

2 CHRONICLES

The Director's Cut, Part Two

AUTHOR	The book does not name its author. Jewish tradition in the Talmud says Ezra wrote Chronicles, at least its family lists. Many scholars think a priest or Levite in Jerusalem, often called the Chronicler, wrote it after the exile from older records the book names, like the records of Nathan, Ahijah and Iddo, 9:29.
EVENTS TOOK PLACE	From Solomon becoming king, about 970 BC, to the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC, and then a jump to Cyrus sending the Jews home, 538 BC.
DATE	About 450 BC if Ezra wrote it, as tradition says. Many scholars say about 400 to 250 BC.
WRITTEN TO	The Jews back home after the exile, rebuilding the temple and wondering if God would still answer when they prayed.
KEY VERSE	2 Chronicles 7:14. If My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.



THE OLDEST COPY OF 2 CHRONICLES, MAYBE

This piece of leather is 4Q118, found in Cave 4 at Qumran and copied about 50 to 25 BC. Its second column has a few words of 2 Chronicles 28:27 to 29:3. Scholars are not sure it is a copy of Chronicles, because its first column matches no known text. It may be another book that used Chronicles. The white strips are modern mounting tissue.

You may hear the scrolls hold every book but Esther. That counts 1 and 2 Chronicles as one book, as the Hebrew Bible does, and this piece is the only one for both. The oldest whole copies are Greek: Codex Vaticanus, 300s AD, and Codex Alexandrinus, 400s AD. The oldest Hebrew copy is the Aleppo Codex, about 930 AD, but its pages for 26:19 to 35:7 were lost in 1947. The oldest complete Hebrew copy is the Leningrad Codex, 1008 AD.

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

Historical Setting

Almost all of it happens in Jerusalem and the towns of Judah, the southern kingdom. The northern kingdom, Israel, only shows up when it fights or makes deals with Judah. Battles happen at Mareshah, the Wilderness of Tekoa and Megiddo.

What Was Going Wrong

CHILD SACRIFICE. King Ahaz burned his sons in the fire in the Valley of Ben hinnom 28:3, and King Manasseh did the same 33:6.

IDOLS IN THE TEMPLE. Ahaz shut the temple doors 28:24. Manasseh set up altars to the stars and a carved idol inside the temple itself 33:4 to 7.

GOOD KINGS WHO FINISHED BADLY. Asa jailed a prophet 16:10, Joash had a prophet stoned 24:21, Amaziah bowed to Edom's gods 25:14, and Uzziah's pride ended in leprosy 26:16 to 21.

THEY MOCKED THE PROPHETS. God kept sending messengers because He had compassion on His people, but they mocked them until there was no remedy 36:15 to 16.

The Idiot Proof Summary

2 Chronicles is the second half of the director's cut. It starts with Solomon building the temple and God's fire falling on it. Then the kingdom splits, and the book stays with Judah and David's line, king after king. Again and again the pattern is the same: when a king seeks God and humbles himself, God helps him; when he turns away, trouble comes. Even Manasseh, the worst king, is forgiven. In the end the people mock God's prophets, Babylon burns the temple, and the land rests seventy years. But the last words are hope: Cyrus king of Persia tells God's people to go up and build.

2 Chronicles at a Glance

CH 1 to 9	SOLOMON AND THE TEMPLE Wisdom, gold, and fire from heaven.
CH 10 to 12	THE KINGDOM SPLITS Rehoboam loses ten tribes.
CH 13 to 20	SEEK HIM AND WIN Abijah, Asa and Jehoshaphat.
CH 21 to 28	UP AND DOWN From Jehoram to Ahaz.
CH 29 to 32	HEZEKIAH The temple opened and Assyria beaten.
CH 33 to 35	MANASSEH TO JOSIAH The worst king repents, a boy king reforms.
CH 36	EXILE AND GO UP Babylon burns it, Cyrus sends them home.

Where Jesus Shows Up

2 CHRONICLES 3:1 The temple stood on Mount Moriah, where God provided a ram in Isaac's place, Genesis 22. Many see Jesus, the Lamb of God, John 1:29.

2 CHRONICLES 6:18 Solomon asked, Will God really live on earth with men? John 1:14 answers: the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

2 CHRONICLES 22:10 TO 12 Athaliah tried to wipe out David's line, but baby Joash was saved, and the line went on to Jesus.

GOD'S NAMES IN 2 CHRONICLES

Yahweh, again and again, Yahweh, the God of Israel, 6:4, Yahweh, the God of our fathers, 20:6, and Yahweh, the God of heaven, 36:23. See Why We Say Yahweh in the Old Testament Introduction.

What to Watch for in 2 Chronicles

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW	3:1
PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE	6:6, 9:26, 12:8-9, 18:16, 18:33-34, 20:17, 20:22-24 and 11 more
THE HEART	6:30, 7:16, 12:14, 15:12, 15:15, 15:17, 16:9 and 11 more
ARCHAEOLOGY	32:30, 36:22
MIRACLES	5:13-14, 7:1-3, 26:19-21, 32:21
DEMONIC	7:19-22, 11:15, 13:8-9, 14:3-5, 15:8, 15:16, 17:3 and 23 more
NOTABLE	7:14, 15:2, 20:12, 20:15, 20:20, 26:17-18
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

ONE BOOK, THE LAST WORDS

In the Hebrew Bible, 1 and 2 Chronicles are one book, so this is its second half. It comes last in most printed Hebrew Bibles, so its last words, Cyrus telling God's people to go up, are the last words of the Hebrew Bible. Ezra 1:1 to 3 picks up the same words.

ONLY THREE LIKE DAVID

After Solomon, Judah had 19 kings and one queen. In this book only three kings are said to walk in David's ways: Jehoshaphat, 17:3, Hezekiah, 29:2, and Josiah, 34:2. In Kings the three are Asa, Hezekiah and Josiah.

THE DIRECTOR'S CUT, PART TWO

It skips most of the northern kingdom and Solomon's 700 wives, and adds Manasseh's repentance, Elijah's letter and Hezekiah's great Passover.

How Did It Turn Out?

Babylon burned the temple in 586 BC, and the land rested until seventy years were complete, 36:19 to 21. Then Cyrus said, Go up. The story goes on in Ezra.

GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

1

CHAPTER 1 IN 30 SECONDS

Solomon goes to Gibeon and offers a thousand burnt offerings. That night God says, Ask for whatever you want. Solomon asks for wisdom to lead God's people, and God throws in riches and honor too. Soon silver is as common as stones in Jerusalem, and horses are rolling in from Egypt.

SOLOMON'S PRAYER FOR WISDOM // 1 KINGS 3:1-15; PSALM 45:1-17; PSALM 72:1-20

¹Now Solomon son of David established himself securely over his kingdom, and Yahweh his God was with him and highly exalted him.

²Then Solomon spoke to all Israel, to the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, to the judges, and to every leader in all Israel—the heads of the families. ³And Solomon and the whole assembly went to the high place at Gibeon because it was the location of God's Tent of Meeting, which Moses the servant of Yahweh had made in the wilderness.

⁴Now David had brought the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim to the place he had prepared for it, because he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem. ⁵But the bronze altar made by Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, was in Gibeon before the tabernacle of Yahweh. So Solomon and the assembly inquired of Him there.

⁶Solomon offered sacrifices there before Yahweh on the bronze altar at the Tent of Meeting, where he offered a thousand burnt offerings.

⁷That night God appeared to Solomon and said, "Ask, and I will give it to you!"

⁸Solomon replied to God: "You have shown much loving devotion to my father David, and You have made me king in his place. ⁹Now, O Yahweh God, let Your promise to my father David be fulfilled. For You have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth. ¹⁰Now grant me wisdom and knowledge, so that I may lead this people. For who is

able to govern this great people of Yours?"

¹¹God said to Solomon, "Since this was in your heart instead of requesting riches or wealth or honor for yourself or death for your enemies—and since you have not even requested long life but have asked for wisdom and knowledge to govern My people over whom I have made you king—¹²therefore wisdom and knowledge have been granted to you. And I will also give you riches and wealth and honor unlike anything given to the kings before you or after you."

¹³So Solomon went to Jerusalem from the high place in Gibeon, from before the Tent of Meeting, and he reigned over Israel.

SOLOMON'S RICHES // 1 KINGS 10:26-29

¹⁴Solomon accumulated 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses, which he stationed in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem. ¹⁵The king made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar as abundant as sycamore in the foothills.

¹⁶Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and Kue; the royal merchants purchased them from Kue. ¹⁷A 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.

2

CHAPTER 2 IN 30 SECONDS

Solomon gets ready to build. He sends word to Hiram king of Tyre for cedar logs and a master craftsman. Hiram sends Hiram abi, a man who can work gold, bronze, stone, wood and cloth. Solomon puts more than 150,000 foreign workers on the job.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE TEMPLE // 1 KINGS 5:1-6

¹Now Solomon purposed to build a house for the Name of Yahweh and a royal palace for himself. ²So he conscripted 70,000 porters, 80,000 stonecutters in the mountains, and 3,600 supervisors.

■ 2CH 2:2 [NOTE] THE NUMBERS. 1 Kings 5:16 says 3,300 supervisors, and here it is 3,600. Add the chief officers, 550 in 1 Kings 9:23 and 250 in 8:10, and both books

■ 2CH 1:3 [NOTE] GIBEON. The old tabernacle Moses made in the wilderness still stood at Gibeon, but the ark was in Jerusalem, 1:4.

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

³ Then Solomon sent word to Hiram king of Tyre:

"Do for me as you did for my father David when you sent him cedars to build himself a house to live in. ⁴ Behold, I am about to build a house for the Name of Yahweh my God to dedicate to Him for burning fragrant incense before Him, for displaying the showbread continuously, and for making burnt offerings every morning and evening as well as on the Sabbaths, New Moons, and appointed feasts of Yahweh our God. This is ordained for Israel forever.

⁵ The house that I am building will be great, for our God is greater than all gods. ⁶ But who is able to build a house for Him, since the heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain Him? Who then am I, that I should build a house for Him, except as a place to burn sacrifices before Him?

⁷ Send me, therefore, a craftsman skilled in engraving to work with gold and silver, with bronze and iron, and with purple, crimson, and blue yarn. He will work with my craftsmen in Judah and Jerusalem, whom my father David provided.

⁸ Send me also cedar, cypress, and algum logs from Lebanon, for I know that your servants have skill to cut timber there. And indeed, my servants will work with yours ⁹ to prepare for me timber in abundance, because the temple I am building will be great and wonderful. ¹⁰ I will pay your servants, the woodcutters, 120,000 bushels of ground wheat, 120,000 bushels of barley, 110,000 gallons of wine, and 110,000 gallons of olive oil."

HIRAM'S REPLY TO SOLOMON // 1 KINGS 5:7-12

¹¹ Then Hiram king of Tyre wrote a letter in reply to Solomon:

"Because Yahweh loves His people, He has set you over them as king."

¹² And Hiram added:

"Blessed be Yahweh, the God of Israel, who made the heavens and the earth! He has given King David a wise son with insight and understanding, who will build a temple for Yahweh and a royal palace for himself.

¹³ So now I am sending you Hiram-abi, a skillful man endowed with creativity. ¹⁴ He is the son of a woman from the daughters of Dan, and his father is a man of Tyre. He is skilled in work with gold and silver, bronze and iron, stone and wood, purple, blue, and crimson yarn, and fine linen. He is experienced in every kind of engraving and can execute any design that is given him. He will work with your craftsmen and with those of my lord, your father David.

¹⁵ Now let my lord send to his servants the wheat, barley, olive oil, and wine he promised. ¹⁶ We will cut logs from Lebanon, as many as you need, and we will float them to you as rafts by sea down to Joppa. Then you can take them up to Jerusalem."

¹⁷ Solomon numbered all the foreign men in the land of Israel following the census his father David had conducted, and there were found to be 153,600 in all. ¹⁸ Solomon made 70,000 of them porters, 80,000 stonecutters in the mountains, and 3,600 supervisors.

3

CHAPTER 3 IN 30 SECONDS

Building day. Solomon builds the temple on Mount Moriah, on the threshing floor David bought. Gold covers almost everything, the beams, the doors and the walls. Two huge cherubim spread their wings in the Most Holy Place, and two bronze pillars named Jakin and Boaz stand out front.

TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS // 1 KINGS 6:1-4

¹ Then Solomon began to build the house of Yahweh in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where Yahweh had appeared to his father David. This was the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. ² Solomon began construc-

come to 3,850. They just sorted the bosses in different ways.

■ 2CH 3:1 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → ACTS 7:47 p.-

BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

tion on the second day of the second month in the fourth year of his reign.

³ The foundation that Solomon laid for the house of God was 90 feet long and 30 feet wide, by the old standard of measure.

⁴ The portico at the front, extending across the width of the temple, was 30 feet long and 30 feet high. He overlaid the inside with pure gold.

THE TEMPLE'S INTERIOR // 1 KINGS 6:14-22

⁵ He paneled the main room with cypress, which he overlaid with fine gold and decorated with palm trees and chains. ⁶ He adorned the temple with precious stones for beauty, and its gold was from Parvaim. ⁷ He overlaid its beams, thresholds, walls, and doors with gold, and he carved cherubim on the walls.

⁸ Then he made the Most Holy Place; its length corresponded to the width of the temple—30 feet long and 30 feet wide. And he overlaid the inside with 45,000 pounds of fine gold. ⁹ The weight of the nails was 20 ounces of gold. He also overlaid the upper rooms with gold.

THE CHERUBIM // 1 KINGS 6:23-30

¹⁰ In the Most Holy Place he made two cherubim of sculptured work, and he overlaid them with gold. ¹¹ The total wingspan of the cherubim was 30 feet. One wing of the first cherub was 7½ feet long and touched the wall of the temple, and its other wing was 7½ feet long and touched the wing of the other cherub. ¹² The wing of the second cherub also measured 7½ feet and touched the wall of the temple, while its other wing measured 7½ feet and touched the wing of the first cherub. ¹³ So the total wingspan of these cherubim was 30 feet. They stood on their feet, facing the main room.

■ **2CH 3:1 [FULFILLS]** A ram died in Isaac's place on the mountain where Yahweh would provide ← GEN 22:13-14 . MEDIUM p.~

■ **2CH 3:1 [NOTE]** MOUNT MORIAH. The only other Moriah in the Bible is where Abraham went to offer Isaac, Genesis 22:2. Many believe it is the same hill.

■ **2CH 3:3 [FIELD NOTES]** See the Solomon's Temple and Ain Dara Field Notes page in 1 Kings, p.~.

■ **2CH 3:4 [TEXT]** HOW HIGH? In the Hebrew the porch's height is 120, about 180 feet. Some Greek and Syriac copies say 20, about 30 feet. This Bible follows them, like the NIV and CSB. The KJV and ESV keep 120.

THE VEIL AND PILLARS // 1 KINGS 7:13-22

¹⁴ He made the veil of blue, purple, and crimson yarn and fine linen, with cherubim woven into it.

¹⁵ In front of the temple he made two pillars, which together were 52½ feet high, each with a capital on top measuring 7½ feet.

¹⁶ He made interwoven chains and put them on top of the pillars. He made a hundred pomegranates and fastened them into the chainwork. ¹⁷ Then he set up the pillars in front of the temple, one on the south and one on the north. The pillar on the south he named Jachin, and the pillar on the north he named Boaz.

4

CHAPTER 4 IN 30 SECONDS

The furniture. A bronze altar, a giant bronze basin called the Sea standing on twelve bronze oxen, ten smaller basins, ten golden lampstands, ten tables and a hundred gold bowls. Hiram finishes the bronze work. There was so much bronze nobody bothered to weigh it.

THE BRONZE ALTAR AND MOLTEN SEA // 1 KINGS 7:23-26

¹ He made a bronze altar 30 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 15 feet high.

² 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. ³ Below the rim, figures of oxen encircled it, ten every half yard all the way around the Sea, cast in two rows as a part of the Sea.

⁴ 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. ⁵ It was three inches thick, and its rim was fashioned like the brim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It could hold 16,500 gallons.

■ **2CH 3:15 [TEXT]** HOW TALL? In the Hebrew the number here is 35, about 52½ feet. 1 Kings 7:15 says each pillar was about 27 feet, 18 in the Hebrew. 35 is close to two times 18, so many think this counts both pillars.

■ **2CH 3:17 [NOTE]** JAKIN AND BOAZ. Jakin probably means He establishes, and Boaz probably means in Him is strength.

■ **2CH 4:5 [TEXT]** THE SEA. 1 Kings 7:26 says it held about 11,000 gallons, 2,000 in the Hebrew, and here the He-

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THE TEN BASINS, LAMPSTANDS, AND TABLES //

1 KINGS 7:38-39

⁶ He also made ten basins for washing and placed five on the south side and five on the north. The parts of the burnt offering were rinsed in them, but the priests used the Sea for washing.

⁷ He made ten gold lampstands according to their specifications and placed them in the temple, five on the south side and five on the north.

⁸ Additionally, he made ten tables and placed them in the temple, five on the south side and five on the north. He also made a hundred gold bowls.

THE COURTS

⁹ He made the courtyard of the priests and the large court with its doors, and he overlaid the doors with bronze.

¹⁰ He put the Sea on the south side, at the southeast corner.

COMPLETION OF THE BRONZE WORKS // 1 KINGS 7:40-47

¹¹ Additionally, Hiram made the pots, shovels, and sprinkling bowls.

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

¹² 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;

¹³ 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);

¹⁴ the stands;

the basins on the stands;

¹⁵ the Sea;

the twelve oxen underneath the Sea;

¹⁶ and the pots, shovels, meat forks, and all the other articles.

All these objects that Hiram-abi made for King Solomon for the house of Yahweh were of polished bronze. ¹⁷ The king had

them cast in clay molds in the plain of the Jordan between Succoth and Zeredah. ¹⁸

Solomon made all these articles in such great abundance that the weight of the bronze could not be determined.

COMPLETION OF THE GOLD FURNISHINGS // 1 KINGS 7:48-51

¹⁹ Solomon also made all the furnishings for the house of God:

the golden altar;

the tables on which was placed the Bread of the Presence;

²⁰ the lampstands of pure gold and their lamps, to burn in front of the inner sanctuary as prescribed;

²¹ the flowers, lamps, and tongs of gold—of purest gold;

²² the wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, ladles, and censers of pure gold;

and the gold doors of the temple: the inner doors to the Most Holy Place as well as the doors of the main hall.

5

CHAPTER 5 IN 30 SECONDS

The ark comes to the temple. The priests carry it into the Most Holy Place under the cherubim's wings. The singers and 120 trumpeters praise God as one voice, He is good, His loving devotion endures forever. Then a cloud fills the house, and the priests cannot even stand to do their jobs.

THE ARK ENTERS THE TEMPLE // 1 KINGS 8:1-11

¹ So all the work that 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 all the furnishings—and he placed them in the treasuries of the house of God.

² At that time Solomon assembled 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. ³ So all the men of Israel came together to the king at the feast in the seventh month.

⁴ When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the Levites took up the ark, ⁵ and they

brew number is 3,000. The CSB uses that number here too. Some think the bigger number counts it filled to the brim.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE MIRACLES GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

brought up the ark and the Tent of Meeting with all its sacred furnishings. The Levitical priests carried them up.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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. ⁸ For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and overshadowed the ark and its poles.

⁹ The poles of the ark extended far enough that their ends were visible from in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are there to this day.

¹⁰ There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where Yahweh had made a covenant with the Israelites after they had come out of Egypt.

¹¹ Now all the priests who were present had consecrated themselves regardless of their divisions. And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, ¹² all the Levitical singers—Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun, and their sons and relatives—stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linen and playing cymbals, harps, and lyres, accompanied by 120 priests sounding trumpets. ¹³ The trumpeters and singers joined together to praise and thank Yahweh with one voice. They lifted up their voices, accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and musical instruments, in praise to Yahweh:

"For He is good;

His loving devotion endures forever."

And the temple, the house of Yahweh, was filled with a cloud ¹⁴ so that the priests could not stand there to minister because of the cloud. For the glory of Yahweh filled the house of God.

6

CHAPTER 6 IN 30 SECONDS

Solomon blesses the people and kneels on a bronze platform in front of everyone. He prays one of the longest prayers in the Bible. Can heaven even hold You, much less this house? Still, hear us when we pray toward this place, whether we sinned, lost a war, had no rain, or were carried off as captives.

