniah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

¹⁷the tenth to Shimei, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

¹⁸the eleventh to Azarel, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

¹⁹the twelfth to Hashabiah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

²⁰for the thirteenth, Shubael, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

²¹for the fourteenth, Mattithiah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

²²for the fifteenth to Jeremoth, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

²³for the sixteenth to Hananiah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

²⁴for the seventeenth to Joshbekashah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

²⁵for the eighteenth to Hanani, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

²⁶for the nineteenth to Mallothi, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

²⁷for the twentieth to Eliathah, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

²⁸for the twenty-first to Hothir, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

²⁹for the twenty-second to Giddalti, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

³⁰for the twenty-third to Mahazioth, his sons and his relatives, twelve;

³¹for the twenty-fourth to Romanti-ezer, his sons and his relatives, twelve.

1 Chronicles 26

NASB E-Prime DFM

Divisions of the Gatekeepers

¹For the divisions of the gatekeepers there numbered among the Korahites, Meshelemiah the son of Kore, of the sons of Asaph.

²Meshelemiah had sons: Zechariah the firstborn, Jediael the second, Zebadiah the third, Jathniel the fourth,

³Elam the fifth, Johanan the sixth, Eliehoenai the seventh.

⁴(A) Obed-edom had sons: Shemaiah the firstborn, Jehozabad the second, Joah the third, Sacar the fourth, Nethanel the fifth,

⁵Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh and Peullethai the eighth; God had indeed blessed him.

⁶Also to his son Shemaiah sons became born who ruled over the house of their father, for they proved themselves mighty men of valor.

⁷The sons of Shemaiah we identify as Othni, Rephael, Obed and Elzabad, whose brothers, Elihu and Semachiah, proved themselves valiant men.

⁸All these we identify as the sons of Obed-edom; they and their sons and their relatives proved themselves able men with strength for the service, 62 from Obed-edom.

⁹Meshelemiah had sons and relatives, 18 valiant men.

¹⁰Also (B) Hosah, one of the sons of Merari had sons: Shimri the first (although he had not become born first, his father made him first),

¹¹Hilkiah the second, Tebaliah the third, Zechariah the fourth; all the sons and relatives of Hosah numbered 13.

¹²To these divisions of the gatekeepers, the chief men, received duties like their relatives to minister in the house of the LORD.

¹³(C)They cast lots, the small and the great alike, according to their fathers' households, for every gate.

¹⁴The lot to the east fell to Shelemiah. Then they cast lots for his son Zechariah, a counselor with insight, and his lot came out to the north.

¹⁵For Obed-edom it fell to the south, and to his sons went the storehouse.

¹⁶For Shuppim and Hosah it went to the west, by the gate of Shallecheth, on the ascending highway. Guard corresponded to guard.

¹⁷On the east there served six Levites, on the north four daily, on the south four daily, and at the storehouse two by two.

¹⁸At the [a](D)Parbar on the west there numbered four at the highway and two at the Parbar.

¹⁹These we identify as the divisions of the gatekeepers of the sons of Korah and of the sons of Merari.

Keepers of the Treasure

²⁰[b]The Levites, their relatives, had (E)charge of the treasures of the house of God and of the treasures of the dedicated gifts.

²¹The sons of Ladan, the sons of the Gershonites belonging to Ladan, namely, the Jehielites, served as the heads of the fathers' households, belonging to Ladan the Gershonite.

²²The sons of Jehieli, Zetham and Joel his brother, had charge of the treasures of the house of the LORD.

²³As for the Amramites, the Izharites, the Hebronites and the Uzzielites,

²⁴Shebuel the son of Gershom, the son of Moses, served as officer over the treasures.

²⁵His relatives by Eliezer we identify as Rehabiah his son, Jeshaiiah his son, Joram his son, Zichri his son and Shelomoth his son.

²⁶This Shelomoth and his relatives had charge of all the treasures of the dedicated gifts (E)which King David and the heads of the fathers' households,

the commanders of thousands and hundreds, and the commanders of the army, had dedicated.

²⁷They dedicated part of the spoil won in battles to repair the house of the LORD.

²⁸And all that Samuel the seer had dedicated and Saul the son of Kish, Abner the son of Ner and Joab the son of Zeruiah, everyone who had dedicated anything, all of this fell to the care of Shelomoth and his relatives.

Outside Duties

²⁹As for the Izharites, Chenaniah and his sons received the assignment for outside duties for Israel, as ^(H)officers and judges.

³⁰As for the Hebronites, ^(I)Hashabiah and his relatives, 1,700 capable men, had charge of the affairs of Israel west of the Jordan, for all the work of the LORD and the service of the king.

³¹As for the Hebronites, ^(J)Jerijah the chief (these Hebronites had undergone investigations according to their genealogies and fathers' households, in the fortieth year of David's reign, and men of outstanding capability they found among them at ^(K)Jazer of Gilead)

³²and his relatives, capable men, numbered 2,700 , heads of fathers' households. And King David made them overseers of the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of the Manassites ^(L)concerning all the affairs of God and of the king.

1 Chronicles 27

NASB E-Prime DFM

Commanders of the Army

¹Now this we calculate as the enumeration of the sons of Israel, the heads of fathers' households, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and their officers who served the king in all the affairs of the divisions which came in and went out month by month throughout all the months of the year, each division numbering 24,000:

²Jashobeam the son of Zabdiel ^{[a](A)}had charge of the first division for the first month; and in his division numbered 24,000.

³He was from the sons of Perez, and served as chief of all the commanders of the army for the first month.

⁴Dodai the Ahohite and his division had charge of the division for the second month, Mikloth being the chief officer; and in his division numbered 24,000.

⁵The Benaiah, the son of Jehoida the priest served as third commander of the army for the third month, as chief; and in his division numbered 24,000.

⁶This Benaiah proved himself the mighty man of the thirty, and had charge of thirty; and over his division served Ammizabad his son.

⁷The fourth for the fourth month we identify as Asahel the brother of Joab, and Zebadiah his son after him; and in his division numbered 24,000.

⁸The fifth for the fifth month we identified as the commander Shamhuth the Izrahite; and in his division numbered 24,000.

⁹The sixth for the sixth month we identify as Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite; and in his division numbered 24,000.

¹⁰The seventh for the seventh month we identify as Helez the Pelonite of the sons of Ephraim; and in his division numbered 24,000.

¹¹The eighth for the eighth month we identify as Sibbecai the Hushathite of the Zerahites; and in his division numbered 24,000.

¹²The ninth for the ninth month we identify as Abiezer the Anathothite of the Benjamites; and in his division numbered 24,000.

¹³The tenth for the tenth month we identify as Maharai the Netophathite of the Zerahites; and in his division numbered 24,000.

¹⁴The eleventh for the eleventh month we identified as Benaiah the Pirathonite of the sons of Ephraim; and in his division numbered 24,000.

¹⁵The twelfth for the twelfth month we identify as Heldai the Netophathite of Othniel; and in his division numbered 24,000.

Chief Officers of the Tribes

¹⁶Now in charge of the tribes of Israel: chief officer for the Reubenites we identify as Eliezer the son of Zichri; for the Simeonites, Shephatiah the son of Maacah;

¹⁷for Levi, Hashabiah the son of Kemuel; for Aaron, Zadok;

¹⁸for Judah, Elihu, one of David's brothers; for Issachar, Omri the son of Michael;

¹⁹for Zebulun, Ishmaiah the son of Obadiah; for Naphtali, Jeremoth the son of Azriel;

²⁰for the sons of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Azaziah; for the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joel the son of Pedaiiah;

²¹for the half-tribe of Manasseh in Gilead, Iddo the son of Zechariah; for Benjamin, Jaasiel the son of Abner;

²²for Dan, Azarel the son of Jeroham. ^(B)These we identify as the princes of the tribes of Israel.

²³But David did not count those twenty years of age and under, ^(C)because the LORD had said He would multiply Israel ^(D)as the stars of heaven.

²⁴Joab the son of Zeruah had begun to count them, but did not finish; and because of ^(E)this, wrath came upon Israel, and the number they did not include in the account of the chronicles of King David.

Various Overseers

²⁵Now Azmaveth the son of Adiel had charge of the king's storehouses. And Jonathan the son of Uzziah had charge of the storehouses in the country, in the cities, in the villages and in the towers.

²⁶Ezri the son of Chelub had charge of the agricultural workers who tilled the soil.

²⁷Shimei the Ramathite had charge of the vineyards; and Zabdi the Shiphmite had charge of the produce of the vineyards stored in the wine cellars.

²⁸Baal-hanan the Gederite had charge of the olive and ^(E)sycamore trees in the ^(b)Shephelah; and Joash had charge of the stores of oil.

²⁹Shitrai the Sharonite had charge of the cattle which grazed in ^(G)Sharon; and Shaphat the son of Adlai had charge of the cattle in the valleys.

³⁰Obil the Ishmaelite had charge of the camels; and Jehdeiah the Meronothite had charge of the donkeys.

³¹Jaziz the ^(H)Hagrite had charge of the flocks. All these served as overseers of the property which belonged to King David.

Counselors

³²Also Jonathan, David's uncle, served as a counselor, a man of understanding, and a scribe; and Jehiel the son of Hachmoni tutored the king's sons.

³³^(I)Ahithophel served as counselor to the king; and ^(J)Hushai the Archite was the king's friend.

³⁴Jehoiada the son of ^(K)Benaiah, and ^(L)Abiathar succeeded Ahithophel; and Joab served as the ^(M)commander of the king's army.

1 Chronicles 28

NASB E-Prime DFM

David's Address about the Temple

¹Now ^(A)David assembled at Jerusalem all the officials of Israel, the princes of the tribes, and the commanders of the divisions that served the king, and the commanders of thousands, and the commanders of hundreds, and the overseers of all the property and livestock belonging to the king and his sons, with the officials and ^(B)the mighty men, even all the valiant men.

²Then King David rose to his feet and said, "Listen to me, my brethren and my people; I ^(C)had ^[a]intended to build a ^[b]permanent home for the ark of the covenant of the LORD and for ^(D)the footstool of our God. So I had made preparations to build it.

³"But God said to me, ^(E)'You shall not build a house for My name because you have proved yourself a man of war and have shed blood.'

⁴"Yet, the LORD, the God of Israel, ^(F)chose me from all the house of my father to serve as king over Israel ^(G)forever For ^(H)He has chosen Judah to lead; and ^(I)in the house of Judah, my father's house, and among the sons of my father He took pleasure in me to make me king over all Israel.

⁵^(J)Of all my sons (for the LORD has given me many sons), ^(K)He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel.

⁶"He said to me, 'Your son ^(L)Solomon shall build My house and My courts; for I have chosen him as a son to Me, and I will serve as a father to him.

⁷"I will establish his kingdom forever ^(M)if he resolutely performs My commandments and My ordinances, as has happened now.'

⁸"So now, in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God, observe and seek after all the commandments of the LORD your God so that you may possess the good land and bequeath it to your sons after you forever.

⁹"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and ^(N)serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; ^(O)for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts ^(P)If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.

¹⁰"Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; show courage and act."

¹¹Then David gave to his son Solomon ^(R)the plan of ^(S)the porch of the temple, its buildings, its storehouses, its upper rooms, its inner rooms and ^(I)the room for the mercy seat;

¹²and the plan of all that he had in mind, for the courts of the house of the LORD, and for all the surrounding rooms, for ^(U)the storehouses of the house of God and for the storehouses of the dedicated things;

¹³also for ^(V)the divisions of the priests and ^(W)the Levites and for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD and for all the utensils of service in the house of the LORD;

¹⁴for the golden utensils, the weight of gold for all utensils for every kind of service; for the silver utensils, the weight of silver for all utensils for every kind of service;

¹⁵and the weight of gold for the ^(X)golden lampstands and their golden lamps, with the weight of each lampstand and its lamps; and the weight of silver for the silver lampstands, with the weight of each lampstand and its lamps according to the use of each lampstand;

¹⁶and the gold by weight for the tables of showbread, for each table; and silver for the silver tables;

¹⁷and the forks, the basins, and the pitchers of pure gold; and for the golden bowls with the weight for each bowl; and for the silver bowls with the weight for each bowl;

¹⁸and for ^(Y)the altar of incense refined gold by weight; and gold for the model of the chariot, even ^(Z)the cherubim that spread out their wings and covered the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

¹⁹"All this," said David, "the LORD made me understand in writing by His hand upon me, ^(AA)all the details of this pattern."

²⁰Then David said to his son Solomon, " Remain strong and courageous, and act; do not fear nor feel dismayed, for the LORD God, my God, remains with you ^(AC)He will not fail you nor forsake you until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD has become finished.

²¹"Now behold, ^(AD)there we identify as the divisions of the priests and the Levites for all the service of the house of God, and ^(AE)every willing man of any skill will remain with you in all the work for all kinds of service. The officials also and all the people will remain entirely at your command."

1 Chronicles 29

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Offerings for the Temple

¹Then King David said to the entire assembly, "My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, remains still young and inexperienced and the work appears great; for ^(B)the temple we build not for man, but for the LORD God.

²"Now ^(C)with all my ability I have provided for the house of my God the gold for the things of gold, and the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood, onyx stones and inlaid stones, stones of antimony and stones of various colors, and all kinds of precious stones and alabaster in abundance.

³"Moreover, in my delight in the house of my God, the treasure I have of gold and silver, I give to the house of my God, over and above all that I have already provided for the holy ^[a]temple,

⁴namely, ^(D)3,000 talents of gold, of ^(E)the gold of Ophir, and 7,000 talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the buildings;

⁵of gold for the things of gold and of silver for the things of silver, namely, for all the work done by the craftsmen. Who then has willingness to consecrate himself this day to the LORD?"

⁶Then ^(F)the rulers of the fathers' households, and the princes of the tribes of Israel, and the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, with ^(G)the overseers over the king's work, offered willingly;

⁷and for the service for the house of God they gave 5,000 talents and 10,000 ^(H)darics of gold, and 10,000 talents of silver, and 18,000 talents of brass, and 100,000 talents of iron.

⁸Whoever possessed precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the LORD, in care of ^(I)Jehiel the Gershonite.

⁹Then the people rejoiced because they had offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the LORD ^(J)with a whole heart, and King David also rejoiced greatly.

David's Prayer

¹⁰So David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, " We Bless You, O LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever.

¹¹"^(K)Yours, O LORD, we acknowledge as the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that exists in the heavens and the earth; the dominion belongs to You, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all.

¹²"^(L)Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and ^(M)in Your hand resides power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.

¹³"Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name.

¹⁴"But who do you consider me and who comprise my people that we should have the ability to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given You.

¹⁵"For ^(N)we live as sojourners before You, and tenants, as all our fathers were; ^(O)our days on the earth resemble a shadow, and we see no hope.

¹⁶"O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided to build You a house for Your holy name, it comes from Your hand, and all belongs to You.

¹⁷"Since I know, O my God, that ^(P)You try the heart and ^(Q)delight in uprightness, I, in the integrity of my heart, have willingly offered all these things; so now with joy I have seen Your people, who stand presently here, make their offerings willingly to You.

¹⁸"O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, our fathers, preserve this forever in the intentions of the heart of Your people, and direct their heart to You;

¹⁹and ^(R)give to my son Solomon a perfect heart to keep Your commandments, Your testimonies and Your statutes, and to do them all, and ^(S)to build the temple, for which I have made provision."

²⁰Then David said to all the assembly, "Now bless the LORD your God." And ^(T)all the assembly blessed the LORD, the God of their fathers, and ^(U)bowed low and did homage to the LORD and to the king.

Sacrifices

²¹On the next day ^(V)they made sacrifices to the LORD and offered burnt offerings to the LORD, 1,000 bulls, 1,000 rams and 1,000 lambs, with their drink offerings and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel.

²²So they ate and drank that day before the LORD with great gladness.

Solomon Again Made King

And they made Solomon the son of David king ^(W)a second time, and they ^(X)anointed him as ruler for the LORD and Zadok as priest.

²³Then ^(Y)Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father; and he prospered, and all Israel obeyed him.

²⁴All the officials, the mighty men, and also all the sons of King David pledged allegiance to King Solomon.

²⁵^(Z)The LORD highly exalted Solomon in the sight of all Israel, and ^(AA)bestowed on him royal majesty which they had not seen on any king before him in Israel.

²⁶Now ^(AB)David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel.

²⁷(AC)The period which he reigned over Israel reached forty years; he reigned in Hebron seven years and in Jerusalem thirty-three years.

Death of David

²⁸Then he died in (AD)a ripe old age, (AE)full of days, riches and honor; and his son Solomon reigned in his place.

²⁹Now the acts of King David, from first to last, we read in the chronicles of (AF)Samuel the seer, in the chronicles of (AG)Nathan the prophet and in the chronicles of (AH)Gad the seer,

³⁰with all his reign, his power, and the circumstances which came on him, on Israel, and on all the kingdoms of the lands

2 Chronicles 1-36

Rendered into E-Prime by Dr. David F. Maas

Solomon Worships at Gibeon

¹Now (A)Solomon the son of David established himself securely over his kingdom, and the LORD his God remained with him and (B)exalted him greatly.

²Solomon spoke to all Israel, (C)to the commanders of thousands and of hundreds and to the judges and to every leader in all Israel, the heads of the fathers' households.

³Then Solomon and all the assembly with him went to (D)the high place which stood at Gibeon, (E)for God's tent of meeting stood there, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness.

⁴However, David had brought up (F)the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim to (G)the place he had prepared for it, for he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem.

⁵Now (H)the bronze altar, which Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made, stood there before the tabernacle of the LORD, and Solomon and the assembly sought it out.

⁶Solomon went up there before the LORD to the bronze altar which stood at the tent of meeting, and ^(I)offered a thousand burnt offerings on it.

⁷^(J)In that night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask what I shall give you."

Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom

⁸Solomon said to God, "You have dealt with my father David with great lovingkindness, and ^(K)have made me king in his place.

⁹"Now, O LORD God, ^(L)Your promise to my father David has become fulfilled, for You have made me king over ^(M)a people as numerous as the dust of the earth.

¹⁰^(N)Give me now wisdom and knowledge, ^(O)that I may go out and come in before this people, for who can rule this great people of Yours?"

¹¹^(P)God said to Solomon, "Because you had this in mind, and did not ask for riches, wealth or honor, or the life of those who hate you, nor have you even asked for long life, but you have asked for yourself wisdom and knowledge that you may rule My people over whom I have made you king,

¹²wisdom and knowledge I have granted to you. And ^(Q)I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings who lived before you has possessed nor those who will come after you."

¹³^(R)So Solomon went from the high place which stood at Gibeon, from the tent of meeting, to Jerusalem, and he reigned over Israel.

Solomon's Wealth

¹⁴^(S)Solomon amassed chariots and horsemen ^(T)He had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen, and he stationed them in ^(U)the chariot cities and with the king at Jerusalem.

¹⁵^(V)The king made ^(W)silver and gold as plentiful in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedars as plentiful as sycamores in the lowland.

¹⁶Solomon imported his ^(X)horses from Egypt and from Kue; the king's traders procured them from Kue for a price.

¹⁷They imported chariots from Egypt for 600 shekels of silver apiece and horses for 150 apiece, and by the same means they exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Aram.

2 Chronicles 2

NASB E-Prime DFM

Solomon Will Build a Temple and Palace

^{1(A)}Now Solomon decided to build a house for the name of the LORD and a royal palace for himself.

²So ^(B)Solomon assigned 70,000 men to carry loads and 80,000 men to quarry stone in the mountains and 3,600 to supervise them.

^{3(C)}Then Solomon sent word to Hiram the king of Tyre, saying, "^(D)As you dealt with David my father and sent him cedars to build him a house to dwell in, so do for me.

⁴"Behold, I intend to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, dedicating it to Him, ^(E)to burn fragrant incense before Him and to set out ^(F)the showbread continually, and to offer ^(G)burnt offerings morning and evening, ^(H)on sabbaths and on new moons and on the appointed feasts of the LORD our God, this we require forever in Israel.

⁵"The house which I intend to build will have greatness, for ^(I)greater do we regard our God than all the gods.

⁶"But ^(J)who can build a house for Him, for the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain Him? So who do you consider me, that I should build a house for Him, except to ^[a]burn incense before Him?

⁷"Now ^(K)send me a skilled man to work in gold, silver, brass and iron, and in purple, crimson and violet fabrics, and who knows how to make engravings, to work with the skilled men ^(L)whom I have in Judah and Jerusalem, whom David my father provided.

⁸"^(M)Send me also cedar, cypress and algum timber from Lebanon, for I know that your servants know how to cut timber of Lebanon; and indeed ^(N)my servants will work with your servants,

⁹to prepare timber in abundance for me, for the house which I intend to build will have greatness and wonder.

¹⁰"Now behold, ^(O)I will give to your servants, the woodsmen who cut the timber, 20,000 ^[b]kors of crushed wheat and 20,000 kors of barley, and 20,000 baths of wine and 20,000 baths of oil."

Huram to Assist

¹¹Then Hiram, king of Tyre, answered in a letter sent to Solomon:
"^(E)Because the LORD loves His people, He has made you king over them."

¹²Then Hiram continued, " We bless ^(Q)the LORD, the God of Israel, who has made heaven and earth, who has given King David a wise son, endowed with discretion and understanding, ^(R)who will build a house for the LORD and a royal palace for himself.

¹³"Now I send Hiram-abi, a skilled man, endowed with understanding,

¹⁴^(S)the son of a Danite woman and a Tyrian father, who knows how to work in gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone and wood, and in purple, violet, linen and crimson fabrics, and who knows how to make all kinds of engravings and to execute any design which he may receive to work on, to work with your skilled men and with those of my lord David your father.

¹⁵"Now then, let my lord send to his servants wheat and barley, oil and wine, of ^(I)which he has spoken.

¹⁶^(U)We will cut whatever timber you need from Lebanon and bring it to you on rafts by sea to Joppa, so that you may carry it up to Jerusalem."

¹⁷Solomon numbered all the aliens who lived in the land of Israel, ^(V)following the census which his father David had taken; and 153,600 they found.

¹⁸^(W)He appointed 70,000 of them to carry loads and 80,000 to quarry stones in the mountains and 3,600 supervisors to make the people work.

2 Chronicles 3

NASBE-Prime DFM

The Temple Construction in Jerusalem

^{1(A)}Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared ^(B)on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

²He began to build on the second day in the second month of the fourth year of his reign.

Dimensions and Materials of the Temple

³Now these measure the foundations which ^(C)Solomon laid for building the house of God. The length in ^[a]cubits, according to the old standard measured sixty cubits, and the width twenty cubits.

⁴The porch which stood in front of the house appeared as long as the width of the house, twenty cubits, and the height 120; and inside he overlaid it with pure gold.

⁵He overlaid ^(E)the main room with cypress wood and overlaid it with fine gold, and ornamented it with palm trees and chains.

⁶Further, he adorned the house with precious stones; and the gold came from Parvaim.

^{7(E)}He also overlaid the house with gold--the beams, the thresholds and its walls and its doors; and he ^(G)carved cherubim on the walls.

⁸Now he made ^(H)the room of the holy of holies: its length across the width of the house measured twenty cubits, and its width measured twenty cubits; and he overlaid it with fine gold, amounting to 600 talents.

⁹The weight of the nails measured fifty shekels of gold. He also overlaid ^(I)the upper rooms with gold.

^{10(J)}Then he made two sculptured cherubim in the room of the holy of holies and overlaid them with gold.

¹¹The wingspan of the cherubim measured twenty cubits; the wing of one, of five cubits, touched the wall of the house, and its other wing, of five cubits, touched the wing of the other cherub.

¹²The wing of the other cherub, of five cubits, touched the wall of the house; and its other wing of five cubits connected to the wing of the first cherub.

¹³The wings of these cherubim extended twenty cubits, and they stood on their feet facing the main room.

¹⁴(K) He made the veil of violet, purple, crimson and fine linen, and he worked cherubim on it.

¹⁵(L) He also made two pillars for the front of the house, thirty-five cubits high, and the capital on the top of each measured five cubits.

¹⁶He made chains in the inner sanctuary and placed them on the tops of the pillars; and he made one hundred pomegranates and placed them on the chains.

¹⁷(M) He erected the pillars in front of the temple, one on the right and the other on the left, and named the one on the right Jachin and the one on the left Boaz.

2 Chronicles 4

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Furnishings of the Temple

¹Then (A) he made a bronze altar, twenty cubits in length and twenty cubits in width and ten cubits in height.

²(B) Also he made the cast metal sea, ten cubits from brim to brim, circular in form, and its height measured five cubits and its circumference thirty cubits.

³Now figures like oxen appeared under it and all around it, ten cubits, entirely encircling the sea. The oxen appeared in two rows, cast in one piece.

⁴It stood on twelve oxen, three facing the north, three facing west, three facing south and three facing east; and the sea they set on top of them and all their hindquarters turned inwards.

⁵It measured a handbreadth thick, and its brim they made like the brim of a cup, like a lily blossom; it ^(C)could hold 3,000 baths.

⁶^(D)He also made ten basins in which to wash, and he set five on the right side and five on the left to rinse things for the burnt offering; but the sea they made for the priests to wash in.

⁷Then ^(E)he made the ten golden lampstands in the way prescribed for them and he set them in the temple, five on the right side and five on the left.

⁸He also made ^(F)ten tables and placed them in the temple, five on the right side and five on the left. And he made one hundred golden bowls.

⁹Then he made ^(G)the court of the priests and ^(H)the great court and doors for the court, and overlaid their doors with bronze.

¹⁰^(I)He set the sea on the right side of the house toward the southeast.

¹¹^(J)Huram also made the pails, the shovels and the bowls. So Huram finished doing the work which he performed for King Solomon in the house of God:

¹²the two pillars, the bowls and the two capitals on top of the pillars, and the two networks to cover the two bowls of the capitals stood on top of the pillars,

¹³and ^(K)the four hundred pomegranates for the two networks, two rows of pomegranates for each network to cover the two bowls of the capitals which stood on the pillars.

¹⁴^(L)He also made the stands and he made the basins on the stands,

¹⁵and the one sea with the twelve oxen under it.

¹⁶The pails, the shovels, the forks and all its utensils, ^(M)Huram-abi made of polished bronze for King Solomon for the house of the LORD.

¹⁷On the plain of the Jordan the king cast them in the clay ground between Succoth and Zeredah.

¹⁸(N) Thus Solomon made all these utensils in great quantities, for the weight of the bronze they could not find out.

¹⁹Solomon also made all the things that stood in the house of God: even the golden altar, ^(O)the tables with the bread of the Presence on them,

²⁰the lampstands with their lamps of pure gold, ^(P)to burn in front of the inner sanctuary in the way prescribed;

²¹the flowers, the lamps, and the tongs of gold, of purest gold;

²²and the snuffers, the bowls, the spoons and the firepans of pure gold; and the entrance of the house, its inner doors for the holy of holies and the doors of the house, namely, of the nave, of gold.

2 Chronicles 5

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They Bring the Ark into the Temple

¹(A) Thus all the work that Solomon performed for the house of the LORD had come to a conclusion And Solomon brought in the ^(B)things that David his father had dedicated, even the silver and the gold and all the utensils, and put them in the treasuries of the house of God.

²(C) Then Solomon assembled to Jerusalem the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' households of the sons of Israel, ^(D)to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which we call Zion.

³(E) All the men of Israel assembled themselves to the king at ^(F)the feast, that we mark in the seventh month.

⁴Then all the elders of Israel came, and ^(G)the Levites took up the ark.

⁵They brought up the ark and the tent of meeting and all the holy utensils which stood in the tent; the Levitical priests brought them up.

⁶And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel who assembled with him before the ark, sacrificed so many sheep and oxen that they could not count or number.

⁷Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the house, to the holy of holies, under the wings of the cherubim.

⁸For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering over the ark and its poles.

⁹The poles appeared so long that ^(H)the ends of the poles of the ark people could see in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not see them outside; and they stand here to this day.

^{10(I)}They placed nothing in the ark except the two tablets which Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the sons of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.

The Glory of God Fills the Temple

¹¹When the priests came forth from the holy place (for all the priests who presented themselves had sanctified themselves, without regard ^(J)to divisions),

¹²and all the Levitical singers, ^(K)Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun, and their sons and kinsmen, clothed in fine linen, ^(L)with cymbals, harps and lyres, standing east of the altar, and with them one hundred and twenty priests ^(M)blowing trumpets

¹³in unison when the trumpeters and the singers would prepare to make themselves heard with one voice to praise and to glorify the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice ^(N)accompanied by trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and when they praised the LORD saying, " We acknowledge Him as good for His lovingkindness lasts forever," then the house, the house of the LORD filled with a cloud,

¹⁴so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for ^(P)the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.

2 Chronicles 6

NASB E-Prime DFM

Solomon's Dedication

¹(A) Then Solomon said,
"The LORD has said that He would dwell in the thick cloud.

