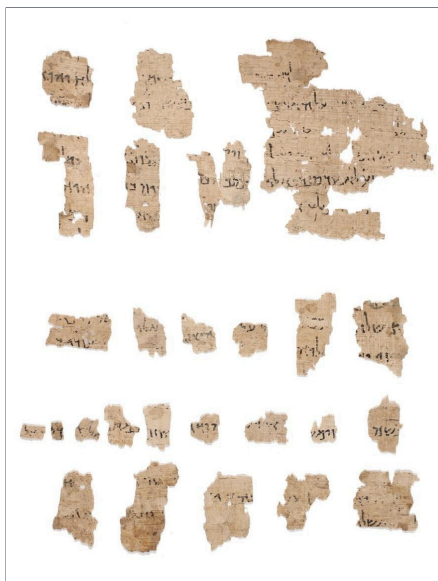


1 KINGS

The King Solomon Show

AUTHOR	The book does not name its author. Jewish tradition in the Talmud says Jeremiah wrote Kings. Many scholars think a writer during the exile put it together from older records the book names, like the Book of the Acts of Solomon, 11:41.
EVENTS TOOK PLACE	About 120 years, from David's last days to the death of Ahab and the start of his son Ahaziah's reign.
DATE	About 970 to 850 BC. Solomon reigned forty years, 11:42, and the kingdom split in two about 930 BC.
WRITTEN TO	God's people, most likely in exile, to show why the kingdoms fell: their kings turned away from God.
KEY VERSE	1 Kings 9:4 to 5. As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness, I will establish your royal throne.



ONE OF THE OLDEST COPIES OF KINGS

These pieces of papyrus, a kind of paper made from a tall water plant, come from 6QpapKings, a scroll of Kings found in Cave 6 at Qumran, near the Dead Sea. It was copied about 150 to 75 BC, more than a thousand years older than the oldest complete Hebrew Bibles, and it is one of the oldest copies of Kings known. Its pieces hold bits of 1 Kings 3, 12 and 22 and of 2 Kings 5 to 10.

Pieces of two more Kings scrolls were found at Qumran, in Caves 4 and 5. The old Greek Bible's Kings is different in places. It has extra passages in 1 Kings 2, 12 and 16, and it puts chapters 20 and 21 in the other order.

Photo Shai Halevi, Israel Antiquities Authority, Leon Levy Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library.

Historical Setting

1 Kings starts in Jerusalem, where Solomon builds the temple and rules a kingdom that reaches from the Euphrates River toward Egypt. After the split, Judah stays in the south with Jerusalem. Israel in the north rules from Shechem, then Tirzah, then the new city of Samaria. Elijah's story moves from Gilead to a brook, to Zarephath on the coast of Sidon, to Mount Carmel, to Jezreel, and all the way south to Mount Horeb.

What Was Going Wrong

A FIGHT FOR THE THRONE. Adonijah tried to make himself king before David died 1:5 to 10.

TOO MANY WIVES. Solomon's 700 wives turned his heart to other gods 11:1 to 4.

CHILD SACRIFICE. Solomon built a high place for Molech, the god whose worship burned children 11:7. Hiel rebuilt Jericho at the cost of his oldest and youngest sons. Many think he sacrificed them; others think Joshua's curse struck them 16:34.

A HARSH KING. Rehoboam promised an even heavier yoke, and ten tribes walked away 12:14 to 16.

GOLDEN CALVES. Jeroboam set up calves at Bethel and Dan so his people would not go to Jerusalem 12:28 to 30.

KINGS KILLING KINGS. Baasha, Zimri and Omri all took the throne by force 15:27, 16:9 to 10, 16:16 to 18.

BAAL AND JEZEBEL. Ahab married Jezebel, built a temple for Baal, and she killed the prophets of Yahweh 16:31 to 32, 18:4.

MURDER FOR A VINEYARD. Jezebel had Naboth stoned so Ahab could take his land 21:8 to 16.

The Idiot Proof Summary

1 Kings is the story of the wisest king who ever lived and how he fell. David is old, and Solomon takes the throne. God offers Solomon anything, and he asks for wisdom. He builds the temple, and God's glory fills it. Kings and queens come to hear him, and gold pours in. But Solomon's many wives turn his heart to other gods. After he dies, the kingdom splits in two: Israel in the north, Judah in the south. Israel's kings get worse and worse, until Ahab and Jezebel make Baal the national god. Then a prophet named Elijah shows up. He stops the rain, calls down fire on Mount Carmel, runs for his life, and hears God in a whisper. Near the end of the book, Ahab dies in battle, just as God's prophets said.

1 Kings at a Glance

CH 1 to 2	SOLOMON TAKES THE THRONE David's last days and a new king.
CH 3 to 4	WISDOM FROM HEAVEN Solomon asks for an understanding heart.
CH 5 to 8	THE TEMPLE Built, filled with glory and dedicated.
CH 9 to 11	GLORY AND FALL Gold, Sheba, and a heart turned away.
CH 12 to 16	THE KINGDOM SPLITS Two kingdoms and a parade of kings.
CH 17 to 22	ELIJAH AND AHAB Fire from heaven and a stolen vineyard.

Where Jesus Shows Up

1 KINGS 10:1 TO 10 The queen of Sheba came from far away to hear Solomon's wisdom. Jesus said, One greater than Solomon is here, Matthew 12:42.

1 KINGS 8:10 TO 11 God's glory filled the temple. John says the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, John 1:14. Jesus called His body a temple, John 2:19 to 21.

1 KINGS 17:8 TO 24 Elijah fed a widow and raised her son. Jesus pointed to this widow, Luke 4:25 to 26, and raised a widow's only son at Nain, Luke 7:11 to 17.

GOD'S NAMES IN 1 KINGS

Yahweh, again and again, Yahweh of Hosts, 18:15, and Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, 18:36. On Carmel the people shout, Yahweh, He is God! 18:39. See Why We Say Yahweh in the Old Testament Introduction.

What to Watch for in 1 Kings

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW	2:35
PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE	2:27, 3:12-13, 4:21, 4:24-25, 4:30-31, 6:14, 8:29 and 34 more
THE HEART	3:9, 8:39, 8:61, 9:4, 10:24, 11:4, 11:9 and 2 more
ARCHAEOLOGY	9:15, 11:40, 12:29, 14:25-26, 16:16, 16:28-29, 19:15-16 and 1 more
MIRACLES	3:5-8, 3:10-11, 3:14, 8:10-11, 9:2-3, 13:4, 13:6 and 10 more
DEMONIC	9:6, 9:9, 11:2-3, 11:5-8, 11:10, 11:33, 13:32-34 and 15 more
NOTABLE	1:39, 8:27
GOD SPEAKING	Words in red are God speaking. Only the words He actually said are red.
BLOODLINE OF CHRIST	Names underlined in red are in the family line of Jesus.

Cool Stuff Most People Miss

1, 2, 3 AND 4 KINGS

In old Greek and Latin Bibles, 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings were counted as four books of Kingdoms or Kings, because they tell one long story. That makes this book the Third Book of the Kings. The old Greek Bible named it 3 Kingdoms, and Latin Bibles named it 3 Kings. The King James calls it The First Book of the Kings, commonly called The Third Book of the Kings.

AHAB IN STONE

An Assyrian king's stone names Ahab the Israelite and his 2,000 chariots. See the Kurkh Monolith page.

FIRE ON CARMEL

Elijah soaked his altar with water, and fire from heaven burned it all up, 18:38.

How Did It Turn Out?

The kingdom ended split in two, and Ahab died just as Elijah said. Next comes 2 Kings, where Elijah goes up in a whirlwind and both kingdoms fall.

BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

1

CHAPTER 1 IN 30 SECONDS

King David is old and cold, and his son Adonijah throws himself a party and says, I will be king. Nathan the prophet and Bathsheba hurry to remind David of his promise. David says, Solomon will be king, today. Trumpets blow, the people shout, and Adonijah's party guests suddenly remember they have other plans.

ABISHAG CARES FOR DAVID

¹ Now King David was old and well along in years, and though they covered him with blankets, he could not keep warm. ² So his servants said to him, "Let us search for a young virgin for our lord the king, to attend to him and care for him and lie by his side to keep him warm."

³ Then they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful girl, and they found Abishag the Shunammite and brought her to the king. ⁴ The girl was unsurpassed in beauty; she cared for the king and served him, but he had no relations with her.

ADONIJAH USURPS THE KINGDOM

⁵ At that time Adonijah, David's son by Haggith, began to exalt himself, saying, "I will be king!" And he acquired chariots and horsemen and fifty men to run ahead of him.

⁶ (His father had never once reprimanded him by saying, "Why do you act this way?" Adonijah was also very handsome, born next after Absalom.)

⁷ So Adonijah conferred with Joab son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest, who supported him. ⁸ But Zadok the priest, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei, Rei, and David's mighty men would not join Adonijah.

⁹ And Adonijah sacrificed sheep, oxen, and fattened calves near the stone of Zoheleth, which is next to En-rogel. He invited all his royal brothers and all the men of Judah who were servants of the king.

¹⁰ But he did not invite Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, the mighty men, or his brother Solomon.

NATHAN AND BATHSHEBA BEFORE DAVID

¹¹ Then Nathan said to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, "Have you not heard that Adonijah son of Haggith has become king, and our lord David does not know it?"

¹² Now please, come and let me advise you. Save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. ¹³ Go at once to King David and say, 'My lord the king, did you not swear to your maidservant, "Surely your son Solomon will reign after me, and he will sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?' ¹⁴ Then, while you are still there speaking with the king, I will come in after you and confirm your words."

¹⁵ So Bathsheba went to see the king in his bedroom. Since the king was very old, Abishag the Shunammite was serving him.

¹⁶ And Bathsheba bowed down in homage to the king, who asked, "What is your desire?"

¹⁷ "My lord," she replied, "you yourself swore to your maidservant by Yahweh your God: 'Surely your son Solomon will reign after me, and he will sit on my throne.' ¹⁸ But now, behold, Adonijah has become king, and you, my lord the king, do not know it. ¹⁹ And he has sacrificed an abundance of oxen, fattened calves, and sheep, and has invited all the other sons of the king, as well as Abiathar the priest and Joab the commander of the army. But he has not invited your servant Solomon."

²⁰ And as for you, my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are upon you to tell them who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. ²¹ Otherwise, when my lord the king rests with his fathers, I and my son Solomon will be counted as criminals."

²² And just then, while Bathsheba was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet arrived. ²³ So the king was told, "Nathan the prophet is here." And Nathan went in and bowed facedown before the king.

■ **1KI 1:1 [NOTE]** THIRD BOOK OF THE KINGS. 1 and 2 Kings were once one book. 1 Kings picks up near the end of David's life, about 970 BC.

■ **1KI 1:5 [NOTE]** ADONIJAH was David's fourth son, born after Absalom, 2 Samuel 3:4. His older brothers Amnon and Absalom were dead, and Kileab is never heard of again, so he thought the throne was his.

NOTABLE BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

²⁴ "My lord the king," said Nathan, "did you say, 'Adonijah will reign after me, and he will sit on my throne'? ²⁵ For today he has gone down and sacrificed an abundance of oxen, fattened calves, and sheep, and has invited all the sons of the king, the commanders of the army, and Abiathar the priest. And behold, they are eating and drinking before him, saying, 'Long live King Adonijah!' ²⁶ But me your servant he has not invited, nor Zadok the priest, nor Benaiah son of Jehoiada, nor your servant Solomon. ²⁷ Has my lord the king let this happen without informing your servant who should sit on the throne after my lord the king?"

DAVID RENEWS HIS OATH TO BATHSHEBA

²⁸ Then King David said, "Call in Bathsheba for me." So she came into the king's presence and stood before him.

²⁹ And the king swore an oath, saying, "As surely as Yahweh lives, who has re-deemed my life from all distress, ³⁰ I will carry out this very day exactly what I swore to you by Yahweh, the God of Israel: Surely your son Solomon will reign after me, and he will sit on my throne in my place."

³¹ Bathsheba bowed facedown in homage to the king and said, "May my lord King David live forever!"

SOLOMON ANOINTED KING // 1 CHRONICLES 29:21-25

³² Then King David said, "Call in for me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada." So they came before the king.

³³ "Take my servants with you," said the king. "Set my son Solomon on my own mule and take him down to Gihon. ³⁴ There Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet are to anoint him king over Israel. You are to blow the ram's horn and declare, 'Long live King Solomon!' ³⁵ Then you shall go up with him, and he is to come and sit on my throne and reign in my place. For I have appointed him ruler over Israel and Judah."

³⁶ "Amen," replied Benaiah son of Jehoiada. "May Yahweh, the God of my lord

the king, so declare it. ³⁷ Just as Yahweh was with my lord the king, so may He be with Solomon and make his throne even greater than that of my lord King David."

³⁸ Then Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada, along with the Cherethites and Pelethites, went down and set Solomon on King David's mule, and they escorted him to Gihon. ³⁹ Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the ram's horn, and all the people proclaimed, "Long live King Solomon!"

⁴⁰ All the people followed him, playing flutes and rejoicing with such a great joy that the earth was split by the sound.

ADONIJAH LEARNS OF SOLOMON'S KINGSHIP

⁴¹ Now Adonijah and all his guests were finishing their feast when they heard the sound of the ram's horn. "Why is the city in such a loud uproar?" asked Joab.

⁴² As he was speaking, suddenly Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest arrived. "Come in," said Adonijah, "for you are a man of valor. You must be bringing good news."

⁴³ "Not at all," Jonathan replied. "Our lord King David has made Solomon king. ⁴⁴ And with Solomon, the king has sent Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada, along with the Cherethites and Pelethites, and they have set him on the king's mule. ⁴⁵ Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king at Gihon, and they have gone up from there with rejoicing that rings out in the city. That is the noise you hear.

⁴⁶ Moreover, Solomon has taken his seat on the royal throne.

⁴⁷ The king's servants have also gone to congratulate our lord King David, saying, 'May your God make the name of Solomon more famous than your own name, and may He make his throne greater than your throne.'

1KI 1:39 [NOTABLE] Solomon's anointing establishes him as David's successor and stops Adonijah's coup

GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

And the king has bowed in worship on his bed, ⁴⁸saying, 'Blessed be Yahweh, the God of Israel! Today He has provided one to sit on my throne, and my eyes have seen it.'"

⁴⁹At this, all the guests of Adonijah arose in terror and scattered. ⁵⁰But Adonijah, in fear of Solomon, got up and went to take hold of the horns of the altar.

⁵¹It was reported to Solomon: "Behold, Adonijah fears King Solomon, and he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, 'Let King Solomon first swear to me not to put his servant to the sword.'"

⁵²And Solomon replied, "If he is a man of character, not a single hair of his will fall to the ground. But if evil is found in him, he will die."

⁵³So King Solomon summoned Adonijah down from the altar, and he came and bowed down before King Solomon, who said to him, "Go to your home."

2

CHAPTER 2 IN 30 SECONDS

David gives Solomon his last advice: be strong, keep God's law, and deal with a few old enemies. Then David dies. Adonijah asks to marry David's last companion, Abishag, and Solomon sees it as a grab for the throne. Adonijah, Joab and Shimei are put to death, and the kingdom is firmly in Solomon's hands.

DAVID INSTRUCTS SOLOMON // PSALM 37:1–40

¹As the time drew near for David to die, he charged his son Solomon, ²"I am about to go the way of all the earth. So be strong and prove yourself a man. ³And keep the charge of Yahweh your God to walk in His ways and to keep His statutes, commandments, ordinances, and decrees, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you turn, ⁴and so that Yahweh may fulfill His promise to me: 'If your descendants take heed to walk faithfully before Me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'

⁵Moreover, you know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me—what he did to Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether, the

two commanders of the armies of Israel. He killed them in peacetime to avenge the blood of war. He stained with the blood of war the belt around his waist and the sandals on his feet. ⁶So act according to your wisdom, and do not let his gray head go down to Sheol in peace.

⁷But show loving devotion to the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table, because they stood by me when I fled from your brother Absalom.

⁸Keep an eye on Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahurim who is with you. He called down bitter curses against me on the day I went to Mahanaim, but when he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by Yahweh: 'I will never put you to the sword.' ⁹Now therefore, do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man. You know what you ought to do to him to bring his gray head down to Sheol in blood."

DAVID'S REIGN AND DEATH // 1 CHRONICLES

29:26–30

¹⁰Then David rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David. ¹¹The length of David's reign over Israel was forty years—seven years in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem.

¹²So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his kingdom was firmly established.

THE EXECUTION OF ADONIJAH

¹³Now Adonijah son of Haggith went to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, and she asked, "Do you come in peace?"

"Yes, in peace," he replied. ¹⁴Then he said, "I have something to tell you."

"Say it," she answered.

¹⁵"You know that the kingship was mine," he said. "All Israel expected that I should reign, but the kingship has turned to my brother, for it has come to him from Yahweh. ¹⁶So now I have just one request of you; do not deny me."

"State your request," she told him.

■ 1KI 2:5 [NOTE] JOAB killed Abner and Amasa during times of peace, 2 Samuel 3:27 and 20:10. David never punished him, and he left it to Solomon.

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

¹⁷ Adonijah replied, "Please speak to King Solomon, since he will not turn you down. Let him give me Abishag the Shunammite as my wife."

¹⁸ "Very well," Bathsheba replied. "I will speak to the king for you."

¹⁹ So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him for Adonijah. The king stood up to greet her, bowed to her, and sat down on his throne. Then the king had a throne brought for his mother, who sat down at his right hand.

²⁰ "I have just one small request of you," she said. "Do not deny me."

"Make your request, my mother," the king replied, "for I will not deny you."

²¹ So Bathsheba said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to your brother Adonijah as his wife."

²² King Solomon answered his mother, "Why do you request Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Since he is my older brother, you might as well request the kingdom for him and for Abiathar the priest and for Joab son of Zeruiah!"

²³ Then King Solomon swore by Yahweh: "May God punish me, and ever so severely, if Adonijah has not made this request at the expense of his life. ²⁴ And now, as surely as Yahweh lives—the One who established me, who set me on the throne of my father David, and who founded for me a dynasty as He promised—surely Adonijah shall be put to death today!"

²⁵ So King Solomon gave orders to Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and he struck down Adonijah and he died.

²⁶ Then the king said to Abiathar the priest, "Go back to your fields in Anathoth. Even though you deserve to die, I will not put you to death at this time, since you carried the ark of the Lord Yahweh before my father David, and you suffered through all that my father suffered." ²⁷ So Solomon banished Abiathar from the priesthood of Yahweh and thus fulfilled the word that Yahweh had spoken at Shiloh against the house of Eli.

THE EXECUTION OF JOAB

²⁸ When the news reached Joab, who had conspired with Adonijah but not with Absalom, he fled to the tent of Yahweh and took hold of the horns of the altar.

²⁹ It was reported to King Solomon: "Joab has fled to the tent of Yahweh and is now beside the altar."

So Solomon sent Benaiah son of Jehoiada, saying, "Go, strike him down!"

³⁰ And Benaiah entered the tent of Yahweh and said to Joab, "The king says, 'Come out!'"

But Joab replied, "No, I will die here."

So Benaiah relayed the message to the king, saying, "This is how Joab answered me."

³¹ And the king replied, "Do just as he says. Strike him down and bury him, and so remove from me and from the house of my father the innocent blood that Joab shed. ³² Yahweh will bring his bloodshed back upon his own head, for without the knowledge of my father David he struck down two men more righteous and better than he when he put to the sword Abner son of Ner, commander of Israel's army, and Amasa son of Jether, commander of Judah's army. ³³ Their blood will come back upon the heads of Joab and his descendants forever; but for David, his descendants, his house, and his throne, there shall be peace from Yahweh forever."

³⁴ So Benaiah son of Jehoiada went up, struck down Joab, and killed him. He was buried at his own home in the wilderness.

³⁵ And the king appointed Benaiah son of Jehoiada in Joab's place over the army, and he appointed Zadok the priest in Abiathar's place.

THE EXECUTION OF SHIMEI

³⁶ Then the king summoned Shimei and said to him, "Build a house for yourself in Jerusalem and live there, but do not go anywhere else. ³⁷ On the day you go out

1KI 2:27 [FULFILLS] Eli's family line would be cut off and lose its strength ← ISA 2:31-33 p.~

1KI 2:35 [FULFILLS] A faithful and lasting High Priest would arise ← ISA 2:35 · MEDIUM p.~

THE HEART MIRACLES GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

and cross the Kidron Valley, know for sure that you will die; your blood will be on your own head."

³⁸ "The sentence is fair," Shimei replied. "Your servant will do as my lord the king has spoken." And Shimei lived in Jerusalem for a long time.

³⁹ After three years, however, two of Shimei's slaves ran away to Achish son of Maacah, king of Gath. And Shimei was told, "Look, your slaves are in Gath."

⁴⁰ So Shimei saddled his donkey and set out to Achish at Gath in search of his slaves, and he brought them back from Gath.

⁴¹ When Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and had returned, ⁴² the king summoned Shimei and said to him, "Did I not make you swear by Yahweh and warn you, 'On the day you leave and go elsewhere, know for sure that you will die'? And you told me, 'The sentence is fair; I will comply.' ⁴³ So why have you not kept your oath to Yahweh and the command that I gave you?"

⁴⁴ The king also said, "You know in your heart all the evil that you did to my father David. Therefore Yahweh will bring your evil back upon your head. ⁴⁵ But King Solomon will be blessed and David's throne will remain secure before Yahweh forever."

⁴⁶ Then the king commanded Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and he went out and struck Shimei down, and he died. Thus the kingdom was firmly established in the hand of Solomon.

3

CHAPTER 3 IN 30 SECONDS

God appears to Solomon in a dream and says, Ask for anything. Solomon asks for an understanding heart to lead God's people. God is so pleased He throws in riches and honor too. Then two women fight over one baby, and Solomon calls for a sword. The real mother is the one who would rather give her baby away than see him hurt.

SOLOMON'S PRAYER FOR WISDOM // 2 CHRONICLES 1:1-13; PSALM 45:1-17; PSALM 72:1-20

¹ Later, Solomon formed an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt by marrying his daughter. Solomon brought her to the City of David until he had finished building his palace and the house of Yahweh, as well as the wall around Jerusalem.

