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The first summary of the
Kings of Yisrael and Yehudah

Introduction

The first summary of the kings of Yisrael/Israel and Yehudah/Judah is a continuation of the account about the kingdom of Israeli started in the account by *Shmuel*. It's divided into three main parts: 1. Shelomoh (Solomon) takes over as king of the nation of Yisrael after the death of his father David. 2. Shelomoh's kingdom and his prosperity, especially his construction of the temple in Yerushalem. 3. The kingdom of Yisrael becoming split into two: the northern kingdom (which goes on to continue to be called Israel), and the southern kingdom (named Yehudah after the largest of its two tribes), and the accounts about the kings who led them through until around 950 before Yeshua/Jesus (B.C.)
Here in the first of the two *Summaries of the kings of Yisrael and Yehudah*, each leader is evaluated according to their obedience of God's instructions, and the prosperity of their entire nations depends of that. Worshipping of false gods and the disobedience of God's instructions would lead to destruction. The northern kings failed this testing and didn't prosper, whereas the southern kingdom did have some good leaders and so had times of prosperity.
Also revealed in *The first summary of the kings of Yisrael and Yehudah*, are God's prophets who brought messages from Yahweh—often warning them against the worshipping of false gods and against disobeying God. The most famous of those in this document is Eliyah (Elijah) and the account about his opposition to Ba'al's prophets (chapter 18).

Main components of this account

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- a. The rebellion of the northern tribes *12:1–14:20*
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e. Yehudah's King Yehoshafat (Jehoshaphat) and Yisrael's King Ahazyah *22:41-53*

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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David in his old age · Full kingdom

1:1 Now King David had become very old, and he couldn't keep warm even when covered with blankets, **2** so his servants suggested, "Allow us search for a young woman who can wait on you and take care of your needs. She can sleep beside you and keep our master, the king, warm." **3** So they searched throughout Yisrael (Israel) and found a beautiful young woman called Avishag (a Shunamit) and brought her to the king. **4** She was incredibly beautiful and she took care of the king, but he didn't have sexual relations with her.

Adoniyah tries to become king · Full kingdom

5 Then David and Hagit's son Adoniyah[1] promoted himself saying, "I, myself, will reign." He acquired a chariot and horsemen and fifty men who ran along in front. **6** Hagit had given birth to him after Avshalom (Absalom). He was a good-looker, but his father had never disciplined him or ever asked, "Why did you do that?" **7** He had spoken with Tseruyah's son Yoav (Joab) and the priest Evyatar and they had both agreed to support him. **8** But the priest Tsadok and Yehoyada's son Benayah, the prophet Natan (Nathan), Shimei and Re'i, and David's top warriors were all against Adoniyah.

9 Then Adoniyah sacrificed sheep and cattle and fattened calves near the Zohelet stone (which is beside Eyn-Rogel), and he invited all his brothers (the king's sons), and all the men of Yehudah (Judah) including the king's servants. **10** However, he didn't invite the prophet Natan, Benayah, the top warriors, or his brother Shelomoh (Solomon).

Shelomoh is made king · Full kingdom

11 Then Natan (Nathan) asked Shelomoh's (Solomon's) mother Bat-Sheva (Bathsheba),[2] "Haven't you heard that Hagit's son Adoniyah has made himself king, and our master David doesn't even realise? **12** So please let me advise you now so that you can save your own life and that of your son Shelomoh. **13** Go and ask King David, 'My master the king, didn't you promise your female servant, saying, "Surely your son Shelomoh will reign after me, and he will sit on my throne?" So why has Adoniyah become king?' **14** Then while you're still there talking to the king, I'll come in behind you and confirm what you said."

15 So Bat-Sheva went to the king's bedroom where Avishag (the Shunamit) was attending him in his old age. **16** Bat-Sheva bowed low to show respect to the king, and he asked her what she wanted.

17 "My master," she replied, "you yourself promised to your female servant in front of your god Yahweh that your son Shelomoh would be the one to reign after you and sit on your throne. **18** But now, listen, Adoniyah has become king instead, and you haven't even been told about it. **19** He's sacrificing many oxen and calves and sheep, and he invited the priest Evyatar, and Yoav (Joab) the commander of the army, and all your sons except for your servant Shelomoh. **20** So now everyone's waiting to see what you'll do, my master the king. They want you to make it clearly known who'll be the king on the throne after you. **21** Otherwise, as soon as my master the king passes on to join his ancestors, my son Shelomoh and I will be considered to be 'in the way'."

22 Just then, while she was still talking with the king, the prophet Natan (Nathan) appeared **23** and his arrival was announced to the king. He went into the room and knelt in front of the king and bowed his face to the floor. **24** Then he asked, "My master the king, did you announce that Adoniyah will reign after you and sit on your throne? **25** I ask because today he sacrificed plenty of oxen and calves and sheep. He'd invited all your sons and army commanders, and Evyatar the priest. They're all eating and drinking with him and saying, 'Long live King Adoniyah!' **26** But as for me, I'm *your* servant, and nor did he invite Tsadok the priest or Yehoyada's son Benayah, or Shelomoh your

1 RV 1:5 · Cross-ref. 2Sam 3:4.

2 RV 1:11 · Cross-ref. 2Sam 12:24.

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servant. 27 Did my master the king organise
that without telling your servants who will sit
on the throne of my master the king after
him?"
28 Then King David said, "Call Bat-Sheva
(Bathsheba) back in." So she came back into the
king's room and stood in front of him. 29 Then
the king promised, "As Yahweh lives and has
rescued me from every danger, 30 I promise you
in front of Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh that
your son Shelomoh will reign after me and will
sit on my throne in my place. I'll put it in action
today."
31 Bat-Sheva knelt down and bowed her face
to the floor and said, "May my master, the king
David live forever."
32 Then King David called out, "Summon
Tsadok the priest for me, and Natan (Nathan)
the prophet, and Yehoyada's son Benayah." So
they came into the king's room. 33 "Take some
of my servants," the king instructed them. "and
put my son Shelomoh on my mule and lead him
to the Gihon Spring. 34 Then you two, Tsadok
and Natan, must anoint him there as king over
Yisrael. Then blow the horn and shout, 'Let
King Shelomoh live!' 35 Then follow him back
here where he must come and sit on my
throne. Then he'll reign in my place as ruler of
Yisrael and Yehudah (Judah)."
36 "Certainly," Benayah replied. "Just as Yah-
weh, the god of my master the king has in-
structed. 37 Just as Yahweh has been with my
master the king, so may he be with Shelomoh.
And may his rule be even greater than that of
my master, the king David."
38 So Tsadok the priest and Natan the prophet
and Yehoyada's son Benayah and the kings
bodyguards went and put Shelomoh on the
king's mule, and took him to Gihon. 39 Tsadok
the priest took the horn of oil from the sacred
tent and anointed Shelomoh with it, and they
blew the horn and all the people shouted, "Let
King Shelomoh live!" 40 Then all the people fol-
lowed him back uphill to the city, and the peo-
ple were playing flutes and were so exuberant
in their celebrations that the ground shook
with the noise.
41 When Adoniyah and all his invited guests
had finished eating, they heard the noise, and
Yoav (Joab) heard the sound of the horn and
asked, "What's all that commotion in the city?"
42 He was still speaking when Yonatan
(Jonathan) the son of Evyatar the priest sud-
denly turned up, and Adoniyah called him,
"Come over here because you're a good fellow
and you'll bring good news."
43 "Actually, no," Yonatan answered. "Our
master the king David has just made Shelomoh
king. 44 The king sent Tsadok the priest and
Natan the prophet and Yehoyada's son Benayah
and the king's bodyguards, and they placed Sh-
elomoh on the king's mule. 45 Then Tsadok and
Natan anointed him as king at Gihon. Now
they've gone back from there cheering all the
way, and the whole city is happily celebrating.
That's the noise that you're all hearing.
46 What's more, Shelomoh's sitting on the royal
throne right now. 47 As well as that, the king's
servants went in to bless our master the king
David, saying, 'May God make Shelomoh's repu-
tation even better than yours, and may he
make his reign even greater than yours.' Then
the king in his bed, bowed down 48 and said,
'Blessed be Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh who
has provided a son to sit on my throne today,
and I've been able to see it before my death.' "
49 Then all Adoniyah's invited guests started
trembling, and they all got up and quietly
slipped back to their homes. 50 Adoniyah him-
self was now afraid of what Shelomoh would
do, so he went to the sacred tent and held on to
the horns of the altar. 51 Shelomoh was told,
"Listen, Adoniyah is afraid of the new king be-
cause he's grabbed the horns of the altar and
said, 'Let Shelomoh the king promise me as
soon as possible, that he won't execute his ser-
vant with the sword.' "
52 "If he shows himself as a loyal subject," Sh-
elomoh responded, "then he'll be able to keep
his head. But if he's found to be a traitor, then
he'll die." 53 So King Shelomoh sent for
Adoniyah, and they brought him down from
beside the altar. He came and bowed down to
Shelomoh the king and Shelomoh told him, "Go

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home."

David's final words to Shelomoh · Full kingdom

2:1 When David knew that his death was close, he instructed his son Shelomoh (Solomon), **2** "I'll soon be coming to my end, but you must be strong and sensible. **3** You must maintain your god Yahweh's charge to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, his commands, his judgements, and his testimonies, according to what is written in Mosheh's (Moses') instructions, so that you'll be wise in everything you do and everywhere that you turn, **4** so that Yahweh's promise to me that he'd keep one of my descendants on Yisrael's (Israel's) throne, will stand because he gave the condition, 'If your descendants will obey me and worship me in truth with all their hearts and with all their souls.'

5 "Also you're aware of what Tseruyah's son Yoav (Joab) did to me—what he did to two of the commanders of Yisrael's armies—to Ner's son Avner[3] and to Yeter's son Amasa.[4] He murdered them, shedding blood in peacetime as if it was in a war, and the blood guilt is on him from head to toe. **6** So use your own wisdom, but don't let Yoav get old and die peacefully.

7 However, return loyal kindness to the sons of Barzilay the Giladi, and invite them to join you at your table because they helped me when I was fleeing from your brother Avshalom (Absalom).[5]

8 Then there's Gera's son Shimei, the Benyamite from Bahurim. He cursed me horribly when I was going to Mahanayim. Then he went down to meet me at the Yarden (Jordan), and I promised him by Yahweh that I wouldn't execute him,[6] **9** so don't leave him unpunished now. You're a wise man and you'll know how to handle him. Although he's old, make sure he has a bloody death.

David's death · Full kingdom

10 Then David breathed his last and was buried in the City of David. **11** He had reigned over Yisrael (Israel) for forty years—seven years from Hevron and thirty-three years from Yerushalem (Jerusalem).[7] **12** Shelomoh (Solomon) replaced his father David on the throne, and his authority was established with firmness.[8]

Adoniyah's provocation and death · Full kingdom

13 Then Hagit's son Adoniyah came to Shelomoh's (Solomon's) mother Bat-Sheva (Bathsheba) and she asked him, "Is your coming peaceful?"

"It is," he replied. **14** "Can I ask you something?"

"Go ahead," she answered.

15 "You yourself know that the kingship was for me as the oldest son," he said, "and all Yisrael (Israel) wanted me to reign. But then Yahweh decided that it was for my brother, and then everything got turned around. **16** So now, I have only one thing to request from you—please don't refuse me."

"Go on," she said.

17 He said, "Please speak to Shelomoh the king because he wouldn't refuse you. Ask him to give me Avishag the Shunamit[9] as my wife."

18 "Okay," Bat-Sheva (Bathsheba) agreed, "I'll personally speak to the king for you."

19 So Bat-Sheva went to King Shelomoh to speak to him on Adoniyah's behalf. The king rose to meet her and bowed down to her. Then he sat on his throne and he had a throne placed on his right for his mother to sit on. **20** Then she said, "I have one small request for you. Please don't say you won't do it"

"What's your request, my mother," the king

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3 **RV 2:5 · Cross-ref.** 2Sam 3:27.

4 **RV 2:5 · Cross-ref.** 2Sam 20:10.

5 **RV 2:7 · Cross-ref.** 2Sam 17:27-29.

6 **RV 2:8 · Cross-ref.** 2Sam 16:5-13; 19:16-23.

7 **RV 2:11 · Cross-ref.** 2Sam 5:4-5; 1Ch 3:4.

8 **RV 2:12 · Cross-ref.** 1Ch 29:23.

9 **RV 2:17 · Cross-ref.** 1Ki 1:3-4.

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responded, "because I couldn't refuse you."
21 "Let Avishag the Shunamit," she said, "be given to your brother Adoniyah as a wife."
22 King Shelomoh answered his mother, "You're requesting Avishag the Shunamit for Adoniyah! You might as well request the throne for him, because he's my brother and he's older than I am! And then he'll want Evyatar the priest and Tseruyah's son Yoav (Joab)!" **23** Then Shelomoh promised by Yahweh, "May God do to me whatever he wants, unless Adoniyah pays with his life for saying that. **24** And now as Yahweh lives, the one who established me and caused me to sit on the throne of my father David, and who promised David's descendants to continue reigning, Adoniyah will certainly be put to death today."
25 So King Shelomoh instructed Yehoyada's son Benayah and he went and struck Adoniyah down and he died.

Evyatar's banishment and Yoav's death · Full kingdom

26 Then concerning Evyatar the priest, the king told him, "Go to your fields at Anatot because you're marked for death, but I won't do it today because you carried my master Yahweh's sacred box ahead of my father David,[10] and because you suffered through all that my father suffered."[11] **27** That was how Shelomoh (Solomon) banished Evyatar from being a priest to Yahweh. It was done to fulfill what Yahweh had said at Shiloh said about removing Eli's descendants.[12]
28 When the news of that reached Yoav (Joab), he fled to Yahweh's tent and held onto the horns of the altar, because he had supported Adoniyah (even though he hadn't supported Avshalom (Absalom)). **29** Someone told King Shelomoh that Yoav had fled to Yahweh's tent and was there beside the altar, so Shelomoh instructed Yehoyada's son Benayah, "Go and strike him down." **30** So Benayah entered Yahweh's tent and he told Yoav, "The king said for you to come out."
"No, I'll die here," he replied.
So Benayah went back to the king and reported both sides of the conversation **31** and the king told him, "Just do what he said. Kill him and bury him, and in that way you'll remove the blood guilt from me and my descendants for the blood that Yoav shed without cause. **32** Yahweh will return his blood onto his own head, because he attacked two men more righteous and better than himself: Ner's son Avner, the commander of Yisrael's (Israel's) army, and Yeter's son Amasa, the commander of Yehudah's (Judah's) army. He killed them with the sword and my father David didn't have anything to do with it. **33** Their shed blood will return onto Yoav's head and on the heads of his descendants forever. But for David and his family and his descendants and his throne, Yahweh will give peace forever."
34 So Yehoyada's son Benayah went and struck Yoav at the altar and killed him. Then he was buried on his property in the wilderness. **35** The king appointed Benayah as army commander to replace Yoav, and appointed Tsadok as priest in place of Evyatar.