SOLOMON BLESSES YAHWEH // 1 KINGS 8:12-21

¹ Then Solomon declared:

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

² But I have built You an exalted house, a place for You to dwell forever."

³ And as the whole assembly of Israel stood there, the king turned around and blessed them all ⁴ 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, ⁵ 'Since the day I brought My people out of the land 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, nor have I chosen anyone to be ruler over My people Israel. ⁶ But now I have chosen Jerusalem for My Name to be there, and I have chosen David to be over My people Israel.'

⁷ Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the Name of Yahweh, the God of Israel. ⁸ 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. ⁹ Nevertheless, you are not the one to build it; but your son, your own offspring, will build the house for My Name.'

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ And there I have placed the ark,

■ 2CH 5:14 [NOTE] THE CLOUD. The same thing happened at the tabernacle, Exodus 40:34 to 35. See the Big Question pages The Temple in 1 Kings, p.~.

■ 2CH 6:6 [FULFILLS] God would choose one place to put His Name ← DT 12:5 p.~

■ 2CH 5:13 [MIRACLE] The cloud fills the temple during the praise

■ 2CH 5:13 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → REV 15:8 p.~

THE HEART GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

which contains the covenant of Yahweh that He made with the children of Israel."

SOLOMON'S PRAYER OF DEDICATION // 1 KINGS 8:22-53

¹² Then Solomon stood before the altar of Yahweh in front of the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands. ¹³ Now Solomon had made a bronze platform 7½ feet long, 7½ feet wide, and 4½ feet high and had placed it in the middle of the courtyard. He stood on it, knelt down before the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his hands toward heaven, ¹⁴ and said: "O Yahweh, God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven or on earth, keeping Your covenant of loving devotion with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts. ¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ 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 in My law as you have walked before Me.' ¹⁷ And now, O Yahweh, God of Israel, please confirm what You promised to Your servant David.

¹⁸ But will God indeed dwell with man upon the earth? The heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain You, much less this temple I have built. ¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ May Your eyes be open toward this temple day and night, toward the place where You said You would put Your Name, so that You may hear the prayer that Your servant prays toward this place. ²¹ 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.

²² 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, ²³ 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.

²⁴ 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 before You in this temple, ²⁵ then may You hear from heaven and forgive the sin of Your people Israel. May You restore them to the land You gave to them and their fathers.

²⁶ 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, ²⁷ 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 land that You gave Your people as an inheritance.

²⁸ When famine or plague comes upon the land, or blight or mildew or locusts or grasshoppers, or when their enemies besiege them in their cities, whatever plague or sickness may come, ²⁹ then may whatever prayer or plea Your people Israel make—each knowing his own afflictions and spreading out his hands toward this temple—³⁰ be heard by You from heaven, Your dwelling place. And may You forgive and repay each man according to all his ways, since You know his heart—for You alone know the hearts of men—³¹ so that they may fear You and walk in Your ways

■ 2CH 6:18 [NOTE] HEAVEN CANNOT HOLD HIM. Solomon knew heaven itself could not hold God. John 1:14 says the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

■ 2CH 6:30 [HEART] Solomon prayed: You alone know the hearts of men.

MIRACLES BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

all the days they live in the land that You gave to our fathers.

³² And as for the foreigner who is not of Your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of Your great name and Your mighty hand and outstretched arm—when he comes and prays toward this temple, ³³ 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.

³⁴ When Your people go to war against their enemies, wherever You send them, and when they pray to You in the direction of this city You have chosen and the house I have built for Your Name, ³⁵ then may You hear from heaven their prayer and their plea, and may You uphold their cause.

³⁶ 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 a land far or near, ³⁷ and when they come to their senses 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,' ³⁸ 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 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, ³⁹ then may You hear from heaven, Your dwelling place, their prayer and pleas, and may You uphold their cause. May You forgive Your people who sinned against You.

⁴⁰ Now, my God, may Your eyes be open and Your ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place.

⁴¹ Now therefore, arise, O Yahweh God, and enter Your resting place, You and the ark of Your might.

May Your priests, O Yahweh God, be clothed with salvation, and may Your godly ones rejoice in goodness.

⁴² O Yahweh God, do not reject Your anointed one.

Remember Your loving devotion to Your servant David."

7

CHAPTER 7 IN 30 SECONDS

Fire falls from heaven and burns up the offerings, and God's glory fills the temple. The people fall on their faces. They hold a feast for two weeks. Then God appears to Solomon at night: If My people humble themselves and pray, I will hear and heal their land. But if you turn away, this temple will become a heap of rubble.

FIRE FROM HEAVEN // PSALM 136:1-26

¹ When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of Yahweh filled the temple. ² The priests were unable to enter the house of Yahweh, because the glory of Yahweh had filled it.

³ When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of Yahweh above the temple, they bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to Yahweh:

"For He is good;

His loving devotion endures forever."

SACRIFICES OF DEDICATION // 1 KINGS 8:62-66

⁴ Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before Yahweh. ⁵ And King Solomon offered a sacrifice of 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God.

⁶ The priests stood at their posts, as did the Levites with the musical instruments of Yahweh, which King David had made for giving thanks to Yahweh and with

■ 2CH 7:1 [MIRACLE] Fire from heaven consumes Solomon's offering and glory fills the temple

■ 2CH 7:1 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → REV 15:8 p. -

■ 2CH 7:1 [NOTE] FIRE FROM HEAVEN. God answered with fire at the tabernacle, Leviticus 9:24, on David's altar, 1 Chronicles 21:26, and here.

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which David had offered praise, saying, "For His loving devotion endures forever." Across from the Levites, the priests sounded trumpets, and all the Israelites were standing.

⁷ Then Solomon consecrated the middle of the courtyard in front of the house of Yahweh, and there he offered the burnt offerings and the fat of the peace offerings, since the bronze altar he had made could not hold all these offerings.

⁸ So at that time Solomon and all Israel with him—a very great assembly of people from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of Egypt—kept the feast for seven days. ⁹ On the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, for the dedication of the altar had lasted seven days, and the feast seven days more.

¹⁰ On the twenty-third day of the seventh month, Solomon sent the people away to their homes, joyful and glad of heart for the good things that Yahweh had done for David, for Solomon, and for His people Israel.

YAHWEH'S RESPONSE TO SOLOMON // 1 KINGS 9:1-9

¹¹ When Solomon had finished the house of Yahweh and the royal palace, successfully carrying out all that was in his heart to do for the house of Yahweh and for his own palace, ¹² Yahweh appeared to him at night and said to him:

"I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³ If I close the sky so there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send a plague among My people, ¹⁴ and if My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.

¹⁵ Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. ¹⁶ For I have now chosen and consecrated this temple so that My Name

may be there forever. My eyes and My heart will be there for all time.

¹⁷ And as for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, doing all I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and ordinances, ¹⁸ then I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with your father David when I said, 'You will never fail to have a man to rule over Israel.'

¹⁹ But if you turn away and forsake the statutes and commandments I have set before you, and if you go off to serve and worship other gods, ²⁰ then I will uproot Israel from the soil I have given them, and I will banish from My presence this temple I have sanctified for My Name. I will make it an object of scorn and ridicule among all the peoples.

²¹ And when this temple has become a heap of rubble, all who pass by it will be appalled and say, 'Why has Yahweh done such a thing to this land and to this temple?' ²² And others will answer, 'Because they have forsaken Yahweh, the God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them—because of this, He has brought all this disaster upon them.'"

THE BIG QUESTION

IF MY PEOPLE

What God Said

2 CHRONICLES 6:26 TO 31 · 7:11 TO 22

WHEN GOD SAID IT

Solomon prayed that God would hear His people when they prayed toward the temple, 6:26 to 31. Later, after the temple and the palace were done, God appeared to him at night with an answer, 7:11 to 12.

THE SETTING

If I shut the sky so there is no rain, or send locusts, or a plague among My people, 7:13. Then comes the promise.

FOUR STEPS

If My people who are called by My name

■ **2CH 7:14 [NOTABLE]** God's answer to Solomon's prayer at the temple. Four steps, humble, pray, seek, turn, and three promises, hear, forgive, heal. See the Big Question pages If My People.

■ **2CH 7:16 [HEART]** God said His eyes and His heart would be at His house for all time.

■ **2CH 7:19 [DEMONIC]** God warns Solomon about serving other gods

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humble themselves, pray, seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways.

THREE PROMISES

Then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land, 7:14. My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayers in this place, 7:15.

THE WARNING

In the same breath God warned: if you turn away and serve other gods, I will uproot Israel and this temple will become a heap of rubble, 7:19 to 22.

A FAVORITE VERSE

Today 7:14 is one of the most quoted verses in the Old Testament. Many churches pray it over their own nation, especially in America.

THE QUESTION

Who are My people, and what land does God promise to heal?

Every View

1 PETER 2:9 TO 10 · JAMES 4:10 · 1 JOHN 1:9 · JONAH 3:10

VIEW 1: ISRAEL ONLY

Some say the promise was for Israel, God's covenant people, in the land He gave them, with this temple. No other nation is called by His name in the same way.

VIEW 2: GOD'S PEOPLE TODAY

Many say My people now means the church, who are called a holy nation and God's own people, 1 Peter 2:9 to 10. The healing is spiritual renewal among believers, wherever they live.

VIEW 3: ANY NATION

Many others pray it for their own country. They point to Nineveh, a foreign city that humbled itself, and God relented, Jonah 3:10. They believe God still heals lands when His people turn back.

A CAUTION

Some warn against cutting the verse off from 7:13 and 7:19 to 22. The same God who promised healing also warned of judgment.

THE PATTERN IN THIS BOOK

Chronicles shows this promise at work. Rehoboam humbled himself and was spared, 12:7. Manasseh humbled himself and was brought home, 33:12 to 13. Josiah's tender heart was heard, 34:27.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

God hears those who humble themselves, pray and turn from sin. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you, James 4:10.

8

CHAPTER 8 IN 30 SECONDS

Solomon builds cities, store cities and chariot cities, and puts the leftover Canaanite peoples to work. He moves Pharaoh's daughter out of David's city because the ark had been there. He keeps the feasts and sends ships to Ophir with Hiram's sailors for gold.

SOLOMON'S ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS // 1
KINGS 9:10-28

¹Now at the end of the twenty years during which Solomon had built the house of Yahweh and his own palace, ²Solomon rebuilt the cities Hiram had given him and settled Israelites there.

³Then Solomon went to Hamath-zobah and captured it. ⁴He built Tadmor in the wilderness, in addition to all the store cities that he had built in Hamath. ⁵He rebuilt Upper and Lower Beth-horon as fortified cities with walls, gates, and bars, ⁶as well as Baalath, all the store cities that belonged to Solomon, and all the cities for his chariots and horses—whatever he desired to build in Jerusalem, Lebanon, and throughout the land of his dominion.

⁷As for all the people who remained of the Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites (these people were not Israelites)—⁸their descendants who remained in the land, those whom the Israelites had not destroyed—Solomon conscripted these people to be forced laborers, as they are to this day.

⁹But Solomon did not consign any of the Israelites to slave labor, because they were his men of war, the leaders of his captains, and the commanders of his chariots and cavalry. ¹⁰They were also the chief officers for King Solomon: 250 supervisors.

■ 2CH 8:6 [FIELD NOTES] Solomon's builders worked at Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer too, 1 Kings 9:15. See the Solomon's Gates Field Notes page in 1 Kings, p.~.

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¹¹ Solomon brought the daughter of Pharaoh up from the City of David to the palace he had built for her. For he said, "My wife must not live in the house of David king of Israel, because the places the ark of Yahweh has entered are holy."

¹² At that time Solomon offered burnt offerings to Yahweh on the altar of Yahweh he had built in front of the portico. ¹³ He observed the daily requirement for offerings according to the commandment of Moses for Sabbaths, New Moons, and the three annual appointed feasts—the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles.

¹⁴ In keeping with the ordinances of his father David, Solomon appointed the divisions of the priests over their service, and the Levites for their duties to offer praise and to minister before the priests according to the daily requirement. He also appointed gatekeepers by their divisions at each gate, for this had been the command of David, the man of God. ¹⁵ They did not turn aside from the king's command regarding the priests or the Levites in any matter, including that of the treasuries.

¹⁶ Thus all the work of Solomon was carried out, from the day the foundation was laid for the house of Yahweh until it was finished. So the house of Yahweh was completed.

¹⁷ Then Solomon went to Ezion-geber and to Eloth on the coast of Edom. ¹⁸ So Hiram sent him ships captained by his servants, along with crews of experienced sailors. They went with Solomon's servants to Ophir and acquired from there about 17 tons of gold, which they delivered to King Solomon.

9

CHAPTER 9 IN 30 SECONDS

The queen of Sheba comes to test Solomon with hard questions. He answers every one, and she says she did not believe it until she saw it, and she had not heard the half of it. Gold pours in, the throne is ivory with six steps and twelve lions. Solomon dies after forty years.

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA // 1 KINGS 10:1-13

¹ Now when the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon, she came to test him with difficult questions. She arrived in Jerusalem with a very large caravan—with camels bearing spices, gold in abundance, and precious stones. And she came to Solomon and spoke with him about all that was in her heart. ² And Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too difficult for him to explain.

³ When the queen of Sheba saw the wisdom of Solomon, the palace he had built, ⁴ the food at his table, the seating of his servants, the service and attire of his attendants, the attire of his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he presented at the house of Yahweh, it took her breath away.

⁵ She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your words and wisdom is true. ⁶ But I did not believe the reports until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not half of the greatness of your wisdom was told to me. You have far exceeded the report I heard. ⁷ How blessed are your men! How blessed are these servants of yours who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom! ⁸ Blessed be Yahweh your God, who has delighted in you to set you on His throne to be king for Yahweh your God. Because your God loved Israel enough to establish them forever, He has made you king over them to carry out justice and righteousness."

⁹ Then she gave the king 4½ tons of gold, a great quantity of spices, and precious stones. There had never been such spices as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

¹⁰ (The servants of Hiram and of Solomon who brought gold from Ophir also brought algum wood and precious stones. ¹¹ The king made the algum wood into steps for the house of Yahweh and for the king's palace, and into lyres and harps for the

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singers. Never before had anything like them been seen in the land of Judah.)

¹² King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired—whatever she asked—far more than she had brought the king. Then she left and returned to her own country, along with her servants.

SOLOMON'S WEALTH AND SPLENDOR // 1 KINGS 10:14-29

¹³ The weight of gold that came to Solomon each year was about 25 tons, ¹⁴ not including the revenue from the merchants and traders. And all the Arabian kings and governors of the land also brought gold and silver to Solomon.

¹⁵ King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; 15 pounds of hammered gold went into each shield. ¹⁶ He also made three hundred small shields of hammered gold; 7½ pounds of gold went into each shield. And the king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.

¹⁷ Additionally, the king made a great throne of ivory and overlaid it with pure gold. ¹⁸ The throne had six steps, and a footstool of gold was attached to it. There were armrests on both sides of the seat, with a lion standing beside each armrest. ¹⁹ Twelve lions stood on the six steps, one at either end of each step. Nothing like this had ever been made for any kingdom.

²⁰ 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. ²¹ For the king had the ships of Tarshish that went with Hiram's servants, and once every three years the ships of Tarshish would arrive bearing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.

²² So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.

²³ All the kings of the earth sought an audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom that God had put in his heart. ²⁴ Year after year, each visitor would bring his tribute:

articles of silver and gold, clothing, weapons, spices, horses, and mules.

²⁵ Solomon had 4,000 stalls for horses and chariots, and 12,000 horses, which he stationed in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem. ²⁶ He reigned over all the kings from the Euphrates to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. 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 from all the lands.

THE DEATH OF SOLOMON // 1 KINGS 11:41-43

²⁹ As for the rest of the acts of Solomon, from beginning to end, are they not written in the Records of Nathan the Prophet, in the Prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the Visions of Iddo the Seer concerning Jeroboam son of Nebat? ³⁰ Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years. ³¹ And Solomon rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of his father David. And his son Rehoboam reigned in his place.

10

CHAPTER 10 IN 30 SECONDS

Solomon's son Rehoboam goes to Shechem to be made king. The people ask for a lighter load. The old men say, Be kind. The young men say, Tell them my little finger is thicker than my father's waist. Rehoboam listens to the young men, and ten tribes walk out.

REBELLION AGAINST REHOBAM // 1 KINGS 12:1-15

¹ Then Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone there to make him king. ² When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard about this, he returned from Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon. ³ So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and all Israel came to Rehoboam and said, ⁴ "Your father put a heavy yoke on us. But now you

■ **2CH 9:26 [FULFILLS]** The land from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates would belong to Abraham's descendants < GEN 15:18 p.-.

■ **2CH 9:26 [NOTE] FROM THE RIVER.** See the Big Question pages Solomon's Kingdom in 1 Kings, p.-.

■ **2CH 9:29 [NOTE] THE SOURCES.** The writer names the records of Nathan, Ahijah and Iddo. See the Big Question pages Who Wrote Chronicles? in 1 Chronicles, p.-.

■ **2CH 9:31 [NOTE] LEFT OUT.** Chronicles does not tell about Solomon's 700 wives or his idols, 1 Kings 11. See Solomon's Wisdom and 700 Wives in 1 Kings, p.-.

■ **2CH 9:13 [NOTE]** In the Hebrew, the number here is 666, the same as 1 Kings 10:14.

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must lighten the burden of your father's service and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you."

⁵ Rehoboam answered, "Come back to me in three days." 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 kind to these people and please them 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! ¹¹Whereas 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 them harshly. King Rehoboam 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 God, in order that Yahweh might fulfill the word that He had spoken through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam son of Nebat.

THE KINGDOM DIVIDED // 1 KINGS 12:16-19

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

¹⁸ Then King Rehoboam sent out Hadoram, who was in charge of the forced labor, but the Israelites 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.

11

CHAPTER 11 IN 30 SECONDS

Rehoboam gets ready to fight Israel, but God says, Don't fight your brothers. So he builds fortified cities instead. Priests and Levites from the north, who were kicked out by Jeroboam, move to Judah. Rehoboam ends up with 18 wives, 60 concubines and 88 children.

SHEMAIAH'S PROPHECY // 1 KINGS 12:20-24

¹ When Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem, he mobilized the house of Judah and Benjamin—180,000 chosen warriors—to fight against Israel and restore the kingdom to Rehoboam. ² But the word of Yahweh came to Shemaiah the man of God: ³

"Tell Rehoboam son of Solomon king of Judah and all the Israelites in Judah and Benjamin ⁴that this is what Yahweh says: 'You are not to go up and fight against your brothers. Each of you must return home, for this is My doing.'"

So they listened to the words of Yahweh and turned back from going against Jeroboam.

■ 2CH 10:15 [NOTE] THE SPLIT. This turn of events was from God, to fulfill what Ahijah had said, 1 Kings 11:29 to 39. See the Big Question pages Why the Kingdom Split in 1 Kings, p.-.

DEMONIC GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

REHOBOAM FORTIFIES JUDAH

⁵ Rehoboam lived in Jerusalem, and he built up cities for defense in Judah. ⁶ He built up Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa, ⁷ Beth-zur, Soco, Adullam, ⁸ Gath, Mareshah, Ziph, ⁹ Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah, ¹⁰ Zorah, Aijalon, and Hebron, the fortified cities in Judah and Benjamin. ¹¹ He strengthened their fortifications and put officers in them, with supplies of food, oil, and wine. ¹² He also put shields and spears in all the cities and strengthened them greatly. So Judah and Benjamin belonged to him.

JEROBOAM FORSAKES THE PRIESTS AND LEVITES

¹³ Moreover, the priests and Levites from all their districts throughout Israel stood with Rehoboam. ¹⁴ For the Levites left their pasturelands and their possessions and went to Judah and Jerusalem, because Jeroboam and his sons had rejected them as priests of Yahweh. ¹⁵ And Jeroboam appointed his own priests for the high places and for the goat demons and calf idols he had made.

¹⁶ Those from every tribe of Israel who had set their hearts to seek Yahweh their God followed the Levites to Jerusalem to sacrifice to Yahweh, the God of their fathers.

¹⁷ So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah and supported Rehoboam son of Solomon for three years, because they walked for three years in the way of David and Solomon.

REHOBOAM'S FAMILY

¹⁸ And Rehoboam married Mahalath, who was the daughter of David's son Jerimoth and of Abihail, the daughter of Jesse's son Eliab. ¹⁹ She bore sons to him: Jeush, Shemariah, and Zaham.