² The people, however, were still sacrificing on the high places because a house for the Name of Yahweh had not yet been built. ³ And Solomon loved Yahweh and walked in the statutes of his father David, except that he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

⁴ Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for it was the great high place. Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on the altar there.

⁵ One night at Gibeon Yahweh appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "Ask, and I will give it to you!"

⁶ Solomon replied, "You have shown much loving devotion to Your servant, my father David, because he walked before You in faithfulness, righteousness, and uprightness of heart. And You have maintained this loving devotion by giving him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

⁷ And now, O Yahweh my God, You have made Your servant king in my father David's place. But I am only a little child, not knowing how to go out or come in. ⁸ Your servant is here among the people You have chosen, a people too numerous to count or number.

⁹ Therefore give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people and to discern between good and evil. For who is able to govern this great people of Yours?"

¹⁰ Now it pleased the Lord that Solomon had made this request. ¹¹ So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this in-

■ **1KI 3:5 [MIRACLE]** God appears to Solomon in a dream at Gibeon

■ **1KI 3:9 [HEART]** Solomon asked God for an understanding heart to judge the people.

■ **1KI 3:9 [NOTABLE]** God said Ask, and Solomon could have asked for money, long life or the death of his enemies. He asked for wisdom to serve people well. God liked that prayer so much He gave him the rest too.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE MIRACLES GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

stead of requesting long life or wealth for yourself or death for your enemies—but you have asked for discernment to administer justice—¹² behold, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been another like you, nor will there ever be.

¹³ Moreover, I will give you what you did not request—both riches and honor—so that during all your days no man in any kingdom will be your equal. ¹⁴ So if you walk in My ways and keep My statutes and commandments, just as your father David did, I will prolong your days.”

¹⁵ Then Solomon awoke, and indeed it had been a dream. So he returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. Then he held a feast for all his servants.

SOLOMON JUDGES WISELY

¹⁶ At that time two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him.

¹⁷ One woman said, “Please, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house, and I gave birth while she was in the house. ¹⁸ On the third day after I gave birth, this woman also had a baby. We were alone, with no one in the house but the two of us. ¹⁹ During the night this woman’s son died because she rolled over on him. ²⁰ So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I was asleep. She laid him in her bosom and put her dead son at my bosom. ²¹ The next morning, when I got up to nurse my son, I discovered he was dead. But when I examined him, I realized that he was not the son I had borne.”

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

But the first woman insisted, “No, the dead one is yours and the living one is mine.” So they argued before the king.

²³ Then the king replied, “This woman says, ‘My son is alive and yours is dead,’ but that woman says, ‘No, your son is dead and mine is alive.’”

²⁴ The king continued, “Bring me a sword.” So they brought him a sword, ²⁵ and the king declared, “Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other.”

²⁶ Then the woman whose son was alive spoke to the king because she yearned with compassion for her son. “Please, my lord,” she said, “give her the living baby. Do not kill him!”

But the other woman said, “He will be neither mine nor yours. Cut him in two!”

²⁷ Then the king gave his ruling: “Give the living baby to the first woman. By no means should you kill him; she is his mother.”

²⁸ When all Israel heard of the judgment the king had given, they stood in awe of him, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.

4

CHAPTER 4 IN 30 SECONDS

Solomon’s officials, his twelve district governors, and his daily grocery list, which is huge. Judah and Israel are as many as the sand by the sea, eating, drinking and happy. Solomon’s wisdom is greater than all the wise men of the east, and he speaks 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs.

SOLOMON’S PRINCES

¹ So King Solomon ruled over Israel, ² and these were his chief officials:

Azariah son of Zadok was the priest;

³ Elihoreph and Ahijah, the sons of Shisha, were secretaries;

Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was the recorder;

⁴ Benaiah son of Jehoiada was in charge of the army;

Zadok and Abiathar were priests;

⁵ Azariah son of Nathan was in charge of the governors;

■ **1KI 3:12 [PROPHECY]** God promised Solomon unmatched wisdom plus riches and honor → 1KI 4:30–31; 1KI 10:23 p. ~

■ **1KI 3:12 [HEART]** God gave Solomon what he asked for: a wise and discerning heart, like no one before or after him.

■ **1KI 3:16 [NOTE]** TWO PROSTITUTES. Even the poorest and most looked down on people could bring their case to the king, and Solomon gave them justice.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

Zabud son of Nathan was a priest and adviser to the king;

⁶ Ahishar was in charge of the palace; and Adoniram son of Abda was in charge of the forced labor.

SOLOMON'S TWELVE OFFICERS

⁷ Solomon had twelve governors over all Israel to provide food for the king and his household. Each one would arrange provisions for one month of the year, ⁸ and these were their names:

Ben-hur in the hill country of Ephraim;

⁹ Ben-deker in Makaz, in Shaalbim, in Beth-shemesh, and in Elon-beth-hanan;

¹⁰ Ben-hesed in Arubboth (Socoh and all the land of Hepher belonged to him);

¹¹ Ben-abinadab in Naphath-dor (Taphath, a daughter of Solomon, was his wife);

¹² Baana son of Ahilud in Taanach, in Megiddo, and in all of Beth-shean next to Zarethan below Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah and on past Jokmeam;

¹³ Ben-geber in Ramoth-gilead (the villages of Jair son of Manasseh in Gilead belonged to him, as well as the region of Argob in Bashan with its sixty great cities with walls and bronze bars);

¹⁴ Ahinadab son of Iddo in Mahanaim;

¹⁵ Ahimaaz in Naphtali (he had married Basemath, a daughter of Solomon);

¹⁶ Baana son of Hushai in Asher and in Aloth;

¹⁷ Jehoshaphat son of Paruah in Issachar;

¹⁸ Shimei son of Ela in Benjamin;

¹⁹ Geber son of Uri in the land of Gilead, including the territories of Sihon king of the Amorites and of Og king of Bashan.

There was also one governor in the land of Judah.

SOLOMON'S PROSPERITY

²⁰ The people of Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand on the seashore, and they were eating and drinking and rejoicing. ²¹ And Solomon reigned over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border

of Egypt. These kingdoms offered tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.

²² Solomon's provisions for a single day were 180 bushels of fine flour, 360 bushels of meal, ²³ ten fat oxen, twenty range oxen, and a hundred sheep, as well as deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fattened poultry. ²⁴ For Solomon had dominion over everything west of the Euphrates—over all the kingdoms from Tiphshah to Gaza—and he had peace on all sides. ²⁵ Throughout the days of Solomon, Judah and Israel dwelt securely from Dan to Beersheba, each man under his own vine and his own fig tree.

²⁶ Solomon had 4,000 stalls for his chariot horses and 12,000 horses. ²⁷ Each month the governors in turn provided food for King Solomon and all who came to his table. They saw to it that nothing was lacking. ²⁸ Each one also brought to the required place their quotas of barley and straw for the chariot horses and other horses.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

SOLOMON'S KINGDOM

How Big Was It?

1 KINGS 4:20 TO 34 • 9:15 TO 28 • 10:14 TO 29 • GENESIS 15:18 • 2 CHRONICLES 9:26

FROM THE EUPHRATES TO EGYPT

Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates River to the land of the Philistines and the border of Egypt, 4:21. That is the land God promised Abraham, Genesis 15:18.

WHAT IT MEANS

Most scholars read this as a ring of smaller kingdoms that paid Solomon tribute, not land Israel lived on. Israel it-

■ **1KI 4:21 [FULFILLS]** The land from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates would belong to Abraham's descendants ← GEN 15:18 p. 7

■ **1KI 4:21 [NOTE]** FROM THE EUPHRATES TO EGYPT. This matches the land God promised Abraham, Genesis 15:18. How big Solomon's kingdom really was is debated. See the Big Question pages Solomon's Kingdom.

■ **1KI 4:24 [FULFILLS]** David would have a son named Solomon, a man of peace who would build God's house ← 1CH 22:9-10 p. 7

■ **1KI 4:26 [TEXT]** 4,000 OR 40,000? The standard Hebrew text says 40,000 stalls. Some Greek copies and 2 Chronicles 9:25 say 4,000, and this Bible follows them.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

self was still from Dan to Beersheba, 4:25.

THE RICHES

About 25 tons of gold a year, 10:14, plus gold from Ophir and gifts from Sheba, 9:28 and 10:10. Ships that came every three years with gold, silver, ivory, apes and peacocks, 10:22. Horses and chariots bought from Egypt and Kue, 10:28 to 29.

THE BUILDING

The temple, Solomon's palace, the House of the Forest of Lebanon, the wall of Jerusalem, and the cities of Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer, 9:15.

THE QUESTION

Was Solomon's kingdom really this big and rich? What do the diggers say?

WHY IT IS DEBATED

No writing from outside the Bible names Solomon. And the dates of buildings from his time are argued over by 50 to 100 years, which makes a big difference.

Every View

1 KINGS 9:15 · 10:1 TO 13 · 11:14 TO 25 · 2 SAMUEL 8

VIEW 1: A REAL KINGDOM, AS DESCRIBED

Many scholars, like Amihai Mazar and William Dever, think the gates of Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer, the big walls at Khirbet Qeiyafa and the big buildings in Jerusalem show a real kingdom with a strong king in the 900s BC. The finds fit the Bible's picture of a kingdom ruled from Jerusalem.

VIEW 2: SMALLER THAN IT SOUNDS

Some say Solomon was a real king, but his kingdom was smaller and poorer than later readers imagined. The words of 4:21 may describe a time of tribute from neighbors, not a big empire with an army in every land.

VIEW 3: A LOCAL CHIEFDOM

Israel Finkelstein and others in the low chronology school redate many big buildings to about 50 to 100 years later, the time of Omri and Ahab. They think Solomon's Jerusalem was a small hill town, and the golden age stories grew bigger later.

WHAT THE DIG SAYS SO FAR

Carbon dating at many sites has narrowed the debate. Many now place the

six room gate at Gezer in the 900s BC. Khirbet Qeiyafa, a fortified town from about 1000 BC that many think was Judean, surprised many skeptics. The debate is not over.

WHY SILENCE IS NOT PROOF

Egypt and Assyria were weak in Solomon's day, so there were no great empires writing about their neighbors. Very little writing from that whole region in the 900s BC has survived at all.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

A kingdom called the House of David existed by the 800s BC, Tel Dan Stele. Israel had a royal family, a capital in Jerusalem and a temple. The size of Solomon's power is the question, not whether there was a kingdom.

SOLOMON'S WISDOM

²⁹ And God gave Solomon wisdom, exceedingly deep insight, and largeness of heart, like the sand on the seashore. ³⁰ Solomon's wisdom was greater than that of all the men of the East, greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. ³¹ He was wiser than all men—wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and wiser than Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread throughout the surrounding nations.

³² Solomon composed three thousand proverbs, and his songs numbered a thousand and five. ³³ He spoke of trees, from the cedar in Lebanon to the hyssop growing in the wall, and he taught about animals, birds, reptiles, and fish.

³⁴ So men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.

5

CHAPTER 5 IN 30 SECONDS

Hiram king of Tyre was always David's friend, so Solomon asks him for cedar logs from Lebanon. Hiram floats them down the coast on rafts. Solomon pays in wheat and olive oil and drafts tens of thousands of workers to cut stone for the temple.

■ 1KI 4:30 [FULFILLS] God promised Solomon unmatched wisdom plus riches and honor ← 1KI 3:12-13 p.-

GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

PREPARATIONS FOR THE TEMPLE // 2 CHRONICLES 2:1-10

¹Now when Hiram king of Tyre heard that Solomon had been anointed king in his father's place, he sent envoys to Solomon for Hiram had always been a friend of David.

²And Solomon relayed this message to Hiram:

³"As you are well aware, due to the wars waged on all sides against my father David, he could not build a house for the Name of Yahweh his God until Yahweh had put his enemies under his feet. ⁴But now Yahweh my God has given me rest on every side, and there is no adversary or crisis.

⁵So behold, I plan to build a house for the Name of Yahweh my God, according to what Yahweh said to my father David: 'I will put your son on your throne in your place, and he will build the house for My Name.'

⁶Now therefore, order that cedars of Lebanon be cut down for me. My servants will be with your servants, and I will pay your servants whatever wages you set, for you know that there are none among us as skilled in logging as the Sidonians."

HIRAM'S REPLY TO SOLOMON // 2 CHRONICLES 2:11-18

⁷When Hiram received Solomon's message, he rejoiced greatly and said, "Blessed be Yahweh this day! He has given David a wise son over this great people!" ⁸Then Hiram sent a reply to Solomon, saying:

"I have received your message; I will do all you desire regarding the cedar and cypress timber. ⁹My servants will haul the logs from Lebanon to the Sea, and I will float them as rafts by sea to the place you specify. There I will separate the logs, and you can take them away. And in exchange, you can meet my needs by providing my household with food."

¹⁰ So Hiram provided Solomon with all the cedar and cypress timber he wanted, ¹¹ and year after year Solomon would pro-

vide Hiram with 120,000 bushels of wheat as food for his household, as well as 110,000 gallons of pure olive oil.

¹² And Yahweh gave Solomon wisdom, as He had promised him. There was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty.

SOLOMON'S LABOR FORCE

¹³ Then King Solomon conscripted a labor force of 30,000 men from all Israel. ¹⁴ He sent them to Lebanon in monthly shifts of 10,000 men, so that they would spend one month in Lebanon and two months at home. And Adoniram was in charge of the forced labor.

¹⁵ Solomon had 70,000 porters and 80,000 stonecutters in the mountains, ¹⁶ not including his 3,300 foremen who supervised the workers.

¹⁷ And the king commanded them to quarry large, costly stones to lay the foundation of the temple with dressed stones. ¹⁸ So Solomon's and Hiram's builders, along with the Gebalites, quarried the stone and prepared the timber and stone for the construction of the temple.

6

CHAPTER 6 IN 30 SECONDS

Solomon builds the temple, starting 480 years after the Exodus. The stones are cut at the quarry, so no hammer is heard at the building site. Inside it is all cedar and gold, with two giant cherubim in the Most Holy Place. Seven years later it is finished.

TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS // 2 CHRONICLES 3:1-2

¹In the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, the second month, he began to build the house of Yahweh.

■ **1KI 5:11 [TEXT]** HOW MUCH OIL? The standard Hebrew text says about 1,100 gallons of oil. The Greek and 2 Chronicles 2:10 say about 110,000 gallons, and this Bible follows them.

■ **1KI 5:16 [TEXT]** 3,300 OR 3,600? 2 Chronicles 2:18 says 3,600 foremen. But add the 550 chief officers in 9:23, and Kings has 3,850 in all. Chronicles has 3,600 plus 250 in 2 Chronicles 8:10, also 3,850. The two books count the same men in different groups.

BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

² The house that King Solomon built for Yahweh was 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high. ³ The portico at the front of the main hall of the temple was 30 feet long, extending across the width of the temple and projecting out 15 feet in front of the temple.

⁴ He also had narrow windows framed high in the temple.

THE CHAMBERS

⁵ Against the walls of the temple and the inner sanctuary, Solomon built a chambered structure around the temple, in which he constructed the side rooms. ⁶ The bottom floor was 7½ feet wide, the middle floor 9 feet, and the third floor 10½ feet. He also placed offset ledges around the outside of the temple, so that nothing would be inserted into its walls.

⁷ The temple was constructed using finished stones cut at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any other iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built.

⁸ The entrance to the bottom floor was on the south side of the temple. A stairway led up to the middle level, and from there to the third floor.

⁹ So Solomon built the temple and finished it, roofing it with beams and planks of cedar. ¹⁰ He built chambers all along the temple, each 7½ feet high and attached to the temple with beams of cedar.

■ **1KI 6:1 [NOTE]** 480 YEARS. Counting back from Solomon's fourth year, about 966 BC, puts the Exodus about 1446 BC. Many scholars date the Exodus about 1270 BC instead and read 480 as twelve generations of forty years. See the Big Question pages Who Wrote Kings?

■ **1KI 6:2 [FIELD NOTES]** A temple with the same three room plan was found at Ain Dara in Syria. See the Solomon's Temple and Ain Dara Field Notes page and the Big Question pages The Temple.

■ **1KI 6:7 [NOTE]** NO HAMMER. The stones were cut and shaped at the quarry, so the building site stayed quiet. Many see a picture of God's quiet work in His people, 1 Peter 2:5.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: MEDIUM

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE AND AIN DARA

1 KINGS 6:1 TO 38 · 7:13 TO 51 · 2 CHRONICLES 3 TO 4 · EZEKIEL 40 TO 42



Giant footprints carved into the doorway of the Ain Dara temple in Syria, photographed before the temple was damaged in 2018. Photo Verity Cridland, CC BY 2.0.

WHAT IT IS

No stone of Solomon's temple has ever been found. It stood on the Temple Mount, where nobody is allowed to dig. But a temple found at Ain Dara in northern Syria has almost the same floor plan, so scholars use it to picture what Solomon built.

HOW OLD IT IS

The Ain Dara temple was first built about 1300 BC and was rebuilt and used until about 740 BC. So it was standing in Solomon's day, about 960 BC.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

A huge stone lion was found by chance in 1955. Feisal Seirafi dug there in the 1950s and 1960s, and Ali Abu Assaf uncovered the temple from 1980 to 1985. In 2018 bombs badly damaged it during the war in Syria.

THE SAME PLAN

Both temples had three rooms in a row: a porch, a main hall, and an inner room for the god. Both stood on a raised platform with two pillars at the front, like Jachin and Boaz, 7:21. Both had side rooms built against the outer walls, 6:5. Both were decorated with lions, cherubim like creatures, palm trees and flowers, 6:29 and 7:29.

THE FOOTPRINTS

Giant footprints, each about three feet long, are carved into the doorway, as if the god had walked in to live there. Israel's God did not need a footprint. His

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

glory filled His house in a cloud, 8:10 to 11.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

Ain Dara was built for a pagan god, not for Yahweh, and it does not prove Solomon's temple was real. It shows that a temple like the one 1 Kings describes fits the time and place the Bible gives.

GOD'S PROMISE TO SOLOMON

¹¹ Then the word of Yahweh came to Solomon, saying: ¹² "As for this temple you are building, if you walk in My statutes, carry out My ordinances, and keep all My commandments by walking in them, I will fulfill through you the promise I made to your father David. ¹³ And I will dwell among the Israelites and will not abandon My people Israel."

THE TEMPLE'S INTERIOR // 2 CHRONICLES 3:5-9

¹⁴ So Solomon built the temple and finished it. ¹⁵ He lined the interior walls with cedar paneling from the floor of the temple to the ceiling, and he covered the floor with cypress boards.

¹⁶ He partitioned off the 30 feet at the rear of the temple with cedar boards from floor to ceiling to form within the temple an inner sanctuary, the Most Holy Place. ¹⁷ And the main hall in front of this room was 60 feet long.

¹⁸ The cedar paneling inside the temple was carved with gourds and open flowers. Everything was cedar; not a stone could be seen.

¹⁹ Solomon also prepared the inner sanctuary within the temple to set the ark of the covenant of Yahweh there. ²⁰ The inner sanctuary was 30 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 30 feet high. He overlaid the inside with pure gold, and he also overlaid the altar of cedar.

²¹ So Solomon overlaid the inside of the temple with pure gold, and he extended gold chains across the front of the inner

sanctuary, which was overlaid with gold.

²² So he overlaid with gold the whole interior of the temple, until everything was completely finished. He also overlaid with gold the entire altar that belonged to the inner sanctuary.

THE CHERUBIM // 2 CHRONICLES 3:10-13

²³ In the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim, each 15 feet high, out of olive wood. ²⁴ One wing of the first cherub was 7½ feet long, and the other wing was 7½ feet long as well. So the full wingspan was 15 feet. ²⁵ The second cherub also measured 15 feet; both cherubim had the same size and shape, ²⁶ and the height of each cherub was 15 feet.

²⁷ And he placed the cherubim inside the innermost room of the temple. Since their wings were spread out, the wing of the first cherub touched one wall, while the wing of the second cherub touched the other wall, and in the middle of the room their wingtips touched. ²⁸ He also overlaid the cherubim with gold.

²⁹ Then he carved the walls all around the temple, in both the inner and outer sanctuaries, with carved engravings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers. ³⁰ And he overlaid the temple floor with gold in both the inner and outer sanctuaries.

THE DOORS

³¹ For the entrance to the inner sanctuary, Solomon constructed doors of olive wood with five-sided doorposts. ³² The double doors were made of olive wood, and he carved into them cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers and overlaid the cherubim and palm trees with hammered gold.

³³ In the same way he made four-sided doorposts of olive wood for the sanctuary entrance. ³⁴ The two doors were made of cypress wood, and each had two folding panels. ³⁵ He carved into them cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers, and he overlaid them with gold hammered evenly over the carvings.

■ 1KI 6:14 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this

→ ACTS 7:47 p.-

■ 1KI 6:14 [FULFILLS] David would have a son named Solomon, a man of peace who would build God's house

← 1CH 22:9-10 p.-

BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

THE COURTYARD

³⁶ Solomon built the inner courtyard with three rows of dressed stone and one row of trimmed cedar beams.

³⁷ The foundation of the house of Yahweh was laid in the fourth year of Solomon's reign, in the month of Ziv. ³⁸ In the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, the eighth month, the temple was finished in every detail and according to every specification. So he built the temple in seven years.

7

CHAPTER 7 IN 30 SECONDS

Solomon spends thirteen years on his own palace, plus a great hall called the House of the Forest of Lebanon. A bronze worker named Hiram makes two huge pillars, named Jachin and Boaz, a giant bronze basin called the Sea, ten bronze stands on wheels, and the rest of the temple tools.

SOLOMON'S PALACE COMPLEX

¹ Solomon, however, took thirteen years to complete the construction of his entire palace.

² He built the House of the Forest of Lebanon 150 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high, with four rows of cedar pillars supporting the cedar beams.

³ The house was roofed with cedar above the beams that rested on the pillars—forty-five beams, fifteen per row.

⁴ There were three rows of high windows facing one another in three tiers. ⁵ All the doorways had rectangular frames, with the openings facing one another in three tiers.

⁶ Solomon made his colonnade 75 feet long and 45 feet wide, with a portico in front of it and a canopy with pillars in front of the portico.