Shimei's execution · Full kingdom

36 Then the king summoned Shimei and told him, "Build yourself a house here in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and live there. But don't go anywhere else **37** because the day that you leave and cross the Kidron valley, you can be certain that you'll die. Your blood will be on your own head."
38 "My master the king," Shimei responded, "your decision is good and your servant will do just what you said."
39 However, three years later, two of Shimei's slaves fled to Ma'akah's son, King Akish of Gat, and Shimei was told where they'd gone. **40** So Shimei saddled his donkey and rode it to Akish at Gat to try to find his slaves and he was able to recover them **41** But Shelomoh (Solomon)

10 RV 2:26 · Cross-ref. 2Sam 15:24.
11 RV 2:26 · Cross-ref. 1Sam 22:20-23.
12 RV 2:27 · Cross-ref. 1Sam 2:27-36.

was told that Shimei left Yerushalem and gone to Gat and then returned. **42** So the king summoned Shimei and asked him, "Didn't I get you to promise by Yahweh that you heard me say that whenever you leave here, you'll certainly die? And didn't you tell me that it was a good decision? **43** So why didn't you keep the promise by Yahweh and obey what I instructed you? **44** You yourself know all the evil things that you did to my father David, so now Yahweh will return your evil on your head. **45** But despite what you yelled out,[13] Yahweh will bless me as king, and David's throne will be established forever in front of Yahweh."

46 Then the king commanded Yehoyada's son Benayah, and he went out and put Shimei to death.

In those ways, Shelomoh established his control of the kingdom.

Shelomoh requests wisdom · Full kingdom

3:1 Shelomoh (Solomon) made himself the son-in-law of Mitsrayim's (Egypt's) king Par'oh (Pharaoh) by taking Par'oh's daughter as a wife and bringing her into the city of David (where she stayed until the completion of the construction of his palace and of Yahweh's temple, and the wall around Yerushalem (Jerusalem)). **2** However, the people were sacrificing on various hills because at that time, a temple hadn't yet been built for Yahweh. **3** Shelomoh demonstrated his love for Yahweh by obeying the instructions of his father David. However, he would offer sacrifices and burn incense on various hills.

4 One time, the king went to Giveon to sacrifice there, because it was the most popular high place. Shelomoh offered up a thousand burnt up sacrifices on that altar, **5** and that night in Giveon, Yahweh appeared to Shelomoh in a dream and asked, "What would you like me to give you?"

6 Shelomoh replied, "You yourself showed incredible loyalty to your servant David, my father, because he walked in faithfulness and obedience in front of you, and did what he believed you wanted. And you've maintained this loyalty towards him and you allowed him to have a son sitting on his throne as I am today. **7** So now, Yahweh my god, you yourself have caused your servant to reign in place of my father David, but I'm still young—I don't really know much about anything. **8** Yet your servant is among your chosen people—a numerous people who can't be counted because there's so many of us. **9** So please give your servant the ability to listen to your people and to judge them well—discerning between good and evil, because who's able to judge your people—that's a heavy task."

10 Yahweh was very pleased that Shelomoh had requested that **11** and told him, "Because you requested that and didn't request a long life or riches for yourself, or requested the lives of your enemies, but you requested discernment for yourself when listening and dispensing justice, **12** then I've done what you requested. Listen, I've given you a wise and discerning mind unlike anyone who's lived before you or who will live in the future after you. **13** So I've also given you what you didn't request: both riches and honour—there'll be no other king like you for as long as you live, **14** and if you'll obey my statutes and commands like your father David did, then I'll also lengthen your life."

15 Then Shelomoh woke up, and wow, it had been a dream, and he went into Yerushalem (Jerusalem) and stood in front of the sacred chest. Then he offered up burnt offerings and made peace offerings, and he held a feast for all his servants.

Shelomoh judges a difficult case · Full kingdom

16 One day two prostitutes came to the king and stood in front of him, **17** and one of them said, "Please, my master, us two women live in the same house, and while she was there in the house, I gave birth to a baby. **18** Three days later, this woman also gave birth to her baby. Only the two of us were there in the house—no one else was around. **19** But

13 RV 2:45 · Cross-ref. 2Sa 16:5-8.

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then in the night, her son died because she rolled over onto him. 20 So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me, as your female servant was asleep. She left her dead son with me, and took my son to her bed. 21 When I woke up in the morning ready to breastfeed my son, to my horror he was dead. However when I examined him closely in the light, more shock, it wasn't actually my son!"

22 "No, my son is the living one," the other woman said, "and your son is the dead one."

"No, *your* son is the dead one," the first woman countered, "and *my* son is the living one!"

Then they continued to argue in front of the king.

23 The king spoke, "So both of you are claiming that your baby is the one that's alive and that the dead one belongs to the other."
24 Then he ordered, "Get me a sword." So they brought a sword to the king. 25 Then the king commanded, "Cut the living child into two pieces and give them half each."

26 But the mother of the surviving baby felt compassion for her son and yelled, "Please, my master, give the baby to her—you certainly mustn't kill him!"

Meanwhile the other woman was saying, "Well then, neither of us will have him. Cut him in half!"

27 The king spoke up, "Don't harm the baby. Give the living child to the first woman—she's his mother."

28 All Yisrael (Israel) eventually heard about this case that the king had judged, and they felt an awesome respect for him because they saw that he had God's wisdom to do justice within him.

Shelomoh's officials
• Full kingdom

4:1 So Shelomoh (Solomon) was king over all Yisrael (Israel), 2 and these were his officials:

Tsadok's son Azaryah was the priest.

3 Shisha's sons Elihoref and Ahiyah were secretaries.

Ahilud's son Yehoshafat (Jehoshaphat) was the recorder.

4 Yehoyada's son Benayah was the army commander.

Tsadok and Evyatar were priests.

5 Natan's (Nathan's) son Azaryah was supervisor of the governors,

and his son Zavud was a priest and adviser to the king.

6 Ahishar was in charge of the palace,

and Avda's son Adoniram supervised the forced labourers.

7 Shelomoh (Solomon) appointed twelve governors over all Yisrael (Israel), and they sent in food for the palace—each governor was responsible for one month of the year. 8 Their names were:

Ben-Hur in the hill country of Efrayim (Ephraim),

9 Ben-Deker in Makats, Sha'alvim, Beyt-Shemesh (Heliopolis), and Elon-Beyt-Hanan,

10 Ben-Hesed in Arubot, Sokoh, and all the land of Hefer,

11 Ben-Avinadav (who was married to Shelomoh's daughter Tafat) in Nafat-Dor,

12 Ahilud's son Ba'ana in Ta'anak and Megidon and all Beyt-Shean next to Tseretan below Yizre'el (Jezreel), from Beyt-Shean to Avel-Meholah, as far as the other side of Yakemeam,

13 Ben-Gever in Ramot-Gilead, including the villages of Menasheh's (Manasseh's) son Yair that were in Gilead, as well as the Argov area in the Bashan region, and including sixty large cities with walls and bronze gate bars.

14 Ido's son Ahinadav in Mahanayim.

15 Ahima'ats (who had married Shelomoh's daughter Basemat) in Naftali (Naphtali),

16 Hushay's son Ba'ana in Asher and Be'alot,

17 Paruah's son Yehoshafat (Jehoshaphat) in Yisakar (Issachar),

18 Elah's son Shimei in Benyamin,

19 Uri's son Gever in the Gilead region, including the lands of the Amori King Sihon and King Og of the Bashan.

There was also one district governor over Yehudah (Judah).

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Shelomoh's prosperity · Full kingdom

20 Now Yehudah (Judah) and Yisrael (Israel) had become as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They had plenty to eat and drink and they were contented. **21** Shelomoh (Solomon) controlled all the kingdoms from the Perat (Euphrates) River to the land of the Pelishtim and as far as the Mitsri (Egyptian) border,[14] so they brought tribute to him and followed his orders during his lifetime.

22 The daily requirements for the palace included five tonnes of fine flour and eleven tonnes of coarse flour, **23** ten fattened cattle, twenty pasture cattle, one hundred sheep, wild game including deer, gazelle, and roebuck, and fattened fowls.

24 He controlled all the kingdoms west of the Perat from Tifsah in the north-east to Azah (Gaza) in the south-west, and there was peace with all his neighbours. **25** So all Yehudah and Yisrael lived peacefully, from Dan in the north to Be'er-Sheva (Beersheba) in the south—everyone focusing on their own property.

26 Shelomoh had forty thousand stalls for his chariot horses, and twelve thousand horsemen.[15] **27** The district governors provided supplies for the palace—one governor for each month. They ensured that nothing was lacking for the king and his visitors. **28** They also provided the barley and straw for the chariot horses and the other horses, delivered to the designated locations.

Shelomoh's wisdom · Full kingdom

29 God gave Shelomoh (Solomon) wisdom and incredible understanding, and the breadth of his interests seemed without limit. **30** He was wiser than anyone in the countries east of Yisrael (Israel) or in Mitsrayim (Egypt). **31** He was wiser than anyone else, including Eytan the Ezrahi[16] and Mahol's son Heyman and Kalkol and Darda, and his reputation spread to all the surrounding countries. **32** He could tell three thousand proverbs and he composed over a thousand songs.[17] **33** He could lecture on plant life from the cedars in Levanon to the hyssop that grows on walls. He taught about animals, birds, reptiles, and fish. **34** People from all around came to listen to Shelomoh's wisdom—many having been sent by other kings who'd heard about him.

The preparation of Shelomoh of making the temple · Full kingdom[18]

5:1 Then King Hiram of Tsor (Tyre) sent his servants to Shelomoh (Solomon) when he heard that he'd been anointed as king to replace his father, because Hiram had always been a friend of David. **2** Shelomoh replied to Hiram, **3** "You yourself knew David my father, and you knew that he wasn't able to build a temple for his god Yahweh his god because of the constant state of warfare until Yahweh would allow us to defeat all our enemies. **4** But now, my god Yahweh has enabled us to have peace from all around. We have no enemy, and there's no threat of danger. **5** So listen, I'm planning to build a residence for my god Yahweh, just as Yahweh spoke to my father David, 'Your son who I'll put in your place on your throne, he'll be the one to build the house to honour me.'[19] **6** So now, please give the command to fell cedars for me from the Levanon forest. Let my servants accompany your servants and I'll pay your servants' wages whatever amount you set, because you yourself know that there are no other workers who know how to fell trees like the Tsidonim (Sidonians)."

7 When Hiram got Shelomoh's message, he was very happy and said, "Blessed be Yahweh today, who has given David a wise son to rule

14 **RV 4:21 · Cross-ref.** Gen 15:18; 2Ch 9:26.

15 **RV 4:26 · Cross-ref.** 1Ki 10:26; 2Ch 1:14; 9:25.

16 **RV 4:31 · Cross-ref.** Psa 89 header.

17 **RV 4:32 · Cross-ref.** Prv 1:1; 10:1; 25:1; Song 1:1.

18 **RV 5:1 · Parallel** 2 Chr. 2:1-18

19 **RV 5:5 · Cross-ref.** 2Sam 7:12-13; 1Ch 17:11-12.

Readers' Version

over that great nation." **8** He sent this message back to Shelomoh, "I've received the message that you sent me and I myself will supervise everything you want including cedar and cypress logs. **9** My servants will transport them down from the forest to the ocean, and I'll get them tied into rafts and float them to the place you specify and disassemble the rafts. Then it'll be up to you to get them where you need them. All I ask for, is food for my family and workers."

10 So Hiram supplied all the cedar and cypress logs that Shelomoh ordered **11** and each year Shelomoh supplied Hiram with three thousand tonnes of wheat and four hundred thousand litres of pure olive oil. **12** Yahweh gave Shelomoh wisdom just like he'd said he would, and there was peace between Hiram and Shelomoh and the two of them made a treaty with each other.

13 King Shelomoh forced thirty thousand men from all over Yisrael (Israel) to become his workers, **14** and each month he sent a group of ten thousand of them to work in Levanon. Each group would spend a month in Levanon and then two months at home again. Adoniram[20] was put in charge of all that. **15** Shelomoh also forced eighty thousand men to cut stones in the hill country and seventy thousand men to haul loads. **16** Then besides Shelomoh's chief officers who were in charge of the work, there were another three thousand three hundred supervisors of the workers. **17** The king commanded them to quarry large, valuable blocks of dressed stone for the temple foundations. **18** Shelomoh's and Hiram's workers and the Givlim shaped the stones and prepared the timber for building the temple.

Shelomoh begins temple construction · Full kingdom

6:1 So it was that four hundred and eighty years after the Israelis left Mitsrayim (Egypt), in the second month of the fourth year of Shelomoh's (Solomon's) reign over Yisrael (Israel), he began the construction of Yahweh's residence. **2** It would be twenty-seven metres long, nine metres wide, and fourteen metres high.[21] **3** The five-metre wide porch on the front was the same length as the temple width, so nine metres long. **4** The window openings narrowed towards the outer edge of the wall. **5** Against the outside of the back wall and the two sides, he built three-storey (but lower than the wall) side rooms. **6** The lowest level was just over two metres wide, the middle level was half a metre wider, and the top level the same again (because the temple wall got thinner as it went up). The temple walls had ledges built into them for the beams to sit on, so they wouldn't have to go through the walls.

7 While the temple was being built, all of the huge stones were dressed at the quarry site, so there was no noise from any hammer or axe or iron tool at the construction site.

8 The entrance to the bottom level of siderooms was on the south side of the temple, then from there, stairs went up to the middle level, and more stairs to the top level. **9** So he built the temple walls, then it was roofed with cedar beams and planks, **10** and he built the siderooms—each level just over two metres high and attached to the temple with cedar beams.

11 Then Yahweh had this message sent to Shelomoh (Solomon), **12** "This residence that you're building, if you comply with my regulations and follow my judgements and obey all my commands, then I'll ensure that everything I promised your father David will come to pass. **13** I will live among you Israelis and I'll never abandon my people Yisrael (Israel)."

The temple furnishings · Full kingdom[22]

14 So Shelomoh (Solomon) finished the construction of the temple, **15** and on the inside he made walls of cedar boards. The floor was made with cypress boards, and the walls were panelled from the

20 RV 5:14 · Cross-ref. 1Ki 12:18.

21 RV 6:2 · Note About the height of a modern five-storey building (and the same height as Noah's barge).

22 RV 6:14 · Parallel 2 Chr. 3:8-14

Readers' Version

floor to the ceiling. 16 Inside the temple, nine metres at the rear were closed off to make an inner room called 'the very holy place'.[23] That too had walls made of cedar boards. 17 That left the main temple room as eighteen metres long, 18 and it had cedar boards on the walls decorated with carvings of buds and flowers in blossom. All the internal walls were covered with cedar so none of the large stones were visible.

19 The inner room at the back was to house the box containing Yahweh's agreement, 20 and the room (nine metres long and wide and high) was overlaid with pure gold and equipped with an incense altar overlaid with cedar. 21 Then Shelomoh overlaid the main room with pure gold, and he hung gold chains crossing across the entrance to the inner room that was overlaid with gold. 22 He overlaid the interior of the entire temple with gold until it was all finished, including overlaying the altar belonging to the inner room with gold.[24]

23 In the inner room, he made two winged creatures that were five metres high and made of olive wood.[25] 24 Each wing was over two metres long, giving each one a total wingspan of four and a half metres. 25 Both creatures were the same size and shape, 26 and they were both five metres high. 27 The two winged creatures were placed across the inner room where their wingtips touched each other in the centre and their outer wings touched the walls. 28 Both of the wooden carvings were overlaid with gold.

29 He had all the interior walls of the temple engraved with winged creatures and palm trees and flowers in bloom, 30 and he overlaid the floor of both rooms with gold.

31 He made doors and doorposts for the inner room with olive wood, 32 and both doors were decorated with carvings of winged creatures and palm trees and flowers in bloom, then they were overlaid with gold that was hammered over the carvings. 33 He made the doorposts for the main temple entrance with olive wood, 34 and the two folding doors themselves each had two folding sections made of cypress. 35 These doors were also decorated with carvings of winged creatures and palm trees and flowers in bloom, and then overlaid with gold smoothed down over the carvings.