²⁰ After her, he married Maacah daughter of Absalom, and she bore to him Abijah, Attai, Ziza, and Shelomith. ²¹ Rehoboam loved Maacah daughter of Absalom more than all his wives and concubines. In all, he had eighteen wives and sixty concu-

bines, and he was the father of twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters.

²² Rehoboam appointed Abijah son of Maacah as chief prince among his brothers, intending to make him king. ²³ Rehoboam also acted wisely by dispersing some of his sons throughout the districts of Judah and Benjamin, and to all the fortified cities. He gave them abundant provisions and sought many wives for them.

12

CHAPTER 12 IN 30 SECONDS

Once Rehoboam feels strong, he and Judah drop God's law. Shishak king of Egypt marches in with chariots and an army without number. The prophet Shemaiah says, You left Me, so I left you. They humble themselves, so God holds back, but Shishak still carries off the temple treasures and the gold shields.

SHISHAK RAIDS JERUSALEM // 1 KINGS 14:25-28

¹ After Rehoboam had established his sovereignty and royal power, he and all Israel with him forsook the Law of Yahweh. ² In the fifth year of Rehoboam's reign, because they had been unfaithful to Yahweh, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem ³ with 1,200 chariots, 60,000 horsemen, and countless troops who came with him out of Egypt—Libyans, Sukkites, and Cushites. ⁴ He captured the fortified cities of Judah and came as far as Jerusalem.

⁵ Then Shemaiah the prophet came to Rehoboam and the leaders of Judah who had gathered at Jerusalem because of Shishak, and he said to them, "This is what Yahweh says: '**You have forsaken Me; therefore, I have forsaken you into the hand of Shishak.**'"

⁶ So the leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, "Yahweh is righteous."

⁷ When Yahweh saw that they had humbled themselves, the word of Yahweh came to Shemaiah, saying, "**They have humbled themselves; I will not destroy them, but will soon grant them deliver-**

■ 2CH 11:15 [DEMONIC] Jeroboam sets up goat demons and calf idols

■ 2CH 11:15 [FIELD NOTES] Jeroboam's calf shrines were at Dan and Bethel. See The High Place at Dan Field Notes page in 1 Kings, p.-.

■ 2CH 12:2 [FIELD NOTES] Shishak carved his own list of the towns he took on a temple wall in Egypt. See the Shishak at Karnak Field Notes page in 1 Kings, p.-.

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ance. My wrath will not be poured out on Jerusalem through Shishak. ⁸ Nevertheless, they will become his servants, so that they may learn the difference between serving Me and serving the kings of other lands."

⁹ So King Shishak of Egypt attacked Jerusalem and seized the treasures of the house of Yahweh and of the royal palace. He took everything, including the gold shields that Solomon had made.

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ And whenever the king entered the house of Yahweh, the guards would go with him, bearing the shields, and later they would return them to the guardroom.

¹² Because Rehoboam humbled himself, the anger of Yahweh turned away from him, and He did not destroy him completely. Indeed, conditions were good in Judah.

REHOBAM'S REIGN AND DEATH // 1 KINGS 14:21-24

¹³ Thus King Rehoboam established himself in Jerusalem and reigned. 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. ¹⁴ And Rehoboam did evil because he did not set his heart to seek Yahweh.

¹⁵ Now the acts of Rehoboam, from first to last, are they not written in the records of Shemaiah the Prophet and of Iddo the Seer concerning the genealogies? There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam throughout their days. ¹⁶ And Rehoboam rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David. And his son Abijah reigned in his place.

■ 2CH 12:8 [PROPHECY] Judah would serve Shishak of Egypt for a time → 2CH 12:9 p.-

■ 2CH 12:9 [FULFILLS] Judah would serve Shishak of Egypt for a time ← 2CH 12:8 p.-

■ 2CH 12:14 [HEART] Rehoboam did evil because he did not set his heart to seek the Lord.

13

CHAPTER 13 IN 30 SECONDS

Abijah king of Judah stands on a mountain and preaches a sermon to Jeroboam's army: You have golden calves, we have God. Meanwhile Jeroboam sneaks troops around behind him. Judah is surrounded, they cry out to God, the priests blow the trumpets, and God gives Judah the win.

ABIJAH REIGNS IN JUDAH // 1 KINGS 15:1-8

¹In the eighteenth year of Jeroboam's reign, Abijah became king of Judah, ²and he reigned in Jerusalem three years. His mother's name was Micaiah daughter of Uriel; she was from Gibeah.

And there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam. ³Abijah went into battle with an army of 400,000 chosen men, while Jeroboam drew up in formation against him with 800,000 chosen and mighty men of valor.

CIVIL WAR AGAINST JEROBOAM

⁴Then Abijah stood on Mount Zemaraim in the hill country of Ephraim and said, "Hear me, O Jeroboam and all Israel! ⁵Do you not know that Yahweh, the God of Israel, has given the kingship of Israel to David and his descendants forever by a covenant of salt? ⁶Yet Jeroboam son of Nebat, a servant of Solomon son of David, rose up and rebelled against his master. ⁷Then worthless and wicked men gathered around him to resist Rehoboam son of Solomon when he was young, inexperienced, and unable to resist them.

⁸And now you think you can resist the kingdom of Yahweh, which is in the hands of David's descendants. You are indeed a vast army, and you have with you the golden calves that Jeroboam made for you as gods. ⁹But did you not drive out the priests of Yahweh, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites? And did you not make priests for yourselves as do the peoples of other lands? Now whoever comes to consecrate himself with a young bull and seven rams can become a priest of things that are not gods.

■ 2CH 13:8 [DEMONIC] Abijah calls out Jeroboam's golden calf gods

DEMONIC BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

¹⁰ But as for us, Yahweh is our God. We have not forsaken Him; the priests who minister to Yahweh are sons of Aaron, and the Levites attend to their duties. ¹¹ Every morning and every evening they present burnt offerings and fragrant incense to Yahweh. They set out the rows of showbread on the ceremonially clean table, and every evening they light the lamps of the gold lampstand. We are carrying out the requirements of Yahweh our God, while you have forsaken Him.

¹² Now behold, God Himself is with us as our head, and His priests with their trumpets sound the battle call against you. O children of Israel, do not fight against Yahweh, the God of your fathers, for you will not succeed."

¹³ Now Jeroboam had sent troops around to ambush from the rear, so that while he was in front of Judah, the ambush was behind them. ¹⁴ When Judah turned and discovered that the battle was both before and behind them, they cried out to Yahweh. Then the priests blew the trumpets, ¹⁵ and the men of Judah raised the battle cry. And when they raised the cry, God routed Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.

¹⁶ So the Israelites fled before Judah, and God delivered them into their hands. ¹⁷ Then Abijah and his people struck them with a mighty blow, and 500,000 chosen men of Israel fell slain. ¹⁸ Thus the Israelites were subdued at that time, and the men of Judah prevailed because they relied on Yahweh, the God of their fathers.

¹⁹ Abijah pursued Jeroboam and captured some cities from him: Bethel, Jeshanah, and Ephron, along with their villages.

²⁰ Jeroboam did not again recover his power during the days of Abijah, and Yahweh struck him down and he died.

²¹ But Abijah grew strong, married fourteen wives, and became the father of twenty-two sons and sixteen daughters. ²² Now the rest of the acts of Abijah, along with his ways and his words, are written in the Treatise of the Prophet Iddo.

14

CHAPTER 14 IN 30 SECONDS

Asa tears down the foreign altars and Asherah poles and tells Judah to seek God. The land has peace and Asa builds cities. Then Zerah the Cushite comes with a huge army. Asa prays, Help us, for we rely on You, and God strikes the Cushites.

ASA REIGNS IN JUDAH // 1 KINGS 15:9-15

¹ Then Abijah rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David. And his son Asa reigned in his place, and in his days the land was at peace for ten years.

² And Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of Yahweh his God. ³ He removed the foreign altars and high places, shattered the sacred pillars, and chopped down the Asherah poles. ⁴ He commanded the people of Judah to seek Yahweh, the God of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandments. ⁵ He also removed the high places and incense altars from all the cities of Judah, and under him the kingdom was at peace.

⁶ Because the land was at peace, Asa built fortified cities in Judah. In those days no one made war with him, because Yahweh had given him rest. ⁷ So he said to the people of Judah, "Let us build these cities and surround them with walls and towers, with doors and bars. The land is still ours because we have sought Yahweh our God. We have sought Him, and He has given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered.

⁸ Asa had an army of 300,000 men from Judah bearing large shields and spears, and 280,000 men from Benjamin bearing small shields and drawing the bow. All these were mighty men of valor.

⁹ Then Zerah the Cushite came against them with an army of 1,000,000 men and 300 chariots, and they advanced as far as Mareshah. ¹⁰ So Asa marched out against

■ 2CH 14:3 [DEMONIC] Asa tears down altars and Asherah poles

■ 2CH 14:9 [NOTE] ZERAH THE CUSHITE. Cush was the land south of Egypt. Some think Zerah was a general sent by Pharaoh Osorkon I, who ruled after Shishak, but no record outside the Bible names him.

THE HEART DEMONIC NOTABLE BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

him and lined up in battle formation in the Valley of Zephathah near Mareshah.

¹¹ Then Asa cried out to Yahweh his God: "O Yahweh, there is no one besides You to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, O Yahweh our God, for we rely on You, and in Your name we have come against this multitude. O Yahweh, You are our God. Do not let a mere mortal prevail against You."

¹² So Yahweh struck down the Cushites before Asa and Judah, and the Cushites fled. ¹³ Then Asa and his army pursued them as far as Gerar. The Cushites fell and could not recover, for they were crushed before Yahweh and His army. So the people of Judah carried off a great amount of plunder ¹⁴ and attacked all the cities around Gerar, because the terror of Yahweh had fallen upon them. They plundered all the cities, since there was much plunder there. ¹⁵ They also attacked the tents of the herdsmen and carried off many sheep and camels. Then they returned to Jerusalem.

15

CHAPTER 15 IN 30 SECONDS

The prophet Azariah meets Asa: If you seek Him, He will be found by you. Asa gets brave, removes the idols, and all Judah makes a covenant to seek God with all their heart. Asa even removes his grandmother as queen mother for making an Asherah idol. The land has rest.

THE PROPHECY OF AZARIAH

¹ Now the Spirit of God came upon Azariah son of Oded. ² So he went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Listen to me, Asa and all Judah and Benjamin. Yahweh is with you when you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you." ³ For many years Israel has been without the true God, without a priest to instruct them, and without the law. ⁴ But in their distress they turned to Yahweh, the God of Israel, and sought Him, and He was found by them. ⁵ In those days there was no safety for trav-

elers, because the residents of the lands had many conflicts. ⁶ Nation was crushed by nation, and city by city, for God afflicted them with all kinds of adversity. ⁷ But as for you, be strong; do not be discouraged, for your work will be rewarded."

ASA'S REFORMS // 1 KINGS 15:9-15

⁸ When Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Azariah son of Oded the prophet, he took courage and removed the detestable idols from the whole land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities he had captured in the hill country of Ephraim. He then restored the altar of Yahweh that was in front of the portico of Yahweh's temple. ⁹ And he assembled all Judah and Benjamin, along with those from the tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who had settled among them, for great numbers had come over to him from Israel when they saw that Yahweh his God was with him.

¹⁰ So they gathered together in Jerusalem in the third month of the fifteenth year of Asa's reign. ¹¹ At that time they sacrificed to Yahweh seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep from all the plunder they had brought back. ¹² Then they entered into a covenant to seek Yahweh, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and soul. ¹³ And whoever would not seek Yahweh, the God of Israel, would be put to death, whether young or old, man or woman. ¹⁴ They took an oath to Yahweh with a loud voice, with shouting, trumpets, and rams' horns. ¹⁵ And all Judah rejoiced over the oath, for they had sworn it with all their heart. They had sought Him earnestly, and He was found by them. So Yahweh gave them rest on every side.

¹⁶ King Asa also removed his grandmother Maacah from her position as queen mother because she had made a detestable Asherah pole. Asa chopped down the pole, crushed it, and burned it in the

■ 2CH 15:8 [DEMONIC] Asa removes the detestable idols from the land

■ 2CH 15:12 [HEART] Judah promised to seek Yahweh with all their heart and soul.

■ 2CH 15:15 [HEART] They swore it with all their heart, sought God, and He was found by them.

■ 2CH 15:2 [NOTABLE] The prophet Azariah's whole message to King Asa in one line. Asa listened, and Judah had peace.

THE HEART BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

Kidron Valley. ¹⁷ The high places were not removed from Israel, but Asa's heart was fully devoted all his days. ¹⁸ And he

brought into the house of God the silver and gold and the articles that he and his father had dedicated.

¹⁹ And there was no war until the thirty-fifth year of Asa's reign.

16

CHAPTER 16 IN 30 SECONDS

Late in his reign Asa pays the king of Aram to attack Israel, instead of trusting God. The seer Hanani says, God's eyes run through the whole earth looking for hearts fully His. Asa throws Hanani in prison. He gets a disease in his feet and seeks only the doctors, not God.

WAR BETWEEN ASA AND BAASHA // 1 KINGS

15:16-22

¹ In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign, Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and fortified Ramah to prevent anyone from leaving or entering the territory of Asa king of Judah. ² So Asa withdrew the silver and gold from the treasuries of the house of Yahweh and the royal palace, and he sent it with this message to Ben-hadad king of Aram, who was ruling in Damascus: ³ "Let there be a treaty between me and you as there was between my father and your father. See, I have sent you silver and gold. Now go and break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel, so that he will withdraw from me."

⁴ And Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel, conquering Ijon, Dan, Abel-maim, and all the store cities of Naphtali.

⁵ When Baasha learned of this, he stopped fortifying Ramah and abandoned his work.

⁶ Then King Asa brought all the men of Judah, and they carried away the stones of Ramah and the timbers Baasha had used

for building. And with these materials he built up Geba and Mizpah.

HANANI'S MESSAGE TO ASA

⁷ At that time Hanani the seer came to King Asa of Judah and told him, "Because you have relied on the king of Aram and not on Yahweh your God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand. ⁸ Were not the Cushites and Libyans a vast army with many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on Yahweh, He delivered them into your hand. ⁹ For the eyes of Yahweh roam to and fro over all the earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are fully devoted to Him. You have acted foolishly in this matter. From now on, therefore, you will be at war."

¹⁰ Asa was angry with the seer and became so enraged over this matter that he put the man in prison. And at the same time Asa oppressed some of the people.

THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF ASA

¹¹ Now the acts of Asa, from beginning to end, are indeed written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel. ¹² In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet, and his disease became increasingly severe. Yet even in his illness he did not seek Yahweh, but only the physicians.

¹³ So in the forty-first year of his reign, Asa died and rested with his fathers. ¹⁴ And he was buried in the tomb that he had cut out for himself in the City of David. They laid him on a bier that was full of spices and various blended perfumes; then they made a great fire in his honor.

17

CHAPTER 17 IN 30 SECONDS

Jehoshaphat walks in the early ways of his father David, and his heart delights in God's ways. He sends officials and Levites through the towns with the Book of the Law to teach the people. The nations around are afraid to attack him, and the Philistines and Arabs bring him gifts.

■ 2CH 15:16 [DEMONIC] Asa removes his grandmother for her Asherah pole

■ 2CH 15:17 [HEART] The high places stayed, but Asa's heart was fully devoted to God all his days.

■ 2CH 15:17 [FIELD NOTES] A small temple from the time of the kings was found at Arad in Judah. See The Arad Shrine Field Notes page in 1 Kings, p.~.

■ 2CH 16:9 [HEART] God looks all over the earth for people whose hearts are fully His.

THE HEART DEMONIC BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

JEHOSHAPHAT REIGNS IN JUDAH // 1 KINGS 15:23-24

¹Asa's son Jehoshaphat reigned in his place, and he strengthened himself against Israel. ²He stationed troops in every fortified city of Judah and put garrisons in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim that his father Asa had captured.

³Now Yahweh was with Jehoshaphat because he walked in the earlier ways of his father David. He did not seek the Baals, ⁴ but he sought the God of his father and walked by His commandments rather than the practices of Israel. ⁵So Yahweh established the kingdom in his hand, and all Judah brought him tribute, so that he had an abundance of riches and honor. ⁶And his heart took delight in the ways of Yahweh; furthermore, he removed the high places and Asherah poles from Judah.

⁷In the third year of his reign, Jehoshaphat sent his officials Ben-hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Micaiah to teach in the cities of Judah, ⁸ accompanied by certain Levites—Shemaiah, Nathaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tob-adonijah—along with the priests Elishama and Jehoram. ⁹They taught throughout Judah, taking with them the Book of the Law of Yahweh. They went throughout the towns of Judah and taught the people.

¹⁰And the dread of Yahweh fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that surrounded Judah, so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat. ¹¹Some Philistines also brought gifts and silver as tribute to Jehoshaphat, and the Arabs brought him 7,700 rams and 7,700 goats from their flocks.

¹²Jehoshaphat grew stronger and stronger, and he built fortresses and store cities in Judah ¹³and kept vast supplies in the cities of Judah. He also had warriors

in Jerusalem who were mighty men of valor. ¹⁴These are their numbers according to the houses of their fathers:

From Judah, the commanders of thousands:

Adnah the commander, and with him 300,000 mighty men of valor;

¹⁵next to him, Jehohanan the commander, and with him 280,000;

¹⁶and next to him, Amasiah son of Zichri, the volunteer for Yahweh, and with him 200,000 mighty men of valor.

¹⁷From Benjamin:

Eliada, a mighty man of valor, and with him 200,000 armed with bows and shields;

¹⁸and next to him, Jehozabad, and with him 180,000 armed for battle.

¹⁹These were the men who served the king, besides those he stationed in the fortified cities throughout Judah.

18

CHAPTER 18 IN 30 SECONDS

Jehoshaphat makes a marriage alliance with wicked King Ahab and agrees to go to war with him. Four hundred prophets say, Go up and win. Jehoshaphat asks, Is there not still a real prophet? Micaiah sees Israel scattered like sheep. Ahab disguises himself, but a random arrow finds him anyway.

JEHOSHAPHAT ALLIES WITH AHAB // 1 KINGS 22:1-12

¹Now Jehoshaphat had an abundance of riches and honor, and he allied himself with Ahab by marriage. ²And some years later he went down to visit Ahab in Samaria, where Ahab sacrificed many sheep and cattle for him and the people with him and urged him to march up to Ramoth-gilead.

³Ahab king of Israel asked Jehoshaphat king of Judah, "Will you go with me against Ramoth-gilead?"

And Jehoshaphat replied, "I am as you are, and my people are your people; we will join you in the war."

■ 2CH 17:3 [DEMONIC] Jehoshaphat does not seek the Baals

■ 2CH 17:6 [HEART] Jehoshaphat's heart took delight in Yahweh's ways, so he tore down the idols.

■ 2CH 17:6 [DEMONIC] Jehoshaphat removes high places and Asherah poles

■ 2CH 18:1 [FIELD NOTES] Ahab is named on an Assyrian stone. See The Kurkh Monolith Field Notes page in 1 Kings, p.~.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE DEMONIC GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

⁴ But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, "Please inquire first for the word of Yahweh."

⁵ So the king of Israel assembled the prophets, four hundred men, and asked them, "Should we go to war against Ramoth-gilead, or should we refrain?" "Go up," they replied, "and God will deliver it into the hand of the king."

⁶ But Jehoshaphat asked, "Is there not still a prophet of Yahweh here of whom we can inquire?"

⁷ 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.

⁸ So the king of Israel called one of his officials and said, "Bring Micaiah son of Im-lah at once."

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Now Zedekiah son of Chenaanah 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.'"

¹¹ 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."

MICAHIAH PROPHECIES AGAINST AHAB // 1 KINGS 22:13-28

¹² Then the messenger who had gone to call Micaiah instructed him, "Behold, with one accord the words of the prophets are favorable to the king. So please let your words be like theirs, and speak favorably."

¹³ But Micaiah said, "As surely as Yahweh lives, I will speak whatever my God tells me."

¹⁴ When Micaiah arrived, the king asked him, "Micaiah, should we go to war against Ramoth-gilead, or should we refrain?"

"Go up and triumph," Micaiah replied, "for they will be delivered into your hand."

¹⁵ 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?"

¹⁶ 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.'"

¹⁷ Then the king of Israel said to Je-hoshaphat, "Did I not tell you that he never prophesies good for me, but only bad?"

¹⁸ Micaiah continued, "Therefore hear the word of Yahweh: I saw Yahweh sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing on His right and on His left.