²"I have built You a lofty house,
And a place for Your dwelling forever."

³Then the king faced about and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel stood.

⁴He said, " We blessed the LORD, the God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David and has fulfilled it with His hands, saying,

⁵Since the day that I brought My people from the land of Egypt, I did not choose a city out of all the tribes of Israel in which to build a house that My name they might place there, nor did I choose any man for a leader over My people Israel;

⁶but (B) I have chosen Jerusalem that My name might remain there, and I (C) have chosen David to rule over My people Israel.'

⁷(D) Now it emanated from the heart of my father David to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.

⁸"But the LORD said to my father David, 'Because it emanated from your heart to build a house for My name, you did well that it emanated from your heart.

⁹'Nevertheless you shall not build the house, but your son shall build the house for My name.'

¹⁰"Now the LORD has fulfilled His word which He spoke; for I have risen in the place of my father David and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built the house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.

¹¹"There I have set the ark (E) in which dwells the covenant of the LORD, which He made with the sons of Israel."

Solomon's Prayer of Dedication

¹²Then he stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands.

¹³^(E)Now Solomon had made a bronze platform, five cubits long, five cubits wide and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court; and he stood on it, ^(G)knelt on his knees in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven.

¹⁴He said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, we recognize no god like You in heaven or on earth, ^(I)keeping covenant and showing lovingkindness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart;

¹⁵^(J)who has kept with Your servant David, my father, that which You have promised him; indeed You have spoken with Your mouth and have fulfilled it with Your hand, as it has become this day.

¹⁶"Now therefore, O LORD, the God of Israel, keep with Your servant David, my father, that which You have promised him, saying, '^(K)You shall not lack a man to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your sons take heed to their way, to walk in My law as you have walked before Me.'

¹⁷"Now therefore, O LORD, the God of Israel, let Your word become confirmed which You have spoken to Your servant David.

¹⁸"But ^(L)will God indeed dwell with mankind on the earth? Behold, ^(M)heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You; how much less this house which I have built.

¹⁹"Yet have regard to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to listen to the cry and to the prayer which Your servant prays before You;

²⁰that Your ^(N)eye may open toward this house day and night, toward ^(O)the place of which You have said that You would put Your name there, to listen to the prayer which Your servant shall pray toward this place.

²¹"Listen to the supplications of Your servant and of Your people Israel when they pray toward this place; hear from Your dwelling place, from heaven; ^(P)hear and forgive.

²²"If a man sins against his neighbor and needs to take an oath, and he comes and takes an oath before Your altar in this house,

²³then hear from heaven and act and judge Your servants, ^(Q)punishing the wicked by bringing his way on his own head and justifying the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness.

²⁴"If Your people Israel suffer defeat before an enemy because ^(R)they have sinned against You, and they return to You and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication before You in this house,

²⁵then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You have given to them and to their fathers.

²⁶"When we find the ^(S)heavens shut up and we have no rain because they have sinned against You, and they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin when You afflict them;

²⁷then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of Your servants and Your people Israel, indeed, ^(T)teach them the good way in which they should walk. And send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people for an inheritance.

²⁸"If a ^(U)famine occurs in the land, if pestilence occurs, if blight occurs or mildew, if locust or grasshopper occur, if their enemies besiege them in the land of their cities, whatever plague or whatever sickness occurs,

²⁹whatever prayer or supplication comes from any man or by all Your people Israel, each knowing his own affliction and his own pain, and spreading his hands toward this house,

³⁰then hear from heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and render to each according to all his ways, whose heart You know ^(V)for You alone know the hearts of the sons of men,

³¹that they may ^[a]fear You, to walk in Your ways as long as they live in the land which You have given to our fathers.

³²"Also concerning ^(W)the foreigner who does not belong to Your people Israel, when he comes from a far country for Your great name's sake and Your mighty hand and Your outstretched arm, when they come and pray toward this house,

³³then hear from heaven, from Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know Your name, and ^[b]fear You as do Your people Israel, and that they may know that this house which I have built we call by Your name.

³⁴"When Your people go out to battle against their enemies, by whatever way You shall send them, and they pray to You toward this city which You have chosen and the house which I have built for Your name,

³⁵then hear from heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

³⁶"When they sin against You (^(Y)for no man lives who does not sin) and You have anger with them and deliver them to an enemy, so that they take them away captive to a land far off or near,

³⁷if they take thought in the land where they fall captive, and repent and make supplication to You in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned, we have committed iniquity and have acted wickedly';

³⁸(^Z)if they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, where they have fallen captive, and pray toward their land which You have given to their fathers and the city which You have chosen, and toward the house which I have built for Your name,

³⁹then hear from heaven, from Your dwelling place, their prayer and supplications, and maintain their cause and forgive Your people who have sinned against You.

⁴⁰"Now, O my God, I pray, (^{AA})let Your eyes open and (^{AB})Your ears become attentive to the prayer offered in this place.

⁴¹(^{AC})Now therefore arise, O LORD God, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your might; let Your priests, O LORD God, become clothed with salvation and let Your godly ones rejoice in good.

⁴²"O LORD God, do not turn away the face of Your anointed; (^{AD})remember Your lovingkindness to Your servant David."

2 Chronicles 7

NASB E-Prime DFM

The Shekinah Glory

¹(^A)Now when Solomon had finished praying, (^B)fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

²(C)The priests could not enter into the house of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD'S house.

³All the sons of Israel, seeing the fire come down and the glory of the LORD upon the house, bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave praise to the LORD, saying, "(D)Truly He demonstrates goodness, truly His lovingkindness lasts forever."

Sacrifices Offered

⁴(E)Then the king and all the people offered sacrifice before the LORD.

⁵King Solomon offered a sacrifice of 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. Thus the king and all the people dedicated the house of God.

⁶The priests stood at their posts, and (E)the Levites also, with the instruments of music to the LORD, which King David had made for giving praise to the LORD--"for His lovingkindness lasts forever"--whenever he gave praise by their means, while (G)the priests on the other side blew trumpets; and all Israel stood.

⁷(H)Then Solomon consecrated the middle of the court that stood before the house of the LORD, for there he offered the burnt offerings and the fat of the peace offerings because the bronze altar which Solomon had made could not contain the burnt offering, the grain offering and the fat.

The Feast of Dedication

⁸So (I)Solomon observed the feast at that time for seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly who came from the entrance of Hamath to the (J)brook of Egypt.

⁹On the eighth day they held (K)a solemn assembly, for the dedication of the altar they observed seven days and the feast seven days.

¹⁰Then on the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people to their tents, rejoicing and happy of heart because of the goodness that the LORD had shown to David and to Solomon and to His people Israel.

God's Promise and Warning

¹¹(L)Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD and the king's palace, and successfully completed all that he had planned on doing in the house of the LORD and in his palace.

¹²Then the LORD appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, "I have heard your prayer and ^(M)have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice.

¹³^(N)If I shut up the heavens so that it does not rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people,

¹⁴^(O)and My people who want to take My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

¹⁵^(P)Now My eyes will open and My ears attend to the prayer offered in this place.

¹⁶For ^(Q)now I have chosen and consecrated this house that My name may remain there forever, and My eyes and My heart will remain there perpetually.

¹⁷As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, even to do according to all that I have commanded you, and will keep My statutes and My ordinances,

¹⁸then I will establish your royal throne as I covenanted with your father David, saying, ^(R)'You shall not lack a man to rule in Israel.'

¹⁹^(S)But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them,

²⁰^(T)then I will uproot you from My land which I have given you, and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight and I will make it ^(U)a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

²¹As for this house, which received exaltation, everyone who passes by it will feel astonished and say, ^(V)'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?'

²²And they will say, 'Because ^(W)they forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers who brought them from the land of Egypt, and they adopted other gods and worshiped them and served them; therefore He has brought all this adversity on them.'

2 Chronicles 8

NASB E-Prime DFM

Solomon's Activities and Accomplishments

^{1(A)}Now it came about at the end of the twenty years in which Solomon had built the house of the LORD and his own house

²that he built the cities which Hiram had given to him, and settled the sons of Israel there.

³Then Solomon went to Hamath-zobah and captured it.

⁴He built Tadmor in the wilderness and all the storage cities which he had built in Hamath.

⁵He also built upper ^(B)Beth-horon and lower Beth-horon, ^(C)fortified cities with walls, gates and bars;

⁶and Baalath and all the storage cities that Solomon had, and all the cities for his chariots and cities for his horsemen, and all that it pleased Solomon to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon, and in all the land under his rule.

^{7(D)}All of the people who remained of the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, who did not belong to Israel,

⁸namely, from their descendants who remained after them in the land whom the sons of Israel had not destroyed, ^(E)them Solomon raised as forced laborers to this day.

⁹But Solomon did not make slaves for his work from the sons of Israel; they served as men of war, his chief captains and commanders of his chariots and his horsemen.

¹⁰These serves as the chief officers of King Solomon, two hundred and fifty who ruled over the people.

^{11(E)}Then Solomon brought Pharaoh's daughter up from the city of David to the house which he had built for her, for he said, "My wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places we regard as holy where the ark of the LORD has entered."

¹²Then Solomon offered burnt offerings to the LORD on ^(G)the altar of the LORD which he had built before the porch;

¹³and ^(H)did so according to the daily rule, offering them up ^(I)according to the commandment of Moses, for ^(J)the sabbaths, ^(K)the new moons and the ^(L)three annual feasts--the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Booths.

¹⁴Now according to the ordinance of his father David, he appointed ^(M)the divisions of the priests for their service, and ^(N)the Levites for their duties of praise and ministering before the priests according to the daily rule, and ^(O)the gatekeepers by their divisions at every gate; for ^(P)David the man of God had so commanded.

¹⁵And they did not depart from the commandment of the king to the priests and Levites in any manner or concerning the storehouses.

¹⁶Thus all the work of Solomon they carried out from the day of the foundation of the house of the LORD, and until it became completed. So the house of the LORD reached completion.

¹⁷Then Solomon went to ^(Q)Ezion-geber and to ^(R)Eloth on the seashore in the land of Edom.

¹⁸And Hiram by his servants sent him ships and servants who knew the sea; and they went with Solomon's servants to Ophir, and ^(S)took from there four hundred and fifty talents of gold and brought them to King Solomon.

2 Chronicles 9

NASB E-Prime DFM

Visit of the Queen of Sheba

^{1(A)}Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to Jerusalem to test Solomon with difficult questions. She had a very large retinue, with camels carrying spices and a large amount of gold and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that resided in her heart.

²Solomon answered all her questions; and Solomon hid nothing from her which he did not explain to her.

³When the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house which he had built,

⁴the food at his table, the seating of his servants, the attendance of his ministers and their attire, his cupbearers and their attire, and his stairway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, she grew breathless.

⁵Then she said to the king, "It appears a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom.

⁶"Nevertheless I did not believe their reports until I came and my eyes had seen it. And behold, the half of the greatness of your wisdom I did not hear about. You surpass the report that I heard.

⁷"How blessed do I consider your men, how blessed do I consider your servants who stand before you continually and hear your wisdom.

⁸" We bless the LORD your God who delighted in you, ^(B)setting you on His throne as king for the LORD your God; ^(C)because your God loved Israel establishing them forever, therefore He made you king over them, to do justice and righteousness."

⁹Then she gave the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold and a very great amount of spices and precious stones; they never had spice like that which the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

¹⁰The servants of Hiram and the servants of Solomon ^(D)who brought gold from Ophir, also brought algum trees and precious stones.

¹¹From the algum trees the king made steps for the house of the LORD and for the king's palace, and lyres and harps for the singers; and none like that ever appeared before in the land of Judah.

¹²King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all her desire which she requested besides a return for what she had brought to the king. Then she turned and went to her own land with her servants.

Solomon's Wealth and Power

¹³^(E)Now the weight of gold which came to Solomon in one year exceeded 666 talents of gold,

¹⁴besides that which the traders and merchants brought; and all ^(E)the kings of Arabia and the governors of the country brought gold and silver to Solomon.

¹⁵King Solomon made 200 large shields of beaten gold, using 600 shekels of beaten gold on each large shield.

¹⁶He made 300 shields of beaten gold, using three hundred shekels of gold on each shield, and the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.

¹⁷Moreover, the king made a great throne of ivory and overlaid it with pure gold.

¹⁸The throne and footstool had six steps in gold attached to the throne, and arms on each side of the seat, and two lions standing beside the arms.

¹⁹Twelve lions stood there on the six steps on the one side and on the other; no one made anything like it for any other kingdom.

²⁰All King Solomon's drinking vessels consisted of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon consisted of pure gold; silver did not have value in the days of Solomon.

²¹[\(G\)](#)For the king had ships which went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram; once every three years the ships of Tarshish came bringing gold and silver, ivory and apes and peacocks.

²²[\(H\)](#)So King Solomon became greater than all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.

²³And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom which God had put in his heart.

²⁴[\(I\)](#)They brought every man his gift, articles of silver and gold, garments, weapons, spices, horses and mules, so much year by year.

²⁵Now Solomon had [\(J\)](#)4,000 stalls for horses and chariots and 12,000 horsemen, and he stationed them in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.

²⁶[\(K\)](#)He served as the ruler over all the kings from the Euphrates River even to the land of the Philistines, and as far as the border of Egypt.

²⁷[\(L\)](#)The king made silver as common as stones in Jerusalem, and he made cedars as plentiful as sycamore trees that grow in the lowland.

²⁸[\(M\)](#)And they brought horses for Solomon from Egypt and from all countries.

²⁹(N) Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, from first to last, do we not read them in the records of Nathan the prophet, and in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer concerning Jeroboam the son of Nebat?

³⁰(P) Solomon reigned forty years in Jerusalem over all Israel.

Death of Solomon

³¹And Solomon slept with his fathers and they buried him in ^(Q)the city of his father David; and his son Rehoboam reigned in his place.

2 Chronicles 10

NASB E-Prime DFM

Rehoboam's Reign of Folly

¹(A) Then Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king.

²When Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for ^(B)he lived in Egypt where he had fled from the presence of King Solomon), Jeroboam returned from Egypt.

³So they sent and summoned him. When Jeroboam and all Israel came, they spoke to Rehoboam, saying,

⁴"Your father made our ^(C)yoke hard; now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you."

⁵He said to them, "Return to me again in three days." So the people departed.

⁶Then King Rehoboam ^(D)consulted with the elders who had served his father Solomon while he still lived, saying, "How do you counsel me to answer this people?"

⁷They spoke to him, saying, "If you will show kindness to this people and please them and ^(E)speak good words to them, then they will serve you forever."

⁸But he ^(E)forsook the counsel of the elders which they had given him, and consulted with the young men who grew up with him and served him.

⁹So he said to them, "What counsel do you give that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke which your father put on us'?"

¹⁰The young men who grew up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you shall say to the people who spoke to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter for us.' Thus you shall say to them, 'My little finger shall seem thicker than my father's loins!'"

¹¹Whereas my father loaded you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions."

¹²So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day as the king had directed, saying, "Return to me on the third day."

¹³The king answered them harshly, and King Rehoboam forsook the counsel of the elders.

¹⁴He spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to it; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions."

¹⁵So the king did not listen to the people, ^(G)for it served a turn of events from God ^(H)that the LORD might establish His word, which He spoke through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

¹⁶When all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them the people answered the king, saying,

"^(I)What portion do we have in David?
We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse
Every man to your tents, O Israel;
Now look after your own house, David "
^(J)So all Israel departed to their tents.

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

¹⁸Then King Rehoboam sent Hadoram, who presided ^(K)over the forced labor, and the sons of Israel stoned him to death. And King Rehoboam made haste to mount his chariot to flee to Jerusalem.

¹⁹So ^(L)Israel has rebelled against the house of David to this day.

2 Chronicles 11

NASB E-Prime DFM

Rehoboam Reigns over Judah and Builds Cities

^{1(A)}Now when Rehoboam had come to Jerusalem, he assembled the house of Judah and Benjamin, 180,000 chosen men who served as warriors, to fight against Israel to restore the kingdom to Rehoboam.

²But the word of the LORD came to ^(B)Shemaiah the man of God, saying,

³"Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all Israel in Judah and Benjamin, saying,

⁴Thus says the LORD, "You shall not go up or fight against ^(C)your relatives; return every man to his house, ^(D)for this thing came from Me." So they listened to the words of the LORD and returned from going against Jeroboam.

⁵Rehoboam lived in Jerusalem and ^(E)built cities for defense in Judah.

⁶Thus he built Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa,

⁷Beth-zur, Soco, Adullam,

⁸Gath, Mareshah, Ziph,

⁹Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah,

¹⁰Zorah, Aijalon and Hebron, which he built as fortified cities in Judah and in Benjamin.

¹¹He also strengthened the fortresses and put officers in them and stores of food, oil and wine.

¹²He put shields and spears in every city and strengthened them greatly. So he held Judah and Benjamin.

¹³Moreover, the priests and the Levites who lived in all Israel stood with him from all their districts.

Jeroboam Appoints False Priests

¹⁴For ^(E)the Levites left their pasture lands and their property and came to Judah and Jerusalem, for ^(G)Jeroboam and his sons had excluded them from serving as priests to the LORD.

¹⁵^(H)He set up priests of his own for the high places, for the satyrs and for the calves which he had made.

¹⁶^(I)Those from all the tribes of Israel who set their hearts on seeking the LORD God of Israel followed them to Jerusalem, to sacrifice to the LORD God of their fathers.

¹⁷^(J)They strengthened the kingdom of Judah and supported Rehoboam the son of Solomon for three years, for they walked in the way of David and Solomon for three years.

Rehoboam's Family

¹⁸Then Rehoboam took as a wife Mahalath the daughter of Jerimoth the son of David and of Abihail the daughter of ^(K)Eliab the son of Jesse,

¹⁹and she bore him sons: Jeush, Shemariah and Zaham.

²⁰After her he took ^(L)Maacah the daughter of Absalom, and she bore him Abijah, Attai, Ziza and Shelomith.

²¹Rehoboam loved Maacah the daughter of Absalom more than all his other wives and concubines. For ^(M)he had taken eighteen wives and sixty concubines and fathered twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters.

²²^(N)Rehoboam appointed Abijah the son of Maacah as head and leader among his brothers, for he intended to make him king.

²³He acted wisely and distributed some of his sons through all the territories of Judah and Benjamin to all the fortified cities, and he gave them food in abundance. And he sought many wives for them.

2 Chronicles 12

NASB E-Prime DFM

Shishak of Egypt Invades Judah

¹(A) When the kingdom of Rehoboam became established and strong, (B) he and all Israel with him forsook the law of the LORD.

²(C) And it came about in King Rehoboam's fifth year, because they had proved unfaithful to the LORD, that (D) Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem

³ with 1,200 chariots and 60,000 horsemen. And the people who came with him from Egypt appeared without number: (E) the Lubim, the Sukkiim and the Ethiopians.

⁴ He captured (E) the fortified cities of Judah and came as far as Jerusalem.

⁵ Then (G) Shemaiah the prophet came to Rehoboam and the princes of Judah who had gathered at Jerusalem because of Shishak, and he said to them, "Thus says the LORD, '(H) You have forsaken Me, so I also have forsaken you to Shishak.'"

⁶ So the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, "The (I) LORD has righteousness."

⁷ When the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, "(J) They have humbled themselves so I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some measure of deliverance, and (K) My wrath shall not pour out on Jerusalem by means of Shishak.

⁸ "But they will become his slaves so (L) that they may learn the difference between My service and the service of the kingdoms of the countries."

Plunder Impoverishes Judah

⁹(M) So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's palace He took everything; (N) he even took the golden shields which Solomon had made.

¹⁰Then King Rehoboam made shields of bronze in their place and committed them to the care of the commanders of the guard who guarded the door of the king's house.

¹¹As often as the king entered the house of the LORD, the guards came and carried them and then brought them back into the guards' room.

¹²And ^(Q)when he humbled himself, the anger of the LORD turned away from him, so as not to destroy him completely; and also conditions remained good in Judah.

¹³^(Q)So King Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem and reigned. Now Rehoboam reached forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen from all the tribes of Israel, to put His name there. And his mother had the name of Naamah the Ammonitess.

¹⁴He did evil ^(R)because he did not set his heart to seek the LORD.

¹⁵^(S)Now the acts of Rehoboam, from first to last, have we not read them in the records of ^(I)Shemaiah the prophet and of ^(U)Iddo the seer, according to genealogical enrollment? And wars erupted between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually.

¹⁶And Rehoboam slept with his fathers and they buried him in the city of David; and his son ^(V)Abijah became king in his place.

2 Chronicles 13

NASB E-Prime DFM

Abijah Succeeds Rehoboam

¹^(A)In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam, Abijah became king over Judah.

²He reigned three years in Jerusalem; and his mother had the name of Micaiah the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah. ^(B)Now there erupted war between Abijah and Jeroboam.

³Abijah began the battle with an army of valiant warriors, 400,000 chosen men, while Jeroboam drew up in battle formation against him with 800,000 chosen men who served as valiant warriors.

Civil War

⁴Then Abijah stood on Mount ^(C)Zemaraim, which lies in the hill country of Ephraim, and said, "Listen to me, Jeroboam and all Israel:

⁵"Do you not know that ^(D)the LORD God of Israel gave the rule over Israel forever to David and his sons by ^(E)a covenant of salt?

⁶"Yet ^(E)Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, rose up and rebelled against his master,

⁷and worthless men gathered about him, scoundrels, who proved too strong for Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, when young and timid and could not hold his own against them.

⁸"So now you intend to resist the kingdom of the LORD through the sons of David, consisting a great multitude and having with you ^(H)the golden calves which Jeroboam made for gods for you.

⁹"^(I)Have you not driven out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron and the Levites, and made for yourselves priests like the peoples of other lands? Whoever comes ^(J)to consecrate himself with a young bull and seven rams, even he may become a priest of ^(K)no gods.

¹⁰"But as for us, we acknowledge the LORD as our God, and we have not forsaken Him; and the sons of Aaron minister to the LORD as priests, and the Levites attend to their work.

¹¹"Every morning and evening ^(L)they burn to the LORD burnt offerings and fragrant incense, and ^(M)the showbread stands on the clean table, and the golden lampstand with its lamps ready to light every evening; for we keep the charge of the LORD our God, but you have forsaken Him.

¹²"Now behold, God is with us at our head and ^(N)His priests with the signal trumpets to sound the alarm against you. O sons of Israel, do not fight against the LORD God of your fathers, for you will not succeed."

¹³But Jeroboam ^(O)had set an ambush to come from the rear, so that Israel was in front of Judah and the ambush remained behind them.

¹⁴When Judah turned around, behold, they suffered attack from both front and rear; so ^(P)they cried to the LORD, and the priests blew the trumpets.

¹⁵Then the men of Judah raised a war cry, and when the men of Judah raised the war cry, then God ^(Q)routed Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.

¹⁶When the sons of Israel fled before Judah, ^(R)God gave them into their hand.

¹⁷Abijah and his people defeated them with a great slaughter, so that 500,000 chosen men of Israel fell slain.

¹⁸Thus the sons of Israel fell under subjugation at that time, and the sons of Judah conquered ^(S)because they trusted in the LORD, the God of their fathers.

¹⁹Abijah pursued Jeroboam and captured from him several cities, Bethel with its villages, Jeshanah with its villages and Ephron with its villages.

Death of Jeroboam

²⁰Jeroboam did not again recover strength in the days of Abijah; and the ^(T)LORD struck him and ^(U)he died.

²¹But Abijah became powerful; and took fourteen wives to himself, and became the father of twenty-two sons and sixteen daughters.

²²Now the rest of the acts of Abijah, and his ways and his words we read in ^(V)the treatise of ^(W)the prophet Iddo

2 Chronicles 14

NASB E-Prime DFM

Asa Succeeds Abijah in Judah

^{1(A)}So Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David, and his son Asa became king in his place. The land remained undisturbed for ten years during his days.

²Asa did good and right in the sight of the LORD his God,

³for he removed ^(B)the foreign altars and ^(C)high places, tore down the sacred pillars, cut down the ^[a]^(D)Asherim,

⁴and commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers and to observe the law and the commandment.

⁵He also removed the high places and the ^(E)incense altars from all the cities of Judah. And the kingdom continued undisturbed under him.

⁶^(E)He built fortified cities in Judah, since the land remained undisturbed, and no one warred with him during those years, ^(G)because the LORD had given him rest.

⁷For he said to Judah, "^(H)Let us build these cities and surround them with walls and towers, gates and bars. The land still belongs to us because we have sought the LORD our God; we have sought Him, and He has given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered.

⁸Now Asa had an army of ^(I)300,000 from Judah, bearing large shields and spears, and 280,000 from Benjamin, bearing shields and wielding bows; all of them proved themselves valiant warriors.

⁹Now Zerah the Ethiopian ^(J)came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots, and he came to ^(K)Mareshah.

¹⁰So Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up in battle formation in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.

¹¹Then Asa ^(L)called to the LORD his God and said, "LORD, there exists no one besides You to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O LORD our God, ^(M)for we trust in You, and in Your name have come against this multitude. O LORD, we acknowledge You as our God; let not man prevail against You."

¹²So ^(N)the LORD routed the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.

¹³Asa and the people who accompanied him pursued them as far as ^(O)Gerar; and so many Ethiopians fell that they could not recover, for they were shattered before the LORD and before His army. And they carried away very much plunder.

¹⁴They destroyed all the cities around Gerar, ^(P)for the dread of the LORD had fallen on them; and they despoiled all the cities, for they found much plunder in them.

¹⁵They also struck down those who owned livestock, and they carried away large numbers of sheep and camels. Then they returned to Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 15

NASB E-Prime DFM

The Prophet Azariah Warns Asa

¹Now ^(A)the Spirit of God came on Azariah the son of Oded,

²and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Listen to me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: ^(B)the LORD remains with you when you remain with Him And ^(C)if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.

³^(D)For many days Israel didn't have the true God and without ^(E)a teaching priest and without law.

⁴"But ^(F)in their distress they turned to the LORD God of Israel, and they sought Him, and He let them find Him.

⁵^(G)In those times no peace came to him who went out or to him who came in, for many disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands.

⁶^(H)Nation became crushed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every kind of distress.

⁷"But you, remain strong and do not lose courage, for there remains a ^(J)reward for your work."

Asa's Reforms

⁸Now when Asa heard these words and the prophecy which Azariah the son of Oded the prophet spoke, he took courage and removed the abominable idols from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from ^(K)the cities which he

had captured in the hill country of Ephraim ^(L)He then restored the altar of the LORD which stood in front of the porch of the LORD.

⁹He gathered all Judah and Benjamin and those from Ephraim, Manasseh and Simeon ^(M)who resided with them, for many defected to him from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God remained with him.

¹⁰So they assembled at Jerusalem in the third month of the fifteenth year of Asa's reign.

¹¹^(N)They sacrificed to the LORD that day 700 oxen and 7,000 sheep from the spoil they had brought.

¹²^(O)They entered into the covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and soul;

¹³and whoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel ^(P)should receive the death penalty, whether small or great, man or woman.

¹⁴Moreover, they made an oath to the LORD with a loud voice, with shouting, with trumpets and with horns.

¹⁵All Judah rejoiced concerning the oath, for they had sworn with their whole heart and had sought Him earnestly, and He let them find Him. So ^(Q)the LORD gave them rest on every side.

¹⁶^(R)He also removed Maacah, the mother of King Asa, from the position of queen mother, because she had made a horrid image as ^(S)an Asherah, and ^(T)Asa cut down her horrid image, crushed it and burned it at the brook Kidron.

¹⁷But the high places he did not remove from Israel; nevertheless Asa's heart remained blameless all his days.

¹⁸He brought into the house of God the dedicated things of his father and his own dedicated things: silver and gold and utensils.

¹⁹And there erupted no more war until the thirty-fifth year of Asa's reign.

2 Chronicles 16

NASB E-Prime DFM

Asa Wars against Baasha

¹In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign ^(A)Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah and fortified Ramah in order to prevent anyone from going out or coming in to Asa king of Judah.

²Then Asa brought out silver and gold from the treasuries of the house of the LORD and the king's house, and sent them to Ben-hadad king of Aram, who lived in Damascus, saying,

³"Let us have a treaty between you and me, as between my father and your father. Behold, I have sent you silver and gold; go, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so that he will withdraw from me."

⁴So Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel, and they conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel-maim and all ^(B)the store cities of Naphtali.

⁵When Baasha heard of it, he ceased fortifying Ramah and stopped his work.

⁶Then King Asa brought all Judah, and they carried away the stones of Ramah and its timber with which Baasha had built, and with them he fortified Geba and Mizpah.

Asa Imprisons the Prophet

⁷At that time ^(C)Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "^(D)Because you have relied on the king of Aram and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Aram has escaped out of your hand.