⁷ In addition, he built a hall for the throne, the Hall of Justice, where he was to judge. It was paneled with cedar from floor to ceiling.

⁸ And the palace where Solomon would live, set further back, was of similar construction. He also made a palace like this

hall for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had married.

⁹ All these buildings were constructed with costly stones, cut to size and trimmed with saws inside and out from the foundation to the eaves, and from the outside to the great courtyard. ¹⁰ The foundations were laid with large, costly stones, some 15 feet long and some 12 feet long. ¹¹ Above these were costly stones, cut to size, and cedar beams.

¹² The great courtyard was surrounded by three rows of dressed stone and a row of trimmed cedar beams, as were the inner courtyard and portico of the house of Yahweh.

THE PILLARS AND CAPITALS // 2 CHRONICLES 3:14–17

¹³ Now King Solomon sent to bring Hiram from Tyre. ¹⁴ He was the son of a widow from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a craftsman in bronze. Hiram had great skill, understanding, and knowledge for every kind of bronze work. So he came to King Solomon and carried out all his work.

¹⁵ He cast two pillars of bronze, each 27 feet high and 18 feet in circumference. ¹⁶ He also made two capitals of cast bronze to set on top of the pillars, each capital 7½ feet high. ¹⁷ For the capitals on top of the pillars he made a network of lattice, with wreaths of chainwork, seven for each capital.

¹⁸ Likewise, he made the pillars with two rows of pomegranates around each grating to cover each capital atop the pillars.

¹⁹ And the capitals atop the pillars in the portico were shaped like lilies, six feet high. ²⁰ On the capitals of both pillars, just above the rounded projection next to the network, were the two hundred pomegranates in rows encircling each capital.

²¹ Thus he set up the pillars at the portico of the temple. The pillar to the south he named Jachin, and the pillar to the north he named Boaz. ²² And the tops of the pillars were shaped like lilies. So the work of the pillars was completed.

BLOODLINE OF CHRIST**THE MOLTEN SEA // 2 CHRONICLES 4:1-5**

²³ He also made the Sea of cast metal. It was circular in shape, measuring 15 feet from rim to rim, 7½ feet in height, and 45 feet in circumference. ²⁴ Below the rim, ornamental buds encircled it, ten every half yard all the way around the Sea, cast in two rows as a part of the Sea.

²⁵ The Sea stood on twelve oxen, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east. The Sea rested on them, with all their hindquarters toward the center. ²⁶ It was three inches thick, and its rim was fashioned like the brim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It could hold 11,000 gallons.

THE TEN BRONZE STANDS

²⁷ In addition, he made ten movable stands of bronze, each six feet long, six feet wide, and 4½ feet high.

²⁸ This was the design of the stands: They had side panels attached to uprights, ²⁹ and on the panels between the uprights were lions, oxen, and cherubim. On the uprights was a pedestal above, and below the lions and oxen were wreaths of beveled work.

³⁰ Each stand had four bronze wheels with bronze axles and a basin resting on four supports, with wreaths at each side. ³¹ The opening to each stand inside the crown at the top was 18 inches deep, with a round opening like the design of a pedestal, 27 inches wide. And around its opening were engravings, but the panels of the stands were square, not round.

³² There were four wheels under the panels, and the axles of the wheels were attached to the stand; each wheel was 27 inches in diameter. ³³ The wheels were made like chariot wheels; their axles, rims, spokes, and hubs were all of cast metal.

³⁴ Each stand had four handles, one for each corner, projecting from the stand. ³⁵ At the top of each stand was a circular band nine inches high. The supports and panels were cast as a unit with the top of the stand.

³⁶ He engraved cherubim, lions, and palm trees on the surfaces of the supports and panels, wherever each had space, with wreaths all around. ³⁷ In this way he made the ten stands, each with the same casting, dimensions, and shape.

THE TEN BRONZE BASINS // 2 CHRONICLES 4:6-8

³⁸ He also made ten bronze basins, each holding 220 gallons and measuring six feet across, one basin for each of the ten stands.

³⁹ He set five stands on the south side of the temple and five on the north, and he put the Sea on the south side, at the southeast corner of the temple.

COMPLETION OF THE BRONZE WORKS // 2 CHRONICLES 4:11-18

⁴⁰ Additionally, Hiram made the pots, shovels, and sprinkling bowls.

So Hiram finished all the work that he had undertaken for King Solomon in the house of Yahweh:

⁴¹ the two pillars;

the two bowl-shaped capitals atop the pillars;

the two sets of network covering both bowls of the capitals atop the pillars;

⁴² the four hundred pomegranates for the two sets of network (two rows of pomegranates for each network covering both the bowl-shaped capitals atop the pillars);

⁴³ the ten stands;

the ten basins on the stands;

⁴⁴ the Sea;

the twelve oxen underneath the Sea;

⁴⁵ and the pots, shovels, and sprinkling bowls.

All the articles that Hiram made for King Solomon in the house of Yahweh were made of burnished bronze. ⁴⁶ The king had them cast in clay molds in the plain of the Jordan between Succoth and

■ 1KI 7:23 [NOTE] 15 FEET ACROSS AND 45 AROUND.

Some say this makes pi equal 3. Many think the 15 feet was measured across the outside of the rim and the 45 feet around the inside, under a rim three inches thick.

Others say the numbers are simply rounded.

■ 1KI 7:26 [TEXT] 11,000 OR 16,500 GALLONS? 2 Chronicles 4:5 says the Sea held about 16,500 gallons. Some think Chronicles gives how much it could hold when full, and Kings how much it usually held. Others think a copy slipped.

MIRACLES BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

Zarethan. ⁴⁷ Solomon left all these articles unweighed, because there were so many. The weight of the bronze could not be determined.

COMPLETION OF THE GOLD FURNISHINGS // 2 CHRONICLES 4:19–22

⁴⁸ Solomon also made all the furnishings for the house of Yahweh:

the golden altar;

the golden table on which was placed the Bread of the Presence;

⁴⁹ the lampstands of pure gold in front of the inner sanctuary, five on the right side and five on the left;

the gold flowers, lamps, and tongs;

⁵⁰ the pure gold basins, wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, ladles, and censers; and the gold hinges for the doors of the inner temple (that is, the Most Holy Place) as well as for the doors of the main hall of the temple.

⁵¹ So all the work that King Solomon had performed for the house of Yahweh was completed.

Then Solomon brought in the items his father David had dedicated—the silver, the gold, and the furnishings—and he placed them in the treasuries of the house of Yahweh.

8

CHAPTER 8 IN 30 SECONDS

The priests carry the ark into the Most Holy Place, and the cloud of God's glory fills the temple so thick the priests cannot keep working. Solomon prays a long prayer: heaven cannot contain You, much less this house, but please hear us when we pray toward it. Then a party with 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep.

THE ARK ENTERS THE TEMPLE // 2 CHRONICLES 5:1–14

¹ At that time Solomon assembled before him in Jerusalem the elders of Israel—all the tribal heads and family leaders of the Israelites—to bring up the ark of the covenant of Yahweh from Zion, the City of David. ² And all the men of Israel came together to King Solomon at the feast in the seventh month, the month of Ethanim.

³ When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the priests took up the ark, ⁴ and they brought up the ark of Yahweh and the Tent of Meeting with all its sacred furnishings. So the priests and Levites carried them up.

⁵ There, before the ark, King Solomon and the whole congregation of Israel who had assembled with him sacrificed so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered.

⁶ Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of Yahweh to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, beneath the wings of the cherubim. ⁷ For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and overshadowed the ark and its poles.

⁸ The poles extended far enough that their ends were visible from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are there to this day.

⁹ There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where Yahweh had made a covenant with the Israelites after they had come out of the land of Egypt.

¹⁰ And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, the cloud filled the house of Yahweh ¹¹ so that the priests could not stand there to minister because of the cloud. For the glory of Yahweh filled the house of Yahweh.

SOLOMON BLESSES YAHWEH // 2 CHRONICLES 6:1–11

¹² Then Solomon declared:

"Yahweh has said that He would dwell in the thick cloud.

¹³ I have indeed built You an exalted house, a place for You to dwell forever."

■ 1KI 8:9 [NOTE] ONLY THE TWO STONE TABLETS. Hebrews 9:4 says the ark once held a jar of manna and Aaron's staff too. By Solomon's day, only the tablets were left.

■ 1KI 8:10 [MIRACLE] The cloud of glory fills Solomon's temple

■ 1KI 8:10 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → REV 15:8 p.~

GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

¹⁴ And as the whole assembly of Israel stood there, the king turned around and blessed them all ¹⁵ and said:

"Blessed be Yahweh, the God of Israel, who has fulfilled with His own hand what He spoke with His mouth to my father David, saying, ¹⁶ *'Since the day I brought My people Israel out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city from any tribe of Israel in which to build a house so that My Name would be there. But I have chosen David to be over My people Israel.'*

¹⁷ Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the Name of Yahweh, the God of Israel. ¹⁸ But Yahweh said to my father David, *'Since it was in your heart to build a house for My Name, you have done well to have this in your heart. ¹⁹ Nevertheless, you are not the one to build it; but your son, your own off-spring, will build the house for My Name.'*

²⁰ Now Yahweh has fulfilled the word that He spoke. I have succeeded my father David, and I sit on the throne of Israel, as Yahweh promised. I have built the house for the Name of Yahweh, the God of Israel. ²¹ And there I have provided a place for the ark, which contains the covenant of Yahweh that He made with our fathers when He brought them out of the land of Egypt."

THE BIG QUESTION

THE TEMPLE

What It Was

1 KINGS 6 TO 8 · 2 CHRONICLES 3 TO 7 · EXODUS 25 TO 27 · HEBREWS 9:1 TO 12

A HOUSE FOR GOD'S NAME

David wanted to build God a house, and God said his son would do it, 2 Samuel 7:13. Solomon began in his fourth year, 6:1, on Mount Moriah, where Yahweh appeared to David, 2 Chronicles 3:1. It took seven years, 6:38.

THE SHAPE

The building was 90 feet long, 30 wide and 45 high, 6:2. It had a porch, a main hall called the Holy Place, and an inner room 30 feet on every side, the Most

Holy Place, 6:20. It was twice the size of the tabernacle Moses built, with the same plan.

INSIDE

Cedar walls carved with cherubim, palm trees and open flowers, all covered in gold, 6:29 to 30. In the Most Holy Place stood two cherubim of olive wood 15 feet tall, with wings touching wall to wall, over the ark, 6:23 to 28.

OUTSIDE

Two bronze pillars named Jachin, He establishes, and Boaz, In Him is strength, 7:21. A huge bronze basin called the Sea, resting on twelve bronze bulls, 7:23 to 25. Ten bronze stands on wheels for washing, 7:27 to 39.

THE GLORY

When the ark was brought in, a cloud filled the house, and the priests could not stand to minister, for the glory of Yahweh filled it, 8:10 to 11. The same thing happened at the tabernacle, Exodus 40:34 to 35.

THE QUESTION

If heaven cannot contain God, 8:27, why build Him a house? What was the temple for?

What It Meant

JOHN 1:14 · 2:19 TO 21 · 1 CORINTHIANS 3:16 · 6:19 · REVELATION 21:22

A PLACE TO MEET

Solomon knew God does not live in a building, 8:27. He prayed that God's eyes would be on this house, and that He would hear prayers prayed toward it, 8:29 to 30. The temple was where heaven and earth met, where sins were covered by sacrifice.

A PICTURE OF EDEN

Many scholars see the garden of Eden in the temple: cherubim guarding the way in, Genesis 3:24, palm trees and flowers on the walls, and an entrance facing east. God's presence among His people was being restored.

WHAT HAPPENED TO IT

Babylon burned Solomon's temple in 586 BC, 2 Kings 25:9. A smaller second temple was built about 70 years later, Ezra 6:15. Herod made that one huge, and

■ 1KI 8:15 [NOTE] Solomon quotes God's promise to David in 8:16, 8:18 to 19 and 8:25. God's own words print red, even when someone else quotes them.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE NOTABLE GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

Rome destroyed it in AD 70, just as Jesus said, Matthew 24:2.

JESUS, THE TRUE TEMPLE

John says the Word became flesh and dwelt, or tabernacled, among us, John 1:14. Jesus said, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. He was speaking about His body, John 2:19 to 21.

GOD'S PEOPLE, THE TEMPLE

Paul says believers together are God's temple, and God's Spirit lives in them, 1 Corinthians 3:16. In the new Jerusalem there is no temple, because God and the Lamb are its temple, Revelation 21:22.

A THIRD TEMPLE?

Some Christians and many Jews expect a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem before the end, from Ezekiel 40 to 48 and 2 Thessalonians 2:4. Others read those passages as pictures of Christ and His church. Christians disagree, and this Bible does not take a side.

SOLOMON'S PRAYER OF DEDICATION // 2 CHRONICLES 6:12-42

²² Then Solomon stood before the altar of Yahweh in front of the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his hands toward heaven, ²³ and said:

"O Yahweh, God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth below, keeping Your covenant of loving devotion with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts. ²⁴ You have kept Your promise to Your servant, my father David. What You spoke with Your mouth You have fulfilled with Your hand this day.

²⁵ Therefore now, O Yahweh, God of Israel, keep for Your servant, my father David, what You promised when You said: 'You will never fail to have a man to sit before Me on the throne of Israel, if only your descendants guard their way to walk before Me as you have done.' ²⁶ And now, O God of Israel, please confirm what You promised to Your servant, my father David.

²⁷ But will God indeed dwell upon the earth? The heavens, even the highest

heavens, cannot contain You, much less this temple I have built. ²⁸ Yet regard the prayer and plea of Your servant, O Yahweh my God, so that You may hear the cry and the prayer that Your servant is praying before You today.

²⁹ May Your eyes be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which You said, 'My Name shall be there,' so that You may hear the prayer that Your servant prays toward this place. ³⁰ Hear the plea of Your servant and of Your people Israel when they pray toward this place. May You hear from heaven, Your dwelling place. May You hear and forgive.

³¹ When a man sins against his neighbor and is required to take an oath, and he comes to take an oath before Your altar in this temple, ³² then may You hear from heaven and act. May You judge Your servants, condemning the wicked man by bringing down on his own head what he has done, and justifying the righteous man by rewarding him according to his righteousness.

³³ When Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against You, and they return to You and confess Your name, praying and pleading with You in this temple, ³⁴ then may You hear from heaven and forgive the sin of Your people Israel. May You restore them to the land You gave to their fathers.

³⁵ When the skies are shut and there is no rain because Your people have sinned against You, and they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and they turn from their sins because You have afflicted them, ³⁶ then may You hear from heaven and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, so that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk. May You send rain on the

■ **1KI 8:27 [NOTABLE]** Solomon built the finest building Israel ever had and then said it was too small for God. God is not stuck in a building. Yet He chose to put His Name there, and later He came to live among us in Jesus, John 1:14.

■ **1KI 8:29 [FULFILLS]** God would choose one place to put His Name ← DT 12:5 p.-

THE HEART BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

land that You gave Your people as an inheritance.

³⁷ When famine or plague comes upon the land, or blight or mildew or locusts or grasshoppers, or when their enemy besieges them in their cities, whatever plague or sickness may come, ³⁸ then may whatever prayer or petition Your people Israel make—each knowing his own afflictions and spreading out his hands toward this temple—³⁹ be heard by You from heaven, Your dwelling place. And may You forgive and act, and repay each man according to all his ways, since You know his heart—for You alone know the hearts of all men—⁴⁰ so that they may fear You all the days they live in the land that You gave to our fathers.

⁴¹ And as for the foreigner who is not of Your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of Your name—⁴² for they will hear of Your great name and mighty hand and outstretched arm—when he comes and prays toward this temple, ⁴³ then may You hear from heaven, Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You. Then all the peoples of the earth will know Your name and fear You, as do Your people Israel, and they will know that this house I have built is called by Your Name.

⁴⁴ When Your people go to war against their enemies, wherever You send them, and when they pray to Yahweh in the direction of the city You have chosen and the house I have built for Your Name, ⁴⁵ then may You hear from heaven their prayer and their plea, and may You uphold their cause.

⁴⁶ When they sin against You—for there is no one who does not sin—and You become angry with them and deliver them to an enemy who takes them as captives to his own land, whether far or near, ⁴⁷ and when they take it to heart in the land to which they were taken, and they repent and plead with You in the land of their captors, saying, 'We have sinned and

done wrong; we have acted wickedly,' ⁴⁸ and when they return to You with all their heart and soul in the land of the enemies who took them captive, and when they pray to You in the direction of the land that You gave to their fathers, the city You have chosen, and the house I have built for Your Name, ⁴⁹ then may You hear from heaven, Your dwelling place, their prayer and petition, and may You uphold their cause. ⁵⁰ May You forgive Your people who have sinned against You and all the transgressions they have committed against You, and may You grant them compassion in the eyes of their captors to show them mercy.

⁵¹ For they are Your people and Your inheritance; You brought them out of Egypt, out of the furnace for iron. ⁵² May Your eyes be open to the pleas of Your servant and of Your people Israel, and may You listen to them whenever they call to You. ⁵³ For You, O Lord Yahweh, have set them apart from all the peoples of the earth as Your inheritance, as You spoke through Your servant Moses when You brought our fathers out of Egypt."

SOLOMON'S BENEDICTION

⁵⁴ Now when Solomon had finished praying this entire prayer and petition to Yahweh, he got up before the altar of Yahweh, where he had been kneeling with his hands spread out toward heaven. ⁵⁵ And he stood and blessed the whole assembly of Israel in a loud voice, saying:

⁵⁶ "Blessed be Yahweh, who has given rest to His people Israel according to all that He promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises He made through His servant Moses.

⁵⁷ May Yahweh our God be with us, as He was with our fathers. May He never leave us or forsake us. ⁵⁸ May He incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways and to keep the commandments and statutes and ordinances He commanded our fathers.

⁵⁹ And may these words with which I have made my petition before Yahweh be near to Yahweh our God day and night, so that

1KI 8:39 [HEART] Only God knows every human heart, so He repays each person by what is inside.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

THE HEART

MIRACLES

DEMONIC

GOD SPEAKING

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He may uphold the cause of His servant and of His people Israel as each day requires,⁶⁰ so that all the peoples of the earth may know that Yahweh is God. There is no other!

⁶¹So let your heart be fully devoted to Yahweh our God, as it is this day, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments.”

SACRIFICES OF DEDICATION // 2 CHRONICLES 7:4–10

⁶²Then the king and all Israel with him offered sacrifices before Yahweh. ⁶³And Solomon offered as peace offerings to Yahweh 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the Israelites dedicated the house of Yahweh.

⁶⁴On that same day the king consecrated the middle of the courtyard in front of the house of Yahweh, and there he offered the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings, since the bronze altar before Yahweh was too small to contain all these offerings.

⁶⁵So at that time Solomon and all Israel with him—a great assembly of people from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of Egypt—kept the feast before Yahweh our God for seven days and seven more days—fourteen days in all.

⁶⁶On the fifteenth day Solomon sent the people away. So they blessed the king and went home, joyful and glad in heart for all the good things that Yahweh had done for His servant David and for His people Israel.

9

CHAPTER 9 IN 30 SECONDS

God appears to Solomon a second time: I have heard your prayer. Walk with Me, and your throne will last. Turn away, and this temple will become a heap of ruins. Solomon builds cities and gates, uses forced labor, and starts a navy on the Red Sea that brings back gold from Ophir.

YAHWEH'S RESPONSE TO SOLOMON // 2 CHRONICLES 7:11–22

¹Now when Solomon had finished building the house of Yahweh and the royal palace, and had achieved all that he had desired to do, ²Yahweh appeared to him a second time, as He had appeared to him at Gibeon. ³And Yahweh said to him:

“I have heard your prayer and petition before Me. I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting My Name there forever; My eyes and My heart will be there for all time.

⁴And as for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, with a heart of integrity and uprightness, doing all I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and ordinances, ⁵then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised your father David when I said, ‘You will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.’

⁶But if indeed you or your sons turn away from following Me and do not keep the commandments and statutes I have set before you, and if you go off to serve and worship other gods, ⁷then I will cut off Israel from the land that I have given them, and I will banish from My presence this temple I have sanctified for My Name. Then Israel will become an object of scorn and ridicule among all peoples.

⁸And when this temple has become a heap of rubble, all who pass by it will be appalled and will hiss and say, ‘Why has Yahweh done such a thing to this land and to this temple?’ ⁹And others will answer, ‘Because they have forsaken Yahweh their God who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them—because of this, Yahweh has brought all this disaster upon them.’”

■ **1KI 9:2 [MIRACLE]** God appears to Solomon a second time

■ **1KI 9:4 [HEART]** God told Solomon to walk with integrity of heart like David.

■ **1KI 9:6 [DEMONIC]** God warns Solomon not to serve other gods

■ **1KI 9:7 [PROPHECY]** If Israel turned to idols the temple would become a heap and Israel would be cut off → 2KI 25:9; 2KI 25:21 · MEDIUM p.---

■ **1KI 9:9 [DEMONIC]** Disaster comes because they embraced other gods

■ **1KI 8:61 [HEART]** Solomon urged Israel to keep their hearts fully devoted to Yahweh. Sadly, his own heart did not stay that way, 11:4.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE ARCHAEOLOGY BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

SOLOMON'S ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS // 2

CHRONICLES 8:1–18

¹⁰ Now at the end of the twenty years during which Solomon built these two houses, the house of Yahweh and the royal palace, ¹¹ King Solomon gave twenty towns in the land of Galilee to Hiram king of Tyre, who had supplied him with cedar and cypress logs and gold for his every desire. ¹² So Hiram went out from Tyre to inspect the towns that Solomon had given him, but he was not pleased with them.

¹³ “What are these towns you have given me, my brother?” asked Hiram, and he called them the Land of Cabul, as they are called to this day.

¹⁴ And Hiram had sent the king 4½ tons of gold.

¹⁵ This is the account of the forced labor that King Solomon imposed to build the house of Yahweh, his own palace, the supporting terraces, and the wall of Jerusalem, as well as Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer.