¹⁹ And Yahweh said, 'Who will entice Ahab king of Israel to march up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?'

And one suggested this, and another that.

²⁰ Then a spirit came forward, stood before Yahweh, and said, 'I will entice him.'

'By what means?' asked Yahweh.

²¹ 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.'

²² So you see, Yahweh has put a lying spirit in the mouths of these prophets of yours, and Yahweh has pronounced disaster against you."

²³ Then Zedekiah son of Chenaanah went up, struck Micaiah in the face, and demanded, "Which way did the Spirit of

■ 2CH 18:16 [PROPHECY] Micaiah saw Israel scattered like sheep with no shepherd → 2CH 18:33-34 p. -

■ 2CH 18:16 [NOTE] MICAHIAH. This chapter is almost the same as 1 Kings 22. God's lines in Micaiah's vision print red. See the Big Question pages The Lying Spirit in 1 Kings, p. -.

■ 2CH 18:20 [DEMONIC] A lying spirit in the mouth of Ahab's prophets

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE THE HEART BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

Yahweh go when He departed from me to speak with you?"

²⁴ Micaiah replied, "You will soon see, on that day when you go and hide in an inner room."

²⁵ 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, ²⁶ 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.'"

²⁷ 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 // 1 KINGS 22:29–40

²⁸ So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead.

²⁹ 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.

³⁰ Now the king of Aram had ordered his chariot commanders, "Do not fight with anyone, small or great, except the king of Israel."

³¹ When the chariot commanders saw Je-hoshaphat, they said, "This is the king of Israel!" So they turned to fight against him, but Jehoshaphat cried out, and Yahweh helped him. God drew them away from him. ³² And when the chariot commanders saw that he was not the king of Israel, they turned back from pursuing him.

³³ 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!"

³⁴ The battle raged throughout that day, and the king of Israel propped himself up in his chariot facing the Arameans until evening. And at sunset he died.

19

CHAPTER 19 IN 30 SECONDS

The seer Jehu son of Hanani scolds Jehoshaphat: Should you help the wicked and love those who hate God? Jehoshaphat goes back out among the people to turn them to God. He sets up judges in every town and tells them, Judge carefully, for God takes no bribes.

JEHOSHAPHAT REPROVED BY JEHU

¹ When Jehoshaphat king of Judah had returned safely to his home in Jerusalem, ² Jehu son of Hanani the seer went out to confront him and said to King Je-hoshaphat, "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate Yahweh? Because of this, the wrath of Yahweh is upon you. ³ However, some good is found in you, for you have removed the Asherah poles from the land and have set your heart on seeking God."

JEHOSHAPHAT'S REFORMS

⁴ Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem, and once again he went out among the people from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim and turned them back to Yahweh, the God of their fathers. ⁵ He appointed judges in the land, in each of the fortified cities of Judah. ⁶ Then he said to the judges, "Consider carefully what you do, for you are not judging for man, but for Yahweh, who is with you when you render judgment. ⁷ And now, may the fear of Yahweh be upon you. Be careful what you do, for with Yahweh our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery."

⁸ Moreover, Jehoshaphat appointed in Jerusalem some of the Levites, priests, and heads of the Israelite families to judge on behalf of Yahweh and to settle disputes. And they lived in Jerusalem. ⁹ He commanded them, saying, "You must serve faithfully and with a whole heart in the fear of Yahweh. ¹⁰ For every dispute that comes before you from your brothers who dwell in their cities—whether it regards bloodshed or some other violation of law, commandments, statutes, or

■ 2CH 18:33 [FULFILLS] Micaiah saw Israel scattered like sheep with no shepherd ← 2CH 18:16 p.~

■ 2CH 19:3 [HEART] Jehoshaphat had some good in him because he set his heart to seek God.

■ 2CH 19:3 [DEMONIC] Jehoshaphat praised for removing Asherah poles

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW NOTABLE GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

ordinances—you are to warn them, so that they will not incur guilt before Yahweh and wrath will not come upon you and your brothers. Do this, and you will not incur guilt.

¹¹ Note that Amariah, the chief priest, will be over you in all that pertains to Yahweh, and Zebadiah son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, in all that pertains to the king. And the Levites will serve as officers before you. Act resolutely; may Yahweh be with the upright!"

20

CHAPTER 20 IN 30 SECONDS

Three armies come against Judah at once. Jehoshaphat prays, We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You. God says, The battle is not yours. Judah's army marches out with the choir in front, and God sets ambushes so the enemies wipe each other out. It takes three days to collect the plunder.

WAR AGAINST JEHOSEPHAT

¹ After this, the Moabites and Ammonites, together with some of the Meunites, came to make war against Jehoshaphat. ² Then some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the Sea; they are already in Hazazon-tamar" (that is, Engedi).

³ Jehoshaphat was alarmed and set his face to seek Yahweh. And he proclaimed a fast throughout Judah. ⁴ So the people of Judah gathered to seek Yahweh, and indeed, they came from all the cities of Judah to seek Him.

JEHOSEPHAT'S PRAYER

⁵ Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem in the house of Yahweh in front of the new courtyard ⁶ and said, "O Yahweh, God of our fathers, are You not the God who is in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand, and no one can stand against You.

⁷ Our God, did You not drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham Your friend? ⁸ They have lived in the land

and have built in it a sanctuary for Your Name, saying, ⁹ 'If disaster comes upon us—whether sword or judgment, plague or famine—we will stand before this temple and before You, for Your Name is in this temple. We will cry out to You in our distress, and You will hear us and save us.'

¹⁰ And now, here are the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, whom You did not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt. So Israel turned away from them and did not destroy them. ¹¹ See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession that You gave us as an inheritance.

¹² Our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this vast army that comes against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."

¹³ Meanwhile all the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, were standing before Yahweh.

THE PROPHECY OF JAHAZIEL

¹⁴ Then the Spirit of Yahweh came upon Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite from Asaph's descendants, as he stood in the midst of the assembly.

¹⁵ And he said, "Listen, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Listen, King Jehoshaphat! This is what Yahweh says: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army, for the battle does not belong to you, but to God.' ¹⁶ Tomorrow you are to march down against them. You will see them coming up the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley facing the Wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You need not fight this battle. Take up your positions, stand firm, and see the salvation of Yahweh on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or

■ 2CH 20:7 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → JAS 2:23 p.~

■ 2CH 20:12 [NOTABLE] King Jehoshaphat's prayer when three armies came at once. He admitted he had no plan, and looked to God.

■ 2CH 20:15 [NOTABLE] God's answer through Jahaziel. Judah's army went out singing, and God turned the enemy armies against each other, 20:22 to 23.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

DEMONIC

NOTABLE

BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

discouraged. Go out and face them tomorrow, for Yahweh is with you."

¹⁸ Then Jehoshaphat bowed facedown, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down before Yahweh to worship Him. ¹⁹ And the Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up to praise Yahweh, the God of Israel, shouting in a very loud voice.

THE ENEMIES DESTROY THEMSELVES

²⁰ Early in the morning they got up and left for the Wilderness of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood up and said, "Hear me, O people of Judah and Jerusalem. Believe in Yahweh your God, and you will be upheld; believe in His prophets, and you will succeed."

²¹ Then Jehoshaphat consulted with the people and appointed those who would sing to Yahweh and praise the splendor of His holiness. As they went out before the army, they were singing:

"Give thanks to Yahweh,
for His loving devotion endures forever."

²² The moment they began their shouts and praises, Yahweh set ambushes against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir who had come against Judah, and they were defeated. ²³ The Ammonites and Moabites rose up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction. And when they had finished off the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

²⁴ When the men of Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked for the vast army, but there were only corpses lying on the ground; no one had escaped. ²⁵ Then Jehoshaphat and his people went to carry off the plunder, and they found on the bodies an abundance of goods and valuables—more than they could carry away. They were gathering

the plunder for three days because there was so much.

THE JOYFUL RETURN

²⁶ On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah, where they blessed Yahweh. Therefore that place is called the Valley of Beracah to this day.

²⁷ Then all the men of Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat at their head, returned joyfully to Jerusalem, for Yahweh had made them rejoice over their enemies. ²⁸ So they entered Jerusalem and went into the house of Yahweh with harps, lyres, and trumpets.

²⁹ And the fear of God came upon all the kingdoms of the lands when they heard that Yahweh had fought against the enemies of Israel. ³⁰ Then Jehoshaphat's kingdom was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.

SUMMARY OF JEHOSEPHAT'S REIGN // 1 KINGS 22:41-50

³¹ So Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah. He 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.

³² And Jehoshaphat walked in the way of his father Asa and did not turn away from it; he did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh.

³³ The high places, however, were not removed; the people had not yet set their hearts on the God of their fathers.

³⁴ As for the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, from beginning to end, they are indeed written in the Chronicles of Jehu son of Hanani, which are recorded in the Book of the Kings of Israel.

JEHOSEPHAT'S FLEET IS WRECKED

³⁵ Later, Jehoshaphat king of Judah made an alliance with Ahaziah king of Israel, who acted wickedly. ³⁶ They agreed to make ships to go to Tarshish, and these were built in Ezion-geber.

³⁷ Then Eliezer son of Dodavahu of Mare-shah prophesied against Jehoshaphat,

■ 2CH 20:17 [PROPHECY] Judah would not need to fight and would see Yahweh save them → 2CH 20:22-24 p.---

■ 2CH 20:20 [NOTABLE] Jehoshaphat's words to his army on the morning of the battle. Isaiah later told King Ahaz the opposite side of the same truth, Isaiah 7:9.

■ 2CH 20:22 [MIRACLE] God sets ambushes as Judah sings and the enemies destroy each other

■ 2CH 20:22 [FULFILLS] Judah would not need to fight and would see Yahweh save them ← 2CH 20:17 p.---

■ 2CH 20:33 [DEMONIC] The high places still stand in Judah

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE | DEMONIC | GOD SPEAKING | BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

saying, "Because you have allied yourself with Ahaziah, Yahweh has destroyed your works."

So the ships were wrecked and were unable to sail to Tarshish.

21

CHAPTER 21 IN 30 SECONDS

Jehoram kills all his brothers and walks in the ways of Ahab, whose daughter he married. Edom revolts. A letter arrives from Elijah the prophet saying a terrible bowel disease is coming. It comes. He dies after eight years, to no one's regret.

JEHORAM REIGNS IN JUDAH // 2 KINGS 8:16-19

¹ And Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers and was buried with them in the City of David. And his son Jehoram reigned in his place.

² Jehoram's brothers, the sons of Jehoshaphat, were Azariah, Jehiel, Zechariah, Azariah, Michael, and Shephatiah; these were all sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel. ³ Their father had given them many gifts of silver and gold and precious things, as well as the fortified cities in Judah; but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram because he was the firstborn.

⁴ When Jehoram had established himself over his father's kingdom, he strengthened himself by putting to the sword all his brothers along with some of the princes of Israel. ⁵ Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years.

⁶ And Jehoram walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab had done. For he married a daughter of Ahab and did evil in the sight of Yahweh. ⁷ Yet Yahweh was unwilling to destroy the house of David, because of the covenant He had made with David, and since He had promised to maintain a lamp for David and his descendants forever.

EDOM AND LIBNAH REBEL // 2 KINGS 8:20-24

⁸ In the days of Jehoram, Edom rebelled against the hand of Judah and appointed their own king. ⁹ So Jehoram crossed into Edom with his officers and all his chariots. When the Edomites surrounded him and

his chariot commanders, he rose up and attacked by night.

¹⁰ So to this day Edom has been in rebellion against the hand of Judah. Likewise, Libnah rebelled against his hand at the same time, because Jehoram had forsaken Yahweh, the God of his fathers.

¹¹ Jehoram had also built high places on the hills of Judah; he had caused the people of Jerusalem to prostitute themselves and had led Judah astray.

ELIJAH'S LETTER TO JEHORAM

¹² Then a letter came to Jehoram from Elijah the prophet, which stated:

"This is what Yahweh, the God of your father David, says:

'You have not walked in the ways of your father Jehoshaphat or of Asa king of Judah, ¹³ but you have walked in the ways of the kings of Israel and have caused Judah and the people of Jerusalem to prostitute themselves, just as the house of Ahab prostituted itself. You have also killed your brothers, your father's family, who were better than you.

¹⁴ So behold, Yahweh is about to strike your people, your sons, your wives, and all your possessions with a serious blow.

¹⁵ And day after day you yourself will suffer from a severe illness, a disease of your bowels, until it causes your bowels to come out.'"

JEHORAM'S DISEASE AND DEATH

¹⁶ Then Yahweh stirred against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines and Arabs who lived near the Cushites. ¹⁷ So they went to war against Judah, invaded it, and carried off all the possessions found in the king's palace, along with his sons and wives; not a son was left to him except Jehoahaz, his youngest.

¹⁸ After all this, Yahweh afflicted Jehoram with an incurable disease of the bowels. ¹⁹ This continued day after day until two full

■ 2CH 21:11 [DEMONIC] Jehoram leads Judah into idol worship

■ 2CH 21:12 [NOTE] A LETTER FROM ELIJAH. See the Big Question pages Elijah's Letter.

■ 2CH 21:15 [PROPHECY] Elijah's letter said King Jehoram would die of a bowel disease → 2CH 21:18-19 p.-

■ 2CH 21:18 [FULFILLS] Elijah's letter said King Jehoram would die of a bowel disease ← 2CH 21:15 p.-

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years had passed. Finally, his intestines came out because of his disease, and he died in severe pain. And his people did not make a fire in his honor as they had done for his fathers.

²⁰ Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years. He died, to no one's regret, and was buried in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

ELIJAH'S LETTER

The Puzzle

2 CHRONICLES 21:12 TO 15 • 2 KINGS 1:17 • 2 KINGS 2:11 • 3:11

THE LETTER

A letter came to King Jehoram of Judah from Elijah the prophet. You have not walked in the ways of your father Jehoshaphat, it said. You killed your brothers. A great plague will strike your people, and you will get a disease of the bowels, 21:12 to 15.

IT CAME TRUE

God struck him with that disease. Two years later he died in great pain, to no one's regret, 21:18 to 20.

ELIJAH'S ONLY APPEARANCE

This is the only time Elijah shows up in all of Chronicles, and the only writing of his in the Bible.

THE PUZZLE

2 Kings 2 tells how Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. In 2 Kings 3:11, while Jehoshaphat was still king, Elisha is called the one who used to pour water on Elijah's hands, as if Elijah were already gone. So how did Elijah write to Jehoshaphat's son?

THE DATES OVERLAP

Jehoram of Judah began to reign while his father Jehoshaphat was still alive, 2 Kings 8:16, and 2 Kings 1:17 counts years from him. Kings of that time often shared the throne with a son for a few years.

THE QUESTION

Was Elijah still on earth, or did the letter come another way?

Every View

2 KINGS 8:16 • 2 CHRONICLES 21:18 TO 20 • MALACHI 4:5

VIEW 1: ELIJAH WAS STILL ALIVE

Many think Elijah was taken up later than the order of 2 Kings suggests. Kings tells Elisha's call in chapter 2, but stories are not always in time order. Josephus tells of the letter too, even though he had already told of Elijah going away.

VIEW 2: HE WROTE IT AHEAD

Some think Elijah wrote the letter before he was taken up, knowing what Jehoram would do, and left it to be delivered later.

VIEW 3: ANOTHER NAME

A few suggest the name was once Elisha, who was alive then, and a copyist wrote Elijah. Others answer that the copies we have say Elijah.

VIEW 4: FROM HEAVEN

Some old Jewish teachers said Elijah sent it from heaven. Most readers today do not hold this view.

WHAT ABOUT 3:11

Others point out that pour water on the hands means Elisha had been Elijah's servant. It does not have to mean Elijah was gone.

ELIJAH IS COMING

Malachi 4:5 promised that Elijah would come before the day of Yahweh. Jesus said John the Baptist came in that spirit, Matthew 11:14. See Elijah's Whirlwind in 2 Kings, p. 7.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

God warned Jehoram through His prophet, and the warning came true just as it said.

22

CHAPTER 22 IN 30 SECONDS

Ahaziah is king for one year, and his mother Athaliah coaches him in evil. He goes with Joram of Israel to fight Hazael and then visits Joram, who was hurt, right when Jehu is wiping out Ahab's house. Jehu kills him. Athaliah then kills the royal family, but baby Joash is hidden in the temple.

AHAZIAH REIGNS IN JUDAH // 2 KINGS 8:25–29

¹ Then the people of Jerusalem made Ahaziah, the youngest son of Jehoram, king in his place, since the raiders who

BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

had come into the camp with the Arabs had killed all the older sons. So Ahaziah son of Jehoram became king of Judah. ² Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem one year. His mother's name was Athaliah, the granddaughter of Omri. ³ Ahaziah also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother was his counselor in wickedness. ⁴ And he did evil in the sight of Yahweh, as the house of Ahab had done, for to his destruction they were his counselors after the death of his father.

⁵ Ahaziah also followed their counsel and went with Joram son of Ahab king of Israel to fight against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth-gilead. But the Arameans wounded Joram. ⁶ So he returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds they had inflicted on him at Ramah when he fought against Hazael king of Aram. Then Ahaziah son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to Jezreel to visit Joram son of Ahab, because Joram had been wounded.

⁷ Ahaziah's downfall came from God when he went to visit Joram. When Ahaziah arrived, he went out with Joram to meet Jehu son of Nimshi, whom Yahweh had anointed to destroy the house of Ahab.

JEHU KILLS THE PRINCES OF JUDAH // 2 KINGS 9:14-29

⁸ So while Jehu was executing judgment on the house of Ahab, he found the rulers of Judah and the sons of Ahaziah's brothers who were serving Ahaziah, and he killed them.

⁹ Then Jehu looked for Ahaziah, and Jehu's soldiers captured him while he was hiding in Samaria. So Ahaziah was brought to Jehu and put to death. They buried him, for they said, "He is the

grandson of Jehoshaphat, who sought Yahweh with all his heart."

So no one was left from the house of Ahaziah with the strength to rule the kingdom.

ATHALIAH AND JOASH // 2 KINGS 11:1-3

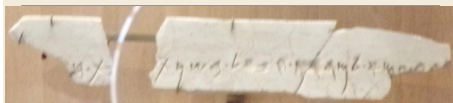
¹⁰ When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to annihilate all the royal heirs of the house of Judah. ¹¹ But Jehoshabeath daughter of King Jehoram took Joash son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the sons of the king who were being murdered, and she put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Because Jehoshabeath, the daughter of King Jehoram and the wife of Jehoiada the priest, was Ahaziah's sister, she hid Joash from Athaliah so that she could not kill him.

¹² And Joash remained hidden with them in the house of God for six years while Athaliah ruled the land.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH
FOR THE KING, MEDIUM FOR THE IVORY

HAZAEI

2 CHRONICLES 22:5 TO 6 · 24:23 TO 24 · 1 KINGS 19:15 ·
2 KINGS 8:7 TO 15 · 12:17 TO 18



An ivory strip from Arslan Tash, Syria, with an Aramaic line naming our lord Hazael. Louvre, Paris. Photo Lamashu2006, CC BY SA 4.0.

WHAT IT IS

A thin strip of carved ivory, once part of a piece of royal furniture, maybe a bed. It has one line of Aramaic writing that names our lord Hazael.

HOW OLD IT IS

About 800 BC, near the end of Hazael's reign or soon after.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

At Arslan Tash, ancient Hadatu, in northern Syria, in a French dig in 1928. Many think the Assyrians carried the ivories off from Damascus as loot. It is in the Louvre in Paris.

■ 2CH 22:2 [TEXT] HOW OLD? The Hebrew here says 42. 2 Kings 8:26 and some Greek copies say 22, and this Bible follows them, as most Bibles do. His father died at 40, 21:20.

■ 2CH 22:5 [FIELD NOTES] See the Hazael Field Notes page. This same war may be the one on the Tel Dan Stele. See the Tel Dan page in 2 Samuel, p.-.

■ 2CH 22:7 [NOTE] JEHU. See Jehu on the Black Obelisk and the Big Question pages Jehu: Hero or Butcher? in 2 Kings, p.-.

■ 2CH 22:10 [NOTE] ONE BABY LEFT. Athaliah tried to wipe out David's royal line. If she had won, God's promise to David would have died with it. One baby, Joash, was hidden, 22:11.

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WHO WAS HAZAEL?