⁸"Did you not consider ^(E)the Ethiopians and the Lubim ^(E)an immense army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet ^(G)because you relied on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand.

⁹"For ^(H)the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those ^(I)whose heart belongs totally to Him. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars."

¹⁰Then Asa became angry with the seer and put him in prison, for he became enraged at him for this. And Asa oppressed some of the people at the same time.

¹¹^(J)Now, the acts of Asa from first to last, behold, we read about them in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.

¹²In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa became diseased in his feet. His disease became severe, yet even in his disease he ^(K)did not seek the LORD, but the physicians.

¹³So Asa slept with his fathers, having died in the forty-first year of his reign.

¹⁴They buried him in his own tomb which he had cut out for himself in the city of David, and they laid him in the resting place which he had filled ^(L)with spices of various kinds blended by the perfumers' art; and ^(M)they made a very great fire for him.

2 Chronicles 17

NASB E-Prime DFM

Jehoshaphat Succeeds Asa

¹^(A)Jehoshaphat his son then became king in his place, and made his position over Israel firm.

²He placed troops in all ^(B)the fortified cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim ^(C)which Asa his father had captured.

His Good Reign

³The LORD remained with Jehoshaphat because he followed the example of his father David's earlier days and did not seek the Baals,

⁴but sought the God of his father, followed His commandments, ^(D)and did not act as Israel did.

⁵So the LORD established the kingdom in his control, and all Judah brought tribute to Jehoshaphat, and ^(E)he had great riches and honor.

⁶He took great pride in the ways of the LORD and again ^(E)removed the high places and the Asherim from Judah.

⁷Then in the third year of his reign he sent his officials, Ben-hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel and Micaiah, ^(G)to teach in the cities of Judah;

⁸and with them ^(H)the Levites, Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah and Tobadonijah, the Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, the priests.

⁹They taught in Judah, having ^(I)the book of the law of the LORD with them; and they went throughout all the cities of Judah and taught among the people.

¹⁰Now ^(J)the dread of the LORD fell on all the kingdoms of the lands which lay around Judah, so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat.

¹¹Some of the Philistines ^(K)brought gifts and silver as tribute to Jehoshaphat; the Arabians also brought him flocks, 7,700 rams and 7,700 male goats.

¹²So Jehoshaphat grew greater and greater, and he built fortresses and store cities in Judah.

¹³He had large supplies in the cities of Judah, and warriors, valiant men, in Jerusalem.

¹⁴This consisted of their muster according to their fathers' households: of Judah, commanders of thousands, Adnah became the commander, and with him 300,000 valiant warriors;

¹⁵and next to him we identify as Johanan the commander, and with him 280,000;

¹⁶and next to him Amasiah the son of Zichri, ^(L)who volunteered for the LORD, and with him 200,000 valiant warriors;

¹⁷and of Benjamin, Eliada a valiant warrior, and with him 200,000 armed with bow and shield;

¹⁸and next to him Jehozabad, and with him 180,000 equipped for war.

¹⁹These are they who served the king, apart from ^(M)those whom the king put in the fortified cities through all Judah.

2 Chronicles 18

NASB E-Prime DFM

Jehoshaphat Allies with Ahab

¹Now ^(A)Jehoshaphat had great riches and honor; and he allied himself by marriage with Ahab.

²^(B)Some years later he went down to visit Ahab at Samaria. And Ahab slaughtered many sheep and oxen for him and the people who accompanied him, and induced him to go up against Ramoth-gilead.

³Ahab king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, "Will you go with me against Ramoth-gilead?" And he said to him, "I consider myself as you, and my people as your people, and we will accompany you in the battle."

⁴Moreover, Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Please inquire first for the word of the LORD."

⁵Then the king of Israel assembled the prophets, four hundred men, and said to them, "Shall we go against Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I refrain?" And they said, "Go up, for God will give it into the hand of the king."

⁶But Jehoshaphat said, "Do we not yet have a prophet of the LORD here that we may inquire of him?"

⁷The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There remains yet one man by whom we may inquire of the LORD, but I hate him, for he never prophesies good concerning me but always evil. He has the name of Micaiah, son of Imla." But Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say so."

Ahab's False Prophets Assure Victory

⁸Then the king of Israel called an officer and said, "Bring quickly Micaiah, Imla's son."

⁹Now the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah sat on his throne, arrayed in their robes, and they sat ^(C)at the threshing floor at the

entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them.

¹⁰Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made horns of iron for himself and said, "Thus says the LORD, 'With these you shall gore the Arameans until you consume them.'"

¹¹All the prophets prophesied thus, saying, "Go up to Ramoth-gilead and succeed, for the LORD will give it into the hand of the king."

Micaiah Brings Word from God

¹²Then the messenger who went to summon Micaiah spoke to him saying, "Behold, the words of the prophets seem uniformly favorable to the king. So please let your word resemble one of them and speak favorably."

¹³But Micaiah said, "As the LORD lives, ^(D)what my God says, that I will speak."

¹⁴When he came to the king, the king said to him, "Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I refrain?" He said, "Go up and succeed, for they will fall into your hand."

¹⁵Then the king said to him, "How many times must I adjure you to speak to me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"

¹⁶So he said,
"I saw all Israel
Scattered on the mountains,
^(E)Like sheep which have no shepherd;
And the LORD said,
'These have no master.
Let each of them return to his house in peace.'"

¹⁷Then the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?"

¹⁸Micaiah said, "Therefore, hear the word of the LORD. ^(E)I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing on His right and on His left.

¹⁹"The LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab king of Israel to go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said this while another said that.

²⁰"Then a ^(G)spirit came forward and stood before the LORD and said, 'I will entice him.' And the LORD said to him, 'How?'

²¹"He said, 'I will go and become ^(H)a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' Then He said, 'You will entice him and prevail also. Go and do so.'

²²"Now therefore, behold, ^(I)the LORD has put a deceiving spirit in the mouth of these your prophets, for the LORD has proclaimed disaster against you."

²³Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near and ^(J)struck Micaiah on the cheek and said, "How did the Spirit of the LORD pass from me to speak to you?"

²⁴Micaiah said, "Behold, you will see on that day when you enter an inner room to hide yourself."

²⁵Then the king of Israel said, "^(K)Take Micaiah and return him to Amon ^(L)the governor of the city and to Joash the king's son;

²⁶and say, 'Thus says the king, "^(M)Put this man in prison and feed him sparingly with bread and water until I return safely.'"

²⁷Micaiah said, "If you indeed return safely, the LORD has not spoken by me." And he said, "^(N)Listen, all you people."

Ahab's Defeat and Death

²⁸So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah went up against Ramoth-gilead.

²⁹The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself and go into battle, but you put on your robes." So the king of Israel disguised himself, and they went into battle.

³⁰Now the king of Aram had commanded the captains of his chariots, saying, "Do not fight with small or great, but with the king of Israel alone."

³¹So when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, they said, " We see the king of Israel," and they turned aside to fight against him. But Jehoshaphat ^(O)cried out, and the LORD helped him, and God diverted them from him.

³²When the captains of the chariots saw that the king of Israel did not appear there, they turned back from pursuing him.

³³A certain man drew his bow at random and struck the king of Israel in a joint of the armor. So he said to the driver of the chariot, "Turn around and take me out of the fight, for I have become severely wounded."

³⁴The battle raged that day, and the king of Israel propped himself up in his chariot in front of the Arameans until the evening; and at sunset he died.

2 Chronicles 19

NASM E-Prime DFM

Jehu Rebukes Jehoshaphat

¹Then Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned in safety to his house in Jerusalem.

²(A)Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, "(B)Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD and (C)so bring wrath on yourself from the LORD?

³"But I find some good in you, for (E)you have removed the Asheroth from the land and you (F)have set your heart to seek God."

⁴So Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem and went out again among the people from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim and (G)brought them back to the LORD, the God of their fathers.

Reforms Instituted

⁵He appointed (H)judges in the land in all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city.

⁶He said to the judges, "Consider what have you done, for (I)you do not judge for man but for the LORD who accompanies you when you render judgment.

⁷"Now then let the fear of the LORD be upon you; have care what you do, for the LORD our God will (J)have no part in unrighteousness (K)or partiality or the taking of a bribe."

⁸In Jerusalem also Jehoshaphat appointed some (L)of the Levites and priests, and some of the heads of the fathers' households of Israel, for the

judgment of the LORD and to judge disputes among the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

⁹Then he charged them saying, "Thus you shall do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully and wholeheartedly.

¹⁰^(M)Whenever any dispute comes to you from your brethren who live in their cities, between blood and blood, between law and commandment, statutes and ordinances, you shall warn them so that they may not have guilt before the LORD, and ^(N)wrath may not come on you and your brethren. Thus you shall do and you will not have guilt.

¹¹"Behold, Amariah the chief priest will preside over you in ^(O)all that pertains to the LORD, and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, in all that pertains to the king Also the Levites shall serve as officers before you ^(P)Act resolutely, and the LORD support the upright."

2 Chronicles 20

NASB E-Prime DFM

Judah Invaded

¹Now it came about after this that the sons of Moab and the sons of Ammon, together with some of the ^(A)Meunites, came to make war against Jehoshaphat.

²Then some came and reported to Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude comes against you from beyond the sea, out of Aram and behold, they live in ^(B)Hazazon-tamar (namely Engedi)."

³Jehoshaphat feared and ^(C)turned his attention to seek the LORD, and ^(D)proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

⁴So Judah gathered together to ^(E)seek help from the LORD; they even came from all the cities of Judah to seek the LORD.

Jehoshaphat's Prayer

⁵Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD before the new court,

⁶and he said, "O LORD, the God of our fathers, do we not acknowledge You as the God in the heavens? And do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might reside in Your hand so that no one can stand against You.

⁷"Did You not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and ^(H)give it to the descendants of ^(I)Abraham Your friend forever?

⁸"They have lived in it, and have built You a sanctuary there for Your name, saying,

⁹^(J)Should evil come upon us, the sword, or judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before You (for ^(K)Your name we invoke in this house) and cry to You in our distress, and You will hear and deliver us.'

¹⁰"Now behold, ^(L)the sons of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, ^(M)whom You did not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt (they turned aside from them and did not destroy them),

¹¹see how they reward us by ^(N)coming to drive us out from Your possession which You have given us as an inheritance.

¹²"O our God, ^(O)will You not judge them? For we feel powerless before this great multitude who come against us; nor do we know what to do, but ^(P)our eyes fix on You."

¹³All Judah stood before the LORD, with their infants, their wives and their children.

Jahaziel Answers the Prayer

¹⁴Then in the midst of the assembly ^(Q)the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite of the sons of Asaph;

¹⁵and he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, '^(R)Do not fear or feel dismay because of this great multitude, for ^(S)the battle does not belong to you but to God.

¹⁶Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley in front of the wilderness of Jeruel.

¹⁷You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, ^(T)stand and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem ' Do not fear or feel dismay; tomorrow go out to face them, ^(U)for the LORD remains with you."

¹⁸Jehoshaphat ^(V)bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshiping the LORD.

¹⁹The Levites, from the sons of the Kohathites and of the sons of the Korahites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

Enemies Destroy Themselves

²⁰They rose early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa; and when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, ^(W)put your trust in the LORD your God and you will become established. Put your trust in His prophets and succeed."

²¹When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the LORD and those who ^(X)praised Him in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, "^(Y)Give thanks to the LORD, for His lovingkindness lasts forever."

²²When they began singing and praising, the LORD ^(Z)set ambushes against the sons of ^(AA)Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they became routed.

²³For the sons of Ammon and Moab rose up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir destroying them completely; and when they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, ^(AB)they helped to destroy one another.

²⁴When Judah came to the lookout of the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude, and behold, they appeared as corpses lying on the ground, and no one had escaped.

²⁵When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found much among them, including goods, garments and valuable things which they took for themselves, more than they could carry. And they took three days taking the spoil because there seemed so much.

Triumphant Return to Jerusalem

²⁶Then on the fourth day they assembled in the valley of Beracah, for there they blessed the LORD. Therefore they have named that place "The Valley of [a]Beracah" until today.

²⁷Every man of Judah and Jerusalem returned with Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, ^(AC)for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies.

²⁸They came to Jerusalem with harps, lyres and trumpets to the house of the LORD.

²⁹And ^(AD)the dread of God fell on all the kingdoms of the lands when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.

³⁰So the kingdom of Jehoshaphat remained at peace, ^(AE)for his God gave him rest on all sides.

³¹^(AF)Now Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah. He reached thirty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-five years. And his mother had the name of Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

³²He walked in the way of his father Asa and did not depart from it, doing right in the sight of the LORD.

³³^(AG)The high places, however, he did not remove; ^(AH)the people had not yet directed their hearts to the God of their fathers.

³⁴Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first to last, behold, we read them in the annals of ^(AI)Jehu the son of Hanani, which we see recorded in the Book of the Kings of Israel.

Alliance Displeases God

³⁵^(AJ)After this Jehoshaphat king of Judah allied himself with Ahaziah king of Israel. He acted wickedly in so doing.

³⁶So he allied himself with him to make ships to go ^(AK)to Tarshish, and they made the ships in Ezion-geber.

³⁷Then Eliezer the son of Dodavahu of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat saying, "Because you have allied yourself with Ahaziah, the LORD has destroyed your works." So the ships became broken and could not go to Tarshish.

2 Chronicles 21

NASB E-Prime DFM

Jehoram Succeeds Jehoshaphat in Judah

^{1(A)}Then Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David, and Jehoram his son became king in his place.

²He had brothers, the sons of Jehoshaphat: Azariah, Jehiel, Zechariah, Azaryahu, Michael and Shephatiah. All these we identify as the sons of Jehoshaphat king ^(B)of Israel.

³Their father gave them many gifts of silver, gold and precious things, ^(C)with fortified cities in Judah, but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram because they acknowledged him as the firstborn.

⁴Now when Jehoram had taken over the kingdom of his father and made himself secure, he ^(D)killed all his brothers with the sword, and some of the rulers of Israel also.

^{5(E)}Jehoram reached thirty-two years when he became king, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

^{6(E)}He walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab did ^(G)(for Ahab's daughter had become his wife), and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

⁷Yet the LORD would not destroy the house of David because of the covenant which He had made with David, ^(H)and since He had promised to give a lamp to him and his sons forever.

Revolt against Judah

⁸In his days ^(I)Edom revolted ^[a]against the rule of Judah and set up a king over themselves.

⁹Then Jehoram crossed over with his commanders and all his chariots with him. And he arose by night and struck down the Edomites who surrounded him and the commanders of the chariots.

¹⁰So Edom revolted ^[b]against Judah to this day. Then Libnah revolted at the same time against his rule, because he had forsaken the LORD God of his fathers.

¹¹Moreover, ^(J)he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem ^(K)to play the harlot and led Judah astray.

¹²Then a letter came to him from Elijah the prophet saying, "Thus says the LORD God of your father David, 'Because ^(L)you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father ^(M)and the ways of Asa king of Judah,

¹³but ^(N)have walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and have caused Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to play the harlot ^(O)as the house of Ahab played the harlot, and you ^(P)have also killed your brothers, your own family, who behaved better than you,

¹⁴behold, the LORD will strike your people, your sons, your wives and all your possessions with a great calamity;

¹⁵and ^(Q)you will suffer severe sickness, a disease of your bowels, until your bowels come out because of the sickness, day by day.'"

¹⁶Then ^(R)the LORD stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines and ^(S)the Arabs who bordered the Ethiopians;

¹⁷and they came against Judah and invaded it, and carried away all the possessions found in the king's house together with his sons and his wives, so that no son remained with him except ^(T)Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons.

¹⁸So after all this the LORD smote him ^(U)in his bowels with an incurable sickness.

¹⁹Now it came about in the course of time, at the end of two years, that his bowels came out because of his sickness and he died in great pain. And his people made no fire for him like ^(V)the fire for his fathers.

²⁰He reached thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years; and he departed ^(W)with no one's regret, and they buried him in the city of David, ^(X)but not in the tombs of the kings.

2 Chronicles 22

NASB E-Prime DFM

Ahaziah Succeeds Jehoram in Judah

^{1(A)}Then the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah, his youngest son, king in his place, for the band of men who came with ^(B)the Arabs to the camp had slain all the older sons. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah began to reign.

²Ahaziah reached twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother had the name of Athaliah, the granddaughter of Omri.

³He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother served as his counselor to do wickedly.

⁴He did evil in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab, for they served as his counselors after the death of his father, to ^(C)his destruction.

Ahaziah Allies with Jehoram of Israel

⁵He also walked according to their counsel, and went with Jehoram the son of Ahab king of Israel to wage war against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth-gilead. But the ^(D)Arameans wounded Joram.

⁶So he returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which they had inflicted on him at Ramah, when he fought against Hazael king of Aram. And Ahaziah, the son of Jehoram king of Judah, went down to see Jehoram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he had become sick.

⁷Now ^(E)the destruction of Ahaziah had come from God, in that he went to Joram For when he came, ^(F)he went out with Jehoram against Jehu the son of Nimshi, ^(G)whom the LORD had anointed to cut off the house of Ahab.

Jehu Murders Princes of Judah

^{8(H)}It came about when Jehu executed judgment on the house of Ahab, he found the princes of Judah and the sons of Ahaziah's brothers ministering to Ahaziah, and slew them.

^{9(I)}He also sought Ahaziah, and they caught him while he hid in Samaria; they brought him to Jehu, put him to death ^(J)and buried him For they said, " We identify him as the son of Jehoshaphat, ^(K)who sought the LORD with all

his heart." So there remained no one of the house of Ahaziah to retain the power of the kingdom.

^{10(L)}Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son had died, she rose and destroyed all the royal offspring of the house of Judah.

¹¹But Jehoshabeath the king's daughter took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons who had received the death penalty, and placed him and his nurse in the bedroom. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of King Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest (for they identified her as the sister of Ahaziah), hid him from Athaliah so that she would not put him to death.

¹²He remained hidden with them in the house of God six years while Athaliah reigned over the land.

2 Chronicles 23

NASB E-Prime DFM

Jehoiada Sets Joash on the Throne of Judah

^{1(A)}Now in the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and took captains of hundreds: Azariah the son of Jeroham, Ishmael the son of Johanan, Azariah the son of Obed, Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri, and they entered into a covenant with him.

²They went throughout Judah and gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah, and the heads of the fathers' households of ^(B)Israel, and they came to Jerusalem.

³Then all the assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And Jehoiada said to them, "Behold, the king's son shall reign, ^(C)as the LORD has spoken concerning the sons of David.

⁴"This thing you shall do: one third of you, of the priests and Levites ^(D)who come in on the sabbath, shall serve as gatekeepers,

⁵and one third shall remain at the king's house, and a third at the Gate of the Foundation; and all the people shall remain in the courts of the house of the LORD.

⁶"But let no one enter the house of the LORD except the priests and ^(E)the ministering Levites; they may enter, for we designate them as holy. And let all the people keep the charge of the LORD.

⁷"The Levites will surround the king, each man with his weapons in his hand; and whoever enters the house, let them kill him. Thus shall it happen with the king when he comes in and when he goes out."

⁸So the Levites and all Judah did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded. And each one of them took his men who would come in on the sabbath, with those who would go out on the sabbath, for Jehoiada the priest did not dismiss any of ^(E)the divisions.

⁹Then Jehoiada the priest gave to the captains of hundreds the spears and the large and small shields which had belonged to King David, which existed in the house of God.

¹⁰He stationed all the people, each man with his weapon in his hand, from the right side of the house to the left side of the house, by the altar and by the house, around the king.

¹¹Then they brought out the king's son and put the crown on him, and gave him ^(G)the testimony and made him king. And Jehoiada and his sons anointed him and said, "^(H)Long live the king!"

Athaliah Murdered

¹²When Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she came into the house of the LORD to the people.

¹³She looked, and behold, the king stood by his pillar at the entrance, and the captains and the trumpeters stood beside the king. And all the people of the land rejoiced and blew trumpets, the singers with their musical instruments leading the praise. Then Athaliah tore her clothes and said, "Treason! Treason!"

¹⁴Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of hundreds who received appointment over the army and said to them, "Bring her out between the ranks; and whoever follows her, put to death with the sword." For the priest said, "Let her not receive execution in the house of the LORD."

¹⁵So they seized her, and when she arrived at the entrance of ^(I)the Horse Gate of the king's house, they ^(J)put her to death there.

Reforms Carried Out

¹⁶Then ^(K)Jehoiada made a covenant between himself and all the people and the king, that they would become the LORD'S people.

¹⁷And all the people went to the house of Baal and tore it down, and they broke in pieces his altars and his images, and ^(L)killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars.

¹⁸Moreover, Jehoiada placed the offices of the house of the LORD under the authority of ^(M)the Levitical priests, ^(N)whom David had assigned over the house of the LORD, to offer the burnt offerings of the LORD, as we have read in the law of Moses--^(O)with rejoicing and singing according to the order of David.

¹⁹He stationed ^(P)the gatekeepers of the house of the LORD, so that no one would enter who remained in any way unclean.

²⁰^(Q)He took the captains of hundreds, the nobles, the rulers of the people and all the people of the land, and brought the king down from the house of the LORD, and came through the upper gate to the king's house. And they placed the king upon the royal throne.

²¹So ^(R)all of the people of the land rejoiced and the city had become quiet. For they had put Athaliah to death with the sword.

2 Chronicles 24

NASB E-Prime DFM

Young Joash Influenced by Jehoiada

¹^(A)Joash reached seven years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem; and his mother had the name of Zibiah from Beersheba.

²^(B)Joash did right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

³Jehoiada took two wives for him, and he became the father of sons and daughters.

Faithless Priests

⁴Now it came about after this that Joash decided ^(C)to restore the house of the LORD.

⁵He gathered the priests and Levites and said to them, "Go out to the cities of Judah and collect money from all ^(D)Israel to repair the house of your God annually, and you shall do the matter quickly." But the Levites did not act quickly.

⁶So the king summoned Jehoiada the chief priest and said to him, "Why have you not required the Levites to bring in from Judah and from Jerusalem ^(E)the levy fixed by Moses the servant of the LORD on the congregation of Israel ^(E)for the tent of the testimony?"

⁷For ^(G)the sons of the wicked Athaliah had broken into the house of God and even used the holy things of the house of the LORD for the Baals.

Temple Repaired

⁸So the king commanded, and ^(H)they made a chest and set it outside by the gate of the house of the LORD.

^{9(I)}They made a proclamation in Judah and Jerusalem to bring to the LORD ^(J)the levy fixed by Moses the servant of God on Israel in the wilderness.

¹⁰All the officers and all the people rejoiced and brought in their levies and dropped them into the chest until they had finished.

¹¹It came about whenever they brought the chest in to the king's officer by the Levites, and when ^(K)they saw that it had much money, then the king's scribe and the chief priest's officer would come, empty the chest, take it, and return it to its place. Thus they did daily and collected much money.

¹²The king and Jehoiada gave it to those who did the work of the service of the house of the LORD; and they hired masons and carpenters to restore the house of the LORD, and also workers in iron and bronze to repair the house of the LORD.

¹³So the workmen labored, and the repair work progressed in their hands, and they restored the house of God according to its specifications and strengthened it.

¹⁴When they had finished, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada; and they made it into utensils for the house of the LORD, utensils for the service and the burnt offering, and pans and utensils

of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually all the days of Jehoiada.

¹⁵Now when Jehoiada reached a ripe old age he died; he reached one hundred and thirty years old at his death.

¹⁶They buried him ^(L)in the city of David among the kings, because he had done well in ^(M)Israel and to God and His house.

¹⁷But after the death of Jehoiada the officials of Judah came and bowed down to the king, and the king listened to them.

¹⁸They abandoned ^(N)the house of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and ^(Q)served the ^[a]Asherim and the idols; so ^(P)wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their guilt.

¹⁹Yet ^(Q)He sent prophets to them to bring them back to the LORD; though they testified against them, they would not listen.

Joash Murders Son of Jehoiada

²⁰^(R)Then the Spirit of God came on Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest; and he stood above the people and said to them, "Thus God has said, ^(S)Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD and do not prosper? ^(T)Because you have forsaken the LORD, He has also forsaken you."

²¹So ^(U)they conspired against him and at the command of the king they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the LORD.

²²Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness which his father Jehoiada had shown him, but he murdered his son. And as he died he said, "May ^(V)the LORD see and avenge!"

Aram Invades and Defeats Judah

²³Now it happened at the turn of the year that ^(W)the army of the Arameans came up against him; and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, destroyed all the officials of the people from among the people, and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus.

²⁴Indeed the army of the Arameans came with a small number of men; yet ^(X)the LORD delivered a very great army into their hands, ^(Y)because they had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers. Thus they executed judgment on Joash.

²⁵(Z) When they had departed from him (for they left him very sick), his own servants conspired against him because of the blood of the son of Jehoiada the priest, and murdered him on his bed. So he died, and they buried him in the city of David, but they did not bury him in the tombs of the kings.

²⁶ Now these we identify as those who conspired against him: Zabad the son of Shimeath the Ammonitess, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith the Moabitess.

²⁷ As to his sons and the many oracles against him and ^(AA) the rebuilding of the house of God, behold, we read them in the ^(AB) treatise of the Book of the Kings. Then Amaziah his son became king in his place.

2 Chronicles 25

NASB E-Prime DFM

Amaziah Succeeds Joash in Judah

¹(A) Amaziah reached twenty-five years when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother had the name of Jehoaddan of Jerusalem.

² He did right in the sight of the LORD, ^(B) yet not with a whole heart.

³ Now ^(C) it came about as soon as the kingdom became firmly in his grasp, that he killed his servants who had slain his father the king.

⁴ However, he did not put their children to death, but did as we read in the law in the book of Moses, which the LORD commanded, saying, "^(D) Fathers shall not receive the death penalty for sons, nor sons receive the death penalty for fathers, but each shall receive the death penalty for his own sin."

Amaziah Defeats Edomites

⁵ Moreover, Amaziah assembled Judah and appointed them according to their fathers' households under commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds throughout Judah and Benjamin; and he took a census of those ^(E) from twenty years old and upward and found them to number ^(E) 300,000 choice men, able to go to war and handle spear and shield.

⁶He hired also 100,000 valiant warriors out of Israel for one hundred talents of silver.

⁷But ^(G)a man of God came to him saying, "O king, do not let the army of Israel go with you, for the LORD does not accompany Israel nor with any of the sons of Ephraim.

⁸"But if you do go, do it, remain strong for the battle; yet God will bring you down before the enemy, ^(H)for God has power to help and to bring down."

⁹Amaziah said to the man of God, "But what shall we do for the hundred talents which I have given to the troops of Israel?" And the man of God answered, "^(I)The LORD has much more to give you than this."

¹⁰Then Amaziah dismissed them, the troops which came to him from Ephraim, to go home; so their anger burned against Judah and they returned home in fierce anger.

¹¹Now Amaziah strengthened himself and led his people forth, and went to ^(J)the Valley of Salt and struck down 10,000 of the sons of Seir.

¹²The sons of Judah also captured 10,000 alive and brought them to the top of the cliff and threw them down from the top of the cliff, so that they all dashed to pieces.

¹³But the troops whom Amaziah sent back from going with him to battle, raided the cities of Judah, from Samaria to Beth-horon, and struck down 3,000 of them and plundered much spoil.

Amaziah Rebuked for Idolatry

¹⁴Now after Amaziah came from slaughtering the Edomites, ^(K)he brought the gods of the sons of Seir, set them up as his gods, bowed down before them and burned incense to them.

¹⁵Then the anger of the LORD burned against Amaziah, and He sent him a prophet who said to him, "Why have you sought the gods of the people ^(L)who have not delivered their own people from your hand?"

¹⁶As he talked with him, the king said to him, "Have we appointed you a royal counselor? Stop! Why should you become struck down?" Then the prophet stopped and said, "I know that God has planned to destroy you, because you have done this and have not listened to my counsel."

Amaziah Defeated by Joash of Israel

¹⁷(M) Then Amaziah king of Judah took counsel and sent to Joash the son of Jehoahaz the son of Jehu, the king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us face each other."

¹⁸Joash the king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, "(N)The thorn bush which grew in Lebanon sent to the cedar which grew in Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son in marriage.' But there passed by a wild beast that lived in Lebanon and trampled the thorn bush.

¹⁹"You said, 'Behold, you have defeated Edom.' And (O)your heart has become proud in boasting. Now stay at home; for why should you provoke trouble so that you, even you, would fall and Judah with you?"

²⁰But Amaziah would not listen, for it had come from God, that He might deliver them into the hand of Joash because they had sought the gods of Edom.

²¹So Joash king of Israel went up, and he and Amaziah king of Judah faced each other at Beth-shemesh, which belonged to Judah.

²²Judah suffered defeat at the hand of Israel, and they fled each to his tent.

