

The Second Book of
Kings

1 Ahaziah's accident. 9 Sends for Elijah. 2:1 Elijah's last day. 2:13 Elisha returns. 3:1 Jehoram's reign over Israel.

1 And Moab rebelled against Israel after *the* death of Ahab. 2 And Ahaziah fell down through the lattice in his upper chamber that *was* in Samaria, and was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, *the* god of Ekron, whether I shall recover of this sickness. 3 But *the* angel of Jehovah said to Elijah the ¹Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet *the* messengers of *the* king of Samaria, and say unto them, *Is it* because *there is* no God in Israel, *that* ye go to inquire of Baal-zebub, *the* god of Ekron? 4 Now therefore thus saith Jehovah, Thou shalt not come down from the bed whither thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. And Elijah departed.

5 And the messengers returned unto him, and he said unto them, Why is it that ye are returned? 6 And they said unto him, There came up a man to meet us, and said unto us, Go, turn again unto the king that sent you, and say unto him, Thus saith Jehovah, *Is it* because *there is* no God in Israel, *that* thou sendest to inquire of Baal-zebub, *the* god of Ekron? therefore thou shalt not come down from the bed whither thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. 7 And he said unto them, What manner of man *was he* that came up to meet you, and told you these words? 8 And they answered him, *He was* ²a hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, *It is* Elijah the Tishbite.

9 Then *the king* sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him: and, behold, he was ³sitting on *the* top of the hill. And he spake unto him, O man of God, the king hath said, Come down. 10 And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I *be* a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty. 11 And again he sent unto him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said unto him, O man of God, thus hath the king said, Come down quickly. 12 And Elijah answered and said unto them, If I *be* a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And *the* fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty. 13 And again he sent the captain of a third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, let my soul, and *the* soul of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight. 14 Behold, there came fire

¹ Meaning, sojourner *And so everywhere.*

² Or, a man with a garment of hair about his loins.

³ Or, dwelling

down from heaven, and consumed the two former captains of fifty with their fifties; but now let my soul be precious in thy sight. 15 And *the* angel of Jehovah said unto Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king. 16 And he said unto him, Thus saith Jehovah, Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, *the* god of Ekron, *is it* because *there is* no God in Israel to inquire of his word? therefore thou shalt not come down from the bed whither thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.

17 So he died according to *the* word of Jehovah which Elijah had spoken. ⁴And Jehoram began to reign in his stead in *the* second year of Jehoram *the* son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah; because he had no son. 18 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Ahaziah which he did, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Israel?

2 And it came to pass, when Jehovah would take up Elijah by a whirlwind into heaven, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. 2 And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here I pray thee; for Jehovah hath sent me as far as Beth-el. And Elisha said, As Jehovah liveth, and *as* thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Beth-el. 3 And *the* sons of the prophets that *were* at Beth-el came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that Jehovah will take away thy master from thy head today? And he said, Yes, I know *it*; hold ye your peace. 4 And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for Jehovah hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As Jehovah liveth, and *as* thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho. 5 And *the* sons of the prophets that *were* at Jericho came near to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that Jehovah will take away thy master from thy head today? And he answered, Yes, I know *it*; hold ye your peace. 6 And Elijah said unto him, Tarry here, I pray thee; for Jehovah hath sent me to the Jordan. And he said, As Jehovah liveth, and *as* thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on. 7 And fifty men of *the* sons of the prophets went, and stood over against them afar off: and they two stood by

⁴ Sept. (not Lucian's recension) *alone reads* And Joram *the* son of Ahab reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years *beginning* in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah;

Jehoshaphat's reign had not yet ended. He may have made his son Jehoram co-regent in the year he joined Ahab in going to war.

the Jordan. 8 And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped *it* together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground. 9 And it came to pass, ⁵when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I am taken from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let ⁶a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. 10 And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: *nevertheless*, if thou see me *when I am* taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be *so*. 11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, *there appeared* ⁷a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, which parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by *a* whirlwind into heaven. 12 And Elisha saw *it*, and he cried, My father, my father, *the* ⁸chariots of Israel and *the* horsemen thereof!

And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. 13 He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by *the* bank of the Jordan. 14 And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where *is* Jehovah, ⁹*the* God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they were divided hither and thither; and Elisha went over.

15 And when *the* sons of the prophets that *were* at Jericho over against him saw him, they said, *The* spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to *the* ground before him. 16 And they said unto him, Behold now, there are with thy servants fifty strong men; let them go, we pray thee, and seek thy master, lest *the* Spirit of Jehovah hath taken him up, and cast him upon some mountain, or into some valley. And he said, Ye shall not send. 17 And when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, Send. They sent therefore fifty men; and they sought three days, but found him not. 18 And they came back to him, while he tarried at Jericho; and he said unto them, Did I not say unto you, Go not?

19 And *the* men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, we pray thee, *the* situation of *this* city *is* pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water *is* bad, and the land ¹⁰*miscarrieth*. 20 And he said, Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein. And they brought *it* to him. 21 And he went forth unto *the* spring of the waters, and cast salt therein, and said, Thus saith Jehovah, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from

⁵ *Or*, as they went,

⁶ *That is*, the firstborn's portion See Dt 21:17.

⁷ *Or*, chariots of fire,

⁸ *Or*, chariot of Israel

⁹ *Or*, *the* God of Elijah, even he? and when he had smitten the waters,

¹⁰ *Or*, casteth its fruit.

thence any more death or ¹¹*miscarrying*. 22 So the waters were healed unto this day, according to *the* word of Elisha which he spake.

23 And he went up from thence unto Beth-el; and as he was going up by the way, there came forth young lads out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, ¹²Go up, thou baldhead; go up, thou baldhead. 24 And he looked behind him and saw them, and cursed them in *the* name of Jehovah. And there came forth two she-bears out of the wood, and tare forty-two lads of them. 25 And he went from thence to mount Carmel, and from thence he returned to Samaria.

3 Now Jehoram *the* son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria in *the* eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years. 2 And he did *that* which was evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, but not like his father, and like his mother; for he put away the ¹³pillar of Baal that his father had made. 3 Nevertheless he cleaved unto *the* sins of Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat, wherewith he made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom.

4 Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheep-master; and he rendered unto *the* king of Israel ¹⁴*the* wool of a hundred thousand lambs, and of a hundred thousand rams. 5 But it came to pass, when Ahab was dead, that *the* king of Moab rebelled against *the* king of Israel. 6 And king Jehoram went out of Samaria at that time, and mustered all Israel. 7 And he went and sent to Jehoshaphat *the* king of Judah, saying, *The* king of Moab hath rebelled against me: wilt thou go with me against Moab to battle? And he said, I will go up: I *am* as thou *art*, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses. 8 And he said, Which way shall we go up? And he answered, *The* way of *the* wilderness of Edom. 9 So *the* king of Israel went, and *the* king of Judah, and *the* king of Edom; and they made a circuit of seven days' journey: and there was no water for the host, nor for the beasts that followed them. 10 And *the* king of Israel said, Alas! for Jehovah hath called these three kings together to deliver them into *the* hand of Moab. 11 But Jehoshaphat said, *Is there* not here a prophet of Jehovah, that we may inquire of Jehovah by him? And one of *the* king of Israel's servants answered and said, Elisha *the* son of Shaphat *is* here, who poured water on *the* hands of Elijah. 12 And Jehoshaphat said, *The* word of Jehovah is with him. So *the* king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and *the* king of Edom went down to him.

13 And Elisha said unto *the* king of Israel, What have I to do with thee? get thee to *the* prophets of thy father, and to *the* prophets of thy mother. And *the* king of

¹¹ *Or*, casting of fruit.

¹² *In modern slang*, Keep climbing, Old Baldy!

¹³ *Or*, obelisk

¹⁴ *Or*, hundred thousand lambs, and a hundred thousand rams, *with the* wool.

Israel said unto him, No; for Jehovah hath called these three kings together to deliver them into *the* hand of Moab. 14 And Elisha said, As Jehovah of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I regard *the* presence of Jehoshaphat *the* king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee. 15 But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that *the* hand of Jehovah came upon him. 16 And he said, Thus saith Jehovah, Make this valley full of trenches. 17 For thus saith Jehovah, Ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, and ye shall drink, both ye and your cattle and your beasts. 18 And this is *but* a light thing in *the* sight of Jehovah: he will also deliver the Moabites into your hand. 19 And ye shall smite every fortified city, and every choice city, and shall fell every good tree, and stop all fountains of water, and mar every good piece of land with stones. 20 And it came to pass in the morning about *the* time of offering the oblation, that, behold, there came water by *the* way of Edom, and the country was filled with water.

21 Now when all *the* Moabites heard that the kings were come up to fight against them, they ¹⁵gathered themselves together, all that were able to ¹⁶put on armor, and upward, and stood on the border. 22 And they rose up early in the morning, and the sun shone upon the water, and *the* Moabites saw the water over against them as red as blood: 23 and they said, This *is* blood; the kings ¹⁷are surely destroyed, and they have smitten each man his fellow: now therefore, Moab, to the spoil. 24 And when they came to *the* camp of Israel, *the* Israelites rose up and smote the Moabites, so that they fled before them; and they went ¹⁸forward into *the* land smiting the Moabites. 25 And they beat down the cities; and on every good piece of land they cast every man his stone, and filled it; and they stopped all *the* fountains of water, and felled all *the* good trees, until in Kir-hareseth *only* they left *the* stones thereof; howbeit the slingers went about *it*, and smote it. 26 And when *the* king of Moab saw that the battle was too sore for him, he took with him seven hundred men that drew sword, to break through unto *the* king of Edom; but they could not. 27 Then he took his eldest son that should have reigned in his stead, and offered him *for* a burnt-offering upon the wall. And ¹⁹there

¹⁵ *Or*, were called together,

¹⁶ *Hb.* gird themselves with a girdle,

¹⁷ *Or*, have surely fought together,

¹⁸ *Hb.* into it and smote Moab.

¹⁹ *Or*, there came great wrath upon Israel: *The role of the crown prince, and any demands Israel may have made concerning him, are not easily inferred here. But see the Moabite-stone footnote below.*

was great wrath against Israel: ²⁰and they departed from him, and returned to *their own* land.

4 Now there cried a certain woman of *the* wives of *the* sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear Jehovah: and the creditor is come to

²⁰ King Mesha of Moab commemorated his rebellion and violence in a stone discovered in 1868, largely corroborating the account above:

I am Mesha, son of Chemosh-[...], king of Moab, the Dibonite – my father *had* reigned over Moab thirty years, and I reigned after my father, – *who* made this high place for Chemosh in Qarhoh [...] because he saved me from all the kings and caused me to triumph over all my adversaries. As for Omri, king of Israel, he humbled Moab many years (*lit.* days), for Chemosh was angry at his land. And his son [Ahab] followed him and he also said, “I will humble Moab.” In my time he spoke *thus*, but I have triumphed over him and over his house, while Israel* hath perished for ever! *Now* Omri had occupied the land of Medeba, and *Israel* had dwelt there in his time and half the time of his son, forty years [*ago* ?]; but Chemosh dwelt there in my time. And I built Baal-meon, making a reservoir in it, and I built Qaryaten. Now the men of Gad had always dwelt in the land of Ataroth, and the king of Israel had built Ataroth for them; but I fought against the town and took it and slew all the people of the town as satiation (intoxication) for Chemosh and Moab. And I brought back from there Arel (*or*, Oriel), its chieftain, dragging him before Chemosh in Kerioth, and I settled there men of Sharon and men of Maharith. And Chemosh said to me, “Go, take Nebo from Israel!” So I went by night and fought against it from the break of dawn until noon, taking it and slaying all, seven thousand men, boys, women, girls and maid-servants, for I had devoted them to destruction for *the* god Ashtar-Chemosh. And I took from there the [...] of Jehovah, dragging them before Chemosh. And the king of Israel had built Jahaz, and he dwelt there while he was fighting against me, but Chemosh drove him out before me. And I took from Moab two hundred men, all first class warriors, and set them against Jahaz and took it in order to attach it to *the* district of Dibon.

It was I *who* built Qaroh, the wall of the forests (?) and the wall of the citadel... And I cut beams (?) for Qarhoh with Israelite captives. ...

[James B. Pritchard, *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*, 2nd edn.; Princeton: 1955. p. 320.]

*Possibly written the year after Ahab’s sons were all slain. chs. 9-10.

take unto him my two children to be bondmen. 2 And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me; what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thy handmaid hath not anything in the house, save a pot of oil. 3 Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbors, *even* empty vessels; borrow not a few. 4 And thou shalt go in, and shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and pour out into all those vessels; and thou shalt set aside *that* which is full. 5 So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons; they brought *the vessels* to her, and she poured out. 6 And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, *There is* not a vessel more. And the oil stayed. 7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy sons of the rest.

8 And it fell on *a* day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And *so* it was, *that* as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread. 9 And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this *is* a holy man of God, that passeth by us continually. 10 Let us make, I pray thee, a little chamber ²¹on *the* wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a seat, and a lampstand: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither. 11 And it fell on *a* day, that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber and lay there. 12 And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call this Shunammite. And when he had called her, she stood before him. 13 And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou hast ²²been careful for us with all this care; what *is* to be done for thee? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to *the* captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people. 14 And he said, What then *is* to be done for her? And Gehazi answered, Truly she hath no son, and her husband is old. 15 And he said, Call her. And when he had called her, she stood in the door. 16 And he said, At this season, when *the* time cometh round, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, No, my lord, *thou* man of God, do not lie unto thy handmaid.

17 And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season, when the time came round, as Elisha had said unto her. 18 And when the child was grown, it fell on *a* day, that he went out to his father to the reapers. 19 And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to his servant, Carry him to his mother. 20 And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and *then* died. 21 And she went up and laid him on *the* bed of the man of God, and shut *the* door upon him, and went out. 22 And she called unto her husband, and said, Send me,

²¹ *Or*, with walls;

²² *Or*, showed us all this reverence;

I pray thee, one of the servants, and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again. 23 And he said, Wherefore wilt thou go to him today? *it is* neither new moon nor sabbath. And she said, ²³*It shall be* well. 24 Then she saddled *an* ass, and said to her servant, Drive, and go forward; slacken me not *the* riding, except I bid thee. 25 So she went, and came unto the man of God to mount Carmel.