He was a servant of Ben hadad king of Aram. Elisha wept and told him he would be king and would do terrible harm to Israel, 2 Kings 8:7 to 15. The next day Ben hadad was dead, and Hazael took the throne. Here Judah's king Ahaziah and Israel's king Joram fight him at Ramoth gilead, 22:5 to 6.

WHAT ASSYRIA SAID

Shalmaneser III of Assyria fought Hazael in 841 BC. One of his records calls him Hazael, son of a nobody, which means he was not born a prince. That fits the Bible: he grabbed the throne.

MORE FINDS

Two bronze horse pieces found on the Greek islands of Samos and Euboea say they were given to our lord Hazael. Most scholars think Hazael set up the Tel Dan Stele too. See the Tel Dan page in 2 Samuel, p. ...

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

The ivory does not call him king of Damascus, so a few doubt it is the same man. Shalmaneser's records do, and they name him for sure.

23

CHAPTER 23 IN 30 SECONDS

Six years later, the priest Jehoiada makes his move. He brings out the boy Joash, puts the crown on him, and the people shout, Long live the king! Athaliah runs in screaming, Treason! She is put to death outside the temple, and the people tear down the temple of Baal.

JOASH ANOINTED KING OF JUDAH // 2 KINGS 11:4-

12

¹Then in the seventh year, Jehoiada strengthened himself and made a covenant with the commanders of hundreds—with Azariah son of Jeroham, Ishmael son of Jehohanan, Azariah son of Obed, Maaseiah son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat son of Zichri. ²So they went throughout Judah and gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah and the heads of the families of Israel. And when they came to Jerusalem, ³the whole assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of God.

"Behold, the king's son!" said Jehoiada.

"He must reign, just as Yahweh promised concerning the descendants of David." ⁴

This is what you are to do: A third of you priests and Levites who come on duty on the Sabbath shall keep watch at the doors, ⁵a third shall be at the royal palace, and a third at the Foundation Gate, while all the others are to be in the courtyards of the house of Yahweh. ⁶No one is to enter the house of Yahweh except the priests and those Levites who serve; they may enter because they are consecrated, but all the people are to obey the requirement of Yahweh. ⁷The Levites must surround the king with weapons in hand, and anyone who enters the temple must be put to death. You must stay close to the king wherever he goes."

⁸So the Levites and all Judah did everything that Jehoiada the priest had ordered. Each of them took his men—those coming on duty on the Sabbath and those going off duty—for Jehoiada the priest had not released any of the divisions. ⁹Then Jehoiada the priest gave to the commanders of hundreds the spears and the large and small shields of King David that were in the house of God. ¹⁰He stationed all the troops, with their weapons in hand, surrounding the king by the altar and the temple, from the south side to the north side of the temple.

¹¹Then Jehoiada and his sons brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, presented him with the Testimony, and proclaimed him king. They anointed him and shouted, "Long live the king!"

THE DEATH OF ATHALIAH // 2 KINGS 11:13-16

¹²When Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and cheering the king, she went out to them in the house of Yahweh. ¹³And she looked and saw the king standing by his pillar at the entrance. The officers and trumpeters were beside the king, and all the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets, while the singers with musical instruments were leading the praises.

DEMONIC BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

Then Athaliah tore her clothes and screamed, "Treason, treason!"

¹⁴ And Jehoiada the priest sent out the commanders of hundreds in charge of the army, saying, "Bring her out between the ranks, and put to the sword anyone who follows her." For the priest had said, "She must not be put to death in the house of Yahweh."

¹⁵ So they seized Athaliah as she reached the entrance of the Horse Gate on the palace grounds, and there they put her to death.

JEHOIADA RESTORES THE WORSHIP OF YAHWEH // 2 KINGS 11:17–21

¹⁶ Then Jehoiada made a covenant between himself and the king and the people that they would be Yahweh's people. ¹⁷

So all the people went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They smashed the altars and idols to pieces and killed Mat-tan the priest of Baal in front of the altars.

¹⁸ Moreover, Jehoiada put the oversight of the house of Yahweh into the hands of the Levitical priests, whom David had appointed over the house of Yahweh, to offer burnt offerings to Yahweh as written in the Law of Moses, with rejoicing and song, as ordained by David. ¹⁹ He stationed gatekeepers at the gates of the house of Yahweh, so that no one who was in any way unclean could enter.

²⁰ And he took with him the commanders of hundreds, the nobles, the rulers of the people, and all the people of the land, and they brought the king down from the house of Yahweh and entered the royal palace through the Upper Gate. They seated King Joash on the royal throne, ²¹ and all the people of the land rejoiced. And the city was quiet, because Athaliah had been put to the sword.

24

CHAPTER 24 IN 30 SECONDS

Joash repairs the temple with a money chest at the gate, and the people give gladly. As long as Jehoiada lives, Joash does right. After Jehoiada dies, Joash turns to idols and has Jehoiada's son Zechariah stoned in the temple court. A small Aramean army beats Judah, and his own servants kill Joash in bed.

JOASH REPAIRS THE TEMPLE // 2 KINGS 12:1–16

¹ Joash was seven years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem forty years. His mother's name was Zibiah she was from Beersheba. ² And Joash did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh all the days of Jehoiada the priest. ³ Jehoiada took for him two wives, and he had sons and daughters.

⁴ Some time later, Joash set his heart on repairing the house of Yahweh. ⁵ So he gathered the priests and Levites and said, "Go out to the cities of Judah and collect the money due annually from all Israel, to repair the house of your God. Do it quickly."

The Levites, however, did not make haste.

⁶ So the king called Jehoiada the high priest and said, "Why have you not required the Levites to bring from Judah and Jerusalem the tax imposed by Moses the servant of Yahweh and by the assembly of Israel for the Tent of the Testimony?"

⁷ For the sons of that wicked woman Athaliah had broken into the house of God and had even used the sacred objects of the house of Yahweh for the Baals.

⁸ At the king's command a chest was made and placed outside, at the gate of the house of Yahweh. ⁹ And a proclamation was issued in Judah and Jerusalem that they were to bring to Yahweh the tax imposed by Moses the servant of God on Israel in the wilderness. ¹⁰ All the officers and all the people rejoiced and brought their contributions, and they dropped them in the chest until it was full.

2CH 23:17 [DEMONIC] The people tear down the temple of Baal

2CH 24:7 [DEMONIC] Athaliah's sons give temple treasures to the Baals

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¹¹ Whenever the chest was brought by the Levites to the king's overseers and they saw that there was a large amount of money, the royal scribe and the officer of the high priest would come and empty the chest and carry it back to its place. They did this daily and gathered the money in abundance. ¹² Then the king and Jehoiada would give the money to those who supervised the labor on the house of Yahweh to hire stonecutters and carpenters to restore the house of Yahweh, as well as workers in iron and bronze to repair the house of Yahweh.

¹³ So the workmen labored, and in their hands the repair work progressed. They restored the house of God according to its specifications, and they reinforced it. ¹⁴ When they were finished, they brought the rest of the money to the king and Jehoiada, and with it were made articles for the house of Yahweh—utensils for the service and for the burnt offerings, dishes, and other objects of gold and silver.

Throughout the days of Jehoiada, burnt offerings were presented regularly in the house of Yahweh.

JEHOIADA'S DEATH AND BURIAL

¹⁵ When Jehoiada was old and full of years, he died at the age of 130.

¹⁶ And Jehoiada was buried with the kings in the City of David, because he had done what was good in Israel for God and His temple.

THE WICKEDNESS OF JOASH

¹⁷ After the death of Jehoiada, however, the officials of Judah came and paid homage to the king, and he listened to them. ¹⁸ They abandoned the house of Yahweh, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherah poles and idols. So wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. ¹⁹ Nevertheless, Yahweh sent prophets to bring the people back to Him and to testify against them, but they would not listen.

²⁰ Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest, who stood up before the people and said to them, "This is what God says: **'Why do you transgress the commandments of Yahweh so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken Yahweh, He has forsaken you.'**"

²¹ But they conspired against Zechariah, and by order of the king, they stoned him in the courtyard of the house of Yahweh.

²² Thus King Joash failed to remember the kindness that Zechariah's father Jehoiada had extended to him. Instead, Joash killed Jehoiada's son. As he lay dying, Zechariah said, "May Yahweh see this and call you to account."

THE DEATH OF JOASH // 2 KINGS 12:17–21

²³ In the spring, the army of Aram went to war against Joash. They entered Judah and Jerusalem and destroyed all the leaders of the people, and they sent all the plunder to their king in Damascus. ²⁴ Although the Aramean army had come with only a few men, Yahweh delivered into their hand a very great army. Because Judah had forsaken Yahweh, the God of their fathers, judgment was executed on Joash.

²⁵ And when the Arameans had withdrawn, they left Joash severely wounded. His own servants conspired against him for shedding the blood of the son of Jehoiada the priest, and they killed him on his bed. So he died and was buried in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings. ²⁶ Those who conspired against Joash were Zabad son of Shimeath the Ammonitess and Jehozabad son of Shimrith the Moabitess.

²⁷ The accounts of the sons of Joash and the many pronouncements about him, and

■ 2CH 24:20 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → MT 23:35 p.~

■ 2CH 24:20 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → LK 11:51 p.~

■ 2CH 24:20 [NOTE] ZECHARIAH. Jesus spoke of the blood of Zechariah, killed between the altar and the sanctuary, Luke 11:51. Matthew 23:35 calls him the son of Berechiah, the father of the prophet Zechariah, Zechariah 1:1. Some think Jehoiada was his grandfather, some think Jesus meant the prophet, and some think a copyist added the name.

■ 2CH 24:18 [DEMONIC] Judah abandons God's house to serve Asherah poles

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of the restoration of the house of God, are indeed written in the Treatise of the Book of the Kings. And his son Amaziah reigned in his place.

25

CHAPTER 25 IN 30 SECONDS

Amaziah does right, but not wholeheartedly. He hires soldiers from Israel, a man of God says send them home, and he does. He beats Edom, then brings home Edom's gods and bows to them. He picks a fight with Jehoash king of Israel, loses, and the wall of Jerusalem gets knocked down.

AMAZIAH REIGNS IN JUDAH // 2 KINGS 14:1-7

¹Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Jehoaddan she was from Jerusalem. ²And he did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh, but not with a whole heart.

³As soon as the kingdom was firmly in his grasp, Amaziah executed the servants who had murdered his father the king. ⁴Yet he did not put their sons to death, but acted according to what is written in the Law, in the Book of Moses, where Yahweh commanded: "Fathers must not be put to death for their children, and children must not be put to death for their fathers; each is to die for his own sin."

AMAZIAH'S VICTORIES

⁵Then Amaziah gathered the people of Judah and assigned them according to their families to commanders of thousands and of hundreds. And he numbered those twenty years of age or older throughout Judah and Benjamin and found 300,000 chosen men able to serve in the army, bearing the spear and shield.

⁶He also hired 100,000 mighty men of valor from Israel for 7,500 pounds of silver. ⁷But a man of God came to him and said, "O king, do not let the army of Israel go with you, for Yahweh is not with Israel—not with any of the Ephraimites. ⁸Even if you go and fight bravely in battle, God will overthrow you before the enemy,

for God has power to help and power to overthrow."

⁹Amaziah asked the man of God, "What should I do about the 7,500 pounds of silver I have given to the troops of Israel?"

And the man of God replied, "Yahweh is able to give you much more than this."

¹⁰So Amaziah dismissed the troops who had come to him from Ephraim and sent them home. And they were furious with Judah and returned home in great anger.

¹¹Amaziah, however, summoned his strength and led his troops to the Valley of Salt, where he struck down 10,000 men of Seir, ¹²and the army of Judah also captured 10,000 men alive. They took them to the top of a cliff and threw them down so that all were dashed to pieces.

¹³Meanwhile the troops that Amaziah had dismissed from battle raided the cities of Judah, from Samaria to Beth-horon. They struck down 3,000 people and carried off a great deal of plunder.

AMAZIAH REBUKED FOR IDOLATRY

¹⁴When Amaziah returned from the slaughter of the Edomites, he brought back the gods of the Seirites, set them up as his own gods, bowed before them, and burned sacrifices to them. ¹⁵Therefore the anger of Yahweh burned against Amaziah, and He sent him a prophet, who said, "Why have you sought this people's gods, which could not deliver them from your hand?"

¹⁶While he was still speaking, the king asked, "Have we made you the counselor to the king? Stop! Why be struck down?" So the prophet stopped, but he said, "I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this and have not heeded my advice."

JEHOASH DEFEATS AMAZIAH // 2 KINGS 14:8-14

¹⁷Then Amaziah king of Judah took counsel and sent word to the king of Israel Je-

■ 2CH 25:14 [DEMONIC] Amaziah bows to the gods of the people he beat

■ 2CH 25:16 [PROPHECY] A prophet said God had decided to destroy King Amaziah → 2CH 25:22-23; 2CH 25:27 · MEDIUM p.~

■ 2CH 25:2 [HEART] Amaziah did right, but not with a whole heart. Right actions with a wrong heart still fall short.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE DEMONIC BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

hoash son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu. "Come, let us meet face to face," he said.

¹⁸ But Jehoash king of Israel replied to Amaziah king of Judah: "A thistle in Lebanon sent a message to a cedar in Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son in marriage.' Then a wild beast in Lebanon came along and trampled the thistle. ¹⁹ You have said, 'Look, I have defeated Edom,' and your heart has become proud and boastful. Now stay at home. Why should you stir up trouble so that you fall—you and Judah with you?"

²⁰ But Amaziah would not listen, for this had come from God in order to deliver them into the hand of Jehoash, because they had sought the gods of Edom. ²¹ So Jehoash king of Israel advanced, and he and Amaziah king of Judah faced each other at Beth-shemesh in Judah. ²² And Judah was routed before Israel, and every man fled to his own home.

²³ There at Beth-shemesh, Jehoash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Jehoahaz.

Then Jehoash brought him to Jerusalem and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate—a section of 600 feet. ²⁴ He took all the gold and silver and all the articles found in the house of God with Obed-edom and in the treasuries of the royal palace, as well as some hostages. Then he returned to Samaria.

THE DEATH OF AMAZIAH // 2 KINGS 14:17–20

²⁵ Amaziah son of Joash king of Judah lived for fifteen years after the death of Jehoash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel.

²⁶ As for the rest of the acts of Amaziah, from beginning to end, are they not written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel?

²⁷ From the time that Amaziah turned from following Yahweh, a conspiracy was formed against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish. But men were sent after him to Lachish, and they killed him there.

■ 2CH 25:20 [DEMONIC] Amaziah falls because he sought the gods of Edom

■ 2CH 25:22 [FULFILLS] A prophet said God had decided to destroy King Amaziah ← 2CH 25:16 · MEDIUM p.–

²⁸ They carried him back on horses and buried him with his fathers in the City of Judah.

26

CHAPTER 26 IN 30 SECONDS

Uzziah becomes king at sixteen and seeks God while Zechariah teaches him. He beats the Philistines, builds towers and machines, and loves farming. Then his heart grows proud. He walks into the temple to burn incense, which only priests could do. Leprosy breaks out on his forehead, and he lives alone till he dies.

UZZIAH REIGNS IN JUDAH // 2 KINGS 14:21–22; 2 KINGS 15:1–7

¹ All the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in place of his father Amaziah. ² Uzziah was the one who rebuilt Eloth and re-stored it to Judah after King Amaziah rested with his fathers.

³ Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-two years. His mother's name was Jecoliah she was from Jerusalem. ⁴ And he did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh, just as his father Amaziah had done.

⁵ He sought God throughout the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God. And as long as he sought Yahweh, God gave him success.

⁶ Uzziah went out to wage war against the Philistines, and he tore down the walls of Gath, Jabneh, and Ashdod. Then he built cities near Ashdod and among the Philistines. ⁷ God helped him against the Philistines, against the Arabs living in Gurbaal, and against the Meunites. ⁸ The Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah, and his fame spread as far as the border of Egypt, for he had become exceedingly powerful.

⁹ Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, the Valley Gate, and the angle in the wall, and he fortified them. ¹⁰ Since he had much livestock in the foothills and in the plain, he built towers in the desert and dug many cisterns. And since he was a lover of the soil, he had

■ 2CH 25:27 [FULFILLS] A prophet said God had decided to destroy King Amaziah ← 2CH 25:16 · MEDIUM p.–

THE HEART MIRACLES NOTABLE BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

farmers and vinedressers in the hill country and in the fertile fields.

¹¹ Uzziah had an army ready for battle that went out to war by assigned divisions, as recorded by Jeiel the scribe and Maa-seiah the officer under the direction of Hananiah, one of the royal officers. ¹² The total number of family leaders of the mighty men of valor was 2,600. ¹³ Under their authority was an army of 307,500 trained for war, a powerful force to support the king against his enemies.

¹⁴ Uzziah supplied the entire army with shields, spears, helmets, armor, bows, and slingstones. ¹⁵ And in Jerusalem he made skillfully designed devices to shoot arrows and catapult large stones from the towers and corners. So his fame spread far and wide, for he was helped tremendously until he became powerful.

¹⁶ But when Uzziah became powerful, his arrogance led to his own destruction. He was unfaithful to Yahweh his God, for he entered the temple of Yahweh to burn incense on the altar of incense.

¹⁷ Then Azariah the priest, along with eighty brave priests of Yahweh, went in after him. ¹⁸ They took their stand against King Uzziah and said, “Uzziah, you have no right to offer incense to Yahweh. Only the priests, the descendants of Aaron, are consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have acted unfaithfully; you will not receive honor from Yahweh God.”

¹⁹ Uzziah, with a censer in his hand to offer incense, was enraged. But while he raged against the priests in their presence in the house of Yahweh before the altar of incense, leprosy broke out on his forehead. ²⁰ When Azariah the chief priest and all the priests turned to him and saw his leprous forehead, they rushed him out. In-

deed, he himself hurried to get out, because Yahweh had afflicted him.

²¹ So King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He lived in isolation, leprous and cut off from the house of Yahweh, while his son Jotham had charge of the royal palace and governed the people of the land.

²² As for the rest of the acts of Uzziah, from beginning to end, they are recorded by the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz. ²³ And Uzziah rested with his fathers and was buried near them in a field of burial that belonged to the kings, for the people said, “He was a leper.” And his son Jotham reigned in his place.

27

CHAPTER 27 IN 30 SECONDS

Jotham does right, though the people still act corruptly. He builds the Upper Gate of the temple and towers in the hills, beats the Ammonites, and they pay him tribute three years in a row. He grows strong because he orders his ways before God.

JOTHAM REIGNS IN JUDAH // 2 KINGS 15:32–38

¹ Jotham was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. His mother's name was Jerushah daughter of Zadok. ² And he did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh, just as his father Uzziah had done. In addition, he did not enter the temple of Yahweh. But the people still behaved corruptly.

THE BIG QUESTION

WHY DID GOOD KINGS END BADLY?

Four Kings

2 CHRONICLES 16 · 24:17 TO 25 · 25:14 TO 16 · 26:16 TO 21

ASA

He prayed, Help us, for we rely on You, and God beat a huge army, 14:11 to 12. Years later he paid Aram instead of trusting God, threw the prophet Hanani in prison, and when his feet got sick, he sought only the doctors, 16:1 to 12.

■ 2CH 26:23 [FIELD NOTES] A stone plaque for Uzziah's bones was found in Jerusalem. See The Uzziah Plaque Field Notes page in 2 Kings, p.™.

■ 2CH 26:16 [HEART] When Uzziah became strong, his heart grew proud and it ruined him.

■ 2CH 26:16 [NOTABLE] The king who tried to add priestly duties to his royal office — leprosy until his death; the very verse that shows offering incense outside the priesthood brings judgment

■ 2CH 26:16 [NOTE] WHEN HE WAS STRONG. See the Big Question pages Why Did Good Kings End Badly?

■ 2CH 26:19 [MIRACLE] King Uzziah is struck with leprosy in the temple

DEMONIC BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

JOASH

He did right all the days of Jehoiada the priest, 24:2. After Jehoiada died, he listened to the officials, served idols, and had Jehoiada's son Zechariah stoned in the temple court, 24:17 to 22.

AMAZIAH

He did right, but not with a whole heart, 25:2. He beat Edom, then brought home Edom's gods and bowed to them, 25:14.

UZZIAH

He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who taught him, and God made him prosper, 26:5. But when he became strong, his heart grew proud. He burned incense in the temple, which only priests could do, and leprosy broke out on his forehead, 26:16 to 21.

EVEN HEZEKIAH

After God healed him, Hezekiah's heart was proud, 32:25, though he humbled himself again, 32:26.