²³Then Joash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash the son of (P)Jehoahaz, at Beth-shemesh, and brought him to Jerusalem and tore down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate, 400 cubits.

²⁴He took all the gold and silver and all the utensils which they found in the house of God with (Q)Obed-edom, and the treasures of the king's house, the hostages also, and returned to Samaria.

²⁵(R)And Amaziah, the son of Joash king of Judah, lived fifteen years after the death of Joash, son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel.

²⁶Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, from first to last, behold, do we not read them in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel?

²⁷From the time that Amaziah turned away from following the LORD they conspired against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish; but they sent after him to Lachish and killed him there.

²⁸Then they brought him on horses and buried him with his fathers in the city of Judah.

2 Chronicles 26

NASB E-Prime DFM

Uzziah Succeeds Amaziah in Judah

¹And all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who had reached sixteen years old, and made him king in the place of his father Amaziah.

²He built Eloth and restored it to Judah after the king slept with his fathers.

³Uzziah had reached ^(A)sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem; and his mother had the name of Jechiliah of Jerusalem.

⁴He did right in the sight of the LORD according to all that his father Amaziah had done.

⁵^(B)He continued to seek God in the days of Zechariah, ^(C)who had understanding through the vision of God; and ^(D)as long as he sought the LORD, God prospered him.

Uzziah Succeeds in War

⁶Now he went out and ^(E)warred against the Philistines, and broke down the wall of Gath and the wall of Jabneh and the wall of Ashdod; and he built cities in the area of Ashdod and among the Philistines.

⁷^(E)God helped him against the Philistines, and against the Arabians who lived in Gur-baal, and the Meunites.

⁸The Ammonites also gave ^(G)tribute to Uzziah, and his fame extended to the border of Egypt, for he became very strong.

⁹Moreover, Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at ^(H)the Corner Gate and at the ^(I)Valley Gate and at the corner buttress and fortified them.

¹⁰He built towers in the wilderness and ^(J)hewed many cisterns, for he had much livestock, both in the lowland and in the plain. He also had plowmen and vinedressers in the hill country and the fertile fields, for he loved the soil.

¹¹Moreover, Uzziah had an army ready for battle, which entered combat by divisions according to the number of their muster, prepared by Jeiel the

scribe and Maaseiah the official, under the direction of Hananiah, one of the king's officers.

¹²The total number of the heads of the households, of valiant warriors, added up to 2,600.

¹³Under their direction served an elite army of ^(K)307,500, who could wage war with great power, to help the king against the enemy.

¹⁴Moreover, Uzziah prepared for all the army shields, spears, helmets, body armor, bows and sling stones.

¹⁵In Jerusalem he made engines of war invented by skillful men to stand on the towers and on the corners for the purpose of shooting arrows and great stones. Hence his fame spread afar, for he received marvelous help until he became strong.

Pride Becomes Uzziah's Undoing

¹⁶But ^(L)when he became strong, his heart became so proud that he acted corruptly, and he proved unfaithful to the LORD his God, for ^(M)he entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.

¹⁷Then ^(N)Azariah the priest entered after him and with him eighty priests of the LORD, valiant men.

¹⁸^(O)They opposed Uzziah the king and said to him, "^(P)you, Uzziah, shall not burn incense to the LORD, ^(Q)but for the priests, the sons of Aaron who have received consecration to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have proved unfaithful and will have no honor from the LORD God."

¹⁹But Uzziah, with a censer in his hand for burning incense, became enraged; and while he became enraged with the priests, ^(R)the leprosy broke out on his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the altar of incense.

²⁰Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and behold, he became leprous on his forehead; and they hurried him out of there, and he himself also hastened to get out because the LORD had smitten him.

²¹^(S)King Uzziah remained a leper to the day of his death; and he lived in ^(T)a separate house, as a leper, for he became cut off from the house of the LORD. And Jotham his son presided over the king's house judging the people of the land.

²²Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, first to last, the prophet ^(U)Isaiah, the son of Amoz, has written.

²³So Uzziah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers ^(V)in the field of the grave which belonged to the kings, for they said, "He has become a leper." And Jotham his son became king in his place.

2 Chronicles 27

NASB E-Prime DFM

Jotham Succeeds Uzziah in Judah

^{1(A)}Jotham reached twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And his mother had the name of Jerushah the daughter of Zadok.

²He did right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah had done; ^(B)however he did not enter the temple of the LORD. But the people continued acting corruptly.

³He built the upper gate of the house of the LORD, and he built extensively the wall of ^(C)Ophel.

⁴Moreover, he built ^(D)cities in the hill country of Judah, and he built fortresses and towers on the wooded hills.

⁵He fought also with the king of the Ammonites and prevailed over them so that the Ammonites gave him during that year one hundred talents of silver, ten thousand ^[a]kors of wheat and ten thousand of barley. The Ammonites also paid him this amount in the second and in the third year.

^{6(E)}So Jotham became mighty because he ordered his ways before the LORD his God.

^{7(E)}Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, even all his wars and his acts, behold, we read them in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

⁸He had become ^(G)twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem.

⁹And Jotham slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David; and Ahaz his son became king in his place.

2 Chronicles 28

NASB E-Prime DFM

Ahaz Succeeds Jotham in Judah

¹(A)Ahaz reached twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and (B)he did not do right in the sight of the LORD as David his father had done.

²(C)But he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel; he also (D)made molten images for the Baals.

³Moreover, (E)he burned incense in the valley of Ben-hinnom and (F)burned his sons in fire, (G)according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had driven out before the sons of Israel.

⁴He sacrificed and (H)burned incense on the high places, on the hills and under every green tree.

Judah Becomes Invaded

⁵Wherefore, (I)the LORD his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Aram; and they defeated him and carried away from him a great number of captives and brought them to Damascus. And he fell into the hand of the king of Israel, who inflicted him with heavy casualties.

⁶For (J)Pekah the son of Remaliah slew in Judah 120,000 in one day, all valiant men, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers.

⁷And Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, slew Maaseiah the king's son and Azrikam the ruler of the house and Elkanah the second to the king.

⁸(K)The sons of Israel carried away captive of (L)their brethren 200,000 women, sons and daughters; and they took also a great deal of spoil from them, and brought the spoil to Samaria.

⁹But a prophet of the LORD lived there, who had the name of Oded; and (M)he went out to meet the army which came to Samaria and said to them, "Behold, because the LORD, the God of your fathers, became angry with

Judah, He has delivered them into your hand, and you have slain them in a rage ^(Q)which has even reached heaven.

¹⁰"Now you propose to ^(P)subjugate for yourselves the people of Judah and Jerusalem for male and female slaves. Surely, do you not have transgressions of your own against the LORD your God?

¹¹"Now therefore, listen to me and return the captives ^(Q)whom you captured from your brothers, ^(R)for the burning anger of the LORD has become directed against you."

¹²Then some of the heads of the sons of Ephraim--Azariah the son of Johanan, Berechiah the son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah the son of Shallum, and Amasa the son of Hadlai--arose against those who had come from the battle,

¹³and said to them, "You must not bring the captives in here, for you propose to bring upon us guilt against the LORD adding to our sins and our guilt; for our guilt has become great so that His burning anger He directs against Israel."

¹⁴So the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the officers and all the assembly.

¹⁵Then ^(S)the men who received designation by name arose, took the captives, and they clothed all their naked ones from the spoil; and they gave them clothes and sandals, fed them and ^(I)gave them drink, anointed them with oil, led all their feeble ones on donkeys, and brought them to Jericho, ^(U)the city of palm trees, to their brothers; then they returned to Samaria.

Compromise with Assyria

¹⁶^(V)At that time King Ahaz sent to the ^[a]kings of Assyria for help.

¹⁷^(W)For again the Edomites had come and attacked Judah and carried away captives.

¹⁸^(X)The Philistines also had invaded the cities of the lowland and of the Negev of Judah, and had taken Beth-shemesh, Aijalon, Gederoth, and Soco with its villages, Timnah with its villages, and Gimzo with its villages, and they settled there.

¹⁹For the LORD humbled Judah because of Ahaz king of ^(Y)Israel, for he had brought about a lack of restraint in Judah and proved very unfaithful to the LORD.

²⁰So ^(Z)Tilgath-pilneser king of Assyria came against him and afflicted him instead of strengthening him.

²¹^(AA)Although Ahaz took a portion out of the house of the LORD and out of the palace of the king and of the princes, and gave it to the king of Assyria, it did not help him.

²²Now in the time of his distress this same King Ahaz ^(AB)became yet more unfaithful to the LORD.

²³^(AC)For he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus which had defeated him, and said, "^(AD)Because the gods of the kings of Aram helped them, I will sacrifice to them that they may help me." But they became the downfall of him and all Israel.

²⁴Moreover, when Ahaz gathered together the utensils of the house of God, he ^(AE)cut the utensils of the house of God in pieces; and he ^(AF)closed the doors of the house of the LORD and ^(AG)made altars for himself in every corner of Jerusalem.

²⁵In every city of Judah he made high places to burn incense to other gods, and provoked the LORD, the God of his fathers, to anger.

²⁶^(AH)Now the rest of his acts and all his ways, from first to last, behold, we read them in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.

²⁷^(AI)So Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, in Jerusalem, for they did not bring him into the tombs of the kings of ^(AJ)Israel; and Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.

2 Chronicles 29

NASB E-Prime DFM

Hezekiah Succeeds Ahaz in Judah

¹^(A)Hezekiah became king when he reached twenty-five years ; and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother had the name of Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah.

²(B) He did right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.

³In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he (C) opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them.

⁴He brought in the priests and the Levites and gathered them into the square on the east.

Reforms Begun

⁵Then he said to them, "Listen to me, O Levites. (D) Consecrate yourselves now, and consecrate the house of the LORD, the God of your fathers, and carry the uncleanness out from the holy place.

⁶"For our fathers have proved unfaithful and have done evil in the sight of the LORD our God, and have forsaken Him and (E) turned their faces away from the dwelling place of the LORD, and have turned their backs.

⁷"They have also (E) shut the doors of the porch and put out the lamps, and have not burned incense or offered burnt offerings in the holy place to the God of Israel.

⁸"Therefore (G) the wrath of the LORD became directed against Judah and Jerusalem, and He has made them an object of terror, of horror, and of (H) hissing, as you see with your own eyes.

⁹"For behold, (I) our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives have gone into captivity for this.

¹⁰"Now it remains in my heart (J) to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, that His burning anger may turn away from us.

¹¹"My sons, do not show negligence now, for (K) the LORD has chosen you to stand before Him, to minister to Him, and to serve as His ministers and burn incense."

¹²Then the Levites arose: (L) Mahath, the son of Amasai and Joel the son of Azariah, from the sons of (M) the Kohathites; and from the sons of Merari, Kish the son of Abdi and Azariah the son of Jehallelel; and from the Gershonites, Joah the son of Zimmah and Eden the son of Joah;

¹³and from the sons of Elizaphan, Shimri and Jeiel; and from the sons of Asaph, Zechariah and Mattaniah;

¹⁴and from the sons of Heman, Jehiel and Shimei; and from the sons of Jeduthun, Shemaiah and Uzziel.

¹⁵They assembled their brothers, ^(N)consecrated themselves, and went in ^(Q)to cleanse the house of the LORD, according to the commandment of the king ^(P)by the words of the LORD.

¹⁶So the priests went in to the inner part of the house of the LORD to cleanse it, and every unclean thing which they found in the temple of the LORD they brought out to the court of the house of the LORD. Then the Levites received it to carry out to ^(Q)the Kidron valley.

¹⁷Now they began the consecration ^(R)on the first day of the first month, and on the eighth day of the month they entered the porch of the LORD. Then they consecrated the house of the LORD in eight days, and finished on the sixteenth day of the first month.

¹⁸Then they went in to King Hezekiah and said, "We have cleansed the whole house of the LORD, the altar of burnt offering with all of its utensils, and the table of showbread with all of its utensils.

¹⁹"Moreover, ^(S)all the utensils which King Ahaz had discarded during his reign in his unfaithfulness, we have prepared and consecrated; and behold, they stand before the altar of the LORD."

Hezekiah Restores Temple Worship

²⁰Then King Hezekiah arose early and assembled the princes of the city and went up to the house of the LORD.

²¹They brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs and seven male goats ^(I)for a sin offering for the kingdom, the sanctuary, and Judah. And he ordered the priests, the sons of Aaron, to offer them on the altar of the LORD.

²²So they slaughtered the bulls, and the priests took the blood and sprinkled it on the altar. They also slaughtered the rams and sprinkled the blood on the altar; they slaughtered the lambs also and ^(U)sprinkled the blood on the altar.

²³Then they brought the male goats of the sin offering before the king and the assembly, and ^(V)they laid their hands on them.

²⁴The priests slaughtered them and purged the altar with their blood ^(W)to atone for all Israel, for the king ordered the burnt offering and the sin offering for all Israel.

²⁵^(X)He then stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with harps and with lyres, ^(Y)according to the command of David and of ^(Z)Gad the king's seer, and of ^(AA)Nathan the prophet; for the command had come from the LORD through His prophets.

²⁶The Levites stood with ^(AB)the musical instruments of David, and ^(AC)the priests with the trumpets.

²⁷Then Hezekiah gave the order to offer the burnt offering on the altar. When the burnt offering began, ^(AD)the song to the LORD also began with the trumpets, accompanied by the instruments of David, king of Israel.

²⁸While the whole assembly worshiped, the singers also sang and the trumpets sounded; all this continued until the burnt offering had become finished.

²⁹Now at the completion of the burnt offerings, ^(AE)the king and all who accompanied him bowed down and worshiped.

³⁰Moreover, King Hezekiah and the officials ordered the Levites to sing praises to the LORD with the words of David and Asaph the seer. ^(AF)So they sang praises with joy, and bowed down and worshiped.

³¹Then Hezekiah said, "^(AG)Now that you have consecrated yourselves to the LORD, come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the house of the LORD " And the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and ^(AH)all those who felt willing brought burnt offerings.

³²The number of the burnt offerings which the assembly brought consisted of 70 bulls, 100 rams, and 200 lambs; all these they used for a burnt offering to the LORD.

³³The consecrated things consisted of 600 bulls and 3,000 sheep.

³⁴But the priests had become too few, so that they could not skin all the burnt offerings; ^(AI)therefore their brothers the Levites helped them until the work had become completed and until the other priests had consecrated themselves For ^(AJ)the Levites felt more conscientious to consecrate themselves than the priests.

³⁵There seemed also ^(AK)many burnt offerings with ^(AL)the fat of the peace offerings and with ^(AM)the libations for the burnt offerings. Thus the service of the house of the LORD became established again.

³⁶Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced over what God had prepared for the people, because the thing came about suddenly.

2 Chronicles 30

NASB E-Prime DFM

All Israel Invited to the Passover

¹Now Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover to the LORD God of Israel.

²For the king and his princes and all the assembly in Jerusalem had decided ^(A)to celebrate the Passover in the second month,

³since they could not celebrate it ^(B)at that time, because the priests had not consecrated themselves in sufficient numbers, nor had the people gathered in Jerusalem.

⁴Thus the thing seemed right in the sight of the king and all the assembly.

⁵So they established a decree to circulate a proclamation throughout all Israel ^(C)from Beersheba even to Dan, that they should come to celebrate the Passover to the LORD God of Israel at Jerusalem. For they had not celebrated it in great numbers as it had become prescribed.

⁶^(D)The couriers went throughout all Israel and Judah with the letters from the hand of the king and his princes, even according to the command of the king, saying, "O sons of Israel, return to the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, that He may return to those of you who escaped and remain from ^(E)the hand of the kings of Assyria.

⁷"^(E)Do not imitate your fathers and your brothers, who proved unfaithful to the LORD God of their fathers, so that ^(G)He made them a horror, as you see.

⁸"Now do not ^(H)stiffen your neck like your fathers, but yield to the LORD and enter His sanctuary which He has consecrated forever, and serve the LORD your God, ^(I)that His burning anger may turn away from you.

⁹"For ^(J)if you return to the LORD, your brothers and your sons will find compassion before those who led them captive and will return to this land ^(K)For the LORD your God shows graciousness and compassion, and will not turn His face away from you if you return to Him."

¹⁰So the couriers passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, and as far as Zebulun, but ^(L)they laughed them to scorn and mocked them.

¹¹Nevertheless ^(M)some men of Asher, Manasseh and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem.

¹²The ^(N)hand of God fell also on Judah to give them one heart to do what the king and the princes commanded by the word of the LORD.

Passover Reinstated

¹³Now many people gathered at Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread ^(O)in the second month, a very large assembly.

¹⁴They arose and removed the altars which stood in Jerusalem; they also ^(P)removed all the incense altars and ^(Q)cast them into the brook Kidron.

¹⁵Then ^(R)they slaughtered the Passover lambs on the fourteenth of the second month And ^(S)the priests and Levites became ashamed of themselves, and consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings to the house of the LORD.

¹⁶^(T)They stood at their stations after their custom, according to the law of Moses the man of God; the priests sprinkled the blood which they received from the hand of the Levites.

¹⁷For many in the assembly had not consecrated themselves; therefore, ^(U)the Levites presided over the slaughter of the Passover lambs for everyone who had become unclean, in order to consecrate them to the LORD.

¹⁸For a multitude of the people, ^(V)even many from Ephraim and Manasseh, Issachar and Zebulun, had not purified themselves, ^(W)yet they ate the Passover ^(X)otherwise than prescribed. For Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, "May the good LORD pardon

¹⁹(Y) everyone who prepares his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though not according to the purification rules of the sanctuary."

²⁰So the LORD heard Hezekiah and (Z) healed the people.

²¹The sons of Israel present in Jerusalem (AA) celebrated the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days with great joy, and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day after day with loud instruments to the LORD.

²²Then Hezekiah (AB) spoke encouragingly to all the Levites who showed good insight in the things of the LORD So they ate for the appointed seven days, sacrificing peace offerings and (AC) giving thanks to the LORD God of their fathers.

²³Then the whole assembly (AD) decided to celebrate the feast another seven days, so they celebrated the seven days with joy.

²⁴For (AE) Hezekiah king of Judah had contributed to the assembly 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep, and the princes had contributed to the assembly 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep; and (AF) a large number of priests consecrated themselves.

²⁵All the assembly of Judah rejoiced, with the priests and the Levites and (AG) all the assembly that came from Israel, both the sojourners who came from the land of Israel and those living in Judah.

²⁶So there arose great joy in Jerusalem, because nothing happened like this in Jerusalem (AH) since the days of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel.

²⁷Then (AI) the Levitical priests arose and (AJ) blessed the people; and their voice God heard and their prayer came to (AK) His holy dwelling place, to heaven.

2 Chronicles 31

NASB E-Prime DFM

Hezekiah Destroys Idols

¹Now when all this had finished, all Israel who had present itself went out to the cities of Judah, (A) broke the pillars in pieces, cut down the [a] Asherim

and pulled down the high places and the altars throughout all Judah and Benjamin, as well as in Ephraim and Manasseh, until they had destroyed them all. Then all the sons of Israel returned to their cities, each to his possession.

²And Hezekiah appointed ^(B)the divisions of the priests and the Levites by their divisions, each according to his service, both the priests and the Levites, ^(C)for burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister and to give thanks and to praise in the gates of the camp of the LORD.

Reforms Continued

³He also appointed ^(D)the king's portion of his goods for the burnt offerings, namely, for the morning and evening burnt offerings, and the burnt offerings for the sabbaths and for the new moons and for the fixed festivals, as we read in the law of the LORD.

⁴Also he commanded the people who lived in Jerusalem to give ^(E)the portion due to the priests and the Levites, that they might devote themselves to ^(G)the law of the LORD.

⁵As soon as the order spread, the sons of Israel provided in abundance the first fruits of grain, new wine, oil, honey and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly ^(H)the tithe of all.

⁶The sons of Israel and Judah who lived in the cities of Judah also brought in the tithe of oxen and sheep, and ^(I)the tithe of sacred gifts which they had consecrated to the LORD their God, and placed them in heaps.

⁷In the third month they began to make the heaps, and finished them by the seventh month.

⁸When Hezekiah and the rulers came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD and ^(J)His people Israel.

⁹Then Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps.

¹⁰Azariah the chief priest ^(K)of the house of Zadok said to him, "^(L)Since the contributions began to be brought into the house of the LORD, we have had enough to eat with plenty left over, for the LORD has blessed His people, and this great quantity remains."

¹¹Then Hezekiah commanded them to prepare ^(M)rooms in the house of the LORD, and they prepared them.

¹²They faithfully brought in the contributions and the tithes and the consecrated things; and Conaniah the Levite served as the officer in charge (N) of them and his brother Shimei served as second.

¹³Jehiel, Azaziah, Nahath, Asahel, Jerimoth, Jozabad, Eliel, Ismachiah, Mahath and Benaiah served as overseers under the authority of Conaniah and Shimei his brother by the appointment of King Hezekiah, and (Q) Azariah served as the chief officer of the house of God.

¹⁴Kore the son of Imnah the Levite, the keeper of the eastern gate, presided over the freewill offerings of God, to apportion the contributions for the LORD and the most holy things.

¹⁵Under his authority served (P) Eden, Miniamin, Jeshua, Shemaiah, Amariah and Shecaniah in (Q) the cities of the priests, to distribute faithfully their portions to their brothers by divisions, whether great or small,

¹⁶without regard to their genealogical enrollment, to the males from (R) thirty years old and upward--everyone who entered the house of the LORD (S) for his daily obligations--for their work in their duties according to their divisions;

¹⁷as well as the priests who became enrolled genealogically according to their fathers' households, and the Levites (I) from twenty years old and upwards, by their duties and their divisions.

¹⁸The genealogical enrollment included all their little children, their wives, their sons and their daughters, for the whole assembly, for they consecrated themselves faithfully in holiness.

¹⁹Also for the sons of Aaron the priests who lived in (U) the pasture lands of their cities, or in each and every city, (V) there lived men who received designation by name to distribute portions to every male among the priests and to everyone genealogically enrolled among the Levites.

²⁰Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah; and (W) he did good, right and true before the LORD his God.

²¹Every work which he began in the service of the house of God in law and in commandment, seeking his God, he did with all his heart and (X) prospered.

2 Chronicles 32

NASB E-Prime DFM

Sennacherib Invades Judah

¹After these acts of faithfulness ^(A)Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah and besieged the fortified cities, and thought to break into them for himself.

²Now when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and that he intended to make war on Jerusalem,

³he decided with his officers and his warriors to cut off the supply of water from the springs which lay outside the city, and they helped him.

⁴So many people assembled ^(B)and stopped up all the springs and ^(C)the stream which flowed through the region, saying, "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find abundant water?"

⁵And he took courage and ^(D)rebuilt all the wall that the enemies had broken down and erected towers on it, and built ^(E)another outside wall and strengthened the ^(E)Millo in the city of David, and made weapons and shields in great number.

⁶He appointed military officers over the people and gathered them to him in the square at the city gate, and ^(G)spoke encouragingly to them, saying,

⁷" Remain strong and courageous, do not fear or have dismay because of the king of Assyria nor because of all the horde that accompanies him; ^(I)for the one with us has greater power than the one with him.

⁸"With him he has only ^(J)an arm of flesh, but ^(K)with us we have the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles." And the people relied on the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

Sennacherib Undermines Hezekiah

⁹After this ^(L)Sennacherib king of Assyria sent his servants to Jerusalem while he besieged Lachish with all his forces with him, against Hezekiah king of Judah and against all Judah who lived at Jerusalem, saying,

¹⁰"Thus says Sennacherib king of Assyria, 'On what do you trust that you remain in Jerusalem under siege?

¹¹Does not Hezekiah mislead you to give yourselves over to die by hunger and by thirst, saying, "The LORD our God will deliver us from the hand of the king of Assyria"?

¹²^(M)Has not the same Hezekiah taken away His high places and His altars, and said to Judah and Jerusalem, "You shall worship before one altar, and on it you shall burn incense"?

¹³Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of the lands? Could the gods of the nations of the lands able at all to deliver their land from my hand?

¹⁴^(Q)Who do we know among all the gods of those nations which my fathers utterly destroyed who could deliver his people out of my hand, that your God should have the capability to deliver you from my hand?

¹⁵Now therefore, do not let Hezekiah deceive you or mislead you like this, and do not believe him, for ^(P)no god of any nation or kingdom could deliver his people from my hand or from the hand of my fathers. How much less will your God deliver you from my hand?"

¹⁶His servants spoke further against the LORD God and against His servant Hezekiah.

¹⁷He also wrote letters to insult the LORD God of Israel, and to speak against Him, saying, "^(Q)As the gods of the nations of the lands have not delivered their people from my hand, so the God of Hezekiah will not deliver His people from my hand."

¹⁸^(R)They called this out with a loud voice in the language of Judah to the people of Jerusalem who stood on the wall, to frighten and terrify them, so that they might take the city.

¹⁹They spoke of the God of Jerusalem as of ^(S)the gods of the peoples of the earth, the work of men's hands.

God Answers Hezekiah's Prayer

²⁰But King Hezekiah and Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, prayed about this and cried out to heaven.

²¹And the LORD sent an angel who destroyed every mighty warrior, commander and officer in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned in shame to his own land. And when he had entered the temple of his god, some of his own children killed him there with the sword.

²²So the LORD ^(I) saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria and from the hand of all others, and guided them on every side.

²³And ^(U) many brought gifts to the LORD at Jerusalem and choice presents to Hezekiah king of Judah, so that ^(V) he received exaltation in the sight of all nations thereafter.

²⁴^(W) In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill; and he prayed to the LORD, and the LORD spoke to him and gave him a sign.

²⁵But Hezekiah gave no return for the benefit he received, ^(X) because his heart stayed proud; ^(Y) therefore wrath came on him and on Judah and Jerusalem.

²⁶However, ^(Z) Hezekiah humbled the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come on them in the days of Hezekiah.

²⁷Now Hezekiah had immense riches and honor; and he made for himself treasuries for silver, gold, precious stones, spices, shields and all kinds of valuable articles,

²⁸storehouses also for the produce of grain, wine and oil, pens for all kinds of cattle and sheepfolds for the flocks.

²⁹He made cities for himself and acquired flocks and herds in abundance, for ^(AA) God had given him very great wealth.

³⁰It was Hezekiah who ^(AB) stopped the upper outlet of the waters of ^(AC) Gihon and directed them to the west side of the city of David. And Hezekiah prospered in all that he did.

³¹Even in the matter of ^(AD) the envoys of the rulers of Babylon, who sent to him to inquire of ^(AE) the wonder that had happened in the land, God left him alone only ^(AF) to test him, that He might know his heart.

³²Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah and his deeds of devotion, behold, we read them in the vision of Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.

³³So Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the upper section of the tombs of the sons of David; and all Judah and the inhabitants

of Jerusalem ^(AG) honored him at his death. And his son Manasseh became king in his place.

2 Chronicles 33

NASB E-Prime DFM

Manasseh Succeeds Hezekiah in Judah

^{1(A)}Manasseh reached twelve years when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem.

^{2(B)}He did evil in the sight of the LORD according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD dispossessed before the sons of Israel.

³For ^(C)he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; ^(D)he also erected altars for the Baals and made ^[a]Asherim, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.

^{4(E)}He built altars in the house of the LORD of which the LORD had said, "My name shall remain ^(E)in Jerusalem forever."

⁵For he built altars for all the host of heaven in ^(G)the two courts of the house of the LORD.

^{6(H)}He made his sons pass through the fire in the valley of Ben-hinnom; and he practiced witchcraft, used divination, practiced sorcery and ^(I)dealt with mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him to anger.

⁷Then he put ^(J)the carved image of the idol which he had made in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, "^(K)In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever;

⁸and I will not again remove the foot of Israel from the land ^(L)which I have appointed for your fathers, if only they will observe to do all that I have commanded them according to all the law, the statutes and the ordinances given through Moses."

⁹Thus Manasseh misled Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the sons of Israel.

Manasseh's Idolatry Rebuked

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but ^(M)they paid no attention.

¹¹^(N)Therefore the LORD brought the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria against them, and they captured Manasseh with ^[b]hooks, ^(O)bound him with bronze chains and took him to Babylon.

¹²When ^(P)he fell into distress, he entreated the LORD his God and ^(Q)humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.

¹³When he prayed to Him, ^(R)He became moved by his entreaty and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem to his kingdom Then Manasseh acknowledged the LORD as God.

¹⁴Now after this he built the outer wall of the city of David on the west side of ^(I)Gihon, in the valley, even to the entrance of the ^(U)Fish Gate; and he encircled the ^(V)Ophel with it and made it very high. Then he put army commanders in all the fortified cities of Judah.

¹⁵He also ^(W)removed the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD, as well as all the altars which he had built on the mountain of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem, and he threw them outside the city.