36 He built the inner courtyard with three rows of dressed stones and a row of cedar beams.

37 The foundation for Yahweh's residence was laid in the second month of the fourth year of Shelomoh's (Solomon's) reign, 38 and it was completed in the eighth month of his eleventh year—meeting all his specifications and requirements. So it took over seven years to build it.

Shelomoh's palace · Full kingdom

7:1 Shelomoh (Solomon) also spent thirteen years getting his own palace finished. 2 He built the 'Levanon Forest Hall' that was forty-six metres long, twenty-three metres wide, and fourteen metres high, with four rows of cedar pillars and cedar beams sitting across the pillars. 3 It was roofed with cedar boards on forty-five supports set out into three rows of fifteen. 4 There were three rows of window gaps arranged in sets of three. 5 All the entrances and doorposts were made with wood planed with square sides, and they were arranged in sets of three.

6 He made his covered porch with pillars. It was twenty-three metres long and fourteen metres wide.

7 He made a hall for his throne where he would judge cases—called 'The Judgement Hall'. It was covered with cedar from floor to ceiling.

8 His actual residence behind the hall was constructed in a similar way. Shelomoh (Solomon) also built a house for his wife who was Par'oh's (Pharaoh's) daughter.[26]

9 All these buildings were constructed with

23 **RV 6:16 · Cross-ref.** Exo 26:33-34.

24 **RV 6:22 · Cross-ref.** Exo 30:1-3.

25 **RV 6:23-28 · Cross-ref.** Exo 25:18-20.

26 **RV 7:8 · Cross-ref.** 1Ki 3:1.

expensive stones that had been cut to size and trimmed with saws inside and out. They went from the foundation up to the eaves, and from the outside across to the great courtyard.
10 These large, costly stones in the foundations were cut in two sizes, with the largest almost five metres long. 11 On top of those were other costly stones of various sizes, and then cedar beams. 12 The largest courtyard had three rows of dressed stones and one row of cedar beams, as did the inner temple courtyard and the palace hall.

Huram comes to work · Full kingdom

13 King Shelomoh (Solomon) sent for a craftsman in Tsor (Tyre) called Huram.[27] 14 His mother was a widow with Naftali (Naphtali) ancestry, and his father had been a bronze engraver in Tsor. He was very knowledgeable and skilled in everything to do with bronze, and so he came to work for King Shelomoh.

The two bronze pillars · Full kingdom[28]

15 He cast two hollow bronze pillars—each being just over eight metres tall and measuring over five metres around.
16 Then he made two decorative bronze caps for those pillars—each over two metres high.
17 To hang over them, he made ornamental chains and wreaths—seven sets over the cap on each pillar. 18 Then he made two rows of decorative bronze pomegranates to go around each of the two caps. 19 The two caps were each shaped like lilies that were nearly two metres high 20 and there were two hundred bronze pomegranates in rows around each cap. NEED A DIAGRAM

21 Huram stood the two pillars at the temple entrance porch. (The left pillar got nicknamed 'Yakin' and the one on the right, 'Boaz'.) 22 The two bronze caps shaped like lilies were placed on top of the pillars and so the pillar construction was completed.

The bronze water tank · Full kingdom[29]

23 Huram also cast a very large round basin nicknamed 'The sea' that was five metres across (so a circumference of fourteen metres) and over two metres high.
24 Part of the same casting was two rows of decorative buds that went around it under the lip of the basin. There were about eighteen buds for each metre of circumference. 25 Twelve bronze cattle had also been cast and the large basin was sitting on their backs. The cattle were facing outwards with three facing towards each of the four compass points. 26 The basin was about 8cm thick and it had a lip around the outside like a lily blossom. It could contain around forty-four thousand litres of water.

The bronze basin holders · Full kingdom

27 Then Huram cast ten bronze carts for individual water basins. Each one was nearly two metres long and two metres wide and just over a metre tall, 28 and they had frames on the sides with panels between them.
29 There were bronze lions, oxen, and winged creatures in relief on the panels, and above and below those, wreaths were inset into the bronze. 30 Each cart had two bronze axles with four bronze wheels attached to them. At each of the top four corners, there were bronze supports to hold a wash basin, and these were also cast with decorative wreaths. 31 Inside those supports there was a round frame that protruded half a metre upwards and was inset by a quarter of a metre. It also had engravings on it inside square frames. 32 The axles were part of the main casting, and the four 70cm bronze wheels were below the panels. 33 The design of the wheels was similar to chariot wheels, but with their axles, rims, spokes, and hubs all cast from bronze. 34 Each cart had four handles as part of the casting—one projecting from each corner. 35 There was a 25cm bronze band around the top of each cart as well as supports

27 **RV 7:13 · Note** Sometimes (including this passage) his named is spelt 'Hiram', but we've opted to consistently name him 'Huram' (as per 2 Chr. 4:11) to conveniently avoid confusion with King Hiram (also from Tsor/Tyre).

28 **RV 7:15 · Parallel** 2 Chr. 3:15-17

29 **RV 7:23 · Parallel** 2 Chr. 4:2-5

Readers' Version

and frames—all part of the main casting. 36 He engraved winged creatures, lions, and palm trees on the flat areas of the carts wherever there was space, and engraved wreaths around them. 37 So that's how he made the ten carts—all the same shape and size using the same mold.

38 Huram also cast ten bronze wash basins for the ten carts—each one was almost two metres across and could hold 900 litres of water.[30] 39 He put five basins on carts on each side of the temple (north and south of the east-facing temple), and he put the huge basin on its bronze cattle near the south-east corner. 40 Huram also made the basins and the ash shovels and the bowls.

The list of temple objects · Full kingdom[31]

So Huram finished everything that King Shelomoh (Solomon) had requested him to make for Yahweh's residence: 41 two massive pillars with large decorated caps and then networks of chain over the caps, 42 the four hundred pomegranates with each pillar having two strings of one hundred of them placed over them, 43 the ten carts and the ten basins on them, 44 the huge water tank and the twelve cattle supporting it, 45 and the pots and shovels and bowls and all the other containers.

All the above was made from polished bronze by Huram for King Shelomoh for Yahweh's residence. 46 The king had them cast in the clay in the Yarden (Jordan) valley between Sukot and Tseretan. 47 None of the above was weighed, because bronze was so plentiful that it didn't matter.

48 Shelomoh also had the gold items made for Yahweh's residence, including the gold incense altar[32] and the gold table for the sacred bread,[33] 49 the ten pure gold lampstands that were placed five on each side of the entrance to the inner room, along with the gold flowers, lamps, and tongs,[34] 50 the pure gold cups, trimmers, bowls, dishes, and firepans, and also the gold door sockets for the inner holiest room and the main room of the temple.

51 Finally all the work that King Shelomoh did for Yahweh's residence was completed, and he had all the holy things from his father David, including the silver and the gold and the containers, taken into the storerooms of the temple.[35]

The sacred box is taken to the temple · Full kingdom[36]

8:1 So Shelomoh (Solomon) assembled the Israeli leaders, and the tribal and clan heads, in Yerushalem (Jerusalem) to celebrate the arrival of the box containing Yahweh's agreement coming from David's city, i.e., Tsiyon (Zion).[37] 2 This all happened during the Celebration in Shelters in the seventh month of Etanim.[38] 3 The Israeli elders and the priests lifted the sacred box 4 and carried it to the temple. Other priests and Levites brought all the sacred objects from the sacred tent. 5 King Shelomoh and all the Israelis who were there, walked ahead of the box, sacrificing more sheep and cattle than could be counted, because there were so many.

6 Then the priests brought the box containing the agreement into the inner room in the temple (the very holy place), and placed it beneath the wings of the two wooden winged creatures, 7 The two creatures had their wings stretched out and touching in the middle of the room

30 **RV 7:38 · Cross-ref.** Exo 30:17-21.

31 **RV 7:41 · Parallel** 2 Chr. 4:11–5:1

32 **RV 7:48 · Cross-ref.** Exo 30:1-3.

33 **RV 7:48 · Cross-ref.** Exo 25:23-30.

34 **RV 7:49 · Cross-ref.** Exo 25:31-40.

35 **RV 7:51 · Cross-ref.** 2Sam 8:11; 1Ch 18:11.

36 **RV 8:1 · Parallel** 2 Chr. 5:2–6:2

37 **RV 8:1 · Cross-ref.** 2Sam 6:12-16; 1Ch 15:25-29.

38 **RV 8:2 · Cross-ref.** Lev 23:34.

Readers' Version

where the sacred box was placed, so their wings covered over the top of the box and its carrying poles. **8** The poles were very long and the ends of them could be seen from the entrance to that inner room, but otherwise they couldn't be seen from the outside, and they're still there to this day. **9** There was nothing in the box except for the two stone slabs that Mosheh (Moses) had put inside at Mt. Sinay (also called Horev)[39] where Yahweh made the agreement with the Israelis after he'd brought them out of Mitsrayim (Egypt).

10 When the priests came back out of the holy place, a cloud filled Yahweh's residence[40] **11** and the priests were unable to stand to minister because of the cloud, because Yahweh's presence had filled his temple. **12** Then Shelomoh (Solomon) said, "Yahweh stated that he would dwell in the cloudy darkness.[41] **13** Actually, I've built a raised house for you—where you can live forever."

Shelomoh's address to the people · Full kingdom[42]

14 Then while all the people stood there, the king turned around and pronounced a blessing on all Yisrael (Israel), **15** saying, "Blessed is Yahweh, the god of Yisrael, who spoke audibly to my father David, and then put into action the promise he'd given, **16** 'From the day when I brought my people Yisrael out of Mitsrayim (Egypt), I didn't choose a city from among all the tribes of Yisrael to build a house in so that my name would be established there. Instead I chose David to lead my people Yisrael.' "[43]

17 Shelomoh (Solomon) continued, "My father David wanted to build a temple to confirm Yahweh's power and authority here.[44] **18** However, Yahweh told him that it was good that he wanted to build a temple for him, **19** however he wouldn't be the one to build it, because it would be his biological son who would do it.[45]

20 Now Yahweh has put his promise into action, and I'm here now having succeeded my father David—sitting on Yisrael's throne just as Yahweh said, and I've been the one to build the residence for Yisrael's god Yahweh. **21** I've included a place for the box containing the two stone tablets with the agreement that Yahweh made with our ancestors when he brought them out of Mitsrayim."

Shelomoh's prayer of dedication · Full kingdom[46]

22 Then Shelomoh (Solomon) stood between Yahweh's altar and all the gathered Israelis, and held his arms up towards the sky **23** and prayed, "Yahweh, the god of Yisrael (Israel), there's no god like you in the heavens above or here on the earth below, keeping the agreement and showing loyal affection to your servants, the ones who serve you with honest devotion. **24** You have done what you told your servant David, my father, that you said you'd do—you said it with your mouth and then put it into action with your hands as we can see today. **25** Now, Yahweh, the god of Yisrael, do the other things for your servant David my father, when you told him that there'll always be one of his descendants on Yisrael's throne, provided they follow you like he did.[47] **26** So now, God of Yisrael, show that you're faithful to do what you say, by doing what you told your servant David, my father.

27 "But would God really reside on the earth? The sky and the heavens aren't big enough for you so how could this building I've constructed

39 RV 8:9 · Cross-ref. Deu 10:5.

40 RV 8:10-11 · Cross-ref. Exo 40:34-35.

41 RV 8:12 · Cross-ref. Psa 18:11; 97:2.

42 RV 8:14 · Parallel 2 Chr. 6:3-11

43 RV 8:16 · Cross-ref. 2Sam 7:4-11; 1Ch 17:3-10.

44 RV 8:17-18 · Cross-ref. 2Sam 7:1-3; 1Ch 17:1-2.

45 RV 8:19 · Cross-ref. 2Sam 7:12-13; 1Ch 17:11-12.

46 RV 8:22 · Parallel 2 Chr. 6:12-42

47 RV 8:25 · Cross-ref. 1Ki 2:4.

Readers' Version

contain you?[48] 28 But still, please give attention
to your servant's prayer and my request for
favour, Yahweh my god. Please listen to my
humble prayer that your servant is praying to
you today 29 that your eyes be on this house
night and day—the place that you've said will
be associated with your name.[49] May you an-
swer the prayers that your servant will pray to-
wards this place. 30 Listen to your servant's
plea for favour, and the prayers that your peo-
ple Yisrael will pray toward this place. Keep lis-
tening from where you live in the heavens, and
hear and forgive.

31 "When someone is accused of sinning
against his neighbour and says on oath that the
accusation is false, and makes that oath in front
of your altar here in this temple, 32 then you
should listen from the heavens and judge your
people Yisrael, so that wicked people will be
condemned and bear the appropriate punish-
ment, and innocent people should be declared
not guilty and dealt with appropriately.

33 When your people Yisrael are defeated by
an enemy because they've sinned against you,
and they turn back to you and confess your
name and pray, and plead for favour toward
you in this temple, 34 then you should listen
from the heavens and forgive the sin of your
people Yisrael, and bring them back to this
land that you gave to our ancestors.

35 "Or when the rain is held back in the sky
because your people have sinned against you,
and then they pray towards this place and ac-
knowledge you and turn away from the disobe-
dience that caused the problem, 36 then listen
to them from the heavens and forgive the sin of
your servants and your people Yisrael, because
you'll direct them towards the right way to
conduct themselves. Then you'll send rain onto
your land that you gave to your people as an in-
heritance.

37 "Suppose that there was a drought in the
land, or diseases like blight or mildew, or
swarms of locusts or grasshoppers, or if an en-
emy besieges them in a gated city, or some
other trouble or calamity, 38 then if anyone
from your people Yisrael who knows about
their own disobedience would spread out their
palms toward this temple, 39 then listen to
them from your heavenly abode and forgive
their sin, and give them what they need. You
and you alone are the only one who knows
what's inside a human heart. 40 Then the peo-
ple will want to obey you as long as they're
alive here in the land that you gave to our an-
cestors.

41 "Also the foreigners who are not descen-
dants of Yisrael and who came from distant
countries because of your reputation 42 (when
they heard about your nature and saw your
power in action), and they come and pray to-
ward this temple, 43 then listen to them from
your abode in the heavens and do what that
foreigner begged of you, so that all the coun-
tries will know your reputation and respect you
like your people Yisrael do. Then they'll know
that your authority is connected with this resi-
dence that I've built.

44 "When your people go out to battle against
the enemy, and on the road where you sent
them they pray to you Yahweh, in this city that
you've chosen, with this house that I've built
for your honour, 45 Then listen from the heav-
ens to their prayer and their request, and help
their situation.

46 "If they disobey you (because everyone
sins) and you're angry with them and cause
them to be defeated by their enemies, and then
they get taken prisoner and led away to the en-
emy's country (even a far away country), 47 and
then they have a change of mind in the land
where they were taken to as captives, and while
they're still living in that land, they turn back
and beg for your favour and confess, 'We've dis-
obeyed and done wrong—we've behaved
wickedly,' 48 and they return to you with all
their hearts and all their souls in the land of
their enemies where they were taken captive,

48 **RV 8:27 · Cross-ref.** 2Ch 2:6.

49 **RV 8:29 · Cross-ref.** Deu 12:11.

Readers' Version

and they pray to you toward the direction of their country which you gave to their fathers, the city that you chose, and the residence that I've built for your honour, **49** then listen to their prayers and requests from your abode in the heavens, and help their situation. **50** Forgive your people who've disobeyed you and forgive the wicked things that they've done. Help their captors to be compassionate to them, **51** because they're your people and your special possession who you brought out from Mitsrayim (Egypt)—from the middle of the iron-smelting furnace.