THE QUESTION

Why does Chronicles show so many good kings ending badly?

Every View

2 CHRONICLES 32:25 • 1 CORINTHIANS 10:12 • PROVERBS 16:18

VIEW 1: SUCCESS BRINGS PRIDE

Uzziah fell when he became strong, 26:16. Many see a pattern: kings sought God when they were weak and forgot Him when they were strong. Pride goes before destruction, Proverbs 16:18.

VIEW 2: THEY LOST THEIR MENTOR

Joash did well while Jehoiada lived, and Uzziah while Zechariah taught him. Some think these kings leaned on a godly man more than on God.

VIEW 3: FINISHING MATTERS

Many teachers say Chronicles shows that a good start is not enough. How a king ended mattered as much as how he began.

VIEW 4: THE WRITER'S LESSON

Many scholars point out that Chronicles often shows quick results: faithfulness brings blessing and sin brings trouble in the same king's life. They think the writer wanted the people back from exile to stay faithful.

JEHOSHAPHAT TOO

Even this good king was rebuked for making friends with wicked kings of Israel, 19:2 and 20:35 to 37.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

Anyone can fall, and anyone can turn back. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you do not fall, 1 Corinthians 10:12.

³ Jotham rebuilt the Upper Gate of the house of Yahweh, and he worked extensively on the wall at the hill of Ophel. ⁴ He also built cities in the hill country of Judah and fortresses and towers in the forests.

⁵ Jotham waged war against the king of the Ammonites and defeated them, and that year they gave him 7,500 pounds of silver, 60,000 bushels of wheat, and 60,000 bushels of barley. They paid him the same in the second and third years. ⁶ So Jotham grew powerful because he ordered his ways before Yahweh his God.

⁷ As for the rest of the acts of Jotham, along with all his wars and his ways, they are indeed written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah. ⁸ He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. ⁹ And Jotham rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David. And his son Ahaz reigned in his place.

28

CHAPTER 28 IN 30 SECONDS

Ahaz is a disaster. He makes Baal idols and burns his own sons in the Valley of Ben hinom. Aram and Israel crush Judah. The prophet Oded tells Israel to send the captives home, and they do, with clothes and donkeys. Ahaz asks Assyria for help and gets trouble instead. He shuts the temple doors.

AHAZ REIGNS IN JUDAH // 2 KINGS 16:1–9

¹ Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. And unlike David his father, he did not do what was right in the eyes of Yahweh. ² Instead, he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel and even made cast images of the Baals.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE DEMONIC BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

³ Moreover, Ahaz burned incense in the Valley of Ben-hinnom and sacrificed his sons in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations that Yahweh had driven out before the Israelites. ⁴ And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.

ARAM DEFEATS JUDAH // ISAIAH 1:1-9

⁵ So Yahweh his God delivered Ahaz into the hand of the king of Aram, who attacked him and took many captives to Damascus.

Ahaz was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who struck him with great force. ⁶ For in one day Pekah son of Remaliah killed 120,000 valiant men in Judah. This happened because they had forsaken Yahweh, the God of their fathers. ⁷ Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, killed Maaseiah the son of the king, Azrikam the governor of the palace, and Elkanah the second to the king. ⁸ Then the Israelites took 200,000 captives from their kinsmen—women, sons, and daughters. They also carried off a great deal of plunder and brought it to Samaria.

⁹ But a prophet of Yahweh named Oded was there, and he went out to meet the army that returned to Samaria. "Look," he said to them, "because of His wrath against Judah, Yahweh, the God of your fathers, has delivered them into your hand. But you have slaughtered them in a rage that reaches up to heaven. ¹⁰ And now you intend to reduce to slavery the men and women of Judah and Jerusalem. But are you not also guilty before Yahweh your God? ¹¹ Now therefore, listen to me and return the captives you took from your kinsmen, for the fierce anger of Yahweh is upon you."

¹² Then some of the leaders of the Ephraimites—Azariah son of Jehohanan, Berechiah son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah son of Shallum, and Amasa son of

Hadlai—stood in opposition to those arriving from the war. ¹³ "You must not bring the captives here," they said, "for you are proposing to bring guilt upon us from Yahweh and to add to our sins and our guilt. For our guilt is great, and fierce anger is upon Israel."

¹⁴ So the armed men left the captives and the plunder before the leaders and all the assembly. ¹⁵ Then the men who were designated by name arose, took charge of the captives, and provided for the plunder clothing for the naked. They clothed them, gave them sandals and food and drink, anointed their wounds, and put all the feeble on donkeys. So they brought them to Jericho, the City of Palms, to their brothers. Then they returned to Samaria.

THE IDOLATRY OF AHAZ // 2 KINGS 16:10-20

¹⁶ At that time King Ahaz sent for help from the king of Assyria. ¹⁷ The Edomites had again come and attacked Judah and carried away captives. ¹⁸ The Philistines had also raided the cities of the foothills and the Negev of Judah, capturing and occupying Beth-shemesh, Aijalon, and Gederot, as well as Soco, Timnah, and Gimzo with their villages. ¹⁹ For Yahweh humbled Judah because Ahaz king of Israel had thrown off restraint in Judah and had been most unfaithful to Yahweh.

²⁰ Then Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came to Ahaz but afflicted him rather than strengthening him. ²¹ Although Ahaz had taken a portion from the house of Yahweh, from the royal palace, and from the princes and had presented it to the king of Assyria, it did not help him.

²² In the time of his distress, King Ahaz became even more unfaithful to Yahweh. ²³ He sacrificed to the gods of Damascus, who had defeated him, and he said, "Because the gods of the kings of Aram have helped them, I will sacrifice to them that

■ 2CH 28:2 [DEMONIC] Ahaz makes Baal images and burns his sons

■ 2CH 28:3 [NOTE] CHILD SACRIFICE. God hated it, Deuteronomy 12:31. 2 Kings 16:3 says Ahaz burned his son. See the Seal of Ahaz Field Notes page in 2 Kings, p.-.

■ 2CH 28:20 [FULFILLS] God would bring the king of Assyria against Ahaz and Judah < IS 7:17 p.-.

■ 2CH 28:21 [FIELD NOTES] Tiglath pileser's own record lists Ahaz paying tribute. See the Ahaz Pays Assyria Field Notes page in 2 Kings, p.-.

■ 2CH 28:22 [DEMONIC] Ahaz sacrifices to the gods of Damascus

DEMONIC BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

they may help me.” But these gods were the downfall of Ahaz and of all Israel.

²⁴ Then Ahaz gathered up the articles of the house of God, cut them into pieces, shut the doors of the house of Yahweh, and set up altars of his own on every street corner in Jerusalem. ²⁵ In every city of Judah he built high places to offer incense to other gods, and so he provoked Yahweh, the God of his fathers.

²⁶ As for the rest of the acts of Ahaz and all his ways, from beginning to end, they are indeed written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel. ²⁷ And Ahaz rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of Jerusalem, but he was not placed in the tombs of the kings of Israel. And his son Hezekiah reigned in his place.

29

CHAPTER 29 IN 30 SECONDS

Hezekiah opens the temple doors in his very first month. The Levites clean out the junk and the idols for sixteen days. Then the king brings sin offerings for all Israel, the singers and trumpets start up again, and everyone bows down. It all happened so fast.

HEZEKIAH CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE // 2 KINGS

18:1–12

¹ Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah. ² And he did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh, just as his father David had done.

³ In the first month of the first year of his reign, Hezekiah opened and repaired the doors of the house of Yahweh. ⁴ Then he brought in the priests and Levites and gathered them in the square on the east side.

⁵ “Listen to me, O Levites,” he said. “Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the house of Yahweh, the God of your fa-

thers. Remove from the Holy Place every impurity.

⁶ For our fathers were unfaithful and did evil in the sight of Yahweh our God. They abandoned Him, turned their faces away from the dwelling place of Yahweh, and turned their backs on Him. ⁷ They also shut the doors of the portico and extinguished the lamps. They did not burn incense or present burnt offerings in the Holy Place of the God of Israel.

⁸ Therefore, the wrath of Yahweh has fallen upon Judah and Jerusalem, and He has made them an object of terror, horror, and scorn, as you can see with your own eyes. ⁹ For behold, this is why our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our sons and daughters and wives are in captivity.

¹⁰ Now it is in my heart to make a covenant with Yahweh, the God of Israel, so that His fierce anger will turn away from us. ¹¹ Now, my sons, do not be negligent, for Yahweh has chosen you to stand before Him, to serve Him, to minister before Him, and to burn incense.”

¹² Then the Levites set to work:

Mahath son of Amasai and Joel son of Azariah from the Kohathites;
Kish son of Abdi and Azariah son of Jehallelel from the Merarites;
Joah son of Zimmah and Eden son of Joah from the Gershonites;

¹³ Shimri and Jeuel from the Elizaphanites;
Zechariah and Mattaniah from the Asaphites;

¹⁴ Jehiel and Shimei from the Hemanites; and Shemaiah and Uzziel from the Jeduthunites.

¹⁵ When they had assembled their brothers and consecrated themselves, they went in to cleanse the house of Yahweh, according to the command of the king by the words of Yahweh.

¹⁶ So the priests went inside the house of Yahweh to cleanse it, and they brought out to the courtyard all the unclean things that they found in the temple of Yahweh. Then the Levites took these things and carried them out to the Kidron Valley. ¹⁷

■ 2CH 29:1 [FIELD NOTES] A clay seal of King Hezekiah was found in Jerusalem. See the Hezekiah's Seal Field Notes page in 2 Kings, p.~.

■ 2CH 29:2 [NOTE] LIKE DAVID. Only three kings in this book are said to do right like David: Jehoshaphat, 17:3; Hezekiah, here, and Josiah, 34:2.

BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

They began the consecration on the first day of the first month, and on the eighth day of the month they reached the portico of Yahweh. For eight more days they consecrated the house of Yahweh itself, finishing on the sixteenth day of the first month.

¹⁸ Then they went in to King Hezekiah and reported, "We have cleansed the entire house of Yahweh, the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the table of the showbread with all its utensils. ¹⁹ Moreover, we have prepared and consecrated all the articles that King Ahaz in his unfaithfulness cast aside during his reign. They are now in front of the altar of Yahweh."

HEZEKIAH RESTORES TEMPLE WORSHIP

²⁰ Early the next morning King Hezekiah gathered the city officials and went up to the house of Yahweh. ²¹ They brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs, and seven male goats as a sin offering for the kingdom, for the sanctuary, and for Judah. And the king commanded the priests, the descendants of Aaron, to offer them on the altar of Yahweh.

²² So they slaughtered the bulls, and the priests took the blood and splattered it on the altar. They slaughtered the rams and splattered the blood on the altar. And they slaughtered the lambs and splattered the blood on the altar.

²³ Then they brought the goats for the sin offering before the king and the assembly, who laid their hands on them. ²⁴ And the priests slaughtered the goats and put their blood on the altar for a sin offering, to make atonement for all Israel, because the king had ordered the burnt offering and the sin offering for all Israel.

²⁵ Hezekiah stationed the Levites in the house of Yahweh with cymbals, harps, and lyres according to the command of David, of Gad the king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet. For the command had come from Yahweh through His prophets.

²⁶ The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets.

²⁷ And Hezekiah ordered that the burnt offering be sacrificed on the altar. When the burnt offering began, the song of Yahweh and the trumpets began as well, accompanied by the instruments of David king of Israel. ²⁸ The whole assembly was worshipping, the singers were singing, and the trumpeters were playing. All this continued until the burnt offering was completed.

²⁹ When the offerings were completed, the king and all those present with him bowed down and worshiped. ³⁰ Then King Hezekiah and his officials ordered the Levites to sing praises to Yahweh in the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness and bowed down and worshiped.

³¹ Then Hezekiah said, "Now that you have consecrated yourselves to Yahweh, come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the house of Yahweh."

So the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all whose hearts were willing brought burnt offerings. ³² The number of burnt offerings the assembly brought was seventy bulls, a hundred rams, and two hundred lambs; all these were for a burnt offering to Yahweh. ³³ And the consecrated offerings were six hundred bulls and three thousand sheep.

³⁴ However, since there were not enough priests to skin all the burnt offerings, their Levite brothers helped them until the work was finished and until the priests had consecrated themselves. For the Levites had been more diligent in consecrating themselves than the priests had been.

³⁵ Furthermore, the burnt offerings were abundant, along with the fat of the peace offerings and the drink offerings for the burnt offerings. So the service of the house of Yahweh was established. ³⁶ Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced at what God had prepared for the people, because everything had been accomplished so quickly.

THE HEART DEMONIC BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

30

CHAPTER 30 IN 30 SECONDS

Hezekiah invites all Israel, even the north, to a huge Passover in Jerusalem. Some laugh at the messengers, others come. Many are not ceremonially clean, so Hezekiah prays, May the good Lord pardon everyone who sets his heart to seek God. They party for two weeks, the biggest Passover since Solomon.

HEZEKIAH PROCLAIMS A PASSOVER

¹Then Hezekiah sent word throughout all Israel and Judah, and he also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh inviting them to come to the house of Yahweh in Jerusalem to keep the Passover of Yahweh, the God of Israel. ²For the king and his officials and the whole assembly in Jerusalem had decided to keep the Passover in the second month, ³since they had been unable to keep it at the regular time, because not enough priests had consecrated themselves and the people had not been gathered in Jerusalem.

⁴This plan pleased the king and the whole assembly. ⁵So they established a decree to circulate a proclamation throughout Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, that the people should come to keep the Passover of Yahweh, the God of Israel, in Jerusalem. For they had not observed it in great numbers as prescribed.

⁶At the command of the king, the couriers went throughout Israel and Judah with letters from the king and his officials, which read:

"Children of Israel, return to Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, so that He may return to those of you who remain, who have escaped the grasp of the kings of Assyria. ⁷Do not be like your fathers and brothers who were unfaithful to Yahweh, the God of their fathers, so that He made them an object of horror, as you can see.

⁸Now do not stiffen your necks as your fathers did. Submit to Yahweh and come to His sanctuary, which He has consecrated forever. Serve Yahweh your God, so that His fierce anger will turn away

from you. ⁹For if you return to Yahweh, your brothers and sons will receive mercy in the presence of their captors and will return to this land. For Yahweh your God is gracious and merciful; He will not turn His face away from you if you return to Him."

¹⁰And the couriers traveled from city to city through the land of Ephraim and Manasseh as far as Zebulun, but the people scorned and mocked them. ¹¹Nevertheless, some from Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem. ¹²Moreover, the power of God was on the people in Judah to give them one heart to obey the command of the king and his officials according to the word of Yahweh.

HEZEKIAH CELEBRATES THE PASSOVER

¹³In the second month, a very great assembly gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread. ¹⁴They proceeded to remove the altars in Jerusalem and to take away the incense altars and throw them into the Kidron Valley. ¹⁵And on the fourteenth day of the second month they slaughtered the Passover lamb. The priests and Levites were ashamed, and they consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings to the house of Yahweh.

¹⁶They stood at their prescribed posts, according to the Law of Moses the man of God. The priests splattered the blood, which they received from the hand of the Levites. ¹⁷Since there were many in the assembly who had not consecrated themselves, the Levites were in charge of slaughtering the Passover lambs for every unclean person to consecrate the lambs to Yahweh.

¹⁸A large number of the people—many from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun—had not purified themselves, yet they ate the Passover, contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah interceded for them, saying, "May Yahweh, who is good, provide atonement for everyone ¹⁹who

■ 2CH 30:14 [DEMONIC] Idol altars are thrown into the Kidron Valley

DEMONIC BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

sets his heart on seeking God—Yahweh, the God of his fathers—even if he is not cleansed according to the purification rules of the sanctuary.”

²⁰ And Yahweh heard Hezekiah and healed the people. ²¹ The Israelites who were present in Jerusalem celebrated the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days with great joy, and the Levites and priests praised Yahweh day after day, accompanied by loud instruments of praise to Yahweh. ²² And Hezekiah encouraged all the Levites who performed skillfully before Yahweh. For seven days they ate their assigned portion, sacrificing peace offerings and giving thanks to Yahweh, the God of their fathers.

²³ The whole assembly agreed to observe seven more days, so they observed seven days with joy. ²⁴ For Hezekiah king of Judah contributed a thousand bulls and seven thousand sheep for the assembly, and the officials contributed a thousand bulls and ten thousand sheep for the assembly, and a great number of priests consecrated themselves.

²⁵ Then the whole assembly of Judah rejoiced along with the priests and Levites and the whole assembly that had come from Israel, including the foreigners who had come from Israel and those who lived in Judah. ²⁶ So there was great rejoicing in Jerusalem, for nothing like this had happened there since the days of Solomon son of David king of Israel.

²⁷ Then the priests and the Levites stood to bless the people, and God heard their voice, and their prayer came into His holy dwelling place in heaven.

31

CHAPTER 31 IN 30 SECONDS

The people go home and smash the idols and high places. Hezekiah organizes the priests and Levites, and the people bring their tithes in heaps for four months. There is so much left over that they build storerooms. Hezekiah does God's work with all his heart and prospers.

2CH 30:19 [HEART] Hezekiah prayed for everyone who set his heart on seeking God, even if he was not ceremonially clean.

THE DESTRUCTION OF IDOLS

¹ When all this had ended, the Israelites in attendance went out to the cities of Judah and broke up the sacred pillars, chopped down the Asherah poles, and tore down the high places and altars throughout Judah and Benjamin, as well as in Ephraim and Manasseh, until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the Israelites returned to their cities, each to his own property.

² Hezekiah reestablished the divisions of the priests and Levites—each of them according to their duties as priests or Levites—for the burnt offerings and peace offerings, for ministry, for giving thanks, and for singing praises at the gates of Yahweh's dwelling.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR WORSHIP

³ The king contributed from his own possessions for the regular morning and evening burnt offerings and for the burnt offerings on the Sabbaths, New Moons, and appointed feasts, as written in the Law of Yahweh. ⁴ Moreover, he commanded the people living in Jerusalem to make a contribution for the priests and Levites so that they could devote themselves to the Law of Yahweh.

⁵ As soon as the order went out, the Israelites generously provided the firstfruits of the grain, new wine, oil, and honey, and of all the produce of the field, and they brought in an abundance—a tithe of everything. ⁶ And the Israelites and Judahites who lived in the cities of Judah also brought a tithe of their herds and flocks and a tithe of the holy things consecrated to Yahweh their God, and they laid them in large heaps.

⁷ In the third month they began building up the heaps, and they finished in the seventh month. ⁸ When Hezekiah and his officials came and viewed the heaps, they blessed Yahweh and His people Israel.

⁹ Then Hezekiah questioned the priests and Levites about the heaps, ¹⁰ and Azariah, the chief priest of the household

2CH 31:1 [DEMONIC] Israel smashes pillars and Asherah poles

THE HEART BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

of Zadok, answered him, "Since the people began to bring their contributions into the house of Yahweh, we have had enough to eat, and there is plenty left over, because Yahweh has blessed His people; this great abundance is what is left over."

HEZEKIAH ORGANIZES THE PRIESTS

¹¹ Then Hezekiah commanded them to prepare storerooms in the house of Yahweh, and they did so. ¹² And they faithfully brought in the contributions, tithes, and dedicated gifts. Conaniah the Levite was the officer in charge of them, and his brother Shimei was second. ¹³ Jehiel, Azaziah, Nahath, Asahel, Jerimoth, Jozabad, Eliel, Ismachiah, Mahath, and Benaiah were overseers under the authority of Conaniah and his brother Shimei, by appointment of King Hezekiah and of Azariah the chief official of the house of God.

¹⁴ Kore son of Imnah the Levite, the keeper of the East Gate, was in charge of the freewill offerings given to God, distributing the contributions to Yahweh and the consecrated gifts. ¹⁵ Under his authority, Eden, Miniamin, Jeshua, Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah faithfully distributed portions to their fellow priests in their cities, according to their divisions, old and young alike.

¹⁶ In addition, they distributed portions to the males registered by genealogy who were three years of age or older—to all who would enter the house of Yahweh for their daily duties for service in the responsibilities of their divisions—¹⁷ and to the priests enrolled according to their families in the genealogy, as well as to the Levites twenty years of age or older, according to their responsibilities and divisions. ¹⁸ The genealogy included all the little ones, wives, sons, and daughters of the whole assembly. For they had faithfully consecrated themselves as holy.

¹⁹ As for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who lived on the farmlands around each of their cities or in any other city, men were designated by name to distrib-

ute a portion to every male among the priests and to every Levite listed by the genealogies.