¹⁶He set up the altar of the LORD and sacrificed ^(X)peace offerings and thank offerings on it; and he ordered Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁷Nevertheless ^(Y)the people still sacrificed in the high places, although only to the LORD their God.

¹⁸Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh even ^(Z)his prayer to his God, and the words of ^(AA)the seers who spoke to him in the name of the LORD God of Israel, behold, they appear among the records of the kings of ^(AB)Israel.

¹⁹His prayer also and ^(AC)how he had entreated God, and all his sin, his unfaithfulness, and ^(AD)the sites on which he built high places and erected the Asherim and the carved images, before he humbled himself, behold, we read them in the records of the Hozai.

²⁰So Manasseh slept with his fathers, and they buried him in his own house. And Amon his son became king in his place.

Amon Becomes King in Judah

²¹(**AE**) Amon reached twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem.

²²He did evil in the sight of the LORD as Manasseh his father (**AE**) had done, and Amon sacrificed to all (**AG**) the carved images which his father Manasseh had made, and he served them.

²³Moreover, he did not humble himself before the LORD (**AH**) as his father Manasseh had done, but Amon multiplied guilt.

²⁴Finally (**AI**) his servants conspired against him and put him to death in his own house.

²⁵But the people of the land killed all the conspirators against King Amon, and the people of the land made Josiah his son king in his place.

2 Chronicles 34

NASB E-Prime DFM

Josiah Succeeds Amon in Judah

¹(**A**) Josiah reached eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem.

²(**B**) He did right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of his father David and did not turn aside to the right or to the left.

³For in the eighth year of his reign while still a youth, he began to (**C**) seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began (**D**) to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, the carved images and the molten images.

⁴They tore down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and (**E**) the incense altars that stood high above them he chopped down; also the Asherim, the carved images and the molten images he broke in pieces and (**F**) ground to powder and scattered it on the graves of those who had sacrificed to them.

⁵Then (**G**) he burned the bones of the priests on their altars and purged Judah and Jerusalem.

⁶(H) In the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, Simeon, even as far as Naphtali, in their surrounding ruins,

⁷he also tore down the altars and ^(I)beat the Asherim and the carved images into powder, and chopped down all the incense altars throughout the land of Israel. Then he returned to Jerusalem.

Josiah Repairs the Temple

⁸(J) Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah ^(K)an official of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.

⁹They came to ^(L)Hilkiah the high priest and delivered the money that they brought into the house of God, which the Levites, the doorkeepers, had collected from ^(M)Manasseh and Ephraim, and from all the remnant of Israel, and from all Judah and Benjamin and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

¹⁰Then they gave it into the hands of the workmen who had the oversight of the house of the LORD, and the workmen who worked in the house of the LORD used it to restore and repair the house.

¹¹They in turn gave it to the carpenters and to the builders to buy quarried stone and timber for couplings and to make beams for the houses ^(N)which the kings of Judah had let go to ruin.

¹²(O) The men did the work faithfully with foremen over them to supervise: Jahath and Obadiah, the Levites of the sons of Merari, Zechariah and Meshullam of the sons of the Kohathites, and ^(P)the Levites, all who had skill with musical instruments.

¹³They presided over ^(Q)the burden bearers, and supervised all the workmen from job to job; and some of the Levites served as scribes and officials and gatekeepers.

Hilkiah Discovers Lost Book of the Law

¹⁴When they brought out the money which they had brought into the house of the LORD, ^(R)Hilkiah the priest found the book of the law of the LORD given by Moses.

¹⁵Hilkiah responded and said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan.

¹⁶Then Shaphan brought the book to the king and reported further word to the king, saying, "Everything that God entrusted to your servants they have done.

¹⁷"They have also emptied out the money which they found in the house of the LORD, and have delivered it into the hands of the supervisors and the workmen."

¹⁸Moreover, Shaphan the scribe told the king saying, "Hilkiah the priest gave me a book." And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king.

¹⁹When the king heard ^(S)the words of the law, ^(I)he tore his clothes.

²⁰Then the king commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Abdon the son of Micah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying,

²¹"Go, inquire of the LORD for me and for those who remain in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book which they found; for ^(U)great grows the wrath of the LORD which He poured out on us because our fathers have not observed the word of the LORD, to do according to all that we read in this book."

Huldah, the Prophetess, Speaks

²²So Hilkiah and those whom the king had told went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tokhath, the son of Hasrah, the keeper of the wardrobe (now she lived in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter); and they spoke to her regarding this.

²³She said to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Tell the man who sent you to Me,

²⁴thus says the LORD, "Behold, ^(V)I bring evil on this place and on its inhabitants, even all ^(W)the curses written in the book which they have read in the presence of the king of Judah.

²⁵"^(X)Because they have forsaken Me and have burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore My wrath will pour out on this place and it shall not quench."

²⁶"But to the king of Judah who sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus you will say to him, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel regarding the words which you have heard,

²⁷(Y) Because your heart remained tender and you humbled yourself before God when you heard His words against this place and against its inhabitants, and because you humbled yourself before Me, tore your clothes and wept before Me, I truly have heard you," declares the LORD.

²⁸"Behold, I will gather you to your fathers and you shall gather to your grave in peace, so your eyes will not see all the evil which I will bring on this place and on its inhabitants." And they brought back word to the king.

²⁹(Z) Then the king sent and gathered all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.

³⁰The king went up to the house of the LORD and (AA) all the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests, the Levites and all the people, from the greatest to the least; and he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant which they found in the house of the LORD.

Josiah's Good Reign

³¹Then the king (AB) stood in his place and (AC) made a covenant before the LORD to walk after the LORD, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant written in this book.

³²Moreover, he made all who lived in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand with him. So the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.

³³Josiah (AD) removed all the abominations from all the lands belonging to the sons of Israel, and made all who lived in Israel to serve the LORD their God. Throughout his lifetime they did not turn from following the LORD God of their fathers.

2 Chronicles 35

NASB E-Prime DFM

The Passover Observed Again

¹Then Josiah (A) celebrated the Passover to the LORD in Jerusalem, and (B) they slaughtered the Passover animals on the fourteenth day of the first month.

²He set the priests in their offices and ^(C)encouraged them in the service of the house of the LORD.

³He also said to ^(D)the Levites who taught all Israel and who had become designated as holy to the LORD, "Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of Israel built; ^(E)it will become a burden on your shoulders no longer. Now serve the LORD your God and His people Israel.

⁴"^(E)Prepare yourselves by your fathers' households in your divisions, according to the writing of David king of Israel and ^(G)according to the writing of his son Solomon.

⁵"Moreover, ^(H)stand in the holy place according to the sections of the fathers' households of your brethren the lay people, and according to the Levites, by division of a father's household.

⁶"Now ^(I)slaughter the Passover animals, ^(J)sanctify yourselves and prepare for your brethren to do according to the word of the LORD by Moses."

⁷Josiah contributed to the lay people, to all who had presented themselves, flocks of lambs and young goats, all for the Passover offerings, numbering 30,000 plus 3,000 bulls; these came from the king's possessions.

⁸His officers also contributed a freewill offering to the people, the priests and the Levites. Hilkiyah and Zechariah and Jehiel, ^(K)the officials of the house of God, gave to the priests for the Passover offerings 2,600 from the flocks and 300 bulls.

⁹^(L)Conaniah also, and Shemaiah and Nethanel, his brothers, and Hashabiah and Jeiel and Jozabad, the officers of the Levites, contributed to the Levites for the Passover offerings 5,000 from the flocks and 500 bulls.

¹⁰So the service became prepared, and ^(M)the priests stood at their stations and the Levites by their divisions according to the king's command.

¹¹^(N)They slaughtered the Passover animals, and while ^(O)the priests sprinkled the blood received from their hand, ^(P)the Levites skinned them.

¹²Then they removed the burnt offerings that they might give them to the sections of the fathers' households of the lay people to present to the LORD, as we read it in the book of Moses. They did this also with the bulls.

¹³So ^(Q)they roasted the Passover animals on the fire according to the ordinance, and they boiled ^(R)the holy things in pots, in kettles, in pans, and carried them speedily to all the lay people.

¹⁴Afterwards they prepared for themselves and for the priests, because the priests, the sons of Aaron, were offering the burnt offerings and the fat until night; therefore the Levites prepared for themselves and for the priests, the sons of Aaron.

¹⁵The singers, the sons of Asaph, remained also at their stations ^(S)according to the command of David, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer; and ^(T)the gatekeepers at each gate did not have to depart from their service, because the Levites their brethren prepared for them.

¹⁶So all the service of the LORD they prepared on that day to celebrate the Passover, and to offer burnt offerings on the altar of the LORD according to the command of King Josiah.

¹⁷Thus ^(U)the sons of Israel who had presented themselves celebrated the Passover at that time, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days.

¹⁸^(V)They had not celebrated a Passover like it in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet; nor had any of the kings of Israel celebrated such a Passover as Josiah did with the priests, the Levites, all Judah and Israel who presented themselves, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

¹⁹In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign they celebrated this Passover.

Josiah Dies in Battle

²⁰^(W)After all this, when Josiah had set the temple in order, Neco king of Egypt came up to make war at ^(X)Carchemish on the Euphrates, and Josiah went out to engage him.

²¹But Neco sent messengers to him, saying, "^(Y)What have we to do with each other, O King of Judah? I do not come against you today but against the house with which I war, and God has ordered me to hurry. Stop for your own sake from interfering with God who accompanies me, so that He will not destroy you."

²²However, Josiah would not turn away from him, but ^(Z)disguised himself in order to make war with him; nor did he listen to the words of Neco ^(AA)from the mouth of God, but came to make war on the plain of ^(AB)Megiddo.

²³The archers shot King Josiah, and the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I have become badly wounded."

²⁴So his servants took him out of the chariot and carried him in the second chariot which he had, and brought him to Jerusalem where he died and they buried him in the tombs of his fathers. ^(AC)All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

²⁵Then ^(AD)Jeremiah chanted a lament for Josiah. And all the male and female singers speak about Josiah in their lamentations to this day. And they made them an ordinance in Israel; behold, we also read them in the Lamentations.

²⁶Now the rest of the acts of Josiah and his deeds of devotion as we read in the law of the LORD,

²⁷and his acts, first to last, behold, we read them in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

2 Chronicles 36

NASB E-Prime DFM

Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, then Jehoiachin Rule

^{1(A)}Then the people of the land took ^{[a](B)}Joahaz the son of Josiah, and made him king in place of his father in Jerusalem.

²Joahaz reached twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem.

³Then the king of Egypt deposed him at Jerusalem, and imposed on the land a fine of one hundred talents of silver and one talent of gold.

⁴The king of Egypt made Eliakim his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. But ^(C)Neco took Joahaz his brother and brought him to Egypt.

^{5(D)}Jehoiakim reached twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem; and he did evil in the sight of the LORD his God.

⁶Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up ^(E)against him and ^(E)bound him with bronze chains to take him to Babylon.

⁷^(G)Nebuchadnezzar also brought some of the articles of the house of the LORD to Babylon and put them in his temple at Babylon.

⁸^(H)Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim and the abominations which he did, and what they found against him, behold, have we not read them in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah. And Jehoiachin his son became king in his place.

⁹^(I)Jehoiachin reached eight years old when he became king, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem, and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

Captivity in Babylon Begun

¹⁰^(J)At the turn of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent and brought him to Babylon with the valuable articles of the house of the LORD, and he made his kinsman ^(K)Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem.

Zedekiah Rules in Judah

¹¹^(L)Zedekiah reached twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.

¹²He did evil in the sight of the LORD his God; ^(M)he did not humble himself ^(N)before Jeremiah the prophet who spoke for the LORD.

¹³^(O)He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar who had made him swear allegiance by God But ^(P)he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁴Furthermore, all the officials of the priests and the people proved very unfaithful following all the abominations of the nations; and they defiled the house of the LORD which He had sanctified in Jerusalem.

¹⁵The LORD, the God of their fathers, ^(Q)sent word to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place;

¹⁶but they continually ^(R)mocked the messengers of God, ^(S)despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, ^(T)until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, until no remedy could come.

¹⁷(U) Therefore He brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or infirm; He gave them all into his hand.

¹⁸(V) All the articles of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his officers, he brought them all to Babylon.

¹⁹Then (W) they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burned all its fortified buildings with fire and destroyed all its valuable articles.

²⁰Those who had escaped from the sword he (X) carried away to Babylon; and (Y) they became servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia,

²¹(Z) to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until (AA) the land had enjoyed its sabbaths (AB) All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath (AC) until seventy years had reached completion.

Cyrus Permits Return

²²(AD) Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia--in order to fulfill the word of the LORD (AE) by the mouth of Jeremiah--the LORD (AF) stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying,

²³"Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which stands in Judah. Whoever there lives among you of all His people, may the LORD his God remain with him, and let him go up!'"

Ezra 1-10

Rendered into E-Prime by Dr. David F. Maas

Cyrus's Proclamation

¹(A) Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he (B) sent a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying:

²"Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and (C) He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which locates in Judah.

³Whoever lives among you of all His people, may his God dwell with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem which locates in Judah and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel; we acknowledge God as dwelling in Jerusalem.

⁴Every survivor, at whatever place he may live, let the men of that place support him with silver and gold, with goods and cattle, together with a freewill offering for the house of God which locates in Jerusalem."

Holy Vessels Restored

⁵Then the heads of fathers' households of Judah and Benjamin and the priests and the Levites arose, (E) even everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up and rebuild the house of the LORD which locates in Jerusalem.

⁶All those about them (E) encouraged them with articles of silver, with gold, with goods, with cattle and with valuables, aside from all that people gave as a freewill offering.

⁷(G) Also King Cyrus brought out the articles of the house of the LORD, (H) which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and put in the house of his gods;

⁸and Cyrus, king of Persia, had them brought out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and he counted them out to (I) Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.

⁹Now this constituted their number: 30 ^(J)gold dishes, 1,000 silver dishes, 29 duplicates;

¹⁰30 gold bowls, 410 silver bowls of a second kind and 1,000 other articles.

¹¹All the articles of gold and silver numbered 5,400. Sheshbazzar brought them all up with the exiles who went up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

Ezra 2

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Number of Those Returning

^{1(A)}Now these constitute the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his city.

²These came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum and Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:

³the sons of Parosh, 2,172;

⁴the sons of Shephatiah, 372;

⁵the sons of ^(B)Arah, 775;

⁶the sons of ^(C)Pahath-moab of the sons of Jeshua and Joab, 2,812;

⁷the sons of Elam, 1,254;

⁸the sons of Zattu, 945;

⁹the sons of Zaccai, 760;

¹⁰the sons of Bani, 642;

¹¹the sons of Bebai, 623;

¹²the sons of Azgad, 1,222;

¹³the sons of ^(D)Adonikam, 666;

- ¹⁴the sons of Bigvai, 2,056;
- ¹⁵the sons of Adin, 454;
- ¹⁶the sons of Ater of Hezekiah, 98;
- ¹⁷the sons of Bezai, 323;
- ¹⁸the sons of Jorah, 112;
- ¹⁹the sons of Hashum, 223;
- ²⁰the sons of Gibbar, 95;
- ²¹the men of [\(E\)](#)Bethlehem, 123;
- ²²the men of Netophah, 56;
- ²³the men of Anathoth, 128;
- ²⁴the sons of Azmaveth, 42;
- ²⁵the sons of Kiriath-arim, Chephirah and Beeroth, 743;
- ²⁶the sons of [\(E\)](#)Ramah and Geba, 621;
- ²⁷the men of Michmas, 122;
- ²⁸the men of Bethel and Ai, 223;
- ²⁹the sons of Nebo, 52;
- ³⁰the sons of Magbish, 156;
- ³¹the sons of the other Elam, 1,254;
- ³²the sons of Harim, 320;
- ³³the sons of Lod, Hadid and Ono, 725;
- ³⁴the men of [\(G\)](#)Jericho, 345;
- ³⁵the sons of Senaah, 3,630.

Priests Returning

³⁶(H)The priests: the sons of Jedaiah of the house of Jeshua, 973;

³⁷the sons of (I)Immer, 1,052;

³⁸(J)the sons of Pashhur, 1,247;

³⁹the sons of (K)Harim, 1,017.

Levites Returning

⁴⁰The Levites: the sons of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodaviah, 74.

⁴¹The singers: the sons of Asaph, 128.

⁴²The sons of the gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, the sons of Shobai, in all 139.

⁴³The (L)temple servants: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth,

⁴⁴the sons of Keros, the sons of Siaha, the sons of Padon,

⁴⁵the sons of Lebanah, the sons of Hagabah, the sons of Akkub,

⁴⁶the sons of Hagab, the sons of Shalmal, the sons of Hanan,

⁴⁷the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar, the sons of Reaiah,

⁴⁸the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda, the sons of Gazzam,

⁴⁹the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah, the sons of Besai,

⁵⁰the sons of Asnah, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephisim,

⁵¹the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur,

⁵²the sons of Bazluth, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha,

⁵³the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Temah,

⁵⁴the sons of Neziah, the sons of Hatipha.

⁵⁵The sons of (M)Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Hassophereth, the sons of Peruda,

⁵⁶the sons of Jaalah, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel,

⁵⁷the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth-hazzebaim, the sons of Ami.

⁵⁸All the ^(N)temple servants and the sons of ^(O)Solomon's servants were 392.

⁵⁹Now these came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan and Immer, but they could not give evidence of their fathers' households and their descendants, whether they belonged to Israel:

⁶⁰the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, 652.

Priests Removed

⁶¹Of the sons of the priests: the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, the sons of ^(P)Barzillai, who took a wife from the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and he became called by their name.

⁶²These searched among their ancestral registration, but no one could locate them; ^(Q)therefore people considered them considered unclean and excluded from the priesthood.

⁶³The governor said to them ^(R)that they should not eat from the most holy things until a priest stood up with ^(S)Urim and Thummim.

⁶⁴The whole assembly numbered 42,360,

⁶⁵besides their male and female servants who numbered 7,337; and they had 200 ^(I)singing men and women.

⁶⁶Their horses added up to 736; their mules, 245;

⁶⁷their camels, 435; their donkeys, 6,720.

⁶⁸Some of the heads of fathers' households, when they arrived at the house of the LORD which located in Jerusalem, offered willingly for the house of God to restore it on its foundation.

⁶⁹According to their ability they gave ^(U)to the treasury for the work 61,000 gold drachmas and 5,000 silver minas and 100 priestly garments.

⁷⁰^(V)Now the priests and the Levites, some of the people, the singers, the gatekeepers and the temple servants lived in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

Ezra 3

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Altar and Sacrifices Restored

¹Now when the seventh month came, and ^(A)the sons of Israel lived in the cities, the people gathered together as one man to Jerusalem.

²Then ^(B)Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brothers the priests, and ^(C)Zerubbabel the son ^(D)of Shealtiel and his brothers arose and ^(E)built the altar of the God of Israel to offer burnt offerings on it, ^(F)as the scriptures state in the law of Moses, the man of God.

³So they set up the altar on its foundation, for ^(G)they became terrified because of the peoples of the lands; and they ^(H)offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, burnt offerings morning and evening.

⁴They celebrated the ^(I)Feast of ^[a]Booths, ^(J)as the scriptures state, and offered the fixed number of burnt offerings daily, ^(K)according to the ordinance, as each day required;

⁵and afterward they kept a ^(L)continual burnt offering, also ^(M)for the new moons and ^(N)for all the fixed festivals of the LORD that the LORD consecrated, and from everyone who offered a freewill offering to the LORD.

⁶From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD, but they had not laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD.

⁷Then they gave money to the masons and carpenters, and ^(O)food, drink and oil to the Sidonians and to the Tyrians, ^(P)to bring cedar wood from Lebanon to the sea at ^(Q)Joppa, according to the permission they had from ^(R)Cyrus king of Persia.

Temple Restoration Begun

⁸Now in the second year of their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem in the second month, ^(S)Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak and the rest of their brothers the priests and the Levites, and all who came from the captivity to Jerusalem, began the work and ^(T)appointed the Levites from twenty years and older to oversee the work of the house of the LORD.

⁹Then ^(U)Jeshua with his sons and brothers stood united with Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah and the sons of Henadad with their sons and brothers the Levites, to oversee the workmen in the temple of God.

¹⁰Now when the builders had ^(V)laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD ^(W)according to the directions of King David of Israel.

¹¹^(X)They sang, praising and giving thanks to the LORD, saying, "^(Y)For we know Him as good, for His lovingkindnessHe lavishes upon Israel forever." And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the LORD because they had completed the foundation of the house of the LORD.

¹²Yet many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' households, ^(Z)the old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, while many shouted aloud for joy,

¹³so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the shout of joy from the sound of the weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound people heard a long way off.

Ezra 4

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Adversaries Hinder the Work

¹Now when ^(A)the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that ^(B)the people of the exile had started to build a temple to the LORD God of Israel,

²they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of fathers' households, and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we, like you, seek your God; ^(C)and we have sacrificed to Him since the days of ^(D)Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us up here."

³But Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the rest of the heads of fathers' households of Israel said to them, "^(E)You have nothing in common with us in building a house to our God; but we ourselves will together build to the LORD God of Israel, ^(F)as King Cyrus, the king of Persia has commanded us."

⁴Then ^(G)the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah, and frightened them from building,

⁵and hired counselors against them to frustrate their counsel all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

⁶Now in the reign of ^{[a](H)}Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

⁷And in the days of Artaxerxes, Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel and the rest of his colleagues wrote to Artaxerxes king of Persia; and the text of the letter he had written in Aramaic and translated ^(I)from Aramaic.

The Letter to King Artaxerxes

⁸Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to King Artaxerxes, as follows--

⁹then wrote Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe and ^(J)the rest of their colleagues, the judges and ^(K)the lesser governors, the officials, the secretaries, the men of Erech, the Babylonians, the men of Susa, namely, the Elamites,

¹⁰and the rest of the nations which the great and honorable Osnappar deported and settled in the city of Samaria, and in the rest of the region beyond the ^[b]River. ^(L)Now

¹¹this represents the copy of the letter which they sent to him: "To King Artaxerxes: Your servants, the men in the region beyond the River, and now

¹²let the king know that the Jews who came up from you have come to us at Jerusalem; they rebuild ^(M)the rebellious and evil city and have started to finish the walls and repairing the foundations.

¹³"Now the king know, that if they rebuild that city and finish these walls, ^(O)they will not pay tribute, custom or toll, and it will damage the revenue of the kings.

¹⁴"Now because we serve the palace, and it does not seem fitting for us to see the king's dishonor, therefore we have sent and informed the king,

¹⁵so that you search the record books of your fathers. And you will discover in the record books and learn that that city has rebelled and damaged kings and provinces, and that they have incited revolt within it in past days; therefore that city had become ruined.

¹⁶"We inform the king that if they rebuild that city and finish the walls finished, as a result you will have no possession in the province beyond the River."

The King Replies and Work Stops

¹⁷Then the king sent an answer to Rehum the commander, to Shimshai the scribe, and to the rest of their colleagues who live in Samaria and in the rest of the provinces beyond the River: "Peace. And now

¹⁸the document which you sent to us people have ^(P)translated and read before me.

¹⁹" I issued a decree, and I have made a search, discovering that that city has risen up against the kings in past days, that people have perpetrated rebellion and revolt ,

^{20(Q)}that mighty kings have ruled over Jerusalem, governing all the provinces ^(R)beyond the River, and people have paid ^(S)tribute, custom and toll to them.

²¹"So, now issue a decree to make these men stop work, that this city may not become rebuilt until I issue a decree .

²²"Beware of having negligence in carrying out this matter; why should damage increase to the detriment of the kings?"

²³Then as soon as they read the copy of King Artaxerxes' document before Rehum and Shimshai the scribe and their colleagues, they went in haste to Jerusalem to the Jews and stopped them by force of arms.

²⁴Then work on the house of God in Jerusalem ceased, and they stopped it until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

Ezra 5

NASB E-Prime DFM

Temple Work Resumed

¹When the prophets, ^(A)Haggai the prophet and ^(B)Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews who lived in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, who ruled over them,

²then ^(C)Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak arose and began to rebuild the house of God which is in Jerusalem; and ^(D)the prophets of God accompanied them supporting them.

³At that time ^(E)Tattenai, the governor of the province beyond the River, and Shethar-bozenai and their colleagues came to them and spoke to them thus, "^(E)Who issued you a decree to rebuild this ^[a]temple and to finish this structure?"

⁴^(G)Then we told them accordingly what the names of the men who reconstructed this building.

⁵But ^(H)the eye of their God fixed on the elders of the Jews, and they did not stop them until a report could come to Darius, and they would return a written reply concerning it.

Adversaries Write to Darius

⁶This constitutes the copy of the letter which ^(I)Tattenai, the governor of the province beyond the River, and Shethar-bozenai and his colleagues ^(J)the officials, who lived beyond the River, sent to Darius the king.

⁷They sent a report to him which had become written thus: "To Darius the king, all peace.

⁸" We acknowledge to the king that we have gone to the province of Judah, to the house of the great God, which people build with huge stones, and lay beams in the walls; and this work they will make with great care and succeed with their hands.

⁹"Then we asked those elders and said to them thus, 'Who issued you a decree to rebuild this temple and to finish this structure?'

¹⁰"We also asked them their names so as to inform you, and that we might write down the names of the men who headed them.

¹¹"Thus they answered us, saying, 'We consider ourselves the servants of the God of heaven and earth and rebuild the temple that people built many years ago, ^(K)which a great king of Israel built and finished.

¹²'But ^(L)because our fathers had provoked the God of heaven to wrath, ^(M)He gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this temple and deported the people to Babylon.

¹³However, ^(N)in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, King Cyrus ^(O)issued a decree to rebuild this house of God.

¹⁴Also ^(P)the gold and silver utensils of the house of God which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, and brought them to the temple of Babylon, these King Cyrus took from the temple of Babylon and they came to one ^(Q)who had the name of Sheshbazzar, whom he had appointed governor.

¹⁵He said to him, "Take these utensils, go and deposit them in the temple in Jerusalem and let them rebuild the house of God in its place."

¹⁶Then that Sheshbazzar came and ^(R)laid the foundations of the house of God in Jerusalem; and from then until now it has remained under construction and it has not yet reached completion.'

¹⁷"Now if it pleases the king, ^(I)let us conduct a search in the king's treasure house, which locates there in Babylon, if it should come to pass that King Cyrus issued a to rebuild this house of God at Jerusalem; and let the king send to us his decision concerning this matter."

Ezra 6

NASB E-Prime DFM

Darius Finds Cyrus's Decree

¹Then King Darius issued a decree, and ordered a ^(A)search made in the ^[a]archives, where kings had stored the treasures in Babylon.

²In ^[b]Ecbatana in the fortress, which locates ^(B)in the province of Media, they found a scroll and there read the following: "Memorandum--

³^(C)In the first year of King Cyrus, Cyrus the king issued a decree: 'Concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, let the temple, the place where people offer sacrifices, to rebuild it and retain foundations, its height measuring 60 cubits and its width 60 cubits;

⁴^(D)with three layers of huge stones and one layer of timbers. And let the cost come out of the royal treasury.

⁵Also let ^(E)the gold and silver utensils of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon,

be returned and brought to their places in the temple in Jerusalem; and you shall put them in the house of God.'

⁶"Now therefore, ^(E)Tattenai, governor of the province beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai and your colleagues, the officials of the provinces beyond the River, keep away from there.

⁷"Leave this work on the house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews rebuild this house of God on its site.

⁸"Moreover, ^(G)I issue a decree concerning what you shall do for these elders of Judah in the rebuilding of this house of God: the full cost will become paid to these people from the royal treasury out of the taxes of the provinces beyond the River, and that without delay.

⁹"Whatever you need both young bulls, rams, and lambs for a burnt offering to the God of heaven, and wheat, salt, wine and anointing oil, as the priests in Jerusalem request, it will come to them daily without fail,

¹⁰that they may offer ^[c]acceptable sacrifices to the God of heaven and ^(H)pray for the life of the king and his sons.

¹¹"And I issued a decree that ^(I)any man who violates this edict, people shall draw a timber from his house and impale him on it and make ^(J)his house a refuse heap on account of this.

¹²"May the God who ^(K)has caused His name to dwell there overthrow any king or people who attempts to change it, so as to destroy this house of God in Jerusalem. I, Darius, have issued this decree, let people carry it out with all diligence!"

The Temple Completed and Dedicated

¹³Then ^(L)Tattenai, the governor of the province beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai and their colleagues carried out the decree with all diligence, just as King Darius had sent.

¹⁴And ^(M)the elders of the Jews proved successful in building through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo And they finished building according to the command of the God of Israel and the decree ^(N)of Cyrus, ^(O)Darius, and ^(P)Artaxerxes king of Persia.