¹⁶ Pharaoh king of Egypt had attacked and captured Gezer. He had set it on fire, killed the Canaanites who lived in the city, and given it as a dowry to his daughter, Solomon's wife. ¹⁷ So Solomon rebuilt Gezer, Lower Beth-horon, ¹⁸ Baalath, and Tamar in the Wilderness of Judah, ¹⁹ as well as all the store cities that Solomon had for his chariots and horses—whatever he desired to build in Jerusalem, Lebanon, and throughout the land of his dominion.

²⁰ As for all the people who remained of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites (the people who were not Israelites)—²¹ their descendants who remained in the land, those whom the Israelites were unable to devote to destruction—Solomon conscripted these people to be forced laborers, as they are to this day.

²² But Solomon did not consign any of the Israelites to slavery, because they were his men of war, his servants, his officers, his captains, and the commanders of his chariots and cavalry. ²³ They were also the chief officers over Solomon's projects: 550 supervisors over the people who did the work.

²⁴ As soon as Pharaoh's daughter had come up from the City of David to the palace that Solomon had built for her, he built the supporting terraces.

²⁵ Three times a year Solomon offered burnt offerings and peace offerings on the altar he had built for Yahweh, burning incense with them before Yahweh. So he completed the temple.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: MEDIUM

SOLOMON'S GATES

1 KINGS 9:15 TO 19 · 2 CHRONICLES 8:1 TO 6 · JOSHUA 16:10



The six room gate at Tel Gezer. The low stone walls mark the rooms on each side of the passage. Photo Ian Scott, CC BY SA 2.0.

WHAT IT IS

City gates with six rooms, three on each side of the road through the gate.

Guards stood in the rooms, and elders sat there to judge cases. Gates with the same plan and almost the same size were found at Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer, the three cities named in 9:15.

HOW OLD IT IS

Debated. Yigael Yadin dated the gates to the 900s BC, the time of Solomon. Israel Finkelstein and others date them about 50 to 100 years later, to the time of Omri and Ahab. Newer carbon tests

■ **1KI 9:15 [ARCHAEOLOGY]** Yigael Yadin identified gates with six rooms at all three cities, built to the same plan → FIELD NOTES p.22

■ **1KI 9:15 [FIELD NOTES]** Gates with the same plan, six rooms each, were found at Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer. See the Solomon's Gates Field Notes page.

■ **1KI 9:20 [FULFILLS]** Noah said Canaan would become a servant to his brothers ← GEN 9:25 · MEDIUM p.---

BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

at Gezer support the earlier date, but the debate goes on.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

Megiddo's gate was dug in the 1930s. Yadin found the Hazor gate in the 1950s. He then spotted the Gezer gate in old drawings from R. A. S. Macalister's dig, which had called it a Maccabean castle. William Dever's team dug it out in the late 1960s and early 1970s and found he was right.

THE MATCHING GATES

1 Kings 9:15 says Solomon built Jerusalem's wall, Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer. Finding the same gate plan at all three cities made many think one king's builders made them all.

THE BIG DEBATE

Six room gates have also been found at Lachish, Ashdod and other places, some from later times. So the plan may have been popular for a long time, not just Solomon's design. Some also think the Megiddo gate is later than the walls next to it.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

No writing on the gates names Solomon. If the early date is right, they are a strong match for 9:15. If the later date is right, Solomon's gates are still under the ground or gone.

²⁶ King Solomon also assembled a fleet of ships at Ezion-geber, which is near Eloth in Edom, on the shore of the Red Sea. ²⁷ And Hiram sent his servants, sailors who knew the sea, to serve in the fleet with Solomon's servants. ²⁸ They sailed to Ophir and imported gold from there—about 16 tons—and delivered it to Solomon.

- **1KI 9:26 [NOTE]** EZION GEBER was on the north tip of the Red Sea's Gulf of Aqaba, near Eilat today. Ophir was a land famous for gold. Nobody knows for sure where it was. Arabia, Africa and India have all been suggested.
- **1KI 9:28 [TEXT]** 16 OR 17 TONS? 2 Chronicles 8:18 says about 17 tons of gold from Ophir. A copy may have slipped, or the two books count the gold a little differently.

10

CHAPTER 10 IN 30 SECONDS

The queen of Sheba comes with a long camel train to test Solomon with hard questions. He answers every one, and she is left breathless. Solomon's gold pours in, about 25 tons a year. Silver is as common as stones in Jerusalem. Everyone wants to hear his wisdom.

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA // 2 CHRONICLES 9:1–12

¹Now when the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon concerning the name of Yahweh, she came to test him with difficult questions. ²She arrived in Jerusalem with a very large caravan—with camels bearing spices, gold in great abundance, and precious stones.

And she came to Solomon and spoke to him all that was in her heart. ³And Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too difficult for the king to explain.

⁴When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon, the palace he had built, ⁵the food at his table, the seating of his servants, the service and attire of his attendants, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he presented at the house of Yahweh, it took her breath away.

⁶She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your words and wisdom is true. ⁷But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told to me. Your wisdom and prosperity have far exceeded the report I heard. ⁸How blessed are your men! How blessed are these servants of yours who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom! ⁹Blessed be Yahweh your God, who has delighted in you to set you on the throne of Israel. Because of Yahweh's eternal

- **1KI 10:1 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → MT 12:42 p.~
- **1KI 10:1 [NOTE]** THE QUEEN OF SHEBA. Sheba was most likely Saba, a rich kingdom in south Arabia, in Yemen today. Ethiopian tradition calls her Makeda. Jesus said she will rise at the judgment and condemn His generation, for One greater than Solomon is here, Matthew 12:42.
- **1KI 10:4 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → MT 6:29 p.~

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE THE HEART BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

love for Israel, He has made you king to carry out justice and righteousness."

¹⁰ Then she gave the king 4½ tons of gold, a great quantity of spices, and precious stones. Never again were spices in such abundance brought in as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

¹¹ (The fleet of Hiram that brought gold from Ophir also brought from Ophir a great cargo of almug wood and precious stones. ¹² The king made the almug wood into steps for the house of Yahweh and for the king's palace, and into lyres and harps for the singers. Never before had such almug wood been brought in, nor has such been seen again to this day.)

¹³ King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired—whatever she asked—besides what he had given her out of his royal bounty. Then she left and returned to her own country, along with her servants.

SOLOMON'S WEALTH AND SPLENDOR // 2

CHRONICLES 1:14–17; 2 CHRONICLES 9:13–28

¹⁴ The weight of gold that came to Solomon each year was about 25 tons, ¹⁵ not including the revenue from the merchants, traders, and all the Arabian kings and governors of the land.

¹⁶ King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; 15 pounds of gold went into each shield. ¹⁷ He also made three hundred small shields of hammered gold; 3¾ pounds of gold went into each shield. And the king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.

¹⁸ Additionally, the king made a great throne of ivory and overlaid it with pure gold. ¹⁹ The throne had six steps, and its back had a rounded top. There were armrests on both sides of the seat, with a lion standing beside each armrest. ²⁰ Twelve lions stood on the six steps, one at either end of each step. Nothing like this had ever been made for any kingdom.

²¹ All King Solomon's drinking cups were gold, and all the utensils of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold.

There was no silver, because it was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon. ²² For the king had the ships of Tarshish at sea with Hiram's fleet, and once every three years the ships of Tarshish would arrive bearing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.

²³ So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.

²⁴ The whole world sought an audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom that God had put in his heart. ²⁵ Year after year, each visitor would bring his tribute: articles of silver and gold, clothing, weapons, spices, horses, and mules.

²⁶ Solomon accumulated 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses, which he stationed in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem. ²⁷ The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar as abundant as sycamore in the foothills.

²⁸ Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and Kue; the royal merchants purchased them from Kue. ²⁹ A chariot could be imported from Egypt for 15 pounds of silver, and a horse for 3¾ pounds. Likewise, they exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and to the kings of Aram.

11

CHAPTER 11 IN 30 SECONDS

Solomon loves many foreign women: 700 wives and 300 concubines. When he is old, they turn his heart to their gods, and he builds high places for Chemosh and Molech. God says, I will tear the kingdom away from your son, but not all of it. The prophet Ahijah tears his new cloak into twelve pieces and hands ten to Jeroboam.

SOLOMON'S FOREIGN WIVES

¹ King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh—women of Moab, Ammon, Edom, and Sidon, as well as Hittite

■ **1KI 10:14 [NOTE]** 666. In the Hebrew, the number here is 666, the same number as Revelation 13:18. Most see no link beyond the number. Some see Solomon's piles of gold as part of his fall, because the king was told not to gather great amounts of gold, Deuteronomy 17:17.

■ **1KI 10:23 [FULFILLS]** God promised Solomon unmatched wisdom plus riches and honor ← 1KI 3:12–13 p. 1

■ **1KI 10:24 [HEART]** The whole world came to hear the wisdom God had put in Solomon's heart. The gift came from God, not from Solomon.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

THE HEART

DEMONIC

GOD SPEAKING

BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

women. ² These women were from the nations about which Yahweh had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, for surely they will turn your hearts after their gods." Yet Solomon clung to these women in love. ³ He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines—and his wives turned his heart away.

⁴ For when Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and he was not wholeheartedly devoted to Yahweh his God, as his father David had been. ⁵ Solomon followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. ⁶ So Solomon did evil in the sight of Yahweh; unlike his father David, he did not follow Yahweh completely.

⁷ At that time on a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites. ⁸ He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

GOD'S ANGER AGAINST SOLOMON

⁹ Now Yahweh grew angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from Yahweh, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. ¹⁰ Although He had warned Solomon explicitly not to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep Yahweh's command.

¹¹ Then Yahweh said to Solomon, "Because you have done this and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant."

■ 1KI 11:2 [DEMONIC] Solomon's wives turn his heart to Ashtoreth, Chemosh, and Molech

■ 1KI 11:3 [NOTE] 700 WIVES. The king was told not to take many wives, or his heart would turn away, Deuteronomy 17:17. See the Big Question pages Solomon's Wisdom and 700 Wives.

■ 1KI 11:4 [HEART] Solomon's wives turned his heart away. His heart was not fully devoted like David's.

■ 1KI 11:7 [NOTE] MOLECH. Worship of Molech included burning children in the fire. God's law forbade it, Leviticus 18:21. The wisest king built a shrine for that god. About 300 years later, King Josiah tore it down, 2 Kings 23:13.

■ 1KI 11:9 [HEART] Yahweh was angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away, even though God had appeared to him twice.

¹² Nevertheless, for the sake of your father David, I will not do it during your lifetime; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. ¹³

Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom away from him. I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen."

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

SOLOMON'S WISDOM AND 700 WIVES

What Happened

1 KINGS 3:5 TO 14 · 4:29 TO 34 · 11:1 TO 13 · DEUTERONOMY 17:14 TO 17

THE BEST START

God said to young Solomon, Ask for whatever you want. Solomon asked for an understanding heart to lead God's people well, 3:9. God gave him wisdom like no one before or after, and riches and honor too, 3:12 to 13.

THE WISEST MAN

Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs. He taught about trees, animals, birds and fish, 4:32 to 33. Kings sent people to hear him, 4:34, and the queen of Sheba said she had not heard the half of it, 10:7.

THE RULES FOR KINGS

Long before, Moses wrote that a king must not gather many horses, especially from Egypt, must not take many wives, or his heart would turn away, and must not pile up silver and gold, Deuteronomy 17:16 to 17.

SOLOMON BROKE ALL THREE

He bought horses from Egypt, 10:28. Silver became as common as stones in Jerusalem, 10:27. And he had 700 wives of royal birth and 300 concubines, 11:3.

THE FALL

When Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart after other gods. He built high places for Chemosh and Molech on a hill east of Jerusalem, 11:4 to 8. God was angry, because He had appeared to Solomon twice, 11:9.

■ 1KI 11:11 [PROPHECY] God told Solomon the kingdom would be torn from his son but one tribe spared for David's sake → 1KI 12 p.---

BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

THE QUESTION

How could the wisest man who ever lived do something so foolish?

Every View

NEHEMIAH 13:26 · PROVERBS 4:23 · ECCLESIASTES 2:1 TO 11 · 12:13 · JAMES 1:5

VIEW 1: WISDOM IS NOT THE SAME AS OBEYING

Many say Solomon knew what was right but stopped doing it. Wisdom is a gift, but it does not keep working on its own. Guard your heart, for out of it flow the springs of life, Proverbs 4:23. Solomon did not guard his.

VIEW 2: A SLOW DRIFT

The fall did not happen in one day. It started with a marriage to Pharaoh's daughter for politics, 3:1, then more treaties sealed by marriages. Each wife came with her own gods. Little by little, his heart was divided.

VIEW 3: POWER AND MONEY

Some point to the riches. A king with everything may start to think the rules are for other people. Solomon's forced labor and heavy taxes also show a king who used people, 5:13 and 12:4.

700 WIVES?

Many royal marriages in that world sealed treaties between kingdoms. Some scholars think the numbers are rounded or count every woman in the palace. Others take them as written. Either way, the Bible does not praise it. It blames it.

DID HE TURN BACK?

The Bible does not say. Many Jewish and Christian teachers think Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes in old age, looking back on a life chasing everything under the sun, and ending with fear God and keep His commands, Ecclesiastes 12:13. Others think a later writer wrote Ecclesiastes in Solomon's voice.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

Nehemiah 13:26 says it plainly: there was no king like Solomon, loved by his God, and yet foreign women made even him sin. A good start does not guarantee a good finish.

HADAD'S RETURN

¹⁴ Then Yahweh raised up against Solomon an adversary, Hadad the Edomite, from the royal line of Edom.

¹⁵ Earlier, when David was in Edom, Joab the commander of the army had gone to bury the dead and had struck down every male in Edom. ¹⁶ Joab and all Israel had stayed there six months, until he had killed every male in Edom. ¹⁷ But Hadad, still just a young boy, had fled to Egypt, along with some Edomites who were servants of his father.

¹⁸ Hadad and his men set out from Midian and went to Paran. They took men from Paran with them and went to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave Hadad a house and land and provided him with food.

¹⁹ There Hadad found such great favor in the sight of Pharaoh that he gave to him in marriage the sister of Queen Tahpenes, his own wife. ²⁰ And the sister of Tahpenes bore Hadad a son named Genubath. Tahpenes herself weaned him in Pharaoh's palace, and Genubath lived there among the sons of Pharaoh.

²¹ When Hadad heard in Egypt that David had rested with his fathers and that Joab, the commander of the army, was dead, he said to Pharaoh, "Let me go, that I may return to my own country."

²² But Pharaoh asked him, "What have you lacked here with me that you suddenly want to go back to your own country?" "Nothing," Hadad replied, "but please let me go."

REZON'S HOSTILITY

²³ And God raised up against Solomon another adversary, Rezon the son of Eliada, who had fled from his master, Hadadezer king of Zobah, ²⁴ and had gathered men to himself. When David killed the Zobaites, Rezon captained a band of raiders and went to Damascus, where they settled and gained control.

²⁵ Rezon was Israel's enemy throughout the days of Solomon, adding to the trou-

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

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ble caused by Hadad. So Rezon ruled over Aram with hostility toward Israel.

JEROBOAM'S REBELLION

²⁶ Now Jeroboam son of Nebat was an Ephraimite from Zeredah whose mother was a widow named Zeruah. Jeroboam was a servant of Solomon, but he rebelled against the king, ²⁷ and this is the account of his rebellion against the king.

Solomon had built the supporting terraces and repaired the gap in the wall of the city of his father David. ²⁸ Now Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor. So when Solomon noticed that the young man was industrious, he put him in charge of the whole labor force of the house of Joseph.

²⁹ During that time, the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met Jeroboam on the road as he was going out of Jerusalem. Now Ahijah had wrapped himself in a new cloak, and the two of them were alone in the open field.

³⁰ And Ahijah took hold of the new cloak he was wearing, tore it into twelve pieces, ³¹ and said to Jeroboam, "Take ten pieces for yourself, for this is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and I will give you ten tribes.' ³² But one tribe will remain for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel.

³³ For they have forsaken Me to worship Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the Ammonites. They have not walked in My ways, nor done what is right in My eyes, nor kept My statutes and judgments, as Solomon's father David did.

³⁴ Nevertheless, I will not take the whole kingdom out of Solomon's hand, because I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of David My servant, whom I chose because he kept My com-

mandments and statutes. ³⁵ But I will take ten tribes of the kingdom from the hand of his son and give them to you. ³⁶ I will give one tribe to his son, so that My servant David will always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city where I chose to put My Name. ³⁷ But as for you, I will take you, and you shall reign over all that your heart desires, and you will be king over Israel.

³⁸ If you listen to all that I command you, walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight in order to keep My statutes and commandments as My servant David did, then I will be with you. I will build you a lasting dynasty just as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you. ³⁹ Because of this, I will humble David's descendants—but not forever."

⁴⁰ Solomon therefore sought to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled to Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, where he remained until the death of Solomon.

THE DEATH OF SOLOMON // 2 CHRONICLES 9:29–31

⁴¹ As for the rest of the acts of Solomon—all that he did, as well as his wisdom—are they not written in the Book of the Acts of Solomon? ⁴² Thus the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years.

⁴³ And Solomon rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of his father David. And his son Rehoboam reigned in his place.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

WHO WROTE KINGS?

What the Book Says

1 KINGS 11:41 · 14:19 · 14:29 · 6:1 · 2 KINGS 25:27 TO 30

ONE BOOK

1 and 2 Kings were one book in the Hebrew Bible. The Greek translation split it in two, and later Hebrew Bibles did the same.

■ **1KI 11:35 [PROPHECY]** One tribe would stay with Solomon's son so David would always have a lamp in Jerusalem → 1KI 12:20 p.~

■ **1KI 11:40 [ARCHAEOLOGY]** Pharaoh Shishak, Sheshonq I, is named on his own victory carving at Karnak, see the Shishak at Karnak Field Notes page

■ **1KI 11:41 [NOTE]** THE BOOK OF THE ACTS OF SOLOMON is one of the old sources the writer of Kings names. It has been lost. See the Big Question pages Who Wrote Kings?

■ **1KI 11:31 [PROPHECY]** Ahijah tore his cloak into twelve pieces and gave Jeroboam ten tribes → 1KI 12:16; 1KI 12:20 p.~

■ **1KI 11:33 [DEMONIC]** Israel forsook God for Ashtoreth, Chemosh, and Milcom

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

NO NAME

The book never says who wrote it. It ends in Babylon about 560 BC, when King Jehoiachin is let out of prison, 2 Kings 25:27 to 30. So it was finished during the exile or soon after.

ITS SOURCES

The writer names three older books: the Book of the Acts of Solomon, 11:41, the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel, 14:19, and the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah, 14:29. They are lost. Many think they were royal records kept at court.

THE PATTERN

Each king gets a short report card: when he began, how long he reigned, and whether he did right or evil in Yahweh's eyes. The kings of Israel all fail. Only a few kings of Judah do right.

480 YEARS

6:1 says Solomon started the temple 480 years after the Exodus. This number is the main reason many date the Exodus about 1446 BC.

THE QUESTION

Who put this book together, and how should we read the 480 years?

Every View

JEREMIAH 52 · 2 KINGS 24:18 TO 25:30 · EXODUS 1:11 · JUDGES 11:26

VIEW 1: JEREMIAH

The Talmud, Bava Batra 15a, says Jeremiah wrote Kings. Jeremiah lived when Jerusalem fell, and the last chapter of Kings is almost the same as Jeremiah 52. But Jeremiah was likely in Egypt, not Babylon, at the end, Jeremiah 43.

VIEW 2: A PROPHET IN EXILE

Many think a prophet or scribe among the exiles in Babylon put the book together from the royal records and the stories of the prophets. Its message fits a people asking why God let them lose everything.

VIEW 3: THE DEUTERONOMY SCHOOL

Martin Noth, in 1943, thought one writer in the exile wrote Deuteronomy through Kings as one history, judging every king by Deuteronomy's laws. Many critical scholars since think it came out in two or more editions.

THE 480 YEARS: EARLY DATE

Read as written, Solomon's fourth year, about 966 BC, plus 480 gives an Exodus about 1446 BC. Judges 11:26 says Israel had been in the land 300 years by Jephthah's day, which fits an early date.

THE 480 YEARS: LATE DATE

Many scholars date the Exodus about 1270 BC, because Exodus 1:11 names the city of Rameses, and they read 480 as twelve generations of forty years, a round number. Others answer that the name Rameses may be an updated place name.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

Kings is history told with a purpose: to show that God keeps His word, both His warnings and His promises. Even the last scene leaves hope, a son of David still alive and eating at the king's table, 2 Kings 25:29.

12

CHAPTER 12 IN 30 SECONDS

Solomon's son Rehoboam is asked to lighten the people's heavy load. He listens to his young friends instead of the wise old advisers: My little finger is thicker than my father's waist. Ten tribes walk away and make Jeroboam king. Jeroboam is afraid they will go back to Jerusalem to worship, so he makes two golden calves.

REBELLION AGAINST REHOBOAM // 2 CHRONICLES 10:1-15

¹Then Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone there to make him king. ²When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard about this, he was still in Egypt where he had fled from King Solomon and had been living ever since. ³So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and the whole assembly of Israel came to Rehoboam and said, ⁴"Your father put a heavy yoke on us. But now you must lighten the burden of your father's service and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you."

■ 1KI 12:1 [FULFILLS] God told Solomon the kingdom would be torn from his son but one tribe spared for David's sake ← 1KI 11:11-13 p.-

■ 1KI 12:4 [FULFILLS] Samuel warned that a king would take their goods and they would cry out to be free of him ← 1SA 8:17-18 · MEDIUM p.-

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

⁵ Rehoboam answered, "Go away for three days and then return to me." So the people departed.

⁶ Then King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. "How do you advise me to respond to these people?" he asked.

⁷ They replied, "If you will be a servant to these people and serve them this day, and if you will respond by speaking kind words to them, they will be your servants forever."

⁸ But Rehoboam rejected the advice of the elders; instead, he consulted the young men who had grown up with him and served him. ⁹ He asked them, "What message do you advise that we send back to these people who have spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke your father put on us?'"