52 "May you notice the plea for favour from your servant and from your people Yisrael (Israel)—to listen to them in all their crying out to you. **53** Because you yourself separated them for yourself as a special possession out of all the people groups in the world, just as you said through your servant Mosheh (Moses) when you brought our ancestors out from Mitsrayim, my master Yahweh."

Shelomoh blesses the people · Full kingdom

54 Once Shelomoh (Solomon) was finished praying this prayer and request for favour to Yahweh, he stood up from bowing on his knees with his palms spread out toward the heavens in front of Yahweh's altar, **55** then stood there and blessed all the Israeli people, saying, **56** "Blessed be Yahweh, who has given peace to his people Yisrael (Israel) like he said he would. He didn't fail to do even one part out of all the good things that he told his servant Mosheh (Moses) that he'd do.[50] **57** May our god Yahweh be with us, just as he was with our ancestors. May he not leave us or abandon us, **58** help us to want to follow him and walk on all his paths and obey his commands and statutes and judgements that he gave our ancestors. **59** May this prayer of mine pleading for Yahweh's favour, be remembered by our god Yahweh day and night—to protect both his servant and his people Yisrael as each day requires, **60** so that all the people groups in the worlds would know that Yahweh is the god—there's no other besides him. **61** And you people, may your purpose be to completely follow our god Yahweh, by obeying his statutes, and by keeping his commands like you're doing today."

The temple dedication · Full kingdom[51]

62 Then the king and all the Israelis offered sacrifices to Yahweh, **63** and King Shelomoh (Solomon) sacrificed peace offerings to Yahweh (twenty-two thousand cattle and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep) and the king and the Israelis dedicated Yahweh's residence. **64** On that day the king reserved the middle of the courtyard that was in front of the temple, because that was where he made the burnt up offerings and the grain offerings and the fat pieces of the peace offerings. This was because the bronze altar was too small to handle all those offerings.

65 Then Shelomoh and Israelis from all over the country celebrated in front of Yahweh at that time—people from Levo-Hamat in the far north down to the Mitsri (Egyptian) border in the far south—one week, then a second week—a total of fourteen days. **66** The next day, he instructed the people to go home, and they blessed the king, then went home feeling happy and encouraged because of all the good things that Yahweh had done for his servant David's family and for his people Yisrael (Israel).

Yahweh speaks to Shelomoh again · Full kingdom[52]

9:1 Once Shelomoh (Solomon) had finished the construction of the temple and his palace, and various other projects of his, **2** Yahweh appeared a second time to him, similar to his appearance at Giveon[53] **3** and said, "I've heard your prayer and your plea for favour requested from me. I've declared that this residence that you built is

50 RV 8:56 · Cross-ref. Deu 12:10; Josh 21:44-45.

51 RV 8:62 · Parallel 2 Chr. 7:4-10

52 RV 9:1 · Parallel 2 Chr. 7:11-22

53 RV 9:2 · Cross-ref. 1Ki 3:5; 2Ch 1:7.

Readers' Version

holy by associating my name with it forever, and my eyes and my heart will constantly be there.[54] **4** And as for you, if you'll behave with godliness just like your father David lived with total dedication and honesty, by following everything that I've commanded you including keeping my statutes and my judgements, **5** then I'll continue your dynasty over Yisrael (Israel) forever, just like I told your father David when I said, 'your descendants will never be removed from Yisrael's throne.'[55] **6** If you or your descendants ever turn back from following me and don't keep my commands and statutes, and you go and serve other gods and bow down to them, **7** then I'll cut Yisrael off from the land that I've given them and from the temple that's dedicated to my name—I'll send them far away, and Yisrael will become an example and a laughing stock among all the other countries. **8** As this temple is on a hill and very visible, everyone who passes anywhere nearby will see it and will be appalled and will hiss and they'll say, 'What did the people do that was so bad that Yahweh did that to this country and to this temple?'[56] **9** Then they'll answer, 'It's because they abandoned their god Yahweh who brought their ancestors out of Mitsrayim (Egypt), but they held on to other gods and bowed down to them and served them. Therefore Yahweh brought all this calamity onto them.' "

King Hiram gains some poor cities · Full kingdom[57]

10 It took twenty years for Shelomoh (Solomon) to construct the temple for Yahweh and the palace for himself. **11** King Hiram from Tsor (Tyre), had supported Shelomoh with cedar and cypress logs, and with gold—as much as he'd needed. So King Shelomoh gave him twenty cities in the Galil region, **12** but when Hiram came down from Tsor to see the cities that Shelomoh had given him, he wasn't very happy about them **13** and asked, "My friend, what sort of cities are these that you've given me?" and he called the area 'Kavul' (meaning 'Worthless'), which it's still called to this day. **14** Hiram had sent four tonnes of gold to Shelomoh.

Shelomoh's other achievements · Full kingdom[58]

15 Now this is the matter of the forced labour that King Shelomoh (Solomon) brought up to build Yahweh's residence and his palace, the raised terraces and the Yerushalem (Jerusalem) city wall, and the cities of Hatsor, Megidon and Gezer. **16** (Mitsrayim's (Egypt's) King Par'oh (Pharaoh) had seized Gezer and set fire to it and killed the Kena'anim (Canaanites) who had lived in the city. Then he'd given it as a wedding present to his daughter when Shelomoh had married her.) **17** Shelomoh rebuilt Gezer and lower Beyt-Horon, **18** Ba'alat, Tadmor in the Yehudah (Judah) wilderness, **19** all of Shelomoh's storehouse cities, and the cities for his chariots and horses. They also built whatever else Shelomoh wanted—in Yerushalem, in Levanon, and in the entire area of his dominion. **20** All the remaining Amori, Hiti, Perizi, Hivi, and Yevusi people (they weren't descendants of Yisrael (Israel)), **21** had descendants who continued living in Yisrael. These were people groups that the Israelis hadn't been able to annihilate so Shelomoh used them for forced labour (where they remain to this day). **22** But he didn't consign any Israelis to slavehood, because they were his warriors and servants, and his officers and captains, and the commanders of his chariots and horsemen. **23** Some were commanders of the five hundred and fifty work supervisors.

24 Once Par'oh's daughter moved out of the City of David to the palace that he'd built for her, then he built the raised terraces.

54 RV 9:3 · Note 'my eyes and my heart': many translations have something like 'my presence', but we've left it literal here for the reader to interpret rather than oversimplifying what we don't necessarily understand.

55 RV 9:5 · Cross-ref. 1Ki 2:4.

56 RV 9:8 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 25:9; 2Ch 36:19.

57 RV 9:10 · Parallel 2 Chr. 8:1-2

58 RV 9:15 · Parallel 2 Chr. 8:3-18

Readers' Version

25 Shelomoh offered burnt offerings and peace offerings three times that year[59] on the altar that he'd built for Yahweh, and he burnt incense to Yahweh with it, and he completed the temple.

26 King Shelomoh constructed a fleet of ships in Etsyon-Gever, which is near Eylot on the shore of the Red Sea in the Edom region. 27 King Hiram sent some of his servants who were experienced sailors to serve with Shelomoh's men. 28 They sailed to Ofir and brought back fourteen tonnes of gold that they took to Shelomoh.

The queen from Sheva visits Shelomoh · Full kingdom[60]

10:1 Now the queen from Sheva had heard a report about how Yahweh had blessed Shelomoh (Solomon), and she came to test him with difficult questions.[61] 2 She came to Yerushalem (Jerusalem) with lots of her top people, camels carrying spices and gemstones and a lot of gold. Then she went to Shelomoh and started asking him everything that had been on her mind. 3 He answered all her questions—there wasn't any topic that he wasn't able to shed light on. 4 When the queen from Sheva saw the extent of Shelomoh's wisdom, the palace that he'd built, 5 the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the uniforms and the service of his waiters, and the burnt offerings that he sacrificed at Yahweh's temple, she was totally lost for words.

6 She told the king, "Wow, everything that I heard about you back in my own country, and about how wise you are, is true. 7 I hadn't believed it until I got here and saw it with my own eyes, but then I find that what I heard is only *half* of how incredible it is. Your wisdom and your goodness is way more than what I'd heard described. 8 Your men are so fortunate and especially your servants who are always standing in front of you and able to hear the wise things that you say. 9 May your god Yahweh be blessed, who was pleased with you and placed you on Yisrael's (Israel's) throne. He appointed you as king to rule them fairly and honestly because Yahweh loves Yisrael forever."

10 Then the queen gave to king four tonnes of gold and very many spices and precious gemstones. Never again did King Shelomoh receive more spices than what the queen gave him that day.

11 King Hiram's fleet also brought gold from Ofir as well as a lot of almug wood and precious gemstones. 12 The king used the almug timber to make railings[62] for the temple and the palace, and lyres and harps for the musicians. Such a quantity and quality of almug wood has never again been brought in or seen in Yisrael to this day.

13 Then King Shelomoh gave the queen from Sheva everything she wanted—whatever she requested on top of what he had already given to her. Then she departed with her servants and returned to her country.

Shelomoh's wealth · Full kingdom[63]

14 The amount of gold that came to Shelomoh (Solomon) in one year was around twenty-two tonnes, 15 not counting what came from explorers and traders, and all the Aravi kings, and the governors of the land.

16 King Shelomoh had two hundred body shields made from beaten gold overlaid over wood—each shield took six kilograms of gold. 17 He also had three hundred smaller shields made—each of them covered with two kilograms of gold—and placed in his 'Levanon Forest Hall'.

18 The king had a large ivory throne made and overlaid with pure gold. 19 It had six steps go-

59 **RV 9:25 · Cross-ref.** Exo 23:17; 34:23; Deu 16:16.

60 **RV 10:1 · Parallel** 2 Chr. 9:1-12

61 **RV 10:1-10 · Cross-ref.** Mat 12:42; Luk 11:31.

62 **RV 10:12 · Note** The exact meaning of this Hebrew word is unknown, especially as it's only used once. (Other possibilities for the use of this obviously high-quality timber includes 'steps' or 'pillars'.)

63 **RV 10:14 · Parallel** 2 Chr. 9:13-29

ing up to it and the seat-back was rounded at the top. It had armrests on both sides, then a lion on each side next to the armrests, **20** plus twelve lions standing one on each side of the six steps. There was nothing like it in any other kingdom.

21 All of Shelomoh's cups were gold, and the various dishes in the 'Levanon Forest Hall' were also pure gold. Nothing was made out of silver because it was considered to be of little value during Shelomoh's time **22** because the king had a fleet of ships that joined King Hiram's fleet. Every three years the fleet would return bringing gold and silver, ivory, monkeys and baboons.[64]

23 King Shelomoh became richer and wiser than any other king in the world, **24** and even people from distant countries would come to see Shelomoh to listen to the wisdom that God had given him. **25** Every visitor would bring a gift: gold containers, clothes, weapons, spices, horses and mules. This continued year after year.

26 Shelomoh acquired 1,400 chariots and twelve thousand horsemen.[65] He stationed most of them in his chariot cities and some with him there in Yerushalem (Jerusalem). **27** While he was king, silver in Yerushalem was given a value similar to stones,[66] and cedar timber was given a value like that of the sycamores that grow in plenty in the lowlands. **28** Shelomoh acquired horses from Mitsrayim (Egypt)[67] and from Kue—his traders would acquire them from Kue for the king for a price. **29** An Mitsri (Egyptian) chariot went for six hundred silver coins and a horse for one hundred and fifty. Then they'd export them again to the Hiti and Aramean kings.

Shelomoh turns from God · Full kingdom

11:1 Now King Shelomoh (Solomon) loved many foreign women—besides Par'oh's (Pharaoh's) daughter there were Moavi women, Amoni women, Edomi women, Tsidoni women, and Hiti women.[68] **2** They were from the nations that Yahweh had told Yisrael (Israel) about, "You must not mix with people from those nations, and they must not join together with you. They will certainly entice you to worship their gods."[69] However, Shelomoh clung to them for love. **3** He had seven hundred wives who were kings' daughters, as well as three hundred slave-wives, and his wives were instrumental in his turning away from Yahweh. **4** By the time of his old age, Shelomoh's wives had persuaded him to worship the gods from their countries—his heart wasn't totally dedicated to Yahweh like his father David had been. **5** So Shelomoh started to worship the Tsidonim' (Sidonians') God Ashtoret and the Amonim' detestable God Malkam, **6** so he did many things that Yahweh had said were evil—he didn't remain fully committed to Yahweh like his father David had been. **7** Then Shelomoh built a place to worship Kemosh, the Moavim detestable God, on a hill facing Yerushalem (Jerusalem), and also for Molek, the Amonim' detestable God. **8** He did those things for his foreign wives who were burning incense and sacrificing to their gods.

9 Although Yisrael's god Yahweh had appeared twice to Shelomoh, he now turned his devotion away from Yahweh, who then became angry with him. **10** Yahweh had warned Shelomoh not to follow after other gods, but he didn't obey Yahweh's instructions, **11** and Yahweh told him, "You have this against you: you haven't kept my agreement and you've dis-

64 RV 10:22 · Note baboons: We're not certain of the meaning of this last word (some suggest 'peacocks'), nor are we sure of the type of the ships named 'Tarshish ships'.

65 RV 10:26 · Cross-ref. 1Ki 4:26.

66 RV 10:27 · Cross-ref. Deu 17:17.

67 RV 10:28 · Cross-ref. Deu 17:16.

68 RV 11:1 · Cross-ref. Neh 13:26; Deu 17:17.

69 RV 11:2 · Cross-ref. Exo 34:16; Deu 7:3-4.

obeyed my statutes that I gave you. So I'll definitely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant, 12 except that for the sake of your father David I won't do it in your lifetime, rather, I'll tear the kingdom away from your son. 13 What's more, I won't tear the whole kingdom away—I'll leave one tribe for your son to rule for my servant David's sake, and for the sake of my chosen city Yerushalem."

Shelomoh's enemies · Full kingdom

14 Then Yahweh caused Hadad the Edomi (and a descendant of the Edomi king) to stand against Shelomoh (Solomon). 15 In the past when David had been in Edom with his army commander Yoav (Joab) to bury their dead, they had killed every male in Edom. 16 (Yoav and the Israeli warriors had had to stay there for six months to kill the Edomi males.) 17 However, Hadad had been a small child at that time, and he'd fled to Mitsrayim (Egypt) with some of his father's Edomi servants. 18 They'd passed through Midyan and then Paran where they'd gained some more men before entering Mitsrayim where King Par'oh (Pharaoh) gave him a house and land, and provided him with food. 19 Par'oh took a liking to Hadad and gave him his wife Queen Tahpeneys' sister to marry. 20 Tahpeneys' sister gave birth to his son Genuvat, his son, and Tahpeneys weaned him in the midst of the house of Par'oh. And Genuvat was in the house of Par'oh in the midst of the sons of Par'oh.

21 When Hadad in Mitsrayim heard that both David and his army commander Yoav had died, Hadad said to Par'oh, "Give me permission to leave, and I'll go back to my land."

22 But Par'oh asked him, "But what's wrong with staying here? You've stunned me by asking to go to your land."

"Nothing's lacking here," he replied, "but I have to go—please give me permission to leave."

23 God also caused Elyada's son Rezon to stand against Shelomoh (Solomon). He'd run away from his master, King Hadadezer in Tsovah, 24 then he'd gathered men for himself and had become a commander of a raiding band. When David attacked them, they went to Damesek (Damascus). They lived there and gained control of the city. 25 Then during all of Shelomoh's reign, he'd been outspoken against Yisrael (Israel)—encouraged by the evil that Hadad did. He reigned over Aram (Syria) (Aram) and he loathed Yisrael.