¹⁵This temple reached completion on the third day of the ^(Q)month Adar; it marked the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

¹⁶And the sons of Israel, the priests, the Levites and the rest of the exiles, ^(R)celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy.

¹⁷They offered for the dedication of this temple of God 100 bulls, 200 rams, 400 lambs, and as a sin offering for all Israel ^(S)12 male goats, corresponding to the number of the tribes of Israel.

¹⁸Then they appointed the priests to ^(I)their divisions and the Levites in ^(U)their orders for the service of God in Jerusalem, ^(V)as the scriptures state in the book of Moses.

The Passover Observed

¹⁹^(W)The exiles observed the Passover on ^(X)the fourteenth of the first month.

²⁰^(Y)For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves together; all of them remained pure Then ^(Z)they slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the exiles, both for their brothers the priests and for themselves.

²¹The sons of Israel who returned from exile and ^(AA)all those who had separated themselves from ^(AB)the impurity of the nations of the land to join them, to seek the LORD God of Israel, ate the Passover.

²²And ^(AC)they observed the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for the LORD had caused them to rejoice, and ^(AD)had turned the heart of ^(AE)the king of Assyria toward them to encourage them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

Ezra 7

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Ezra Journeys from Babylon to Jerusalem

¹^(A)Now after these things, in the reign of ^(B)Artaxerxes king of Persia, there went up Ezra son of Seraiah, son of Azariah, son of Hilkiah,

²son of Shallum, son of Zadok, son of Ahitub,

³son of Amariah, son of Azariah, son of Meraioth,

⁴son of Zerariah, son of Uzzi, son of Bukki,

⁵son of Abishua, son of Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the chief priest.

⁶This Ezra went up from Babylon, and he served as a ^(C)scribe skilled in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given; and the king granted him all he requested ^(D)because the hand of the LORD his God rested upon him.

^{7(E)}Some of the sons of Israel and some of the priests, the Levites, the singers, the gatekeepers and the temple servants went up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes.

⁸He came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which we mark as in the seventh year of the king.

⁹For on the first of the first month he began to go up from Babylon; and on the first of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, ^(E)because the good hand of his God rested upon him.

¹⁰For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice it, and ^(G)to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.

King's Decree on Behalf of Ezra

¹¹Now this constitutes the copy of the decree which King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest, the scribe, learned in the words of the commandments of the LORD and His statutes to Israel:

¹²"Artaxerxes, ^(H)king of kings, to Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace. And now

^{13(I)}I have issued a decree that any of the people of Israel and their priests and the Levites in my kingdom who desire to go to Jerusalem, may go with you.

¹⁴"Forasmuch as the king sent you and his ^(J)seven counselors inquire of you concerning Judah and Jerusalem according to the law of your God which you have in your hand,

¹⁵and to bring the silver and gold, which the king and his counselors have freely offered to the God of Israel, ^(K)who dwells in Jerusalem,

¹⁶with ^(L)all the silver and gold which you find in the whole province of Babylon, along ^(M)with the freewill offering of the people and of the priests, who ^(N)offered willingly for the house of their God which dwells in Jerusalem;

¹⁷with this money, therefore, you shall diligently buy bulls, rams and lambs, ^(Q)with their grain offerings and their drink offerings and ^(P)offer them on the altar of the house of your God which locates in Jerusalem.

¹⁸"Whatever seems good to you and to your brothers to do with the rest of the silver and gold, you may do according to the will of your God.

¹⁹"Also the utensils which you have received for the service of the house of your God, deliver in full before the God of Jerusalem.

²⁰"The rest of the needs for the house of your God, for which you may have occasion to provide, ^(Q)provide for it from the royal treasury.

²¹"I, even I, King Artaxerxes, issue a decree to all the treasurers who live in the provinces beyond the River, that whatever Ezra the priest, ^(R)the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, may require of you, you shall do it diligently,

²²even up to 100 talents of silver, 100 kors of wheat, 100 baths of wine, 100 baths of oil, and salt as needed.

²³"Whatever the God of heaven commands, you shall do it with zeal for the house of the God of heaven, ^(S)so that no wrath will accrue against the kingdom of the king and his sons.

²⁴"We also inform you that you will not allow anyone to impose tax, tribute or toll ^(U)on any of the priests, Levites, singers, doorkeepers, Nethinim or servants of this house of God.

²⁵"You, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God which you have in your hand, ^(V)appoint magistrates and judges that they may judge all the people who are in the province beyond the River, even all those who know the laws of your God; and you may ^(W)teach anyone who has ignorance of them.

²⁶"^(X)Whoever will not observe the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment become executed upon him strictly, whether for death or for banishment or for confiscation of goods or for imprisonment."

The King's Kindness

²⁷Blessed do we consider the LORD, the God of our fathers, ^(Y)who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to adorn the house of the LORD which locates in Jerusalem,

²⁸and ^(Z)has extended lovingkindness to me before the king and his counselors and before all the king's mighty princes Thus I received strength according to ^(AA)the hand of the LORD my God upon me, and I gathered leading men from Israel to go up with me.

Ezra 8

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People Who Went with Ezra

¹Now these constitute the heads of their fathers' households and the genealogical enrollment of those who went up with me from Babylon in the reign of King Artaxerxes:

²of the sons of Phinehas, Gershom; of the sons of Ithamar, Daniel; of the sons of David, ^(A)Hattush;

³of the sons of Shecaniah who came from the sons of ^(B)Parosh, Zechariah and with him 150 males who they found in the genealogical list;

⁴of the sons of Pahath-moab, Eliehoenai the son of Zerahiah and 200 males with him;

⁵of the sons of Zattu, Shecaniah, the son of Jahaziel and 300 males with him;

⁶and of the sons of ^(C)Adin, Ebed the son of Jonathan and 50 males with him;

⁷and of the sons of Elam, Jeshaiiah the son of Athaliah and 70 males with him;

⁸and of the sons of Shephatiah, Zebadiah the son of Michael and 80 males with him;

⁹of the sons of Joab, Obadiah the son of Jehiel and 218 males with him;

¹⁰and of the sons of Bani, Shelomith, the son of Josiphiah and 160 males with him;

¹¹and of the sons of Bebai, Zechariah the son of Bebai and 28 males with him;

¹²and of the sons of Azgad, Johanan the son of Hakkatan and 110 males with him;

¹³and of the sons of Adonikam, the last ones, these having the names, Eliphelet, Jeuel and Shemaiah, and 60 males with them;

¹⁴and of the sons of Bigvai, Uthai and Zabbud, and 70 males with them.

Ezra Sends for Levites

¹⁵Now I assembled them at ^(D)the river that runs to Ahava, where we camped for three days; and when I observed the people and the priests, I ^(E)did not find any Levites there.

¹⁶So I sent for Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaiah, Elnathan, Jarib, Elnathan, Nathan, Zechariah and Meshullam, leading men, and for Joiarib and Elnathan, teachers.

¹⁷I sent them to Iddo the leading man at the place Casiphia; and I told them what to say to Iddo and his brothers, ^(E)the temple servants at the place Casiphia, namely, to bring ministers to us for the house of our God.

¹⁸^(G)According to the good hand of our God upon us they brought us a ^(H)man of insight of the sons of Mahli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel, namely Sherebiah, and his sons and brothers, 18 men;

¹⁹and Hashabiah and Jeshaiah of the sons of Merari, with his brothers and their sons, 20 men;

²⁰and 220 of ^(I)the temple servants, whom David and the princes had given for the service of the Levites, all of them designated by name.

Protection of God Invoked

²¹Then I proclaimed ^(J)a fast there at ^(K)the river of Ahava, that we might ^(L)humble ourselves before our God to seek from Him a safe journey for us, our little ones, and all our possessions.

²²For I felt ashamed to request from the king troops and horsemen to protect us from the enemy on the way, because we had said to the king, "^(M)The hand of our God has become favorably disposed to all those who seek Him, but ^(N)His power and His anger focuses against all those who ^(O)forsake Him."

²³So we fasted and sought our God concerning this matter, and He ^(P)listened to our entreaty.

²⁴Then I set apart twelve of the leading priests, ^(Q)Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and with them ten of their brothers;

²⁵and I ^(R)weighed out to them ^(S)the silver, the gold and the utensils, the offering for the house of our God which the king and ^(T)his counselors and his princes and all Israel present there had offered.

²⁶^(U)Thus I weighed into their hands 650 talents of silver, and silver utensils worth 100 talents, and 100 gold talents,

²⁷and 20 gold bowls worth 1,000 darics, and two utensils of fine shiny bronze, precious as gold.

²⁸Then I said to them, "^(V)You we acknowledge as holy to the LORD, and the ^(W)utensils we consider holy; and the silver and the gold we acknowledge as a freewill offering to the LORD God of your fathers.

²⁹"Watch and keep them ^(X)until you weigh them before the leading priests, the Levites and the heads of the fathers' households of Israel at Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of the LORD."

³⁰So the priests and the Levites ^(Y)accepted the weighed out silver and gold and the utensils, to bring them to Jerusalem to the house of our God.

³¹Then we journeyed from ^(Z)the river Ahava on ^(AA)the twelfth of the first month to go to Jerusalem; and ^(AB)the hand of our God rested over us, and He delivered us from the hand of the enemy and the ambushes by the way.

³²^(AC)Thus we came to Jerusalem and remained there three days.

Treasure Placed in the Temple

³³On the fourth day the silver and the gold and the utensils they weighed out in the house of our God into the hand of ^(AE)Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest, and with him dwelled Eleazar the son of Phinehas; and with them the Levites accompanied, Jozabad the son of Jeshua and Noadiah the son of Binnui.

³⁴ They numbered and weighed everything, recording it at that time.

³⁵(AF) The exiles who had come from the captivity offered burnt offerings to the God of Israel: (AG) 12 bulls for all Israel, 96 rams, 77 lambs, 12 male goats for a sin offering, all as a burnt offering to the LORD.

³⁶Then (AH) they delivered the king's edicts to (AI) the king's satraps and to the governors in the provinces beyond the River, and they supported the people and the house of God.

Ezra 9

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Mixed Marriages

¹Now when they had numbered these things, the princes approached me, saying, "The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not (A) separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, (B) according to their abominations, those of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians and the Amorites.

²"For (C) they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and for their sons, so that (D) the holy race has (E) intermingled with the peoples of the lands; indeed, the hands of the princes and the rulers have contributed foremost in this unfaithfulness."

³When I heard about this matter, I (E) tore my garment and my robe, and pulled some of the hair from my head and my beard, and (G) sat down appalled.

⁴Then (H) everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel on account of the unfaithfulness of the exiles gathered to me, and I sat appalled until (I) the evening offering.

Prayer of Confession

⁵But at the evening offering I arose from my humiliation, even with my garment and my robe torn, and I fell on my knees and (J) stretched out my hands to the LORD my God;

⁶and I said, "O my God, I feel shame and embarrassment to lift up my face to You, my God, for our iniquities have risen above our heads and our ^(K)guilt has grown even to the heavens.

⁷^(L)Since the days of our fathers to this day we have lived in great guilt, and on account of our iniquities we, our kings and our priests have fallen into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity and to plunder and to ^(M)open shame, as it seems this day.

⁸"But now for a brief moment grace has shown from the LORD our God, ^(N)to leave us an escaped remnant and to give us a ^(O)peg in His holy place, that our God may ^(P)enlighten our eyes and grant us a little reviving in our bondage.

⁹^(Q)For we acknowledge ourself as slaves; yet in our bondage our God has not forsaken us, but ^(R)has extended lovingkindness to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us reviving to raise up the house of our God, to restore its ruins and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem.

¹⁰"Now, our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken Your commandments,

¹¹which You have commanded by Your servants the prophets, saying, 'The land which you enter to possess you shall consider as an unclean land with the uncleanness of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations which have filled it from end to end and ^(S)with their impurity.

¹²'So now do not ^(T)give your daughters to their sons nor take their daughters to your sons, and ^(U)never seek their peace or their prosperity, that you may remain strong and eat the good things of the land and ^(V)leave it as an inheritance to your sons forever.'

¹³"After all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and ^(W)our great guilt, since You our God have requited us less than our iniquities deserve, and have given us ^(X)an escaped remnant as this,

¹⁴^(Y)shall we again break Your commandments and intermarry with the peoples who commit these abominations? ^(Z)Would You not have anger with us to the point of destruction, until there remains no remnant nor any who escape?

¹⁵"O LORD God of Israel, ^(AA)You we acknowledge as righteous, for we have found ourselves an escaped remnant, as this day; behold, we stand before You in ^(AB)our guilt, for ^(AC)no one can stand before You because of this."

Ezra 10

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Reconciliation with God

¹Now ^(A)while Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and prostrating himself ^(B)before the house of God, a very large assembly, men, women and children, gathered to him from Israel; for the people wept bitterly.

²Shecaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, said to Ezra, "^(C)We have proved unfaithful to our God and have married foreign women from the peoples of the land; yet now we have hope for Israel in spite of this.

³"So now ^(D)let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives and ^(E)their children, according to the counsel of ^[a]my lord and of ^(F)those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let us do it ^(G)according to the law.

⁴"Arise! For this matter has become your responsibility, but we will remain with you; have courage and act."

⁵Then Ezra rose and ^(I)made the leading priests, the Levites and all Israel, take oath that they would do according to this proposal; so they took the oath.

⁶Then Ezra ^(J)rose from before the house of God and went into the chamber of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib. Although he went there, ^(K)he did not eat bread nor drink water, for he mourned over the unfaithfulness of the exiles.

⁷They made a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem to all the exiles, that they should assemble at Jerusalem,

⁸and that whoever would not come within three days, according to the counsel of the leaders and the elders, all his possessions he should forfeit and he himself will find himself excluded from the assembly of the exiles.

⁹So all the men of Judah and Benjamin assembled at Jerusalem within the three days. It had become the ninth month on the twentieth of the month, and all the people sat in the open square before the house of God, ^(L)trembling because of this matter and the heavy rain.

¹⁰Then Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, "You have behaved unfaithfully and have married foreign wives adding to the guilt of Israel.

¹¹"Now therefore, ^(M)make confession to the LORD God of your fathers and ^(N)do His will; and ^(O)separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives."

¹²Then all the assembly replied with a loud voice, "That we acknowledge as correct! As you have said, so it becomes our duty to do.

¹³"But there live many people; it has become the rainy season and we cannot stand in the open. Nor can we complete the task in one or two days, for we have transgressed greatly in this matter.

¹⁴"Let our leaders represent the whole assembly and let all those in our cities who have married foreign wives come at appointed times, together with the elders and judges of each city, until the ^(P)fierce anger of our God on account of this matter has turned away from us."

¹⁵Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahzeiah the son of Tikvah opposed this, with Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite supporting them.

¹⁶But the exiles did so. And Ezra the priest selected men who headed households for each of their father's households, all of them by name. So they convened on the first day of the tenth month to investigate the matter.

¹⁷They finished investigating all the men who had married foreign wives by the first day of the first month.

List of Offenders

¹⁸Among the sons of the priests who had married foreign wives consisted of the sons of ^(Q)Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brothers: Maaseiah, Eliezer, Jarib and Gedaliah.

¹⁹They pledged to put away their wives, and having admitted guilt, ^(R)they offered a ram of the flock for their offense.

²⁰Of the sons of Immer we acknowledged Hanani and Zebadiah;

²¹and of the sons of Harim: Maaseiah, Elijah, Shemaiah, Jehiel and Uziah;

²²and of the sons of Pashhur: Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethanel, Jozabad and Elasah.

²³Of Levites we acknowledged Jozabad, Shimei, Kelaiah (namely, Kelita), Pethahiah, Judah and Eliezer.

²⁴Of the singers we acknowledged Eliashib; and of the gatekeepers: Shallum, Telem and Uri.

²⁵Of Israel, of the sons of ^(S)Parosh we acknowledged Ramiah, Izziah, Malchijah, Mijamin, Eleazar, Malchijah and Benaiah;

²⁶and of the sons of Elam: Mattaniah, Zechariah, Jehiel, Abdi, Jeremoth and Elijah;

²⁷and of the sons of ^(T)Zattu: Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, Jeremoth, Zabad and Aziza;

²⁸and of the sons of Bebai: Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai and Athlai;

²⁹and of the sons of Bani: Meshullam, Malluch and Adaiah, Jashub, Sheal and Jeremoth;

³⁰and of the sons of Pahath-moab: Adna, Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, Binnui and Manasseh;

³¹and of the sons of Harim: Eliezer, Isshijah, ^(U)Malchijah, Shemaiah, Shimeon,

³²Benjamin, Malluch and Shemariah;

³³of the sons of Hashum: Mattenai, Mattattah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh and Shimei;

³⁴of the sons of Bani: Maadai, Amram, Uel,

³⁵Benaiah, Bedeiah, Cheluhi,

³⁶Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib,

³⁷Mattaniah, Mattenai, Jaasu,

³⁸Bani, Binnui, Shimei,

³⁹Shelemiah, Nathan, Adaiah,

⁴⁰Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai,

⁴¹Azarel, Shelemiah, Shemariah,

⁴²Shallum, Amariah and Joseph.

⁴³Of the sons of ^(V)Nebo we acknowledged Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jaddai, Joel and Benaiah.

⁴⁴All these had married ^(W)foreign wives, and some of them had wives by whom they had children.

Nehemiah 1-13

Rendered into E-Prime by Dr. David F. Maas

Nehemiah's Grief for the Exiles

¹The words of ^(A)Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah Now it happened in ^(B)the month Chisleu, ^(C)in the twentieth year, while I lived in ^(D)Susa the ^[a]capitol,

²that ^(E)Hanani, one of my brothers, and some men from Judah came; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped and had survived the captivity, and about Jerusalem.

³They said to me, "The remnant there in the ^(E)province who survived the captivity have fallen in great distress and ^(G)reproach, and ^(H)the wall of Jerusalem has broken down and ^(I)its gates burn with fire."

⁴When I heard these words, ^(J)I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I fasted and prayed before ^(K)the God of heaven.

⁵I said, "I beseech You, O LORD God of heaven, ^(L)the great and awesome God, ^(M)who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments,

⁶^(N)let Your ear now become attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Your servants, ^(O)confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against You; ^(P)I and my father's house have sinned.

7^(Q)We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances ^(R)which You commanded Your servant Moses.

8^(I)Remember the word which You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, ^(S)'If you prove unfaithful I will scatter you among the peoples;

^(T)but if you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though those of you who have scattered I found in the most remote part of the heavens, I ^(U)will gather them from there and will bring them ^(V)to the place where I have chosen to cause My name to dwell.'

10^(W)They have become Your servants and Your people whom You redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand.

11^(X)"O Lord, I beseech You, ^(X)may Your ear become attentive to the prayer of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to revere Your name, and make Your servant successful today and grant him compassion before this man " Now I served as the ^(Y)cupbearer to the king.

Nehemiah 2

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Nehemiah's Prayer Answered

¹And it came about in the month Nisan, ^(A)in the twentieth year of King ^(B)Artaxerxes, that wine stood before him, and ^(C)I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not looked sad in his presence.

²So the king said to me, "Why does your face appear sad though you don't seem sick? ^(D)This could represent nothing but sadness of heart." Then I felt very much afraid.

³I said to the king, "^(E)Let the king live forever Why should my face not appear sad ^(F)when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies desolate and its gates have burned in the fire?"

⁴Then the king said to me, "What would you request?" ^(G)So I prayed to the God of heaven.

⁵I said to the king, "If it please the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."

⁶Then the king said to me, the queen sitting beside him, "How long will your journey take, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me, and ^(H)I gave him a definite time.

⁷And I said to the king, "If it please the king, let you give me letters ^(I)for the governors of the provinces beyond the River, that they may allow me to pass through until I come to Judah,

⁸and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's ^(J)forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of ^(K)the fortress which locates by the ^(a)temple, for the wall of the city and for the house to which I will go " And the king granted them to me because ^(L)the good hand of my God rested on me.

⁹Then I came to ^(M)the governors of the provinces beyond the River and gave them the king's letters Now ^(N)the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen.

¹⁰When ^(O)Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about it, it displeased them that someone had come to seek the welfare of the sons of Israel.

Nehemiah Inspects Jerusalem's Walls

¹¹So I ^(P)came to Jerusalem and remained there three days.

¹²And I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. I did not tell anyone what my God had put into my mind to do for Jerusalem and I had no animal with me except the animal on which I rode.

¹³So I went out at night by ^(Q)the Valley Gate in the direction of the Dragon's Well and on to the Refuse Gate, inspecting the walls of Jerusalem ^(R)which had broken down and its ^(S)gates had burned in the fire.

¹⁴Then I passed on to ^(T)the Fountain Gate and ^(U)the King's Pool, but I could find no place for my mount to pass.

¹⁵So I went up at night by the ^(V)ravine and inspected the wall. Then I entered the Valley Gate again and returned.

¹⁶The officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; nor had I as yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials or the rest who did the work.

¹⁷Then I said to them, "You see the bad situation we find ourselves in, that ^(W)Jerusalem has become desolate and its gates burned by fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer seem a reproach."

¹⁸I told them how the hand of my God had proved favorable to me and also about the king's words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, "Let us arise and build." ^(X)So they put their hands to the good work.

¹⁹But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official, and ^(Y)Geshem the Arab heard it, ^(Z)they mocked us and despised us and said, "What thing do you do? Do you rebel against the king?"

²⁰So I answered them and said to them, "^(AB)The God of heaven will give us success; therefore we His servants will arise and build, ^(AC)but you have no portion, right or memorial in Jerusalem."

Nehemiah 3

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Builders of the Walls

¹Then ^(A)Eliashib the high priest arose with his brothers the priests and built ^(B)the Sheep Gate; they consecrated it and ^(C)hung its doors. They consecrated the wall to ^(D)the Tower of the Hundred and ^(E)the Tower of Hananel.

²Next to him ^(F)the men of Jericho built, and next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.

³Now the sons of Hassenaah built ^(G)the Fish Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and bars.

⁴Next to them Meremoth the son of Uriah the son of Hakkoz made repairs. And next to him Meshullam the son of Berechiah the son of Meshezabel made repairs. And next to him Zadok the son of Baana also made repairs.

⁵Moreover, next to him the Tekoites made repairs, but their nobles did not support the work of their masters.

⁶Joiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired ^(H)the Old Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and its bars.

⁷Next to them Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah, also made repairs for the official seat of the ^(I)governor of the province beyond the River.

⁸Next to him Uzziel the son of Harhaiah of the ^(J)goldsmiths made repairs And next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs, and they restored Jerusalem as far as ^(K)the Broad Wall.

⁹Next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, ^(L)the official of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs.

¹⁰Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabneiah made repairs.

¹¹Malchijah the son of Harim and Hasshub the son of Pahath-moab repaired another section and ^(M)the Tower of Furnaces.

¹²Next to him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, ^(N)the official of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs, he and his daughters.

¹³Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired ^(O)the Valley Gate. They built it and hung its doors with its bolts and its bars, and a thousand cubits of the wall to the Refuse Gate.

¹⁴Malchijah the son of Rechab, the official of the district of ^(P)Beth-haccherem repaired the ^(Q)Refuse Gate. He built it and hung its doors with its bolts and its bars.

¹⁵Shallum the son of Col-hozeh, the official of the district of Mizpah, ^(R)repaired the Fountain Gate He built it, covered it and hung its doors with its bolts and its bars, and the wall of the Pool of Shelah at ^(S)the king's garden as far as ^(T)the steps that descend from the city of David.

¹⁶After him Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, ^(U)official of half the district of Beth-zur, made repairs as far as a point opposite the tombs of David, and as far as ^(V)the artificial pool and the house of the mighty men.

¹⁷After him the Levites carried out repairs under Rehum the son of Bani. Next to him Hashabiah, the official of half the district of Keilah, carried out repairs for his district.

¹⁸After him their brothers carried out repairs under Bavvai the son of Henadad, official of the other half of the district of Keilah.

¹⁹Next to him Ezer the son of Jeshua, ^(W)the official of Mizpah, repaired another section in front of the ascent of the armory ^(X)at the Angle.

²⁰After him Baruch the son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section, from the Angle to the doorway of the house of ^(Y)Eliashib the high priest.

²¹After him Meremoth the son of Uriah the son of Hakkoz repaired another section, from the doorway of Eliashib's house even as far as the end of his house.

²²After him the priests, ^(Z)the men of the ^[a]valley, carried out repairs.

²³After them Benjamin and Hasshub carried out repairs in front of their house. After them Azariah the son of Maaseiah, son of Ananiah, carried out repairs beside his house.

²⁴After him Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another section, from the house of Azariah as far as ^(AA)the Angle and as far as the corner.

²⁵Palal the son of Uzai made repairs in front of the Angle and the tower projecting from the upper house of the king, which stands by ^(AB)the court of the guard. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh made repairs.

²⁶^(AC)The temple servants living in ^(AD)Ophel made repairs as far as the front of ^(AE)the Water Gate toward the east and the projecting tower.

²⁷After them ^(AF)the Tekoites repaired another section in front of the great projecting tower and as far as the wall of Ophel.

²⁸Above ^(AG)the Horse Gate the priests carried out repairs, each in front of his house.

²⁹After them Zadok the son of Immer carried out repairs in front of his house. And after him Shemaiah the son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, carried out repairs.

³⁰After him Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. After him Meshullam the son of Berechiah carried out repairs in front of his own quarters.

³¹After him Malchijah, one of ^(AH)the goldsmiths, carried out repairs as far as the house of the temple servants and of the merchants, in front of the Inspection Gate and as far as the upper room of the corner.

³²Between the upper room of the corner and ^(AI)the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and the merchants carried out repairs.

Nehemiah 4

NASB E-Prime DFM

Sanballat Ridicules Work

¹Now it came about that when ^(A)Sanballat heard that we had started to rebuild the wall, he became furious and very angry and mocked the Jews.

²He spoke in the presence of his brothers and ^(B)the wealthy men of Samaria and said, "What do these feeble Jews think that they have accomplished? Will they restore it for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the ^(C)dusty rubble even the burned ones?"

³Now Tobiah the Ammonite lived near him and he said, "Even what they build--^(D)if a fox should jump on it, he would break their stone wall down!"

⁴^(E)Hear, O our God, how we feel despised! ^(E)Return their reproach on their own heads and give them up for plunder in a land of captivity.

⁵Do not ^(G)forgive their iniquity and let not their sin become blotted out before You, for they have demoralized the builders.

⁶So we built the wall and we joined together the whole wall to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

⁷Now when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, and that we began to close the breaches, they became very angry.

⁸All of them ^(H)conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it.

Discouragement Overcome

⁹But we prayed to our God, and because of them we ^(I)set up a guard against them day and night.

¹⁰Thus in Judah people said,
"The strength of the burden bearers has failed,
Yet much rubbish abounds;
And we ourselves feel unable
To rebuild the wall."

¹¹Our enemies said, "They will not know or see until we come among them, kill them and put a stop to the work."

¹²When the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times, "They will come up against us from every place where you may turn,"

¹³then I stationed men in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, the exposed places, and I ^(J)stationed the people in families with their swords, spears and bows.

¹⁴When I saw their fear, I rose and spoke to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people: "^(K)Do not fear them; remember the Lord who we acknowledge as great and awesome, and ^(L)fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your houses."

¹⁵When our enemies heard that we knew their plan, and that ^(M)God had frustrated their plan, then all of us returned to the wall, each one to his work.

¹⁶From that day on, half of my servants carried on the work while half of them held the spears, the shields, the bows and the breastplates; and the captains remained behind the whole house of Judah.

¹⁷Those who rebuilt the wall and those who carried burdens took their load with one hand doing the work and the other holding a weapon.

¹⁸As for the builders, each wore his sword girded at his side as he built, while the trumpeter stood near me.

¹⁹I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "The work seems great and extensive, and we feel separated on the wall far from one another.

²⁰"At whatever place you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. (N)Our God will fight for us."

²¹So we carried on the work with half of them holding spears from dawn until the stars appeared.

²²At that time I also said to the people, "Let each man with his servant spend the night within Jerusalem so that they serve as a guard for us by night and a laborer by day."

²³So neither I, my brothers, my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us removed our clothes, each took his weapon even to the water.

Nehemiah 5

NASB E-Prime DFM

Usury Abolished

¹Now (A)there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their (B)Jewish brothers.

²For those who said, "We, our sons and our daughters have become many; therefore let us (C)get grain that we may eat and live."

³Others said, "We have mortgaged our fields, our vineyards and our houses that we might get grain because of the famine."

⁴Also some said, "We have borrowed money (D)for the king's tax on our fields and our vineyards.

⁵"Now (E)our flesh resembles the flesh of our brothers, our children like their children Yet behold, (F)we have forced our sons and our daughters to become slaves, and some of our daughters have become forced into bondage already, and we feel helpless because our fields and vineyards belong to others."