And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant, Behold, *yonder is* the Shunammite: 26 run, I pray thee, now to meet her, and say unto her, *Is it* well with thee: *is it* well with thy husband? *is it* well with the child? And she answered, *It is* well. 27 And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught hold of his feet. And Gehazi came near to thrust her away; but the man of God said, Let her alone: for her soul *is* ²⁴vexed within her; and Jehovah hath hid *it* from me, and hath not told me. 28 Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord? did I not say, Do not deceive me? 29 Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thy hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon *the* face of the child. 30 And *the* mother of the child said, As Jehovah liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And he arose, and followed her. 31 And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon *the* face of the child; but *there was* neither voice, nor ²⁵hearing. Wherefore he returned to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked.

32 And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, *and* laid upon his bed. 33 He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto Jehovah. 34 And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he ²⁶stretched himself upon him; and *the* flesh of the child waxed warm. 35 Then he returned, and walked in the house once to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: ²⁷and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. 36 And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son. 37 Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to *the* ground; and she took up her son, and went out.

38 And Elisha came again to Gilgal: and *there was a* dearth in the land; and *the* sons of the prophets *were* sitting before him; and he said unto his servant, Set on

²³ *Hb.* Shalom. *or*, Peace. *And in vs. 26 (4 times).*

²⁴ *Hb.* bitter

²⁵ *Hb.* attention.

²⁶ *Or*, bowed himself upon him; *Also in vs. 35.*

²⁷ *Or*, and embraced the child seven times,

the great pot, and boil pottage for *the* sons of the prophets. 39 And one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered thereof wild gourds his lap full, and came and shred *them* into the pot of pottage; for they knew *them* not. 40 So they poured out for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O man of God, *there is* death in the pot. And they could not eat *thereof*. 41 But he said, Then bring meal. And he cast *it* into the pot; and he said, Pour out for the people, that they may eat. And there was no ²⁸harm in the pot.

42 And there came a man from Baal-shalishah, and brought the man of God bread of *the* firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley, and fresh ears of grain in ²⁹his sack. And he said, Give unto the people, that they may eat. 43 And his ³⁰servant said, What, should I set this before a hundred men? But he said, Give the people, that they may eat; for thus saith Jehovah, They shall eat, and shall leave *thereof*. 44 So he set it before them, and they did eat, and left *thereof*, according to *the* word of Jehovah.

5 Now Naaman, captain of *the* host of *the* king of Syria, was a great man ³¹with his master, and honorable, because by him Jehovah had given ³²victory unto Syria: he was also a mighty man of valor, *but he was* a leper. 2 And *the* Syrians had gone out in bands, and had brought away captive out of *the* land of Israel a little maiden; and she ³³waited on Naaman's wife. 3 And she said unto her mistress, Would that my lord *were* with the prophet that *is* in Samaria! then would he recover him of his leprosy. 4 And ³⁴one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maiden that *is* of *the* land of Israel. 5 And *the* king of Syria said, Go now, and I will send a letter unto *the* king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ³⁵ten talents of silver, and six thousand ³⁶pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment. 6 And he brought the letter to *the* king of Israel, saying, And now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy. 7 And it came to pass, when *the* king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? but

²⁸ *Hb.* evil thing in the pot.

²⁹ *Or,* *the* husk thereof.

³⁰ *Or,* minister

³¹ *Hb.* before

³² *Hb.* salvation

³³ *Hb.* was before Naaman's wife.

³⁴ *Or,* he

³⁵ *That is,* 350 kg of silver, *or,* 770 pounds.

³⁶ *Or,* *shekels* (6,000 shekels = 70 kg.)

consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh ³⁷a quarrel against me.

8 And it was so, when Elisha the man of God heard that *the* king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel. 9 So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariots, and stood at *the* door of the house of Elisha. 10 And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. 11 But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on *the* name of Jehovah his God, and wave his hand over the place, and recover the leper. 12 Are not ³⁸Abanah and Pharpar, *the* rivers of Damascus, better than all *the* waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage. 13 And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, *if* the prophet had bid thee *do some* great thing, wouldest thou not have done *it*? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean? 14 Then went he down, and dipped *himself* seven times in the Jordan, according to *the* saying of the man of God; and his flesh came again like unto *the* flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

15 And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him; and he said, Behold now, I know that *there is* no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a ³⁹present of thy servant. 16 But he said, *As* Jehovah liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take *it*; but he refused. 17 And Naaman said, If not, yet, I pray thee, let there be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth; for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt-offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto Jehovah. 18 In this thing Jehovah pardon thy servant: when my master goeth into *the* house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in *the* house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in *the* house of Rimmon, Jehovah pardon thy servant in this thing. 19 And he said unto him, Go in peace. So he departed from him ⁴⁰a little way.

20 But Gehazi, *the* servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared this Naaman the Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: *as* Jehovah liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him. 21 So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw *one* running after

³⁷ *Or,* an occasion against me.

³⁸ *Some* mss. *Hb*^{mg} *read,* Amanah *Cf.* Song of Sol. 4:8.

³⁹ *Hb.* blessing

⁴⁰ *Or,* some distance. *Sept.* a horse (chariot) racecourse.

him, he alighted from the chariot to meet him, and said, *Is all well?* 22 And he said, *All is well.* My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there are come to me from *the* hill-country of Ephraim two young men of *the* sons of the prophets; give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of raiment. 23 And Naaman said, Be pleased to take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of raiment, and laid *them* upon two of his servants; and they bare *them* before him. 24 And when he came to the ⁴¹hill, he took *them* from their hand, and bestowed *them* in the house; and he let the men go, and they departed. 25 But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence *comest thou*, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither. 26 And he said unto him, ⁴²Went not my heart *with thee*, when *the* man turned from his chariot to meet thee? *Is it* a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards and vineyards, and sheep and oxen, and men-servants and maid-servants? 27 *The* leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper *as white* as snow.

6 And *the* sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold now, the place where we dwell before thee is too strait for us. 2 Let us go, we pray thee, unto the Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there, where we may dwell. And he answered, Go ye. 3 And one said, Be pleased, I pray thee, to go with thy servants. And he answered, I will go. 4 So he went with them. And when they came to the Jordan, they cut down wood. 5 But as one was felling *a* beam, the axe-head fell into the water; and he cried, and said, Alas, my master! for it was borrowed. 6 And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he showed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast *it* in thither, ⁴³and made the axe-head to swim. 7 And he said, Take *it* up to thee. So he put out his hand, and took it.

8 Now *the* king of Syria was warring against Israel; and he took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place *shall be* my ⁴⁴camp. 9 And the man of God sent unto *the* king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such *a* place; for thither *the* Syrians are coming down. 10 And *the* king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of; and he saved himself there, not once nor twice. 11 And *the* heart of *the* king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not show me which of us is for *the* king of Israel? 12 And one of his servants said, No, my

⁴¹ *Hb.* Ophel,

⁴² *Or,* My heart went not *from me*, when *etc.*

⁴³ *Or,* and brought the iron to *the* surface.

⁴⁴ *Or,* encamping.

lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth *the* king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber. 13 And he said, Go and see where he *is*, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, *he is* in Dothan.

14 Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. 15 And when *the* servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, a host with horses and chariots was round about the city. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? 16 And he answered, Fear not; for they that *are* with us are more than they that are with them. 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, Jehovah, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And Jehovah opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. 18 And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto Jehovah, and said, Smite this ⁴⁵people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to *the* word of Elisha. 19 And Elisha said unto them, This *is* not the way, neither *is* this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. And he led them to Samaria.

20 And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, Jehovah, open the eyes of these *men*, that they may see. And Jehovah opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, *they were* in *the* midst of Samaria. 21 And *the* king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite *them*? shall I smite *them*? 22 And he answered, Thou shalt not smite *them*: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master. 23 And he prepared great provision for them; and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. And *the* bands of Syria came no more into *the* land of Israel.

24 And it came to pass after this, that Ben-hadad king of Syria gathered all his host, and went up, and besieged Samaria. 25 And there was a great famine in Samaria: and, behold, they besieged it, until an ass's head was sold for ⁴⁶eighty ⁴⁷*pieces* of silver, and the fourth part of *a* kab of dove's dung for five *pieces* of silver. 26 And as *the* king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, there cried a woman unto him, saying, Help, my lord, O king. 27 And he said, ⁴⁸If Jehovah do not help thee, whence shall I help thee? out of the threshing-floor, or out of the winepress? 28 And the king said unto her, What *aieth* thee? And she

⁴⁵ *Hb.* nation

⁴⁶ 80 shekels = 925 gm, *or about* 2 pounds.

⁴⁷ *Or,* shekels (*both times*)

⁴⁸ *Or,* No, let Jehovah help thee!

answered, This woman said unto me, Give thy son, that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow. 29 So we boiled my son, and did eat him: and I said unto her on the next day, Give thy son, that we may eat him; and she hath hid her son. 30 And it came to pass, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he rent his clothes; (now he was passing by upon the wall;) and the people looked, and, behold, *he had* sackcloth within upon his flesh. 31 Then he said, God do so to me, and more also, if *the* head of Elisha *the* son of Shaphat shall stand on him *this* day.

32 But Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him; and *the king* sent a man from before him: but ere the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, See ye how this son of a murderer hath sent to take away my head? look, when the messenger cometh, shut the door, and ⁴⁹hold the door fast against him: *is* not *the* sound of his master's feet behind him? 33 And while he was yet talking with them, behold, the messenger came down unto him: and he said, Behold, this evil *is* of Jehovah; why should I wait for Jehovah any longer?

7 And Elisha said, Hear ye *the* word of Jehovah: thus saith Jehovah, Tomorrow about *this* time *shall* a ⁵⁰measure of fine flour *be* sold for a ⁵¹shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in *the* gate of Samaria. 2 Then the captain on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, *if* Jehovah should make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.

3 Now there were four leprous men at *the* entrance of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die? 4 If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine *is* in the city, and we shall die there; and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto *the* host of *the* Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die. 5 And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto *the* camp of *the* Syrians; and when they were come to *the* outermost part of *the* camp of *the* Syrians, behold, *there was* no man there. 6 For ⁵²Jehovah had made the host of *the* Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, *even* the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, *the* king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of *the* Egyptians, to come upon us. 7 Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, *even* the camp as it *was*, and fled for their souls. 8 And when these lepers came to *the* outermost part of the camp, they went into one

⁴⁹ *Hb.* thrust him back with the door:

⁵⁰ *Hb.* seah About 7.3 litre.

⁵¹ 1 shekel *is* about 11.6 gm, or 0.4 ounce.

⁵² Sopherim *changed to the* Lord

tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid *it*; and they came back, and entered into another tent, and carried thence *also*, and went and hid *it*.

9 Then they said one to another, We do not well; this day *is* a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, ⁵³punishment will overtake us; now therefore come, let us go and tell the king's household. 10 So they came and called unto *the* ⁵⁴porter of the city; and they told them, saying, We came to *the* camp of *the* Syrians, and, behold, *there was* no man there, neither voice of man, but the horses tied, and the asses tied, and *the* tents as they *were*. 11 And ⁵⁵he called the porters; and they told *it* to the king's household within. 12 And the king arose in *the* night, and said unto his servants, I will now show you what *the* Syrians have done to us. They know that we *are* hungry; therefore are they gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, When they come out of the city, we shall take them alive, and get into the city. 13 And one of his servants answered and said, Let *some* take, I pray thee, five of the horses that remain, which are left ⁵⁶in *the* city, (behold, they *are* as all *the* multitude of Israel that are left in it; behold, they *are* as all *the* multitude of Israel that are consumed:) and let us send and see. 14 They took therefore two chariots with horses; and the king sent after *the* host of *the* Syrians, saying, Go and see. 15 And they went after them unto the Jordan: and, lo, all the way *was* full of garments and vessels, which *the* Syrians had cast away in their haste. And the messengers returned, and told the king.

16 And the people went out, and plundered the camp of *the* Syrians. So a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to *the* word of Jehovah. 17 And the king appointed the captain on whose hand he leaned to have *the* charge of the gate: and the people trod upon him in the gate, and he died as the man of God had said, who spake when the king came down to him. 18 And it came to pass, as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be tomorrow about *this* time in *the* gate of Samaria; 19 and that captain answered the man of God, and said, Now, behold, *if* Jehovah should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be? and he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof: 20 it came to pass even so unto him; for the people trod upon him in the gate, and he died.

⁵³ *Or*, our iniquity will find us out;

⁵⁴ *Or possibly*, porters

⁵⁵ *Or*, the porters called;

⁵⁶ *Hb.* in it,

8 Now Elisha had spoken unto the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying, Arise, and go thou and thy household, and sojourn wheresoever thou canst sojourn: for Jehovah hath called for a famine; and it shall also come upon the land seven years. 2 And the woman arose, and did according to *the* word of the man of God; and she went with her household, and sojourned in *the* land of the Philistines seven years. 3 And it came to pass at *the* seven years' end, that the woman returned out of *the* land of *the* Philistines: and she went forth to cry unto the king for her house and for her land. 4 Now the king was talking with Gehazi *the* servant of the man of God, saying, Tell me, I pray thee, all the great things that Elisha hath done. 5 And it came to pass, as he was telling the king how he had restored to life him *that* was dead, that, behold, the woman, whose son he had restored to life, cried to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, My lord, O king, this *is* the woman, and this *is* her son, whom Elisha restored to life. 6 And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed unto her a certain ⁵⁷officer, saying, Restore all that *was* hers, and all the fruits of the field since *the* day that she left the land, even until now.