¹⁰ The young men who had grown up with him replied, "This is how you should answer these people who said to you, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you must make it lighter.' This is what you should tell them: 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist! ¹¹ Whereas my father burdened you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. Whereas my father scourged you with whips, I will scourge you with scorpions.'"

¹² After three days, Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam, since the king had said, "Come back to me on the third day." ¹³ And the king answered the people harshly. He rejected the advice of the elders ¹⁴ and spoke to them as the young men had advised, saying, "Whereas my father made your yoke heavy, I will add to your yoke. Whereas my father scourged you with whips, I will scourge you with scorpions."

¹⁵ So the king did not listen to the people, and indeed this turn of events was from Yahweh, to fulfill the word He had spoken to Jeroboam son of Nebat through Ahijah the Shilonite.

THE KINGDOM DIVIDED // 2 CHRONICLES 10:16-19

¹⁶ When all Israel saw that the king had refused to listen to them, they answered the king:

"What portion do we have in David, and what inheritance in the son of Jesse?

To your tents, O Israel!

Look now to your own house, O David!"

So the Israelites went home, ¹⁷ but Rehoboam still reigned over the Israelites living in the cities of Judah.

¹⁸ Then King Rehoboam sent out Adoram, who was in charge of the forced labor, but all Israel stoned him to death. And King Rehoboam mounted his chariot in haste and escaped to Jerusalem. ¹⁹ So to this day Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David.

SHEMAIAH'S PROPHECY // 2 CHRONICLES 11:1-4

²⁰ When all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they summoned him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. Only the tribe of Judah followed the house of David.

²¹ And when Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem, he mobilized the whole house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin—180,000 chosen warriors—to fight against the house of Israel and restore the kingdom to Rehoboam son of Solomon.

²² But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God: ²³ "Tell Rehoboam son of Solomon king of Judah, all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and the rest of the people ²⁴ that this is what Yahweh says: 'You are not to go up and fight against your brothers, the Israelites. Each of you must return home, for this is My doing.'"

■ 1KI 12:16 [FULFILLS] Ahijah tore his cloak into twelve pieces and gave Jeroboam ten tribes ← 1KI 11:31 p.-
 ■ 1KI 12:16 [NOTE] TO YOUR TENTS, O ISRAEL! The same cry Sheba used against David, 2 Samuel 20:1. See the Big Question pages Why the Kingdom Split.
 ■ 1KI 12:20 [FULFILLS] Ahijah tore his cloak into twelve pieces and gave Jeroboam ten tribes ← 1KI 11:31 p.-
 ■ 1KI 12:20 [FULFILLS] One tribe would stay with Solomon's son so David would always have a lamp in Jerusalem ← 1KI 11:35-36 p.-

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE **BLOODLINE OF CHRIST**

So they listened to the word of Yahweh and turned back according to the word of Yahweh.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

WHY THE KINGDOM SPLIT

What Happened

1 KINGS 11:9 TO 13 · 11:26 TO 40 · 12:1 TO 24 · 2 CHRONICLES 10 TO 11

GOD'S WARNING

Because Solomon turned to other gods, God said, I will tear the kingdom away from you, but not in your lifetime, and not all of it. One tribe would stay with his son for David's sake, 11:11 to 13.

THE TORN CLOAK

The prophet Ahijah met Jeroboam, one of Solomon's work bosses, tore his new cloak into twelve pieces, and told him to take ten, 11:29 to 31. Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, and he ran to Egypt, 11:40.

THE MEETING AT SHECHEM

After Solomon died, the people asked Rehoboam to lighten the heavy yoke his father put on them. The old advisers said, Serve them, and they will serve you forever. His young friends said, Tell them my little finger is thicker than my father's waist, 12:7 to 10.

THE ANSWER

Rehoboam took the young men's advice. Israel answered, What portion do we have in David? To your tents, O Israel! 12:16. Ten tribes made Jeroboam king. Only Judah, with Benjamin, stayed with Rehoboam, 12:20 to 21.

THE CIVIL WAR THAT DID NOT HAPPEN

Rehoboam gathered an army to win the tribes back, but God told the prophet Shemaiah, Do not fight your brothers, for this is My doing, 12:24. They listened.

THE QUESTION

Who caused the split: Solomon, Rehoboam, Jeroboam, or God?

Every View

1 KINGS 12:15 · 2 SAMUEL 19:41 TO 43 · 20:1 TO 2 · EZEKIEL 37:15 TO 28

VIEW 1: SOLOMON'S IDOLS

The Bible's main answer. God tore the kingdom away because Solomon worshiped other gods, 11:33. The split was God's judgment.

VIEW 2: REHOBAM'S PRIDE

Rehoboam could have kept the kingdom with kind words, 12:7. He chose to show off his power. The Bible says the turn of events was from Yahweh, to fulfill His word, 12:15. God used a proud king's foolish choice.

VIEW 3: AN OLD CRACK

The north and the south had argued for a long time. They fought under David, 2 Samuel 2 to 4, and again when Sheba cried, We have no share in David, 2 Samuel 20:1. Rehoboam's heavy taxes broke an old crack wide open.

JEROBOAM'S FEAR

God promised Jeroboam a lasting house if he obeyed, 11:38. But he was afraid the people would go back to Jerusalem, so he made the golden calves, 12:26 to 30. The north never recovered from that sin.

WHAT CAME NEXT

The two kingdoms lasted side by side for about 200 years. Israel in the north fell to Assyria in 722 BC. Judah in the south fell to Babylon in 586 BC.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

God kept His promise to David even through the split: a lamp always before Him in Jerusalem, 11:36. The prophets looked ahead to a day when the two would become one again under one King, Ezekiel 37:22 to 24.

JEROBOAM'S IDOLATRY

²⁵ Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. And from there he went out and built Peniel.

²⁶ Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom might revert to the house of David." ²⁷ If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of Yahweh at Jerusalem, their hearts will return to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah; then they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah."

²⁸ After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves and said to the people, "Going up to Jerusalem is too much for

■ 1KI 12:26 [HEART] Jeroboam said in his heart that the people might go back to David's family. Fear in his heart led him to make the golden calves.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE ARCHAEOLOGY

you. Here, O Israel, are your gods, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.”

²⁹ One calf he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan. ³⁰ And this thing became a sin; the people walked as far as Dan to worship before one of the calves.

³¹ Jeroboam also built shrines on the high places and appointed from every class of people priests who were not Levites. ³²

And Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices on the altar; he made this offering in Bethel to sacrifice to the calves he had set up, and he installed priests in Bethel for the high places he had set up.

³³ On the fifteenth day of the eighth month, a month of his own choosing, Jeroboam offered sacrifices on the altar he had set up in Bethel. So he ordained a feast for the Israelites, offered sacrifices on the altar, and burned incense.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

THE HIGH PLACE AT DAN

1 KINGS 12:25 TO 33 · JUDGES 18:30 TO 31 · AMOS 8:14
· 2 KINGS 10:29



The high place at Tel Dan. The stone platform with steps is at the right. The metal frame in the middle is modern and shows the size of the altar that once stood there. Photo Mboesch, CC BY SA 4.0.

- **1KI 12:28 [DEMONIC]** Jeroboam makes two golden calves at Bethel and Dan.
- **1KI 12:28 [FULFILLS]** Aaron's golden calf would be copied by a later king ← EX 32:4 · MEDIUM p. 6
- **1KI 12:28 [NOTE]** HERE ARE YOUR GODS, O ISRAEL. Almost the same words Aaron said about the golden calf, Exodus 32:4. Many think Jeroboam meant the calves as the throne or pedestal for Yahweh, but the people worshiped them.
- **1KI 12:29 [ARCHAEOLOGY]** The high place at Tel Dan → FIELD NOTES p. 31
- **1KI 12:29 [FIELD NOTES]** The stone platform of the high place at Dan has been found. See the High Place at Dan Field Notes page.

WHAT IT IS

A big square platform of cut stone, about 60 feet on each side, with a wide stairway up its front. In front of it was a walled yard with a large altar. Diggers found small altars, three iron shovels for ashes, incense stands and bones of animals offered there.

HOW OLD IT IS

The diggers dated the first platform to the late 900s BC, the time of Jeroboam I. They think it was made bigger in the 800s BC, likely under Ahab, and the stairway was added in the 700s BC. Scholars still discuss who built each stage.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

At Tel Dan, in the far north of Israel by one of the springs of the Jordan River. Avraham Biran dug there from 1966 to 1999. The same dig found the Tel Dan Stele and the old gate of Laish.

THE GOLDEN CALF

Jeroboam set up one golden calf at Bethel and one at Dan, 12:29. He built houses on the high places and made priests who were not Levites, 12:31. This sin is named again and again for the rest of Kings.

STILL GOING

Amos, about 170 years later, warned those who swear by the god of Dan, Amos 8:14. Even Jehu, who wiped out Baal worship, kept the calves at Bethel and Dan, 2 Kings 10:29.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

No golden calf was found. Gold would have been taken long ago. The platform shows a large royal worship place at Dan in the right time and place for 1 Kings 12.

13

CHAPTER 13 IN 30 SECONDS

A man of God from Judah cries out against Jeroboam's altar and names a future king, Josiah. The altar splits, and Jeroboam's hand dries up and is healed. The man of God was told not to eat there, but an old prophet lies to him and invites him to dinner. On the way home, a lion kills him and then just stands there next to the donkey.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE MIRACLES GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

JEROBOAM'S HAND WITHERS // 2 KINGS 23:4-20;
2 CHRONICLES 34:3-7

¹ Suddenly, as Jeroboam was standing beside the altar to burn incense, there came a man of God from Judah to Bethel by the word of Yahweh. ² And he cried out against the altar by the word of Yahweh, "O altar, O altar, this is what Yahweh says: 'A son named Josiah will be born to the house of David, and upon you he will sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense upon you, and human bones will be burned upon you.'"

³ That day the man of God gave a sign, saying, "Yahweh has spoken this sign: 'Surely the altar will be split apart, and the ashes upon it will be poured out.'"

⁴ Now when King Jeroboam, who was at the altar in Bethel, heard the word that the man of God had cried out against it, he stretched out his hand and said, "Seize him!" But the hand he stretched out toward him withered, so that he could not pull it back. ⁵ And the altar was split apart, and the ashes poured out, according to the sign that the man of God had given by the word of Yahweh.

⁶ Then the king responded to the man of God, "Intercede with Yahweh your God and pray for me that my hand may be restored."

So the man of God interceded with Yahweh, and the king's hand was restored to him as it was before.

⁷ Then the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward."

⁸ But the man of God replied, "If you were to give me half your possessions, I still would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink water in this place. ⁹ For

this is what I was commanded by the word of Yahweh: 'You must not eat bread or drink water or return by the way you came.'"

¹⁰ So the man of God went another way and did not return by the way he had come to Bethel.

THE OLD PROPHET AND THE MAN OF GOD

¹¹ Now a certain old prophet was living in Bethel, and his sons came and told him all the deeds that the man of God had done that day in Bethel. They also told their father the words that the man had spoken to the king.

¹² "Which way did he go?" their father asked.

And his sons showed him the way taken by the man of God, who had come from Judah. ¹³ So the prophet said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me."

Then they saddled the donkey for him, and he mounted it ¹⁴ and went after the man of God. He found him sitting under an oak tree and asked, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?"

"I am," he replied.

¹⁵ So the prophet said to the man of God, "Come home with me and eat some bread."

¹⁶ But the man replied, "I cannot go home with you, and I will not eat bread or drink water with you in this place. ¹⁷ For I have been told by the word of Yahweh: 'You must not eat bread or drink water there or return by the way you came.'"

¹⁸ Then the prophet replied, "I too am a prophet like you, and an angel spoke to me by the word of Yahweh, saying, 'Bring him back with you to your house, so that he may eat bread and drink water.'"

The old prophet was lying to him, ¹⁹ but the man of God went back with him, ate bread in his house, and drank water.

²⁰ While they were sitting at the table, the word of Yahweh came to the prophet who had brought him back, ²¹ and the prophet cried out to the man of God who had come from Judah, "This is what Yahweh says: 'Because you have defied the word

■ 1KI 13:1 [PROPHECY] A man of God named King Josiah about 300 years before he reigned → 2KI 23:15-16 p.--

■ 1KI 13:1 [DEMONIC] A man of God curses Jeroboam's altar at Bethel

■ 1KI 13:2 [NOTE] JOSIAH BY NAME. About 300 years later King Josiah burned bones on this very altar, 2 Kings 23:15 to 16.

■ 1KI 13:3 [PROPHECY] The man of God said the altar at Bethel would split and its ashes pour out → 1KI 13:5 p.--

■ 1KI 13:3 [MIRACLE] The altar splits and King Jeroboam's hand withers and is healed

■ 1KI 13:5 [FULFILLS] The man of God said the altar at Bethel would split and its ashes pour out ← 1KI 13:3 p.--

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE MIRACLES DEMONIC GOD SPEAKING

of Yahweh and have not kept the commandment that Yahweh your God gave you, ²² but you went back and ate bread and drank water in the place where He told you not to do so, your body shall never reach the tomb of your fathers.”

²³ And after the man of God had finished eating and drinking, the old prophet who had brought him back saddled the donkey for him. ²⁴ As he went on his way, a lion met him on the road and killed him, and his body was left lying in the road, with the donkey and the lion standing beside it.

²⁵ And there were men passing by who saw the body lying in the road with the lion standing beside it, and they went and reported this in the city where the old prophet lived.

²⁶ When the prophet who had brought him back from his journey heard this, he said, “It is the man of God who disobeyed the command of Yahweh. Therefore Yahweh has delivered him to the lion, and it has mauled him and killed him, according to the word that Yahweh had spoken to him.”

²⁷ Then the old prophet instructed his sons, “Saddle the donkey for me.” So they saddled it, ²⁸ and he went and found the body lying in the road, with the donkey and the lion standing beside it. The lion had not eaten the body or mauled the donkey. ²⁹ So the old prophet lifted up the body of the man of God, laid it on the donkey, and brought it back to his own city to mourn for him and bury him. ³⁰ Then he laid the body in his own tomb, and they lamented over him, “Oh, my brother!”

³¹ After he had buried him, the prophet said to his sons, “When I die, you must bury me in the tomb where the man of God is buried. Lay my bones beside his bones, ³² for the message that he cried out by the word of Yahweh against the altar in Bethel and against all the shrines on

the high places in the cities of Samaria will surely come to pass.”

³³ Even after these events, Jeroboam did not repent of his evil ways, but again he appointed priests for the high places from every class of people. He ordained anyone who desired to be a priest of the high places. ³⁴ And this was the sin of the house of Jeroboam that led to its extermination and destruction from the face of the earth.

14

CHAPTER 14 IN 30 SECONDS

Jeroboam's son is sick, so his wife puts on a disguise to visit the blind prophet Ahijah. It does not work. God tells Ahijah she is coming, and the news is bad. In Judah, Rehoboam's people build idol shrines, and Shishak king of Egypt carries off the treasures of the temple and the palace, and Solomon's gold shields. Rehoboam replaces them with bronze.

AHIJAH'S PROPHECY AGAINST JEROBOAM

¹ At that time Abijah son of Jeroboam became ill, ² and Jeroboam said to his wife, “Now get up, disguise yourself so they will not recognize you as my wife, and go to Shiloh. For Ahijah the prophet is there; it was he who spoke about my kingship over this people. ³ Take with you ten loaves of bread, some cakes, and a jar of honey, and go to him. He will tell you what will become of the boy.”

⁴ Jeroboam's wife did as instructed; she arose and went to Shiloh and arrived at Ahijah's house. Now Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were dim because of his age.

⁵ But Yahweh had said to Ahijah, “Behold, the wife of Jeroboam is coming to ask you about her son, for he is ill. You are to say such and such to her, because when she arrives, she will be disguised.”

⁶ So when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet entering the door, he said, “Come in, wife of Jeroboam! Why are you disguised? For I have been sent to you with bad news. ⁷ Go, tell Jeroboam that this is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: ‘I raised you up from among the people and

■ 1KI 13:22 [PROPHECY] The disobedient man of God would not be buried with his fathers → 1KI 13:24 p.~

■ 1KI 13:24 [MIRACLE] A lion kills the disobedient prophet but does not eat him or the donkey

■ 1KI 13:24 [FULFILLS] The disobedient man of God would not be buried with his fathers ← 1KI 13:22 p.~

■ 1KI 13:32 [DEMONIC] Jeroboam keeps appointing priests for the high places

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE ARCHAEOLOGY DEMONIC GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

appointed you ruler over My people Israel.

⁸ I tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you. But you have not been like My servant David, who kept My commandments and followed Me with all his heart, doing only what was right in My eyes.

⁹ You have done more evil than all who came before you. You have proceeded to make for yourself other gods and molten images to provoke Me, and you have flung Me behind your back. ¹⁰ Because of all this, behold, I am bringing disaster on the house of Jeroboam:

I will cut off from Jeroboam every male, both slave and free, in Israel;

I will burn up the house of Jeroboam as one burns up dung until it is gone!

¹¹ Anyone belonging to Jeroboam who dies in the city

will be eaten by dogs, and anyone who dies in the field will be eaten by the birds of the air.' For Yahweh has spoken.

¹² As for you, get up and go home. When your feet enter the city, the child will die.

¹³ All Israel will mourn for him and bury him. For this is the only one belonging to Jeroboam who will receive a proper burial, because only in him has Yahweh, the God of Israel, found any good in the house of Jeroboam.

¹⁴ Moreover, Yahweh will raise up for Himself a king over Israel who will cut off the house of Jeroboam. This is the day—yes, even today! ¹⁵ For Yahweh will strike Israel as a reed is shaken in the water. He will uproot Israel from this good land that He gave their fathers, and He will scatter them beyond the Euphrates, because they have made their Asherah poles, provoking Yahweh to anger. ¹⁶ So He will give Israel

over on account of the sins Jeroboam has committed and has caused Israel to commit."

¹⁷ Then Jeroboam's wife got up and departed for Tirzah, and as soon as she stepped over the threshold of the house, the boy died. ¹⁸ And they buried him, and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word that Yahweh had spoken through His servant Ahijah the prophet.

NADAB SUCCEEDS JEROBOAM

¹⁹ As for the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he waged war and how he reigned, they are indeed written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

²⁰ And the length of Jeroboam's reign was twenty-two years, and he rested with his fathers, and his son Nadab reigned in his place.

REHOBOAM REIGNS IN JUDAH // 2 CHRONICLES 12:13-14

²¹ Meanwhile, Rehoboam son of Solomon reigned in Judah. He was forty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city Yahweh had chosen from all the tribes of Israel in which to put His Name. His mother's name was Naamah the Ammonite.

²² And Judah did evil in the sight of Yahweh, and by the sins they committed they provoked Him to jealous anger more than all their fathers had done. ²³ They also built for themselves high places, sacred pillars, and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every green tree. ²⁴ There were even male shrine prostitutes in the land. They imitated all the abominations of the nations Yahweh had driven out before the Israelites.

SHISHAK RAIDS JERUSALEM // 2 CHRONICLES 12:1-12

²⁵ In the fifth year of Rehoboam's reign, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem. ²⁶ He seized the treasures of

■ 1KI 14:9 [DEMONIC] Jeroboam made other gods and molten images

■ 1KI 14:10 [PROPHECY] Every male of Jeroboam's house would be cut off → 1KI 15:29 p.~

■ 1KI 14:12 [PROPHECY] Jeroboam's son would die the moment his mother stepped into the city → 1KI 14:17 p.~

■ 1KI 14:15 [PROPHECY] Israel would be uprooted and scattered beyond the Euphrates → 2KI 17:6 p.~

■ 1KI 14:15 [DEMONIC] Israel will be scattered because of their Asherah poles

■ 1KI 14:17 [FULFILLS] Jeroboam's son would die the moment his mother stepped into the city ← 1KI 14:12 p.~

■ 1KI 14:23 [DEMONIC] Judah builds high places, pillars, and Asherah poles everywhere

■ 1KI 14:25 [ARCHAEOLOGY] Karnak Temple relief records Shishak's campaign into Israel and Judah → FIELD

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the house of Yahweh and of the royal palace. He took everything, including all the gold shields that Solomon had made.

²⁷ Then King Rehoboam made bronze shields in their place and committed them to the care of the captains of the guard on duty at the entrance to the royal palace. ²⁸ And whenever the king entered the house of Yahweh, the guards would bear the shields, and later they would return them to the guardroom.

²⁹ As for the rest of the acts of Rehoboam, along with all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?

³⁰ There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam throughout their days. ³¹ And Rehoboam rested with his fathers and was buried with them in the City of David his mother's name was Naamah the Ammonite. And his son Abijam reigned in his place.

15

CHAPTER 15 IN 30 SECONDS

Abijam rules Judah for three years and does not follow God with his whole heart. His son Asa is different. He gets rid of the idols and even removes his grandmother as queen mother for her Asherah pole. In Israel, Baasha kills Jeroboam's son and wipes out Jeroboam's family.

ABIJAM REIGNS IN JUDAH // 2 CHRONICLES 13:1–3

¹ In the eighteenth year of the reign of Jeroboam son of Nebat, Abijam became king of Judah, ² and he reigned in Jerusalem three years. His mother's name was Maacah daughter of Abishalom.

³ And Abijam walked in all the sins that his father before him had committed, and his heart was not as fully devoted to Yahweh his God as the heart of David his forefather had been. ⁴ Nevertheless, for the sake of David, Yahweh his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem by raising up a son to succeed him and to make Jerusalem strong. ⁵ For David had done what was

right in the eyes of Yahweh and had not turned aside from anything Yahweh commanded all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

⁶ And there was war between the houses of Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of Abijam's life.

⁷ As for the rest of the acts of Abijam, along with all his accomplishments, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? And there was war between Abijam and Jeroboam.

⁸ And Abijam rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David, and his son Asa reigned in his place.

ASA REIGNS IN JUDAH // 2 CHRONICLES 14:1–15; 2 CHRONICLES 15:8–19

⁹ In the twentieth year of Jeroboam's reign over Israel, Asa became king of Judah, ¹⁰ and he reigned in Jerusalem forty-one years. His grandmother's name was Maacah daughter of Abishalom.

¹¹ And Asa did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh, as his father David had done.