⁶Then I felt very (G)angry when I had heard their outcry and these words.

⁷I consulted with myself and contended with the nobles and the rulers and said to them, "^(H)You have exacted usury, each from his brother!" Therefore, I held a great assembly against them.

⁸I said to them, "We according to our ability ^(I)have redeemed our Jewish brothers who had become sold to the nations; now would you even sell your brothers that they may become sold to us?" Then they grew silent and could not find a word to say.

⁹Again I said, "The thing which you do does not seem good; should you not walk in the fear of our God because of ^(J)the reproach of the nations, our enemies?"

¹⁰"And likewise I, my brothers and my servants have lent them money and grain. Please, let us leave off this usury.

¹¹"Please, give back to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive groves and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money and of the grain, the new wine and the oil that you have extracted from them."

¹²Then they said, "We ^(K)will give it back and ^(L)will require nothing from them; we will do exactly as you say " So I called the priests and ^(M)took an oath from them that they would do according to this promise.

¹³I ^(N)also shook out the front of my garment and said, "Thus may God shake out every man from his house and from his possessions who does not fulfill this promise; even thus may he become shaken out and emptied " And ^(O)all the assembly said, "Amen!" And they praised the LORD. Then the people did according to this promise.

Nehemiah's Example

¹⁴Moreover, from the day that I received an appointment to serve as their governor in the land of Judah, from ^(P)the twentieth year to the ^(Q)thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes, for twelve years, neither I nor my kinsmen have eaten the governor's food allowance.

¹⁵But the former governors who had served before me laid burdens on the people and took from them bread and wine besides forty shekels of silver; even their servants domineered the people. But I did not do so ^(R)because of the fear of God.

¹⁶I also ^[a]applied myself to the work on this wall; we did not buy any land, and all my servants gathered there for the work.

¹⁷Moreover, ^(S)there stood at my table one hundred and fifty Jews and officials, besides those who came to us from the nations that lived around us.

¹⁸Now ^(I)that which we prepared for each day consisted of one ox and six choice sheep, also birds people prepared for me; and once in ten days all sorts of wine people furnished in abundance Yet for all this ^(U)I did not demand the governor's food allowance, because the servitude fell heavy on this people.

¹⁹^(V)Remember me, O my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.

Nehemiah 6

NASB E-Prime DFM

The Enemy's Plot

¹Now when people had reported to Sanballat, Tobiah, to Geshem the Arab and to the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall, and that no breach remained in it, ^(A)although at that time I had not set up the doors in the gates,

²then Sanballat and Geshem sent a message to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together at ^[a]Chephirim in the plain of ^(B)Ono." But they had planned to harm me.

³So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I do a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?"

⁴They sent messages to me four times in this manner, and I answered them in the same way.

⁵Then Sanballat sent his servant to me in the same manner a fifth time with an open letter in his hand.

⁶In it appeared the message, " we have heard reports among the nations, and Gashmu says, that ^(C)you and the Jews have planned to rebel; therefore

you rebuild the wall. And you shall serve as their king, according to these reports.

⁷"You have also appointed prophets to proclaim in Jerusalem concerning you, 'A king reigns in Judah!' And now we will report it to the king according to these reports. So come now, let us take counsel together."

⁸Then I sent a message to him saying, "Such things as you say have not happened, but you invent them in your own mind."

⁹For all of them tried to frighten us, thinking, "They will become discouraged with the work and it will not get done." But now, ^(E)O God, strengthen my hands.

¹⁰When I entered the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, ^(E)who received confirmation at home, he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they come to kill you, and they will come to kill you at night."

¹¹But I said, "^(G)Should a man like me flee? And could one such as I go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in."

¹²Then I perceived that surely God had not sent him, but he uttered his prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

¹³They hired him for this reason, ^(H)that I might become frightened and act accordingly and sin, so that they might have an evil report in order that they could reproach me.

¹⁴^(I)Remember, O my God, Tobiah and Sanballat according to these works of theirs, and also Noadiah ^(J)the prophetess and the rest of the prophets who tried to frighten me.

The Wall Reaches Completion

¹⁵So we completed^(K)the wall on the twenty-fifth of the month Elul, in fifty-two days.

¹⁶^(L)When all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations surrounding us saw it, they lost their confidence; for ^(M)they recognized that this work had reached completion with the help of our God.

¹⁷Also in those days many letters went from the nobles of Judah to Tobiah, and Tobiah's letters came to them.

¹⁸For many in Judah bound themselves by oath to him because they knew him as the son-in-law of Shecaniah the son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah.

¹⁹Moreover, they spoke about his good deeds in my presence and reported my words to him. Then Tobiah sent letters to frighten me.

Nehemiah 7

NASB E-Prime DFM

Census of First Returned Exiles

¹Now when ^(A)the wall had become rebuilt and I had set up the doors, and the gatekeepers and the singers and appointed the Levites ,

²then I put ^(B)Hanani my brother, and ^(C)Hananiah the commander of ^(D)the fortress, in charge of Jerusalem, for he proved ^(E)a faithful man and feared God more than many.

³Then I said to them, "Do not let the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun becomes hot, and while they stand guard, let them shut and bolt the doors. Also appoint guards from the inhabitants of Jerusalem, each at his post, and each in front of his own house."

⁴Now the city grew large and spacious, but the people in it remained few and they didn't build many houses.

⁵^(E)Then my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles, the officials and the people to become enrolled by genealogies. Then I found the book of the genealogy of those who came up first in which I found the following record:

⁶^(G)These constitute the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his city,

⁷who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah. The number of men of the people of Israel:

- ⁸the sons of Parosh, 2,172;
- ⁹the sons of Shephatiah, 372;
- ¹⁰the sons of Arah, 652;
- ¹¹the sons of Pahath-moab of the sons of Jeshua and Joab, 2,818;
- ¹²the sons of Elam, 1,254;
- ¹³the sons of Zattu, 845;
- ¹⁴the sons of Zaccai, 760;
- ¹⁵the sons of Binnui, 648;
- ¹⁶the sons of Bebai, 628;
- ¹⁷the sons of Azgad, 2,322;
- ¹⁸the sons of Adonikam, 667;
- ¹⁹the sons of Bigvai, 2,067;
- ²⁰the sons of Adin, 655;
- ²¹the sons of Ater, of Hezekiah, 98;
- ²²the sons of Hashum, 328;
- ²³the sons of Bezai, 324;
- ²⁴the sons of Hariph, 112;
- ²⁵the sons of Gibeon, 95;
- ²⁶the men of Bethlehem and Netophah, 188;
- ²⁷the men of Anathoth, 128;
- ²⁸the men of Beth-azmaveth, 42;
- ²⁹the men of Kiriath-jearim, Chephirah and Beeroth, 743;
- ³⁰the men of Ramah and Geba, 621;

- ³¹the men of Michmas, 122;
- ³²the men of Bethel and Ai, 123;
- ³³the men of the other Nebo, 52;
- ³⁴the sons of the other Elam, 1,254;
- ³⁵the sons of Harim, 320;
- ³⁶the men of Jericho, 345;
- ³⁷the sons of Lod, Hadid and Ono, 721;
- ³⁸the sons of Senaah, 3,930.
- ³⁹The priests: the sons of Jedaiah of the house of Jeshua, 973;
- ⁴⁰the sons of Immer, 1,052;
- ⁴¹the sons of Pashhur, 1,247;
- ⁴²the sons of Harim, 1,017.
- ⁴³The Levites: the sons of Jeshua, of Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodevah, 74.
- ⁴⁴The singers: the sons of Asaph, 148.
- ⁴⁵The gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, the sons of Shobai, 138.
- ⁴⁶The temple servants: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth,
- ⁴⁷the sons of Keros, the sons of Sia, the sons of Padon,
- ⁴⁸the sons of Lebana, the sons of Hagaba, the sons of Shalmal,
- ⁴⁹the sons of Hanan, the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar,
- ⁵⁰the sons of Reaiah, the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda,
- ⁵¹the sons of Gazzam, the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah,
- ⁵²the sons of Besai, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephushesim,

⁵³the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur,

⁵⁴the sons of Bazlith, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha,

⁵⁵the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Temah,

⁵⁶the sons of Neziah, the sons of Hatipha.

⁵⁷The sons of Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Sophereth, the sons of Perida,

⁵⁸the sons of Jaala, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel,

⁵⁹the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth-hazzebaim, the sons of Amon.

⁶⁰All the temple servants and the sons of Solomon's servants numbered 392.

⁶¹These came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addon and Immer; but they could not show their fathers' houses or their descendants, whether they belonged to Israel:

⁶²the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, 642.

⁶³Of the priests: the sons of Hobaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, the sons of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai, the Gileadite, and became named after them.

⁶⁴These searched among their ancestral registration, but they could not locate it; therefore people considered them unclean and excluded from the priesthood.

⁶⁵^(H)The governor said to them that they should not eat from the most holy things until a priest arose with ^(I)Urim and Thummim.

Total of People and Gifts

⁶⁶The whole assembly together numbered 42,360,

⁶⁷besides their male and their female servants, of whom numbered 7,337; and they had 245 male and female singers.

⁶⁸^(J)Their horses numbered 736; their mules, 245;

⁶⁹their camels, 435; their donkeys, 6,720.

⁷⁰Some from among the heads of fathers' households gave to the work. The ^(K)governor gave to the treasury 1,000 gold drachmas, 50 basins, 530 priests' garments.

⁷¹Some of the heads of fathers' households gave into the treasury of the work 20,000 gold drachmas and 2,200 silver minas.

⁷²That which the rest of the people gave numbered 20,000 gold drachmas and 2,000 silver minas and 67 priests' garments.

⁷³Now ^(L)the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants and all Israel, lived in their cities ^(M)And when the seventh month came, the sons of Israel lived in their cities.

Nehemiah 8

NASB E-Prime DFM

Ezra Reads the Law

¹And all the people gathered as one man at the square which located in front of ^(A)the Water Gate, and they asked ^(B)Ezra the scribe to bring ^(C)the book of the law of Moses which the LORD had given to Israel.

²Then ^(D)Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women and all who could listen with understanding, on ^(E)the first day of the seventh month.

³He read from it before the square which was in front of ^(F)the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand; and all the people attended to the book of the law.

⁴Ezra the scribe stood at a wooden podium which they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam on his left hand.

⁵Ezra opened ^(G)the book in the sight of all the people for he stood above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people ^(H)stood up.

⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD the great God. And all the people answered, "(I)Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands; then (J)they bowed low and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁷Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, explained the law to the people while the people remained in their place.

⁸They read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading.

"This Day We Acknowledge As Holy"

⁹Then Nehemiah, who served the (K)governor, and Ezra (L)the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "(M)This day the LORD your God considers holy ; (N)do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.

¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and (O)send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not feel grieved, for the joy of the LORD shall become your strength."

¹¹So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, " Remain still, for we acknowledge the day as holy; do not feel grieved."

¹²All the people went away to eat, to drink, (P)to send portions and to celebrate a great festival, (Q)because they understood the words which had become known to them.

Feast of Booths Restored

¹³Then on the second day the heads of fathers' households of all the people, the priests and the Levites gathered before Ezra the scribe that they might gain insight into the words of the law.

¹⁴They found written in the law how the LORD had commanded through Moses that the sons of Israel (R)should live in booths during the feast of the seventh month.

¹⁵(S)So they proclaimed and circulated a proclamation in all their cities and (T)in Jerusalem, saying, "(U)Go out to the hills, and bring olive branches and wild olive branches, myrtle branches, palm branches and branches of other leafy trees, to make booths, as the scriptures state."

¹⁶So the people went out and brought them and made booths for themselves, each ^(V)on his roof, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at ^(W)the Water Gate and in the square at ^(X)the Gate of Ephraim.

¹⁷The entire assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in them. The sons of Israel ^(Y)had indeed not done so from the days of Joshua the son of Nun to that day And ^(Z)there arose great rejoicing.

¹⁸^(AA)He read from the book of the law of God daily, from the first day to the last day And they ^(AB)celebrated the feast seven days, and on ^(AC)the eighth day they kept a solemn assembly according to the ordinance.

Nehemiah 9

NASB E-Prime DFM

The People Confess Their Sin

¹Now on the twenty-fourth day of ^(A)this month the sons of Israel assembled ^(B)with fasting, in sackcloth and with ^(C)dirt upon them.

²The ^(D)descendants of Israel separated themselves from all foreigners, and stood and ^(E)confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.

³While ^(F)they stood in their place, they read from the book of the law of the LORD their God for a fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God.

⁴^(G)Now on the Levites' platform stood Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani and Chenani, and they cried with a loud voice to the LORD their God.

⁵Then the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah and Pethahiah, said, "Arise, bless the LORD your God forever and ever!

O may Your glorious name we bless
And exalt above all blessing and praise!

⁶"^(H)You alone we acknowledge as the LORD
^(I)You have made the heavens,
The heaven of heavens with all their host,

The earth and all that exists on it,
The seas and all that lives in them
(J) You give life to all of them
And the heavenly host bows down before You.

7" We acknowledge You as the LORD God,
(K) Who chose Abram
And brought him out from (L) Ur of the Chaldees,
And (M) gave him the name Abraham.

8" You found (N) his heart faithful before You,
And made a covenant with him
To give him the land of the Canaanite,
Of the Hittite and the Amorite,
Of the Perizzite, the Jebusite and the Girgashite--
To give it to his descendants
And You (O) have fulfilled Your promise,
For You have inherent righteousness.

9" (P) You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt,
And (Q) heard their cry by the Red Sea.

10" Then You performed (R) signs and wonders against Pharaoh,
Against all his servants and all the people of his land;
For You knew that (S) they acted arrogantly toward them,
And (T) made a name for Yourself as it has become this day.

11" (U) You divided the sea before them,
So they passed through the midst of the sea on dry ground;
And (V) their pursuers You hurled into the depths,
Like a stone into raging waters.

12" And with a pillar of cloud (W) You led them by day,
And with a pillar of fire by night
To light for them the way
In which they should go.

13" Then (X) You came down on Mount Sinai,
And (Y) spoke with them from heaven;
You gave them (Z) just ordinances and true laws,
Good statutes and commandments.

14" So You made known to them (AA) Your holy sabbath,
And laid down for them commandments, statutes and law,
Through Your servant Moses.

15" You (AB) provided bread from heaven for them for their hunger,
You (AC) brought forth water from a rock for them for their thirst,
And You (AD) told them to enter in order to possess
The land which You swore to give them.

16" But they, our fathers, (AE) acted arrogantly;
They [a](AF) became stubborn and would not listen to Your
commandments.

17" They refused to listen,
And (AG) did not remember Your wondrous deeds which You had
performed among them;
So they became stubborn and (AH) appointed a leader to return to their
slavery in Egypt

But we acknowledge You as a God (AI) of forgiveness,
Gracious and compassionate,
Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness;
And You did not forsake them.

18" Even when they (AJ) made for themselves

A calf of molten metal
And said, 'This you will acknowledge as your God
Who brought you up from Egypt,'
And committed great [b]blasphemies,

19(AK) You, in Your great compassion,

Did not forsake them in the wilderness;
(AL) The pillar of cloud did not leave them by day,
To guide them on their way,

Nor the pillar of fire by night, to light for them the way in which they
would go.

20(AM) You gave Your good Spirit to instruct them,
Your manna You did not withhold from their mouth,
And You gave them water for their thirst.

21" Indeed, (AN) forty years You provided for them in the wilderness and
they did not want;

Their clothes did not wear out, nor did their feet swell.

22" You also gave them kingdoms and peoples,
And allotted them to them as a boundary.

(AO) They took possession of the land of Sihon the king of Heshbon
And the land of Og the king of Bashan.

23" You made their sons numerous as (AP) the stars of heaven,

And You brought them into the land
Which You had told their fathers to enter and possess.

24(AR) So their sons entered and possessed the land

And (AR) You subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the
Canaanites,

And You gave them into their hand, with their kings and the peoples of
the land,

To do with them as they desired.

25(AS) They captured fortified cities and a (AT) fertile land

They took possession of (AU) houses full of every good thing,
Hewn cisterns, vineyards, olive groves,
Fruit trees in abundance

So they ate, became filled and (AV) grew fat,

And (AW)reveled in Your great goodness.
26"(AX)But they became disobedient and rebelled against You,
And (AY)cast Your law behind their backs
And (AZ)killed Your prophets who had (BA)admonished them
So that they might return to You,
And (BB)they committed great [c]blasphemies.
27"Therefore You (BC)delivered them into the hand of their oppressors who
oppressed them,
But when they cried to You (BD)in the time of their distress,
You heard from heaven, and according to Your great compassion
You (BE)gave them deliverers who delivered them from the hand of
their oppressors.
28"But (BF)as soon as they had rest, they did evil again before You;
Therefore You abandoned them to the hand of their enemies, so that
they ruled over them
When they cried again to You, You heard from heaven,
And (BG)many times You rescued them according to Your compassion,
29"And (BH)admonished them in order to turn them back to Your law
Yet (BI)they acted arrogantly and did not listen to Your commandments
but sinned against Your ordinances,
By (BJ)which if a man observes them he shall live
And they (BK)turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their neck, and
would not listen.
30"(BL)However, You bore with them for many years,
And (BM)admonished them by (BN)Your Spirit through Your prophets,
Yet they would not give ear.
Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.
31"Nevertheless, in Your great compassion You (BO)did not make an end of
them or forsake them,
For we acknowledge You as (BP)a gracious and compassionate God.
32"Now therefore, our God, (BQ)the great, the mighty, and the awesome
God, who keeps covenant and lovingkindness,
Do not let all the hardship seem insignificant before You,
Which has come upon us, our kings, our princes, our priests, our
prophets, our fathers and on all Your people,
(BR)From the days of the kings of Assyria to this day.
33"However, (BS)You remain just in all that has come upon us;
For You have dealt faithfully, but we have acted wickedly.
34"For our kings, our leaders, our priests and our fathers have not kept
Your law
Or paid attention to Your commandments and Your admonitions with
which You have admonished them.
35"But (BT)they, in their own kingdom,
(BU)With Your great goodness which You gave them,

With the broad and rich land which You set before them,
Did not serve You or turn from their evil deeds.
³⁶"Behold, ^(BV)we have become slaves today,
And as to the land which You gave to our fathers to eat of its fruit and
its bounty,
Behold, we have become slaves in it.
³⁷"^(BW)Its abundant produce appears fit for the kings
Whom You have set over us because of our sins;
They also rule over our bodies
And over our cattle as they please,
So we feel in great distress.

A Covenant Results

³⁸"Now because of all this
^(BX)We make an agreement in writing;
And on the ^(BY)sealed document we have included the names of our
leaders, our Levites and our priests. "

Nehemiah 10

NASB E-Prime DFM

Signers of the Document

¹Now on the ^(A)sealed document appeared the names of: Nehemiah the
governor, the son of Hacaliah, and Zedekiah,

²Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah,

³Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah,

⁴Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch,

⁵Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah,

⁶Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch,

⁷Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin,

⁸Maaziah, Bilgai, Shemaiah. These constituted the priests.

⁹And the Levites: Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel;

¹⁰also their brothers Shebaniah, Hodiah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan,

¹¹Mica, Rehob, Hashabiah,

¹²Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah,

¹³Hodiah, Bani, Beninu.

¹⁴The leaders of the people: Parosh, Pahath-moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani,

¹⁵Bunni, Azgad, Bebai,

¹⁶Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin,

¹⁷Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur,

¹⁸Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai,

¹⁹Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai,

²⁰Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir,

²¹Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua,

²²Pelathiah, Hanan, Anaiah,

²³Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub,

²⁴Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek,

²⁵Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah,

²⁶Ahiah, Hanan, Anan,

²⁷Malluch, Harim, Baanah.

Obligations of the Document

²⁸Now ^(B)the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants and ^(C)all those who had separated

themselves from the peoples of the lands to the law of God, their wives, their sons and their daughters, all those who had knowledge and understanding,

²⁹are joining with their kinsmen, their nobles, and have taken on themselves a curse and an oath to walk in God's law, which they received through Moses, God's servant, and to keep and to observe all the commandments of GOD our Lord, and His ordinances and His statutes;

³⁰and ^(E)that we will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons.

³¹As ^(F)for the peoples of the land who bring wares or any grain on the sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the sabbath or a holy day; and we will forego the crops the ^(G)seventh year and the ^(H)exaction of every debt.

³²We also placed ourselves under obligation to contribute yearly ^(I)one third of a shekel for the service of the house of our God:

³³for the ^(J)showbread, for the continual grain offering, for the continual burnt offering, the sabbaths, the new moon, for the appointed times, for the holy things and for the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and all the work of the house of our God.

³⁴Likewise ^(K)we cast lots ^(L)for the supply of wood among the priests, the Levites and the people so that they might bring it to the house of our God, according to our fathers' households, at fixed times annually, to burn on the altar of the LORD our God, as it appears written in the law;

³⁵and that they might bring the first fruits of our ground and ^(M)the first fruits of all the fruit of every tree to the house of the LORD annually,

³⁶and ^(N)bring to the house of our God the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, and the firstborn of our herds and our flocks as we see written in the law, for the priests who minister in the house of our God.

³⁷^(O)We will also bring the first of our dough, our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the new wine and the oil ^(P)to the priests at the chambers of the house of our God, and the ^(Q)tithe of our ground to the Levites, for the Levites receive the tithes in all the rural towns.

³⁸(R)The priest, the son of Aaron, shall dwell with the Levites when the Levites receive tithes, and the Levites shall bring up the tenth of the tithes to the house of our God, to the chambers of ^(S)the storehouse.

³⁹For the sons of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the ^(I)contribution of the grain, the new wine and the oil to the chambers; there we find the utensils of the sanctuary, the priests who minister, the gatekeepers and the singers Thus ^(U)we will not neglect the house of our God.

Nehemiah 11

NASB E-Prime DFM

Time Passes; Heads of Provinces

¹Now ^(A)the leaders of the people lived in Jerusalem, but the rest of the people ^(B)cast lots to bring one out of ten to live in Jerusalem, ^(C)the holy city, while nine-tenths remained in the other cities.

²And the people blessed all the men who ^(D)volunteered to live in Jerusalem.

³(E)Now these represent the heads of the provinces who lived in Jerusalem, but in the cities of Judah ^(E)each lived on his own property in their cities--the Israelites, the priests, the Levites, the ^(G)temple servants and the ^(H)descendants of Solomon's servants.

⁴Some of the sons of Judah and some of the sons of Benjamin lived in Jerusalem. From the sons of Judah: Athaiah the son of Uzziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalalel, of the sons of Perez;

⁵and Maaseiah the son of Baruch, the son of Col-hozeh, the son of Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah, the son of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, the son of the Shilonite.

⁶All the sons of Perez who lived in Jerusalem were 468 able men.

⁷Now these we name as the sons of Benjamin: Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Joed, the son of Pedaiah, the son of Kolaiah, the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ithiel, the son of Jeshaiiah;

⁸and after him Gabbai and Sallai, 928.

⁹Joel the son of Zichri became their overseer, and Judah the son of Hassenuah served as second in command of the city.

¹⁰From the priests: Jedaiah the son of Joiarib, Jachin,

¹¹Seraiah the son of Hilkiyah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, the leader of the house of God,

¹²and their [a]kinsmen who performed the work of the temple, 822; and Adaiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pelaliah, the son of Amzi, the son of Zechariah, the son of Pashhur, the son of Malchijah,

¹³and his kinsmen, heads of fathers' households, 242; and Amashsai the son of Azarel, the son of Ahzai, the son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer,

¹⁴and their brothers, valiant warriors, 128. And Zabdiel, the son of Hagedolim, served as their overseer.

¹⁵Now from the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Bunni;

¹⁶and Shabbethai and Jozabad, from the leaders of the Levites, who had charge of [1]the outside work of the house of God;

¹⁷and Mattaniah the son of Mica, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, who serves as the leader in beginning the thanksgiving at prayer, and Bakbukiah, the second among his brethren; and Abda the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun.

¹⁸All the Levites in [1]the holy city numbered 284.

¹⁹Also the gatekeepers, Akkub, Talmon and their brethren who kept watch at the gates, numbered 172.

Outside Jerusalem

²⁰The rest of Israel, of the priests and of the Levites, dwelled in all the cities of Judah, each [K]on his own inheritance.

²¹But ^(L)the temple servants lived in Ophel, and Ziha and Gishpa had charge of the temple servants.

²²Now Uzzi the son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Mica, from the sons of Asaph, who performed as the singers for the service of the house of God became the overseer of the Levites in Jerusalem.

²³^(N)For a commandment came to them from the king concerning them and a firm regulation for the song leaders ^(O)day by day.

²⁴Pethahiah the son of Meshezabel, of the sons ^(P)of Zerah the son of Judah, was the ^(O)king's representative in all matters concerning the people.

²⁵Now as for the villages with their fields, some of the sons of Judah lived in ^(R)Kiriath-arba and its ^[b]towns, in ^(S)Dibon and its towns, and in Jekabzeel and its villages,

²⁶and in Jeshua, in Moladah and Beth-pelet,

²⁷and in Hazar-shual, in Beersheba and its towns,

²⁸and in Ziklag, in Meconah and in its towns,

²⁹and in En-rimmon, in Zorah and in Jarmuth,

³⁰Zanoah, Adullam, and their villages, Lachish and its fields, Azekah and its towns. So they encamped from Beersheba as far as the valley of Hinnom.

³¹The sons of Benjamin also lived from Geba onward, at Michmash and Aija, at Bethel and its towns,

³²at Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah,

³³Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim,

³⁴Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat,

³⁵Lod and Ono, the valley of craftsmen.

³⁶From the Levites, some divisions in Judah belonged to Benjamin.

Nehemiah 12

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Priests and Levites Who Returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel

¹Now these represent ^(A)the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra,

²Amariah, Malluch, Hattush,

³Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth,

⁴Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah,

⁵Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah,

⁶Shemaiah and Joiarib, Jedaiah,

⁷Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah and Jedaiah. These constituted the heads of the priests and their kinsmen in the days of Jeshua.

⁸The Levites we identify as Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah who had charge of the songs of thanksgiving, he and his brothers.

⁹Also Bakbukiah and Unni, their brothers, stood opposite them ^(B)in their service divisions.

¹⁰Jeshua became the father of Joiakim, and Joiakim became the father of Eliashib, and Eliashib became the father of Joiada,

¹¹and Joiada became the father of Jonathan, and Jonathan became the father of Jaddua.

¹²Now in the days of Joiakim, the priests, the heads of fathers' households we identify: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah;

¹³of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan;

¹⁴of Malluchi, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph;

¹⁵of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai;

¹⁶of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam;

¹⁷of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin, of Moadiah, Piltai;

¹⁸of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan;

¹⁹of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi;

²⁰of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber;

²¹of Hilkiah, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah, Nethanel.

The Chief Levites

²²As for the Levites, the heads of fathers' households became registered in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, and Johanan and Jaddua; so did the priests in the reign of Darius the Persian.

²³The sons of Levi, the heads of fathers' households, registered in the Book of the Chronicles up to the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib.

²⁴The heads of the Levites consisted of Hashabiah, Sherebiah and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brothers opposite them, ^(C)to praise and give thanks, as prescribed by David the man of God, ^(D)division corresponding to division.

²⁵Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon and Akkub served as gatekeepers keeping watch at ^(E)the storehouses of the gates.

²⁶These served in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of ^(F)Nehemiah the governor and of Ezra the priest and scribe.

Dedication of the Wall

²⁷Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites from all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem so that they might celebrate the dedication with gladness, with hymns of thanksgiving and with songs ^(G)to the accompaniment of cymbals, harps and lyres.

²⁸So the sons of the singers assembled from the district around Jerusalem, and from ^(H)the villages of the Netophathites,

²⁹from Beth-gilgal and from their fields in Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built themselves villages around Jerusalem.

³⁰The priests and the Levites ^(I)purified themselves; they also purified the people, the gates and the wall.

Procedures for the Temple

³¹Then I had the leaders of Judah come up on top of the wall, and I appointed two great choirs, ^(J)the first proceeding to the right on top of the wall toward ^(K)the Refuse Gate.

³²Hoshaiah and half of the leaders of Judah followed them,

³³with Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam,

³⁴Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, Jeremiah,

³⁵and some of the sons of the priests with trumpets; and Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph,

³⁶and his kinsmen, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah and Hanani, ^(L)with the musical instruments of David the man of God. And Ezra the scribe went before them.

³⁷At ^(M)the Fountain Gate they went directly up ^(N)the steps of the city of David by the stairway of the wall above the house of David to ^(O)the Water Gate on the east.

³⁸^(P)The second choir proceeded to the left, while I followed them with half of the people on the wall, ^(Q)above the Tower of Furnaces, to ^(R)the Broad Wall,

³⁹and above ^(S)the Gate of Ephraim, by ^(T)the Old Gate, by the ^(U)Fish Gate, ^(V)the Tower of Hananel and the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate; and they stopped at ^(W)the Gate of the Guard.