God's promise to Yarov'am/Jeroboam · Full kingdom

26 Nevat's son Yarov'am (Jeroboam), an Efrati from Tseredah also rebelled against the king. (His widowed mother Tseruah was one of Shelomoh's (Solomon's) servants.) 27 This is the background about how it started: Shelomoh had built the raised terrace and had repaired a gap in the wall of the city of David his father. 28 Shelomoh had noticed Yarov'am as a strong and hard-working young man, so he'd appointed him as supervisor over all the forced labour from Menasheh (Manasseh) and Efrayim's (Ephraim's) regions. 29 One time when Yarov'am was away from Yerushalem (Jerusalem), the prophet Ahiyah the Shiloni met him on the road. He was wearing a brand-new a new cloak, and there was just the two by themselves in the countryside. 30 Ahiyah then pulled the new cloak off his shoulders and tore it into twelve pieces, 31 and told Yarov'am, "Take ten pieces for yourself, because this is what Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh says, 'Listen, I'm about to tear the kingdom away from Shelomoh's control, and I'll give the[70] ten tribes to you. 32 The one tribe[71] will be for him, for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Yerushalem city which I've chosen from all the tribes of Yisrael. 33 This is because they've abandoned me. Instead they've

70 RV 11:31 · Note Most English translations leave out this 'the' (which is in the Hebrew). However, we suspect that both Ahiyah and Yarov'am knew exactly which of the ten tribes it would be.

71 RV 11:32 · Note It would have been obvious at the time that this was referring to Yehudah. (The unmentioned twelfth tribe is Benyamin—the youngest brother and the smallest tribe.)

Readers' Version

bowed down to the Tsidonim' (Sidonians') God Ashtoret, to the Moavi god Kemosh, and to the Amoni God Malkam. They're no longer following my instructions or doing what they know I've said is right—not obeying my statutes or my judgements like the king's father David did. **34** But I won't take the entire kingdom off him, but rather I'll leave him as a leader while he's still alive for the sake of my chosen servant David, who obeyed my commands and my statutes. **35** However, I'll take the kingship away from his son and I'll give the ten tribes to you to rule. **36** I'll give Shelomoh's son one tribe to rule so that one of David's descendants will always rule in my chosen city Yerushalem because it's associated with my name. **37** But I'll use you, and you'll be able to reign over the area where you want to rule—you'll become king over Yisrael. **38** Then if you'll listen to everything that I command you, and walk on the right path and do what pleases me and keep my statutes and my commands, just like my servant David did, then I'll be with you. I'll establish a dynasty for you just like I did for David, and I'll give Yisrael to you. **39** I'll make David's descendants suffer because of Shelomoh's behaviour, but not forever.' "

40 Shelomoh tried to kill Yarov'am (Jeroboam), but he left the area and fled to Mitsrayim (Egypt). He remained in Mitsrayim under the protection of King Shishak until Shelomoh's death.

Shelomoh's death · Full kingdom[72]

41 A record of all the other things that Shelomoh (Solomon) did, and all the wise things that he said, was written in the 'Record of Shelomoh's Achievements'. **42** Shelomoh reigned over all Yisrael (Israel) from Yerushalem (Jerusalem) for forty years, **43** then he died and was buried in the City of David, and his son Rehav'am (Rehoboam) became king.

The north rejects Rehav'am (Rehoboam) · Both kingdoms[73]

12:1 Shelomoh's (Solomon's) son Rehav'am (Rehoboam) went to Shekem, because all Yisrael (Israel) had assembled there to make him king. **2** Meanwhile, Nevat's son Yarov'am (Jeroboam) in Mitsrayim (Egypt) (where he'd fled from King Shelomoh) heard the news and returned to Yisrael. **3** The leaders of the northern tribes summoned him, and they all went to petition King Rehav'am, **4** "Your father Shelomoh required us to contribute too much labour. If you'll lighten the burden on us, then we'll serve you."

5 "Come back in three days," he replied, "and I'll give my response." So the people left.

6 Then King Rehav'am consulted with the elders (who'd served his father Shelomoh while he was alive), asking them for advice on how to respond.

7 "If you want to serve these people well," they replied, "answer them with kindness now then they'll serve you well in the future."

8 However he decided to ignore that advice from the elders, and he consulted with the young men who were standing in front of him and that he'd grown up with, **9** so he asked them, "What would you all recommend that we tell the people who wanted me to lighten the burden that my father placed on them?"

10 "You should tell them this," his young companions replied. "They've asked that you should lighten the load on them from what your father demanded, but on the contrary, you should tell them that your little finger is thicker than your father's thigh bone was. **11** Tell them that your father placed a heavy burden on them, but that you'll add to that. He punished them with whips, but you'll punish them with scorpions."

12 So when Yarov'am (Jeroboam) and all the leaders came back to King Rehav'am (Rehoboam) on the third day as he'd instructed them, **13** he answered them harshly—ignoring

72 RV 11:41 · Parallel 2 Chr. 9:29-31

73 RV 12:1 · Parallel 2 Chr. 10:1-19

Readers' Version

the advice of the elders at the beginning. **14** Instead he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, "My father placed a heavy burden on you all, but as for me, I'll add to those demands. My father punished you all with whips, but as for me, I'll punish you all with scorpions." **15** So the king didn't listen to the people. This change came from Yahweh so that what he'd had Ahiyah the Shiloni tell Nevat's son Yarov'am would all indeed happen.[74]

16 When all Yisrael (Israel) saw that the king hadn't listened to them, the people responded,

"What share in David do we have?
We won't get any inheritance from Yishay's (Jesse's) son.
Go back to your tents, Yisrael.
Look at your dynasty now, David."[75]

So the northern Israeli leaders went home again. **17** However, Rehav'am continued to rule over the cities in Yehudah (Judah).

18 Then King Rehav'am (Rehoboam) took Adoniram who was over the forced labour, to go north but the people killed him by throwing rocks at him and the king had to hurriedly jump into his chariot to flee to Yerushalem (Jerusalem). **19** Ever since then, the northern tribes of Yisrael have rebelled against David's dynasty.

20 So as soon as all Yisrael heard that Yarov'am (Jeroboam) had returned from Mitsrayim (Egypt), they summoned him to their assembly and appointed him as king over all northern Yisrael. Only the Yehudah region was left under the rule of David's grandson Rehav'am.

Shemayah's prophecy · Southern kingdom[76]

21 So when Shelomoh's (Solomon's) son Rehav'am (Rehoboam) returned to Yerushalem (Jerusalem), he assembled all the tribes of Yehudah (Judah) and Benyamin, and 180,000 warriors were chosen to fight against the northern tribes to return the kingship to him. **22** But God told the prophet Shemayah, **23** "Go and tell Shelomoh's son Rehav'am, the king of Yehudah, and tell all the descendants of Yehudah and Benyamin, and the remainder of the people, saying, **24** 'Yahweh says this: Don't go and fight against your Israeli relatives. Everyone should just return home because everything that happened there was initiated by me.' " When they heard Yahweh's message, they took note of it and everyone went back home.

Yarov'am (Jeroboam) makes gold calves · Northern kingdom

25 Then Yarov'am (Jeroboam) built Shekem in the hill country of Efrayim (Ephraim) and he lived there for a while. Then he left there and built Penuel. **26** After that, he worried that the entire country might want to go back under David's dynasty. **27** He worried that if the people went down to Yerushalem (Jerusalem) to offer sacrifices in Yahweh's temple, they might shift their allegiance to King Rehav'am (Rehoboam) in Yehudah (Judah) and then his life might be in danger.

28 So after getting advice, the king made two gold calves, and he told his people, "Going all the way down to Yerushalem is too far for you. Look, these can be your gods, Yisrael (Israel), who brought you out from Mitsrayim (Egypt)."[77] **29** He set one up at Beyt-El (Bethel) (in the south) and the other one at Dan (in the north). **30** This caused the people to sin, and some people went up as far as the one in Dan. **31** He built temples on hills and appointed priests from various tribes—not just from the tribe of Levi.

The warning of worshipping there at Beyt-El · Northern kingdom

32 In the eighth month on the 15th, Yarov'am (Jeroboam) put on a celebration like the one in

74 RV 12:15 · Cross-ref. 1Ki 11:29-39.

75 RV 12:16 · Cross-ref. 2Sam 20:1.

76 RV 12:21 · Parallel 2 Chr. 11:1-4

77 RV 12:28 · Cross-ref. Exo 32:4.

Readers' Version

Yehudah (Judah).[78] He'd made an altar at
Beyt-El (Bethel) and he got the priests from the
hill temples he'd made to come and stand
there, then he offered a sacrifice on that altar
to the calves that he'd made. **33** That date of the
15th day of the eighth month was one that he'd
just decided for himself, and he instituted a
new celebration for the Israelis and he burnt
incense on the altar as a sacrifice.

13:1 Then a prophet from of God came from
Yehudah, taking Yahweh's message to Beyt-El.
as Yarov'am was standing by the altar to burn
incense. **2** The prophet called out against the al-
tar with Yahweh's message: "Altar! Altar! Yah-
weh says this: Listen, one of David's descen-
dants will have a son who'll be named Yoshiyah
(Josiah), and he'll sacrifice the priests from the
hill temples on you—the ones who are burning
incense on you. Yes, human bones will be burnt
on you."[79] **3** Then he offered them evidence that
what he said came from Yahweh, "Listen, that
altar will be broken into pieces, and the ashes
in it will spill all over the ground."

4 The moment the King Yarov'am heard the
message that the man of God had called out
against the altar at Beyt-El, he called for the
man to be arrested. However, the arm that he
used to point to him over the altar suddenly be-
came paralysed and he wasn't able to pull it
back. **5** Then the altar itself broke open and
ashes poured out onto the ground, exactly as
Yahweh had promised through that man of
God. **6** Then the king begged the prophet,
"Please, pray to your god Yahweh for me, so my
hand will return to normal."

So the man of God interceded with Yahweh,
and the king was able to use his hand again.
7 "Come home with me," the king told the
prophet, "and have something to eat. Then I've
got a gift to give you."

8 But the man of God replied, "Even if you of-
fered me half of your house, I wouldn't go with
you, and I wouldn't eat or drink in this place.
9 Yahweh already told me not to eat or drink
here, and not to return home by the same road
I came on." **10** Then he left for home taking a
different route from the one he'd used to come
to Beyt-El.

The old prophet from Beyt-El · Both kingdoms

11 Now at that time
there was an old prophet
who lived in Beyt-El
(Bethel), and his sons[80] had been and told him
all the news about what that man of God had
done that day in Beyt-El and they told him the
message that had been passed on to the king.
12 "Oh, what road did he take when he left?"
their father asked, and indeed his sons had no-
ticed which road the man of God from Yehudah
(Judah) had taken. **13** So he told his sons to sad-
dle his donkey, and he rode off **14** after the man
of God, and found him sitting under an oak
tree. "Are you the man of God," he asked him,
"who came from Yehudah?"

"I am," he said.

15 "Come home with me and have something
to eat." he invited him.

16 "Sorry," he replied. "I can't go with you or
visit your home, and I can't eat or drink with
you in this place, **17** because Yahweh instructed
me not to eat or drink here, or to go home by
the same road that I came on."

18 Then the old prophet told him, "I'm also a
prophet like you, and Yahweh sent a messenger
to tell me that I should take you home with me
so you can have something to eat and drink."
(But that was a lie.)

19 So the prophet accompanied him to his
house and had a meal there. **20** Then while they
were still seated at the table, Yahweh spoke
through the old prophet, **21** and he called out to
the man of God who'd come from Yehudah (Ju-
dah), "Yahweh says this: Because you have been
rebellious against Yahweh and because you
didn't obey what Yahweh instructed you **22** and
you've returned and you've had food and drink
in the place where he told you not to eat or

78 RV 12:32-33 · Cross-ref. Lev 23:33-34.

79 RV 13:2 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 23:15-16.

80 RV 13:11 · Note This is singular in the Hebrew, but the rest of this segment suggests multiple sons.

drink, your body won't be buried in your home town."

23 After the meal was finished, the old prophet saddled the donkey for the prophet that he'd brought back, 24 and he left. But on the road, a lion came across him and killed him. His corpse ended up lying on the road with the donkey standing beside it, and the lion also standing beside it. 25 Some passers-by saw the corpse on the road and the unusual sight of the lion standing beside it, and when they got to the city where the old prophet lived, they told everyone the news.

26 When the prophet who had brought him back from the road heard he said, "That will be the man of God who was rebellious against Yahweh. Yahweh must have given him to the lion, and it tore him into pieces and put him to death according what Yahweh had said would happen." 27 Then he told his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." They put the saddle on, 28 and he went and found the body lying on the road, and the donkey and the lion standing by it. The lion hadn't eaten any of the man of God's body, nor had it attacked the donkey. 29 The prophet lifted the body and laid it across the donkey and brought it back to his city to be buried in his own tomb. 30 They wailed over him, saying, "Oh dear, my brother," and they laid his body in the old prophet's grave. 31 When the period of mourning was over, he told his sons, "When I die, bury me in the grave where the man of God is buried. My bones will end up beside his bones. 32 The message from Yahweh that he shouted out against the altar in Beyt-El (Bethel) will certainly happen, and against all the hilltop worship places in Shomron (Samaria).

Yarov'am's fatal sin · Northern kingdom

33 Despite the man of God's warning, King Yarov'am (Jeroboam) didn't stop his evil ways—in fact he chose more people from across the country to become priests. Anyone who wanted to be a priest would be appointed and he would become one of the priests of the hilltop worship places. 34 Those were the sins of Yarov'am that would eventually lead to the rejection and destruction of his entire family.

The death of Yarov'am's son · Northern kingdom

14:1 At that time, one of Yarov'am's (Jeroboam's) sons, Aviyah, became very sick 2 and Yarov'am told his wife, "Go and get changed so that no one will recognise you as my wife. Then go to Shiloh where the prophet Ahiyah is—he's the one who prophesied that I'd become king. 3 Take ten loaves of bread and some cakes and a jar of honey to give to him. He'll tell you what will happen to the boy."

4 So his wife got ready and went to Ahiyah's house at Shiloh. Ahiyah was now very elderly and not able to see, 5 but Yahweh had told him, "Listen, Yarov'am's wife will be coming to ask for your guidance about her son, because he's sick. I want you to tell her so-and-so. And when she comes, she won't be dressed like a queen."

6 So as soon as Ahiyah heard her walk through the doorway, he said, "Come in, wife of Yarov'am. Why did you get changed like that? Now I've been instructed to pass bad news onto you— 7 go back and give Yarov'am this message from Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh, 'I chose you out from the people and placed you as a leader over my people Yisrael, 8 and I tore the kingdom away from David's descendants and gave it to you. But you haven't been like my servant David who obeyed my instructions and followed me with integrity—only doing what he knew that I approved of. 9 However, you've done more evil things than any of those who ruled before you. You've rejected me and made cast images of other gods, and have provoked me into anger. 10 Because of that, I'm about to bring calamity to your family: I'll cause all your male descendants to die, either before or after they've left home. I'll eliminate your family just like dried dung burns until it's all gone.[81] 11 The family members who die in the city will be eaten by dogs, and those who die in the countryside will be eaten by birds. All this comes from Yahweh.'