7 And Elisha came to Damascus; and Ben-hadad *the* king of Syria was sick; and it was told him, saying, The man of God is come hither. 8 And the king said unto Hazael, Take a present in thy hand, and go, meet the man of God, and inquire of Jehovah by him, saying, Shall I recover of this sickness? 9 So Hazael went to meet him, and took a present ⁵⁸with him, ⁵⁹even of every good thing of Damascus, forty camels' burden, and came and stood before him, and said, Thy son Ben-hadad king of Syria hath sent me to thee, saying, Shall I recover of this sickness? 10 And Elisha said unto him, Go, ⁶⁰say unto him, Thou shalt surely recover; howbeit Jehovah hath showed me that he shall surely die. 11 And he settled his countenance stedfastly *upon him*, until he was ashamed: and the man of God wept. 12 And Hazael said, Why weepeth my lord? And he answered, Because I know *the* evil that thou wilt do unto *the* children of Israel: their strongholds wilt thou set on fire, and their young men wilt thou slay with the sword, and wilt dash in pieces their little ones, and rip up their women with child. 13 And Hazael said, But what *is* thy servant, *who is but a dog*, that he should do this great thing? And Elisha answered, Jehovah hath showed me that thou *shalt be* king over Syria. 14 Then he departed from Elisha, and came to his master; who said to him, What said Elisha to thee? And he

⁵⁷ Or, eunuch,

⁵⁸ Hb. in his hand,

⁵⁹ Or, and

⁶⁰ Hb^{txt} *alone reads*, say, Thou shalt surely not recover; for Jehovah hath showed me that he shall surely die.

answered, He told me *that* thou wouldest surely recover. 15 And it came to pass on *the* morrow, that he took the coverlet, and dipped *it* in water, and spread *it* on his face, so that he died: and Hazael reigned in his stead.

16 And in *the* fifth year of Joram *the* son of Ahab king of Israel, Jehoshaphat *being* then king of Judah, Jehoram *the* son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah began to reign. 17 Thirty-two years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. 18 And he walked in *the* way of *the* kings of Israel, as did *the* house of Ahab: for he had *the* daughter of Ahab to wife; and he did *that* which was evil in *the* sight of Jehovah. 19 Howbeit Jehovah would not destroy Judah, for David his servant's sake, as he promised him to give unto him a lamp ⁶¹for his children alway.

20 In his days Edom revolted from under *the* hand of Judah, and made a king over themselves. 21 Then Joram passed over to Zair, and all his chariots with him: and he rose up by night, and smote the Edomites *that* compassed him about, and the captains of the chariots; and the people fled to their tents. 22 So Edom revolted from under *the* hand of Judah unto this day. Then did Libnah revolt at the same time. 23 And *the* rest of *the* acts of Joram, and all that he did, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Judah? 24 And Joram slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in *the* city of David; and Ahaziah his son reigned in his stead.

25 In *the* twelfth year of Joram *the* son of Ahab king of Israel did Ahaziah *the* son of Jehoram king of Judah begin to reign. 26 Twenty-two years old *was* Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Athaliah *the* ⁶²daughter of Omri king of Israel. 27 And he walked in *the* way of *the* house of Ahab, and did *that* which was evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, as *did the* house of Ahab; for he *was* ⁶³*the* son-in-law of *the* house of Ahab. 28 And he went with Joram *the* son of Ahab to war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramoth-gilead: and *the* Syrians wounded Joram. 29 And king Joram returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which *the* Syrians had given him at Ramah, when he fought against Hazael king of Syria. And Ahaziah *the* son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Joram *the* son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was sick.

9 And Elisha the prophet called one of *the* sons of the prophets, and said unto him, Gird up thy loins, and take this vial of oil in thy hand, and go to Ramoth-gilead. 2 And when thou comest thither, look out there Jehu *the* son of Jehoshaphat *the* son of Nimshi, and go in, and make him arise up from among his brethren, and carry him to an inner chamber. 3 then take the vial of

⁶¹ Some mss. Aram., Vg. *read*, and to his children alway.

⁶² Or, granddaughter See vs. 18.

⁶³ Or, *descended from the son-in-law etc.*

oil, and pour it on his head, and say, Thus saith Jehovah, I have anointed thee king over Israel. Then open the door, and flee, and tarry not. 4 So the young man, even the young man the prophet, went to Ramoth-gilead. 5 And when he came, behold, *the* captains of the host *were* sitting; and he said, I have an errand to thee, O captain. And Jehu said, Unto which of us all? And he said, To thee, O captain. 6 And he arose, and went into the house; and he poured the oil on his head, and said unto him, Thus saith Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, I have anointed thee king over *the* people of Jehovah, *even* over Israel. 7 And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge *the* blood of my servants the prophets, and *the* blood of all *the* servants of Jehovah, at *the* hand of Jezebel. 8 For *the* whole house of Ahab shall perish; and I will cut off from Ahab every man-child, and him that is shut up and him that is left at large in Israel. 9 And I will make the house of Ahab like *the* house of Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat, and like *the* house of Baasha *the* son of Ahijah. 10 And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in *the* portion of Jezreel, and *there shall be* none to bury *her*. And he opened the door, and fled.

11 Then Jehu came forth to *the* servants of his lord: and *one* said unto him, *Is* all well? wherefore came this mad *fellow* to thee? And he said unto them, Ye know the man and what his talk was. 12 And they said, *It is* false; tell us now. And he said, Thus and thus spake he to me, saying, Thus saith Jehovah, I have anointed thee king over Israel. 13 Then they hasted, and took every man his garment, and put *it* under him ⁶⁴on *the* top of the stairs, and blew the trumpet, saying, Jehu is king.

14 So Jehu *the* son of Jehoshaphat *the* son of Nimshi conspired against Joram. (Now Joram was keeping Ramoth-gilead, he and all Israel, because of Hazael king of Syria; 15 but king ⁶⁵Joram was returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which *the* Syrians had given him, when he fought with Hazael king of Syria.) And Jehu said, If this be your souls, *then* let none escape and go forth out of the city, to go to tell *it* in Jezreel. 16 So Jehu rode in a chariot, and went to Jezreel; for Joram lay there. And Ahaziah king of Judah was come down to see Joram.

17 Now the watchman was standing on the tower in Jezreel, and he spied the company of Jehu as he came, and said, I see a company. And Joram said, Take a horseman, and send to meet them, and let him say, ⁶⁶*Is it* peace? 18 So there went one on horseback to meet him, and said, Thus saith the king, *Is it* peace? And Jehu said, What hast thou to do with peace? turn thee behind me. And the watchman told, saying, The messenger came to them, but he cometh not back.

⁶⁴ *Or*, on the bare steps,

⁶⁵ *Hb.* Jehoram *Also in* vss. 17, 21, 22, 23, 24.

⁶⁶ *Or*, *Is all well?*

19 Then he sent out a second on horseback, who came to them, and said, Thus saith the king, *Is it* peace? And Jehu answered, What hast thou to do with peace? turn thee behind me. 20 And the watchman told, saying, He came even unto them, and cometh not back: and the driving *is* like *the* driving of Jehu *the* grandson of Nimshi; for he driveth furiously.

21 And Joram said, ⁶⁷Make ready. And they made ready his chariot. And Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah went out, each in his chariot, and they went out to meet Jehu, and found him in *the* portion of Naboth the Jezreelite. 22 And it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, *Is it* peace, Jehu? And he answered, What peace, so long as *the* whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts *are so* many? 23 And Joram turned his hands, and fled, and said to Ahaziah, *There is* treachery, O Ahaziah. 24 And Jehu ⁶⁸drew *his* bow with his full strength, and smote Joram between his arms; and the arrow went out at his heart, and he sunk down in his chariot. 25 Then said *Jehu* to Bidkar his captain, Take up, *and* cast him in *the* portion of *the* field of Naboth the Jezreelite; for remember how that, when I and thou rode together after Ahab his father, Jehovah ⁶⁹laid this burden upon him: 26 Surely I have seen yesterday the blood of Naboth, and the blood of his sons, saith Jehovah; and I will requite thee in this ⁷⁰plot, saith Jehovah. Now therefore take *and* cast him into the plot of ground, according to *the* word of Jehovah.

27 But when Ahaziah *the* king of Judah saw *this*, he fled by *the* way of *the* garden-house. And Jehu followed after him, and said, Smite him also in the chariot: *and they smote him* at *the* ascent of Gur, which *is* by Ibleam. And he fled to Megiddo, and died there. 28 And his servants carried him in a chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him in his sepulchre with his fathers in *the* city of David.

29 And in *the* eleventh year of Joram *the* son of Ahab began Ahaziah to reign over Judah.

30 And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard *of it*; and she painted her eyes, and attired her head, and looked out at the window. 31 And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, ⁷¹*Is it* peace, *thou* Zimri, thy master's murderer? 32 And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who *is* on my side? who? And there looked out to him two *or* three eunuchs. 33 And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down; and *some* of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trod her under foot. 34 And when he was come in, he did eat and

⁶⁷ *Or*, Yoke *the* horse(s) to *the* chariot.

⁶⁸ *Hb.* filled his hand with the bow,

⁶⁹ *Or*, uttered this oracle (*or*, word) against him:

⁷⁰ *Or*, portion,

⁷¹ *Or*, *Is it well, etc. or, Was there peace for Zimri,*

drink; and he said, See now to this cursed *woman*, and bury her; for she is a king's daughter. 35 And they went to bury her; but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of *her* hands. 36 Wherefore they came back, and told him. And he said, This *is the* word of Jehovah, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In *the* portion of Jezreel shall the dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel; 37 and *the* body of Jezebel shall be as dung upon *the* face of the field in *the* portion of Jezreel, so that they shall not say, This *is* Jezebel.

10 Now Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote letters, and sent to Samaria, unto *the* rulers of Jezreel, even the elders, and unto them that brought up *the sons of* Ahab, saying, 2 And now as soon as this letter cometh to you, seeing your master's sons *are* with you, and there are with you chariots and horses, a fortified city also, and armor; 3 look ye out the best and meetest of your master's sons, and set *him* on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house. 4 But they were exceedingly afraid, and said, Behold, the two kings stood not before him: how then shall we stand? 5 And he that *was* in charge of the house, and he that *was* over the city, the elders also, and they that brought up *the children*, sent to Jehu, saying, We *are* thy servants, and will do all that thou shalt bid us; we will not make any man king: do thou *that which is* good in thine eyes. 6 Then he wrote a letter a second time to them, saying, If ye *be* on my side, and *if* ye will hearken unto my voice, take ye the heads of *the* men your master's sons, and come to me to Jezreel by tomorrow *this* time. Now the king's sons, *being* seventy persons, *were* with *the* great men of the city, who brought them up. 7 And it came to pass, when the letter came to them that they took the king's sons, and slew them, even seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets, and sent *them* unto him to Jezreel. 8 And there came *a* messenger, and told him, saying, They have brought *the* heads of the king's sons. And he said, Lay ye them in two heaps at *the* entrance of the gate until the morning. 9 And it came to pass in the morning, that he went out, and stood, and said to all the people, Ye *are* righteous: behold, I conspired against my master, and slew him; but who smote all these? 10 Know now that there shall fall unto *the* earth nothing of *the* word of Jehovah, which Jehovah spake concerning *the* house of Ahab: for Jehovah hath done *that* which he spake by his servant Elijah. 11 So Jehu smote all that remained of *the* house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men, and his familiar friends, and his priests, until he left him none remaining.

12 And he arose and departed, and went to Samaria. And as he *was* at the ⁷²shearing-house of the shepherds in the way, 13 Jehu met with the brethren of Ahaziah

⁷² Or, house of gathering Also in vs. 14.

king of Judah, and said, Who *are* ye? And they answered, We *are the* brethren of Ahaziah: and we go down to salute *the* children of the king and *the* children of the queen. 14 And he said, Take them alive. And they took them alive, and slew them at *the* ⁷³pit of *the* shearing house, *even* forty-two men; neither left he any of them.

15 And when he was departed thence, he lighted on Jehonadab *the* ⁷⁴son of Rechab *coming* to meet him; and he saluted him, and said to him, Is thy heart right, as my heart *is* with thy heart? And Jehonadab answered, It is. If it be, give *me* thy hand. And he gave *him* his hand; and he took him up to him into the chariot. 16 And he said, Come with me, and see my zeal for Jehovah. So they made him ride in his chariot. 17 And when he came to Samaria, he smote all that remained unto Ahab in Samaria, till he had destroyed him, according to *the* word of Jehovah, which he spake to Elijah.

18 And Jehu gathered all the people together, and said unto them, Ahab served Baal a little; *but* Jehu will serve him much. 19 Now therefore call unto me all the prophets of Baal, all his worshippers, and all his priests; let none be wanting: for I have a great sacrifice *to do* to Baal; whosoever shall be wanting, he shall not live. But Jehu did *it* in subtlety, to *the* intent that he might destroy the worshippers of Baal. 20 And Jehu said, Sanctify a solemn assembly for Baal. And they proclaimed *it*. 21 And Jehu sent through all Israel: and all the worshippers of Baal came, so that there was not a man left that came not. And they came into the house of Baal; and the house of Baal was filled from one end to another. 22 And he said unto him that *was* over the vestry, Bring forth vestments for all the worshippers of Baal. And he brought them forth the vestments. 23 And Jehu went, and Jehonadab *the* son of Rechab, into the house of Baal; and he said unto the worshippers of Baal, Search, and look that there be here with you none of *the* servants of Jehovah, but the worshippers of Baal only. 24 And they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt-offerings. Now Jehu had appointed him eighty men without, and said, *If any of* the men whom I bring into your hands escape, *he that letteth him go*, his soul *shall be* for the soul of him.

25 And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt-offering, that Jehu said to the ⁷⁵guard and to the captains, Go in, *and* slay them; let none come forth. And they smote them with *the* edge of *the* sword; and the guard and the captains cast *them* out, and went to *the* city of the house of Baal. 26 And they brought forth the ⁷⁶pillars that were in the

⁷³ Or, cistern Ahaziah descended from Ahab's sister.