⁴⁰Then the two choirs took their stand in the house of God. So did I and half of the officials with me;

⁴¹and the priests, Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah and Hananiah, with the trumpets;

⁴²and Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam and Ezer. And the singers sang, with Jezrahiah their leader,

⁴³and on that day they offered great sacrifices and rejoiced because ^(X)God had given them great joy, even the women and children rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem arose from afar.

⁴⁴On that day ^(Y)men also receive appointment over the chambers for the stores, the contributions, the first fruits and the tithes, to gather into them from the fields of the cities the portions required by the law for the priests and Levites; for Judah rejoiced over the priests and Levites who served.

⁴⁵For they performed the worship of their God and the service of purification, together with the singers and the gatekeepers ^(Z)in accordance with the command of David and of his son Solomon.

⁴⁶For in the days of David and ^(AA)Asaph, in ancient times, there appeared ^(AB)leaders of the singers, songs of praise and hymns of thanksgiving to God.

⁴⁷So all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel and Nehemiah gave the portions due the singers and the gatekeepers ^(AC)as each day required, and ^(AD)set apart the consecrated portion for the Levites, and the Levites set apart the consecrated portion for the sons of Aaron.

Nehemiah 13

NASB E-Prime DFM

Foreigners Excluded

¹On that day ^(A)they read aloud from the book of Moses in the hearing of the people; and they could find written in it that ^(B)no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God,

²because they did not meet the sons of Israel with bread and water, but ^(C)hired Balaam against them to curse them. However, ^(D)our God turned the curse into a blessing.

³So when they heard the law, ^(E)they excluded ^(F)all foreigners from Israel.

Tobiah Expelled and the Temple Cleansed

⁴Now prior to this, Eliashib the priest, ^(G)who had received appointment over the chambers of the house of our God, having kinship to ^(H)Tobiah,

⁵had prepared a large room for him, where formerly they put the grain offerings, the frankincense, the utensils and the tithes of grain, wine and oil ^(I)prescribed for the Levites, the singers and the gatekeepers, and the contributions for the priests.

⁶But during all this time I lived not in Jerusalem, for in ^(J)the thirty-second year of ^(K)Artaxerxes king of Babylon I had gone to the king. After some time, however, I asked leave from the king,

⁷and I came to Jerusalem and learned about the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, ^(L)by preparing a room for him in the courts of the house of God.

⁸It felt very displeasing to me, so I ^(M)threw all of Tobiah's household goods out of the room.

⁹Then I gave an order and ^(N)they cleansed the rooms; and I returned there the utensils of the house of God with the grain offerings and the frankincense.

Tithes Restored

¹⁰I also discovered that ^(O)the portions of the Levites had not reached them, so that the Levites and the singers who performed the service had gone away, ^(P)each to his own field.

¹¹So I ^(Q)reprimanded the officials and said, "^(R)Why have you forsaken the house of God?" Then I gathered them together and restored them to their posts.

¹²All Judah then brought ^(S)the tithe of the grain, wine and oil into the storehouses.

¹³In charge of the storehouses I appointed Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and Pedaiah of the Levites, and in addition to them we acknowledge Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah; for ^(T)they had a reliable reputation, and it became their task to distribute to their kinsmen.

¹⁴^(U)Remember me for this, O my God, and do not blot out my loyal deeds which I have performed for the house of my God and its services.

Sabbath Restored

¹⁵In those days I saw in Judah some who were treading wine presses ^(V)on the sabbath, and bringing in sacks of grain and loading them on donkeys, as well as wine, grapes, figs and all kinds of loads, ^(W)and they brought them

into Jerusalem on the sabbath day So ^(X)I admonished them on the day they sold food.

¹⁶Also men of Tyre lived there who imported fish and all kinds of merchandise, and sold them to the sons of Judah on the sabbath, even in Jerusalem.

¹⁷Then ^(Y)I reprimanded the nobles of Judah and said to them, "What evil thing have you done, by profaning the sabbath day?"

¹⁸"^(Z)Did not your fathers do the same, so that our God brought on us and on this city all this trouble? Yet you add to the wrath on Israel by profaning the sabbath."

¹⁹^(AA)It came about that just as it grew dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the sabbath, I commanded that the doors they should close the doors and that they should not open them until after the sabbath. Then I stationed some of my servants at the gates so that no load would enter on the sabbath day.

²⁰Once or twice the traders and merchants of every kind of merchandise spent the night outside Jerusalem.

²¹Then ^(AB)I warned them and said to them, "Why do you spend the night in front of the wall? If you do so again, I will use force against you." From that time on they did not come on the sabbath.

²²And I commanded the Levites that ^(AC)they should purify themselves and come as gatekeepers to sanctify the sabbath day For this also ^(AD)remember me, O my God, and have compassion on me according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness.

Mixed Marriages Forbidden

²³In those days I also saw that the Jews had ^(AE)married women from ^(AF)Ashdod, ^(AG)Ammon and Moab.

²⁴As for their children, half spoke in the language of Ashdod, and none of them could speak the language of Judah, but the language of his own people.

²⁵So ^(AH)I contended with them and cursed them and ^(AI)struck some of them and pulled out their hair, and ^(AJ)made them swear by God, "You shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor take of their daughters for your sons or for yourselves."

²⁶"^(AK)Did not Solomon king of Israel sin regarding these things? ^(AL)Yet among the many nations there lived no king like him, and his God loved him, and God made him king over all Israel; nevertheless the foreign women caused even him to sin.

²⁷"Do we then hear about you that you have committed all this great evil ^(AN)by acting unfaithfully against our God by marrying foreign women?"

²⁸Even one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, became a son-in-law of ^(AO)Sanballat the Horonite, so I drove him away from me.

²⁹^(AP)Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood and the ^(AQ)covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

³⁰^(AR)Thus I purified them from everything foreign and appointed duties for the priests and the Levites, each in his task,

³¹and I arranged ^(AS)for the supply of wood at appointed times and for the first fruits ^(AT)Remember me, O my God, for good.

Esther 1-10

Rendered into E-Prime by Dr. David F. Maas

The Banquets of the King

¹Now it took place in the days of ^(A)Ahasuerus, the Ahasuerus who reigned ^(B)from India to Ethiopia over ^(C)127 provinces,

²in those days as King Ahasuerus ^(D)sat on his royal throne which located at the citadel in ^(E)Susa,

³in the third year of his reign ^(F)he gave a banquet for all his princes and attendants, the army officers of Persia and Media, the nobles and the princes of his provinces being in his presence.

⁴And he displayed the riches of his royal glory and the splendor of his great majesty for many days, 180 days.

⁵When these days had come to completion, the king gave a banquet lasting seven days for all the people who had gathered at the citadel in Susa, from the greatest to the least, in the court of ^(G)the garden of the king's palace.

⁶They displayed hangings of fine white and violet linen held by cords of fine purple linen on silver rings and marble columns, and ^(H)couches of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, marble, mother-of-pearl and precious stones.

⁷They served drinks in golden vessels of various kinds, and the royal wine flowed plentifully ^(I)according to the king's bounty.

⁸The drinking took place according to the law, there seemed no compulsion, for so the king had given orders to each official of his household that he should do according to the desires of each person.

⁹Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the palace which belonged to King Ahasuerus.

Queen Vashti's Refusal

¹⁰On the seventh day, when the heart of the king grew ^(J)merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and Carkas, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus,

¹¹to bring Queen Vashti before the king with her royal ^(K)crown in order to display her beauty to the people and the princes, for she had much beauty.

¹²But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command delivered by the eunuchs. Then the king became very angry and his wrath burned within him.

¹³Then the king said to ^(L)the wise men ^(M)who understood the times--for it was the custom of the king so to speak before all who knew law and justice

¹⁴and were close to him: Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media ^(N)who had access to the king's presence and sat in the first place in the kingdom--

¹⁵"According to law, what should happen to Queen Vashti, because she did not obey the command of King Ahasuerus delivered by the eunuchs?"

¹⁶In the presence of the king and the princes, Memucan said, " Queen Vashti has wronged not only the king but also all the princes and all the peoples who live in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus.

¹⁷"For the queen's conduct will become known to all the women causing them to look with contempt on their husbands by saying, 'King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought in to his presence, but she did not come.'

¹⁸"This day the ladies of Persia and Media who have heard of the queen's conduct will speak in the same way to all the king's princes, and there will develop plenty of contempt and anger.

¹⁹"If it pleases the king, let him issue a royal edict and let him write it in the laws of Persia and Media so ^(Q)that no one can repeal it, that Vashti may no longer come into the presence of King Ahasuerus, and let the king give her royal position to another who proves more worthy than she.

²⁰"When the king's edict which he will make becomes heard throughout all his kingdom, great as it will become, then ^(P)all women will give honor to their husbands, great and small."

²¹This word pleased the king and the princes, and the king did as Memucan proposed.

²²So he sent letters to all the king's provinces, ^(Q)to each province according to its script and to every people according to their language, that every man should assert himself the master in his own house and the one who speaks in the language of his own people.

Esther 2

NASB E-Prime DFM

Vashti's Successor Sought

¹After these things ^(A)when the anger of King Ahasuerus had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and ^(B)what he had decreed against her.

²Then the king's attendants, who served him, said, "^(C)Let us seek beautiful young virgins for the king.

³"Let the king appoint overseers in ^(D)all the provinces of his kingdom that they may gather every beautiful young virgin to the citadel of Susa, to the harem, into the custody of ^(E)Hegai, the king's eunuch, who has charge of the women; and ^(E)let their cosmetics be given them.

⁴"Then let the young lady who pleases the king become queen in place of Vashti." And the matter pleased the king, and he did accordingly.

⁵Now there lived at the citadel in Susa a Jew who had the name of ^(G)Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite,

^{6(H)}who had gone into exile from Jerusalem with the captives who had suffered exile with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had exiled.

⁷He brought up Hadassah, namely ^(I)Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had no father or mother. Now the young lady had much beauty of form and face, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

Esther Finds Favor

⁸So it came about when the command and decree of the king became known and ^(J)many young ladies gathered to the citadel of Susa into the custody of ^(K)Hegai, that Esther received a summons to the king's palace into the custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women.

⁹Now the young lady pleased him and found favor with him. So he quickly provided her with her ^(L)cosmetics and food, gave her seven choice maids from the king's palace and transferred her and her maids to the best place in the harem.

^{10(M)}Esther did not make known her people or her kindred, for Mordecai had instructed her that she should not make them known.

¹¹Every day Mordecai walked back and forth in front of the court of the harem to learn how Esther fared.

¹²Now when the turn of each young lady came to go in to King Ahasuerus, after the end of her twelve months under the regulations for the women--for the days of their beautification reached completion as follows: six months with oil of myrrh and six months with spices and the cosmetics for women--

¹³the young lady would go in to the king in this way: anything that she desired she could have her to take with her from the harem to the king's palace.

¹⁴In the evening she would go in and in the morning she would return to the second harem, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch had charge of

the concubines. She would not again go in to the king unless the king delighted in her and summoned her by name.

¹⁵Now when the turn of Esther, ^(N)the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai who had taken her as his daughter, came to go in to the king, she did not request anything except what ^(O)Hegai, the king's eunuch who had charge of the women, advised. And Esther found favor in the eyes of all who saw her.

¹⁶So Esther received a summons from King Ahasuerus to his royal palace in the tenth month which we mark as the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

Esther Becomes Queen

¹⁷The king loved Esther more than all the women, and she found favor and kindness with him more than all the virgins, so that ^(P)he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

¹⁸Then ^(Q)the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his princes and his servants; he also made a holiday for the provinces and gave gifts ^(R)according to the king's bounty.

¹⁹^(S)When the virgins gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sat at the king's gate.

²⁰^(U)Esther had not yet made known her kindred or her people, even as Mordecai had commanded her; for Esther did what Mordecai told her as she had done ^(V)when under his care.

Mordecai Saves the King

²¹In those days, while Mordecai sat at the king's gate, ^(W)Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's officials from those who guarded the door, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

²²But the plot became known to Mordecai and ^(X)he told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name.

²³Now when the officials investigated the plot and found them guilty, the officials hanged them both on a ^[a]gallows; and it appeared in ^(Y)the Book of the Chronicles in the king's presence.

Esther 3

NASB E-Prime DFM

Haman's Plot against the Jews

¹After these events King Ahasuerus ^(A)promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha ^(B)the Agagite, and ^(C)advanced him and established his authority over all the princes who accompanied him.

²All the king's servants who assembled at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman; for so the king had commanded concerning him. But ^(D)Mordecai neither bowed down nor paid homage.

³Then the king's servants who assembled at ^(E)the king's gate said to Mordecai, "^(E)Why do you transgress the king's command?"

⁴Now when they had spoken daily to him and he would not listen to them, that they told Haman to see whether Mordecai's reason would stand; for he had told them that he had Jewish lineage.

⁵When Haman saw that ^(G)Mordecai neither bowed down nor paid homage to him, Haman filled with rage.

⁶But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him who the people of Mordecai consisted of; therefore Haman ^(H)sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, who lived throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

⁷In the first month, which we mark as the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, Pur, namely the lot, became ^(I)cast before Haman from day to day and from month to month, until the twelfth month, namely ^(J)the month Adar.

⁸Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There lives a certain people scattered and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom; ^(K)their laws differ from those of all other people and they do not observe the king's laws, so it does not prove in the king's interest to let them remain.

⁹"If it pleases the king, let him decree that they receive the death penalty, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who carry on the king's business, to put into the king's treasuries."

¹⁰Then ^(L)the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha ^(M)the Agagite, ^(N)the enemy of the Jews.

¹¹The king said to Haman, "The silver belongs to you, and the people also, to do with them as you please."

¹²^(O)Then the king's scribes received a summons on the thirteenth day of the first month, and the scribes wrote just as Haman commanded to ^(P)the king's satraps, to the governors who ruled over each province and to the princes of each people, each province according to its script, each people according to its language, having appeared as written ^(Q)in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's signet ring.

¹³Letters travelled by ^(R)couriers to all the king's provinces ^(S)to destroy, to kill and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, women and children, ^(T)in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which we mark as the month Adar, and to ^(U)seize their possessions as plunder.

¹⁴^(V)A copy of the issued edict as law in every province became published to all the peoples so that they should become ready for this day.

¹⁵The couriers went out impelled by the king's command while the king issued a decree at the citadel in Susa; and while the king and Haman sat down to drink, ^(W)the city of Susa tumbled into confusion.

Esther 4

NASB E-Prime DFM

Esther Learns of Haman's Plot

¹When Mordecai learned ^(A)all that had taken place, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city and wailed loudly and bitterly.

²He went as far as the king's gate, for no one could enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth.

³In each and every province where the command and decree of the king came, there grew mourning among the Jews, with ^(B)fasting, weeping and wailing; and many lay on sackcloth and ashes.

⁴Then Esther's maidens and her eunuchs came and told her, and the queen writhed in great anguish. And she sent garments to clothe Mordecai that he might remove his sackcloth from him, but he did not accept them.

⁵Then Esther summoned Hathach from the king's eunuchs, whom the king had appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what and why this had taken place.

⁶So Hathach went out to Mordecai to the city square in front of the king's gate.

⁷Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and ^(C)the exact amount of money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews.

⁸He also gave him ^(D)a copy of the text of the edict which had the king issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show Esther and inform her, and to order her to go in to the king to implore his favor and to plead with him for her people.

⁹Hathach came back and related Mordecai's words to Esther.

¹⁰Then Esther spoke to Hathach and ordered him to reply to Mordecai:

¹¹"All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that for any man or woman who ^(E)comes to the king to the inner court who he does not summoned, ^(F)he has but one law, that he receive the death penalty, unless the king holds out ^(G)to him the golden scepter so that he may live. And I have not received a summons to come to the king for these thirty days."

¹²They related Esther's words to Mordecai.

¹³Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews.

¹⁴"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and ^(H)deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

Esther Plans to Intercede

¹⁵Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai,

¹⁶"Go, assemble all the Jews who live in Susa, and fast for me; ^(I)do not eat or drink for ^(J)three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which does not square with the law; and if I perish, I perish."

¹⁷So Mordecai went away and did just as Esther had commanded him.

Esther 5

NASB E-Prime DFM

Esther Plans a Banquet

¹Now it came about ^(A)on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood ^(B)in the inner court of the king's palace in front of the king's rooms, and the king sat on his royal throne in the throne room, opposite the entrance to the palace.

²When the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, ^(C)she obtained favor in his sight; and ^(D)the king extended to Esther the golden scepter which he held in his hand. So Esther came near and touched the top of the scepter.

³Then the king said to her, "What troubles you, Queen Esther? And what do you request? ^(E)Even to half of the kingdom I shall give it to you."

⁴Esther said, "If it pleases the king, may the king and Haman come this day to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

⁵Then the king said, "^(E)Bring Haman quickly that we may do as Esther desires." So the king and Haman came to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

⁶As they drank their wine at the banquet, ^(G)the king said to Esther, "^(H)What do you request, for I shall grant it to you. And what do you request? Even to half of the kingdom I shall give you."

⁷So Esther replied, "My petition and my request consists of the following:

^{8(I)}if I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and do what I request, may the king and Haman come to ^(I)the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king says."

Haman's Pride

⁹Then Haman went out that day glad and pleased of heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai ^(K)in the king's gate and ^(L)that he did not stand up or tremble before him, Haman filled with anger against Mordecai.

¹⁰Haman controlled himself, however, went to his house and sent for his friends and his wife ^(M)Zeresh.

¹¹Then Haman recounted to them the glory of his riches, and the ^(N)number of his sons, and every instance where the king had magnified him and how he had ^(O)promoted him above the princes and servants of the king.

¹²Haman also said, "Even Esther the queen let no one but me come with the king to the banquet which she had prepared; and ^(P)tomorrow also I have received her invitation to dine with the king.

¹³"Yet all of this does not satisfy me every time I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at ^(Q)the king's gate."

¹⁴Then Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him, "^(R)Have a gallows fifty cubits high made and in the morning ask the king to have Mordecai hanged on it; then go joyfully with the king to the banquet." And the advice pleased Haman, so he had the gallows made.

Esther 6

NASB E-Prime DFM

The King Plans to Honor Mordecai

¹During that night the king ^(A)could not sleep so he gave an order to bring ^(B)the book of records, the chronicles, and the scribes read them before the king.

²Someone read what ^(C)Mordecai had reported concerning Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who served as doorkeepers, that they had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

³The king said, "What honor or dignity has Mordecai received for this?" Then the king's servants who attended him said, " We have done nothing for him."

⁴So the king said, "Who has come into the court?" Now Haman had just ^(D)entered the outer court of the king's palace in order to speak to the king about ^(E)hanging Mordecai on the gallows which he had prepared for him.

⁵The king's servants said to him, "Behold, Haman stands in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in."

⁶So Haman came in and the king said to him, "What should I do for the man ^(E)whom the king desires to honor?" And Haman said to himself, "Whom would the king desire to honor more than me?"

⁷Then Haman said to the king, "For the man whom the king desires to honor,

⁸let them bring a royal robe which the king has worn, and ^(G)the horse on which the king has ridden, and on whose head has placed ^(H)a royal crown ;

⁹and let him hand the robe and the horse over to one of the king's most noble princes and let them array the man whom the king desires to honor and lead him on horseback through the city square, ^(I)and proclaim before him, 'Thus it shall happen to the man whom the king desires to honor.'

Haman Must Honor Mordecai

¹⁰Then the king said to Haman, "Take quickly the robes and the horse as you have said, and do so for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate; do not fall short in anything of all that you have said."

¹¹So Haman took the robe and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus it shall happen to the man whom the king desires to honor."

¹²Then Mordecai returned to the king's gate. But Haman hurried home, mourning, ^(J)with his head covered.

¹³Haman recounted ^(K)to Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and Zeresh his wife said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, has Jewish roots, you will not overcome him, but will surely fall before him."

¹⁴While they still talked with him, the king's eunuchs arrived and hastily ^(L)brought Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

Esther 7

NASB E-Prime DFM

Esther's Plea

¹Now the king and Haman came to drink wine with Esther the queen.

²And the king said to Esther on the second day also as they drank their wine at the banquet, "^(A)What do you request, Queen Esther? I shall grant it to you And what do you request? ^(B)Even to half of the kingdom I shall give you."

³Then Queen Esther replied, "^(C)If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let you give me my life me as my petition, and my people as my request;

⁴for ^(D)we have become sold, I and my people will suffer destruction, ^(E)to become killed and to suffer annihilation. Now if people had only sold us as slaves, men and women, I would have remained silent, for the trouble would not compare with the annoyance to the king."

⁵Then King Ahasuerus asked Queen Esther, "Who do you mean, and where do we find someone who would presume to do thus?"

⁶Esther said, "^(E)A foe and an enemy I identify as this wicked Haman!" Then Haman became terrified before the king and queen.

They Hang Haman

⁷The king arose ^(G)in his anger from drinking wine and went into ^(H)the palace garden; but Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that the king had determined against him .

⁸Now when the king returned from the palace garden into the place where they drank wine, Haman fell on ^(I)the couch where Esther sat. Then the king said, "Will he even assault the queen with me in the house?" As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

⁹Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs who served before the king said, "Behold indeed, ^(J)the gallows stand at Haman's house fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai ^(K)who spoke good on behalf of the king!" And the king said, "Hang him on it."

^{10(L)}So they hanged Haman on the gallows which he had prepared for Mordecai, ^(M)and the king's anger subsided.

Esther 8

NASB E-Prime DFM

Mordecai Promoted

¹On that day King Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman, ^(A)the enemy of the Jews, to Queen Esther; and Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had disclosed his relationship to her.

^{2(C)}The king took off his signet ring which he had taken away from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

³Then Esther spoke again to the king, fell at his feet, wept and implored him to avert the evil scheme of Haman the Agagite and his plot which he had devised against the Jews.

^{4(D)}The king extended the golden scepter to Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king.

⁵Then she said, "^(E)If it pleases the king and if I have found favor before him and the matter seems proper to the king and I have pleased him in his sight, let the scribes write to revoke the ^(E)letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who live in all the king's provinces.

⁶"For ^(G)how can I endure to see the calamity which will befall my people, and how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?"

⁷So King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, "Behold, ^(H)I have given the house of Haman to Esther, and him they have hanged on the gallows because he had stretched out his hands against the Jews.

The King's Decree Avenges the Jews

⁸"Now you write to the Jews as you see fit, in the king's name, and ^(I)seal it with the king's signet ring; for a decree which you write in the name of the king and sealed with the king's signet ring ^(J)may not become revoked."

⁹(K) So the king's scribes received a calling at that time in the third month (namely, the month Sivan), on the twenty-third day; and the scribes wrote according to all that Mordecai commanded to the Jews, the satraps, the governors and the princes of the provinces which extended ^(L)from India to Ethiopia, 127 provinces, to ^(M)every province according to its script, and to every people according to their language as well as to the Jews according to their script and their language.

¹⁰He wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, and sealed it with the king's signet ring, and sent letters by couriers on ^(N)horses, riding on steeds sired by the royal stud.

¹¹In them the king granted the Jews who lived in each and every city the right ^(O)to assemble and to defend their lives, ^(P)to destroy, to kill and to annihilate the entire army of any people or province which might attack them, including children and women, and ^(Q)to plunder their spoil,

¹²on ^(R)one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month (namely, the month Adar).

¹³(S) A copy of the edict you will issue as law in each and every province had become published to all the peoples, so that the Jews would show readiness for this day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

¹⁴The couriers, hastened and impelled by the king's command, went out, riding on the royal steeds; and the decree the king gave out at the citadel in Susa.

¹⁵Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king ^(T)in royal robes of blue and white, with a large crown of gold and ^(U)a garment of fine linen and purple; and ^(V)the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced.

¹⁶For the Jews there became ^(W)light and gladness and joy and honor.

¹⁷In each and every province and in each and every city, wherever the king's commandment and his decree arrived, there came gladness and joy for the Jews, a feast and a ^(X)holiday And ^(Y)many among the peoples of the land became Jews, for the dread of the Jews had fallen on them.

Esther 9

NASB E-Prime DFM

The Jews Destroy Their Enemies

¹Now ^(A)in the twelfth month (namely, the month Adar), on ^(B)the thirteenth day ^(C)when the king's command and edict nearly became executed, on the day when the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain the mastery over them, it turned to the contrary so that the Jews themselves gained the mastery over those who hated them.

²^(D)The Jews assembled in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm; and no one could stand before them, ^(E)for the dread of them had fallen on all the peoples.

³Even all the princes of the provinces, ^(E)the satraps, the governors and those who did the king's business assisted the Jews, because the dread of Mordecai had fallen on them.

⁴Indeed, Mordecai became great in the king's house, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces; for the man Mordecai ^(G)became greater and greater.

⁵Thus ^(H)the Jews struck all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying; and they did what they pleased to those who hated them.

⁶At the citadel in Susa the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men,

⁷and Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha,

⁸Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha,

⁹Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai and Vaizatha,

¹⁰^(I)the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Jews' enemy; but ^(J)they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

¹¹On that day they reported to the king the number of those who they killed at the citadel in Susa.

¹²The king said to Queen Esther, "The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men and the ten sons of Haman at the citadel in Susa. What then have they done in the rest of the king's provinces! ^(K)Now what do you

request? I shall grant it to you. And what do you further request? I shall also do this for you."

¹³Then said Esther, "If it pleases the king, ^(L)let tomorrow also become granted to the Jews who live in Susa to do according to the edict of today; and let Haman's ten sons become hanged on the gallows."

¹⁴So the king commanded that it should happen; and he issued an edict in Susa, and ordered the execution of Haman's ten sons by hanging.

¹⁵The Jews who lived in Susa assembled also on the fourteenth day of the month Adar and killed ^(M)three hundred men in Susa, but ^(N)they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

¹⁶Now ^(O)the rest of the Jews who lived in the king's provinces ^(P)assembled, to defend their lives and rid themselves of their enemies, and kill 75,000 of those who hated them; but they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

¹⁷This happened on ^(Q)the thirteenth day of the month Adar, and ^(R)on the fourteenth day they rested and made it a day of feasting and rejoicing.

¹⁸But the Jews who lived in Susa ^(S)assembled on the thirteenth and ^(T)the fourteenth of the same month, and they rested on the fifteenth day and made it a day of feasting and rejoicing.

¹⁹Therefore the Jews of the rural areas, who live in ^(U)the rural towns, make the fourteenth day of the month Adar a ^(V)holiday for rejoicing and feasting and ^(W)sending portions of food to one another.

The Feast of Purim Instituted

²⁰Then Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews who lived in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far,

²¹obliging them to celebrate the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same month, annually,

²²because on those days the Jews rid themselves of their enemies, and it became a month which ^(X)turned them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and rejoicing and ^(Y)sending portions of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

²³Thus the Jews undertook what they had started to do, and what Mordecai had written to them.

²⁴For Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the adversary of all the Jews, had schemed against the Jews to destroy them and ^(Z)had cast Pur, namely the lot, to disturb them and destroy them.

²⁵But ^(AA)when it came to the king's attention, he commanded by letter ^(AB)that his wicked scheme which he had devised against the Jews, ^(AC)should return on his own head and that he and his sons should suffer execution by hanging on the gallows.

²⁶Therefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. And ^(AD)because of the instructions in this letter, both what they had seen in this regard and what had happened to them,

²⁷the Jews established and made a custom for themselves and for their descendants and for ^(AE)all those who allied themselves with them, so that they would not fail ^(AF)to celebrate these two days according to their regulation and according to their appointed time annually.

²⁸So these days they purposed to remember and celebrate throughout every generation, every family, every province and every city; and these days of Purim would remain in perpetuity from among the Jews, or their memory fade from their descendants.

²⁹Then Queen Esther, ^(AG)daughter of Abihail, with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm ^(AH)this second letter about Purim.

³⁰He sent letters to all the Jews, ^(AI)to the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, namely, words of peace and truth,

³¹to establish these days of Purim at their appointed times, just as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had established for them, and just as they had established for themselves and for their descendants with instructions ^(AJ)for their times of fasting and their lamentations.

³²The command of Esther established these customs for ^(AK)Purim, and scribes wrote it in the book.

Esther 10

NASB E-Prime DFM

Mordecai's Greatness

¹Now King Ahasuerus laid a tribute on the land and on the ^(A)coastlands of the sea.

²And all the accomplishments of his authority and strength, and the full account of the greatness of Mordecai ^(B)to which the king advanced him, have scribes not written them in ^(C)the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Media and Persia?

³For Mordecai the Jew became ^(D)second only to King Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews and in favor with his many kinsmen, ^(E)one who sought the good of his people and one who spoke for the welfare of his whole nation.