²⁰ So this is what Hezekiah did throughout Judah. He did what was good and upright and true before Yahweh his God. ²¹ He acted with all his heart in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law and the commandments, in order to seek his God. And so he prospered.

32

CHAPTER 32 IN 30 SECONDS

Sennacherib of Assyria invades. Hezekiah blocks the springs and fixes the wall, and tells the people, With him is only an arm of flesh, with us is Yahweh. Sennacherib's men mock God. Hezekiah and Isaiah pray, an angel wipes out the Assyrian army, and Sennacherib goes home in shame. Then Hezekiah's heart gets proud.

SENNACHERIB INVADES JUDAH // 2 KINGS 18:13–16; PSALM 46:1–11

¹ After all these acts of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah. He laid siege to the fortified cities, intending to conquer them for himself.

² When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come to make war against Jerusalem, ³ he consulted with his leaders and mighty men about stopping up the waters of the springs outside the city, and they helped him carry it out. ⁴ Many people assembled and stopped up all the springs and the stream that flowed through the land. "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find plenty of water?" they said.

⁵ Then Hezekiah worked resolutely to rebuild all the broken sections of the wall and to raise up towers on it. He also built an outer wall and reinforced the supporting terraces of the City of David, and he produced an abundance of weapons and shields.

■ 2CH 31:21 [HEART] Hezekiah did God's work with all his heart, and he prospered.

■ 2CH 32:1 [FIELD NOTES] Sennacherib's own account of this war survives. See the Sennacherib's Prism Field Notes page in Isaiah, p.~.

■ 2CH 32:5 [FIELD NOTES] Part of Hezekiah's wall still stands. See The Broad Wall Field Notes page in 2 Kings, p.~.

MIRACLES DEMONIC BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

⁶ Hezekiah appointed military commanders over the people and gathered the people in the square of the city gate. Then he encouraged them, saying, ⁷ “Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged before the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater One with us than with him. ⁸ With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is Yahweh our God to help us and to fight our battles.”

So the people were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

SENNACHERIB THREATENS JERUSALEM // 2

KINGS 18:17–37; ISAIAH 36:1–22

⁹ Later, as Sennacherib king of Assyria and all his forces besieged Lachish, he sent his servants to Jerusalem with a message for King Hezekiah of Judah and all the people of Judah who were in Jerusalem: ¹⁰ “This is what Sennacherib king of Assyria says: What is the basis of your confidence, that you remain in Jerusalem under siege? ¹¹ Is not Hezekiah misleading you to give you over to death by famine and thirst when he says, ‘Yahweh our God will deliver us from the hand of the king of Assyria?’ ¹² Did not Hezekiah himself remove His high places and His altars and say to Judah and Jerusalem, ‘You must worship before one altar, and on it you shall burn sacrifices’?

¹³ Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of the lands? Have the gods of these nations ever been able to deliver their land from my hand? ¹⁴ Who among all the gods of these nations that my fathers devoted to destruction has been able to deliver his people from my hand? How then can your God deliver you from my hand?

¹⁵ So now, do not let Hezekiah deceive you, and do not let him mislead you like this. Do not believe him, for no god of any nation or kingdom has been able to deliver his people from my hand or from the

hand of my fathers. How much less will your God deliver you from my hand!”

¹⁶ And the servants of Sennacherib spoke further against Yahweh God and against His servant Hezekiah. ¹⁷ He also wrote letters mocking Yahweh, the God of Israel, and saying against Him: “Just as the gods of the nations did not deliver their people from my hand, so the God of Hezekiah will not deliver His people from my hand.”

¹⁸ Then the Assyrians called out loudly in Hebrew to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall, to frighten and terrify them in order to capture the city. ¹⁹ They spoke against the God of Jerusalem as they had spoken against the gods of the peoples of the earth—the work of human hands.

JERUSALEM DELIVERED FROM THE ASSYRIANS // 2 KINGS 19:35–37; ISAIAH 37:36–38

²⁰ In response, King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz cried out to heaven in prayer, ²¹ and Yahweh sent an angel who annihilated every mighty man of valor and every leader and commander in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he withdrew to his own land in disgrace. And when he entered the temple of his god, some of his own sons struck him down with the sword.

²² So Yahweh saved Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem from the hands of King Sennacherib of Assyria and all others, and He gave them rest on every side.

²³ Many brought offerings to Jerusalem for Yahweh and valuable gifts for Hezekiah king of Judah, and from then on he was exalted in the eyes of all nations.

HEZEKIAH'S ILLNESS AND RECOVERY // 2 KINGS

20:1–11; ISAIAH 38:1–8

²⁴ In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill. So he prayed to Yahweh, who spoke to him and gave him a sign. ²⁵ But because his heart was proud, Hezekiah

■ 2CH 32:17 [DEMONIC] Sennacherib writes letters mocking God like an idol

■ 2CH 32:19 [DEMONIC] Assyria calls God a work of human hands

■ 2CH 32:21 [MIRACLE] The angel of Yahweh wipes out the Assyrian army

■ 2CH 32:21 [NOTE] THE ANGEL. See the Big Question pages The 185,000 Assyrians and The Death of Sennacherib Field Notes page in 2 Kings, p.~.

■ 2CH 32:9 [FIELD NOTES] Sennacherib had the siege of Lachish carved on his palace walls. See The Lachish Reliefs Field Notes page in Micah, p.~, and The Lachish Siege Ramp Field Notes page in 2 Kings, p.~.

■ 2CH 32:13 [DEMONIC] Assyria boasts that no nation's gods could save them

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did not repay the favor shown to him. Therefore wrath came upon him and upon Judah and Jerusalem.

²⁶ Then Hezekiah humbled the pride of his heart—he and the people of Jerusalem—so that the wrath of Yahweh did not come upon them during the days of Hezekiah.

²⁷ Hezekiah had very great riches and honor, and he made treasuries for his silver, gold, precious stones, spices, shields, and all kinds of valuable articles. ²⁸ He also made storehouses for the harvest of grain and new wine and oil, stalls for all kinds of livestock, and pens for the flocks. ²⁹ He made cities for himself, and he acquired herds of sheep and cattle in abundance, for God gave him very great wealth.

³⁰ It was Hezekiah who blocked the upper outlet of the Spring of Gihon and channeled it down to the west side of the City of David. And Hezekiah prospered in all that he did. ³¹ And so when ambassadors of the rulers of Babylon were sent to him to inquire about the wonder that had happened in the land, God left him alone to test him, that He might know all that was in Hezekiah's heart.

HEZEKIAH'S DEATH

³² As for the rest of the acts of Hezekiah and his deeds of loving devotion, they are indeed written in the vision of the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel. ³³ And Hezekiah rested with his fathers and was buried in the upper tombs of David's descendants. All Judah and the people of Jerusalem paid him honor at his death. And his son Manasseh reigned in his place.

33

CHAPTER 33 IN 30 SECONDS

Manasseh undoes everything his father did, idols in the temple, sorcery, and sons burned in the fire. The Assyrians take him to Babylon with a hook in his nose. There he humbles himself and prays, and God brings him home. He throws out the idols. His son Amon goes back to the old ways and is killed by his servants.

MANASSEH REIGNS IN JUDAH // 2 KINGS 21:1–9

¹ Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. ² And he did evil in the sight of Yahweh by following the abominations of the nations that Yahweh had driven out before the Israelites. ³ For he rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had torn down, and he raised up altars for the Baals and made Asherah poles. And he worshiped and served all the host of heaven.

⁴ Manasseh also built altars in the house of Yahweh, of which Yahweh had said, “My Name will remain in Jerusalem forever.” ⁵ In both courtyards of the house of Yahweh, he built altars to all the host of heaven. ⁶ He sacrificed his sons in the fire in the Valley of Ben-hinnom. He practiced sorcery, divination, and witchcraft, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did great evil in the sight of Yahweh, provoking Him to anger.

⁷ Manasseh even took the carved image he had made and set it up in the house of God, of which God had said to David and his son Solomon, “In this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will establish My Name forever. ⁸ I will never again cause the feet of the Israelites to leave the land that I assigned to your fathers, if only they are careful to do all that I have com-

■ 2CH 32:24 [NOTE] THE SIGN. The shadow went back ten steps, 2 Kings 20:9 to 11. See the Big Question pages Hezekiah's Sundial in 2 Kings, p.-.

■ 2CH 32:26 [HEART] Hezekiah humbled the pride of his heart, so judgment was delayed.

■ 2CH 32:30 [ARCHAEOLOGY] An underground water tunnel and a Hebrew inscription about its digging, about 701 BC

■ 2CH 32:30 [FIELD NOTES] See The Siloam Tunnel Inscription Field Notes page in Isaiah, p.-.

■ 2CH 32:31 [HEART] God left Hezekiah alone to test him and know everything in his heart.

■ 2CH 33:1 [NOTE] MANASSEH. See the Big Question pages Manasseh in 2 Kings, p.-, for his evil and why Judah still fell.

■ 2CH 33:2 [DEMONIC] Manasseh builds Baal altars inside God's temple

■ 2CH 33:6 [DEMONIC] Manasseh practiced sorcery and consulted mediums

■ 2CH 33:6 [NOTE] CHILD SACRIFICE. Manasseh burned his sons in the same valley as his grandfather Ahaz, 28:3. Later its name, Gehinnom, became a word for hell.

■ 2CH 33:7 [DEMONIC] Manasseh sets a carved idol in God's house

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manded them through Moses—all the laws, statutes, and judgments.”

⁹ So Manasseh led the people of Judah and Jerusalem astray, so that they did greater evil than the nations that Yahweh had destroyed before the Israelites.

MANASSEH'S REPENTANCE AND RESTORATION // 2 KINGS 21:10–18

¹⁰ And Yahweh spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they did not listen. ¹¹ So Yahweh brought against them the military commanders of the king of Assyria, who captured Manasseh, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles, and took him to Babylon. ¹² And in his distress, Manasseh sought the favor of Yahweh his God and earnestly humbled himself before the God of his fathers. ¹³ And when he prayed to Him, Yahweh received his plea and heard his petition. So He brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that Yahweh is God.

¹⁴ After this, Manasseh rebuilt the outer wall of the City of David from west of Gihon in the valley to the entrance of the Fish Gate, and he brought it around the hill of Ophel and heightened it considerably. He also stationed military commanders in all the fortified cities of Judah.

¹⁵ He removed the foreign gods and the idol from the house of Yahweh, along with all the altars he had built on the temple mount and in Jerusalem, and he dumped them outside the city. ¹⁶ Then he restored the altar of Yahweh and sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on it, and he told Judah to serve Yahweh, the God of Israel. ¹⁷ Nevertheless, the people still sacrificed at the high places, but only to Yahweh their God.

¹⁸ As for the rest of the acts of Manasseh, along with his prayer to his God and the words of the seers who spoke to him in the name of Yahweh, the God of Israel, they are indeed written in the Chronicles

of the Kings of Israel. ¹⁹ His prayer and how God received his plea, as well as all his sin and unfaithfulness, and the sites where he built high places and set up Asherah poles and idols before he humbled himself, they are indeed written in the Records of the Seers. ²⁰ And Manasseh rested with his fathers and was buried at his palace. And his son Amon reigned in his place.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

MANASSEH'S REPENTANCE

What Happened

2 CHRONICLES 33:10 TO 20 • 2 KINGS 21:1 TO 18

THE WORST KING

Manasseh rebuilt the high places, put idols and altars to the stars in the temple, burned his sons in the fire and practiced sorcery, 33:2 to 6. He led Judah to do more evil than the nations God had destroyed, 33:9.

GOD SPOKE, NO ONE LISTENED

God spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention, 33:10.

A HOOK IN HIS NOSE

So God brought the Assyrian army. They captured Manasseh, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze chains and took him to Babylon, 33:11.

HE PRAYED

In his distress he begged God for mercy and humbled himself greatly. God heard him and brought him back to Jerusalem. Then Manasseh knew that Yahweh is God, 33:12 to 13.

A CHANGED LIFE

He built a wall, threw the foreign gods and the idol out of the temple, rebuilt God's altar, and told Judah to serve Yahweh, 33:14 to 16.

WHY IT MATTERED THEN

The first readers had also been carried off to Babylon for their sins. Manasseh's story showed them that God brings home those who humble themselves.

THE QUESTION

Was it real, and why does only Chronicles tell it?

■ 2CH 33:11 [NOTE] TO BABYLON. Assyrian records name Manasseh. See the Manasseh in Assyria's Records Field Notes page in 2 Kings, p.~, and the Big Question pages Manasseh's Repentance.

■ 2CH 33:15 [DEMONIC] Manasseh throws the idols out of the temple

■ 2CH 33:19 [DEMONIC] The record of Manasseh's idols and his repentance

DEMONIC BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

Every View

2 CHRONICLES 33:15 TO 17 · 33:22 TO 23 · LUKE 15:20 · 1 TIMOTHY 1:15

VIEW 1: IT HAPPENED

Many say yes. Assyrian records name Manasseh as a king who served Assyria, and Esarhaddon ruled Babylon too, so a trip there in chains fits the time. See Manasseh in Assyria's Records in 2 Kings, p.~.

VIEW 2: A LESSON STORY

Some critical scholars think the writer told it to explain why the worst king reigned 55 years, the longest of any king of Judah. Others answer that the writer names his sources, the Records of the Seers, 33:19.

WHY KINGS LEAVES IT OUT

Kings tells the damage Manasseh did to the nation. Chronicles tells what happened in his own heart. See the Big Question pages Manasseh in 2 Kings, p.~.

THE PRAYER OF MANASSEH

33:18 says his prayer was written down. A short prayer in his name is in some old Bibles, among the books between the Testaments. Eastern Orthodox Christians read it as Scripture. Jews, Catholics and Protestants do not.

NOT EVERYTHING CHANGED

The people still sacrificed at the high places, 33:17, and his son Amon went back to all the idols, 33:22 to 23.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

No one is too far gone for God. Paul called himself the worst of sinners, saved by Christ, 1 Timothy 1:15, and the father ran to meet his lost son, Luke 15:20.

AMON REIGNS IN JUDAH // 2 KINGS 21:19-26

²¹ Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem two years. ²² And he did evil in the sight of Yahweh, as his father Manasseh had done.

Amon served and sacrificed to all the idols that his father Manasseh had made, ²³ but he did not humble himself before

Yahweh as his father Manasseh had done; instead, Amon increased his guilt.

²⁴ Then the servants of Amon conspired against him and killed him in his palace. ²⁵ But the people of the land killed all those who had conspired against King Amon, and they made his son Josiah king in his place.

34

CHAPTER 34 IN 30 SECONDS

Josiah becomes king at eight and starts seeking God at sixteen. He crushes the idols and repairs the temple. Hilkiah the priest finds the Book of the Law. When it is read, Josiah tears his clothes. The prophetess Huldah says judgment is coming, but not in his day, because his heart was tender.

JOSIAH REIGNS IN JUDAH // 2 KINGS 22:1-2

¹ Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. ² And he did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh and walked in the ways of his father David he did not turn aside to the right or to the left.

JOSIAH DESTROYS IDOLATRY // 1 KINGS 13:1-10; 2 KINGS 23:4-20

³ In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, Josiah began to seek the God of his father David, and in the twelfth year he began to cleanse Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherah poles, the carved idols, and the cast images. ⁴ Then in his presence the altars of the Baals were torn down, and he cut to pieces the incense altars that were above them. He shattered the Asherah poles, the carved idols, and the cast images, crushed them to dust, and scattered them over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. ⁵ Then he burned the bones of the priests on their altars. So he cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.

⁶ Josiah did the same in the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, as far as Naphtali, and in the ruins around them. ⁷ He tore down the altars and Asherah poles, crushed the idols to powder, and cut to pieces all the incense altars

■ 2CH 33:22 [DEMONIC] Amon worships all the idols his father made

■ 2CH 34:3 [DEMONIC] Josiah crushes the idols to dust

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE DEMONIC GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

throughout the land of Israel. Then he returned to Jerusalem.

JOSIAH REPAIRS THE TEMPLE // 2 KINGS 22:3–7

⁸ Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, in order to cleanse the land and the temple, Josiah sent Shaphan son of Azaliah, Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah son of Joahaz, the recorder, to repair the house of Yahweh his God.

⁹ So they went to Hilkiah the high priest and gave him the money that had been brought into the house of God, which the Levites who guarded the doors had collected from the people of Manasseh and Ephraim, from all the remnant of Israel, from all Judah and Benjamin, and from the people of Jerusalem. ¹⁰ They put it into the hands of those supervising the work in the house of Yahweh, who in turn gave it to the workmen restoring and repairing the house of Yahweh. ¹¹ They also gave money to the carpenters and builders to buy dressed stone, as well as timbers for couplings and beams for the buildings that the kings of Judah had allowed to deteriorate.

¹² And the men did the work faithfully. The Levites overseeing them were Jahath and Obadiah, descendants of Merari, and Zechariah and Meshullam, descendants of Kohath. Other Levites, all skilled with musical instruments, ¹³ were over the laborers and supervised all who did the work, task by task. Some of the Levites were secretaries, officers, and gatekeepers.

HILKIAH FINDS THE BOOK OF THE LAW // 2 KINGS 22:8–13

¹⁴ While they were bringing out the money that had been taken into the house of Yahweh, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of Yahweh given by Moses. ¹⁵ And Hilkiah said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of Yahweh!" And he gave it to Shaphan.

¹⁶ Then Shaphan brought the book to the king and reported, "Your servants are doing all that has been placed in their hands.

¹⁷ They have paid out the money that was found in the house of Yahweh and have put it into the hands of the supervisors and workers."

¹⁸ Moreover, Shaphan the scribe told the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it in the presence of the king.

¹⁹ When the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his clothes ²⁰ and commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Abdon son of Micah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the servant of the king: ²¹ "Go and inquire of Yahweh for me and for those remaining in Israel and Judah concerning the words in the book that has been found. For great is the wrath of Yahweh that has been poured out on us because our fathers have not kept the word of Yahweh by doing all that is written in this book."

HULDAH'S PROPHECY // 2 KINGS 22:14–20

²² So Hilkiah and those the king had designated went and spoke to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum son of Tokhath, the son of Hasrah, the keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem, in the Second District.

²³ And Huldah said to them, "This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: 'Tell the man who sent you ²⁴ that this is what Yahweh says: I am about to bring calamity on this place and on its people, according to all the curses written in the book that has been read in the presence of the king of Judah, ²⁵ because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands. My wrath will be poured out upon this place and will not be quenched.'

²⁶ But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of Yahweh, tell him that this is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says:

■ 2CH 34:14 [NOTE] THE BOOK OF THE LAW. See the Big Question pages Josiah and the Book of the Law in 2 Kings, p.-.

■ 2CH 34:24 [PROPHECY] Huldah said disaster would come on Jerusalem → 2CH 36:19 p.-

■ 2CH 34:25 [DEMONIC] God's wrath comes for burning incense to other gods

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

THE HEART

DEMONIC

GOD SPEAKING

BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

'As for the words that you heard, ²⁷ because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God when you heard His words against this place and against its people, and because you have humbled yourself before Me and have torn your clothes and wept before Me, I have heard you,' declares Yahweh.

²⁸ 'Now I will indeed gather you to your fathers, and you will be gathered to your grave in peace. Your eyes will not see all the calamity that I will bring on this place and on its people.'"

So they brought her answer back to the king.

JOSIAH RENEWS THE COVENANT // 2 KINGS 23:1–3

²⁹ Then the king summoned all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. ³⁰ And he went up to the house of Yahweh with all the people of Judah and Jerusalem, as well as the priests and the Levites—all the people great and small—and in their hearing he read all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of Yahweh.

³¹ So the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before Yahweh to follow Yahweh and to keep His commandments, decrees, and statutes with all his heart and all his soul, and to carry out the words of the covenant that were written in this book.

³² Then he had everyone in Jerusalem and Benjamin take a stand in agreement to it. So all the people of Jerusalem carried out the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.

³³ And Josiah removed all the abominations from all the lands belonging to the Israelites, and he required everyone in Israel to serve Yahweh their God. Throughout his reign they did not turn aside from following Yahweh, the God of their fathers.

■ 2CH 34:27 [HEART] Josiah's heart was tender and he humbled himself, so God heard him.

■ 2CH 34:28 [PROPHECY] Josiah would die before the disaster came → 2CH 35:24; 2CH 36:19 p.–

■ 2CH 34:31 [HEART] Josiah promised to keep God's commands with all his heart and soul.