⁷⁴ Of the house of scribes of the Law. See 1Chr 2:55.

⁷⁵ Hb. runners

⁷⁶ Or, obelisks

house of Baal, and burned them. 27 And they brake down the pillar of Baal, and brake down the house of Baal, and made it a draught-house, unto *this* day. 28 Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel.

29 Howbeit *from the* sins of Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat, ⁷⁷wherewith he made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, *to wit*, the golden calves that *were* in Beth-el, and that *were* in Dan. 30 And Jehovah said unto Jehu, Because thou hast ⁷⁸done well in executing that *which is* right in mine eyes, *and* hast done unto *the* house of Ahab according to all that *was* in my heart, thy sons of *the* fourth generation shall sit on *the* throne of Israel. 31 But Jehu took no heed to walk in *the* law of Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, with all his heart: he departed not from *the* sins of Jeroboam, wherewith he made Israel to sin.

32 In those days Jehovah began to cut off from Israel: and ⁷⁹Hazael smote them in all *the* borders of Israel; 33 from the Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, and the Reubenites, and the Manassites, from Aroer, which *is* by *the* valley of *the* Arnon, even Gilead and Bashan. 34 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Jehu, and all that he did, and all his might, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Israel? 35 And Jehu slept with his fathers; and they buried him in Samaria. And Jehoahaz his son reigned in his stead. 36 And the time that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was twenty-eight years.

11 Now when Athaliah *the* mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal. 2 But Jehosheba, the daughter of king Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash *the* son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons that *were to be* slain, even him and his nurse, ⁸⁰*and put them* in the ⁸¹bedchamber; and they hid him from Athaliah, so that he was not slain. 3 And he was with her hid in *the* house of Jehovah six years: and Athaliah reigned over the land.

⁷⁷ Or, who

⁷⁸ Or, executed well that which is right

⁷⁹ In turn, Shalmaneser III of Assyria claims in his 18th year (1st years of Jehu and Athaliah) to have defeated Hazael of Damascus, killing 16,000 soldiers, while taking 1,121 chariots and 470 riding horses, but the siege of Damascus apparently failed. Shalmaneser also claims, The tribute of Jehu, son [successor] of Omri; I received from him silver, gold, a golden saplu-bowl, a golden vase with pointed bottom, golden tumblers, golden buckets, tin, a staff for a king and wooden purukhtu. [ANET, p. 281.]

⁸⁰ Or, who were in the bedchamber;

⁸¹ Or, chamber for the beds;

4 And in the seventh year Jehoiada sent and fetched the captains over hundreds, of the ⁸²Carites and of the ⁸³guard, and brought them to him into *the* house of Jehovah; and he made a covenant with them, and took an oath of them in *the* house of Jehovah, and showed them the king's son. 5 And he commanded them, saying, This *is* the thing that ye shall do: *a* third part of you, that come in on the sabbath, shall be keepers of *the* watch of the king's house; 6 and *a* third part shall be at *the* gate Sur; and *a* third part at the gate behind the guard: so shall ye keep the watch of the house, and be a barrier. 7 And the two companies of you, even all that go forth on the sabbath, shall keep the watch of *the* house of Jehovah about the king. 8 And ye shall compass the king round about, every man with his weapons in his hand; and he that cometh within the ranks, let him be slain: and be ye with the king when he goeth out, and when he cometh in.

9 And the captains over hundreds did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded; and they took every man his men, those that were to come in on the sabbath, with those that were to go out on the sabbath, and came to Jehoiada the priest. 10 And the priest delivered to the captains over hundreds the spears and shields that had been king David's, which *were* in *the* house of Jehovah. 11 And the guard stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, from the right ⁸⁴side of the house to the left side of the house, *along* by the altar and the house, by the king round about. 12 Then he brought out the king's son, and ⁸⁵put the crown upon him, and *gave him* the testimony; and they made him king, and anointed him; and they clapped *their* hands, and said, Long live the king.

13 And when Athaliah heard the noise of the guard *and of* the people, she came to the people into *the* house of Jehovah: 14 and she looked, and, behold, the king stood ⁸⁶by the pillar, as the manner *was*, and the captains and the trumpets by the king; and all *the* people of the land rejoiced, and blew trumpets. Then Athaliah rent her clothes, and cried, Treason! treason! 15 And Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of hundreds that were set over the host, and said unto them, Have her forth between the ranks; and him that followeth her slay with the sword: for the priest said, Let her not be slain in *the* house of Jehovah. 16 So they made way for her; and she went by *the* way of the horses' entry to the king's house: and there was she slain.

17 And Jehoiada made *a* covenant between Jehovah and the king and the people, that they should be

⁸² Or, executioners

⁸³ Hb. runners,

⁸⁴ Hb. shoulder

⁸⁵ Or, put upon him the crown and the testimony;

⁸⁶ Or, on the platform,

Jehovah's people; between the king also and the people. 18 And all *the* people of the land went to the house of Baal, and brake it down; his altars and his images brake they in pieces thoroughly, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest appointed ⁸⁷officers over *the* house of Jehovah. 19 And he took the captains over hundreds, and the Carites, and the guard, and all the people of the land; and they brought down the king from *the* house of Jehovah, and came by *the* way of *the* gate of the guard unto the king's house. And he sat on *the* throne of the kings. 20 So all *the* people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet. And Athaliah they had slain with the sword *at* the king's house.

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

12 In *the* seventh year of Jehu began Jehoash to reign; and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name *was* Zibiah of Beer-sheba. 2 And Jehoash did *that which was* right in *the* eyes of Jehovah all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him. 3 Howbeit the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places.

4 And Jehoash said to the priests, All *the* money of the hallowed *things* that is brought into *the* house of Jehovah, ⁸⁸*in* current money, ⁸⁹*the* money of *the* persons for whom each man is rated, *and* all *the* money that it cometh into any man's heart to bring into *the* house of Jehovah, 5 let the priests take *it* to them, every man from his acquaintance; and they shall repair the breaches of the house, wheresoever any breach shall be found. 6 But it was *so, that* in *the* twenty-third year of king Jehoash the priests had not repaired the breaches of the house. 7 Then king Jehoash called for Jehoiada the priest, and for the *other* priests, and said unto them, Why repair ye not the breaches of the house? now therefore take no *more* money from your acquaintance, but deliver it for *the* breaches of the house. 8 And the priests consented that they should take no *more* money from the people, neither repair the breaches of the house *themselves*.

9 But Jehoiada the priest took a chest, and bored a hole in *the* lid of it, and set it beside the altar, on *the* right *side* as one cometh into *the* house of Jehovah: and the priests that kept the threshold put therein all the money *that was* brought into *the* house of Jehovah. 10 And it was *so*, when they saw that *there was* much money in the chest, that the king's ⁹⁰scribe and the high

⁸⁷ *Hb.* offices

⁸⁸ *Or, even the money of everyone that passeth the numbering, See Ex 30:13.*

⁸⁹ *Hb.* each man *the* money of *the* souls of his estimation, *See* Lv 27:2.

⁹⁰ *Or, secretary*

priest came up, and they ⁹¹put up in bags and counted the money *that was* found in *the* house of Jehovah. 11 And they gave the money *that was* weighed out into *the* hands of them that did the work, that had the oversight of *the* house of Jehovah: and they ⁹²paid it out to the carpenters and the builders, *that wrought upon the* house of Jehovah, 12 and to the masons and the hewers of stone, and for buying timber and hewn stone to repair the breaches of *the* house of Jehovah, and for all that ⁹³was laid out for *the* house to repair *it*. 13 But there were not made for *the* house of Jehovah cups of silver, snuffers, basins, trumpets, any vessels of gold, or vessels of silver, of the money *that was* brought into *the* house of Jehovah; 14 for they gave that to them that did the work, and repaired therewith the house of Jehovah. 15 Moreover they reckoned not with the men, into whose hand they delivered the money to give to them that did the work; for they dealt faithfully. 16 *The* money for *the* trespass-offerings, and *the* money for *the* sin-offerings, was not brought into *the* house of Jehovah: it was the priests'.

17 Then Hazael king of Syria went up, and fought against Gath, and took it; and Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem. 18 And Jehoash king of Judah took all the sanctified things that Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah, his fathers, kings of Judah, had sanctified, and his own sanctified things, and all the gold *that was* found in *the* treasures of *the* house of Jehovah, and of the king's house, and sent *it* to Hazael king of Syria: and he went away from Jerusalem.

19 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Joash, and all that he did, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Judah? 20 And his servants arose, and made a conspiracy, and smote Joash at *the* house of Millo, *on the way that* goeth down to Silla. 21 For Jozacar *the* son of Shimeath, and Jehozabad *the* son of Shomer, his servants, smote him, and he died; and they buried him with his fathers in *the* city of David: and Amaziah his son reigned in his stead.

13 In *the* twenty-third year of Joash *the* son of Ahaziah, king of Judah, Jehoahaz *the* son of Jehu began to reign over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* seventeen years. 2 And he did *that which was* evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, and followed *the* sins of Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat, wherewith he made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom. 3 And ⁹⁴*the* anger of Jehovah was kindled against Israel, and he delivered them into *the* hand of Hazael king of Syria, and into *the*

⁹¹ *Hb.* bound up and counted *etc.*

⁹² *Hb.* brought it forth to the carpenters *etc.*

⁹³ *Hb.* went forth for the house

⁹⁴ *In the time of Jehoahaz and/or Jehoash, Adad-Nirari III of Assyria also claims to have put ^{mat}Hu-um-ri [country of Omri] to tribute.*

hand of Ben-hadad *the* son of Hazael, ⁹⁵continually. 4 And Jehoahaz besought Jehovah, and Jehovah hearkened unto him; for he saw the oppression of Israel, how that *the* king of Syria oppressed them. 5 (And Jehovah gave Israel a saviour, so that they went out from under *the* hand of *the* Syrians; and *the* children of Israel dwelt in their tents as beforetime. 6 Nevertheless they departed not from *the* sins of *the* house of Jeroboam, wherewith he made Israel to sin, *but* ⁹⁶walked therein: and there remained the Asherah also in Samaria.) 7 For he left not to Jehoahaz of *the* people save fifty horsemen, and ten chariots, and ten thousand footmen; for *the* king of Syria destroyed them, and made them like the dust ⁹⁷in threshing. 8 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Jehoahaz, and all that he did, and his might, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Israel? 9 And Jehoahaz slept with his fathers; and they buried him in Samaria: and Joash his son reigned in his stead.

10 In *the* thirty-seventh year of Joash king of Judah began Jehoash *the* son of Jehoahaz to reign over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* sixteen years. 11 And he did *that which* was evil in *the* sight of Jehovah; he departed not from all *the* sins of Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat, wherewith he made Israel to sin; *but* he walked therein. 12 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Joash, and all that he did, and his might wherewith he fought against Amaziah king of Judah, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Israel? 13 And Joash slept with his fathers; and Jeroboam sat upon his throne: and Joash was buried in Samaria with *the* kings of Israel.

14 Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died: and Joash *the* king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over ⁹⁸him, and said, My father, my father, *the* chariots of Israel and *the* horsemen thereof! 15 And Elisha said unto him, Take bow and arrows; and he took unto him bow and arrows. 16 And he said to *the* king of Israel, Put thy hand upon the bow; and he put his hand *upon it*. And Elisha laid his hands upon the king's hands. 17 And he said, Open the window eastward; and he opened it. Then Elisha said, Shoot; and he shot. And he said, Jehovah's arrow of ⁹⁹victory, even *the* arrow of victory ¹⁰⁰over Syria; for thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed *them*. 18 And he said, Take the arrows; and he took *them*. And he said unto *the* king of Israel, Smite upon *the* ground; and he smote thrice, and stayed. 19 And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times:

⁹⁵ *Hb.* all the days.

⁹⁶ *Hb.* he walked

⁹⁷ *Or,* to trample on.

⁹⁸ *Hb.* his face,

⁹⁹ *Hb.* salvation (*both times*)

¹⁰⁰ *Or,* against

then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed *it*; whereas now thou shalt smite Syria *but* thrice.

20 And Elisha died, and they buried him. Now *the* bands of *the* Moabites invaded the land at *the* coming in of *the* year. 21 And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied *a* band; and they cast the man into *the* sepulchre of Elisha: and ¹⁰¹as soon as the man touched *the* bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.

22 And Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all *the* days of Jehoahaz. 23 But Jehovah was gracious unto them, and had compassion on them, and had respect unto them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, neither cast he them from his presence ¹⁰²as yet. 24 And Hazael king of Syria died; and Ben-hadad his son reigned in his stead. 25 And Jehoash *the* son of Jehoahaz took again out of *the* hand of Ben-hadad *the* son of Hazael the cities which he had taken out of *the* hand of Jehoahaz his father by war. Three times did Joash smite him, and recovered the cities of Israel.

14 In *the* second year of Joash son of Joahaz king of Israel began Amaziah *the* son of Joash king of Judah to reign. 2 He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name was Jehoaddin of Jerusalem. 3 And he did *that which* was right in *the* eyes of Jehovah, yet not like David his father: he did according to all that Joash his father had done. 4 Howbeit the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places. 5 And it came to pass, as soon as the kingdom was established in his hand, that he slew his servants who had slain the king his father: 6 but the children of the murderers he put not to death; according to that which is written in the book of the law of Moses, as Jehovah commanded, saying, ¹⁰³The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, nor the children be put to death for the fathers; but every man shall die for his own sin. 7 He slew of Edom in the Valley of Salt ten thousand, and took ¹⁰⁴Sela by war, and called the name of it Joktheel, unto this day.

8 Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash, *the* son of Jehoahaz son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, Come, let us look one another *in the* face. 9 And Jehoash *the* king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, The ¹⁰⁵thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, Give thy daughter to my son to wife: and there passed by *a* wild beast that was in Lebanon, and trod down the thistle. 10 Thou hast

¹⁰¹ *Hb.* when the man went and touched *the* bones

¹⁰² *Hb.* until now.