¹² He banished the male shrine prostitutes from the land and removed all the idols that his fathers had made. ¹³ He also removed his grandmother Maacah from her position as queen mother because she had made a detestable Asherah pole. Asa chopped down the pole and burned it in the Kidron Valley.

¹⁴ The high places were not removed, but Asa's heart was fully devoted to Yahweh all his days. ¹⁵ And he brought into the house of Yahweh the silver and gold and the articles that he and his father had dedicated.

WAR BETWEEN ASA AND BAASHA // 2 CHRONICLES 16:1–6

¹⁶ Now there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel throughout their days. ¹⁷ Baasha king of Israel went to war against Judah and fortified Ramah to pre-

■ 1KI 15:12 [DEMONIC] Asa removes idols and burns his grandmother's Asherah

■ 1KI 15:14 [DEMONIC] The high places were not removed

■ 1KI 15:14 [FIELD NOTES] HIGH PLACES were local shrines on hills, outside the temple. A real Judean shrine has been found at Arad. See The Arad Shrine Field Notes page.

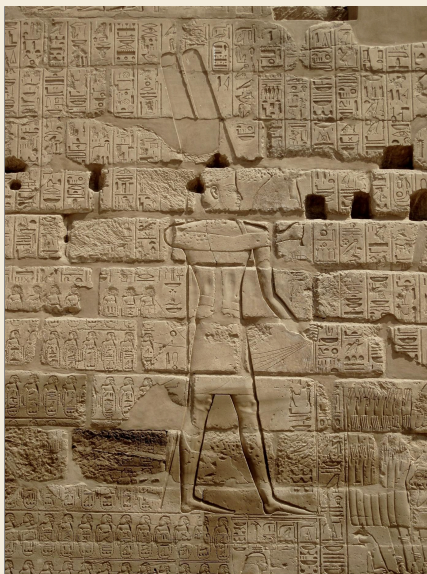
■ 1KI 14:25 [FIELD NOTES] Pharaoh Shishak carved a list of the towns he attacked on a temple wall in Egypt. See the Shishak at Karnak Field Notes page.

■ 1KI 15:3 [HEART] Abijam's heart was not fully devoted to the Lord like David's.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

SHISHAK AT KARNAK

1 KINGS 14:25 TO 28 · 11:40 · 2 CHRONICLES 12:1 TO 12



Part of Shishak's victory carving at Karnak. The tall figure is the god Amun, holding ropes tied to rows of prisoners. Each prisoner's head and shoulders rise from an oval with the name of a town Shishak attacked. Photo Olaf Tausch, CC BY 3.0.

GOLD TO BRONZE

Shishak carried off the gold shields Solomon had made, and Rehoboam made bronze shields to take their place, 14:26 to 27. Whenever the king went to the temple, the guards carried them and then put them back in the guardroom, 14:28. Gold to bronze in five years shows how fast the glory faded.

THE FIELD OF ABRAM?

One name in the Negev part of the list may read the Field of Abram. Some think it is the oldest mention of Abraham's name outside the Bible, but the reading is debated.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

The list does not tell the story the way the Bible does, and scholars debate the route the army took. It does show that a pharaoh named Sheshonq raided this land at about the time 1 Kings gives.

WHAT IT IS

A giant carving on an outside wall of the temple of Amun at Karnak, in Luxor, Egypt. It shows Pharaoh Sheshonq I, the Bible's Shishak, and long rows of tied up prisoners. Each prisoner stands for a town, with its name written in an oval.

HOW OLD IT IS

About 925 BC. Sheshonq I ruled Egypt from about 943 to 922 BC. His raid came in the fifth year of Rehoboam, 14:25.

WHAT IT SAYS

Over 150 places are listed. Readable names include Megiddo, Taanach, Beth Shean, Gibeon and Mahanaim, plus many towns in the Negev. Jerusalem is not named in the parts that can still be read. 2 Chronicles 12:7 to 9 says Rehoboam humbled himself, and Shishak took the treasures instead of destroying the city.

MORE PROOF

A broken piece of a victory stone with Sheshonq's name was found at Megiddo in the 1920s. Jeroboam had once run away to Shishak in Egypt, 11:40.

WHO WAS SHISHAK?

He started a new family of pharaohs, the 22nd Dynasty, whose fathers had come to Egypt from Libya. Egypt had been weak for years, and he wanted to make it strong again.

THE BUBASTITE GATE

The carving is beside a temple gate called the Bubastite Portal, named after Bubastis, the Nile Delta city his family was said to come from. The rest of his building work there was never finished.

STILL ON THE WALL

It is still on the temple wall at Karnak, where visitors can see it today. Many of the town names have worn away in the 2,900 years since it was carved.

BOTH KINGDOMS

Many towns on the list, like Megiddo and Beth Shean, were in Jeroboam's northern kingdom, even though Jeroboam had once hidden at Shishak's court. The raid hit both kingdoms, not only Judah.

BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

vent anyone from leaving or entering the territory of Asa king of Judah.

¹⁸ So Asa withdrew all the silver and gold that remained in the treasuries of the house of Yahweh and the royal palace. He entrusted it to his servants and sent them with this message to Ben-hadad son of Tabrimmon, the son of Hezion, the king of Aram, who was ruling in Damascus: ¹⁹ “Let there be a treaty between me and you as there was between my father and your father. See, I have sent you a gift of silver and gold. Now go and break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel, so that he will withdraw from me.”

²⁰ And Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel, conquering Ijon, Dan, Abel-beth-maacah, and the whole land of Naphtali, including the region of Chinnereth.

²¹ When Baasha learned of this, he stopped fortifying Ramah and withdrew to Tirzah. ²² Then King Asa summoned all the men of Judah, with no exceptions, and they carried away the stones of Ramah and the timbers Baasha had used for building. And with these materials King Asa built up Geba of Benjamin, as well as Mizpah.

JEHOSHAPHAT SUCCEEDS ASA // 2 CHRONICLES 17:1–19

²³ Now the rest of the acts of Asa, along with all his might, all his accomplishments, and the cities he built, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? In his old age, however, he became diseased in his feet.

²⁴ And Asa rested with his fathers and was buried with them in the city of his father David, and his son Jehoshaphat reigned in his place.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

THE ARAD SHRINE

1 KINGS 15:14 · 22:43 · 2 KINGS 18:4 AND 22 · DEUTERONOMY 12:5 TO 14



The holy of holies from the shrine at Arad, with its two incense altars and standing stone, in the Israel Museum. Photo Yair Haklai, CC BY SA 4.0.

WHAT IT IS

A small temple inside a Judean fort at Arad in the Negev desert. It had a yard with an altar for burnt offerings and a small back room, a holy of holies, with two stone incense altars and at least one standing stone. The Leviticus Field Notes page shows the same shrine.

HOW OLD IT IS

Most now date the shrine to the 700s BC. It was used for only a short time and then carefully buried and covered over.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

Yohanan Aharoni dug Tel Arad from 1962 to 1967. Writing on broken pottery found in the fort mentions the house of Yahweh, most likely the temple in Jerusalem.

HIGH PLACES

God told Israel to bring their offerings to the one place He would choose, Deuteronomy 12:5. But the people kept offering on local high places. Even good kings like Asa and Jehoshaphat did not remove them, 15:14 and 22:43.

WHO CLOSED IT?

Many think the shrine was closed when King Hezekiah removed the high places and told Judah to worship only in Jerusalem, 2 Kings 18:4 and 22. Others link it to Josiah's reforms or to other causes.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

Arad is not named in 1 Kings, and its

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shrine is later than Asa. It shows what a high place for Yahweh in Judah looked like, the kind 1 Kings says was not removed.

NADAB REIGNS IN ISRAEL

²⁵ In the second year of Asa's reign over Judah, Nadab son of Jeroboam became king of Israel, and he reigned two years.

²⁶ And he did evil in the sight of Yahweh and walked in the way of his father and in his sin, which he had caused Israel to commit.

²⁷ Then Baasha son of Ahijah of the house of Issachar conspired against Nadab, and Baasha struck him down at Gibbethon of the Philistines while Nadab and all Israel were besieging the city. ²⁸ In the third year of Asa's reign over Judah, Baasha killed Nadab and reigned in his place.

²⁹ As soon as Baasha became king, he struck down the entire household of Jeroboam. He did not leave to Jeroboam anyone who breathed, but destroyed them all according to the word that Yahweh had spoken through His servant Ahijah the Shilonite, ³⁰ because of the sins Jeroboam had committed and had caused Israel to commit, and because he had provoked Yahweh, the God of Israel, to anger.

³¹ As for the rest of the acts of Nadab, along with all his accomplishments, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? ³² And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel throughout their days.

BAASHA REIGNS IN ISRAEL

³³ In the third year of Asa's reign over Judah, Baasha son of Ahijah became king of all Israel, and he reigned in Tirzah twenty-four years.

³⁴ And Baasha did evil in the sight of Yahweh and walked in the way of Jeroboam and in his sin, which he had caused Israel to commit.

16

CHAPTER 16 IN 30 SECONDS

Kings come and go fast in Israel. Zimri rules for seven days, then burns the palace down on himself. Omri builds a new capital, Samaria. His son Ahab marries Jezebel and builds a temple for Baal. He does more to anger God than all the kings before him.

JEHU'S PROPHECY AGAINST BAASHA

¹ Then the word of Yahweh came to Jehu son of Hanani against Baasha, saying: ²

"Even though I lifted you out of the dust and made you ruler over My people Israel, you have walked in the way of Jeroboam and have caused My people Israel to sin and to provoke Me to anger by their sins."

³ So now I will consume Baasha and his house, and I will make your house like that of Jeroboam son of Nebat:

⁴ Anyone belonging to Baasha who dies in the city will be eaten by dogs, and anyone who dies in the field will be eaten by the birds of the air."

⁵ As for the rest of the acts of Baasha, along with his accomplishments and might, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? ⁶ And Baasha rested with his fathers and was buried in Tirzah, and his son Elah reigned in his place.

⁷ Moreover, the word of Yahweh came through the prophet Jehu son of Hanani against Baasha and his house, because of all the evil he had done in the sight of Yahweh, provoking Him to anger with the work of his hands and becoming like the house of Jeroboam, and also because Baasha had struck down the house of Jeroboam.

ELAH REIGNS IN ISRAEL

⁸ In the twenty-sixth year of Asa's reign over Judah, Elah son of Baasha became king of Israel, and he reigned in Tirzah two years.

⁹ However, while Elah was in Tirzah getting drunk in the house of Arza the stew-

1KI 15:29 [FULFILLS] Every male of Jeroboam's house would be cut off ← 1KI 14:10-11 p.-

1KI 16:1 [PROPHECY] Jehu prophesied Baasha's dynasty would be wiped out like Jeroboam's → 1KI 16:11-12 p.-

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ARCHAEOLOGY

DEMONIC

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ard of his household there, Elah's servant Zimri, the commander of half his chariots, conspired against him. ¹⁰ So in the twenty-seventh year of Asa's reign over Judah, Zimri went in, struck Elah down, and killed him. And Zimri reigned in his place.

¹¹ As soon as Zimri began to reign and was seated on the throne, he struck down the entire household of Baasha. He did not leave a single male, whether a kinsman or friend. ¹² So Zimri destroyed the entire household of Baasha, according to the word that Yahweh had spoken against Baasha through Jehu the prophet. ¹³ This happened because of all the sins Baasha and his son Elah had committed and had caused Israel to commit, provoking Yahweh, the God of Israel, to anger with their worthless idols.

¹⁴ As for the rest of the acts of Elah, along with all his accomplishments, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

ZIMRI REIGNS IN ISRAEL

¹⁵ In the twenty-seventh year of Asa's reign over Judah, Zimri reigned in Tirzah for seven days. Now the troops were encamped against Gibbethon of the Philistines, ¹⁶ and the people in the camp heard that Zimri had conspired against the king and struck him down. So there in the camp that very day, all Israel proclaimed Omri, the commander of the army, king over Israel.

¹⁷ Then Omri and all the Israelites marched up from Gibbethon and besieged Tirzah.

¹⁸ When Zimri saw that the city was captured, he entered the citadel of the royal palace and burned it down upon himself. So he died ¹⁹ because of the sins he had committed, doing evil in the sight of Yahweh and following the example of Jeroboam and the sin he had committed and had caused Israel to commit.

²⁰ As for the rest of the acts of Zimri and the treason he committed, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

OMRI REIGNS IN ISRAEL

²¹ At that time the people of Israel were divided: Half of the people supported Tibni son of Ginath as king, and half supported Omri. ²² But the followers of Omri proved stronger than those of Tibni son of Ginath. So Tibni died and Omri became king.

²³ In the thirty-first year of Asa's reign over Judah, Omri became king of Israel, and he reigned twelve years, six of them in Tirzah. ²⁴ He bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for 150 pounds of silver and built a city there, calling it Samaria after the name of Shemer, who had owned the hill.

²⁵ But Omri did evil in the sight of Yahweh and acted more wickedly than all who were before him. ²⁶ For he walked in all the ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat and in his sins, which he caused Israel to commit, provoking Yahweh, the God of Israel, to anger with their worthless idols.

²⁷ As for the rest of the acts of Omri, along with his accomplishments and the might he exercised, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

²⁸ And Omri rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria, and his son Ahab reigned in his place.

AHAB REIGNS IN ISRAEL, MARRIES JEZEBEL

²⁹ In the thirty-eighth year of Asa's reign over Judah, Ahab son of Omri became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria twenty-two years.

■ **1KI 16:11 [FULFILLS]** Jehu prophesied Baasha's dynasty would be wiped out like Jeroboam's < 1KI 16:1-4 p.~

■ **1KI 16:13 [DEMONIC]** Baasha and Elah angered God with worthless idols

■ **1KI 16:16 [ARCHAEOLOGY]** King Omri is named outside the Bible on the Mesha Stele and in Assyrian records, see The Mesha Stele Field Notes page

■ **1KI 16:23 [FIELD NOTES]** OMRI ruled only twelve years, but other nations remembered him. A Moabite king named him on a stone. See The Mesha Stele Field Notes page in Ruth, p.~.

■ **1KI 16:26 [DEMONIC]** Omri angers God with worthless idols

■ **1KI 16:28 [ARCHAEOLOGY]** King Ahab is named outside the Bible on the Kurkh Monolith, see The Kurkh Monolith Field Notes page

■ **1KI 16:29 [ARCHAEOLOGY]** Kurkh Monolith of Shalmaneser III → FIELD NOTES p.42

■ **1KI 16:29 [FIELD NOTES]** An Assyrian king's stone names Ahab and his 2,000 chariots. See The Kurkh Monolith Field Notes page.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE MIRACLES DEMONIC GOD SPEAKING

³⁰ However, Ahab son of Omri did evil in the sight of Yahweh, more than all who were before him. ³¹ And as if it were not enough for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, he even married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and he then proceeded to serve and worship Baal.

³² First, Ahab set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal that he had built in Samaria. ³³ Then he set up an Asherah pole. Thus Ahab did more to provoke Yahweh, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel before him.

³⁴ In Ahab's days, Hiel the Bethelite rebuilt Jericho. At the cost of Abiram his first-born he laid its foundation, and at the cost of Segub his youngest he set up its gates, according to the word that Yahweh had spoken through Joshua son of Nun.

17

CHAPTER 17 IN 30 SECONDS

Elijah walks into the story and tells King Ahab: no rain until I say so. God feeds Elijah by a brook using ravens, then sends him to a widow in Zarephath. Her flour and oil do not run out. When her son dies, Elijah stretches out on him three times and prays, and the boy comes back to life.

THE RAVENS FEED ELIJAH

¹ Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was among the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As surely as Yahweh, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there will be neither dew nor rain in these years except at my word!"

■ **1KI 16:31 [DEMONIC]** Ahab marries Jezebel and builds a temple for Baal

■ **1KI 16:31 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → REV 2:20 p.-

■ **1KI 16:34 [DEMONIC]** Joshua's curse on Jericho's re-builder fulfilled in Hiel of Bethel's sons

■ **1KI 16:34 [FULFILLS]** Joshua cursed the re-builder of Jericho: would lay its foundation at the cost of his first-born and gate at the cost of his youngest ← JOSH 6:26 p.-

■ **1KI 16:34 [NOTE]** HIEL'S SONS. Many think Hiel offered his sons as a sacrifice and buried them in the foundations, a pagan custom. Others think his sons simply died as Joshua's curse said, Joshua 6:26. Either way, God's word came true.

■ **1KI 17:1 [PROPHECY]** Elijah said there would be no dew or rain until he said so → 1KI 18:45; JAS 5:17 p.-

■ **1KI 17:1 [MIRACLE]** Elijah announces that no dew or rain will fall until he says so

■ **1KI 17:1 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → JAS 5:17-18 p.-

■ **1KI 17:1 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → REV 11:6 p.-

² Then a revelation from Yahweh came to Elijah: ³ "Leave here, turn eastward, and hide yourself by the Brook of Cherith, east of the Jordan. ⁴ And you are to drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."

⁵ So Elijah did what Yahweh had told him, and he went and lived by the Brook of Cherith, east of the Jordan. ⁶ The ravens would bring him bread and meat in the morning and evening, and he would drink from the brook. ⁷ Some time later, however, the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land.

THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH

⁸ Then the word of Yahweh came to Elijah:

⁹ "Get up and go to Zarephath of Sidon, and stay there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you."

¹⁰ So Elijah got up and went to Zarephath. When he arrived at the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks. Elijah called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, so that I may drink." ¹¹ And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a piece of bread."

¹² But she replied, "As surely as Yahweh your God lives, I have no bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. Look, I am gathering a couple of sticks to take home and prepare a meal for myself and my son, so that we may eat it and die."

¹³ "Do not be afraid," Elijah said to her. "Go and do as you have said. But first make me a small cake of bread from what you have, and bring it out to me. Afterward, make some for yourself and your son, ¹⁴ for this is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be exhausted and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day Yahweh sends rain upon the face of the earth.'"

■ **1KI 17:1 [NOTE]** ELIJAH'S NAME means my God is Yahweh. His whole life fought Baal worship.

■ **1KI 17:4 [MIRACLE]** Ravens fed Elijah at Brook Cherith

■ **1KI 17:9 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → LK 4:25-26 p.-

■ **1KI 17:14 [PROPHECY]** The widow's flour and oil would not run out until the rain came → 1KI 17:16 p.-

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE MIRACLES GOD SPEAKING

¹⁵ So she went and did according to the word of Elijah, and there was food every day for Elijah and the woman and her household. ¹⁶ The jar of flour was not exhausted and the jug of oil did not run dry, according to the word that Yahweh had spoken through Elijah.

ELIJAH RAISES THE WIDOW'S SON

¹⁷ Later, the son of the woman who owned the house became ill, and his sickness grew worse and worse, until no breath remained in him. ¹⁸ "O man of God," said the woman to Elijah, "what have you done to me? Have you come to remind me of my iniquity and cause the death of my son?" ¹⁹ But Elijah said to her, "Give me your son."

So he took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. ²⁰ Then he cried out to Yahweh, "O Yahweh my God, have You also brought tragedy on this widow who has opened her home to me, by causing her son to die?" ²¹ Then he stretched himself out over the child three times and cried out to Yahweh, "O Yahweh my God, please let this boy's life return to him!"

²² And Yahweh listened to the voice of Elijah, and the child's life returned to him, and he lived. ²³ Then Elijah took the child, brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. "Look, your son is alive," Elijah declared.

²⁴ Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of Yahweh from your mouth is truth."

18

CHAPTER 18 IN 30 SECONDS

Three years later, Elijah challenges 450 prophets of Baal to a showdown on Mount Carmel. Two altars, two bulls, no matches. Baal's prophets shout and dance all day. Nothing. Elijah soaks his altar with water, prays one short prayer, and fire falls from heaven. Then it rains.

ELIJAH'S MESSAGE TO AHAB

¹ After a long time, in the third year of the drought, the word of Yahweh came to Elijah: "Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the face of the earth."

² So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab. The famine was severe in Samaria, ³ and Ahab summoned Obadiah, who was in charge of the palace.

(Now Obadiah greatly feared Yahweh, ⁴ for when Jezebel had slaughtered the prophets of Yahweh, Obadiah had taken a hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty men per cave, providing them with food and water.)

⁵ Then Ahab said to Obadiah, "Go throughout the land to every spring and every valley. Perhaps we will find grass to keep the horses and mules alive so that we will not have to destroy any livestock."

⁶ So they divided the land to explore. Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went the other way by himself.

⁷ Now as Obadiah went on his way, Elijah suddenly met him. When Obadiah recognized him, he fell facedown and said, "Is it you, my lord Elijah?"

⁸ "It is I," he answered. "Go tell your master, 'Elijah is here!'"

⁹ But Obadiah replied, "How have I sinned, that you are handing your servant over to Ahab to put me to death? ¹⁰ As surely as Yahweh your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my lord has not sent someone to search for you. When they said, 'He is not here,' he made that kingdom or nation swear that they had not found you. ¹¹ And now you say, 'Go tell your master that Elijah is here!'"

¹² I do not know where the Spirit of Yahweh may carry you off when I leave you.

■ 1KI 17:14 [MIRACLE] Widow's flour and oil did not run out during the drought

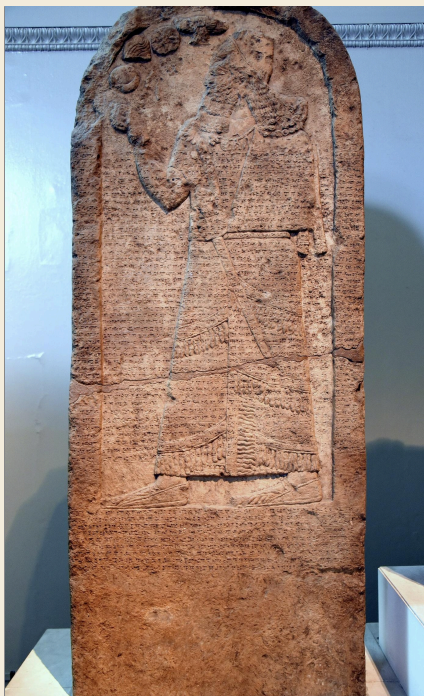
■ 1KI 17:16 [FULFILLS] The widow's flour and oil would not run out until the rain came ← 1KI 17:14 p.~

■ 1KI 17:17 [MIRACLE] Elijah raised the widow's son from death

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

THE KURKH MONOLITH

1 KINGS 16:29 · 20:1 TO 34 · 22:1 TO 4



The Kurkh Monolith of Shalmaneser III in the British Museum. The king stands before the signs of his gods, and cuneiform writing covers the stone. Photo Osama Shukir Muhammed Amin, CC BY SA 4.0.