81 RV 14:10 · Cross-ref. 1Ki 15:29.

Readers' Version

12 So go back home, but as soon as you set
foot in the city, your son will die. **13** All Yisrael
will mourn for him and they'll bury him. He'll
be the only one of your children to be buried,
because out of all of Yarov'am's descendants,
he's the only one that Yisrael's god Yahweh
found good in. **14** In the future, Yahweh will ap-
point for himself, a king over Yisrael who will
get rid of Yarov'am's descendants—in fact it's
beginning to come about even now. **15** And Yah-
weh will strike Yisrael just like the reeds bend
over in the swamps, and he'll uproot Yisrael
from this good soil that he gave to their ances-
tors and he'll scatter them beyond the Perat
(Euphrates), because they made their Asherah
statues which provoked Yahweh to anger. **16** He
will hand Yisrael over to their enemies because
of Yarov'am's sins and how he encouraged Yis-
rael to sin."

17 So Yarov'am's wife left and went home to
Tirtsah. As she entered the doorway of their
home, their son died. **18** Just as Yahweh had
told them, all Yisrael mourned for the boy and
he was buried.

Yarov'am's death · Northern kingdom

19 Everything else that
Yarov'am (Jeroboam) did,
including the record of wars that his army
fought and how he ruled, is written in the book
of the events of the kings of Yisrael (Israel).
20 Yarov'am reigned for twenty-two years, then
he died and was buried with his ancestors, and
his son Nadav replaced him as king.

Rehav'am (Rehoboam) rules in Yehudah · Southern kingdom[82]

21 Meanwhile, Shelo-
moh's (Solomon's) son
Rehav'am (Rehoboam)
reigned in Yehudah (Ju-
dah). He was forty-one when he started reign-
ing, and he reigned for seventeen years from
Yerushalem (Jerusalem)—the city that Yahweh
had chosen to associate his name with out of all
the tribes of Yisrael (Israel). Rehav'am's mother
was Na'amah the Amoni.

22 The people of Yehudah did what Yahweh
had decided was evil—in fact they made him
more jealous (by worshipping other gods) than
their ancestors ever had. **23** They even built
hilltop temples and sacred pillars and poles on
every high hill and under every large evergreen
tree.[83] **24** There were also male prostitutes asso-
ciated with them,[84] and the Israelis did the
same abhorrent things as the nations that Yah-
weh had removed ahead of their entering the
land.

25 In the fifth year of King Rehav'am's reign,
Mitsrayim's (Egypt's) King Shishak attacked
Yerushalem[85] **26** and took away the valuables
from Yahweh's temple, and the king's palace.
He took everything of value, including all the
gold shields that Shelomoh had made.[86] **27** To
replace them, King Rehav'am made some
bronze shields and assigned them to the offi-
cers who protect the entrance to the palace.
28 Whenever the king would enter the temple,
the guards would quickly take the shields there,
and when he left, they'd run them back to the
palace.

29 Everything else that Rehav'am did is writ-
ten in the book of the events of the kings of
Yehudah. **30** Rehav'am and Yarov'am (Jer-
oboam) were in a continual state of war during
their reigns. **31** Then Rehav'am (his mother was
Na'amah the Amoni) died and was buried with
his ancestors in the City of David, and his son
Aviyam replaced him as king.

Aviyam rules over Yehudah · Southern kingdom[87]

15:1 In the eighteenth
year of (Nevat's son) King
Yarov'am's (Jeroboam's)
reign over Yisrael (Israel), Aviyam became king
of Yehudah (Judah). **2** (His mother's name was
Ma'akah, one of Avshalom's (Absalom's) daugh-

82 RV 14:21 · Parallel 2 Chr. 11:5–12:15

83 RV 14:23 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 17:9-10.

84 RV 14:24 · Cross-ref. Deu 23:17.

85 RV 14:25 · Cross-ref. 2Ch 12:2-8.

86 RV 14:26 · Cross-ref. 1Ki 10:16-17; 2Ch 9:15-16.

87 RV 15:1 · Parallel 2 Chr. 13:1–14:1

ters.) He reigned from Yerushalem (Jerusalem)
for three years **3** but he disobeyed God in ways
similar to his father—he wasn't interested in
following his god Yahweh completely like his
ancestor David had done. **4** However for David's
sake, his god Yahweh gave Aviyam a son to rule
after him—to allow Yerushalem to continue on
with a flicker of light[88] **5** because David had
done what Yahweh had said was correct, and
throughout his life he hadn't deviated from
what Yahweh had instructed him, except in the
matter concerning Uriyah the Hiti.[89] **6** Re-
hav'am's (Rehoboam's) and Yarov'am's factions
were in a continual state of war during
Aviyam's reign.[90] **7** Everything else that Aviyam
did is written in the book of the events of the
kings of Yehudah, as the war between Aviyam
and Yarov'am continued.

8 Then Aviyam died and was buried with his
ancestors in the City of David, and his son Asa
replaced him as king.

Asa's reign over Yehudah · Southern kingdom[91]

9 In the twentieth year of King Yarov'am's (Jer-
oboam's) reign over Yis-
rael (Israel), Asa became king of Yehudah (Ju-
dah) **10** and reigned from Yerushalem
(Jerusalem) for forty-one years. (His grand-
mother was Avshalom's (Absalom's) daughter
Ma'akah.) **11** Asa did what was pleasing to Yah-
weh, like his ancestor David had done, **12** and he
expelled the male prostitutes from the country
and removed all the idols made by the previous
generations.[92] **13** He also removed his grand-
mother Ma'akah from being queen-mother be-
cause she had made a horrid Asherah goddess,
then he cut down her horrid idol and burnt it
in the Kidron valley. **14** He didn't remove the
hilltop temples, but despite that he was fully
devoted to Yahweh all his life. **15** He brought
everything that father had dedicated, plus
more of his own, into Yahweh's temple, includ-
ing gold, silver, and containers.

16 Asa and King Baesha of Yisrael were in a
continual state of war during their reigns.
17 King Baesha invaded Yehudah (Judah) and
fortified Ramah so that no one could pass in or
out to help King Asa of Yehudah. **18** So Asa took
all the remaining gold and silver from the tem-
ple and palace storerooms, and sent it with his
servants to take to Ben-Hadad, son of Tavri-
mon, son of King Hezyon of Aram (Syria) who
lived in Damesek (Damascus), to tell him,
19 "You and me have an agreement between us
that was made by our two fathers, so look, I've
sent a present of gold and silver to you. So
then, break your agreement with King Baesha
of Yisrael so he'll give up on attacking me."

20 Ben-Hadad did what king Asa requested,
and he sent the commanders of his best war-
riors to attack Israeli cities including Iyon, Dan,
Avel-Beyt-Ma'akah, and all Kineret along with
all Naftali (Naphtali) region. **21** When King Bae-
sha heard about that, he stopped fortifying
Ramah and withdrew to Tirtsah.

22 Then King Asa informed all Yehudah that
they were needed at Ramah. They removed the
stones and timber from Baesha's fortifications,
and king Asa used the materials to build Geva
(in Benyamin) and Mitspah. **23** Everything else
that Asa did, and all his great works and all the
cities he built, are described in the book of the
events of the kings of Yehudah. However in his
old age, he developed problems with his feet.
24 Then he died and was buried with his ances-
tors in the City of David (also his ancestor) and
his son Yehoshafat (Jehoshaphat) replaced him
as king.

Nadav's reign over Yisrael · Northern kingdom

25 In the second year of
Asa's reign over Yehudah
(Judah), Yarov'am's (Jer-
oboam's) son Nadav became king of Yisrael (Is-
rael) where he reigned for two years. **26** He did

88 RV 15:4 · Cross-ref. 1Ki 11:36.

89 RV 15:5 · Cross-ref. 2Sam 11:1-27.

90 RV 15:6 · Cross-ref. 2Ch 13:3-21.

91 RV 15:9 · Parallel 2 Chr. 14:1-5; 15:16–16:6, 11-14

92 RV 15:12 · Cross-ref. 2Ch 15:8-15.

Readers' Version

what Yahweh had said was evil, following his father's behaviour and his sin that in turn, caused Yisrael to sin.

27 A man named Baesha (from the Yisakar (Issachar) tribe) plotted against King Nadav and killed him at the Pelishti city of Gibton when Nadav and all Yisrael were besieging the city. **28** It was the third year of King Asa's reign in Yehudah when Baesha killed King Nadav, then Baesha took over as king of Yisrael. **29** As soon as he took over, he had Yarov'am's entire family executed—not leaving a single one of them alive. This fulfilled what Yahweh had said through his servant Ahiyah the Shiloni,[93] **30** because Yarov'am's own sins, as well as his causing Yisrael to sin, had provoked Yahweh into getting angry.

31 Everything else that Nadav did is written in the book of the events of the kings of Yisrael. **32** King Asa and King Baesha of Yisrael were in a continual state of war during their reigns.

Baesha's reign over Yisrael · Northern kingdom

33 Ahiyah's son Baesha began to reign over Yisrael (Israel) in the third year of King Asa's reign over Yehudah (Judah), and he ruled from Tirtsah for twenty-four years. **34** He did what Yahweh had said was evil, similar to Nevat's son Yarov'am's (Jeroboam's) behaviour and his sin that in turn, caused Yisrael to sin.

16:1 Then Yahweh told Hanani's son Yehu (Jehu) to tell Baesha, **2** "I took a nobody and promoted you to leader over my people Yisrael, yet you followed Yarov'am's behaviour and provoked me to anger by causing my people Yisrael to sin, **3** so now I'll get rid of you and your family—I'll do the same to you that I did to Yarov'am and his family. **4** The bodies of those in your family who die in the city will be eaten by dogs, and those who die in the countryside will be eaten by vultures.

5 Everything else that Baesha did is written in the book of the events of the kings of Yisrael. **6** When Baesha died he was buried in Tirtsah, and his son Elah replaced him as king.

7 Yahweh sent that message via Hanani the prophet's son Yehu. It was for Baesha and his family—speaking against the evil that they'd done that had provoked Yahweh to get angry with their behaviour which was as bad as Yarov'am's family had been. Yahweh was also angry with Baesha because he had killed all of Yarov'am's family.

Elah's reign over Yisrael · Northern kingdom

8 Baesha's son Elah began to reign in the twenty-sixth year of King Asa's reign over Yehudah (Judah), and he ruled from Tirtsah for two years. **9** However, his servant Zimri who was the commander of half of the chariots conspired against him. Once when Elah was in Tirtsah getting himself drunk at the house of Artsah (who was in charge of the palace), **10** Zimri went in and attacked and killed him, and took over his place as king. (That was in the twenty-seventh year of King Asa's reign over Yehudah.)

11 As soon as Zimri took over and sat on his throne, he had all of Baesha's family executed—he didn't leave a single male or relative or friend. **12** In that way, Zimri eliminated all of Baesha's descendants just as Yahweh had said via the prophet Yehu (Jehu) **13** concerning all of Baesha's sins and the sins of his son Elah, and because they caused Yisrael (Israel) to sin by provoking Yisrael's god Yahweh to get angry with their idols. **14** Everything else that Elah did is written in the book of the events of the kings of Yisrael.

Zimri's reign over Yisrael · Northern kingdom

15 Zimri reigned from Tirtsah for seven days in the twenty-seventh year of King Asa's reign over Yehudah (Judah). At the time, the Israeli army were besieging the Pelishti city of Gibton, **16** and when the army camped around the city heard that Zimri had rebelled and assassinated the king, that day all the people in the camp installed the army commander Omri as king to reign over Yisrael (Israel). **17** So Omri took all his warriors from Gibton and besieged Tirtsah. **18** As soon as

93 RV 15:29 · Cross-ref. 1Ki 14:10.

Readers' Version

Zimri realised that the city was surrounded, he went into the saferoom in the palace and set fire to the building and died in the flames **19** because he'd done what Yahweh had said was evil—following Yarov'am's (Jeroboam's) behaviour including causing Yisrael to sin. **20** Everything else that Zimri did, including his rebellion, is written in the book of the events of the kings of Yisrael.

Omri's reign over Yisrael · Northern kingdom

21 At that time, the people of Yisrael (Israel) were divided concerning their leadership—half of them supported Ginat's son Tivni as king, and the other half supported Omri, **22** but those supporting Omri prevailed, so Tivni was executed and Omri remained in power. **23** Omri became king in the thirty-first years of King Asa's reign over Yehudah (Judah), and reigned over Yisrael for twelve years—six of them from Tirtsah. **24** He bought a hill from a man named Shemer for seventy kilograms of silver, then built his capital city on it. He named it Shomron (Samaria) in honour of Shemer who'd owned the hill.

25 Omri did what Yahweh had said was evil—in fact he did more evil things than all those kings who preceded him. **26** He followed (Nevat's son) Yarov'am's (Jeroboam's) behaviour including causing Yisrael to sin by provoking Yisrael's god Yahweh to get angry with their idols. **27** Everything else that Omri did, including his military victories, is written in the book of the events of the kings of Yisrael. **28** Then Omri died and was buried in Shomron, and his son Ahav replaced him as king.

Ahav's reign over Yisrael · Northern kingdom

29 Omri's son Ahav became king of Yisrael (Israel) in the thirty-eighth year of King Ahav's reign over Yehudah (Judah), and he reigned Yisrael from Shomron (Samaria) for twenty-two years. **30** Ahav did what Yahweh had said was evil—in fact he did more evil things than all those kings who preceded him. **31** As if following Yarov'am's (Jeroboam's) behaviour wasn't bad enough, he married Izevel (Jezebel), the daughter of the Tsidoni King Etba'al, then went and served Ba'al and bowed down to him. **32** He built a temple for Ba'al in Shomron and placed an altar in it. **33** Ahav also made an Asherah pole and went on to provoke Yisrael's god Yahweh to get angry, more than any of the previous kings of Yisrael had done. **34** During his reign, Hiel from Beyt-El (Bethel) rebuilt Yeriho (Jericho) city. As they laid the foundations, his eldest son Aviram died, and when they hung the city gates, his youngest son Seguv died, just as Yahweh had told (Nun's son) Yehoshua (Joshua).[94]

Eliyah prophesies about a coming drought · Northern kingdom

17:1 One day the prophet Eliyah (Elijah) from the Tishbim in the Gilead region said to Ahav, "As Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh lives, the one who I serve, there won't be any rain or even dew these next years unless I give the command."[95] **2** Then Yahweh told Eliyah, **3** "Get away from here and travel eastward towards the Kerit stream that enters the Yarden (Jordan) river to hide. **4** You'll be able to drink from the stream, and I've commanded the ravens to bring food to you there."

5 So he did what Yahweh told him, and went and lived by the Kerit stream near the Yarden. **6** Ravens brought bread and meat to him every morning and again in the evening, and he was able to drink from the stream. **7** However, the stream dried up after a while because there was no rain anywhere in the country.