¹⁰³ Dt 24:16.

¹⁰⁴ *Or,* the rock by war,

¹⁰⁵ *Or,* thorn (*both times*)

indeed smitten Edom, and thy heart hath lifted thee up: glory *thereof*, and abide at home; for why shouldst thou ¹⁰⁶meddle to *thy* hurt, that thou shouldst fall, *even* thou, and Judah with thee?

11 But Amaziah would not hear. So Jehoash king of Israel went up; and he and Amaziah king of Judah looked one another in *the* face at Beth-shemesh, which *belongeth* to Judah. 12 And Judah was put to *the* worse before Israel; and they fled every man to his tent. 13 And Jehoash king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, *the* son of Jehoash *the* son of Ahaziah, at Beth-shemesh, and came to Jerusalem, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem from *the* gate of Ephraim unto the corner gate, four hundred cubits. 14 And he took all the gold and silver, and all the vessels *that* were found in *the* house of Jehovah, and in *the* treasures of the king's house, the hostages also, and returned to Samaria.

15 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Jehoash which he did, and his might, and how he fought with Amaziah king of Judah, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Israel? 16 And Jehoash slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria with *the* kings of Israel; and Jeroboam his son reigned in his stead.

17 And Amaziah *the* son of Joash king of Judah lived after *the* death of Jehoash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel fifteen years. 18 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Amaziah, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Judah? 19 And they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem; and he fled to Lachish: but they sent after him to Lachish, and slew him there. 20 And they brought him upon horses; and he was buried at Jerusalem with his fathers in the city of David. 21 And all *the* people of Judah took ¹⁰⁷Azariah, who *was* sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah. 22 He built ¹⁰⁸Elath, and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers.

23 In *the* fifteenth year of Amaziah *the* son of Joash king of Judah began Jeroboam *the* son of Joash king of Israel to reign in Samaria, *and* reigned forty-one years. 24 And he did *that* which *was* evil in *the* sight of Jehovah: he departed not from all *the* sins of Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat, wherewith he made Israel to sin. 25 He restored the border of Israel from *the* entrance of Hamath unto *the* sea of the Arabah, according to *the* word of Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, which he spake by his servant Jonah *the* son of Amittai, the prophet, who *was* of Gath-hepher. 26 For Jehovah saw the affliction of Israel, *that* it *was* very bitter; for *there* *was* none shut up nor left at large, neither *was* there any helper

¹⁰⁶ Or, provoke calamity to *thy* hurt,

¹⁰⁷ In ch. 15:13, and 2Chr 26:1, Uzziah

¹⁰⁸ Evidence for the Judean building of Eilat includes an inscription there, "belonging to Jotham."

for Israel. 27 And Jehovah said not that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven; but he saved them by *the* hand of Jeroboam *the* son of Joash.

28 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Jeroboam, and all that he did, and his might, how he warred, and how he recovered Damascus, and Hamath, *which had belonged* to Judah, for Israel, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Israel? 29 And Jeroboam slept with his fathers, *even* with *the* kings of Israel; and Zechariah his son reigned in his stead.

15 In *the* twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel began ¹⁰⁹Azariah son of Amaziah king of Judah to reign. 2 Sixteen years old *was* he when he began to reign; and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name *was* Jecoliah of Jerusalem. 3 And he did *that* which *was* right in *the* eyes of Jehovah, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. 4 Howbeit the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places. 5 And Jehovah smote the king, so that he *was* a leper unto *the* day of his death, and dwelt in ¹¹⁰*a* separate house. And Jotham the king's son *was* over the household, judging the people of the land. 6 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Azariah, and all that he did, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Judah? 7 And Azariah slept with his fathers; and they buried him with his fathers in *the* city of David: and Jotham his son reigned in his stead.

8 In *the* thirty-eighth year of Azariah king of Judah did Zechariah *the* son of Jeroboam reign over Israel in Samaria six months. 9 And he did *that* which *was* evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, as his fathers had done: he departed not from *the* sins of Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat, wherewith he made Israel to sin. 10 And Shallum *the* son of Jabesh conspired against him, and smote him before *the* people, and slew him, and reigned in his stead. 11 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Zechariah, behold, they *are* written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Israel. 12 This *was* *the* word of Jehovah which he spake unto Jehu, saying, Thy sons to *the* fourth generation shall sit upon *the* throne of Israel. And so it came to pass.

13 Shallum *the* son of Jabesh began to reign in *the* thirty-ninth year of Uzziah king of Judah; and he reigned *the* space of a month in Samaria. 14 And Menahem *the* son of Gadi went up from Tirzah, and came to Samaria, and smote Shallum *the* son of Jabesh in Samaria, and slew him, and reigned in his stead. 15 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Shallum, and his conspiracy which he made, behold, they *are* written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Israel. 16 Then Menahem smote Tiphseh, and all that *were* therein, and the borders thereof, from Tirzah: because they opened

¹⁰⁹ In vss. 13, 30, etc., Uzziah

¹¹⁰ Or, the infirmity.

not to him, therefore he smote it; and all the women therein that were with child he ripped up.

17 In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah king of Judah began Menahem the son of Gadi to reign over Israel, and reigned ten years in Samaria. 18 And he did that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah: he departed not all his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, wherewith he made Israel to sin. 19 There came against the land ¹¹¹Pul the king of Assyria; and Menahem gave Pul a ¹¹²thousand talents of silver, that his hand might be with him to confirm the kingdom in his hand. 20 And Menahem exacted the money of Israel, even of all the mighty men of wealth, of each man ¹¹³fifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and stayed not there in the land. 21 Now the rest of the acts of Menahem, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? 22 And Menahem slept with his fathers; and Pekahiah his son reigned in his stead.

23 In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah Pekahiah the son of Menahem began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned two years. 24 And he did that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, wherewith he made Israel to sin. 25 And Pekah the son of Remaliah, his captain, conspired against him, and smote him in Samaria, in the ¹¹⁴castle of the king's house, with Argob and Arieah; and with him were fifty men of the Gileadites: and he slew him, and reigned in his stead. 26 Now the rest of the acts of Pekahiah, and all that he did, behold, they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

27 In the fifty-second year of Azariah king of Judah Pekah the son of Remaliah began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned twenty years. 28 And he did that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, wherewith he made Israel to sin.

¹¹¹ Tiglath-Pileser III (Tukulti-apla-essara, meaning Tigris' great lord; nickname Pulu) writes, I received tribute from...Menahem of Samaria... I returned him to his place [and imposed tribute upon him, to wit:] gold, silver, linen garments with multicolored trimmings, ... [I re]ceived from him. The house of Omri... all its inhabitants and their possessions I led to Assyria. They overthrew their king Pekah and I placed Hoshea as king over them. I received from them 10 talents of gold, 1,000(?) talents of silver as their [tri]bute and brought them to Assyria. [J.B. Pritchard, ANET; p. 282-284.]

¹¹² 1,000 talents ≈ 35,000 kg = 77,000 pounds.

¹¹³ 50 shekels ≈ 580 gm, implying 60,000 mighty men.

¹¹⁴ Or, palace

29 In the days of Pekah king of Israel came Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, and took Ijon, and Abel-beth-maacah, and Janoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali; and he carried them captive to Assyria. 30 And Hoshea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and smote him, and slew him, and reigned in his stead, in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah. 31 Now the rest of the acts of Pekah, and all that he did, behold, they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

32 In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah king of Israel began Jotham the son of Uzziah king of Judah to reign. 33 Twenty-five years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name was Jerusha the daughter of Zadok. 34 And he did that which was right in the eyes of Jehovah; he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done. 35 Howbeit the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burned incense in the high places. He built the upper gate of the house of Jehovah. 36 Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 37 In those days Jehovah began to send against Judah Rezin the king of Syria, and Pekah the son of Remaliah. 38 And Jotham slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Ahaz his son reigned in his stead.

16 In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah began Ahaz the son of Jotham king of Judah to reign. 2 Twenty years old was Ahaz when he began to reign; and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem: and he did not that which was right in the eyes of Jehovah his God, like David his father. 3 But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yes, and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the nations, whom Jehovah cast out from before the children of Israel. 4 And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.

5 Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to war: and they besieged Ahaz, but could not overcome him. 6 At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered ¹¹⁵Elath to Syria, and drove the Jews from Elath; and the ¹¹⁶Syrians came to Elath, and dwelt there unto this day.

7 So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, saying, I am thy servant and thy son: come up, and save me out of the hand of the king of Syria, and out of the hand of the king of Israel, that rise up against me. 8 And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of Jehovah, and in the treasures

¹¹⁵ Hb. Elath (first and second times) Modern Eilat.

¹¹⁶ Hb^{mg}, Sept., Vg. read Edomites

of the king's house, ¹¹⁷and sent *it for* a present to *the* king of Assyria. 9 And *the* king of Assyria hearkened unto him; ¹¹⁸and *the* king of Assyria went up against Damascus, and took it, and carried *the people of it* captive to Kir, and slew Rezin.

10 And king Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, and saw the altar that was at Damascus; and king Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the fashion of the altar, and the pattern of it, according to all *the* workmanship thereof. 11 And Urijah the priest built *an* altar: according to all that king Ahaz had sent from Damascus, so did Urijah the priest make *it* against *the* coming of king Ahaz from Damascus. 12 And when the king was come from Damascus, the king saw the altar: and the king drew near unto the altar, and ¹¹⁹offered thereon. 13 And he burnt his burnt-offering and his meal-offering, and poured his drink-offering, and sprinkled the blood of ¹²⁰his peace-offerings, upon the altar. 14 And the copper altar, which was before Jehovah, he brought from *the* forefront of the house, from between *his* altar and *the* house of Jehovah, and put it on *the* north side of *his* altar. 15 And king Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, Upon the great altar burn the morning burnt-offering, and the evening meal-offering, and the king's burnt-offering, and his meal-offering, with the burnt-offering of all *the* people of the land, and their meal-offering, and their drink-offerings; and sprinkle upon it all *the* blood of *the* burnt-offering, and all *the* blood of *the* sacrifice: but the copper altar shall be for me to inquire *by*. 16 Thus did Urijah the priest, according to all that king Ahaz commanded.

17 And king Ahaz cut off the panels of the bases, and removed the laver from off them, and took down the sea from off the copper oxen that *were* under it, and put it upon a pavement of stone. 18 And the ¹²¹covered way for the sabbath that they had built in the house, and the king's entry without, turned he ¹²²unto the house of Jehovah, because of *the* king of Assyria. 19 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Ahaz which he did, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the*

¹¹⁷ *An inscription of Tiglath-pileser III says, [I received] the tribute of ... Enil of Hamath,... Sanipu of the house of Ammon, Salamanu of Moab,... Jehoahaz of Judah, Kaushmalaku of Edom,... consisting of gold, silver, etc. [ANET, p. 282.]*

¹¹⁸ *Another inscription of Tiglath-pileser III says, I received tribute from... Rezon of Damascus, Menahem of Samaria, Hiram of Tyre,... Zabibe, the queen of Arabia, [18 nations total] to wit gold, silver, tin, iron,... horses, etc. [ANET, p. 283.]*

¹¹⁹ *Or, went up unto it.*

¹²⁰ *Hb. the peace-offerings which were his,*

¹²¹ *Or, covered place for the sabbath*

¹²² *Or, round*

kings of Judah? 20 And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in *the* city of David: and Hezekiah his son reigned in his stead.

17 In *the* twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah began Hoshea *the* son of Elah to reign in Samaria over Israel, and reigned nine years. 2 And he did that *which* was evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, yet not as *the* kings of Israel that were before him. 3 Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria; and Hoshea became his servant, and brought him tribute. 4 And *the* king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea; for he had sent messengers to So king of Egypt, and offered no tribute to *the* king of Assyria, as *he had done* year by year: therefore *the* king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison. 5 Then *the* king of Assyria ¹²³came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years. 6 In the ninth year of Hoshea *the* king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away unto Assyria, and placed them in Chalach, and on the ¹²⁴Chabor, *the* river of Gozan, and in *the* cities of *the* Medes.

7 And it was *so*, because *the* children of Israel had sinned against Jehovah their God, who brought them up out of *the* land of Egypt from under *the* hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods, 8 and walked in *the* statutes of the nations, whom Jehovah cast out from before *the* children of Israel, and of *the* kings of Israel, which they ¹²⁵made. 9 And *the* children of Israel did secretly things that *were* not right against Jehovah their God: and they built them high places in all their cities, from *the* tower of *the* watchmen to *the* fortified city; 10 and they set them up ¹²⁶pillars and Asherim upon every high hill, and under every green tree; 11 and there they burnt incense in all *the* high places, as *did* the nations whom Jehovah carried away before them; and they wrought wicked things to provoke Jehovah to anger; 12 and they served idols, whereof Jehovah had said unto them, Ye shall not

¹²³ *Shalmaneser died around the time Samaria fell, and Sargon II credits himself with the fall itself, I besieged and conquered Samaria, led away as booty 27,290 inhabitants of it. I formed from among them a contingent of 50 chariots and made remaining inhabitants assume their social positions. I installed over them an officer of mine and imposed upon them the tribute of the former king. Hanno king of Gaza and also Sib'e the turtan of Egypt [Musu-ri], set out from Rapihu against me to deliver a decisive battle. I defeated them... I received the tribute from Pir'u of Musuru [Pharaoh of Egypt], from Samsi queen of Arabia and It'amar the Sabeen, gold powder, horses and camels. [ANET, p. 285.]*

¹²⁴ *Modern Khābūr River, in N.E. Syria. Cf. Ez 1:1.*

¹²⁵ *Or, practiced.*

¹²⁶ *Or, obelisks*

do this thing. 13 Yet Jehovah testified unto Israel, and unto Judah, by every prophet, and every seer, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments *and* my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets. 14 Notwithstanding, they would not hear, but hardened their neck, like to *the* neck of their fathers, who believed not in Jehovah their God. 15 And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified unto them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and *went* after the nations that *were* round about them, *concerning* whom Jehovah had charged them that they should not do like them. 16 And they forsook all the commandments of Jehovah their God, and made them molten images, *even* two calves, and made an Asherah, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. 17 And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do *that which was* evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, to provoke him to anger. 18 Therefore Jehovah was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but *the* tribe of Judah only.