A MESSY STONE

The writing has many copying mistakes, so scholars use its numbers with care. Shalmaneser told this battle again on later stones, and the number of enemies he says he killed grows each time, from 14,000 to 25,000 and more.

NEAR THE BLACK OBELISK

It stands in the British Museum's Assyrian rooms, not far from the Black Obelisk, which shows Jehu, the man who killed Ahab's son Joram, 2 Kings 9.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

Shalmaneser said he won, but he did not march on for years, so many think the battle was closer than he admits. The stone is one of the oldest mentions of a king of Israel outside the Bible.

WHAT IT IS

A tall stone with a carving of King Shalmaneser III of Assyria, covered in wedge shaped cuneiform writing about his wars.

HOW OLD IT IS

It tells about the battle of Qarqar in 853 BC and was made soon after, about 852 BC.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

At Kurkh, near Diyarbakir in southeast Turkey, by J. G. Taylor, the British consul there, in 1861. It is in the British Museum in London.

AHAB THE ISRAELITE

The stone says twelve kings fought Shalmaneser at Qarqar in Syria and names eleven of them. One is Ahab the Israelite, with 2,000 chariots and 10,000 soldiers, the most chariots of anyone. Some think 2,000 is a copying slip for 200. Either way, Ahab was a strong king.

THE BIBLE AND QARQAR

The Bible does not tell about this battle. But 1 Kings 22:1 says there were three years without war between Aram and Israel, and 20:34 says Ahab made a treaty with Ben hadad. Many think that is when Israel and Aram fought side by side against Assyria.

WHO ELSE FOUGHT

Hadadezer of Damascus brought 1,200 chariots, 1,200 horsemen and 20,000 soldiers. Others came from Hamath, Egypt and Arabia. Gindibu the Arab brought 1,000 camels, the first known mention of Arabs in any record.

AHAB IN THE BIBLE

1 Kings says Ahab built an ivory house and many cities, 22:39, and fought Aram more than once, chapters 20 and 22. A king with that many chariots fits a strong, rich Israel, even though the Bible cares more about his idols than his army.

A DATE TO COUNT FROM

Assyria named every year after an official, and one of those years had a solar eclipse that we know happened in 763 BC. Counting from there, Qarqar was 853 BC, so Ahab's reign can be dated within a few years. It is one of the anchor dates for all the kings of Israel and Judah.

DEMONIC

Then when I go and tell Ahab and he does not find you, he will kill me. But I, your servant, have feared Yahweh from my youth. ¹³ Was it not reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel slaughtered the prophets of Yahweh? I hid a hundred prophets of Yahweh, fifty men per cave, and I provided them with food and water. ¹⁴ And now you say, 'Go tell your lord that Elijah is here!' He will kill me!"

¹⁵ Then Elijah said, "As surely as Yahweh of Hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will present myself to Ahab today."

ELIJAH ON MOUNT CARMEL

¹⁶ So Obadiah went to inform Ahab, who went to meet Elijah. ¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?"

¹⁸ "I have not troubled Israel," Elijah replied, "but you and your father's house have, for you have forsaken the commandments of Yahweh and have followed the Baals. ¹⁹ Now summon all Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel, along with the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah who eat at Jezebel's table."

²⁰ So Ahab summoned all the Israelites and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. ²¹ Then Elijah approached all the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If Yahweh is God, follow Him. But if Baal is God, follow him." But the people did not answer a word.

²² Then Elijah said to the people, "I am the only remaining prophet of Yahweh, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets.

²³ Get two bulls for us. Let the prophets of Baal choose one bull for themselves, cut it into pieces, and place it on the wood but not light the fire. And I will prepare the other bull and place it on the wood but not light the fire. ²⁴ Then you may call on the name of your god, and I will call on the

name of Yahweh. The God who answers by fire, He is God."

And all the people answered, "What you say is good."

²⁵ Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Since you are so numerous, choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first. Then call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire."

²⁶ And they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, shouting, "O Baal, answer us!"

But there was no sound, and no one answered as they leaped around the altar they had made.

²⁷ At noon Elijah began to taunt them, saying, "Shout louder, for he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or occupied, or on a journey. Perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened!"

²⁸ So they shouted louder and cut themselves with knives and lances, as was their custom, until the blood gushed over them.

²⁹ Midday passed, and they kept on raving until the time of the evening sacrifice. But there was no response; no one answered, no one paid attention.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

ELIJAH ON MOUNT CARMEL

What Happened

1 KINGS 17:1 · 18:1 TO 46 · DEUTERONOMY 11:16 TO 17 · JAMES 5:17 TO 18

WHY BAAL?

Baal was the Canaanite storm god. People believed he sent the rain and made crops grow. Ahab and Jezebel made Baal worship the religion of Israel, 16:31 to 33.

THE DROUGHT

Elijah told Ahab there would be no dew or rain except at his word, 17:1. If Baal was the god of rain, three dry years were a public insult to him. Moses had warned that turning to other gods would shut up the sky, Deuteronomy 11:16 to 17.

■ **1KI 18:18 [DEMONIC]** Elijah challenges the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel.

■ **1KI 18:19 [NOTE] MOUNT CARMEL** is a ridge by the sea in northern Israel. See the Big Question pages Elijah on Mount Carmel.

■ **1KI 18:21 [NOTABLE]** Elijah's challenge still lands today. You cannot keep one foot in each camp. Pick a side. The people did not answer a word.

■ **1KI 18:27 [NOTE] OCCUPIED.** The Hebrew word may be a polite way of saying Baal had gone off to relieve himself. Elijah was mocking them.

THE HEART MIRACLES GOD SPEAKING

THE CHALLENGE

Elijah called 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah to Mount Carmel. Two bulls, two altars, no fire. The god who answers by fire, He is God, 18:24.

BAAL'S TURN

They shouted from morning until noon and danced around the altar. Elijah mocked them: Shout louder! Maybe he is busy, or traveling, or asleep! They cut themselves until the blood flowed. No answer, 18:26 to 29.

ELIJAH'S TURN

He rebuilt Yahweh's altar with twelve stones, dug a trench, and had twelve jars of water poured on it all. He prayed a short prayer. Fire fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the dust and the water, 18:30 to 38.

THE QUESTION

Was the fire a real miracle? And why did Elijah have the prophets of Baal killed?

Every View

DEUTERONOMY 13:1 TO 5 · 18:20 · LUKE 9:51 TO 56 · ROMANS 12:19

VIEW 1: A REAL MIRACLE

Most Christians and Jews through history read it as written: God sent fire from heaven in front of everyone. The people fell on their faces and said, Yahweh, He is God! 18:39.

VIEW 2: LIGHTNING SENT BY GOD

Some think God sent a bolt of lightning, the fire of God, Job 1:16, right before the storm that ended the drought, 18:45. Even then, the timing and the soaked altar make it no less a miracle.

VIEW 3: A STORY TOLD TO TEACH

Many critical scholars see the story as told to show Yahweh rules the rain and fire, not Baal, without saying how much happened as written.

THE KILLING OF BAAL'S PROPHETS

Elijah had the 450 prophets of Baal killed at the brook Kishon, 18:40. Under Moses' law, a prophet who led Israel to other gods was to die, Deuteronomy 13:5. Jezebel had already killed Yahweh's prophets, 18:4. Many see it as Israel's law, not personal revenge.

NOT FOR TODAY

When James and John wanted to call down fire like Elijah, Jesus turned and rebuked them, Luke 9:54 to 55. Christians do not use violence for God. Vengeance belongs to God, Romans 12:19.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

The question on Carmel is still the question: How long will you waver between two opinions? If Yahweh is God, follow Him, 18:21.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people approached him, and he repaired the altar of Yahweh that had been torn down.

³¹ And Elijah took twelve stones, one for each tribe of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of Yahweh had come and said, **"Israel shall be your name."** ³² And with the stones, Elijah built an altar in the name of Yahweh. Then he dug a trench around the altar large enough to hold about four gallons of seed.

³³ Next, he arranged the wood, cut up the bull, placed it on the wood, ³⁴ and said, "Fill four waterpots and pour the water on the offering and on the wood."

"Do it a second time," he said, and they did it a second time.

"Do it a third time," he said, and they did it a third time.

³⁵ So the water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

ELIJAH'S PRAYER

³⁶ At the time of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet approached the altar and said, **"O Yahweh, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and have done all these things at Your command."** ³⁷ Answer me, O Yahweh! Answer me, so that this people will know that You, Yahweh, are God, and that You have turned their hearts back again."

■ 1KI 18:36 [MIRACLE] Fire from heaven burns up Elijah's soaked sacrifice on Mount Carmel

■ 1KI 18:37 [HEART] Elijah prayed that the people would know God was turning their hearts back to Him. The fire was for their hearts.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE MIRACLES DEMONIC GOD SPEAKING

38 Then the fire of Yahweh fell and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and it licked up the water in the trench.

39 When all the people saw this, they fell facedown and said, "Yahweh, He is God! Yahweh, He is God!"

40 Then Elijah ordered them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let a single one escape." So they seized them, and Elijah brought them down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered them there.

YAHWEH SENDS RAIN

41 And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain."

42 So Ahab went up to eat and drink. But Elijah climbed to the summit of Carmel, bent down on the ground, and put his face between his knees. **43** "Go and look toward the sea," he said to his servant.

So the servant went and looked, and he said, "There is nothing there."

Seven times Elijah said, "Go back."

44 On the seventh time the servant reported, "There is a cloud as small as a man's hand rising from the sea."

And Elijah replied, "Go and tell Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.'"

45 Meanwhile, the sky grew dark with clouds and wind, and a heavy rain began to fall. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel.

46 And the hand of Yahweh came upon Elijah, and he tucked his cloak into his belt and ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel.

19

CHAPTER 19 IN 30 SECONDS

Jezebel threatens to kill Elijah, and the great prophet runs for his life and asks God to let him die. An angel feeds him, and he walks forty days to Mount Horeb. God is not in the wind, the earthquake or the fire. Then comes a still, small voice. Then Elijah throws his cloak on Elisha.

ELIJAH FLEES FROM JEZEBEL

1 Now Ahab told Jezebel everything that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. **2** So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "May the gods deal with me, and ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I have not made your life like the lives of those you killed!"

3 And Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, **4** while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He sat down under a broom tree and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Yahweh," he said. "Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers."

5 Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep.

Suddenly an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat."

6 And he looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again.

7 A second time the angel of Yahweh returned and touched him, saying, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you."

8 So he got up and ate and drank. And strengthened by that food, he walked forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

■ **1KI 18:39 [DEMONIC]** The people cry that God is God and Baal's prophets die

■ **1KI 18:39 [NOTABLE]** Elijah's name means my God is Yahweh, and here the whole crowd shouts his name back as a confession. The fire settled the question.

■ **1KI 18:41 [MIRACLE]** The drought ends when Elijah prays, and Elijah outruns Ahab's chariot by the power of Yahweh

■ **1KI 18:42 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → JAS 5:17–18 p.~

■ **1KI 18:45 [FULFILLS]** Elijah said there would be no dew or rain until he said so ← 1KI 17:1 p.~

■ **1KI 19:2 [DEMONIC]** Jezebel swears by her gods to kill Elijah

■ **1KI 19:5 [MIRACLE]** An angel feeds Elijah twice, and that food gives him strength for forty days and nights

■ **1KI 19:5 [NOTE]** THE ANGEL. 19:7 calls him the angel of Yahweh, so his words print red, like the angel of Yahweh in Judges. Some think he was an angel God sent, and others think it was God Himself appearing.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE ARCHAEOLOGY MIRACLES DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

GOD SPEAKING

YAHWEH SPEAKS TO ELIJAH AT HOREB

⁹ There Elijah entered a cave and spent the night. And the word of Yahweh came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

¹⁰ “I have been very zealous for Yahweh, the God of Hosts,” he replied, “but the Israelites have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I am the only one left, and they are seeking my life as well.”

¹¹ Then Yahweh said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before Yahweh. Behold, Yahweh is about to pass by.”

And a great and mighty wind tore into the mountains and shattered the rocks before Yahweh, but Yahweh was not in the wind.

After the wind there was an earthquake, but Yahweh was not in the earthquake.

¹² After the earthquake there was a fire, but Yahweh was not in the fire.

And after the fire came a still, small voice.

¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

¹⁴ “I have been very zealous for Yahweh, the God of Hosts,” he replied, “but the Israelites have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I am the only one left, and they are seeking my life as well.”

¹⁵ Then Yahweh said to him, “Go back by the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you arrive, you are to anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ You

are also to anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel and Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel-meholah to succeed you as prophet.

¹⁷ Then Jehu will put to death whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death whoever escapes the sword of Jehu.

¹⁸ Nevertheless, I have reserved seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.”

THE BIG QUESTION

THE STILL SMALL VOICE

What Happened

1 KINGS 19:1 TO 18 · EXODUS 33:18 TO 23 · 34:5 TO 7 · ROMANS 11:2 TO 5

FROM VICTORY TO DESPAIR

Right after the fire on Carmel, Jezebel sent word that Elijah would be dead by tomorrow. Elijah ran for his life, sat under a broom tree in the desert, and asked God to let him die, 19:1 to 4.

GOD'S FIRST ANSWER

No lecture. God let him sleep, and an angel brought food and water, twice, 19:5 to 8. On that food he walked forty days and nights to Horeb, the mountain of God, also called Sinai.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

In a cave God asked, What are you doing here, Elijah? He answered, I alone am left, and they want to kill me too, 19:9 to 10.

WIND, EARTHQUAKE, FIRE

A great wind tore the mountains, but Yahweh was not in the wind. Then an earthquake, and a fire, but He was not in them. After the fire came a still, small voice, 19:11 to 12.

THE SAME MOUNTAIN

Moses met God on this same mountain with fire, smoke and earthquake, Exodus 19:18. And on this mountain God hid Moses in a cleft of the rock and passed

■ 1KI 19:10 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → ROM 11:3 p.~

■ 1KI 19:11 [MIRACLE] Wind, earthquake, fire, then the still small voice

■ 1KI 19:12 [NOTABLE] God was not in the wind, the earthquake or the fire. He came to a tired, scared prophet in a whisper. Big shows are not the only way God speaks.

■ 1KI 19:12 [NOTE] A STILL, SMALL VOICE. The Hebrew can also mean a gentle whisper or a sound of thin silence. See the Big Question pages The Still Small Voice.

■ 1KI 19:14 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → ROM 11:3 p.~

■ 1KI 19:15 [PROPHECY] Elijah was told to anoint Hazael, Jehu, and Elisha, and judgment would come through them → 1KI 19:19; 2KI 8:13; 2KI 9:6 p.~

■ 1KI 19:15 [ARCHAEOLOGY] Hazael king of Aram is named in Shalmaneser III's records and on ivory and bronze pieces carried off from Damascus

■ 1KI 19:15 [FIELD NOTES] See the Hazael Field Notes page in 2 Chronicles, p.~.

■ 1KI 19:16 [ARCHAEOLOGY] King Jehu is named, and likely pictured, on the Black Obelisk, see the Jehu on the Black Obelisk Field Notes page in 2 Kings

■ 1KI 19:18 [DEMONIC] Seven thousand have not bowed to Baal

■ 1KI 19:18 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → ROM 11:4 p.~

■ 1KI 19:18 [NOTABLE] Elijah thought he was the only one left. God said there were seven thousand more. You are never as alone as you feel. Paul uses this verse in Romans 11:4.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

by, Exodus 33:22. Now Elijah stood at the mouth of a cave as Yahweh passed by.

THE QUESTION

What does the still small voice mean?
Does God usually speak in a whisper?

Every View

PSALM 46:10 • ISAIAH 30:15 • ZECHARIAH 4:6 • JOHN 10:27 • HEBREWS 1:1 TO 2

THE WORDS

The Hebrew is *qol demamah daqqah*, a voice, a sound, of thin quiet. Bibles translate it a still small voice, a gentle whisper, a low murmur, or the sound of sheer silence.

VIEW 1: GOD WORKS QUIETLY TOO

Many say Elijah wanted God to win by fire and storm every time. God showed him that He also works quietly, through a faithful few and a new prophet, Elisha. Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, Zechariah 4:6.

VIEW 2: GOD MET A TIRED MAN GENTLY

Others see God's kindness. Elijah was burned out and afraid. God did not shout. He came near softly, asked questions, and gave him a next step.

VIEW 3: A WHISPER IN THE HEART

Many Christians use this verse to talk about God's leading in prayer, a quiet sense in the heart. Others warn that the verse is about one prophet's meeting with God, and that God's sure word to us is the Bible, Hebrews 1:1 to 2 and 2 Timothy 3:16.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Elijah said, I alone am left. God said, I have reserved seven thousand in Israel who have not bowed to Baal, 19:18. Paul uses this in Romans 11:2 to 5 to say God always keeps a faithful remnant.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

God was there in the quiet as surely as in the fire. And He did not leave Elijah in the cave. He gave him work to do, 19:15 to 16.

THE CALL OF ELISHA

¹⁹ So Elijah departed and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve teams of oxen, and he was with the

twelfth team. Elijah passed by him and threw his cloak around him.

²⁰ So Elisha left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and mother goodbye, and then I will follow you."

"Go on back," Elijah replied, "for what have I done to you?"

²¹ So Elisha turned back from him, took his pair of oxen, and slaughtered them. Using the oxen's equipment for fuel, he cooked the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow and serve Elijah.

20

CHAPTER 20 IN 30 SECONDS

Ben hadad king of Aram surrounds Samaria and makes outrageous demands. A prophet tells Ahab that God will give him the victory, and He does, twice. But Ahab lets Ben hadad go with a peace deal, and another prophet tells him he will pay for it with his own life.

BEN-HADAD ATTACKS SAMARIA

¹ Now Ben-hadad king of Aram assembled his entire army. Accompanied by thirty-two kings with their horses and chariots, he marched up, besieged Samaria, and waged war against it. ² Then he sent messengers into the city to Ahab king of Israel, ³ saying, "This is what Ben-hadad says: 'Your silver and gold are mine, and your best wives and children are mine!'"

⁴ And the king of Israel replied, "Just as you say, my lord the king: I am yours, along with all that I have."

⁵ The messengers came back and said, "This is what Ben-hadad says: 'I have sent to you to demand your silver, your gold, your wives, and your children. ⁶ But about this time tomorrow I will send my servants to search your palace and the houses of your servants. They will seize and carry away all that is precious to you.'"

■ 1KI 19:19 [FULFILLS] Elijah was told to anoint Hazael, Jehu, and Elisha, and judgment would come through them ← 1KI 19:15–17 p. 6

■ 1KI 19:19 [NOTE] HIS CLOAK. Throwing his prophet's cloak on Elisha was Elijah's way of calling him to take his place, 2 Kings 2:13 to 14.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE GOD SPEAKING

⁷ Then the king of Israel summoned all the elders of the land and said, "Please take note and see that this man is looking for trouble, for when he demanded my wives, my children, my silver, and my gold, I did not deny him."

⁸ And the elders and the people all said, "Do not listen to him or consent to his terms."

⁹ So Ahab answered the messengers of Ben-hadad, "Tell my lord the king, 'All that you demanded of your servant the first time I will do, but this thing I cannot do.'" So the messengers departed and relayed the message to Ben-hadad.

¹⁰ Then Ben-hadad sent another message to Ahab: "May the gods deal with me, and ever so severely, if enough dust remains of Samaria for each of my men to have a handful."

¹¹ And the king of Israel replied, "Tell him: 'The one putting on his armor should not boast like one taking it off.'"

¹² Ben-hadad received this message while he and the kings were drinking in their tents, and he said to his servants, "Take your positions." So they stationed themselves against the city.

AHAB DEFEATS BEN-HADAD

¹³ Meanwhile a prophet approached Ahab king of Israel and declared, "This is what Yahweh says: 'Do you see this entire great army? Behold, I will deliver it into your hand this very day, and you will know that I am Yahweh.'"

¹⁴ "By whom?" Ahab asked.

And the prophet replied, "This is what Yahweh says: 'By the young officers of the district governors.'"

"Who will start the battle?" asked Ahab.

"You will," answered the prophet.

¹⁵ So Ahab assembled the young officers of the district governors, and there were 232 men. And after them, he assembled the rest of the Israelite troops, 7,000 in all.

¹⁶ They marched out at noon while Ben-hadad and the 32 kings allied with him were in their tents getting drunk. ¹⁷ And the young officers of the district governors marched out first.

Now Ben-hadad had sent out scouts, who reported to him, "Men are marching out of Samaria."

¹⁸ "If they have marched out in peace," he said, "take them alive. Even if they have marched out for war, take them alive."

¹⁹ Meanwhile, these young officers of the district governors marched out of the city, with the army behind them, ²⁰ and each one struck down his opponent. So the Arameans fled, with the Israelites in pursuit. But Ben-hadad king of Aram escaped on horseback with the cavalry.

²¹ Then the king of Israel marched out and attacked the horses and chariots, inflicting a great slaughter on the Arameans.

²² Afterward, the prophet approached the king of Israel and said, "Go and strengthen your position, and take note what you must do, for in the spring the king of Aram will come up against you."

²³ Meanwhile, the servants of the king of Aram said to him, "Their gods are gods of the hills. That is why they prevailed over us. Instead, we should fight them on the plains; surely then we will prevail." ²⁴ So do this: Dismiss all the kings from their positions and replace them with other officers. ²⁵ And you must raise an army like the one you have lost—horse for horse and chariot for chariot—so we can fight the Israelites on the plain, where we will surely prevail."

And the king approved their plan and acted accordingly.

ANOTHER WAR WITH BEN-HADAD

²⁶ In the spring, Ben-hadad mobilized the Arameans and went up to Aphek to fight against Israel. ²⁷ The Israelites also mobilized, gathered supplies, and marched out to meet them.