Eliyah and the widow at Tserefat

8 Then Yahweh told Eliyah (Elijah), **9** "Leave here and go to Tserefat in the Tsidon (Sidon) region and stay there. Listen, I've commanded a widow lady there to keep you fed."[96] **10** So he got ready and went to Tserefat. As he entered the town, he saw a woman picking up bits of firewood, and he asked her, "Can you please get

94 RV 16:34 · Cross-ref. Josh 6:26.

95 RV 17:1 · Cross-ref. Jam 5:17.

96 RV 17:9 · Cross-ref. Luk 4:25-26.

me a drink of water." 11 As she went to get it, he
called out, "Would you have a piece of bread to
go with it?."
12 But she replied, "As your god Yahweh lives,
I don't have any bread at all—only a handful of
flour in the jar, and a little bit of oil in the jug.
See, I'm gathering a few bits of firewood so I
can make a little bread for me and my son. Af-
ter we've eaten that, then we'll die."
13 But Eliyah told her, "Don't be worried. Go
and do what you said, except make some bread
for me first and bring it out to me. Then after
that, you can make some for you and for your
son, 14 because Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh
has told me that your flour won't run out and
your oil won't come to an end until the day
when Yahweh gives us rain again."
15 So the woman went and did what Eliyah
said, then sure enough Eliyah and the widow
and her household had enough food every day.
16 The jar of flour never got empty and the jug
of oil never ran out, just as Yahweh had
promised via Eliyah.
17 Some time afterwards, the woman's son got
sick and then it got so bad that he died, 18 so
she hassled Eliyah, "You man of God, why did
you come here! Now my sins have been brought
to God's mind, and he's caused my son to die!"
19 But he told her to bring her son to him, and
taking the boy from her arms, he took the body
upstairs to the room he was staying in, and laid
him down on his bed. 20 Then he called out to
Yahweh, "Yahweh, my god, would you really
bring tragedy to this widow that I'm staying
with by causing her son to die?" 21 Then three
times he stretched himself over the boy's
body[97] and begged Yahweh, "Yahweh, my god,
please let this child's life return into his or-
gans." 22 Yahweh took notice of Eliyah and the
boy's life returned and he revived.
23 Then Eliyah carried the boy back down-
stairs and gave him to his mother and told her,
"Look, your son's alive."
24 "Now I certainly know that you're a man of
God," the woman responded, "And when you
say that you're speaking for Yahweh, it's really
true."

Eliyah versus Ba'al's prophets · Northern kingdom

18:1 In the third year of drought, Yahweh told Eliyah (Elijah) to go and show himself to King Ahav and tell him that it would soon rain, 2 so he went to present himself to Ahav.
Meanwhile in Shomron (Samaria), the food shortage was terrible 3 and King Ahav had summoned his palace manager Ovadyah (Obadiah). (Ovadyah was a sincere follower of Yahweh. 4 When Queen Izevel (Jezebel) had tried to kill Yahweh's prophets, Ovadyah had hidden a hundred prophets—fifty in each of two caves and kept them supplied with food and water.)
5 King Ahav told Ovadyah, "We'll go across the country to all the springs and all the valleys that water sometimes flows in. Perhaps we'll find some grass so we can keep a horse or a mule or two alive and not lose our breeding stock." 6 So they divided the country into two, and they each went off in a different direction.
7 While Ovadyah was on a path, Eliyah came to meet him. Ovadyah recognised him and fell to his knees with his face to the ground, and asked, "Is it really you, my master Eliyah?"
8 "Yes, it's me," he replied. "Now go and tell your master that I'm here."
9 "How have I sinned," Ovadyah responded, "that you're giving your servant a death sentence? 10 As your god Yahweh lives, my master sent people to every kingdom to try to find you, and if they said you weren't there, then he made them promise under oath that it was true. 11 So now you tell me to tell my master that you're here, 12 but as soon as I leave you, Yahweh's spirit will take you to goodness knows where. Meanwhile I'll go and tell Ahav, and he'll come here and not find you, so then he'll kill me, even though I've been trying to obey Yahweh since I was young. 13 Haven't you heard, my master, what I did when Izevel (Jezebel) was killing Yahweh's prophets and I hid a hundred of them in two caves and kept

97 **RV 17:21 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 4:34-35.

them supplied with food and water? 14 Yet now you're trying to get me killed by telling my master that he'll find you here."

15 "As Commander-in-chief Yahweh lives—the one I serve," Eliyah (Elijah) replied, "I'll definitely be here to see him today."

16 So Ovadyah (Obadiah) went and informed Ahav who then came to meet Eliyah. 17 When he saw Eliyah, Ahav asked him, "Is that you—the one who causes trouble for Yisrael (Israel)?"

18 "It's not me who brings trouble onto Yisrael," Eliyah replied. "But rather it's you and your father's families who decided to ignore Yahweh's commands and serve the Baals instead. 19 So now, get all Yisrael to go to Mt. Karmel, along with the 450 prophets of Ba'al and the 400 prophets of Asherah who Queen Izevel (Jezebel) feeds at her table."

20 So Ahav summoned all the Israelis and the prophets to go to Mt. Karmel, 21 and Eliyah addressed the people, "How much longer are you all going to remain unsure who to follow? If Yahweh is God, follow him, but if it's Ba'al, follow him." But the people just stayed silent. 22 Then he said, "I'm Yahweh's only remaining prophet, but Ba'al has 450 prophets. 23 Let them get us two bulls and they can choose one for themselves. Then they can cut it into pieces and lay them a pile of wood that they've set for a fire, but they can't light the fire. I'll do the same with the other bull, but also won't light the fire. 24 Then they must call to their god and I'll call to Yahweh, and the god who answers by setting the wood on fire must be the true God."

"It sounds good to us," the people answered.

25 So Eliyah told Ba'al's prophets, "Okay, there's a lot more of you guys, so you choose your bull and go first and call out to your god, but don't set fire to the pile."

26 So they took the bull he gave them and prepared it all, and then they called out to Ba'al from morning until midday, shouting, "Ba'al, answer us!" But they didn't hear any voice and got no answer. Then they hopped around the altar they'd made.

27 Finally at noon, Eliyah began mocking them, saying, "Call out louder because he's a god. Maybe he's thinking about something else, or busy with something, or travelling somewhere. Perhaps he's asleep and needs waking up." 28 So they shouted even louder and did their usual cutting of their bodies with knives and swords until a lot of blood flowed. 29 Midday passed and they continued raving all afternoon, but they didn't hear any voice, and they got no answer or even any suggestion that their god was listening.

30 Then Eliyah told the people, "Okay, now come over here by me." So all the people came over by him, and he repaired the altar of Yahweh that had been torn down. 31 He took twelve stones (the number of the sons of Ya'akov (Jacob) who Yahweh told would be called Yisrael)[98] 32 and used them to rebuild Yahweh's altar. Then around the altar he made a trench large enough to hold the water to water in two drums of seed.[99] 33 He arranged the firewood, and cut the bull into pieces and placed them on top, 34 and then ordered, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and the firewood." Then he said "Now do it a second time," and they did it a second time, and again he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time. 35 The water ran around the altar and even filled the trench.

36 When it was time to offer the evening sacrifices, the prophet Eliyah approached the altar and prayed, "Yahweh, God of Avraham, Yitshak (Isaac), and Yisrael (Israel), let it be known today that you are God in Yisrael and I'm your servant, and I've done all these things following your instructions. 37 Answer me, Yahweh! Answer me, so that this country will understand that you, Yahweh, are God, and that you can turn their hearts back again."

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98 RV 18:31 · Cross-ref. Gen 32:28; 35:10.

99 RV 18:32 · Note A more Jewish interpretation that seems to agree with v34–35—see https://hermeneutics.stackexchange.com/questions/31555/water-in-elijahs-trench.

Readers' Version

38 Then Yahweh sent fire down from the sky
that consumed the pieces of meat, the fire-
wood, the stones, and the dirt around the altar,
including all the water that had been in the
trench. **39** When all the people saw what had
happened, they fell onto their knees and bowed
their faces to the ground, saying, "Yahweh is
God! Yahweh is God!"

40 Then Eliyah ordered them, "Grab hold of
Ba'al's prophets. Don't let any of them sneak
away." So they seized them, and Eliyah brought
them down to the Kishon valley and he slaugh-
tered them there.

The drought ends · Northern kingdom

41 Then Eliyah (Elijah)
told King Ahav, "Get
ready and have something to eat and drink, be-
cause I can hear the noise of heavy rain com-
ing." **42** So Ahav got ready and had something
to eat and drink, but Eliyah went further up Mt.
Karmel and squatted with his face down be-
tween his knees[100] **43** and told his servant, "Go
up now, and look towards the ocean."

He went up and looked and said, "There's
nothing there."

This happened seven times, **44** but on the sev-
enth time he came back and said, "Wow, there's
a small cloud out above the ocean about the
size of a man's palm."

Then Eliyah ordered him, "Rush and tell Ahav
to get his chariot ready and head down so he
won't be caught in the rain."

45 Very soon the sky was full of dark clouds,
then wind and heavy rain. Ahav kept riding and
made it to the city of Yizre'el (Jezreel). **46** Yah-
weh gave Eliyah extra strength and he tucked
his robe into his belt, and ran ahead of Ahav
going into Yizre'el.

Eliyah flees to Mt. Sinay

19:1 Then King Ahav
told Izevel (Jezebel) ev-
erything that Eliyah (Elijah) had done, includ-
ing how he'd killed all of Ba'al's prophets, **2** so
she sent this message to Eliyah, "May the gods
kill me or do worse if I haven't done with your
life what you did to those prophets by this time
tomorrow." **3** Hearing that, he packed up and
fled for his life to Be'er-Sheva (Beersheba) in
Yehudah (Judah) , where he left his servant.
4 Then he went an extra day's travel further
south into the wilderness where he sat down
under a broom bush and prayed that he might
be allowed to die, saying, "This is now too
much, Yahweh. Take my life, because I'm no
better than my ancestors."[101]

5 Then he laid down and slept under the
broom bush, until he was suddenly woken by a
messenger from Yahweh telling him to get up
and eat. **6** Eliyah looked around and wow, there
was some bread near his head that had been
cooked on glowing coals, and a jug of water. He
got up and ate and drank, and then lay down
again. **7** Then Yahweh's messenger returned a
second time and prodded him and said, "Get up
and eat, because otherwise the journey ahead
will be too much for you." **8** So he got up and
ate and drank. That food lasted his for forty
days as he travelled to God's mountain, Horev.
9 He entered a cave there and overnighted in
the cave, then suddenly Yahweh spoke to him,
asking, "What are you doing here, Eliyah?"

10 "I've been very zealous for you, Comman-
der-in-chief Yahweh," he replied. "But the Is-
raeli people have abandoned your agreement,
and they've torn down your altars and killed
your prophets with the sword. So here I am, left
by myself while meanwhile they're trying to
kill me."[102]

11 Then Yahweh said, "Go out and stand on
the mountain in front of me, Yahweh. Then
look, I'm about to go past you." Then there was
an incredibly strong wind that hit the moun-
tain and broke off bits of rock that then shat-
tered. But Yahweh wasn't in the wind, and after
the wind there was an earthquake but Yahweh
wasn't in the earthquake either. **12** After the
earthquake there was a fire, but Yahweh wasn't
in the fire.

100 **RV 18:42-45 · Cross-ref.** Jam 5:18.

101 **RV 19:4 · Cross-ref.** Yonah 4:3.

102 **RV 19:10-14 · Cross-ref.** Rom 11:3.

Readers' Version

Then after the fire, there was the sound of a soft whisper. **13** When Eliyah heard that, he wrapped his cloak around his face and went out and stood at the opening of the cave, and he heard a voice ask him, "Why are you here, Eliyah?"

14 "I've been very zealous for you, Commander-in-chief Yahweh," he replied, "But the Israeli people have abandoned your agreement, and they've torn down your altars and killed your prophets with the sword. So here I am, left by myself while meanwhile they're trying to kill me."

15 Then Yahweh told him, "Go back towards the Damesek (Damascus) wilderness, then you must go and anoint Hazael as king over Aram (Syria).[103] **16** Also you need to anoint Nimshi's son Yehu (Jehu) as king over Yisrael (Israel),[104] and you must anoint Shafat's son Elisha from Avel-Meholah to succeed you as prophet. **17** In the future, anyone who escapes from being killed by Hazael's army will be killed by Yehu's army, and anyone who escapes from being killed by Yehu's army will be killed by Elisha. **18** But I've still got seven thousand people in Yisrael who've never bowed to Ba'al or kissed his image."[105]

Eliyah inspires Elisha · Northern kingdom

19 So Eliyah (Elijah) left that place and went and found Shafat's son Elisha. There were twelve teams ploughing a field and he was with the back pair of cattle. Eliyah walked past him and threw his cloak over him. **20** Elisha left the plough and ran after Eliyah, saying, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, then I'll come with you."

"Go on back then," Eliyah replied, "because I haven't done anything for you."

21 So Elisha went back and killed his pair of cattle. He used the wood of the plough to cook the meat on, and he shared it around the people. After they'd eaten, he packed up and followed Eliyah and became his helper.

Ben-Hadad attacks Shomron · Northern kingdom

20:1 At that time, King Ben-Hadad of Aram (Syria) joined with thirty-two smaller kingdoms and they brought their combined armies and horses and chariots and besieged Yisrael's (Israel's) capital Shomron (Samaria) ready to attack it. **2** He sent messengers to Yisrael's King Ahav who was inside the city **3** to tell him, "Ben-Hadad says that your gold and silver are mine, as well as the best of your wives and sons."

4 "Whatever you say, my master the king," replied Yisrael's king. "I'm yours along with everything I have."

5 Then the messengers returned, saying, "Ben-Hadad said that you'll give him your gold and silver and your wives and sons, **6** but around this time tomorrow, he'll send his servants to you to search through your palace and the homes of your people, and they'll take everything that they consider to be of value."

7 So Yisrael's king summoned all Yisrael's leaders and told them, "Listen and note how this man is looking for trouble. He's claiming my wives and my sons, and my gold and silver, and I didn't contradict him."

8 But the elders and all the others responded, "No, don't listen to him and don't consent to his demands."

9 So Ahav told Ben-Hadad's messengers, "Tell my master the king that everything he demanded the first time, I'll do, but I can't agree to this new demand."

So they returned to Ben-Hadad with that response **10** and Ben-Hadad sent another message, "The gods can do whatever they like to me and more if I leave enough dust in Shomron (Samaria) for all my prisoners to have a handful

103 RV 19:15 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 8:7-13.

104 RV 19:16 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 9:1-6.

105 RV 19:18 · Cross-ref. Rom 11:4.

Readers' Version

each."[106]

11 Yisrael's king replied, "Tell Ben-Hadad that someone who's heading to battle shouldn't boast like someone relaxing after his victory."

12 Ben-Hadad received that message while he was in the huts drinking with the other kings, and he immediately ordered his men to get into position so they got ready to attack the city.

13 Just then, a prophet approached Yisrael's King Ahav and told him, "Yahweh asks if you've seen that great army, because he's going to give you victory over them today so you'll know that Yahweh is God."

14 "Who will enable the victory?" Ahav asked.

"Yahweh says it'll be the young men under the provincial commanders," he answered.

"Who should lead the attack?" he asked.

"You should," the prophet replied.

15 So Ahav gathered the provincial commanders' young men and there were 232 of them. He also assembled the fighting men and there were merely seven thousand of them.

16 They exited the city at midday, while Ben-Hadad and the other kings were still getting drunk in their huts. **17** The young men under the provincial commanders led the way out, and the scouts that Ben-Hadad had sent out informed him that men were coming out of Shomron (Samaria). **18** He ordered, "Whether they've come out for peace or for battle, capture them alive."

19 The provincial commanders' young men exited the city followed by the warriors **20** and each of them killed their opponent. Then the Arameans took off with the Israelis chasing them, but King Ben-Hadad escaped on a horse along with other riders. **21** Then Yisrael's (Israel's) king led more men out and they attacked the horses and chariots—thoroughly defeating Aram.

22 Afterwards that same prophet went back to King Ahav and told him, "Go back and fortify your defenses and plan your strategy, because Aram's (Syria's) king will attack you again at the same time next year."

Ben-Hadad's second attack · Northern kingdom

23 Meanwhile the servants of Aram's (Syria's) king told him, "Their gods are the gods of the hills, so that's why they were stronger than us. But let's fight them on the plain instead then we'll be sure to defeat them. **24** So this is what you should do: relieve those kings of their command and replace them with military commanders. **25** Then gather an army like the one that was defeated, with as many horses and chariots as you had. Then we'll fight them on the plain and we'll be sure to defeat them."

Ben-Hadad took their advice and put the plan into action. **26** The following year, he assembled his army and went to Afek to battle the Israelis, **27** and the Israeli warriors assembled and received their supplies. Then they went to confront them, but they seemed like ants in comparison to the massive Aramean army.

28 A man of God approached Yisrael's (Israel's) king and told him, "Yahweh says that the Arameans have been saying that he's a god of the hills, but not of the valleys. Because of that, he's going to help you defeat this huge army, and then you'll know that Yahweh is God."

29 The two armies remained camped opposite each other for seven days, then the battle began and the Israelis killed a hundred thousand Aramean soldiers that day. **30** The remainder fled into Afek, but the city wall fell onto the remaining twenty-seven thousand men.

Ben-Hadad ran into the city and hid in an inner room, **31** but his servants told him, "Listen, we've heard that the Israeli kings show mercy. Please let us wrap sackcloth around our waists and go out to Yisrael's king with ropes on our heads—perhaps he'll spare your life." **32** So they wrapped their waists in sacking and put ropes on their heads, and went to Yisrael's king, saying, "Your servant Ben-Hadad asks you to spare

106 RV 20:10 · Note Most translations interpret 'all the people at my feet' to be Ben-Hadad's (large) army (which appears to go back at least to the Vulgate 'sequitur'), but we've TENTATIVELY interpreted it as his (future) prisoners/slaves.

his life."

"Is he still alive?" he asked. "He's like a brother to me."

33 The men were looking for an indication of mercy and when they heard that they were encouraged. "Yes, Ben-Hadad is like your brother," they said.

"Yes, bring him here," he responded.

So Ben-Hadad revealed himself and was brought into Ahav's chariot, 34 and he told Ahav, "I'll return the cities that my father took from with yours, and your traders can set up stalls in Damesek (Damascus), just as my father did in Shomron (Samaria)."

"Okay, I'll accept that agreement and release you," Ahav said, and after formalising the agreement, he sent him away.

A prophet condemns Ahav · Northern kingdom

35 One day, a prophet in training with a group told his companion, "By Yahweh's command, please wound me." But the man refused to slash him, 36 so the first prophet told him, "Because you didn't obey Yahweh's command, listen, as soon as you leave here you'll be attacked by a lion." Then after he left, a lion found him and killed him.[107]

37 Then he found another prophet and said, "Strike me, please," and the man struck him with a sword—wounding him. 38 Then the wounded prophet disguised himself with a covering over his eyes and went and stood on the road to wait for the king. 39 When the king came past, the prophet called out to him, saying, "Your servant went out in the middle of the battle, and suddenly, a man came across with a captive and told me, 'Guard this man. If he goes missing, your life will be forfeit in place of his, or else you'll be fined three thousand pieces of silver.' 40 But while I was busy with other things, the man escaped."

"Well, by your own testimony, you deserve your punishment," King Ahav responded.

41 Then he quickly uncovered his eyes and the king recognised that he was one of the prophets, 42 and the prophet told him, "Yahweh says that because you released a man who should have been executed, then your life will be required in place of his, and your people in place of his people."

43 Then the king went on to his house in Shomron (Samaria), but he was angry and depressed inside.

Navot's vineyard · Northern kingdom

21:1 Sometime after that, King Ahav from Shomron (Samaria) was in his palace in Yizre'el (Jezreel) city, and his neighbour was the Yizre'eli Navot with his vineyard. 2 Ahav pressured Navot, "Give me your vineyard so I can make it into my vegetable garden because it's right beside my house. I can replace it with a better vineyard, or if you prefer, I can pay you in silver for this one."

3 But Navot replied, "Far be it for me to disobey Yahweh by giving up the inheritance entrusted to my ancestors."

4 So Ahav went back to his palace bitter and angry because of Navot's refusal to turn over the land. He refused to eat and went to bed with his face towards the wall, 5 but his wife Izevel (Jezebel) went in and demanded, "What's this about eating nothing and going to bed in a sulk?"

6 "Well, I talked with Navot the Yizre'eli," he replied. "I offered to pay cash for his vineyard or to exchange it for another one if he preferred, but he wouldn't let me have it."

7 "What! You're the king of Yisrael (Israel)!" his wife responded. "Get up and have something to eat and cheer up! I'll make sure myself that you get Navot's vineyard."

8 So she wrote letters in Ahav's name and sealed them with his seal. Then she sent them to the city elders and leading citizens who lived near Navot. 9 This is what she wrote, "Announce a fast, and seat Navot hear the head of the table. 10 Then seat two troublemakers opposite him, and get them to testify against him that he cursed God and the king. Then take him outside and pelt him with rocks until he's dead.

11 Then the elders and leading citizens of the

107 RV 20:36 · Cross-ref. 1Ki 13:24.

city did what Izevel (Jezebel) had instructed them via the letters: **12** They announced a fast and seated Navot near the head of the table, **13** then two worthless men were seated opposite him, and they testified in front of all the people that Navot had cursed God and the king. So Navot was led out of the city and killed by having rocks thrown at him, **14** and they sent a message to Izevel to tell her that Navot had been stoned to death.

15 As soon as Izevel heard that Navot had been executed, she told Ahav, "Go on now and take over Navot's vineyard that he refused to sell you, because he's not around any more—he's dead." **16** As soon as Ahav heard that Navot was dead, he went to the vineyard to take possession of it.

17 Then Yahweh told Eliyah (Elijah) (from Tishbeh), **18** "Leave here and go to Yisrael's (Israel's) king Ahav in Shomron (Samaria). Listen, he's there in Navot's vineyard, where he's gone to take possession of it. **19** Tell him that Yahweh's asking if he's taking possession of the property of a murdered man. Then tell him that Yahweh wants him to know that the dogs will lick his blood in the same place where Navot died and the dogs came and licked up his blood."

20 When Eliyah arrived, Ahav asked him, "Ah, my enemy. Have you found me?"

"Yes, I've found you," Eliyah replied. "It seems you've sold your soul by doing what Yahweh's finds to be evil. **21** Yahweh says that he's about to send disaster on you to destroy you and every male in your household—whether they're slaves or free. **22** Your entire family will be eliminated like the families of Nevat's son Yarov'am (Jeroboam) and Ahiyah's son Baesha because you've provoked Yahweh's anger and made Yisrael sin. **23** Also concerning Izevel, Yahweh says that the dogs will eat her body by Yizre'el's (Jezreel's) city wall.[108] **24** The bodies of any of your family who die in the city will be eaten by dogs, and any who die in the countryside will be eaten by birds."

25 Surely there was never anyone else as evil as Ahav who sold his soul by doing what Yahweh was said was wrong—albeit often incited by his wife Izevel (Jezebel). **26** He also behaved disgustingly by worshipping idols like the Amorim had done before Yahweh removed them from the land as the Israelis entered.

27 As soon as Ahav heard that message, he tore his clothes and dressed in sacking and fasted. He even slept in the sackcloth, and he walked around slowly with his head down.

28 Then Yahweh asked Eliyah (Elijah) (from Tishbeh), **29** "Have you noticed that Ahav has shown repentance towards me? Because he's humbled himself, I won't bring that disaster on his family while he's still alive, but rather I'll do it during his son's reign."

prophet Mikayah and King Ahav · Both kingdoms[109]

22:1 Then almost three years went by without war between Aram (Syria) and Yisrael (Israel), **2** but in the third year, Yehudah's (Judah's) King Yehoshafat (Jehoshaphat) went up north to visit Yisrael's king.

3 While they were talking, King Ahav said to his servants, "Do you know that Ramot-Gilead should be ours, but we haven't reclaimed it from Aram's king?" **4** Then he asked Yehoshafat, "Will you go to war with us to reclaim Ramot-Gilead?"

"You and me are together," Yehoshafat told Yisrael's king. "My people are your people, and my horses are your horses." **5** Then he added, "But let's ask Yahweh about it first."

6 So Yisrael's king gathered about four hundred prophets together and asked them, "Should I attack Ramot-Gilead, or not?"

"Go ahead, because our master[110] will give you victory," they answered.

7 But Yehoshafat asked, "Is there no prophet of Yahweh still around here that we can ask?"

108 RV 21:23 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 9:36.

109 RV 22:1 · Parallel 2 Chr. 18:2-27

110 RV 22:6 · Note Note that they don't mention 'Yahweh' here.

Readers' Version

8 "There's still one man who speaks for Yahweh," Ahav replied to Yehoshafat, "Yimla's son Mikayah, but I myself hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me—only negative things."

"The king shouldn't talk like that," said Yehoshafat.

9 So Yisrael's king ordered an official to fetch Yimla's son Mikayah straight away.

10 Now Yisrael's king Ahav and Yehudah's (Judah's) king Yehoshafat were both wearing their royal robes and sitting on thrones at a gate in Shomron's (Samaria's) city wall, and many prophets were speaking messages to them. **11** Kena'anah's son Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah) made some horns for himself out of iron and said, "Yahweh says that you'll gore Aram (Syria) with these until they're destroyed." **12** All the other prophets were prophesying similarly, saying things like, "Yes, attack Ramot-Gilead and be successful, and Yahweh will restore it back to you."

13 Meanwhile the messenger who had gone to call Mikayah told him, "Listen, please, all the other prophets agree together as they prophesy victory for the king. Please let your message be similar to theirs and be positive."

14 "As surely as Yahweh lives," Mikayah responded, "I'll only tell Ahav what Yahweh tells me to say."

15 When he got to King Ahav, the king asked him, "Mikayah, should we attack Ramot-Gilead, or not?"

"Go ahead and be successful," he replied, "and Yahweh will give it back to the king."

16 But looking at him, the king said to him, "How many times do I have to make you promise that you'll only tell the truth about me when you pass on Yahweh's messages?

17 "Well," he said, "I saw all Yisrael (Israel) scattered into the hills like sheep without a shepherd,[111] and Yahweh said that they have no leaders so they should all return peacefully to their homes."

18 "Ah," King Ahav told King Yehoshafat (Jehoshaphat), "Didn't I tell you that he wouldn't prophesy anything good about me—only bad news?"

19 But Mikayah continued, "Listen to Yahweh's message then: I saw Yahweh sitting on his throne, and all the heavenly army were standing at both sides of him.[112] **20** Then Yahweh asked who could deceive Ahav to attack Ramot-Gilead so that he'd get killed there. Some suggested one thing and others suggested something else. **21** Then a spirit came out and stood in front of Yahweh and offered to deceive the king, and Yahweh asked him how he intended to do it. **22** He replied that he'd go and be a false spirit so the kings prophets would tell lies, and Yahweh said that that would work and told him to go ahead and do it. **23** So now, listen, Yahweh has put a lying a spirit into all these prophets of yours, and Yahweh has declared disaster on you."

24 Then Tsidkiyah (Zedekiah) (Kena'anah's son) went over and slapped Mikayah on the face, and said, "Since when did Yahweh's spirit leave me and start speaking through you?"

25 "Listen here," Mikayah replied, "you'll find that out soon enough when you sneak into an inner room to try and hide."

26 King Ahav commanded, "Take Mikayah to Amon, the city commander, and to my son Yoash. **27** Tell them that the king orders them to imprison this man and limit his bread and water until I return safely."

28 "If you do return safely," Mikayah remarked, "then Yahweh hasn't spoken through me." And he added, "Take note all you people."

Ahav's death · Northern kingdom[113]

29 So Yisrael's (Israel's) King Ahav and Yehudah's (Judah's) King Yehoshafat (Jehoshaphat) left to go and attack Ramot-Gilead, **30** and Ahav told Yehoshafat, "I'll go into the battle incognito, but you can wear

111 RV 22:17 · Cross-ref. Num 27:17; Mat 9:36; Mrk 6:34.

112 RV 22:19 · Cross-ref. Yob 1:6; Isa 6:1.

113 RV 22:29 · Parallel 2 Chr. 18:28-34

Readers' Version

your royal robes." So Yisrael's king changed into ordinary clothes before heading into the battle.

31 Meanwhile, Aram's (Syria's) king had ordered his thirty-two chariot commanders, "Don't fight with the rank and file—only attack Yisrael's king." **32** As soon as the chariot commanders saw Yehudah's King Yehoshafat, they thought to themselves, "Surely that's Yisrael's king." So then they came over to attack him, but Yehoshafat yelled out, **33** and as soon as they realised that he wasn't the king of Yisrael, they stopped chasing him. **34** But one man casually shot an arrow with his and it struck Yisrael's king between the plates of his body armour, and he called to his chariot driver, "Turn around and get me out of the battle because I've been wounded."

35 The battle carried on all that day and King Ahav was propped up in his chariot opposite Aram, however he died that evening and the blood from his wound pooled into the bottom of his the chariot. **36** Then the call went through the battle lines just as the sun was going down, "Every man should abandon the battlefield and return to his home"

37 So King Ahav died and was taken back to Shomron (Samaria) where he was buried. **38** They washed out the chariot beside the pool in Shomron (where the prostitutes bathed themselves), and dogs licked up the blood, just as Yahweh had said would happen.

39 Everything else about Ahav and everything that he did, including the ivory palace and all the cities that he had built, is written in the book of the events of the kings of Yisrael. **40** Now that Ahav was dead, his son Ahazyah replaced him as king.

Yehoshafat's reign over Yehudah · Southern kingdom[114]

41 Asa's son Yehoshafat (Jehoshaphat) started his reign over Yehudah (Judah) when King Ahav had ruled Yisrael (Israel) for four years. **42** Yehoshafat was thirty-five when he became king and he reigned from Yerushalem (Jerusalem) for twenty-five years. (His mother was Shilhi's daughter Azuvah.) **43** He followed his father Asa in every way in doing what Yahweh wanted—he didn't veer away from it, except that they didn't demolish the hilltop temples so the people were still sacrificing and burning incense at those places. **44** Yehoshafat did make a peace treaty with Yisrael's king.

45 Everything else about Yehoshafat, including his great achievements and his battle record, is written in the book of the events of the kings of Yehudah, **46** and including how he banished the male prostitutes from the land who had remained from the time of his father Asa.

47 At that time, there was no king in Edom—a governor appointed by Yehoshafat ruled there.

48 Yehoshafat had trading ships made to go to Ofir for gold, but they didn't go because the ships got wrecked at Etsyon-Gever. **49** Ahav's son Ahazyah had said to Yehoshafat, "Let my servants go with your servants in the ships." But Yehoshafat hadn't accepted the offer.

50 Then Yehoshafat died and was buried with his ancestors in the City of his ancestor David, and his son Yehoram (Jehoram) replaced him as king.

Ahazyah's reign over Yisrael · Northern kingdom

51 Ahav's son Ahazyah began to reign over Yisrael (Israel) from Shomron (Samaria) in the seventeenth year of King Yehoshafat's (Jehoshaphat's) reign over Yehudah (Judah), and he reigned over Yisrael for two years. **52** He followed the behaviour of his father and mother and Nevat's son Yarov'am (Jeroboam), and did what Yahweh had said was evil—causing Yisrael to sin like they had. **53** He served Ba'al and bowed down to him, and he provoked Yisrael's god Yahweh to get angry, similarly to everything that his father had

114 RV 22:41 · Parallel 2 Chr. 20:31–21:1

Readers' Version

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