19 Also Judah kept not the commandments of Jehovah their God, but walked in *the* statutes of Israel which they made. 20 And Jehovah rejected all *the* seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into *the* hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight. 21 For he rent Israel from *the* house of David; and they made Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat king; and Jeroboam ¹²⁷drove Israel from following Jehovah, and made them sin a great sin. 22 And *the* children of Israel walked in all *the* sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them; 23 until Jehovah removed Israel out of his sight, as he spake by all his servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.

24 And *the* king of Assyria ¹²⁸brought *men* from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Avva, and from Hamath and Sepharvaim, and placed *them* in *the* cities of Samaria instead of *the* children of Israel; and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in *the* cities thereof. 25 And *so* it was, at *the* beginning of their dwelling there, *that* they feared not Jehovah: therefore Jehovah

¹²⁷ According to another reading, drew away Israel

¹²⁸ In his 7th year (of 16) Sargon II of Assyria writes, I crushed the tribes of Tamud, Ibadidi, Marsimanu, and Haiapa, the Arabs who live, far away, in the desert *and* who know neither overseers nor officials and who had not yet brought their tribute to any king. I deported their survivors and settled *them* in Samaria. [ANET, p. 285-286.] Sargon later claims to have received tribute from Judah.

sent lions among them, which killed *some* of them. 26 Wherefore they spake to *the* king of Assyria, saying, The nations which thou hast carried away, and placed in *the* cities of Samaria, know not the law of *the* god of the land: therefore he hath sent lions among them, and, behold, they slay them, because they know not the law of *the* god of the land.

27 Then *the* king of Assyria commanded, saying, Carry thither one of the priests whom ye brought from thence; and let ¹²⁹them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the law of the gods of the land. 28 So one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Beth-el, and taught them how they should fear Jehovah. 29 Howbeit every nation made gods of their own, and put *them* in *the* houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities wherein they dwelt. 30 And *the* men of Babylon made Sukkoth-benoth, and *the* men of Cuth made Nergal, and *the* men of Hamath made Ashima, 31 and the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burnt their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, *the* ¹³⁰gods of Sepharvaim. 32 So they feared Jehovah, and made unto them from among themselves priests of *the* high places, who sacrificed for them in *the* houses of the high places. 33 They feared Jehovah, and served their own gods, after *the* manner of the nations from among whom they had been carried away.

34 Unto this day they do after the former manner: they fear not Jehovah, neither do they after their statutes, or after their ordinances, or after the law or after the commandment which Jehovah commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel; 35 with whom Jehovah had made a covenant, and charged them, saying, Ye shall not fear other gods, nor bow yourselves to them, nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them: 36 but Jehovah, who brought you up out of *the* land of Egypt with great power and with an outstretched arm, him shall ye fear, and unto him shall ye bow yourselves, and to him shall ye sacrifice: 37 and the statutes and the ordinances, and the law and the commandment, which he wrote for you, ye shall observe to do all *your* days; and ye shall not fear other gods: 38 and the covenant that I have made with you ye shall not forget; neither shall ye fear other gods: 39 but Jehovah your God shall ye fear; and he will deliver you out of *the* hand of all your enemies. 40 Howbeit they did not hearken, but they did after *their* former manner. 41 So these nations feared Jehovah, and served their graven images; their children likewise, and their children's children, as did their fathers, so do they unto this day.

¹²⁹ Plural, suggesting that the priest's family is included

¹³⁰ Hb^{txt} alone reads, god

18 Now it came to pass in *the* third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, *that* Hezekiah *the* son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. 2 Twenty-five years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name *was* Abi *the* daughter of Zechariah. 3 And he did *that which was* right in *the* eyes of Jehovah, according to all that David his father had done. 4 He removed the high places, and brake the pillars, and cut down the Asherah: and he brake in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made; for unto those days *the* children of Israel did burn incense to it; and ¹³¹he called it ¹³²Nehushtan. 5 He trusted in Jehovah, *the* God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all *the* kings of Judah, nor *among them* that were before him. 6 For he clave to Jehovah; he departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which Jehovah commanded Moses. 7 And Jehovah was with him; whithersoever he went forth he prospered: and he rebelled against *the* king of Assyria, and served him not. 8 He smote the Philistines unto Gaza and the borders thereof, from *the* tower of *the* watchmen to *the* fortified city.

9 And it came to pass in the fourth year of king Hezekiah, which *was* the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, *that* Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria, and besieged it. 10 And at *the* end of three years they took it: in *the* sixth year of Hezekiah, which *was* *the* ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken. 11 And *the* king of Assyria carried Israel away unto Assyria, and put them in Chalach, and on the ¹³³Chabor, *the* river of Gozan, and in *the* cities of *the* Medes, 12 because they obeyed not *the* voice of Jehovah their God, but transgressed his covenant, *even* all that Moses *the* servant of Jehovah commanded, and would not hear *it*, nor do *it*.

13 Now in *the* fourteenth year of king Hezekiah did ¹³⁴Sennacherib king of Assyria come up against all the

¹³¹ *Or*, it was called

¹³² *That is*, *Just* a piece of copper.

¹³³ Khābūr River, in modern N.E. Syria. Cf. Ez 1:1.

¹³⁴ *Hb.* Sanherib *From the Prism of Sennacherib*, As to Hezekiah the Jew, he did not submit to my yoke, I laid siege to 46 of his strong cities, walled forts and to the countless small villages in their vicinity, and conquered *them* by means of well-stamped (*earth-*)ramps, and battering-rams brought *thus* near to *the* walls, combined with the attack by foot soldiers, using mines, breeches as well as sapper work. I drove out of *them* 200,150 people, young and old, male and female, horses, mules, donkeys, camels, big and small cattle beyond counting, and considered *them* booty. Himself I made a prisoner in Jerusalem, his royal residence, like a bird in a cage. I surrounded him with

fortified cities of Judah, and took them. 14 And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to *the* king of Assyria to Lachish, saying, I have offended; return from me: that which thou puttest on me will I bear. And *the* king of Assyria appointed unto Hezekiah king of Judah ¹³⁵three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. 15 And Hezekiah gave *him* all the silver *that* was found in *the* house of Jehovah, and in *the* treasures of the king's house. 16 At that time did Hezekiah cut off *the gold from* the doors of *the* temple of Jehovah, and *from* the ¹³⁶pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to *the* king of Assyria. 17 And *the* king of Assyria sent ¹³⁷Tartan and Rab-saris and Rabshakeh from ¹³⁸Lachish to king Hezekiah with a great army unto Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they were come up, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is in *the* highway of *the* fuller's field. 18 And when they had called to the king, there came out to them Eliakim *the* son of Hilkiah, who *was* over the household, and Shebna the ¹³⁹scribe, and Joah *the* son of Asaph the ¹⁴⁰recorder.

19 And Rabshakeh said unto them, Say ye now to Hezekiah, Thus saith the great king, *the* king of Assyria, What confidence *is* this wherein thou trustest? 20 Thou sayest (but *they are but* ¹⁴¹vain words), *There is* counsel and strength for the war. Now on whom dost thou trust, that thou hast rebelled against me? 21 Now, behold, thou trustest upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt; whereon if a man lean,

earthwork in order to molest those who were leaving his city's gate. His towns which I had plundered, I took away from his country and gave them *over* to Mitinti king of Ashdod, Padi king of Ekron, and Sillibel king of Gaza. Thus I reduced his country, but to me *as his* overlord which I imposed *later* upon him beyond the former tribute, to be delivered annually. Hezekiah himself, whom the terror-inspiring splendor of my lordship had overwhelmed and whose irregular and elite troops which he had brought into Jerusalem, his royal residence, in order to strengthen *it*, had deserted him, did send me, later, to Nineveh, my lordly city, together with 30 talents of gold, 800 talents of silver, precious stones,... his *own* daughters, concubines... [ANET, p. 288.]

[*Sennacherib conveniently ignores his own losses.*]

¹³⁵ *That is*, 10,400 kg of silver and 1,040 kg of gold.

¹³⁶ *Or*, doorposts

¹³⁷ *Not three names, but titles of Assyrian officers.*

¹³⁸ *An epigraph says*, Sennacherib, king of the world, king of Assyria, sat upon a nîmedu-throne and passed in review the booty *taken* from Lachish.

¹³⁹ *Or*, secretary,

¹⁴⁰ *Or*, chronicler.

¹⁴¹ *Hb.* a word of *the* lips

it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all *that* trust on him. 22 But if ye say unto me, We trust in Jehovah our God; *is* not that he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and hath said to Judah and to Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem? 23 Now therefore, I pray thee, ¹⁴²give pledges to my master the king of Assyria, and I will give thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them. 24 How then canst thou turn away the face of one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put thy trust on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen? 25 Am I now come up without Jehovah against this place to destroy it? Jehovah said unto me, Go up against this land, and destroy it.

26 Then said Eliakim *the* son of Hilkiah, and Shebna, and Joah, unto Rabshakeh, Speak, I pray thee, to thy servants in *the* ¹⁴³Syrian language; for we understand *it*: and speak not with us in *the* Jews' language, in *the* ears of the people that *are* on the wall. 27 But Rabshakeh said unto them, Hath my master sent me to thy master, and to thee, to speak these words? *hath he* not sent me to the men that sit on the wall, to eat their own dung, and to drink their own water with you? 28 Then Rabshakeh stood, and cried with a loud voice in the Jews' language, and spake, saying, Hear ye *the* word of the great king, *the* king of Assyria. 29 Thus saith the king, Let not Hezekiah deceive you; for he will not be able to deliver you out of his hand: 30 neither let Hezekiah make you trust in Jehovah, saying, Jehovah will surely deliver us, and this city shall not be given into *the* hand of *the* king of Assyria. 31 Harken not to Hezekiah: for thus saith *the* king of Assyria, ¹⁴⁴Make your peace with me, and come out to me; and eat ye every one of his vine, and every one of his fig-tree, and drink ye every one *the* waters of his own cistern; 32 until I come and take you away to a land like your *own* land, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive-trees and of honey, that ye may live, and not die: and hearken not unto Hezekiah, when he persuadeth you, saying, Jehovah will deliver us. 33 Hath any of *the* gods of the nations ever delivered his land out of *the* hand of *the* king of Assyria? 34 Where *are* *the* gods of Hamath, and of Arpad? where *are* *the* gods of Sepharvaim, of Hena, and Ivvah? have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? 35 Who *are* they among all *the* gods of the countries, that have delivered their country out of my hand, that Jehovah should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?

36 But the people held their peace, and answered him not a word; for the king's commandment was, saying,

¹⁴² *Or*, make a wager with my master

¹⁴³ *Hb.* Aramean *or*, Aramaic

¹⁴⁴ *Hb.* Make with me a blessing,

Answer him not. 37 Then came Eliakim *the* son of Hilkiah, who *was* over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah *the* son of Asaph the recorder, to Hezekiah with *their* clothes rent, and told him *the* words of Rabshakeh.

19 And it came to pass, when king Hezekiah heard *it*, that he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into *the* house of Jehovah. 2 And he sent Eliakim, who *was* over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, unto Isaiah the prophet *the* son of Amoz. 3 And they said unto him, Thus saith Hezekiah, This day *is* a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and of reproach; for *the* children are come to *the* birth, and *there is* not strength to bring forth. 4 It may be Jehovah thy God will hear all the words of Rabshakeh, ¹⁴⁵whom *the* king of Assyria his master hath sent to defy *the* living God, and will rebuke the words which Jehovah thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up *thy* prayer for the remnant that *is* left. 5 So the servants of king Hezekiah came to Isaiah. 6 And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say to your master, Thus saith Jehovah, Be not afraid of the words that thou hast heard, wherewith *the* servants of *the* king of Assyria have blasphemed me. 7 Behold, I will put a spirit in him, and he shall hear tidings, and shall return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.

8 So Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah; for he had heard that he was departed from Lachish. 9 And when he heard say of Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, Behold, he is come out to fight against thee, he sent messengers again unto Hezekiah, saying, 10 Thus shall ye speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying, Let not thy God in whom thou trustest deceive thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be given into *the* hand of *the* king of Assyria. 11 Behold, thou hast heard what *the* kings of Assyria have done to all lands, by ¹⁴⁶destroying them utterly: and shalt thou be delivered? 12 Have *the* gods of the nations delivered them, which my fathers have destroyed, Gozan, and Haran, and Rezeph, and *the* children of Eden that *were* in Telassar? 13 Where *is* *the* king of Hamath, and *the* king of Arpad, and *the* king of *the* city of Sepharvaim, of Hena, and Ivvah?

14 And Hezekiah received the letter from *the* hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up unto *the* house of Jehovah, and spread it before Jehovah. 15 And Hezekiah prayed before Jehovah, and said, O Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, that ¹⁴⁷sittest *above* the cherubim, thou art the God, *even* thou alone, of all *the* kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and

¹⁴⁵ *Or*, wherewith *the* king of Assyria hath sent him to defy *the* living God,

¹⁴⁶ *Hb.* devoting them utterly:

¹⁴⁷ *Or*, art enthroned *above* the cherubim,

earth. 16 Incline thine ear, O Jehovah, and hear; open thine eyes, O Jehovah, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, wherewith he hath sent him to defy *the* living God. 17 Of a truth, Jehovah, *the* kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands, 18 and have cast their gods into the fire; for they *were* no gods, but *the* work of men's hands, wood and stone; therefore they *have* destroyed them. 19 Now therefore, O Jehovah our God, save thou us, I beseech thee, out of his hand, that all *the* kingdoms of the earth may know that thou Jehovah *art* God alone.