1KI 20:13 [PROPHECY] A prophet told Ahab God would hand the huge Aramean army to him that day → 1KI 20:20–21 p.~

1KI 20:20 [FULFILLS] A prophet told Ahab God would hand the huge Aramean army to him that day ← 1KI 20:13 p.~

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE GOD SPEAKING

The Israelites camped before them like two small flocks of goats, while the Arameans covered the countryside.

²⁸ Then the man of God approached the king of Israel and said, "This is what Yahweh says: 'Because the Arameans have said that Yahweh is a god of the hills and not of the valleys, I will deliver all this great army into your hand. Then you will know that I am Yahweh.'"

²⁹ For seven days the armies camped opposite each other, and on the seventh day the battle ensued, and the Israelites struck down the Arameans—a hundred thousand foot soldiers in one day.

³⁰ The rest of them fled into the city of Aphek, where the wall fell on twenty-seven thousand of the remaining men. Ben-hadad also fled to the city and hid in an inner room.

AHAB SPARES BEN-HADAD

³¹ Then the servants of Ben-hadad said to him, "Look now, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are merciful. Let us go out to the king of Israel with sackcloth around our waists and ropes around our heads. Perhaps he will spare your life."

³² So with sackcloth around their waists and ropes around their heads, they went to the king of Israel and said, "Your servant Ben-hadad says, 'Please spare my life.'"

And the king answered, "Is he still alive? He is my brother."

³³ Now the men were looking for a sign of hope, and they quickly grasped at this word and replied, "Yes, your brother Ben-hadad."

"Go and get him!" said the king.

Then Ben-hadad came out, and Ahab had him come up into his chariot.

³⁴ Ben-hadad said to him, "I will restore the cities my father took from your father;

you may set up your own marketplaces in Damascus, as my father did in Samaria."

"By this treaty I release you," Ahab replied. So he made a treaty with him and sent him away.

A PROPHET REPROVES AHAB

³⁵ Meanwhile, by the word of Yahweh, one of the sons of the prophets said to his companion, "Strike me, please!"

But the man refused to strike him.

³⁶ Then the prophet said to him, "Because you have not obeyed the voice of Yahweh, as soon as you depart from me a lion will kill you."

And when he left, a lion found him and killed him.

³⁷ Then the prophet found another man and said, "Strike me, please!"

So the man struck him and wounded him, ³⁸ and the prophet went and waited on the road for the king, disguising himself with a bandage over his eyes.

³⁹ As the king passed by, he cried out to the king: "Your servant had marched out into the middle of the battle, when suddenly a man came over with a captive and told me, 'Guard this man! If he goes missing for any reason, your life will be exchanged for his life, or you will weigh out 75 pounds of silver.' ⁴⁰ But while your servant was busy here and there, the man disappeared."

And the king of Israel said to him, "So shall your judgment be; you have pronounced it on yourself."

⁴¹ Then the prophet quickly removed the bandage from his eyes, and the king of Israel recognized him as one of the prophets.

⁴² And the prophet said to the king, "This is what Yahweh says: 'Because you have let slip from your hand the man I had devoted to destruction, your life will be exchanged for his life, and your people for his people.'"

⁴³ Sullen and angry, the king of Israel went home to Samaria.

■ 1KI 20:28 [PROPHECY] God would give Israel victory in the valley to show He is Lord of hills and valleys → 1KI 20:29 p.-

■ 1KI 20:29 [FULFILLS] God would give Israel victory in the valley to show He is Lord of hills and valleys ← 1KI 20:28 p.-

■ 1KI 20:42 [PROPHECY] Ahab's life would be taken in place of the enemy king he let go → 1KI 22:35 p.-

21

CHAPTER 21 IN 30 SECONDS

Ahab wants Naboth's vineyard, and Naboth will not sell his family land. Ahab sulks in bed. Jezebel writes letters in Ahab's name, and false witnesses get Naboth stoned. Elijah meets Ahab in the vineyard: the dogs will lick up your blood. Ahab humbles himself, and God delays the disaster.

NABOTH'S VINEYARD

¹Some time after these events, Naboth the Jezreelite owned a vineyard in Jezreel next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. ²So Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard to use as a vegetable garden, since it is next to my palace. I will give you a better vineyard in its place—or if you prefer, I will give you its value in silver."

³But Naboth replied, "Yahweh forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers."

⁴So Ahab went to his palace, sullen and angry because Naboth the Jezreelite had told him, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." He lay down on his bed, turned his face away, and refused to eat.

⁵Soon his wife Jezebel came in and asked, "Why are you so sullen that you refuse to eat?"

⁶Ahab answered, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and told him, 'Give me your vineyard for silver, or if you wish, I will give you another vineyard in its place.' And he replied, 'I will not give you my vineyard!'"

⁷But his wife Jezebel said to him, "Do you not reign over Israel? Get up, eat some food, and let your heart be glad, for I will get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

JEZEBEL'S PLOT

⁸Then Jezebel wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent them to the elders and nobles who lived

with Naboth in his city. ⁹In the letters she wrote:

"Proclaim a fast and give Naboth a seat of honor among the people. ¹⁰But seat two scoundrels opposite him and have them testify, 'You have cursed both God and the king!' Then take him out and stone him to death."

¹¹So the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth's city did as Jezebel had instructed in the letters she had written to them. ¹²They proclaimed a fast and gave Naboth a seat of honor among the people.

¹³And the two scoundrels came in and sat opposite Naboth, and these men testified against him before the people, saying, "Naboth has cursed both God and the king!"

So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death. ¹⁴Then they sent word to Jezebel: "Naboth has been stoned to death."

¹⁵When Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned to death, she said to Ahab, "Get up and take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, who refused to give it to you for silver. For Naboth is no longer alive, but dead."

¹⁶And when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he got up and went down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

■ **1KI 21:1 [FIELD NOTES]** The royal city of Jezreel has been dug, and wine presses were found in the land around it. See the Jezreel Field Notes page.

■ **1KI 21:3 [NOTE] FAMILY LAND.** God's law said a family's land should not be sold off forever, Leviticus 25:23 and Numbers 36:7. Naboth was being faithful, not stubborn.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE · DEMONIC · GOD SPEAKING

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: MEDIUM

JEZREEL

1 KINGS 18:45 TO 46 · 21:1 TO 23 · 2 KINGS 9:30 TO 37 · HOSEA 1:4



The mound of ancient Jezreel above the valley. The metal grate in the middle and the buildings at the back are modern. Photo Ori, used with attribution.

WHAT IT IS

Jezreel was a royal city on a hill above the Jezreel Valley, the best farmland in Israel. Diggers found a large walled enclosure with towers at the corners and a deep dry moat cut into the rock around it.

HOW OLD IT IS

The diggers dated the royal enclosure to the 800s BC, the time of Omri's family, Ahab and Jezebel. It seems to have been used only a short time before it was destroyed.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

David Ussishkin and John Woodhead dug Tel Jezreel from 1990 to 1996. Norma Franklin and Jennie Ebeling surveyed and dug the area around it starting in 2012 and found many wine presses cut into the rock.

NABOTH'S VINEYARD

Naboth's vineyard was in Jezreel, next to Ahab's palace, 21:1. The wine presses show that this was grape country. One large wine press below the hill has been dated to the Iron Age, the time of the kings.

THE END OF JEZEBEL

Jezebel was thrown from a window in Jezreel, and the dogs ate her, just as Elijah said, 2 Kings 9:30 to 37 and 1 Kings 21:23.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

No vineyard or wine press can be tied

to Naboth by name. The finds show a royal city and a land of vineyards right where 1 Kings 21 puts them.

ELIJAH DENOUNCES AHAB AND JEZEBEL

¹⁷ Then the word of Yahweh came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ¹⁸ "Get up and go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who is in Samaria. See, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to take possession of it.

¹⁹ Tell him that this is what Yahweh says: 'Have you not murdered a man and seized his land?'

Then tell him that this is also what Yahweh says: 'In the place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth, there also the dogs will lick up your blood—yes, yours!'"

²⁰ When Elijah arrived, Ahab said to him, "So you have found me out, my enemy."

He replied, "I have found you out because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of Yahweh. ²¹ This is what Yahweh says:

'I will bring calamity on you and consume your descendants; I will cut off from Ahab every male in Israel, both slave and free.

²² I will make your house like that of Jeroboam son of Nebat and like that of Baasha son of Ahijah, because you have provoked My anger and caused Israel to sin.'

²³ And Yahweh also speaks concerning Jezebel:

'The dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.'

²⁴ Anyone belonging to Ahab who dies in the city will be eaten by dogs, and anyone who dies in the field will be eaten by the birds of the air."

■ 1KI 21:19 [PROPHECY] Elijah told Ahab: dogs would lick his blood where they licked Naboth's; Jezebel would be eaten by dogs → 1KI 22:38; 2KI 9:35–36 p.–

■ 1KI 21:21 [DEMONIC] Ahab's repentance delayed but did not cancel judgment on his house

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE DEMONIC GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

AHAB'S REPENTANCE

²⁵ (Surely there was never one like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the sight of Yahweh, incited by his wife Jezebel. ²⁶ He committed the most detestable acts by going after idols, just like the Amorites whom Yahweh had driven out before the Israelites.)

²⁷ When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, and fasted. He lay down in sackcloth and walked around meekly.

²⁸ Then the word of Yahweh came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying: ²⁹ "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the calamity during his days, but I will bring it upon his house in the days of his son."

22

CHAPTER 22 IN 30 SECONDS

Ahab and King Jehoshaphat of Judah want to attack Ramoth Gilead. 400 prophets say, Go for it. One prophet, Micaiah, says Ahab will die. Ahab disguises himself in battle, but a random arrow finds the gap in his armor. The dogs lick his blood, just as Elijah said.

AHAB AND THE FALSE PROPHETS // 2 CHRONICLES 18:1-11

¹ Then three years passed without war between Aram and Israel.

² However, in the third year, Jehoshaphat king of Judah went down to visit the king of Israel, ³ who said to his servants, "Do you not know that Ramoth-gilead is ours, but we have failed to take it from the hand of the king of Aram?"

⁴ So he asked Jehoshaphat, "Will you go with me to fight against Ramoth-gilead?" Jehoshaphat answered the king of Israel, "I am as you are, my people are your people, and my horses are your horses."

⁵ But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, "Please inquire first for the word of Yahweh."

⁶ So the king of Israel assembled the prophets, about four hundred men, and asked them, "Should I go to war against Ramoth-gilead, or should I refrain?"

"Go up," they replied, "and the Lord will deliver it into the hand of the king."

⁷ But Jehoshaphat asked, "Is there not still a prophet of Yahweh here of whom we can inquire?"

⁸ The king of Israel answered, "There is still one man through whom we can inquire of Yahweh, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good for me, but only bad. He is Micaiah son of Im-lah."

"The king should not say that!" Je-hoshaphat replied.

⁹ So the king of Israel called one of his officials and said, "Bring Micaiah son of Im-lah at once."

¹⁰ Dressed in royal attire, the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah were sitting on their thrones at the threshing floor by the entrance of the gate of Samaria, with all the prophets prophesying before them.

¹¹ Now Zedekiah son of Cheneanah had made for himself iron horns and declared, "This is what Yahweh says: 'With these you shall gore the Arameans until they are finished off.'"

¹² And all the prophets were prophesying the same, saying, "Go up to Ramoth-gilead and triumph, for Yahweh will deliver it into the hand of the king."

MICAIAH PROPHECIES AGAINST AHAB // 2 CHRONICLES 18:12-27

¹³ Then the messenger who had gone to call Micaiah instructed him, "Behold now, with one accord the words of the prophets are favorable to the king. So please let your words be like theirs, and speak favorably."

¹⁴ But Micaiah said, "As surely as Yahweh lives, I will speak whatever Yahweh tells me."

¹⁵ When Micaiah arrived, the king asked him, "Micaiah, should we go to war

1KI 21:29 [PROPHECY] Because Ahab humbled himself, the ruin of his house would come in his son's days → 2KI 9:25-26; 2KI 10:11 p.-

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE DEMONIC GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

against Ramoth-gilead, or should we refrain?"

"Go up and triumph," Micaiah replied, "for Yahweh will deliver it into the hand of the king."

¹⁶ But the king said to him, "How many times must I make you swear not to tell me anything but the truth in the name of Yahweh?"

¹⁷ So Micaiah declared:

"I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd.

And Yahweh said, 'These people have no master; let each one return home in peace.'"

¹⁸ Then the king of Israel said to Je-hoshaphat, "Did I not tell you that he never prophesies good for me, but only bad?"

¹⁹ Micaiah continued, "Therefore hear the word of Yahweh: I saw Yahweh sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him on His right and on His left.

²⁰ And Yahweh said, 'Who will entice Ahab to march up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?'

And one suggested this, and another that.

²¹ Then a spirit came forward, stood before Yahweh, and said, 'I will entice him.' 'By what means?' asked Yahweh.

²² And he replied, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets.'

'You will surely entice him and prevail,' said Yahweh. 'Go and do it.'

²³ So you see, Yahweh has put a lying spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours, and Yahweh has pronounced disaster against you."

²⁴ Then Zedekiah son of Chenaanah went up, struck Micaiah in the face, and demanded, "Which way did the Spirit of

Yahweh go when He departed from me to speak with you?"

²⁵ Micaiah replied, "You will soon see, on that day when you go and hide in an inner room."

²⁶ And the king of Israel declared, "Take Micaiah and return him to Amon the governor of the city and to Joash the king's son, ²⁷ and tell them that this is what the king says: 'Put this man in prison and feed him only bread and water until I return safely.'"

²⁸ But Micaiah replied, "If you ever return safely, Yahweh has not spoken through me." Then he added, "Take heed, all you people!"

AHAB'S DEFEAT AND DEATH // 2 CHRONICLES 18:28–34

²⁹ So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead.

³⁰ And the king of Israel said to Je-hoshaphat, "I will disguise myself and go into battle, but you wear your royal robes." So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

THE LYING SPIRIT

What Happened

1 KINGS 22:1 TO 40 • 2 CHRONICLES 18 • JOB 1:6 TO 12 • ISAIAH 6:1 TO 8

400 YES MEN

Ahab and Jehoshaphat wanted to attack Ramoth Gilead. Ahab's 400 prophets all said, Go up, and the Lord will give it to you, 22:6. One of them even made iron horns to act it out, 22:11.

ONE MORE PROPHET

Jehoshaphat asked if there was a prophet of Yahweh too. Ahab said, There is Micaiah, but I hate him, because he never says anything good about me, 22:8.

THE VISION

Micaiah said: I saw Yahweh on His throne, with the host of heaven around Him. Yahweh asked, Who will entice Ahab to go up and fall at Ramoth Gilead?

■ 1KI 22:17 [PROPHECY] Micaiah predicted Israel would scatter and Ahab would not return alive from Ramoth Gilead → 1KI 22:34–37 p.~

■ 1KI 22:19 [DEMONIC] A lying spirit is sent to deceive Ahab's prophets

■ 1KI 22:19 [NOTE] MICAHIAH'S VISION. Only God's words in the vision print red. The lying spirit and Micaiah's own words stay black. See the Big Question pages The Lying Spirit.

■ 1KI 22:28 [PROPHECY] Micaiah predicted Israel would scatter and Ahab would not return alive from Ramoth Gilead → 1KI 22:34–37 p.~

A spirit came forward and said, I will be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets. Yahweh said, Go and do it, 22:19 to 22.

THE WARNING

Then Micaiah told Ahab the whole thing to his face: Yahweh has put a lying spirit in the mouths of these prophets, and He has pronounced disaster against you, 22:23. Ahab was told the truth and still went.

THE ARROW

Ahab disguised himself, but a man drew his bow at random and hit him between the plates of his armor. He died that evening, 22:34 to 37.

THE QUESTION

Does God lie or send liars? Who was the lying spirit?

Every View

NUMBERS 23:19 · TITUS 1:2 · 2 THESSALONIANS 2:9 TO 12 · 1 SAMUEL 16:14 · JOB 1:6 TO 12

GOD DOES NOT LIE

The Bible says plainly that God does not lie, Numbers 23:19 and Titus 1:2. All sides start there.

VIEW 1: AN EVIL SPIRIT GOD ALLOWED

Many think the spirit was a demon, or Satan himself, who offered to deceive Ahab, and God allowed it, like Job 1. God used evil to judge a man who had already chosen lies.

VIEW 2: GOD'S JUDGMENT ON LIARS

Others say God gave Ahab what he wanted. Ahab loved prophets who flattered him, so God let them deceive him. Paul says God sends a strong delusion on those who refused to love the truth, 2 Thessalonians 2:10 to 11.

VIEW 3: A PICTURE IN A VISION

Some think the throne room scene is a vision, like a parable, to show Ahab that God was behind his coming defeat. The point is the message, not the details of heaven's meetings.

GOD STILL WARNED HIM

Many point out that whatever the spirit was, God told Ahab the whole plan through Micaiah, 22:23. A God who wanted Ahab fooled would not have told him he was being fooled. Ahab chose the lie anyway.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

God rules even over lying spirits, and no plan works against Him. The one true prophet was the one who said the hard thing. As surely as Yahweh lives, I will speak whatever Yahweh tells me, 22:14.

³¹ Now the king of Aram had ordered his thirty-two chariot commanders, "Do not fight with anyone, small or great, except the king of Israel."

³² When the chariot commanders saw Je-hoshaphat, they said, "Surely this is the king of Israel!" So they turned to fight against him, but Jehoshaphat cried out. ³³ And when the chariot commanders saw that he was not the king of Israel, they turned back from pursuing him.

³⁴ However, a certain man drew his bow without taking special aim, and he struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So the king said to his charioteer, "Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am badly wounded!"

³⁵ The battle raged throughout that day, and the king was propped up in his chariot facing the Arameans. And the blood from his wound ran out onto the floor of the chariot, and that evening he died. ³⁶ As the sun was setting, the cry rang out in the army:

"Every man to his own city,
and every man to his own land!"

³⁷ So the king died and was brought to Samaria, where they buried him. ³⁸ And the chariot was washed at the pool of Samaria where the prostitutes bathed, and the dogs licked up Ahab's blood, according to the word that Yahweh had spoken.

³⁹ As for the rest of the acts of Ahab, along with all his accomplishments and the ivory palace and all the cities he built, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

- 1KI 22:34 [FULFILLS] Micaiah predicted Israel would scatter and Ahab would not return alive from Ramoth Gilead ← 1KI 22:17, 28 p.~
- 1KI 22:35 [FULFILLS] Ahab's life would be taken in place of the enemy king he let go ← 1KI 20:42 p.~
- 1KI 22:38 [FULFILLS] Elijah told Ahab: dogs would lick his blood where they licked Naboth's; Jezebel would be eaten by dogs ← 1KI 21:19-23 p.~

DEMONIC BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

⁴⁰ And Ahab rested with his fathers, and his son Ahaziah reigned in his place.

JEHOSHAPHAT REIGNS IN JUDAH // 2 CHRONICLES 20:31–34

⁴¹ In the fourth year of Ahab's reign over Israel, Jehoshaphat son of Asa became king of Judah. ⁴² Jehoshaphat was thirty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-five years. His mother's name was Azubah daughter of Shilhi.

⁴³ And Jehoshaphat walked in all the ways of his father Asa he did not turn away from them, but did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh.

The high places, however, were not removed; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. ⁴⁴ Jehoshaphat also made peace with the king of Israel.

⁴⁵ As for the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, along with the might he exercised and how he waged war, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? ⁴⁶ He banished from the land the male shrine prostitutes who remained from the days of his father Asa.

⁴⁷ And there was no king in Edom; a deputy served as king.

⁴⁸ Jehoshaphat built ships of Tarshish to go to Ophir for gold, but they never set sail, because they were wrecked at Ezion-geber. ⁴⁹ At that time Ahaziah son of Ahab said to Jehoshaphat, "Let my servants sail with your servants," but Jehoshaphat refused.

⁵⁰ And Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers and was buried with them in the city of his father David. And his son Jehoram reigned in his place.

AHAZIAH REIGNS IN ISRAEL // 2 KINGS 1:1–16

⁵¹ In the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat's reign over Judah, Ahaziah

son of Ahab became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria two years. ⁵² And he did evil in the sight of Yahweh and walked in the ways of his father and mother and of Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to sin.

⁵³ Ahaziah served and worshiped Baal, provoking Yahweh, the God of Israel, to anger, just as his father had done.

■ 1KI 22:39 [ARCHAEOLOGY] Ivory inlays and ink written pottery found at Samaria fit Ahab's ivory palace and the houses of ivory in Amos 3:15 → FIELD NOTES p.56

■ 1KI 22:39 [FIELD NOTES] Hundreds of carved ivory pieces were found at Samaria. See The Samaria Ivories Field Notes page.

■ 1KI 22:43 [DEMONIC] Under Jehoshaphat the high places still remained

■ 1KI 22:46 [DEMONIC] Jehoshaphat removes the remaining shrine prostitutes

■ 1KI 22:53 [DEMONIC] Ahaziah serves and worships Baal

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

THE SAMARIA IVORIES

1 KINGS 22:39 · AMOS 3:15 · 6:4 · PSALM 45:8



Carved ivory pieces from Samaria, made to decorate furniture, now in the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. Photo Gary Todd, CC0.

WHAT IT IS

Hundreds of small carved ivory pieces once set into furniture and wall panels. They show palm trees, lotus flowers, lions, sphinxes and a woman looking out a window.

HOW OLD IT IS

The 800s and 700s BC, from the time of Ahab and the kings after him.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

In the royal area of Samaria, the capital Omri built, 16:24, by John Crowfoot's team with Kathleen Kenyon, 1931 to 1935.

THE IVORY PALACE

1 Kings 22:39 mentions Ahab's ivory

palace. Later Amos warned the rich of Samaria who lay on beds of ivory, Amos 6:4, and said the houses of ivory would be destroyed, 3:15.

WHO MADE THEM

The style is Phoenician, which fits Ahab's wife Jezebel, a princess of Sidon, 16:31.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

Nobody knows whether any piece belonged to Ahab himself. They show that Samaria's kings really lived with this kind of luxury.