35

CHAPTER 35 IN 30 SECONDS

Josiah throws a Passover like none since Samuel. Then Pharaoh Neco marches by on his way to Carchemish and says, Stay out of this, God is with me. Josiah disguises himself and fights him anyway at Megiddo. Archers hit him, and he dies. Jeremiah writes laments for him.

JOSIAH RESTORES THE PASSOVER // 2 KINGS 23:21–27

¹ Then Josiah kept the Passover to Yahweh in Jerusalem, and the Passover lamb was slaughtered on the fourteenth day of the first month. ² He appointed the priests to their duties and encouraged them in the service of the house of Yahweh.

³ To the Levites who taught all Israel and were holy to Yahweh, Josiah said: "Put the holy ark in the temple built by Solomon son of David king of Israel. It is not to be carried around on your shoulders. Now serve Yahweh your God and His people Israel. ⁴ Prepare yourselves by families in your divisions, according to the instructions written by David king of Israel and Solomon his son.

⁵ Moreover, stand in the Holy Place by the divisions of the families of your kinsmen the lay people, and by the divisions of the families of the Levites. ⁶ Slaughter the Passover lambs, consecrate yourselves, and make preparations for your fellow countrymen to carry out the word of Yahweh given by Moses."

⁷ From his own flocks and herds Josiah contributed 30,000 lambs and goats plus 3,000 bulls for the Passover offerings for all the people who were present.

⁸ His officials also contributed willingly to the people and priests and Levites. Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, the chief officials of the house of God, gave the priests 2,600 Passover offerings and 300 bulls. ⁹ Additionally, Conaniah and his brothers Shemaiah and Nethanel, as well as Hashabiah, Jeiel, and Jozabad, officers of the Levites, contributed to the Levites 5,000 Passover offerings and 500 bulls.

■ 2CH 34:33 [DEMONIC] Josiah removes all the abominations from Israel

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

¹⁰ So the service was prepared; the priests stood in their places and the Levites in their divisions according to the king's command. ¹¹ And they slaughtered the Passover lambs, while the priests splattered the blood handed to them and the Levites skinned the animals. ¹² They set aside the burnt offerings to be given to the divisions of the families of the people to offer to Yahweh, as it is written in the Book of Moses. And they did the same with the bulls.

¹³ They roasted the Passover animals on the fire according to the regulation, and they boiled the other holy offerings in pots, kettles, and bowls and quickly brought them to all the people. ¹⁴ Afterward, they made preparations for themselves and for the priests, since the priests, the descendants of Aaron, were offering up burnt offerings and fat until nightfall. So the Levites made preparations for themselves and for the priests, the descendants of Aaron.

¹⁵ The singers, the descendants of Asaph, were at their stations according to the command of David, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer. And the gatekeepers at each gate did not need to leave their posts, because their fellow Levites made preparations for them.

¹⁶ So on that day the entire service of Yahweh was carried out for celebrating the Passover and offering burnt offerings on the altar of Yahweh, according to the command of King Josiah. ¹⁷ The Israelites who were present also observed the Passover at that time, as well as the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days. ¹⁸ No such Passover had been observed in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet. None of the kings of Israel ever observed a Passover like the one that Josiah observed with the priests, the Levites, all Judah, the Israelites who were present, and the people of Jerusalem. ¹⁹ In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, this Passover was observed.

THE DEATH OF JOSIAH // 2 KINGS 23:28–30

²⁰ After all this, when Josiah had set the temple in order, Neco king of Egypt marched up to fight at Carchemish by the Euphrates, and Josiah went out to confront him. ²¹ But Neco sent messengers to him, saying, "What is the issue between you and me, O king of Judah? I have not come against you today, but I am fighting another dynasty, and God has told me to hurry. So stop opposing God, who is with me, or He will destroy you!"

²² Josiah, however, did not turn away from him; instead, in order to engage him in battle, he disguised himself. He did not listen to Neco's words from the mouth of God, but went to fight him on the Plain of Megiddo. ²³ There the archers shot King Josiah, who said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am badly wounded!"

²⁴ So his servants took him out of his chariot, put him in his second chariot, and brought him to Jerusalem, where he died. And Josiah was buried in the tomb of his fathers, and all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for him.

LAMENTS OVER JOSIAH

²⁵ Then Jeremiah lamented over Josiah, and to this day all the male and female singers recite laments over Josiah. They established them as a statute for Israel, and indeed they are written in the Book of Laments.

²⁶ As for the rest of the acts of Josiah and his deeds of loving devotion according to what is written in the Law of Yahweh—²⁷ his acts from beginning to end—they are indeed written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

■ 2CH 35:20 [FIELD NOTES] See the Pharaoh Neco Field Notes page.

■ 2CH 35:21 [NOTE] NECO'S CLAIM. Neco says God sent him, and 35:22 says his words came from the mouth of God. He does not quote God's own words, so they stay black. See the Big Question pages Did God Speak Through Neco?

■ 2CH 35:24 [FULFILLS] Josiah would die before the disaster came ← 2CH 34:28 p.~

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

PHARAOH NECO2 CHRONICLES 35:20 TO 24 · 36:3 TO 4 · 2 KINGS
23:29 TO 35 · JEREMIAH 46:2

King Necho II, right, faces the goddess Hathor, left. His name is in the oval on the right. Walters Art Museum, Baltimore. Public domain.

WHAT IT IS

A carved stone block from an Egyptian temple. It shows King Necho II, called Neco in this Bible, in front of the cow goddess Hathor. His royal name is carved in an oval called a cartouche.

HOW OLD IT IS

From his reign, about 610 to 595 BC. Neco killed Josiah in 609 BC.

WHERE IT IS TODAY

The Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, Maryland.

WHAT OTHER RECORDS SAY

The Greek writer Herodotus says Necos began a canal from the Nile to the Red Sea and beat the Syrians at Magdolos. Many think Magdolos is Megiddo. A Babylonian record says a big Egyptian army marched in 609 BC to help Assyria at Harran, and Babylon beat Egypt at Carchemish in 605 BC. Jeremiah 46:2 names Pharaoh Neco at Carchemish.

MEGIDDO

Josiah died at Megiddo, a city on a hill that guards the main pass through the mountains. Armies marched past it for thousands of years. Revelation 16:16 names Armageddon, which most think means the mountain of Megiddo.

WHAT NECO DID NEXT

Three months later Neco took Josiah's son Jehoahaz to Egypt, made Jehoiakim king and charged Judah 7,500 pounds of silver and 75 pounds of gold, 36:3 to 4.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

No Egyptian or Babylonian record

names Josiah or tells of the battle. They show that Neco and his march north in 609 BC were real.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION**DID GOD SPEAK THROUGH NECO?***What Happened*2 CHRONICLES 35:20 TO 25 · 2 KINGS 23:29 TO 30 · 2
CHRONICLES 18:29**THE MARCH**

Pharaoh Neco marched north to fight at Carchemish by the Euphrates, and Josiah went out to stop him, 35:20. 2 Kings 23:29 says Neco was going to help the king of Assyria.

THE WARNING

Neco sent messengers: I have not come against you today. God has told me to hurry. Stop opposing God, who is with me, or He will destroy you, 35:21.

FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD

Josiah did not turn back. He disguised himself and fought at Megiddo. The writer says Josiah did not listen to Neco's words from the mouth of God, 35:22.

THE END

Archers shot Josiah. He was carried to Jerusalem and died, and Jeremiah wrote laments for him, 35:23 to 25.

LIKE AHAB

Ahab also disguised himself for battle and died from an arrow, 18:29 to 34. Many think the writer wanted readers to notice.

WHO WAS NECO HELPING?

Babylon had just beaten Assyria's capital. Neco was rushing north to help what was left of Assyria. Many think Josiah wanted Assyria to fall, because Assyria had wiped out the northern kingdom.

THE QUESTION

How could God speak through a pagan king, and why did a good king like Josiah not listen?

BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

Every View

ISAIAH 45:1 • JEREMIAH 25:9 • GENESIS 20:3 • NUMBERS 22:28

VIEW 1: YES, GOD USED NECO

The writer says the words were from the mouth of God. God spoke to pagans before, like Abimelech in a dream, Genesis 20:3, and even through a donkey, Numbers 22:28. He called Cyrus His anointed, Isaiah 45:1.

VIEW 2: GOD'S PLAN, NOT GOD'S WORDS

Some say Neco only claimed God was with him, as many kings did. The writer means that God's plan really was behind Neco's march, so Josiah was fighting against it.

VIEW 3: JOSIAH SHOULD HAVE ASKED

Josiah had asked Huldah what God said before, 34:21. Many think he should have asked a prophet again before going to war.

ANOTHER OLD VERSION

1 Esdras, a Greek retelling found in some old Bibles, says Josiah did not listen to the words of the prophet Jeremiah from the mouth of the Lord.

WHY THE WORDS ARE BLACK

Neco does not quote God's own words, and this Bible prints only God's own quoted words in red. See the note on 35:21.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

Josiah's death was a tragedy, and Judah mourned him for years, 35:25. Even good people need to keep asking what God is saying.

36

CHAPTER 36 IN 30 SECONDS

Egypt and Babylon push the last four kings around, and three of them do evil. God keeps sending prophets, and the people keep mocking them. Babylon burns the temple and breaks down the walls, and the land rests for seventy years. Then Cyrus king of Persia says, Whoever belongs to His people, go up!

JEHOAHAZ SUCCEEDS JOSIAH // 2 KINGS 23:31-35

¹Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz son of Josiah and made him king in Jerusalem in place of his father.

²Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned in

Jerusalem three months. ³And the king of Egypt dethroned him in Jerusalem and imposed on Judah a levy of 7,500 pounds of silver and 75 pounds of gold.

⁴Then Neco king of Egypt made Eliakim brother of Jehoahaz king over Judah and Jerusalem, and he changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim. But Neco took Eliakim's brother Jehoahaz and carried him off to Egypt.

JEHOIAKIM REIGNS IN JUDAH // 2 KINGS 23:36-37

⁵Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. And he did evil in the sight of Yahweh his God.

⁶Then Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jehoiakim and bound him with bronze shackles to take him to Babylon. ⁷Nebuchadnezzar also took to Babylon some of the articles from the house of Yahweh, and he put them in his temple in Babylon.

⁸As for the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, the abominations he committed, and all that was found against him, they are indeed written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah. And his son Jehoiachin reigned in his place.

JEHOIACHIN REIGNS IN JUDAH // 2 KINGS 24:6-9

⁹Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months and ten days. And he did evil in the sight of Yahweh.

¹⁰In the spring, King Nebuchadnezzar summoned Jehoiachin and brought him to Babylon, along with the articles of value from the house of Yahweh. And he made Jehoiachin's relative Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem.

ZEDEKIAH REIGNS IN JUDAH // 2 KINGS 24:18-20; JEREMIAH 52:1-3

¹¹Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. ¹²And he did evil

■ **2CH 36:9 [TEXT] HOW OLD?** The Hebrew here says 8. 2 Kings 24:8 and some Greek copies say 18, and this Bible follows them, as most Bibles do.

■ **2CH 36:10 [FIELD NOTES]** A Babylonian record tells of this very attack, 597 BC, and clay tablets list food for King Jehoiachin in Babylon. See The Babylonian Chronicle and The Jehoiachin Ration Tablets in 2 Kings, p.~.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

THE HEART

ARCHAEOLOGY

DEMONIC

in the sight of Yahweh his God and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke for Yahweh.

¹³ He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God. But Zedekiah stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to Yahweh, the God of Israel. ¹⁴ Furthermore, all the leaders of the priests and the people multiplied their unfaithful deeds, following all the abominations of the nations, and they defiled the house of Yahweh, which He had consecrated in Jerusalem.

THE FALL OF JERUSALEM // 2 KINGS 25:1-7

¹⁵ Again and again Yahweh, the God of their fathers, sent word to His people through His messengers because He had compassion on them and on His dwelling place. ¹⁶ But they mocked the messengers of God, despising His words and scoffing at His prophets, until the wrath of Yahweh against His people was stirred up beyond remedy.

¹⁷ So He brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who put their young men to the sword in the sanctuary, sparing neither young men nor young women, neither elderly nor infirm. God gave them all into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, ¹⁸ who carried off everything to Babylon—all the articles of the house of God, both large and small, and the treasures of the house of Yahweh and of the king and his officials. ¹⁹ Then the Chaldeans set fire to the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem. They burned down all the palaces and destroyed every article of value.

²⁰ Those who escaped the sword were carried by Nebuchadnezzar into exile in Babylon, and they became servants to him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power.

²¹ So the land enjoyed its Sabbath rest all the days of the desolation, until seventy years were completed, in fulfillment of the word of Yahweh spoken through Jeremiah.

THE PROCLAMATION OF CYRUS // EZRA 1:1-4; ISAAH 45:1-25

²² In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfill the word of Yahweh spoken through Jeremiah, Yahweh stirred the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to send a proclamation throughout his kingdom and to put it in writing as follows:

²³ "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: 'Yahweh, the God of heaven, who has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, has appointed me to build a house for Him at Jerusalem in Judah.

Whoever among you belongs to His people, may Yahweh his God be with him, and may he go up.'"

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

SEVENTY YEARS OF REST

What the Book Says

2 CHRONICLES 36:20 TO 21 · LEVITICUS 25:4 · 26:34 TO 35 · JEREMIAH 25:11 TO 12 · 29:10

THE VERSE

The land enjoyed its Sabbath rest all the days of the desolation, until seventy years were completed, in fulfillment of the word of Yahweh through Jeremiah, 36:21.

A REST FOR THE LAND

God told Israel to let the fields rest every seventh year, Leviticus 25:4. He warned that if they did not, He would send them away so the land could enjoy its Sabbaths, Leviticus 26:34 to 35.

JEREMIAH'S SEVENTY

Jeremiah said the nations would serve the king of Babylon seventy years, Jeremiah 25:11 to 12, and that God would

■ 2CH 36:13 [HEART] Zedekiah stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against the Lord.

■ 2CH 36:14 [DEMONIC] Priests defile the temple with the nations' abominations

■ 2CH 36:19 [FULFILLS] Israel's cities and sanctuaries would be laid waste if they disobeyed and 3 more ← LEV 26:31-32; 2CH 34:24; 2CH 34:28; AMOS 2:5 p.-

■ 2CH 36:20 [FULFILLS] Judah would serve Babylon 70 years; then Babylon would be punished ← JER 25:11-12 p.-

■ 2CH 36:21 [FULFILLS] The land would rest and enjoy its Sabbaths while Israel was in exile ← LEV 26:34-35 p.-

■ 2CH 36:21 [NOTE] SEVENTY YEARS. See the Big Question pages Seventy Years of Rest.

■ 2CH 36:22 [ARCHAEOLOGY] Cyrus the Great of Persia is named on the Cyrus Cylinder and in the Nabonidus Chronicle → FIELD NOTES p.52

■ 2CH 36:23 [NOTE] THE LAST WORDS. Cyrus says God appointed him. That is his own decree, so it stays black. God had named Cyrus long before, Isaiah 44:28. These words end most printed Hebrew Bibles, and Ezra 1:1 to 3 picks them up. See Why End With Cyrus?

DEBATED FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH FOR THE FIND, DEBATED FOR THE DATE OF ISAIAH 40

TO 66

THE CYRUS CYLINDER

2 CHRONICLES 36:22 TO 23 · EZRA 1:1 TO 4 · ISAIAH 44:28 · 45:1



The Cyrus Cylinder. British Museum, London.

WHAT IT IS

A clay cylinder about nine inches long, covered with Babylonian writing. Cyrus the Great of Persia had it made after he took Babylon. He says he let the peoples Babylon had captured go back to their homelands and rebuild their temples.

HOW OLD IT IS

About 539 BC, right after Cyrus captured Babylon. The date comes from the events it describes, so it is firm.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

Hormuzd Rassam, an archaeologist working for the British Museum, found it in 1879 in the ruins of Babylon, in modern Iraq. It is in the British Museum in London.

WHAT IT CONFIRMS

Cyrus sent some captured peoples and their gods home and helped rebuild their temples. That fits what 36:22 to 23 and Ezra 1:1 to 4 say he did for the Jews. A Babylonian record called the Nabonidus Chronicle also tells how Cyrus took Babylon in 539 BC.

NAMED AHEAD OF TIME

Isaiah 44:28 and 45:1 call Cyrus by name. If Isaiah wrote this around 700 BC, God named Cyrus about 100 years before he was born, and more than 150 years before he sent the Jews home. Josephus

says Cyrus read these verses and was moved to send the Jews home. Many scholars think Isaiah 40 to 66 was written later, in Cyrus's own time.

CYRUS AND HIS GOD

On the cylinder Cyrus says Marduk, the god of Babylon, chose him, because Nabonidus, the last king, had neglected Marduk's worship. In Ezra 1:2 he gives the credit to Yahweh. Many think he spoke to each people about its own god. The Bible says it was Yahweh who stirred his spirit, 36:22.

A PIECE AT YALE

In 1970 a scholar named Paul Richard Berger noticed a missing piece of the cylinder at Yale University in America. It fits the broken lines and fills in part of the text.

COPIES TOO

In 2010 the British Museum found two pieces of a clay tablet with the same words, so copies of the message were made, and probably sent around the empire.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

The cylinder never names the Jews or Jerusalem. It confirms Cyrus's policy, not his exact order about the temple.

bring His people home when seventy years were complete, 29:10.

THE QUESTION

When did the seventy years start and end?

Every View

DANIEL 9:2 · ZECHARIAH 1:12 · 7:5 · EZRA 1:1 · 6:15

VIEW 1: 605 TO ABOUT 536 BC

Babylon took the first captives, Daniel among them, in 605 BC. The first Jews went home about 538 to 536 BC. That is about seventy years.

VIEW 2: 586 TO 516 BC

The temple was burned in 586 BC and the new one was finished in 516 BC, Ezra 6:15. That is seventy years.

Zechariah speaks of seventy years of God's anger near the end of this time, Zechariah 1:12 and 7:5.

VIEW 3: BABYLON'S SEVENTY YEARS

Some say Jeremiah 25 counts Babylon's rule over the nations, from about 609 to 539 BC, when Cyrus took Babylon.

VIEW 4: A ROUND NUMBER

Others think seventy means a full lifetime, Psalm 90:10. Most of the people who were carried off would not live to come back.

THE MISSED SABBATHS

Some count back 490 years, one rest year in every seven, and get seventy missed Sabbath years. Others say the verse ties the exile to the law without doing math.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

God kept His word both ways. The exile came as He warned, and it had an end date, just as He promised.

THE BIG QUESTION

WHY END WITH CYRUS?

The Last Words

2 CHRONICLES 36:22 TO 23 · EZRA 1:1 TO 3 · LUKE 11:51

THE LAST VERSE

Cyrus tells everyone who belongs to God's people that they may go up and build His house, 36:23.

ONE WORD IN HEBREW

The last words, may he go up, are one word in Hebrew, veyaal. It is the word for

going up to Jerusalem and to God's house.

THE LAST BOOK

In most printed Hebrew Bibles, Chronicles is the last book, as in the Talmud's list. So the Hebrew Bible ends with an invitation to go up and build.

EZRA PICKS IT UP

Ezra 1:1 to 3 repeats these words and keeps going, telling how the people went home.

JESUS AND THE ORDER

Jesus spoke of the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, Luke 11:51. Many think He meant from the first book to the last, Genesis to Chronicles, 24:21.

FIRST AND LAST

The Hebrew Bible begins with God creating the heavens and the earth, Genesis 1:1, and ends with God's people told to go up and build His house.

THE QUESTION

Why would the Hebrew Bible end with people told to go up, before the trip even starts?

Every View

MALACHI 4:5 TO 6 · LUKE 24:44 · HEBREWS 11:13 TO 16

VIEW 1: AN ENDING OF HOPE

The book could have ended with a burned temple. Instead it ends with the door open. Many say the writer wanted his readers to see that God was not finished with them.

VIEW 2: A BRIDGE

Some think the last verses were added to lead into Ezra. Others think Chronicles was put last on purpose, as a summary of the whole story from Adam.

VIEW 3: STILL WAITING

Some point out that the people went home, but no son of David sat on the throne. The ending leaves the promise to David open, waiting for the Messiah.

TWO ENDINGS

Most Christian Bibles end the Old Testament with Malachi instead: Elijah is coming, Malachi 4:5 to 6. Both endings look ahead.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

The Hebrew Bible ends looking forward, with God's people invited home and something still to come.