20 Then Isaiah *the* son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith Jehovah, the God of Israel, Whereas thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard *thee*. 21 This *is* the word that Jehovah hath spoken concerning him: *The* virgin daughter of Zion hath despised thee *and* laughed thee to scorn; *the* daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head ¹⁴⁸at thee. 22 Whom hast thou defied and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted *thy* voice and lifted up thine eyes on high? *even* against *the* Holy *One* of Israel. 23 By thy messengers thou hast defied ¹⁴⁹Jehovah, and hast said, With *the* ¹⁵⁰multitude of my chariots am I come up to *the* height of *the* mountains, to *the* innermost parts of Lebanon; and I will cut down *the* tall cedars thereof, *and* *the* choice ¹⁵¹fir-trees thereof; and I will enter into his farthest lodging-place, *the* forest of his fruitful field. 24 I have digged and drunk strange waters, and with *the* sole of my feet will I dry up all *the* rivers of ¹⁵²Egypt.

25 Hast thou not heard how I have done it long ago, *and* formed it of ancient times? now have I brought it to pass, that it should be thine to lay waste fortified cities *into* ruinous heaps. 26 Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded; they were *as* *the* grass of *the* field, and *as* *the* green herb, *as* *the* grass on *the* housetops, and *as* *grain* blasted before it is grown up. 27 But I know thy sitting down, and thy going out, and thy coming in, and thy raging against me. 28 Because of thy raging against me, and because thine arrogancy is come up into mine ears, therefore will I put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest.

29 And this *shall* be the sign unto thee: ye shall eat *this* year that which groweth of itself, and in the second year that which springeth of *the* same; and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat *the*

¹⁴⁸ *Hb.* after thee.

¹⁴⁹ Sopherim *changed to the* Lord,

¹⁵⁰ Some mss. in *Hb*^{txt} read driving

¹⁵¹ *Or*, cypress

¹⁵² *Or*, defence. *Hb.* Mazar. (*only the Nile Delta*)

fruit thereof. 30 And ¹⁵³*the* remnant that is escaped of *the* house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward. 31 For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and out of mount Zion they that shall escape: *the* zeal of ¹⁵⁴Jehovah shall perform this. 32 Therefore thus saith Jehovah concerning *the* king of Assyria, He shall not come unto this city, nor shoot an arrow there, neither shall he come before it with shield, nor cast up a mound against it. 33 By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and he shall not come unto this city, saith Jehovah. 34 For I will defend this city to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

35 ¹⁵⁵And it came to pass that night, that *the* angel of Jehovah went forth, and smote in *the* camp of *the* Assyrians a hundred eighty-five thousand: and *when* men arose early in the morning, behold, these *were* all dead bodies. 36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh. 37 And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in *the* house of Nisroch his god, that ¹⁵⁶Adrammelech and Sharezer smote him with the sword: and they escaped into *the* land of Ararat. And Esar-haddon his son reigned in his stead.

20 In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet *the* son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith Jehovah, Set thy house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live. 2 Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto Jehovah, saying, 3 Remember now, O Jehovah, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done *that which is* good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore. 4 And it came to pass, before

¹⁵³ *Hb.* *the* escaped of *the* house of Judah that remain shall again take root downward,

¹⁵⁴ *Hb*^{mg}, versions read Jehovah of hosts (*And so it is in Is 37:32.*)

¹⁵⁵ Herodotus II.141 (transl. Henry Cary) *likely records this same event*: Senacherib, king of the Arabians and Assyrians, marched a large army against Egypt. ...he [Sethos; *likely* Stephinathis] took with him such of the Egyptians as were willing to follow him, and encamped in Pelusium, for here the entrance *into Egypt* is; but none of the military caste followed him, but tradesmen, mechanics, and sutlers [peddlers]. When they arrived there, a number of field mice, pouring in upon their enemies, devoured their quivers and their bows, and moreover, the handles of their shields; so that on the next day, when they fled bereft of their arms, many of them fell. And to this day, a stone statue of this king stands in the temple of Vulcan, with a mouse in his hand.

¹⁵⁶ *Hb*^{mg}, versions read Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons (*And so it is in Is 37:38.*)

Isaiah was gone ¹⁵⁷out into ¹⁵⁸the middle *part of the* city, that *the* word of Jehovah came to him, saying, 5 Turn back, and say to Hezekiah *the* ¹⁵⁹prince of my people, Thus saith Jehovah, *the* God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee; on the third day thou shalt go up unto *the* house of Jehovah. 6 And I will add unto thy days fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of *the* hand of *the* king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake. 7 And Isaiah said, Take a cake of figs. And they took and laid *it* on the boil, and he recovered.

8 And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, What *shall be the* sign that Jehovah will heal me, and that I shall go up unto *the* house of Jehovah the third day? 9 And Isaiah said, This shall be the sign unto thee from Jehovah, that Jehovah will do the thing that he hath spoken: ¹⁶⁰shall the shadow go forward ten ¹⁶¹steps, or go back ten steps? 10 And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to decline ten steps: no, but let the shadow return backward ten steps. 11 And Isaiah the prophet cried unto Jehovah; and he brought the shadow ten steps backward on the steps, by which it had gone down on *the* steps of Ahaz.

12 At that time ¹⁶²Berodach-baladan *the* son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present unto Hezekiah; for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick. 13 And Hezekiah hearkened unto them, and showed them all the house of his ¹⁶³precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious oil, and ¹⁶⁴the house of his ¹⁶⁵armor, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah showed them not. 14 Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country, *even* from Babylon. 15 And he said, What have they seen in thy house? And Hezekiah answered, All that *is* in my house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not showed them.

16 And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear *the* word of Jehovah. 17 Behold, *the* days come, that all that *is* in thy house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in

¹⁵⁷ *Or*, out of

¹⁵⁸ *Several* Massoretic mss. *and all ancient versions read* the middle court,

¹⁵⁹ *Or*, leader

¹⁶⁰ *Or*, the shadow is gone forward ten steps, shall it go back *etc.*

¹⁶¹ *Or*, degrees (*both times*) *Also in* vss. 10 and 11.

¹⁶² *In* Is 39:1, Merodach-baladan [Marduk-Baladan]

¹⁶³ *Or*, spicery,

¹⁶⁴ *Some* mss., Aram. *read*, all the house of

¹⁶⁵ *Or*, jewels,

store unto this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith Jehovah. 18 And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, whom thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in *the* palace of *the* king of Babylon. 19 Then said Hezekiah unto Isaiah, Good *is the* word of Jehovah which thou hast spoken. He said moreover, *Is it* not *so*, if peace and truth shall be in my days? 20 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Hezekiah, and all his might, and ¹⁶⁶how he made the pool, and the conduit, and brought water into the city, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Judah? 21 And Hezekiah slept with his fathers; and Manasseh his son reigned in his stead.

21 Manasseh *was* twelve years old when he began to reign; and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name *was* Hephzibah. 2 And he did that *which was* evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, after *the* abominations of the nations whom Jehovah cast out before *the* children of Israel. 3 For he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made an Asherah, as did Ahab king of Israel, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. 4 And he built altars in *the* house of Jehovah, whereof Jehovah said, In Jerusalem will I put my name. 5 And he built altars for all the host of heaven in *the* two courts of *the* house of Jehovah. 6 And he made his son to pass through the fire, and practised augury, and used enchantments, and ¹⁶⁷dealt with them that had familiar spirits, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, to provoke *him* to anger. 7 And he set the graven image of Asherah, that he had made, in the house of which Jehovah said to David and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all *the* tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever; 8 neither will I cause *the* feet of Israel to wander any more out of the land which I gave their fathers, if only they will observe to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded them. 9 But they

¹⁶⁶ *This tunnel was rediscovered in 1880, with an inscription describing its construction. And this was the way in which the tunnel was cut through: - While [they] were still [using the] axe, each man toward his fellow, and while there were still three cubits to be cut through, [there was heard] the voice of a man calling to his fellow, for there was an overlap (?) in the rock on the right [and on the left]. And when the tunnel was driven through, the quarrymen hewed the rock, each man toward his fellow, axe against axe; and the water flowed from the spring toward the reservoir for 1,200 cubits, and the height of the rock overhead of the quarrymen was 100 cubits. [ANET, p. 321.]*

¹⁶⁷ *Or*, appointed *Hb.* made

hearkened not: and Manasseh seduced them to do that which *is* evil more than did the nations whom Jehovah destroyed before *the* children of Israel.

10 And Jehovah spake by his servants the prophets, saying, 11 Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, *and* hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, that *were* before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols; 12 therefore thus saith Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, Behold, I bring *such* evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle. 13 And I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet of *the* house of Ahab; and I will wipe Jerusalem as *one* wipeth a dish, wiping *it* and turning *it* upside down. 14 And I will cast off the remnant of mine inheritance, and deliver them into *the* hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies; 15 because they have done that *which is* evil in my sight, and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt, even unto this day.

16 Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; besides his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that *which was* evil in *the* sight of Jehovah. 17 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Manasseh, and all that he did, and his sin that he sinned, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Judah? 18 And Manasseh slept with his fathers, and was buried in *the* garden of his own house, in *the* garden of Uzza: and Amon his son reigned in his stead.

19 Amon *was* twenty-two years old when he began to reign; and he reigned two years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name *was* Meshullemeth *the* daughter of Haruz of Jotbah. 20 And he did that *which was* evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, as did Manasseh his father. 21 And he walked in all the way that his father walked in, and served the idols that his father served, and worshipped them: 22 and he forsook Jehovah, the God of his fathers, and walked not in *the* way of Jehovah. 23 And *the* servants of Amon conspired against him, and put the king to death in his *own* house. 24 But *the* people of the land slew all them that had conspired against king Amon; and *the* people of the land made Josiah his son king in his stead. 25 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Amon which he did, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Judah? 26 And he was buried in his sepulchre in *the* garden of Uzza: and Josiah his son reigned in his stead.

22 Josiah *was* eight years old when he began to reign; and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name *was* Jedidah *the* daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath. 2 And he did that *which was* right in *the* eyes of Jehovah, and walked in all *the* way of David his father, and turned not aside to *the* right *hand* or to *the* left.

3 And it came to pass in *the* eighteenth year of king Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan, *the* son of Azaliah *the* son of Meshullam, the scribe, to *the* house of Jehovah, saying, 4 Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may sum the money that is brought into *the* house of Jehovah, which *the* keepers of the threshold have gathered of the people: 5 and let them deliver it into *the* hand of the workmen that have the oversight of *the* house of Jehovah; and let them give it to the workmen that *are* in *the* house of Jehovah, to repair *the* breaches of the house, 6 unto the carpenters, and to the builders, and to the masons, and for buying timber and hewn stone to repair the house. 7 Howbeit there was no reckoning made with them of the money that was delivered into their hand; for they dealt faithfully.

8 And Hilkiah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found *the* book of the law in *the* house of Jehovah. And Hilkiah delivered the book to Shaphan, and he read it. 9 And Shaphan the scribe came to the king, and brought the king word again, and said, Thy servants have ¹⁶⁸emptied out the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into *the* hand of the workmen that have the oversight of *the* house of Jehovah. 10 And Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king. 11 And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of *the* book of the law, that he rent his clothes. 12 And the king commended Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam *the* son of Shaphan, and Achbor *the* son of Micaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying, 13 Go ye, inquire of Jehovah for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning *the* words of this book that is found; for great *is* *the* wrath of Jehovah that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto *the* words of this book, to do according unto all that which is ¹⁶⁹written concerning us.

14 So Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asaiah, went unto Huldah *the* prophetess, *the* wife of Shallum *the* son of Tikvah, *the* son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the ¹⁷⁰second quarter;) and they communed with her. 15 And she said unto them, Thus saith Jehovah, the God of Israel: Tell ye the man that sent you unto me, 16 Thus saith Jehovah, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon *the* inhabitants thereof, *even* all the words of the book which *the* king of Judah hath read. 17 Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all *the* work of their hands, therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and it shall not be quenched. 18 But unto *the*

¹⁶⁸ Or, poured out the money

¹⁶⁹ Or, enjoined us.

¹⁷⁰ Hb. Mishneh;

king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of Jehovah, thus shall ye say to him, Thus saith Jehovah, *the* God of Israel: *As touching* the words which thou hast heard, 19 because thy heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before Jehovah, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against *the* inhabitants thereof, that they should become ¹⁷¹a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard *thee*, saith Jehovah. 20 Therefore, behold, I will gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace, neither shall thine eyes see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the king word again.

23 And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all *the* elders of Judah and of Jerusalem. 2 And the king went up to *the* house of Jehovah, and all *the* men of Judah and all *the* inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of *the* book of the covenant that was found in *the* house of Jehovah. 3 And the king stood ¹⁷²by the pillar, and made a covenant before Jehovah, to walk after Jehovah, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all *his* heart, and all *his* soul, to ¹⁷³confirm the words of this covenant that were written in this book: and all the people stood to the covenant.

4 And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the threshold, to bring forth out of *the* temple of Jehovah all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the Asherah, and for all the host of heaven, and he burned them without Jerusalem in *the* fields of *the* Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Beth-el. 5 And he put down the ¹⁷⁴black priests, whom *the* kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in *the* cities of Judah, and in *the* places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the ¹⁷⁵planets, and to all the host of heaven. 6 And he brought out the Asherah from *the* house of Jehovah, without Jerusalem, unto *the* brook Kidron, and burned it at *the* brook Kidron, and beat *it* to *the* dust, and cast the dust thereof upon *the* graves of ¹⁷⁶the common people. 7 And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were in *the* house of Jehovah, where the women wove ¹⁷⁷hangings for *the* Asherah. 8 And he brought all the priests out of *the* cities of Judah, and defiled the high

¹⁷¹ *Or*, an astonishment and

¹⁷² *Or*, on the platform,

¹⁷³ *Or*, perform

¹⁷⁴ *Hb.* Kemarim, See Hos 10:5; Zp 1:4.

¹⁷⁵ *Or*, twelve signs of *the* Zodiac,

¹⁷⁶ *Hb.* *the* children of the people.

¹⁷⁷ *Or*, tents *Hb.* houses

places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beer-sheba; and he brake down the high places of the gates that were at *the* entrance of *the* gate of Joshua *the* governor of the city, which were on a man's left hand at *the* gate of the city. 9 Nevertheless *the* priests of the high places came not up to *the* altar of Jehovah in Jerusalem, but they did eat unleavened bread among their brethren. 10 And he defiled Topheth, which is in *the* valley of *the* ¹⁷⁸son of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech. 11 And he took away the horses that *the* kings of Judah had given to the sun, ¹⁷⁹at *the* entrance of *the* house of Jehovah, by *the* chamber of Nathan-melech *the* chamberlain, which was in the precincts; and he burned the chariots of the sun with fire. 12 And the altars that were on the roof of *the* upper chamber of Ahaz, which *the* kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in *the* two courts of *the* house of Jehovah, did the king break down, and ¹⁸⁰beat *them* down from thence, and cast the dust of them into *the* brook Kidron. 13 And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on *the* right hand of the mount of ¹⁸¹corruption, which Solomon *the* king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth *the* abomination of *the* Sidonians, and for Chemosh *the* abomination of Moab, and for Milcom *the* abomination of *the* children of Ammon, did the king defile. 14 And he brake in pieces the ¹⁸²pillars, and cut down the Asherim, and filled their places with *the* bones of men.

15 Moreover the altar that was at Beth-el, and the high place which Jeroboam *the* son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, even that altar and the high place he brake down; and he burned the high place and beat *it* to dust, and burned *the* Asherah. 16 And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that were there in the mount; and he sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned *them* upon the altar, and defiled it, according to *the* word of Jehovah which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these things. 17 Then he said, What monument is that which I see? And *the* men of the city told him, *It is* the sepulchre of the man of God, who came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Beth-el. 18 And he said, Let him be; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria. 19 And all the houses also of the high places that were in *the* cities of Samaria, which *the* kings of Israel had made to provoke *Jehovah* to anger, Josiah took away,

¹⁷⁸ *Most* *Hb*^{txt} reads, sons (*or*, children) of Hinnom,

¹⁷⁹ Massoretic points read, that they should not come into *the* house of Jehovah,

¹⁸⁰ *Or*, ran from thence,

¹⁸¹ *Or*, destruction,

¹⁸² *Or*, obelisks,

and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Beth-el. 20 And he ¹⁸³slew all *the* priests of the high places that *were* there, upon the altars, and burned men's bones upon them; and he returned to Jerusalem.

21 And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep *the* passover unto Jehovah your God, as *it is* written in this book of the covenant. 22 Surely there was not kept such *a* passover from *the* days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all *the* days of *the* kings of Israel, nor of *the* kings of Judah; 23 but in *the* eighteenth year of king Josiah was this passover kept to Jehovah in Jerusalem.

24 Moreover them that *had* familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the teraphim, and the idols, and all the abominations that were seen in *the* land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might ¹⁸⁴confirm the words of the law that were written in the book that Hilkiyah the priest found in *the* house of Jehovah. 25 And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to Jehovah with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all *the* law of Moses; neither after him arose there *any* like him.

26 Notwithstanding, Jehovah turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations wherewith Manasseh had provoked him. 27 And Jehovah said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off this city which I have chosen, even Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.

28 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Josiah, and all that he did, *are* they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Judah? 29 In his days Pharaoh-Necoh king of Egypt went up against *the* king of Assyria to *the* river Euphrates: and king Josiah went against him; and Pharaoh-Necoh slew him at Megiddo, when he had seen him. 30 And his servants carried him in a chariot dead from Megiddo, and brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own sepulchre. And *the* people of the land took Jehoahaz *the* son of Josiah, and anointed him, and made him king in his father's stead.

31 Jehoahaz *was* twenty-three years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months in Jerusalem: and his mother's name *was* Hamutal *the* daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. 32 And he did that *which* *was* evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, according to all that his fathers had done. 33 And Pharaoh-Necoh put him in bonds at Riblah in *the* land of Hamath, ¹⁸⁵that he might not reign in Jerusalem; and put the land to a

¹⁸³ Or, sacrificed

¹⁸⁴ Or, perform

¹⁸⁵ Most Hb^{txt} read when he reigned in Jerusalem;

¹⁸⁶tribute of a hundred talents of silver, and a talent of gold. 34 And Pharaoh-Necoh made Eliakim *the* son of Josiah king instead of Josiah his father, and changed his name to ¹⁸⁷Jehoiakim: but he took Jehoahaz away; and he came to Egypt, and died there. 35 And Jehoiakim gave the silver and the gold to Pharaoh; but he taxed the land to give the money according to *the* commandment of Pharaoh: he exacted the silver and the gold of the people of the land, of every one according to his taxation, to give *it* unto Pharaoh-Necoh.

36 Jehoiakim *was* twenty-five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name *was* Zebidah *the* daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah. 37 And he did that *which* *was* evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, according to all that his fathers had done.

24 In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him. 2 And Jehovah sent against him bands of the Chaldeans, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to *the* word of Jehovah, which he spake by his servants the prophets. 3 Surely ¹⁸⁸at *the* commandment of Jehovah came this upon Judah, to remove them out of his sight, for *the* sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did, 4 and also for the innocent blood that he shed; for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood: and Jehovah would not pardon. 5 Now *the* rest of *the* acts of Jehoiakim, and all that he did, are they not written in *the* book of the chronicles of *the* kings of Judah? 6 So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers; and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead. 7 And *the* king of Egypt came not again any more out of his land; for *the* king of Babylon had taken, from *the* brook of Egypt unto *the* river Euphrates, all that pertained to *the* king of Egypt.

8 Jehoiachin *was* eighteen years old when he began to reign; and he reigned in Jerusalem three months: and his mother's name *was* Nehushta *the* daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. 9 And he did that *which* *was* evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, according to all that his father had done.

10 At that time *the* servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon ¹⁸⁹came up to Jerusalem, and the city was

¹⁸⁶ Or, fine [3,500 kg of silver and 35 kg of gold]

¹⁸⁷ Meaning, Jehovah sets up

¹⁸⁸ Sept., (Aram.) read on account of the anger of

¹⁸⁹ *The Babylonian account, in Nebuchadnezzar II's 7th year, says, In the (9th) month Kislimu, the king of Akkad called up his army, marched against Syria (lit. Hattu-land), encamped against the city of Judah and seized the town on the second day of the (12th) month Adar. He captured the king.*

besieged. 11 And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came unto the city, while his servants were besieging it; 12 and Jehoiachin *the* king of Judah went out to *the* king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his ¹⁹⁰officers: and *the* king of Babylon took him in *the* eighth year of his reign. 13 And he carried out thence all the treasures of *the* house of Jehovah, and *the* treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold, which Solomon king of Israel had made in *the* temple of Jehovah, as Jehovah had said. 14 And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valor, *even* ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths; none remained, save *the* poorest sort of *the* people of the land. 15 And he carried away ¹⁹¹Jehoiachin to Babylon; and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his officers, and the ¹⁹²chief men of the land, carried he into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon. 16 And all the men of might, *even* seven thousand, and the craftsmen and the smiths a thousand, all *of them* strong and apt for war, even them *the* king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon. 17 And *the* king of Babylon made Mattaniah, *Jehoiachin's* father's brother, king in his stead, and changed his name to ¹⁹³Zedekiah.

18 Zedekiah *was* twenty-one years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name *was* ¹⁹⁴Hamutal *the* daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. 19 And he did that *which was* evil in *the* sight of Jehovah, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. 20 For through *the* anger of Jehovah did it come to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, until he had cast them out from his presence. And Zedekiah rebelled against *the* king of Babylon.

25 And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth *day* of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, and encamped against it; and they built forts against it round about. 2 So the city was besieged unto *the* eleventh year of king Zedekiah. 3 On *the* ninth *day* of the *fourth* month the famine was sore in the city, so that there was no bread for *the*

He appointed there a king of his own choice.

He took much booty from it and sent *it* to Babylon.

[J.B. Pritchard, *The Ancient Near East*, Vol. 1; p. 203.]

¹⁹⁰ *Or*, eunuchs: *Also in vs. 15.*

¹⁹¹ *Some rations appointed in Babylon are given in text* Babylon 28186, 10 sila of oil to Jehoiakin, the son of the king of Judah; 2½ sila of oil for the five sons of the king of Judah through Qana'a...

[ANET, p. 308.] *Apparently Pedaiah and another of the seven sons had already died.* Cf. 1Chr 3:17.

¹⁹² *Or*, mighty men of the land,

¹⁹³ *That is*, Righteousness of Jehovah. Cf. 2Chr 36:13

¹⁹⁴ *Hb.* Hamital

people of the land. 4 Then a breach was made in the city, and all the men of war *fled* by night by *the* way of *the* gate between the two walls, which *was* by the king's garden; (now *the* Chaldeans *were* against the city round about;) and *the* king went by *the* way of the Arabah. 5 But *the* army of *the* Chaldeans pursued after the king, and overtook him in *the* plains of Jericho; and all his army was scattered from him. 6 Then they took the king, and carried him up unto *the* king of Babylon to Riblah; and they ¹⁹⁵gave judgment upon him. 7 And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him in fetters, and carried him to Babylon.

8 Now in the fifth month, on the ¹⁹⁶seventh *day* of the month, which *was* the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan *the* captain of *the* guard, a servant of *the* king of Babylon, unto Jerusalem. 9 And he burnt the house of Jehovah, and the king's house; and all the houses of Jerusalem, even every great house, burnt he with fire. 10 And all *the* army of *the* Chaldeans, that *were with the* captain of *the* guard, brake down the walls of Jerusalem round about. 11 And the residue of the people that *were* left in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to the king of Babylon, and the residue of the multitude, did Nebuzaradan *the* captain of *the* guard carry away captive. 12 But *the* captain of *the* guard left of *the* poorest of the land *to be* vinedressers and husbandmen.

13 And the pillars of copper that *were in the* house of Jehovah, and the bases and the copper sea that *were in the* house of Jehovah, did *the* Chaldeans break in pieces, and carried the copper of them to Babylon. 14 And the pots, and the shovels, and the snuffers, and the spoons, and all the vessels of copper wherewith they ministered, took they away. 15 And the firepans, and the basins, that *which was* of ¹⁹⁷solid gold, and that *which was* of solid silver, *the* captain of *the* guard took away. 16 The two pillars, the one sea, and the bases, which Solomon had made for *the* house of Jehovah, the copper of all these vessels was without weight. 17 *The* height of the one pillar *was* eighteen cubits, and a capital of copper *was* upon it; and *the* height of the capital *was* ¹⁹⁸three cubits, with network and pomegranates upon the capital round about, all of copper: and like unto these had the second pillar with network.

18 And *the* captain of *the* guard took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zephaniah *the* second priest, and the

¹⁹⁵ *Or*, spake with him of judgment.

¹⁹⁶ tenth *day* in Jr 52:12.

¹⁹⁷ *Hb.* gold gold, and that *which was* of silver silver,

¹⁹⁸ five cubits in Jr 52:22 and 1Ki 7:16. 3 and 5 are somewhat similar only in paleo-Hebrew alphabetic numerics.

three keepers of the threshold: 19 and out of the city he took an ¹⁹⁹officer that was set over the men of war; and five men of them that saw the king's face, who were found in the city; and the ²⁰⁰scribe, *the* captain of the host, *that* mustered the people of the land; and sixty men of *the* people of the land, *that were* found in the city. 20 And Nebuzaradan *the* captain of *the* guard took them, and brought them to *the* king of Babylon to Riblah. 21 And *the* king of Babylon smote them, and put them to death at Riblah in *the* land of Hamath. So Judah was carried away captive out of his land.

22 And *as for* the people that were left in *the* land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left, even over them he made Gedaliah *the* son of Ahikam, *the* son of Shaphan, governor. 23 Now when all *the* captains of the forces, they and *their* men, heard that *the* king of Babylon had made Gedaliah governor, they came to Gedaliah to Mizpah, even Ishmael *the* son of Nethaniah, and Johanan *the* son of Kareah, and Seraiah *the* son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah *the* son of the Maacathite, they and their men. 24 And Gedaliah sware to them and to their men, and said unto them, Fear not because of *the* servants of the Chaldeans: dwell in the land, and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you. 25 But it came to pass in the seventh month, that Ishmael *the* son of Nethaniah, *the* son of Elishama, of the seed royal, came, and ten men with him, and smote Gedaliah, so that he died, and the Jews and the Chaldeans that were with him at Mizpah. 26 And all the people, both small and great, and *the* captains of the forces, arose, and came to Egypt; for they were afraid of *the* Chaldeans.

27 And it came to pass in *the* thirty-seventh year of *the* captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in *the* twelfth month, on *the* twenty-seventh *day* of the month, *that* ²⁰¹Evil-merodach king of Babylon, ²⁰²in *the* year that he began to reign, did lift up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah out of prison; 28 and he spake kindly to him, and set his throne above *the* throne of the kings that *were* with him in Babylon, 29 and changed his prison garments. And *Jehoiachin* did eat bread before him continually all *the* days of his life: 30 and ²⁰³for his allowance, *there was* a continual allowance given him of the king, every day a portion, all *the* days of his life.

¹⁹⁹ *Or*, eunuch

²⁰⁰ *Or*, scribe of *the* captain of the host,

²⁰¹ *That is*, Amel-Marduk (*who succeeded Nebuchadnezzar II and reigned two years*).

²⁰² *That is*, in his accession year (*or*, year zero). *His first year begins the following Nisan 1, near the Spring equinox. Contrast with 1Sa 13:1.*

²⁰³ *Regarding an allowance, see note on Jr 52:34.*

End of the Second Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah