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1 Chronicles

The books of 1 and 2 Chronicles retell the story of the Israelite kingdom. They include stories about Saul, David, Solomon and the Divided Kingdom. Parts of these books are almost the same as parts of 1 and 2 Samuel or 1 and 2 Kings. But the purpose of 1 and 2 Chronicles is very different. The purpose is to record memories of the past for people who did not know their own history.

1 Chronicles begins with a family history. It is a list of the Israelites' ancestors, beginning with Adam. The list is so complete that it takes nine chapters. Many readers today skip over the family histories in the Bible. But these lists were very important for the ancient Jewish people. Their family history had been broken by long periods of captivity. And when they returned to Judah, they needed to rebuild their lives as well as the Temple. So the lists of names helped them remember who they were. Each name in a list was an important part of their family history. And it helped prove their claim to the land God had promised them. The lists were also a reminder that God had always been faithful to his people.

After the family history, the book retells the story of King David. He captured Jerusalem. He organized priestly worship. He decided where the Temple would be built. And he prepared to build it. The book praises David as God's chosen king for Israel. But it does not include all the stories about David that are in

the other historical books. That is because the purpose is different. The Chronicles try to explain why the Temple was lost. And they rejoice at the opportunity to rebuild it. So 1 Chronicles tells the stories about David that show the importance of the Temple.

1 Chronicles tries to explain why good or bad things happened to Israel. It has to do with Israel's being faithful or not. This idea begins like a small stream in 1 Chronicles. Then in 2 Chronicles, it becomes a flood. First of all, good things happened to Israel because God was faithful to keep his promises. Good things also happened when God's people were faithful to follow his commands. But when the people failed to obey God, things did not go well. For example, King Saul lost his power and died because he was not faithful to God. But God was faithful to take care of his people by choosing David to be king. In Chronicles, the lesson to be learned from the history of God's people is the need to be faithful.

In the book of 1 Chronicles, the people of God remember...

Their ancestors (1:1 – 9:34)

All the things that King Saul did for Israel (9:35 – 10:14)

All the things that King David did for Israel (11:1 – 29:20,26-30)

The appointment of David's son Solomon as king (29:21-25)

Family History From Adam to Noah

1¹⁻³The first generations of people were Adam, Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech and Noah.*

*1:1-3 This list of names gives the name of a man, followed by his descendants.

⁴The sons of Noah were Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Japheth's Descendants

- ⁵Japheth's descendants were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech and Tiras.
⁶Gomer's descendants were Ashkenaz, Riphath[†] and Togarmah.
⁷Javan's descendants were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim and Rodanim.

Ham's Descendants

- ⁸Ham's descendants were Cush,[‡] Mizraim,[¶] Put and Canaan.
⁹Cush's descendants were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah and Sabteca. Raamah's descendants were Sheba and Dedan.
¹⁰Nimrod, a descendant of Cush, grew up to become the strongest and bravest soldier in the world.
¹¹Mizraim was the ancestor of the people of Lud, Anam, Lehab, Naphtuh,
¹²Pathrus, Casluh and Capthor. (The Philistines came from Casluh.)
¹³Canaan was the father of Sidon. Sidon was his first child. Canaan was also the ancestor of the Hittites,
¹⁴Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites,
¹⁵Hivites, Arkites, Sinites,
¹⁶Arvadites, Zemarites and the people from Hamath.

Shem's Descendants

- ¹⁷Shem's descendants were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud and Aram.

Aram's descendants were[§] Uz, Hul, Gether and Meshech.**

- ¹⁸Arphaxad was the father of Shelah. Shelah was the father of Eber.
¹⁹Eber had two sons. One son was named Peleg,^{††} because the people on the earth were divided into different languages during his lifetime. Peleg's brother was named Joktan.
²⁰(Joktan was the ancestor of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,
²¹Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,
²²Ebal,^{‡‡} Abimael, Sheba,
²³Ophir, Havilah and Jobab. All these men were Joktan's sons.)
²⁴Shem's descendants were Arphaxad, Shelah,
²⁵Eber, Peleg, Reu,
²⁶Serug, Nahor, Terah²⁷ and Abram. (Abram is also called Abraham.)

Abraham's Family

- ²⁸Abraham's sons were Isaac and Ishmael.
²⁹These are their descendants: Ishmael's first son was Nebaioth. His other sons were Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,
³⁰Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema,
³¹Jetur, Naphish and Kedemah. These were Ishmael's sons.
³²Abraham also had sons by Keturah, his slave woman. They were Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah.
 Jokshan's sons were Sheba and Dedan.
³³Midian's sons were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida and Eldaah. These men were the descendants of Keturah.

[†]1:6 *Riphath* Or "Diphath".

[‡]1:8 *Cush* That is, Ethiopia.

[¶]1:8 *Mizraim* That is, Egypt.

[§]1:17 *Aram's descendants were* This is found in one Hebrew copy and some copies of the ancient Greek version. It is also found in the traditional Hebrew text of Gen. 10:23, but not here.

**1:17 *Meshech* Or "Mash". See Gen. 10:23.

††1:19 *Peleg* This name means "division".

‡‡1:22 *Ebal* Or "Obal". See Gen. 10:28.

Isaac's Descendants

- ³⁴ Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac's sons were Esau and Israel.
- ³⁵ Esau's sons were Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam and Korah.
- ³⁶ Eliphaz's sons were Teman, Omar, Zepho,[¶] Gatam and Kenaz. Also Eliphaz and Timna had a son named Amalek.
- ³⁷ Reuel's sons were Nahath, Zerah, Shammah and Mizzah.

The Edomites

- ³⁸ Seir's sons were Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer and Dishan.
- ³⁹ Lotan's sons were Hori and Homam.^{§§} Lotan had a sister named Timna.
- ⁴⁰ Shobal's sons were Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho and Onam.
- Zibeon's sons were Aiah and Anah.
- ⁴¹ Anah's son was Dishon.
- Dishon's sons were Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran and Keran.
- ⁴² Ezer's sons were Bilhan, Zaavan and Akan.
- Dishan's sons were Uz and Aran.

The Kings of Edom

- ⁴³ There were kings in Edom long before there were kings in Israel. These are the names of the kings of Edom:
- Bela was the son of Beor. The name of Bela's city was Dinhabah.
- ⁴⁴ When Bela died, Jobab son of Zerah became the new king. Jobab came from Bozrah.

- ⁴⁵ When Jobab died, Husham became the new king. Husham was from the country of the Temanites.
- ⁴⁶ When Husham died, Hadad son of Bedad became the new king. Hadad defeated Midian in the country of Moab. Hadad's city was named Avith.
- ⁴⁷ When Hadad died, Samlah became the new king. Samlah was from Masrekah.
- ⁴⁸ When Samlah died, Shaul became the new king. Shaul was from Rehoboth by the Euphrates River.
- ⁴⁹ When Shaul died, Baal Hanan son of Acbor became the new king.
- ⁵⁰ When Baal Hanan died, Hadad became the new king. Hadad's city was named Pau.* Hadad's wife was named Mehetabel. Mehetabel was Matred's daughter. Matred was Mezahab's daughter. ⁵¹ Then Hadad died.
- The leaders of Edom were Timna, Alvah, Jetheth, ⁵² Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon, ⁵³ Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar, ⁵⁴ Magdiel and Iram. This is a list of the leaders of Edom.

Israel's Sons

- 2** Israel's sons were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, ² Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad and Asher.

Judah's Sons

- ³ Judah's sons were Er, Onan and Shelah. Bathshua[†] from Canaan was their mother. The LORD killed Er, the first son, because he saw that he was evil.
- ⁴ Judah's daughter-in-law Tamar gave birth to Perez and Zerah.[‡] So Judah had five sons.

[¶]1:36 *Zepho* Or "Zephi".

^{§§}1:39 *Homam* Or "Heman". See Gen. 36:22.

*1:50 *Pau* Or "Pai".

[†]2:3 *Bathshua* This name means "the daughter of Shua". See Gen. 38:2.

[‡]2:4 Judah made his own daughter-in-law pregnant. See Gen. 38:12-30.

⁵ Perez's sons were Hezron and Hamul.

⁶ Zerah had five sons. They were Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Calcol and Darda.

⁷ Zimri's son was Carmi. Carmi's son was Achar.[¶] Achar was the man who brought many troubles to Israel. Achar kept the things he took in battle, but he was supposed to give them all to God.

⁸ Ethan's son was Azariah.

⁹ Hezron's sons were Jerahmeel, Ram and Caleb.[§]

Ram's Descendants

¹⁰ Ram was Amminadab's father, and Amminadab was Nahshon's father. Nahshon was the leader of the people of Judah.^{**} ¹¹ Nahshon was Salmon's father. Salmon was Boaz's father. ¹² Boaz was Obed's father. Obed was Jesse's father. ¹³ Jesse was Eliab's father. Eliab was Jesse's first son. Jesse's second son was Abinadab. His third son was Shimea. ¹⁴ Nethanel was Jesse's fourth son. Jesse's fifth son was Raddai. ¹⁵ Ozem was Jesse's sixth son, and David was his seventh son. ¹⁶ Their sisters were Zeruah and Abigail. Zeruah's three sons were Abishai, Joab and Asahel. ¹⁷ Abigail was Amasa's mother. Amasa's father was Jether. Jether was from the Ishmaelites.

Caleb's Descendants

¹⁸ Caleb was Hezron's son. Caleb had children with his wife Azubah. Azubah was the daughter of Jerioth.^{††} Azubah's sons were Jeshur, Shobab and Ardon. ¹⁹ When Azubah died,

Caleb married Ephrathah. Caleb and Ephrathah had a son. They named him Hur. ²⁰ Hur was Uri's father, and Uri was Bezalel's father.

²¹ Later, when Hezron was 60 years old, he married the daughter of Makir, who first settled the land of Gilead. After Hezron married Makir's daughter, she gave birth to Segub. ²² Segub was Jair's father. Jair ruled 23 cities in the land of Gilead. ²³ But Geshur and Aram took Jair's villages. Among them were Kenath and the small towns around it. There were 60 small towns in all. All these towns belonged to the sons of Makir, who first settled the land of Gilead.

²⁴ After Hezron died, his son Caleb married Ephrathah, Hezron's widow. And they had a son named Ashhur, who first settled the town of Tekoa.

Jerahmeel's Descendants

²⁵ Jerahmeel was Hezron's first son. Jerahmeel's sons were Ram, Bunah, Oren, Ozem and Ahijah. Ram was Jerahmeel's first son. ²⁶ Jerahmeel had another wife named Atarah. Onam's mother was Atarah.

²⁷ Jerahmeel's first son, Ram, had sons. They were Maaz, Jamin and Eker.

²⁸ Onam's sons were Shammai and Jada. Shammai's sons were Nadab and Abishur.

²⁹ Abishur's wife was named Abihail. They had two sons. Their names were Ahban and Molid.

³⁰ Nadab's sons were Seled and Appaim. Seled died without having children.

[¶]2:7 *Achar* Or "Achan". See Josh. 7:11.

[§]2:9 *Caleb* Literally, "Kelubai".

^{**}2:10 *Nahshon ... Judah* Nahshon was the leader of the tribe of Judah at the time the Israelites came out of Egypt. See Num. 1:7; 2:3; 7:12.

^{††}2:18 Or "Caleb had children with Azubah his wife and with Jerioth."

- ³¹ Appaim's son was Ishi. Ishi's son was Sheshan. Sheshan's son was Ahlai.
- ³² Jada was Shammai's brother. Jada's sons were Jether and Jonathan. Jether died without having children.
- ³³ Jonathan's sons were Peleth and Zaza. These were Jerahmeel's descendants.
- ³⁴ Sheshan did not have sons. He only had daughters. Sheshan had a servant from Egypt named Jarha. ³⁵ Sheshan let his daughter marry Jarha. They had a son. His name was Attai.
- ³⁶ Attai was Nathan's father. Nathan was Zabad's father. ³⁷ Zabad was Ephlal's father. Ephlal was Obed's father. ³⁸ Obed was Jehu's father. Jehu was Azariah's father. ³⁹ Azariah was Helez's father. Helez was Eleasah's father. ⁴⁰ Eleasah was Sismai's father. Sismai was Shallum's father. ⁴¹ Shallum was Jekamiah's father, and Jekamiah was Elishama's father.

Other Descendants of Caleb

- ⁴² Jerahmeel's brother Caleb had other descendants. His first son was Mesha, who first settled the town of Ziph. Caleb had another son named Mare-shah, the father of Hebron.
- ⁴³ Hebron's sons were Korah, Tappuah, Rekem and Shema. ⁴⁴ Shema was the father of Raham, who first settled the town of Jorkeam. Rekem was Shammai's father. ⁴⁵ Shammai's son was Maon, who first settled the town of Beth Zur.
- ⁴⁶ Caleb's slave woman was named Ephah. Ephah was the mother of Haran, Moza and Gazez. Haran was Gazez's father.
- ⁴⁷ Jahdai's sons were Regem, Jotham, Geshan, Pelet, Ephah and Shaaph.
- ⁴⁸ Maacah was another slave woman of Caleb. Maacah was the mother of Sheber and Tirhanah. ⁴⁹ Maacah was also the mother of Shaaph and

Sheva. Shaaph first settled the town of Madmannah, and Sheva settled the towns of Macbenah and Gibeah. Caleb's daughter was Acsah.

- ⁵⁰ This is a list of Caleb's descendants: Hur, the first son of Caleb's wife Ephrathah, had three sons: Shobal, who first settled the town of Kiriath Jearim; ⁵¹ Salma, who settled the town of Bethlehem; and Hareph, who settled the town of Beth Gader.
- ⁵² Shobal, the ancestor of Kiriath Jearim, had these descendants: Haroeh, half the people from Manahti, ⁵³ and the tribes from Kiriath Jearim, the Ithrites, Puthites, Shumathites and Mishraitites. Shobal's descendants also included the Zorathites and Eshtaolites, who came from the Mishraitites.
- ⁵⁴ This is a list of Salma's descendants: the people from Bethlehem, Ne-tophah, Atroth Beth Joab, half the people from Manahti, the Zorites, ⁵⁵ and the families of scribes who lived at Jabez, Tirath, Shimeath and Suchah. These scribes are the Kenites who came from the family of Hammath, who was also the ancestor of the Rechabites.

David's Sons

- 3** These are David's sons who were born in the town of Hebron. The first was Amnon. Amnon's mother was Ahinoam. She was from the town of Jezreel.
- The second son was Daniel. His mother was Abigail from Carmel in Judah.
- ² The third son was Absalom. His mother was Maacah, the daughter of Talmai. Talmai was the king of Geshur.
- The fourth son was Adonijah. His mother was Haggith.
- ³ The fifth son was Shephatiah. His mother was Abital.

The sixth son was Ithream. His mother was David's wife Eglah.

⁴These six sons were born to David in Hebron. He ruled as king in Hebron for seven years and six months.

David ruled as king in Jerusalem for 33 years. ⁵And these are his children who were born in Jerusalem:

Shimea, Shobab, Nathan and Solomon. Their mother was Bathsheba,^{‡‡} the daughter of Ammiel.

⁶⁻⁸Nine other sons: Ibhar, Elishua, Eliphelet, Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, Elishama, Eliada and Eliphelet.

⁹These were all of David's sons, except for the sons of his slave women. Their sister was named Tamar.

Kings of Judah After David's Time

¹⁰Solomon's son was Rehoboam. Rehoboam's son was Abijah. Abijah's son was Asa. Asa's son was Jehoshaphat. ¹¹Jehoshaphat's son was Jehoram. Jehoram's son was Ahaziah. Ahaziah's son was Joash. ¹²Joash's son was Amaziah. Amaziah's son was Azariah. Azariah's son was Jotham. ¹³Jotham's son was Ahaz. Ahaz's son was Hezekiah. Hezekiah's son was Manasseh. ¹⁴Manasseh's son was Amon. Amon's son was Josiah.

¹⁵This is a list of Josiah's sons: the first son was Johanan. The second son was Jehoiakim. The third son was Zedekiah. The fourth son was Shallum.

¹⁶Jehoiakim's sons were Jehoiachin,^{¶¶} his son, and Zedekiah, his son.^{§§}

David's Family After Babylonian Captivity

¹⁷This is a list of Jehoiachin's children after Jehoiachin became a prisoner in Babylon: Shealtiel, ¹⁸Malkiram, Pedai-ah, Shenazzar, Jekamiah, Hoshama and Nedabiah.

¹⁹Shealtiel's^{*} sons were Zerubbabel and Shimei. Zerubbabel's sons were Meshullam and Hananiah. Shelomith was their sister. ²⁰Zerubbabel had five other sons also. Their names were Hashubah, Ohel, Berekiah, Hasadiah and Jushab Hessed.

²¹Hananiah's son was Pelatiah. His son was Jeshai-ah.[†] His son was Rephaiah. His son was Arnan. His son was Obadiah. His son was Shecaniah.[‡]

²²This is a list of Shecaniah's descendants: Shemaiah. Shemaiah had six sons: Shemaiah, Hattush, Igal, Bariah, Neariah and Shaphat.

²³Neariah had three sons. They were Elioenai, Hizkiah and Azrikam.

²⁴Elioenai had seven sons. They were Hodaviah, Eliashib, Pelaiah, Akkub, Johanan, Delaiah and Anani.

Other Family Groups of Judah

4 Judah was the ancestor of Perez, Hezron, Carmi, Hur and Shobal.

²Shobal's son was Reaiah, the father of Jahath. Jahath was the father of

^{‡‡}**3:5 Bathsheba** The traditional Hebrew text has "Bathshua".

^{¶¶}**3:16 Jehoiachin** The Hebrew text has "Jeconiah", another name for King Jehoiachin. Also in verse 17.

^{§§}**3:16** This can be interpreted in two ways: "This Zedekiah was the son of Jehoiakim and the brother of Jehoiachin" or "This Zedekiah is the son of Jehoiachin and the grandson of Jehoiakim."

^{*}**3:19 Shealtiel** This is from the ancient Greek version. The traditional Hebrew text has "Pedai-ah". See Ezra 3:2 and Hag. 1:1.

[†]**3:21 Jeshai-ah** Or "Isaiah".

[‡]**3:21** The Hebrew text is not clear.

Ahumai and Lahad, ancestors of the Zorathites.

³⁻⁴ Hur was the first son of his mother Ephrathah. Some of his descendants settled the town of Bethlehem. Some of his other descendants were Etam, Penuel and Ezer. Etam's sons were Jezreel, Ishma and Idbash, and their sister was named Hazzelelponi. Penuel first settled the town of Gedor, and Ezer settled the town of Hushah.

⁵ Ashhur, who first settled the town of Tekoa, had two wives. Their names were Helah and Naarah. ⁶ Naarah had four sons: Ahuzzam, Hepher, Temeni and Haahashtari. ⁷ The sons of Helah were Zereth, Zohar, Ethnan and Koz.

⁸ Koz was the father of Anub and Haz-zobebah. Koz was also the ancestor of the families of Aharhel, the son of Harum.

⁹ Jabez was a very good man, who was more respected than any of his brothers. His mother named him Jabez^f because his birth had been very painful for her.

¹⁰ Jabez prayed to the God of Israel and said, "I pray that you would bless me and give me more land! Be near me and don't let anyone hurt me! Then I will not have any pain." God gave Jabez what he asked for.

¹¹ Kelub was Shuhah's brother and Mehir's father. Mehir was Eshton's father. ¹² Eshton was the father of Beth Rapha, Paseah and Tehinnah. Tehinnah was the father of Ir Nahash.[§] These men were all from Recah.

¹³ The sons of Kenaz were Othniel and Seraiah. Othniel's sons were Hathath and Meonothai. ¹⁴ Meonothai was Ophrah's father.

Seraiah was the father of Joab, the ancestor of those who live in the Valley of the Skilled Workers.^{**} The place was called this because the people there were all skilled workers.

¹⁵ Caleb was Jephunneh's son. Caleb's sons were Iru, Elah and Naam. Elah's son was Kenaz.

¹⁶ Jehallelel's sons were Ziph, Ziphah, Tiria and Asarel.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ Ezrah's sons were Jether, Mered, Ephher and Jalon. Mered married Bithiah, a daughter of the king of Egypt. They had a daughter named Miriam and two sons named Shammai and Ishbah. Ishbah first settled the town of Eshtemoa. Mered also had a wife from the tribe of Judah. She had three sons: Jered, father of Gedor; Heber, father of Soco; and Jekuthiel, father of Zanoah.

¹⁹ Hodiah's wife was Naham's sister. Her sons were founders of the towns named after them: Keilah, a town of the Garmite family, and Eshtemoa, a town of the Maacathite family. ²⁰ Shimon's sons were Amnon, Rinnah, Ben Hanan and Tilon.

Ishi's sons were Zoheth and Ben Zoheth.

²¹ Shelah was one of Judah's sons. Shelah's descendants were Er, who first settled the town of Lecah; Laadah, who settled the town of Mareshah; the tribes of linen workers, who lived in the town of Beth Ashbea; ²² Jokim and the men who lived in the town of Cozeba; and Joash and Saraph, who married Moabite women and then returned to Bethlehem.^{††} The writings about this family are very old. ²³ They were skilled workers who made things

^f4:9 *Jabez* This name is like the Hebrew word meaning "pain".

[§]4:12 *Tehinnah ... Ir Nahash* Or "Tehinnah was the founder of the city of Nahash."

^{**}4:14 *Valley of the Skilled Workers* Literally, "Ge Harashim".

^{††}4:22 *married ... Bethlehem* Or "ruled in Moab and Jashubi Lehem".

from clay. They lived in Netaim and Gederah and worked for the king.

Simeon's Children

²⁴ Simeon's sons were Nemuel, Jamin, Jarib, Zerah and Shaul. ²⁵ Shaul's son was Shallum. Shallum's son was Mibsam. Mibsam's son was Mishma.

²⁶ Mishma's son was Hammuel. Hammuel's son was Zaccur. Zaccur's son was Shimei. ²⁷ Shimei had sixteen sons and six daughters, but Shimei's brothers did not have many children. So his brothers did not have large families. Their families were not as large as the other tribes in Judah.

²⁸ Shimei's descendants lived in Beersheba, Moladah, Hazar Shual, ²⁹ Bilhah, Ezem, Tolad, ³⁰ Bethuel, Hormah, Ziklag, ³¹ Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susim, Beth Biri and Shaaraim. They lived in these towns until David became king. ³² The five villages near these towns were Etam, Ain, Rimmon, Token and Ashan. ³³ There were also other villages as far away as Baalath. This is where they lived. And they also wrote the history about their family.

³⁴⁻³⁸ This is the list of men who were leaders of their tribes: Meshobab, Jamlech, Joshah (Amaziah's son), Joel, Jehu son of Joshibiah, Joshibiah son of Seraiah, Seraiah son of Asiel, Elioenai, Jaakobah, Jeshohaiah, Asaiah, Adiel, Jesimiel, Benaiah and Ziza (Shiphi's son). Shiphi was Allon's son, and Allon was Jedaiah's son. Jedaiah was Shimri's son, and Shimri was She-maiah's son.

These men's families grew to be very large. ³⁹ They went to the area outside the town of Gedor to the east side of the valley. They went to that place to look for fields for their sheep and cattle. ⁴⁰ They found plenty of good land

there with rich soil and green pastures. The land was peaceful and quiet. Ham's descendants had lived there in the past.

⁴¹ This happened during the time that Hezekiah was king of Judah. These men came to Gedor and fought against the Hamites. They destroyed the tents of the Hamites. They also fought against the Meunites who lived there and completely destroyed them. There are no Meunites in this place even today. So these men began to live there because the land had grass for their sheep.

⁴² Five hundred people from the tribe of Simeon went to the hill country of Seir. Ishi's sons led these men. The sons were Pelatiah, Neariah, Rephaiah and Uzziel. The Simeonite men fought against the people living in that place.

⁴³ There were only a few Amalekites still living, and these Simeonites killed them. Since that time until now, the Simeonites have lived in Seir.

Reuben's Descendants

5 ¹⁻³ Reuben was Israel's first son. Reuben should have received the special privileges of the oldest son. But he had sex with his father's wife. So his privileges were given to Joseph's sons. And in the family history, Reuben's name is not listed as the firstborn son. It was Judah whose tribe became the most powerful, and the most important leader of all the tribes came from his family. But Joseph's family got the privileges that belong to the firstborn son.

Reuben's sons were Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron and Carmi.

⁴ These are the names of Joel's descendants: Shemaiah was Joel's son. Gog was Shemaiah's son. Shimei was Gog's son. ⁵ Micah was Shimei's son. Reaiah was Micah's son. Baal was Reaiah's son. ⁶ Beerah was Baal's son. King Tiglath Pileser of Assyria forced

Beerah to leave his home. So Beerah became the king's prisoner. Beerah was a leader of the tribe of Reuben.

⁷ Joel's brothers and all his tribes are listed just as they are recorded in the family histories: Jeiel was the first son, then Zechariah ⁸ and Bela. Bela was Azaz's son. Azaz was Shema's son. Shema was Joel's son. They lived in the area of Aroer all the way to Nebo and Baal Meon. ⁹ Bela's people lived to the east as far as the edge of the desert, near the Euphrates River. They lived there because they had many cattle in the land of Gilead. ¹⁰ When Saul was king, Bela's people fought a war against the Hagrites and defeated them. Bela's people lived in the tents that had belonged to the Hagrites. They lived in those tents and travelled throughout the area east of Gilead.

Gad's Descendants

¹¹ The people of Gad lived across the river from Reuben, in the area of Bashan. They spread all the way to the town of Salecah. ¹² Joel was the first leader in Bashan. Shapham was the second leader. Then Janai became the leader. ¹³ The seven brothers in their families were Michael, Meshullam, Sheba, Jorai, Jacan, Zia and Eber. ¹⁴ They were the descendants of Abihail. Abihail was Huri's son. Huri was Jaroah's son. Jaroah was Gilead's son. Gilead was Michael's son. Michael was Jeshishai's son. Jeshishai was Jahdo's son. Jahdo was Buz's son. ¹⁵ Ahi was Abdiel's son. Abdiel was Guni's son. Ahi was the leader of their family.

¹⁶ The people in the tribe of Gad lived in the area of Gilead. They lived in the area of Bashan, in the small towns

around Bashan and in all the pastures in the area of Sharon all the way to the borders.

¹⁷ During the time of Jotham and Jeroboam, all these names were recorded in the family history of Gad. Jotham was the king of Judah, and Jeroboam was the king of Israel.

Some Soldiers Skilled in War

¹⁸ From the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh there were 44,760 brave men trained for battle. They were skilled with shields and swords and with bows and arrows. ¹⁹ They started a war against the Hagrites and the people of Jetur, Naphish and Nodab. ²⁰ The men from the tribes of Manasseh, Reuben and Gad prayed to God during the war. They asked God to help them because they trusted him. So God helped them. He allowed them to defeat the Hagrites and those who were with the Hagrites. ²¹ They took the animals that belonged to the Hagrites. They took 50,000 camels, 250,000 sheep and 2000 donkeys. They also took 100,000 people. ²² Many Hagrites were killed because God helped the people of Reuben win the war. Then the tribes of Manasseh, Reuben and Gad settled in the land of the Hagrites. They lived there until the time when the Israelites were taken into captivity.

²³ The half-tribe of Manasseh lived in the area of Bashan all the way to Baal Hermon, Senir and Mount Hermon. They became a very large group of people.

²⁴ These were the family leaders from half the tribe of Manasseh: Ephraim, Ishi, Eliel, Azriel, Jeremiah, Hodaviah and Jahdiel. They were all strong, brave and

¹³5:12 *Then Janai became the leader* Or "Then there was Janai, and then Shaphat was in Bashan."

famous men, and they were leaders in their families. ²⁵But they sinned against the God their ancestors had worshipped. They began worshipping the false gods of the people God had destroyed, the people who had lived in the land before them.

²⁶The God of Israel made King Pul of Assyria want to go to war. He was also called Tiglath Pileser. He fought against the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh. He took them all away as captives. Pul took them to Halah, Habor, Hara and near the Gozan River. Those tribes from Israel have lived in those places since that time until today.

Levi's Descendants

6 Levi's sons were Gershon, Kohath and Merari.

²Kohath's sons were Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel.

³Amram's children were Aaron, Moses and Miriam.

Aaron's sons were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. ⁴Eleazar was Phinehas' father. Phinehas was Abishua's father. ⁵Abishua was Bukki's father. Bukki was Uzzi's father. ⁶Uzzi was Zerachiah's father. Zerachiah was Meraioth's father. ⁷Meraioth was Amariah's father. Amariah was Ahitub's father. ⁸Ahitub was Zadok's father. Zadok was Ahimaaz's father. ⁹Ahimaaz was Azariah's father. Azariah was Johanan's father. ¹⁰Johanan was Azariah's father. (Azariah is the one who served as priest in the Temple that Solomon built in Jerusalem.)

¹¹Azariah was Amariah's father. Amariah was Ahitub's father.

¹²Ahitub was Zadok's father. Zadok was Shallum's father. ¹³Shallum was Hilkiah's father. Hilkiah was

Azariah's father. ¹⁴Azariah was Seraiah's father. Seraiah was Jehozadak's father.

¹⁵Jehozadak was forced to leave his home when the LORD sent the people of Judah and Jerusalem away. Through Nebuchadnezzar the Lord caused them all to be taken away as captives to another country.

Other Descendants of Levi

¹⁶Levi's sons were Gershon, Kohath and Merari.

¹⁷The names of Gershon's sons were Libni and Shimei.

¹⁸Kohath's sons were Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel.

¹⁹Merari's sons were Mahli and Mushi.

This is a list of the families in the tribe of Levi. They are listed with their fathers' names first:

²⁰These were Gershon's descendants: Libni was Gershon's son. Jahath was Libni's son. Zimmah was Jahath's son.

²¹Joah was Zimmah's son. Iddo was Joah's son. Zerah was Iddo's son. Jeatherai was Zerah's son.

²²These were Kohath's descendants: Amminadab was Kohath's son. Korah was Amminadab's son. Assir was Korah's son. ²³Elkanah was Assir's son. Ebiasaph was Elkanah's son. Assir was Ebiasaph's son. ²⁴Tahath was Assir's son. Uriel was Tahath's son. Uzziel was Uriel's son. Shaul was Uzziel's son.

²⁵Elkanah's sons were Amasai and Ahimoth. ²⁶Zophai was Elkanah's son. Nahath was Zophai's son. ²⁷Eliab was Nahath's son. Jeroham was Eliab's son. Elkanah was Jeroham's son. Samuel was Elkanah's son. ²⁸Samuel's sons were his oldest son Joel and Abijah.

²⁹These are Merari's sons: Mahli was Merari's son, Libni was Mahli's son,

Shimei was Libni's son and Uzzah was Shimei's son. ³⁰Shimea was Uzzah's son. Haggiah was Shimea's son. Asaiah was Haggiah's son.

The Temple Musicians

³¹These are the men David chose to be in charge of the music at the LORD's house after God's Holy Box was put there. ³²These men served by singing at the Holy Tent, that is, the Meeting Tent, until Solomon built the LORD's Temple in Jerusalem. They served by following the rules given to them for their work.

³³These are the names of the musicians and their sons who served:

The descendants from the Kohath family were Heman the singer who was Joel's son; Joel was Samuel's son; ³⁴Samuel was Elkanah's son; Elkanah was Jeroham's son; Jeroham was Eliel's son; Eliel was Toah's son; ³⁵Toah was Zuph's son; Zuph was Elkanah's son; Elkanah was Mahath's son; Mahath was Amasai's son; ³⁶Amasai was Elkanah's son; Elkanah was Joel's son; Joel was Azariah's son; Azariah was Zephaniah's son; ³⁷Zephaniah was Tahath's son; Tahath was Assir's son; Assir was Ebiasaph's son; Ebiasaph was Korah's son; ³⁸Korah was Izhar's son; Izhar was Kohath's son; Kohath was Levi's son; Levi was Israel's son.

³⁹Heman's relative was Asaph, who served by Heman's right side. Asaph was Berekiah's son. Berekiah was Shimea's son. ⁴⁰Shimea was Michael's son. Michael was Baaseiah's son. Baaseiah was Malkijah's son. ⁴¹Malkijah was Ethni's son. Ethni was Zerah's son. Zerah was Adaiah's son. ⁴²Adaiah was Ethan's son. Ethan was Zimmah's son. Zimmah was Shimei's son. ⁴³Shimei was Jahath's son. Jahath was Gershon's son. Gershon was Levi's son.

⁴⁴Merari's descendants were the relatives of Heman and Asaph. They were the singing group on Heman's left side. Ethan was Kishi's son. Kishi was Abdi's son. Abdi was Malluch's son. ⁴⁵Malluch was Hashabiah's son. Hashabiah was Amaziah's son. Amaziah was Hilkiyah's son. ⁴⁶Hilkiyah was Amzi's son. Amzi was Bani's son. Bani was Shemer's son. ⁴⁷Shemer was Mahli's son. Mahli was Mushi's son. Mushi was Merari's son. Merari was Levi's son.

⁴⁸Heman and Asaph's brothers were from the tribe of Levi. The tribe of Levi was also called Levites. The Levites were chosen to do the work in the Holy Tent, which was God's house. ⁴⁹But only Aaron's descendants were permitted to burn incense on the altar of burnt offering and on the altar of incense. Aaron's descendants did all the work in the Most Holy Place in God's house. They also performed the ceremonies to make the Israelites pure. They followed all the rules and laws that Moses, God's servant, commanded.

Aaron's Descendants

⁵⁰These were Aaron's sons: Eleazar was Aaron's son. Phinehas was Eleazar's son. Abishua was Phinehas' son. ⁵¹Bukki was Abishua's son. Uzzi was Bukki's son. Zerariah was Uzzi's son. ⁵²Meraioth was Zerariah's son. Amariah was Meraioth's son. Ahitub was Amariah's son. ⁵³Zadok was Ahitub's son. Ahimaaz was Zadok's son.

Homes for the Levite Families

⁵⁴These are the places where Aaron's descendants lived. They lived in their camps in the land that was given to them. The Kohath families got the first share of the land that was given to the Levites. ⁵⁵They were given the city of Hebron and the pastures around it.

This was in the area of Judah.⁵⁶ But the fields farther from the city and the villages around it were given to Caleb son of Jephunneh.⁵⁷ So the descendants of Aaron were given Hebron, a city of safety.[¶] They were also given the cities of Libnah, Jattir, Eshtemoa,⁵⁸ Hilen, Debir,⁵⁹ Ashan, Juttah and Beth Shemesh. They also got the pastures around those cities.⁶⁰ In the territory that belonged to the tribe of Benjamin, they got the cities of Gibeon, Geba, Alemeth and Anathoth. They also got the pastures around those cities.

Thirteen cities were given to the Kohath families.

⁶¹The rest of Kohath's descendants got ten cities from the half-tribe of Manasseh.

⁶²The families that were the descendants of Gershon got 13 cities in the territories that belonged to the tribes of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali and the part of Manasseh living in the area of Bashan.

⁶³The families that were the descendants of Merari got 12 cities in the territories that belonged to the tribes of Reuben, Gad and Zebulun. They got them by throwing lots.

⁶⁴So the Israelites gave those cities and fields to the Levites.⁶⁵ Those cities were in the territories that belonged to the tribes of Judah, Simeon and Benjamin. They decided which Levite family got which city by throwing lots.

⁶⁶Some of the families that were the descendants of Kohath were given some cities in the territory that belonged to the tribe of Ephraim.⁶⁷⁻⁶⁹ They were given Shechem, a city of safety in the hill country of Ephraim. They were also given the cities of Gezer, Jokmeam, Beth Horon, Aijalon and Gath Rimmon. They

also got pastures around those cities.⁷⁰ And in the territory that belonged to the half-tribe of Manasseh, the Israelites gave the cities of Aner and Bileam to the Kohath families. The Kohath families also got the pastures around those cities.

Other Levite Families Get Homes

⁷¹The Gershon families got the towns of Golan in the area of Bashan and Ashtaroth from the half-tribe of Manasseh. They also got the fields near those towns.

⁷²⁻⁷³The Gershon families also got the towns of Kedesh, Daberath, Ramoth and Gannim from the tribe of Issachar. They also got the fields near those towns.

⁷⁴⁻⁷⁵The Gershon families also got the towns of Mashal, Abdon, Hukok and Rehob from the tribe of Asher. They also got the fields near those towns.

⁷⁶The Gershon families also got the towns of Kedesh in Galilee, Hammon and Kiriathaim from the tribe of Naphtali. They also got the fields near those towns.

⁷⁷The rest of the Levites, from the Merari families, got the towns of Jokneam, Kartah, Rimmono and Tabor from the tribe of Zebulun. They also got the fields near those towns.

⁷⁸⁻⁷⁹The Merari families also got the towns of Bezer in the desert, Jahzah, Kedemoth and Mephaath from the tribe of Reuben. The tribe of Reuben lived on the east side of the Jordan River, east of the city of Jericho. These Merari families also got the fields near those towns.

⁸⁰⁻⁸¹And the Merari families got the towns of Ramoth in Gilead, Mahanaim, Heshbon and Jazer from the tribe of Gad. They also got the fields near those towns.

[¶]**6:57 city of safety** A special city where an Israelite could run to in order to escape the angry relatives of a person who was accidentally killed by that Israelite. See Num. 35:6-34 and Josh. 20:1-9. Also in verse 67.

Issachar's Descendants

7 Issachar had four sons. Their names were Tola, Puah, Jashub and Shimron.

²Tola's sons were Uzzi, Rephaiah, Jeriel, Jahmai, Ibsam and Samuel. They were all leaders of their families. Those men and their descendants were strong soldiers. Their families grew. By the time David was king, there were 22,600 men ready for battle.

³Uzzi's son was Izrahiah. Izrahiah's sons were Michael, Obadiah, Joel and Ishiah. All five of them were leaders of their families. ⁴Their family history shows they had 36,000 soldiers ready for battle. They had a large family because they had many wives and children.

⁵The family history shows there were 87,000 strong soldiers in all the tribes of Issachar.

Benjamin's Descendants

⁶Benjamin had three sons. Their names were Bela, Beker and Jediah.

⁷Bela had five sons. Their names were Ezbon, Uzzi, Uzziel, Jerimoth and Iri. They were leaders of their families. Their family history shows they had 22,034 soldiers.

⁸Beker's sons were Zemirah, Joash, Eliezer, Elieonai, Omri, Jeremoth, Abijah, Anathoth and Alemeth. They all were Beker's children. ⁹Their family history shows who the family leaders were. And it also shows they had 20,200 soldiers.

¹⁰Jediah's son was Bilhan. Bilhan's sons were Jeush, Benjamin, Ehud, Keenanah, Zethan, Tarshish and Ahisha-

har. ¹¹All of Jediah's sons were leaders of their families. They had 17,200 soldiers ready for battle.

¹²The Shuppites and Huppites were the descendants of Ir. Hushim was the son of Aher.

Naphtali's Descendants

¹³Naphtali's sons were Jahziel, Guni, Jezer and Shallum.

And these are the descendants of Bilhah.^{§§}

Manasseh's Descendants

¹⁴These are Manasseh's descendants: Manasseh's Aramean slave woman had a son named Asriel. She also gave birth to Makir, the father of Gilead.

¹⁵Makir married a woman from the Huppites and Shuppites. Makir's sister was named Maacah.

The name of the second son was Zelophehad, who had only daughters. ¹⁶Makir's wife Maacah had a son. She named this son Peresh. His brother was named Sheresh. The sons of Sheresh were Ulam and Rakem.

¹⁷Ulam's son was Bedan.

These were the descendants of Gilead. Gilead was Makir's son. Makir was Manasseh's son. ¹⁸Makir's sister Hammoleketh* had Ishhod, Abiezer and Mahlah.

¹⁹Shemida's sons were Ahian, Shechem, Likhi and Aniam.

Ephraim's Descendants

²⁰These were the names of Ephraim's descendants: Ephraim's son was Shuthelah. Shuthelah's son was Bered. Bered's son was Tahath. ²¹Tahath's son was Eleadah. Eleadah's son was

§§7:13 *Bilhah* Jacob's slave woman and the mother of Dan and Naphtali. See Gen. 30:4-8.

*7:18 *Hammoleketh* Or "the woman who ruled" or "queen".

Tahath. Tahath's son was Zabad. Zabad's son was Shuthelah.

Some men who grew up in the city of Gath killed Ezer and Elead. This happened because Ezer and Elead went there to steal cattle and sheep from those men in Gath. ²² Ephraim was the father of Ezer and Elead. He cried for many days because Ezer and Elead were dead. Ephraim's family came to comfort him. ²³ Then Ephraim had sex with his wife. She became pregnant and had a son. Ephraim named this new son Beriah[†] because something bad had happened to his family. ²⁴ Ephraim's daughter was Sheerah. Sheerah built Lower Beth Horon and Upper Beth Horon and Uzzan Sheerah.

²⁵ Rephah was Ephraim's son. Resheph was Rephah's son. Telah was Resheph's son. Tahan was Telah's son. ²⁶ Ladan was Tahan's son. Ammihud was Ladan's son. Elishama was Ammihud's son. ²⁷ Nun was Elishama's son. Joshua was Nun's son.

²⁸ These are the cities and lands where Ephraim's descendants lived: Bethel and the villages near it, Naaran to the east, Gezer and the villages near it on the west, and Shechem and the villages near it all the way to Ayyah and the villages near it. ²⁹ Along the borders of Manasseh's land were the towns of Beth Shan, Taanach, Megiddo and Dor and the small towns near them. The descendants of Joseph lived in these towns. Joseph was the son of Israel.

Asher's Descendants

³⁰ Asher's sons were Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi and Beriah. Their sister was named Serah.

³¹ Beriah's sons were Heber and Malkiel. Malkiel was the ancestor of Birzaith.

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

³³ Japhlet had three sons. They were named Pasach, Bimhal and Ashvath.

³⁴ Shomer's sons were Ahi, Rohgah, Hubbah and Aram.

³⁵ Shomer's brother was Helem. Helem's sons were Zophah, Imna, Shelesh and Amal.

³⁶ Zophah's sons were Suah, Harnepher, Shual, Beri, Imrah, ³⁷ Bezer, Hod, Shamma, Shilshah, Ithran and Beera.

³⁸ Jether's sons were Jephunneh, Pispah and Ara.

³⁹ Ulla's sons were Arah, Hanniel and Riziah.

⁴⁰ All these men were descendants of Asher. They were leaders of their families. They were all respected as brave soldiers and great leaders. Their family history shows 26,000 soldiers ready for battle.

More About Benjamin's Family

8 Benjamin was Bela's father. Bela was Benjamin's first son. Ashbel was Benjamin's second son. Aharah was Benjamin's third son. ² Nohah was Benjamin's fourth son. And Rapha was Benjamin's fifth son.

³⁻⁵ Bela's sons were Addar, Gera, Abihud, Abishua, Naaman, Ahoah, Gera, Shephuphan and Hiram.

⁶⁻⁷ These were the descendants of Ehud. They were leaders of their families in Geba. They were forced to leave their homes and move to Manahath. Ehud's descendants were Naaman, Ahijah and Gera. Gera forced them to leave their homes. He was the father of Uzza and Ahihud.

[†]7:23 *Beriah* This is like the Hebrew word meaning "bad" or "trouble".

- ⁸Shaharaim divorced his wives Hushim and Baara in Moab. After he did this he had children with another wife.
- ⁹⁻¹⁰Shaharaim had Jobab, Zibia, Meshah, Malcam, Jeuz, Sakia and Mirmah with his wife Hodesh. They were leaders of their families. ¹¹Shaharaim and Hushim had two sons named Abitub and Elpaal.
- ¹²⁻¹³Elpaal's sons were Eber, Misham, Shemed, Beriah and Shema. Shemed built the towns of Ono and Lod and the small towns around Lod. Beriah and Shema were the leaders of the families living in Aijalon. They forced the people who lived in Gath to leave.
- ¹⁴Beriah's sons were Shashak and Jeremoth, ¹⁵Zebadiah, Arad, Eder, ¹⁶Michael, Ishpah and Joha.
- ¹⁷Elpaal's sons were Zebadiah, Meshullam, Hizki, Heber, ¹⁸Ishmerai, Izliah and Jobab.
- ¹⁹Shimei's sons were Jakim, Zicri, Zabdi, ²⁰Elienai, Zillethai, Eliel, ²¹Adaiah, Beraiah and Shimrath.
- ²²Shashak's sons were Ishpan, Eber, Eliel, ²³Abdon, Zicri, Hanan, ²⁴Haniah, Elam, Anthothijah, ²⁵Iphdeiah and Penuel.
- ²⁶Jeroham's sons were Shamsherai, Shehariah, Athaliah, ²⁷Jaareshiah, Elijah and Zicri.
- ²⁸All these men were leaders of their families. They were listed in their family histories as leaders. They lived in Jerusalem.
- ²⁹Jeiel first settled the town of Gibeon, where he lived with his wife Maacah.
- ³⁰His oldest son was Abdon. Other sons were Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner, Nadab, ³¹Gedor, Ahio, Zeker, ³²and Mikloth, who was the father of Shimeah. These sons also lived near their relatives in Jerusalem.
- ³³Ner was Kish's father. Kish was Saul's father, and Saul was the father of

Jonathan, Malki Shua, Abinadab and Esh Baal.

³⁴Jonathan's son was Merib Baal. Merib Baal was Micah's father.

³⁵Micah's sons were Pithon, Melech, Tarea and Ahaz.

³⁶Ahaz was Jehoaddah's father. Jehoaddah was the father of Alemeth, Azmaveth and Zimri. Zimri was Moza's father. ³⁷Moza was Binea's father. Raphah was Binea's son. Eleasah was Raphah's son. And Azel was Eleasah's son.

³⁸Azel had six sons. Their names were Azrikam, Bokeru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah and Hanan. All these sons were Azel's children.

³⁹Azel's brother was Eshek. Eshek had some sons. These were Eshek's sons: Ulam was Azel's oldest son. Jeush was Eshek's second son. Eliphelet was Eshek's third son. ⁴⁰Ulam's sons were strong soldiers who were very good with bows and arrows. They had many sons and grandsons. In all, there were 150 sons and grandsons.

All these men were descendants of Benjamin.

9 The names of all the Israelites were listed in their family histories. Those family histories were recorded in the book, *The History of the Kings of Israel*.

The People in Jerusalem

The people of Judah were taken away as captives to Babylon. They were taken there because they were not faithful to God. ²The first people to return and live in their own lands and towns were some Israelites, priests, Levites and Temple servants.

³These are the people from the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim and Manasseh who lived in Jerusalem:

⁴Uthai was Ammihud's son. Ammihud was Omri's son. Omri was Imri's son.

Imri was Bani's son. Bani was a descendant of Perez. Perez was Judah's son.

⁵The Shilonites who lived in Jerusalem were Asaiah the oldest son and his sons.

⁶The Zerahites who lived in Jerusalem were Jeuel and his relatives. There were 690 of them in all.

⁷These are the people from the tribe of Benjamin who lived in Jerusalem: Sallu was Meshullam's son. Meshullam was Hodaviah's son. Hodaviah was Hassenuah's son. ⁸Ibneiah was Jeroham's son. Elah was Uzzi's son. Uzzi was Micri's son. And Meshullam was Shephatiah's son. Shephatiah was Reuel's son. Reuel was Ibnijah's son. ⁹The family history of Benjamin shows there were 956 of them living in Jerusalem. All these men were leaders in their families.

¹⁰These are the priests who lived in Jerusalem: Jedaiah, Jehoiarib, Jakin and ¹¹Azariah. Azariah was Hilkiah's son. Hilkiah was Meshullam's son. Meshullam was Zadok's son. Zadok was Meraioth's son. Meraioth was Ahitub's son. Ahitub was the important official responsible for God's Temple. ¹²Also there was Jeroham's son, Adahiah. Jeroham was Pashhur's son. Pashhur was Malkijah's son. And there was Adiel's son, Maasai. Adiel was Jahzerah's son. Jahzerah was Meshullam's son. Meshullam was Meshillemith's son. Meshillemith was Immer's son.

¹³There were 1760 priests. They were leaders of their families. They were responsible for the work of serving in God's Temple.

¹⁴These are the people from the tribe of Levi who lived in Jerusalem: Hasshub's son, Shemaiah. Hasshub was Azrikam's son. Azrikam was Hashabiah's son. Hashabiah was a de-

scendant of Merari. ¹⁵Also living in Jerusalem were Bakbakkar, Heresh, Galal and Mattaniah. Mattaniah was Mica's son. Mica was Zicri's son. Zicri was Asaph's son. ¹⁶Obadiah was Shemaiah's son. Shemaiah was Galal's son. Galal was Jeduthun's son. Berekiah was Asa's son. Asa was Elkannah's son. Berekiah lived in the towns near the people of Netophah.

¹⁷These are the gatekeepers who lived in Jerusalem: Shallum, Akkub, Talmon, Ahiman and their relatives. Shallum was their leader. ¹⁸These men once stood next to the King's Gate on the east side. They were the gatekeepers from the tribe of Levi. ¹⁹Shallum was Kore's son. Kore was Ebiasaph's son. Ebiasaph was Korah's son. Shallum and his brothers from the family of Korah were gatekeepers. They had the job of guarding the entrance to the Holy Tent. They did this just as their ancestors had done before them. Their ancestors had the job of guarding the entrance to the area where the LORD lived among the people. ²⁰In the past Phinehas was in charge of the gatekeepers. Phinehas was Eleazar's son. The LORD was with Phinehas. ²¹Zechariah son of Meshelemiah was the gatekeeper at the entrance to the Holy Tent.

²²In all, there were 212 men who were chosen to guard the gates of the Holy Tent. Their names were recorded in their family histories in their towns. David and Samuel the seer chose these men because they could be trusted. ²³The gatekeepers and their descendants had the responsibility of guarding the gates of the LORD's house, the Holy Tent. ²⁴There were gates on the four sides: east, west, north and south. ²⁵The gatekeepers' relatives who lived in the small towns had to come and help them at cer-

tain times. They came and helped the gatekeepers for seven days each time.

²⁶ There were four gatekeepers who were the leaders of all the gatekeepers. They were Levites. They had the job of caring for the rooms and treasures in God's Temple. ²⁷ They stayed up all night guarding God's Temple, and they had the job of opening God's Temple every morning.

²⁸ Some of the gatekeepers had the job of caring for the dishes used in the Temple services. They counted them when they were brought in. They also counted these dishes when they were taken out.

²⁹ Other gatekeepers were chosen to care for the furniture and the special dishes. They also took care of the flour, wine, oil, incense and special oil.[‡] ³⁰ But it was the priests who had the job of mixing the special oil.

³¹ There was a Levite named Mattithiah who had the job of baking the bread used for the offerings. Mattithiah was Shallum's oldest son. Shallum was from the Korah family. ³² Some of the gatekeepers who were in the Korah family had the job of preparing the bread that was put on the table every Sabbath.

³³ The Levites who were singers and leaders of their families stayed in the rooms at the Temple. They did not have to do other work because they were responsible for the work in the Temple day and night.

³⁴ All these Levites were leaders of their families. They were listed as leaders in their family histories. They lived in Jerusalem.

The Family History of King Saul

³⁵ Jeiel first settled the town of Gibeon, where he lived with his wife Maacah.

³⁶ Jeiel's oldest son was Abdon. Other sons were Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner, Nadab, ³⁷ Gedor, Ahio, Zechariah and Mikloth. ³⁸ Mikloth was Shimeam's father. Jeiel's family lived near their relatives in Jerusalem.

³⁹ Ner was Kish's father. Kish was Saul's father. And Saul was the father of Jonathan, Malki Shua, Abinadab and Esh Baal.

⁴⁰ Jonathan's son was Merib Baal. Merib Baal was Micah's father.

⁴¹ Micah's sons were Pithon, Melech, Tahrea and Ahaz. ⁴² Ahaz was the father of Jadah. [¶] Jadah was the father of Alemeth, Azmaveth and Zimri. Zimri was Moza's father. ⁴³ Moza was the father of Binea. Rephaiah was Binea's son. Eleasah was Rephaiah's son. And Azel was Eleasah's son.

⁴⁴ Azel had six sons. Their names were Azrikam, Bokeru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah and Hanan. They were Azel's children.

The Death of King Saul

10 The Philistines fought against the Israelites, and the Israelites ran away from them. Many Israelites were killed on Mount Gilboa. ² The Philistines continued chasing Saul and his sons. They caught them and killed them. The Philistines killed Saul's sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki Shua. ³ The fighting grew fierce around Saul. The archers closed in and wounded him badly with their arrows. ⁴ Then Saul told the helper who carried his armour, "Pull out your

[‡]9:29 *special oil* Or "perfume". This might be the oil used to anoint priests, prophets and kings. See Exod. 30:22-38.

[¶]9:42 *Jadah* This is from the ancient Greek version and some Hebrew copies. Most Hebrew copies have "Jarah" for "Jadah" in this verse.

sword and kill me with it or else these foreigners[§] will come and make fun of me and kill me!” But Saul’s helper was afraid and refused to kill him. So Saul used his own sword to kill himself by falling on it. ⁵When the helper saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his own sword and died. ⁶So Saul and his three sons died together, and that was the end of his family.

⁷The Israelites who lived in the valley saw that the Israelite army had run away. They also saw that Saul and his sons were dead. So they left their towns and ran away. Then the Philistines went into the towns and settled there.

⁸The next day, the Philistines went to take things from the dead bodies. They found Saul’s body and the bodies of his sons on Mount Gilboa. ⁹The Philistines stripped Saul’s body and took away his head and his armour. They sent messengers through all their country to tell the news to their false gods and to their people. ¹⁰The Philistines put Saul’s armour in the temple of their false gods. They hung Saul’s head in the temple of Dagon.

¹¹All the people living in the town of Jabesh Gilead heard everything that the Philistines had done to Saul. ¹²All the brave men from Jabesh Gilead went to get the bodies of Saul and his sons. They brought them back to Jabesh Gilead. They buried the bones of Saul and his sons under the large tree in Jabesh. Then they mourned and fasted for seven days.

¹³Saul died because he was not faithful to the LORD. He did not obey the LORD. He even tried to get advice by contacting a ghost ¹⁴instead of asking the LORD. That is why the Lord killed

Saul and gave the kingdom to Jesse’s son David.

David Becomes King Over Israel

11 All the Israelites came to David at the town of Hebron. They said to David, “We are your own flesh and blood.” ^{**} ²In the past you led us in war. You led us even though Saul was the king. The LORD said to you ‘David, you will be the shepherd of my people, the Israelites. You will become the leader over my people.’”

³There at Hebron, David made an agreement with the leaders of Israel before the LORD. The leaders anointed David to make him king over Israel. The LORD had promised through Samuel that this would happen.

David Captures Jerusalem

⁴David and all the Israelites went to the city of Jerusalem, which was called Jebus at that time. The people living there were the Jebusites, who had long been in control of that territory. ⁵The Jebusites said to David, “You will never enter our city!” But David captured the fortress of Zion, which became the City of David.

⁶David said, “The one who leads the attack on the Jebusites will become the commander over all my army.” So Joab son of Zeruiah led the attack. Joab became the commander of the army.

⁷David made the fortress his home. That’s why it is named the City of David. ⁸David built up the whole city inside the walls, beginning from the lowest part that needed to be built up. And Joab repaired the other parts of the city. ⁹David’s power increased more and

§**10:4 foreigners** Literally, “uncircumcised”. This means people who did not share in the agreement God made with Israel. See circumcise, circumcision in the Word List.

****11:1 We are ... blood** A way of saying they were David’s relatives.

more because the LORD All-Powerful was with him.

The Three Heroes

¹⁰ These were David's best warriors. Together with all the Israelites, they supported David and made him king, just as the LORD had promised. And they helped his kingdom become strong.

¹¹ Here are the names of David's best warriors:

Jashobeam the Hacmonite^{††} was the leader of the king's special forces.^{‡‡} Jashobeam used his spear to kill 300 men at one time.

¹² Next, there was Eleazar son of Dodai^{¶¶} from Ahoah. Eleazar was one of the Three Heroes.^{§§} ¹³ Eleazar was with David at Pasdammim. The Philistines had come to that place to fight a war. There was a field full of barley there. The Israelites ran away from the Philistines. ¹⁴ But Eleazar and David stood there in that field and defended it. They defeated the Philistines. The LORD gave the Israelites a great victory.

¹⁵ Once David was at the cave of Adullam, and three of the Thirty Heroes* went down to meet him by a rock near the cave. At the same time the Philistine army was camped in the Valley of Rephaim.

¹⁶ Another time David was in the fortress, and a group of Philistine

soldiers was stationed in Bethlehem. ¹⁷ David was thirsty and said, "Oh, if only I could have some water from that well by the gate in Bethlehem." ¹⁸ So the Three Heroes fought their way through the Philistine army and got some water from the well near the city gate in Bethlehem. They took it to David, but he refused to drink it. He poured it on the ground as an offering to the LORD. ¹⁹ David said, "God, I cannot drink this water. It would be like drinking the blood of the men who risked their lives to get this water for me." This is why David refused to drink the water. The Three Heroes did many brave things like that.

Other Brave Soldiers

²⁰ Joab's brother, Abishai, was the leader of the Three Heroes. Abishai used his spear against 300 enemies and killed them. He was as famous as the Three Heroes. ²¹ In fact, Abishai was given more honour than the Three Heroes.[†] He became their commander, even though he was not one of them.

²² Then there was Benaiah son of Jehoiada from Kabzeel. He was the son of a powerful man.[‡] Benaiah did many brave things. He killed two of the best soldiers in Moab. One day when it was snowing, Benaiah went down into a hole in the ground and killed a lion. ²³ Be-

^{††}11:11 *Jashobeam the Hacmonite* This is "Josheb Basshebeth the Tahkemonite" in 2 Sam. 23:8.

^{‡‡}11:11 *king's special forces* A special group of soldiers who formed three-man squads and went on special missions for the king.

^{¶¶}11:12 *Eleazar son of Dodai* Or "Eleazar his cousin".

^{§§}11:12 *Three Heroes* These were David's three bravest soldiers. Also in verses 18-21.

*11:15 *Thirty Heroes* Or "the king's special forces". These men were David's famous group of very brave soldiers. Also in verses 25,42.

[†]11:21 *Three Heroes* Or possibly, "Thirty Heroes".

[‡]11:22 *powerful man* That is, a man from the warrior class ready to protect his people in war.

naiah also killed a big Egyptian soldier. That man was over 2 metres^f tall. The Egyptian had a spear that was very large and heavy. It was as big as the rod on a weaver's loom. Benaiah had only a club. He grabbed the spear in the Egyptian's hand and took it away from him. Then Benaiah killed the Egyptian with his own spear. ²⁴ Benaiah son of Jehoiada did many brave things like that. He was as famous as the Three Heroes. ²⁵ Benaiah was even more famous than the Thirty Heroes, but he was not one of the Three Heroes. David made Benaiah the leader of his bodyguards.

The Thirty Heroes

²⁶ The following men were among the king's special forces:

Asahel, Joab's brother;
 Elhanan son of Dodai from Bethlehem;
²⁷ Shammoth the Harodite;
 Helez the Pelonite;
²⁸ Ira son of Ikkesh from Tekoa;
 Abiezer from Anathoth;
²⁹ Sibbecai the Hushathite;
 Ilai from Ahoah;
³⁰ Maharai from Netophah;
 Heled son of Baanah from Netophah;
³¹ Ithai son of Ribai from Gibeah in Benjamin;
 Benaiah the Pirathonite;
³² Hurai from the Brooks of Gaash;
 Abiel the Arbathite;
³³ Azmaveth the Baharumite;
 Eliahba the Shaalbonite;
³⁴ the sons of Hashem the Gizonite;
 Jonathan son of Shagee the Hararite;
³⁵ Ahiam son of Sacar the Hararite;
 Eliphai son of Ur;
³⁶ Hopher the Mekerathite;
 Ahijah the Pelonite;
³⁷ Hezro the Carmelite;
 Naarai son of Ezbai;

³⁸ Joel, Nathan's brother;
 Mibhar son of Hagri;
³⁹ Zelek the Ammonite;
 Naharai the officer from Beeroth, who carried the armour for Joab son of Zeruiah;
⁴⁰ Ira the Ithrite;
 Gareb the Ithrite;
⁴¹ Uriah the Hittite;
 Zabad son of Ahlai;
⁴² Adina who was the son of Shiza from the tribe of Reuben and was the leader of the tribe of Reuben, but he was also one of the Thirty Heroes;
⁴³ Hanan son of Maacah;
 Joshaphat the Mithnite;
⁴⁴ Uzzia the Ashterathite;
 Shama and Jeiel sons of Hotham from Aroer;
⁴⁵ Jediel son of Shimri and his brother Joha the Tizite;
⁴⁶ Eliel the Mahavite;
 Jeribai and Joshaviah the sons of Elnaam;
 Ithmah the Moabite;
⁴⁷ Eliel, Obed and Jaasiel the Mezobaite.

The Brave Men Who Joined David

12 These are the men who came to David while he was at Ziklag hiding from Saul son of Kish. These men helped David in battle. ² They could shoot arrows from their bows with either their right or left hand. They could also throw stones from their slings with either their right or left hand. They were Saul's relatives from the tribe of Benjamin. They were

³ Ahiezer, their leader and Joash (sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite); Jeziel and Pelet (sons of Azmaveth); Beracah and Jehu from the town of Anathoth; ⁴ Ishmaiah the Gibeonite (a hero and leader of the Thirty

^f11:23 **2 metres** Literally, "5 cubits".

Heroes); Jeremiah, Jahaziel, Johanan and Jozabad from the Gederathites; ⁵Eluzai, Jerimoth, Bealiah and She-mariah; Shephatiah from Haruph; ⁶Elkanah, Isshiah, Azarel, Joezer and Jashobeam, all from the tribe of Korah; ⁷and Joelah and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham from the town of Gedor.

The Gadites

⁸Part of the tribe of Gad joined David at his fortress in the desert. They were brave soldiers trained for battle and skilled with the shield and spear. They looked as fierce as lions, and they could run as fast as gazelles through the mountains.

⁹Ezer was the leader of the army from the tribe of Gad. Obadiah was the second in command. Eliab was the third in command. ¹⁰Mishmannah was the fourth in command. Jeremiah was the fifth in command. ¹¹Attai was the sixth in command. Eliel was the seventh in command. ¹²Johanan was the eighth in command. Elzabad was the ninth in command. ¹³Jeremiah was the tenth in command. Macbannai was the eleventh in command.

¹⁴These men were leaders of the Gadite army. The weakest was worth 100 men, and the strongest was worth 1000 men.[§] ¹⁵They were the soldiers who crossed the Jordan River in the first month of the year, when it was flooded over its banks. They chased away the people in the valley who were on both sides of the river.

Other Soldiers Join David

¹⁶Other men from the tribes of Benjamin and Judah also came to David at the fortress. ¹⁷David went out to meet them and said, "If you have come in peace to help me, I welcome you. Join me. But if you have come to spy on me when I have done nothing wrong, may the God who was worshipped by our ancestors see what you did and punish you."

¹⁸Amasai was the leader of the Thirty Heroes.** Then the Spirit came on Amasai, and he said, "We are yours, David! We are with you, son of Jesse. Peace, peace to you. Peace to those who help you, because your God helps you."

So David welcomed these men into his group and put them in charge of the troops.

¹⁹Some of the men from the tribe of Manasseh also joined David when he went with the Philistines to fight Saul. But the Philistine leaders finally decided that they did not want David's help, and they sent him away. They said, "If David turns against us and goes back to his master Saul, our heads will be cut off!"

²⁰These were the men from Manasseh who joined David when he went to the town of Ziklag: Adnah, Jozabad, Jediahel, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu and Zillethai. All of them were commanders^{††} from the tribe of Manasseh. ²¹They helped David fight against bad men who were going around the country and stealing things from people. All these men of Manasseh

§12:14 *The weakest ... 1000 men* Or "Those of low rank led 100 men; those of high rank led 1000 men."

**12:18 *Thirty Heroes* Or "The Three" or "the chariot officers".

††12:20 *commanders* Literally, "leaders over 1000 men".

were brave soldiers. They became leaders in David's army.

²² More and more men came every day to help David. So he had a large and powerful army.

Other Men Join David at Hebron

²³ These are the numbers of the men who came to David at the town of Hebron. These men were ready for battle. They came to give Saul's kingdom to David. That is what the LORD said would happen. This is their number:

²⁴ From the tribe of Judah there were 6800 men ready for battle. They carried shields and spears.

²⁵ From the tribe of Simeon there were 7100 men. They were brave soldiers ready for battle.

²⁶ From the tribe of Levi there were 4600 men. ²⁷ Jehoiada was in that group. He was a leader from Aaron's family. There were 3700 men with Jehoiada. ²⁸ Zadok was also in that group. He was a brave young soldier. He came with 22 officers from his family.

²⁹ From the tribe of Benjamin there were 3000 men. They were Saul's relatives. Most of them had stayed faithful to Saul's family until then.

³⁰ From the tribe of Ephraim there were 20,800 men. They were brave soldiers. They were famous men in their own families.

³¹ From half the tribe of Manasseh there were 18,000 men. They were called by name to come and make David king.

³² From the family of Issachar there were 200 wise leaders. These men could see clearly what was happening at the time and what Israel should do. Their relatives were with them and under their command.

³³ From the tribe of Zebulun there were 50,000 trained soldiers. They were trained to use all kinds of weapons and were very loyal to David.

³⁴ From the tribe of Naphtali there were 1000 officers. They had 37,000 men with them. These men carried shields and spears.

³⁵ From the tribe of Dan there were 28,600 men ready for battle.

³⁶ From the tribe of Asher there were 40,000 trained soldiers ready for battle.

³⁷ From the east side of the Jordan River, there were 120,000 men from the tribes of Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh. They had all kinds of weapons.

³⁸ All these men were brave fighters. They came to the town of Hebron for one reason—to make David king of all Israel. And all the other Israelites agreed that David should be king. ³⁹ The men spent three days at Hebron with David. They ate and drank, because their relatives had prepared food for them.

⁴⁰ Also, their neighbours from the areas where the tribes of Issachar, Zebulun and Naphtali live brought food on donkeys, camels, mules and cattle. They brought large amounts of flour, fig cakes, raisins, wine, oil, cattle and sheep. The people in Israel were very happy.

Bringing Back the Box of the Agreement

13 David talked with all the officers of his army, the commanders[‡] and captains[¶]. ² Then he called the Israelites together and said, "If you think it is a good idea, and if it is what the LORD our God wants, let us send a message to our people in all the areas of Israel. Let's also send the message to the priests and

[‡]13:1 *commanders* Literally, "leaders of 1000 men".

[¶]13:1 *captains* Literally, "leaders of 100 men".

Levites who live with our people in their towns and the fields near those towns. Let the message tell them to come and join us. ³Let's bring our God's Holy Box back to us in Jerusalem. We did not pay attention to it while Saul was king." ⁴So all the Israelites agreed with David. They all thought it was the right thing to do.

⁵So David gathered all the Israelites from the Shihor River in Egypt to the town of Lebo Hamath. They came together to bring the Box of the Agreement back from the town of Kiriath Jearim. ⁶David and all the Israelites with him went to Baalah of Judah. (Baalah is another name for Kiriath Jearim.) They went there to get the Holy Box of God the LORD. He is the one who sits as king above the winged creatures that are on the Box, which is called by his name.

⁷The people moved God's Holy Box from Abinadab's house and put it on a new cart. Uzzah and Ahio were guiding the cart.

⁸David and all the Israelites were dancing with all their might to please God. They were singing songs and playing harps, lyres, drums, cymbals and trumpets.

⁹When they came to Kidon's threshing floor, the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah reached out and took hold of the Holy Box to keep it from falling. ¹⁰The LORD became angry with Uzzah and struck him dead because he had touched the Holy Box. So Uzzah died there before God. ¹¹And David was angry because the LORD had killed Uzzah in anger. So that place has been called "Perez Uzzah"^{§§} ever since then.

¹²That day David began to fear what God might do to him. So he said, "Should I really be the one in charge of God's Holy Box?" ¹³So he did not take the Holy

Box with him to the City of David. He left it at the house of Obed-Edom, who was from the city of Gath. ¹⁴God's Holy Box stayed at the house of Obed-Edom for three months, and the LORD blessed Obed-Edom's family and everything he owned.

David's Kingdom Grows

14 Hiram was king of the city of Tyre. He sent messengers to David. He also sent cedar logs, stonecutters and carpenters to David. Hiram sent them to build a house for David. ²Then David knew that the LORD had really made him king of Israel. And he had made his kingdom large and powerful for the good of his people Israel.

³David married more women in the city of Jerusalem and had more sons and daughters. ⁴These are the names of David's children born in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, ⁵Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet, ⁶No-gah, Nepheg, Japhia, ⁷Elishama, Beelida and Eliphelet.

David Defeats the Philistines

⁸When the Philistines heard that the Israelites had anointed David to be the king of Israel, they sent their whole army up to capture him. But David heard about it and went out to fight them. ⁹When the Philistines arrived, they attacked the people living in the Valley of Rephaim and stole their things. ¹⁰David asked God, "Should I go and fight the Philistines? Will you help me defeat them?"

The LORD answered David, "Go! I will make sure you defeat them."

¹¹Then David and his men went up to Baal Perazim and defeated the Philistines there. He said, "The LORD

^{§§}13:11 *Perez Uzzah* This name means "the outburst at Uzzah".

used me to break through my enemies like water breaking through a dam.” David named that place Baal Perazim because it means, “The LORD breaks through.” ¹²The Philistines left their idols behind at Baal Perazim, and David ordered his men to burn them.

Another Victory Over the Philistines

¹³Once again the Philistines attacked the people living in the Valley of Rephaim. ¹⁴David prayed to God again and got this answer: “Don’t go up the valley. Go around behind and attack them from the balsam trees. ¹⁵When you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the trees, go out and attack them. That is the sign that God has gone out in front of you to defeat the Philistines.”

¹⁶David did what God told him to do. So David and his men defeated the Philistine army. They chased them from Gibeon to Gezer, killing them all along the way.

¹⁷So David became famous in every land. The LORD made all the nations afraid of him.

The Box of the Agreement in Jerusalem

15 David built houses for himself in the City of David. Then he prepared a place to put God’s Holy Box. He set up a tent for it. ²Then he said, “Only the Levites should carry God’s Holy Box. The LORD chose them to carry it and to serve him forever.”

³David told all the Israelites to meet together at Jerusalem to join in bringing the LORD’s Holy Box to the place he had prepared for it. ⁴He called together the descendants of Aaron and the Levites.

⁵There were 120 people from the tribe of Kohath. Uriel was their leader.

⁶There were 220 people from the tribe of Merari. Asaiah was their leader.

⁷There were 130 people from the tribe of Gershon. Joel was their leader.

⁸There were 200 people from the tribe of Elizaphan. Shemaiah was their leader.

⁹There were 80 people from the tribe of Hebron. Eliel was their leader.

¹⁰There were 112 people from the tribe of Uzziel. Amminadab was their leader.

David Talks to the Priests and Levites

¹¹Then David asked the priests, Zadok and Abiathar, to come to him. David also asked these Levites to come to him: Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel and Amminadab. ¹²David said to them, “You are the leaders from the tribe of Levi. You and the other Levites must make yourselves holy.* Then bring the Holy Box of the LORD, the God of Israel, to the place I have made for it. ¹³The first time we tried to bring it to Jerusalem, we did not ask the LORD about the right way to move it. And he punished us because you Levites did not carry it.”

¹⁴Then the priests and Levites made themselves holy so that they could carry the Holy Box of the LORD, the God of Israel. ¹⁵The Levites used the special poles to carry God’s Holy Box on their shoulders, the way Moses had commanded. They carried it just as the LORD had said.

The Singers

¹⁶David told the Levite leaders to choose some singers from among the Levites. The singers were to take their lyres, harps and cymbals and sing joyful songs.

* **15:12 holy** Here, this means “prepared to serve the LORD”. Also in verse 14.

¹⁷Then the Levites chose Heman and his relatives Asaph and Ethan. Heman was the son of Joel, and Asaph was the son of Berekiah. Ethan was the son of Kushaiah, who was from the Merari family group. ¹⁸There was also a second group of Levites. They were Zechariah, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom and Jeiel. These men were the Levite guards.

¹⁹The singers Heman, Asaph and Ethan were chosen to play the bronze cymbals. ²⁰Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah and Benaiah played the small harps.† ²¹Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, Jeiel and Azariah played the large harps.‡ ²²The Levite leader Kenaniah was in charge of the singing. Kenaniah had this job because he was very skilled at singing.

²³Berekiah and Elkanah were two of the guards for the Holy Box. ²⁴The priests Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah and Eliezer had the job of blowing trumpets as they walked in front of God's Holy Box. Obed-Edom and Jehiah were the other guards for the Holy Box.

²⁵David, the leaders of Israel and the army commanders went to get the Box of the LORD's Agreement. They brought it out from Obed-Edom's house. Everyone was very happy! ²⁶Because God helped the Levites who carried the Box of the LORD's Agreement, they sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams to him. ²⁷All the Levites who carried the Holy Box wore robes made from fine linen. Kenaniah, the man in charge of

the singing, and all the singers had robes made from fine linen. David also wore a robe of fine linen and an ephod of fine linen.

²⁸So all the Israelites joined in bringing up the Box of the LORD's Agreement. They shouted, they blew rams' horns and trumpets, and they played cymbals, lyres and harps.

²⁹When the Box of the LORD's Agreement arrived at the City of David, Saul's daughter Michal was looking through a window. When she saw King David dancing and playing, she felt disgusted with him.

16 The Levites brought God's Holy Box and put it inside the tent David had set up for it. Then they offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to God. ²After David had finished giving the burnt offerings and the fellowship offerings, he used the LORD's name to bless the people. ³Then he gave food to the whole Israelite crowd. He gave a loaf of bread, a lump of dates and a lump of raisins to every man and woman there.

⁴Then David chose some of the Levites to serve before the LORD's Holy Box. They had the job of celebrating and giving thanks and praise to the LORD, the God of Israel. ⁵Asaph was the leader of the first group. His group played the cymbals. Zechariah was the leader of the second group. The other Levites were Uzziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-Edom and Jeiel. These men played the lyres and harps. ⁶Benaiah and Jahaziel were the priests who always blew the trumpets before the Box of God's Agreement. ⁷This was when David first gave Asaph and the

†**15:20** The Hebrew text adds "according to the alamoht", which is probably a musical term.

‡**15:21** The Hebrew text adds "according to the sheminith", which is probably a musical term.

other Levites the job of singing praises to the LORD.

David's Song of Thanks

⁸ Give thanks to the LORD and call out to him!

Tell the nations what he has done!

⁹ Sing to him; sing praises to him.

Tell about the amazing things he has done.

¹⁰ Be proud of his holy name.

You followers of the LORD, be happy!

¹¹ Depend on the LORD for strength.

Always go to him for help.

¹² Remember the amazing things he has done.

Remember his miracles and his fair decisions.

¹³ The people of Israel are his servants.

The descendants of Jacob are his chosen people.

¹⁴ The LORD is our God.

He rules the whole world.

¹⁵ Remember his agreement forever, the promise he gave that will never end.

¹⁶ Remember the agreement he made with Abraham.

Remember his promise to Isaac.

¹⁷ He gave it as a law for Jacob,

as an agreement with Israel that will last forever.

¹⁸ He said, "I will give you the land of Canaan.

It will be your very own."

¹⁹ At the time God said this, there were only a few of his people,

and they were immigrants in the land of Canaan.

²⁰ They travelled around from nation to nation,

from one kingdom to another.

²¹ But the Lord did not let anyone mistreat them.

He warned kings not to harm them.

²² He said, "Don't hurt my chosen people.

Don't hurt my prophets."

²³ Let the whole world sing to the LORD! Tell the good news every day about how he saves us.

²⁴ Tell all the nations how wonderful he is!

Tell people everywhere about the amazing things he does.

²⁵ The LORD is great and worthy of praise.

He is more awesome than all the gods.

²⁶ All the gods in other nations are nothing but statues,

but the LORD made the heavens!

²⁷ He lives in the presence of glory and honour.

His Temple is a place of power and joy.

²⁸ Praise the LORD, all people of every nation;

praise the LORD's glory and power!

²⁹ Give the LORD praise worthy of his glory.

Come into his presence with your offerings.

Worship the LORD in all his holy beauty.

³⁰ Everyone on earth should tremble before him!

But the world stands firm and cannot be moved.

³¹ Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be happy!

Let people everywhere say, "The LORD rules!"

³² Let the sea and everything in it shout for joy!

Let the fields and everything in them be happy!

³³ The trees of the forest will sing for joy when they see the LORD,

because he is coming to rule the world.

³⁴ Give thanks to the LORD because he is good.

His faithful love will continue forever.

³⁵ Say to him, "Save us, God our Saviour. Bring us back and save us from the other nations.

Then we will give thanks to your holy name and joyfully praise you.”

³⁶Praise the LORD, the God of Israel! He always was and will always be worthy of praise!

All the people praised the LORD and said “Amen!”

³⁷Then David left Asaph and his relatives there in front of the Box of the LORD’s Agreement. David left them there to serve in front of it every day. ³⁸He also left Obed-Edom and 68 other Levites to serve with them. Obed-Edom and Hosah were guards. Obed-Edom was Jeduthun’s son.

³⁹David left Zadok the priest and the other priests who served with him in front of the LORD’s Tent^f at the place of worship in Gibeon. ⁴⁰Every morning and evening Zadok and the other priests offered burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar for burnt offerings. They did this to follow the rules written in the Law of the LORD, which he had given Israel. ⁴¹Heman, Jeduthun and all the other Levites were chosen by name to praise the LORD, singing, “His faithful love will continue forever.” ⁴²Heman and Jeduthun had the job of blowing the trumpets and playing cymbals. They also had the job of playing other musical instruments when songs were sung to God. Jeduthun’s sons guarded the gates.

⁴³After the celebration, all the people left and went home. David also went home to bless his family.

God’s Promise to David

17 After David had moved into his palace, he said to Nathan the prophet, “Look, I am living in this beau-

tiful palace made of cedar, but the Box of the LORD’s Agreement sits in a tent.”

²Nathan answered David, “You must have a plan in mind. Go ahead and do it. God is with you.”

³But that night, God said to Nathan:

⁴“Go and tell my servant David that this is what the LORD says: ‘You are not the one to build a house for me to live in. ⁵From the time I brought Israel out of Egypt until now, I have not lived in a house. I have lived in a tent that has been moved from one place to another. ⁶But in all my travels with the Israelites, I have never complained to any of the leaders that I commanded to care for my people Israel. I have never said anything to any of them about building me a house made of cedar.’

⁷“Now, tell my servant David that this is what the LORD All-Powerful says: ‘I took you from the fields and from taking care of the sheep. I made you the leader of my people Israel. ⁸I have been with you every place you have gone. I have defeated your enemies for you. Now I will make you one of the most famous people on earth. ⁹I have chosen a place for my people, the Israelites, and have settled them there. I have given them their own place to live so that they will not have to move from place to place any more. Evil people will not hurt them as they did ¹⁰from the time that I chose leaders to rule my people Israel. And I will also defeat all your enemies.

“I promise you that the LORD will make your family a family of

^f16:39 *LORD’s Tent* Or “Tabernacle”. Also called the “Meeting Tent”. The people would go to this tent to meet with God. They used this tent until Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem.

kings. ¹¹ When you die and join your ancestors, I will choose someone from your family, one of your own sons, to be the new king. And I will make his kingdom strong. ¹² He will be the one to build a house for me, and I will make sure that his kingdom continues forever. ¹³ I will never take away my love and support from him, as I did from Saul, who ruled before you. ¹⁴ I will put him in charge of my people and my kingdom forever. His family of kings will never end!”

¹⁵ Nathan told David about the vision and everything God had said.

David's Prayer

¹⁶ Then King David went to the Holy Tent and sat before the LORD. David said:

“Why am I so important to you? Why have you blessed my family so much? We are not worthy of all that you have done for us. ¹⁷ This would be more than enough, Lord GOD, but you have already said that you want to do much more for me, your servant! You have spoken about a great future for my family. LORD God, you talk about me as if I am a very important person. ¹⁸ What can I say? You have done so much for me. You honour me, your servant. ¹⁹ LORD, you are the one who decided to do all these wonderful things for me and to let me know what you have planned.

²⁰ “There is no one like you, LORD. You are the only true God, as we know from all that we have heard about you. ²¹ And there is no nation on earth like your people Israel. They were slaves, but you took them out of Egypt and made them free. You made them your people.

You did great and wonderful things for them and for your land. You forced other nations and their gods out of the land to make way for your people. These are the same people you freed from Egypt to be yours. ²² You took Israel to be your people forever, and you, LORD, became their God!

²³ “Now, LORD, never forget these promises you have made about me and my family. Please do what you have promised! ²⁴ Then your name will be honoured forever. And people will say, ‘The LORD All-Powerful is the God of Israel!’ And with your blessing, the family of your servant David will continue to rule forever.

²⁵ “My God, you have let me know what you have planned. You said, ‘I will make your family a family of kings.’ That is why I, your servant, have the courage to pray this prayer to you. ²⁶ LORD, you are God, and you have promised to do these good things for me, your servant. ²⁷ You have been kind enough to bless my family so that they will stand before you and serve you forever. LORD, you yourself have blessed my family with a blessing that will continue forever.”

David Wins Many Wars

18 Later, David attacked the Philistines and defeated them. He took the town of Gath and the other small towns around it from the Philistines.

² Then David defeated the Moabites. They were forced to accept David as their ruler and pay taxes to him.

³ David also fought against Hadadezer's army. Hadadezer was the king of Zobah. David fought against that army all the way to the town of

Hamath. David did this when he went to set up a monument for himself at the Euphrates River.[§] ⁴David took 1000 chariots, 7000 chariot drivers and 20,000 soldiers from Hadadezer. David also crippled most of Hadadezer's horses that were used for pulling chariots. But David saved enough horses to pull 100 chariots.

⁵The Arameans from Damascus came to help King Hadadezer of Zobah. But David defeated and killed 22,000 Aramean soldiers. ⁶Then David put fortresses in the city of Damascus in Aram. The Arameans came under David's control and paid taxes to him. So the LORD gave victory to David everywhere he went.

⁷David took the gold shields from Hadadezer's army leaders and brought them to Jerusalem. ⁸David also took many things made of bronze from the towns of Tebah and Cun. These towns belonged to Hadadezer. Later, Solomon used this bronze to make the large bronze basin called "the sea", the bronze pillars and other things made from bronze for the Temple.

⁹King Toi of Hamath heard that David had defeated the whole army of King Hadadezer. ¹⁰So Toi sent his son Hadoram to King David to ask for peace and to bless him. He did this because David had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him. Hadadezer had been at war with Toi before. Hadoram gave David gifts made of gold, silver and bronze. ¹¹David took these things and dedicated them to the LORD, as he had always done when he defeated other nations, like Edom, Moab, the Ammonites, the Philistines and Amalekites.

¹²Abishai son of Zeruiah killed 18,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt. ¹³Abishai also put fortresses in Edom, and all the Edomites became David's servants. The LORD gave victory to David everywhere he went.

David's Important Officials

¹⁴David was king over all Israel. He did what was right and fair for everyone. ¹⁵Joab son of Zeruiah was the commander of David's army. Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud wrote about the things David did. ¹⁶Zadok and Abimelech were the priests. Zadok was Ahitub's son, and Abimelech was Abiathar's son. Shavsha was the scribe. ¹⁷Benaiah was responsible for leading the Kerethites and Pelethites.** Benaiah was Jehoiada's son. And David's sons were important officials. They served at King David's side.

The Ammonites Shame David's Men

19 Nahash was king of the Ammonites. When he died, his son Hanun became the new king. ²David said, "Nahash was kind to me, so I will be kind to his son." So David sent messengers to Hanun to tell him that he was sorry about his father's death.

But when David's messengers arrived in the land of the Ammonites, ³the Ammonite leaders warned Hanun. They said, "Do you think that David is really wanting to honour your father by sending these men to comfort you? No, David sent these men as spies to gather information about your land. He plans to attack and take it from you!" ⁴So Hanun took David's messengers and shaved

[§]18:3 *David did this ... the Euphrates River* Or "David did this because Hadadezer tried to spread his kingdom all the way to the Euphrates River."

**18:17 *Kerethites and Pelethites* These were the king's bodyguards.

off their beards.^{††} Then he cut off their clothes at the hip and sent them away.

⁵The men were too ashamed to go home. When David heard what had happened, he sent them this message: “Stay there in Jericho until your beards grow back. Then you can come home.”

⁶The Ammonites saw that they had become hated enemies of David. Then Hanun and the Ammonites used 34,000 kilogrammes^{‡‡} of silver to buy chariots and chariot drivers from northern Mesopotamia. They also got chariots and chariot drivers from the towns of Maacah and Zobah in Aram. ⁷The Ammonites bought 32,000 chariots. They also paid the king of Maacah and his army to come and help them. He and his army came and set up a camp near the town of Medeba. They were joined by the Ammonite troops who were called out of their towns to come and get ready for battle.

⁸When David heard about this, he sent Joab and his whole army of warriors to fight the Ammonites. ⁹The Ammonites came out and got ready for battle in front of the city gate. The kings who had come to help formed a separate group and prepared to fight in the fields nearby.

¹⁰Joab saw that there were enemies in front of him and behind him. So he chose some of the best Israelite soldiers and lined them up for battle against the Arameans. ¹¹He put the rest of the Israelite army under the command of his brother Abishai, who prepared them to fight against the Ammonites. ¹²Joab said to Abishai, “If the Arameans are too strong for me, you come and help me. But if the Ammonites are too strong for you, I will come and help you. ¹³Be

strong, and let’s fight bravely for our people and for the cities of our God. The LORD will do what he decides is right.”

¹⁴When Joab and his men marched forward to attack, the Arameans ran away from them. ¹⁵And when the Ammonites saw that the Arameans were running away, they ran away from Abishai and went back into their city. Then Joab went back to Jerusalem.

¹⁶When the Arameans saw that Israel had defeated them, they sent messengers to call for more Aramean troops from the other side of the Euphrates River. Shophach, the commander of Hadadezer’s army, led all these troops.

¹⁷When David heard about this, he gathered all the Israelite troops. He led them across the Jordan River and lined them up facing the Arameans. When David gave his troops the command to attack, the Arameans fought against them. ¹⁸But again the Arameans ran away from the Israelites. David and his army killed 7000 Aramean chariot drivers and 40,000 Aramean soldiers. They also killed Shophach, the commander of the Aramean army.

¹⁹When the kings who were under Hadadezer’s rule saw that Israel had defeated them, they made peace with David and became his servants. So the Arameans were not willing to help the Ammonites any more.

Joab Destroys the Ammonites

20 In the spring, the usual time for kings to go to war, Joab led the army of Israel out to battle. While David stayed in Jerusalem, Joab led his army in attacks on the land of the Ammonites and destroyed many towns.

^{††}19:4 *shaved off their beards* This was an insult to an Israelite man, who was forbidden to cut the corners of his beard. See Lev. 19:27.

^{‡‡}19:6 *34,000 kilogrammes* Literally, “1000 talents”.

When they came to Rabbah, they set up camp around the city and prepared their attack. They fought against Rabbah until they destroyed it.

²David took the crown off their king's head.[¶] The crown weighed 34 kilogrammes.^{§§} It was made of gold and had precious stones on it. His men put the crown on David's head. David also took many other valuable things out of the city. ³He forced the people who lived there to leave, and he put them to work using saws, iron picks and axes. This is what he did with the people in all the Ammonite towns. Then David and his whole army went back to Jerusalem.

Philistine Giants Are Killed

⁴Later, the Israelites went to war against the Philistines at Gezer. During the battle, Sibbecai from Hushah killed Sippai, one of the descendants of the giant Rephaites,^{*} and the Israelites defeated the Philistines.

⁵Another time, the Israelites were in a battle against the Philistines, and Elhanan son of Jair killed Lahmi, the brother of Goliath from Gath. Lahmi's spear was as big as a post.[†]

⁶In another battle with the Philistines at Gath, they fought against a very large man who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot. He had 24 fingers and toes in all. He also was a descendant of the giant Rephaites.[‡] He shouted insults and made fun of the Israelites.

But Jonathan, the son of David's brother Shimea, killed this man.

⁸David and his men killed these three Philistine warriors, who were descendants of the giant Rephaites from Gath.

David Sins by Counting Israel

21 Satan[‡] caused trouble for the Israelites by making David want to find out how many warriors he had. ²So David said to Joab and the commanders of the army, "Go and count all the Israelite troops, from Beersheba to Dan.[¶] Then tell me so that I will know how many there are."

³But Joab answered, "May the LORD give you 100 times as many people as you have now! But, my lord and king, they are all your servants. Why do you need to know how many troops there are? You will make all the Israelites guilty of sin!"

⁴But King David refused to change his order. So Joab left and went through the whole land of Israel to count the troops. Then he returned to Jerusalem ⁵and told David how many troops there were. There were 1,100,000 men in Israel who could use a sword, and there were 470,000 in Judah. ⁶But Joab did not count the tribes of Levi and Benjamin because he totally disagreed with King David's order. ⁷And God was not pleased with what David had done, so he punished Israel.

[¶]20:2 *their king's head* Or "Milcom's head". Milcom was a false god that the Ammonites worshipped.

^{§§}20:2 *34 kilogrammes* Literally, "1 talent".

^{*}20:4 *descendants of the giant Rephaites* Literally, "servants (or children) of Rapha". See 2 Sam. 21:16 and footnote for another possible meaning of these words.

[†]20:5 *post* Literally, "a weaver's rod", the large wooden beam across a loom.

[‡]21:1 *Satan* Or "An adversary", someone who was against the king.

[¶]21:2 *from Beersheba to Dan* The whole land of Israel. Beersheba was a town in the southern part of Judah, and Dan was a town in the northern part of Israel.

God Punishes Israel

⁸ Then David said to God, "I have committed a terrible sin by counting the Israelite troops. This was a foolish thing to do. But now, I beg you to forgive me, your servant."

⁹ Then the LORD said to Gad, David's seer, ¹⁰ "Go and tell David that this is what the LORD says: 'There are three ways you can be punished. Choose the one you want.'"

¹¹ So Gad went to David and said to him, "This is what the LORD says: 'Choose the punishment you want: ¹² Do you want three years without enough food to feed your people? Or do you want three months of suffering defeat and destruction from the armies of your enemies? Or do you want three days of punishment from the LORD? This punishment will be a terrible disease spreading through the land and the angel of the LORD killing people everywhere in Israel.' Now, you must decide the answer you want me to give to the LORD, the one who sent me."

¹³ David said to Gad, "This is very upsetting! But the LORD is very merciful, so let him punish me, and not anyone else."

¹⁴ So the LORD sent a terrible disease on Israel, and 70,000 people died. ¹⁵ God sent an angel to destroy Jerusalem. But when the LORD saw the angel preparing to destroy the city, he felt sorry for all the suffering. And he said to the angel who was destroying the people, "Stop! That is enough!" When the LORD said this, his angel was standing at the threshing floor of Araunah[§] the Jebusite.**

¹⁶ David looked up and saw the angel of the LORD in the sky. The angel was holding his sword high, ready to strike Jerusalem. David and the leaders bowed their faces to the ground. They had put on rags to show their sorrow. ¹⁷ David said to God, "I am the one who sinned. I gave the order for the people to be counted! I did wrong. These people who obeyed me like sheep have done nothing wrong. LORD my God, let me and my family be the ones you punish, but stop this terrible disease that is killing your people."

David Buys Araunah's Threshing Floor

¹⁸ Then the angel of the LORD spoke to Gad. He said, "Tell David to build an altar to honour the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite." ¹⁹ When David heard this message from Gad, he went to do what the LORD had commanded.

²⁰ Araunah was threshing wheat with his four sons. He turned around and saw the angel there. His sons ran and hid.

²¹ Then Araunah saw King David coming towards him. He went and bowed down with his face to the ground in front of David.

²² David said to Araunah, "Let me buy your threshing floor so that I can build an altar on it to honour the LORD. Then people will stop dying from this terrible disease. I will pay you the full price for it."

²³ Araunah said to David, "Take this threshing floor, my lord and king. Do whatever you want with it. Look, I have cattle here that I will give you for the burnt offering. And there is wheat that

[§]21:15 *Araunah* In Hebrew, "Ornan". Also in verses 18-25,28.

**21:15 *Jebusite* A person who lived in Jerusalem before the Israelites took the city. "Jebus" was the old name for Jerusalem.

you can have for the grain offering. You can also use the threshing boards as wood for the fire. I give it all to you!”

²⁴ But King David answered Araunah, “No, I will pay you the full price. I will not take anything that is yours and give it to the LORD. I will not give offerings that cost me nothing.”

²⁵ So David gave Araunah 7 kilogrammes^{††} of gold for the threshing floor. ²⁶ Then David built an altar there to honour the LORD, and he offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. He prayed, and the LORD answered him by sending fire down from heaven that burned up the offering on the altar. ²⁷ Then the LORD commanded the angel to put his sword back into its sheath.

²⁸ When David saw that the LORD had answered him on the threshing floor of Araunah, he offered more sacrifices there. ²⁹ He offered sacrifices there because he could not go to the altar for burnt offerings that was with the LORD’s Holy Tent. That altar and the Tent that Moses had made in the desert were still at the place of worship in the town of Gibeon. ³⁰ And David could not go to Gibeon even to ask God what to do because he was afraid of the sword there that was held by the angel of the LORD.

22 LORD God will be here, and it will be the place for the altar where burnt offerings will be made for the Israelites.”

David Makes Plans for the Temple

² David gave an order for the immigrants living in the land of Israel to be brought together. He chose stonemasons from that group. Their job was to cut stones to be used for building God’s Tem-

ple. ³ David got iron for making nails and hinges for the gate doors. He also got more bronze than could be weighed ⁴ and more cedar logs than could be counted. The people from the cities of Sidon and Tyre brought many cedar logs to David.

⁵ David said, “We should build a very great Temple for the LORD, but my son Solomon is young and does not yet have enough experience to know how to do it well. It should be so great and beautiful that it will be famous among all the nations. So I will prepare what is needed to build it.” So before David died he prepared everything needed to build a great Temple.

⁶ Then David called for his son Solomon and told him to build the Temple for the LORD, the God of Israel. ⁷ David said to Solomon, “My son, I wanted to build a temple for the name of the LORD my God. ⁸ But the LORD told me: David, you have fought many wars and you have killed many people. So you cannot build a temple for my name. ⁹ But you will have a son who will be a man of peace. I will give him peace from his enemies along the borders of his land. His name will be Solomon.^{‡‡} And I will give Israel peace and quiet during the time that he is king. ¹⁰ He is the one who will build a temple to honour my name. He will be my son, and I will be his Father. I will make his kingdom strong, and someone from his family will rule Israel forever!”

¹¹ “Now, son, may the LORD be with you. May you be successful and build the Temple for the LORD your God, as he said you would. ¹² He will make you the king of Israel. May the LORD give you wisdom and understanding so that you

^{††}21:25 **7 kilogrammes** Literally, “600 shekels”.

^{‡‡}22:9 **Solomon** This name is like the Hebrew word meaning “peace”.

can lead the people and obey the Law of the LORD your God. ¹³And you will have success, if you are careful to obey the rules and laws that the LORD gave Moses for Israel. Be strong and brave. Don't be afraid.

¹⁴"Solomon, I have worked hard making plans for building the LORD's Temple. I have given 3400 tonnes[¶] of gold and over 34,000 tonnes^{§§} of silver. I have given so much bronze and iron that it cannot be weighed. And I have given wood and stone. Solomon, you can add to them. ¹⁵You have many stonecutters and carpenters. You have men skilled in every kind of work. ¹⁶They are skilled in working with gold, silver, bronze and iron. You have more skilled workers than can be counted. Now begin the work. And may the LORD be with you."

¹⁷Then David ordered all the leaders of Israel to help his son Solomon. ¹⁸David said to these leaders, "The LORD your God is with you. He has given you a time of peace. He helped me defeat the people living around us. The LORD and his people are now in control of this land. ¹⁹Now give your heart and soul to the LORD your God, and do what he says. Build the holy place of the LORD God. Then bring the Box of the LORD's Agreement and all the other holy things into the Temple built for the LORD's name."

The Levites Work in the Temple

23 David became an old man, so he made his son Solomon the new king of Israel. ²David called together all the leaders of Israel and the priests and Levites too. ³David counted the Levites who were 30 years old and older.

All together there were 38,000 Levites. ⁴David said, "24,000 will supervise the work of building the LORD's Temple, 6000 will be court officers and judges, ⁵4000 will be gatekeepers and 4000 will be musicians. I made special musical instruments for them. They will use them to praise the LORD."

⁶David separated the Levites into three groups. They were the tribes of Levi's three sons, Gershon, Kohath and Merari.

The Gershon Family Group

⁷From the tribe of Gershon there were Ladan and Shimei.

⁸Ladan had three sons. His oldest son was Jehiel. His other sons were Zethan and Joel.

⁹Shimei's sons were Shelomoth, Haziel and Haran. These three sons were leaders in Ladan's families.

¹⁰Shimei had four sons. They were Jahath, Ziza, Jeush and Beriah. ¹¹Jahath was the oldest son and Ziza was the second son. But Jeush and Beriah did not have many children. So Jeush and Beriah were counted like one family.

The Kohath Family Group

¹²Kohath had four sons. They were Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel.

¹³Amram's sons were Aaron and Moses. Aaron was chosen for a special work. He and his descendants were chosen to always be the ones to do this special work—to prepare the holy things for the Temple service. They were the ones to burn the incense before the LORD, to serve him as priests and give blessings to the people in his name forever.

[¶]22:14 **3400 tonnes** Literally, "100,000 talents".

^{§§}22:14 **34,000 tonnes** Literally, "1,000,000 talents".

¹⁴ Moses was the man of God, and his sons were part of the tribe of Levi. ¹⁵ Moses' sons were Gershom and Eliezer. ¹⁶ Gershom's oldest son was Shubael. ¹⁷ Eliezer's oldest son was Rehabiah. Eliezer had no other sons. But Rehabiah had very many sons.

¹⁸ Izhar's oldest son was Shelomith.

¹⁹ Hebron's oldest son was Jeriah. Hebron's second son was Amariah. Jahaziel was the third son, and Jekameam was the fourth son.

²⁰ Uzziel's oldest son was Micah, and Ishiah was his second son.

The Merari Family Group

²¹ Merari's sons were Mahli and Mushi. Mahli's sons were Eleazar and Kish.

²² Eleazar died without having sons. He only had daughters. Eleazar's daughters married their own relatives. Their relatives were Kish's sons.

²³ Mushi's sons were Mahli, Eder and Jeremoth. There were three sons in all.

The Levites' Work

²⁴ These were Levi's descendants grouped by their families. They were the leaders of their family groups, and each of them was listed by name. Everyone on the list was 20 years old or older, the age when they could serve in the LORD's Temple.

²⁵ David had said, "The LORD, the God of Israel, has given peace to his people. And he has come to live in Jerusalem forever. ²⁶ So the Levites don't need to carry the Holy Tent or any of the things used in its services any more."

²⁷ David's last instructions for the Israelites were to count the descendants from the tribe of Levi. They counted the Levite men who were 20 years old and older.

²⁸ The Levites had the job of helping the priests, Aaron's descendants, in their

work at the LORD's Temple. They also took care of the Temple courtyard and the side rooms in the Temple. They made sure that all the holy things were kept pure and did any other work needed for God's Temple. ²⁹ They were responsible for the holy bread that was set out on the table in the Temple. And they were in charge of preparing the flour for the grain offerings, the bread made without yeast and the cakes mixed with olive oil. They did all the measuring and mixing of these offerings. ³⁰ The Levites stood every morning and gave thanks and praise to the LORD. They also did this every evening. ³¹ The Levites prepared all the burnt offerings to the LORD on the Sabbath days, during New Moon celebrations and on the other special meeting days. They served before the LORD every day. There were special rules for how many Levites should serve each time. ³² So the Levites did everything that they were supposed to do. They took care of the Holy Tent and the Holy Place. And they helped their relatives, Aaron's descendants, in their work at the LORD's Temple.

The Groups of the Priests

24 Aaron's descendants were divided into groups for different kinds of work. Aaron's sons were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. ² But Nadab and Abihu died before their father did. Nadab and Abihu had no sons, so only Eleazar and Ithamar served as the priests. ³ David separated the tribes of Eleazar and Ithamar into two different groups. He did this so that these groups could do the duties of work they were given. David did this with the help of Zadok and Ahimelech. Zadok was a descendant of Eleazar, and Ahimelech was a descendant of Ithamar. ⁴ There were more leaders from Eleazar's family than

from Ithamar's. There were 16 leaders from Eleazar's family and eight leaders from Ithamar's family. ⁵ There were leaders from the family of Eleazar and the family of Ithamar who could serve as priests or Temple officials. So they were chosen for the different duties by throwing lots. Some of the men were chosen to be in charge of the Holy Place. And other men were chosen to serve as priests.

⁶ The Levite Shemaiah son of Nethanel was the secretary. He wrote down the names of those who were chosen for the different groups. Some officials watched to make sure that he did this correctly. They were King David, Zadok the priest, Ahimelech son of Abiathar and the leaders from the families of the priests and the Levites. Each time they threw the lots a man was chosen, and Shemaiah wrote down that man's name. So this is how they divided the work among groups of men from the families of Eleazar and Ithamar.

⁷ The first was Jehoiarib's group. The second was Jedaiah's group.

⁸ The third was Harim's group.

The fourth was Seorim's group.

⁹ The fifth was Malkijah's group.

The sixth was Mijamin's group.

¹⁰ The seventh was Hakkoz's group.

The eighth was Abijah's group.

¹¹ The ninth was Jeshua's group.

The tenth was Shecaniah's group.

¹² The eleventh was Eliashib's group.

The twelfth was Jakim's group.

¹³ The thirteenth was Huppah's group.

The fourteenth was Jeshebeab's group.

¹⁴ The fifteenth was Bilgah's group.

The sixteenth was Immer's group.

¹⁵ The seventeenth was Hezir's group.

The eighteenth was Happizzes's group.

¹⁶ The nineteenth was Pethahiah's group.

The twentieth was Jehezkel's group.

¹⁷ The twenty-first was Jakin's group.

The twenty-second was Gamul's group.

¹⁸ The twenty-third was Delaiah's group.

The twenty-fourth was Maaziah's group.

¹⁹ These were the groups chosen to serve in the LORD's Temple. They obeyed the rules for serving that the LORD, the God of Israel, had given to Aaron.

The Other Levites

²⁰ These are the names of the rest of Levi's descendants:

Shubael was a descendant of Amram.

Jehdeiah was a descendant of Shubael.

²¹ Isshiah was the oldest son of Rehabiah.

²² From the Izhar family group there was Shelomoth.

Jahath was a descendant of Shelomoth.

²³ Jeriah was the oldest son of Hebron.

Amariah was Hebron's second son.

Jahaziel was his third son,

and Jekameam was his fourth son.

²⁴ Uzziel's son was Micah.

Micah's son was Shamir.

²⁵ Isshiah was Micah's brother.

Isshiah's son was Zechariah.

²⁶ *Merari's descendants were Mahli, Mushi and Jaaziah his son.

²⁷ Jaaziah son of Merari had sons named Shoham, Zaccur and Ibri.

²⁸ Mahli's son was Eleazar, but Eleazar did not have sons.

²⁹ Kish's son was Jerahmeel.

³⁰ Mushi's sons were Mahli, Eder and Jerimoth.

These are the leaders of the Levite families. They are listed by their families. ³¹ They were chosen for special jobs by throwing lots, like their relatives, the priests, who were Aaron's descendants. They threw lots in front of King

*24:26 The Hebrew text is not clear.

David, Zadok, Ahimelech and the leaders from the families of the priests and the Levites. The older families and the younger families were treated the same when their jobs were chosen.

The Music Groups

25 David and the leaders of the army chose the sons of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun for special service. They were to prophesy God's message with harps, lyres and cymbals. Here is a list of the men who served this way:

²From Asaph's family: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah and Asarelah. King David chose Asaph to prophesy. And Asaph led his sons.

³From Jeduthun's family, six sons: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah and Mattithiah. They followed the lead of their father Jeduthun, who sang God's message as he played the harp and gave thanks and praise to the LORD.

⁴Heman's sons who served were Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shubael and Jerimoth; Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti and Romamti Ezer; Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir and Mahazioth. ⁵All these men were Heman's sons. Heman was David's seer. God promised to make Heman strong, so he had many sons. God gave Heman 14 sons and three daughters.

⁶All these musicians in the LORD's temple[†] followed the lead of their fathers. They used cymbals, lyres and harps to make music in God's temple. Asaph, Jeduthun and Heman got their orders from King David. ⁷These men and their relatives were all trained to make music for the LORD. And all 288 were

skilled musicians. ⁸They threw lots to choose the different kinds of work each person was to do. Everyone was treated the same, whether they were young or old, a teacher or a student.

⁹The first one chosen was Asaph (Joseph).

Second, there were 12 men chosen from Gedaliah's sons and relatives.

¹⁰Third, there were 12 men chosen from Zaccur's sons and relatives.

¹¹Fourth, there were 12 men chosen from Izri's sons and relatives.

¹²Fifth, there were 12 men chosen from Nethaniah's sons and relatives.

¹³Sixth, there were 12 men chosen from Bukkiah's sons and relatives.

¹⁴Seventh, there were 12 men chosen from Asarelah's sons and relatives.

¹⁵Eighth, there were 12 men chosen from Jeshaiiah's sons and relatives.

¹⁶Ninth, there were 12 men chosen from Mattaniah's sons and relatives.

¹⁷Tenth, there were 12 men chosen from Shimei's sons and relatives.

¹⁸Eleventh, there were 12 men chosen from Azarel's sons and relatives.

¹⁹Twelfth, there were 12 men chosen from Hashabiah's sons and relatives.

²⁰Thirteenth, there were 12 men chosen from Shubael's sons and relatives.

²¹Fourteenth, there were 12 men chosen from Mattithiah's sons and relatives.

²²Fifteenth, there were 12 men chosen from Jeremoth's sons and relatives.

²³Sixteenth, there were 12 men chosen from Hananiah's sons and relatives.

²⁴Seventeenth, there were 12 men chosen from Joshbekashah's sons and relatives.

²⁵Eighteenth, there were 12 men chosen from Hanani's sons and relatives.

[†]**25:6 temple** Here, this means the Holy Tent where people went to worship the Lord.

- ²⁶Nineteenth, there were 12 men chosen from Mallothi's sons and relatives.
- ²⁷Twentieth, there were 12 men chosen from Eliathah's sons and relatives.
- ²⁸Twenty-first, there were 12 men chosen from Hothir's sons and relatives.
- ²⁹Twenty-second, there were 12 men chosen from Giddalti's sons and relatives.
- ³⁰Twenty-third, there were 12 men chosen from Mahazioth's sons and relatives.
- ³¹Twenty-fourth, there were 12 men chosen from Romamti Ezer's sons and relatives.

The Gatekeepers

- 26** These are the groups of the gatekeepers from the Korah family: Meshelemiah was the son of Kore, who was from the family of Asaph. ²These were Meshelemiah's sons: Zechariah was the oldest son, and Jediahel was the second. Zebadiah was the third, Jathniel the fourth, ³Elam the fifth, Jehohanan the sixth and Eliehoenai the seventh son.
- ⁴These were Obed-Edom's sons: His oldest son was Shemaiah. Jehozabad was his second son, Joah his third, Sacar his fourth, Nethanel his fifth, ⁵Ammiel his sixth, Issachar his seventh and Peullethai his eighth son. God really blessed Obed-Edom.[‡]
- ⁶Obed-Edom's son Shemaiah also had sons. His sons were leaders in their father's family because they were brave soldiers. ⁷Shemaiah's sons were Othni, Rephael, Obed, Elzabad, Elihu and Semakiah. Elzabad's relatives were skilled workers.

- ⁸All these men were Obed-Edom's descendants. With their sons and relatives, there were 62 of them, all powerful men and good guards.
- ⁹Meshelemiah's sons and relatives were also powerful men. In all, there were 18 of them.
- ¹⁰These are the gatekeepers from the Merari family: Hosah, son of Merari, chose his son Shimri to be the leader, even though he was not the oldest son. ¹¹Hilkiah was Hosah's second son, Tebaliah his third and Zechariah his fourth son. In all Hosah had 13 sons and relatives who were gatekeepers.

¹²These were the leaders of the groups of the gatekeepers. The gatekeepers had a special way to serve in the LORD's Temple, just as their relatives did. ¹³Each family was given a gate to guard. Lots were thrown to choose a gate for each family. Young and old were treated the same.

¹⁴Meshelemiah was chosen to guard the East Gate. Then lots were thrown for Meshelemiah's son Zechariah. Zechariah was a wise counsellor. Zechariah was chosen for the North Gate. ¹⁵Obed-Edom was chosen for the South Gate. And Obed-Edom's sons were chosen to guard the house where the valuable things were kept. ¹⁶Shupim and Hosah were chosen for the West Gate and the Shalleketh Gate on the upper road.

Guards stood side by side. ¹⁷Six Levites stood guard every day at the East Gate. Four Levites stood guard every day at the North Gate. Four Levites stood guard at the South Gate. And two Levites guarded the house where the valuable things were kept. ¹⁸There were

[‡]26:5 *Obed-Edom* God blessed Obed-Edom when the Box of the Agreement stayed at his house. See 1 Chr. 21.

four guards at the western court^f and two guards on the road to the court.

¹⁹ These were the groups of the gatekeepers from the families of Korah and Merari.

The Treasurers and Other Officials

²⁰ Ahijah was from the tribe of Levi. Ahijah was responsible for taking care of the treasures in God's Temple. Ahijah also was responsible for the places where the holy things were kept.

²¹ Ladan was from Gershon's family. Jehieli was one of the leaders of the families of Ladan. ²² Jehieli's sons were Zetham and his brother Joel. They were responsible for the valuable things in the LORD's Temple.

²³ Other leaders were chosen from the tribes of Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel.

²⁴ Shubael was the leader responsible for the valuable things kept in the Temple. Shubael was Gershom's son. Gershom was Moses' son. ²⁵ These were Shubael's relatives: his relatives from Eliezer were Rehabiah, Eliezer's son; Jeshaiiah, Rehabiah's son; Joram, Jeshaiiah's son; Zicri, Joram's son; and Shelomith, Zicri's son. ²⁶ Shelomith and his relatives were responsible for everything that David had collected for the Temple.

The officers of the army also gave things for the Temple. ²⁷ They gave some of the things taken in wars. They gave them to be used for the LORD's Temple. ²⁸ Shelomith and his relatives took care of all the things that people gave to be used for the Temple. This included the things given by Samuel the seer, Saul son of Kish, Abner son of Ner and Joab son of Zeruiiah.

²⁹ Kenaniah was from the Izhar family. Kenaniah and his sons had work outside the Temple. They worked as court officers and judges in different places in Israel. ³⁰ Hashabiah was from the Hebron family. Hashabiah and his relatives were responsible for all the LORD's work and the king's business in Israel west of the Jordan River. There were 1700 powerful men in Hashabiah's group. ³¹ The family history of the Hebron family shows that Jeriah was their leader. When David had been king for 40 years, he ordered his people to search through the family histories for strong and skilled men. Some of them were found among the Hebron family living in the town of Jazer in Gilead. ³² Jeriah had 2700 relatives who were powerful men and leaders of families. King David gave these 2700 relatives the responsibility of leading the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh in taking care of God's work and the king's business.

Army Groups

27 The Israelite army had twelve divisions of 24,000 men, and each division served for one month every year. This is a list of those who served the king as leaders, including family leaders, army commanders and captains, and their officers.

² Jashobeam son of Zabdiel was in charge of the first group for the first month. There were 24,000 men in this group. ³ Jashobeam was a descendant of Perez and was the leader of all the army officers for the first month.

⁴ Dodai, from the Ahoahites, was in charge of the army group for the second month. Mikloth was a leader in

^f26:18 *court* The meaning of this word is uncertain.

this group, which also had 24,000 men.

⁵The third commander, for the third month, was Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the leading priest. There were 24,000 men in the group Benaiah led. ⁶He was the same Benaiah who was a brave soldier and the leader of the Thirty Heroes. His son Ammizabad was in charge of his group.

⁷The fourth commander, for the fourth month, was Asahel the brother of Joab. Later, his son Zebadiah took his place as commander. There were 24,000 men in this group.

⁸The fifth commander, for the fifth month, was Shammuth from Izrah's family. There were 24,000 men in this group.

⁹The sixth commander, for the sixth month, was Ira son of Ikesh from the town of Tekoa. There were 24,000 men in this group.

¹⁰The seventh commander, for the seventh month, was Helez from the Pelonites and a descendant of Ephraim. There were 24,000 men in this group.

¹¹The eighth commander, for the eighth month, was Sibbecai from Hushah and from Zerah's family. There were 24,000 men in this group.

¹²The ninth commander, for the ninth month, was Abiezer from the town of Anathoth and the tribe of Benjamin. There were 24,000 men in this group.

¹³The tenth commander, for the tenth month, was Maharai from Netophah and from Zerah's family. There were 24,000 men in this group.

¹⁴The eleventh commander, for the eleventh month, was Benaiah from Pirathon and the tribe of Ephraim. There were 24,000 men in this group.

¹⁵The twelfth commander, for the twelfth month, was Heldai from Netophah and from Othniel's family. And there were 24,000 men in this group.

Leaders of the Israelite Tribes

¹⁶These were the leaders of the tribes of Israel:

Eliezer son of Zicri, leader of the tribe of Reuben;

Shephatiah son of Maacah, leader of the tribe of Simeon;

¹⁷Hashabiah son of Kemuel, leader of the tribe of Levi;

Zadok, leader of the people of Aaron;

¹⁸Elihu, one of David's brothers, leader of the tribe of Judah;

Omri son of Michael, leader of the tribe of Issachar;

¹⁹Ishmaiah son of Obadiah, leader of the tribe of Zebulun;

Jeremoth son of Azriel, leader of the tribe of Naphtali;

²⁰Hoshea son of Azaziah, leader of the tribe of Ephraim;

Joel son of Pedaiah, leader of the half-tribe of Manasseh;

²¹Iddo son of Zechariah, leader of the half-tribe of Manasseh in Gilead;

Jaasiel son of Abner, leader of the tribe of Benjamin;

²²Azarel son of Jeroham, leader of the tribe of Dan.

So these were the leaders of the tribes of Israel.

David Counts the Israelites

²³David decided to count the men in Israel. Because the LORD had promised to make the Israelites as many as the stars in the sky, David counted only the men who were 20 years old and older.

²⁴Joab son of Zeruiah began to count

the people, but he did not finish.⁸ God became angry with the Israelites. That is why the number of the people was not recorded in the book, *The History of King David*.

The King's Administrators

²⁵ This is the list of men who were responsible for the king's property:

Azmaveth son of Adiel was in charge of the king's storerooms.

Jonathan son of Uzziah was in charge of the storerooms in the small towns, villages, fields and towers.

²⁶ Ezri son of Kelub was in charge of the field workers.

²⁷ Shimei from Ramah was in charge of the vineyards.

Zabdi from Shepham was in charge of the storage and care of the wine that came from the vineyards.

²⁸ Baal Hanan from Geder was in charge of the olive trees and sycamore trees in the western hill country.

Joash was in charge of storing the olive oil.

²⁹ Shitrai from Sharon was in charge of the cattle around Sharon.

Shaphat son of Adlai was in charge of the cattle in the valleys.

³⁰ Obil the Ishmaelite was in charge of the camels.

Jehdeiah the Meronothite was in charge of the donkeys.

³¹ Jaziz the Hagrite was in charge of the sheep.

All these men were the leaders who took care of King David's property.

³² Jonathan was a wise counsellor and a scribe. He was David's uncle. Jehiel son of Hacmoni took care of the king's sons. ³³ Ahithophel was

the king's counsellor. Hushai, who was from the Arkites, was the king's friend. ³⁴ Jehoiada and Abiathar later took Ahithophel's place as the king's counsellor. Jehoiada was Benaiah's son. Joab was the commander of the king's army.

David's Plans for the Temple

28 David commanded all the leaders of the Israelites to come to Jerusalem. He called all the leaders of the tribes, the officers of the divisions that served the king, the army commanders and captains, the officials taking care of the property and animals that belonged to the king and his sons, the king's important officials, the powerful heroes, and all the brave soldiers.

² King David stood up and said:

"Listen to me, my family and my people. In my heart I wanted to build a place to keep the Box of the LORD's Agreement. I wanted to build a place that would be God's footstool.** And I made the plans for building that house for God. ³ But God said to me, 'No, David, you must not build a house for my name. You must not do that because you are a soldier, and you have killed many men.'

⁴ "The LORD, the God of Israel, chose the tribe of Judah to lead the twelve tribes of Israel. Then from that tribe he chose my father's family. And from that family he chose me to be the king of Israel forever. Yes, God wanted to make me king of Israel. ⁵ The LORD has given me many sons. And from all those sons, he chose Solomon to be the new king of Israel, the LORD's king-

⁸27:24 *Joab ... did not finish* God stopped him. See 1 Chr. 21:1-30.

**28:2 *footstool* Usually this was a small stool in front of a chair, but here, it means the Temple. It is as if God were the king sitting in his chair and resting his feet on the building David wanted to build.

dom. ⁶He said to me, ‘David, your son Solomon will build my Temple and the area around it, because I have chosen Solomon to be my son, and I will be his father.’^{††} ⁷Solomon is obeying my laws and commands now. If he continues to obey my laws, I will make Solomon’s kingdom strong forever.’

⁸“Now, in front of all Israel, the LORD’s people, and before God, I tell you these things: Be careful to obey all the commands of the LORD your God. Then you can keep this good land and pass it on to your descendants forever.

⁹“And you, my son Solomon, choose to follow the God your father worshipped. Serve him with a sincere heart. Be glad to serve him. The LORD knows what is in everyone’s mind. He knows what you are thinking and planning. If you look to him for help, he will be there for you. But if you turn away from him, he will leave you forever. ¹⁰Solomon, you must understand that the LORD has chosen you to build his holy place—the Temple. Be strong and finish the job.”

¹¹Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for building the Temple. They included plans for the porch around the Temple, its buildings, its storerooms, its upper rooms, its inside rooms and the Most Holy Place, where God forgives sin. ¹²David had made plans for all parts of the Temple. He gave Solomon the plans for the courtyard around the LORD’s Temple and for all the rooms around it. He gave him the plans for the Temple storerooms and for the storerooms where the holy things used in

the Temple were kept. ¹³David told Solomon about the groups of the priests and Levites. He told Solomon about all the work of serving in the LORD’s Temple and about all the things to be used for worship in the Temple. ¹⁴David told Solomon how much gold and silver should be used to make each item to be used in the Temple. ¹⁵David told Solomon how much gold or silver to use for each lampstand and its lamps. The different lampstands were to be used where needed. ¹⁶David told him how much gold should be used for each table for the holy bread and how much silver should be used for the silver tables. ¹⁷He told Solomon how much pure gold should be used to make the forks, bowls and pitchers. He told him how much gold should be used to make each gold dish and how much silver should be used to make each silver dish. ¹⁸He told him how much pure gold should be used for the altar of incense. David also gave Solomon the plans for making the gold chariot, the seat for the winged creatures that spread their wings over the Box of the LORD’s Agreement.

¹⁹David said, “All these plans were written with the LORD guiding me. He helped me understand everything in them.”

²⁰David also said to his son Solomon, “Be strong and brave and finish this work. Don’t be afraid, because the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will help you until all the work is finished. He will not leave you. You will build the LORD’s Temple. ²¹The groups of the priests and Levites are ready for all the work on God’s Temple. Every skilled worker is ready to help you with all the work. The

^{††}**28:6** *I will be his father* This showed that God was making Solomon the king. See Ps. 2:7.

officials and all the people will do whatever you tell them.”

Gifts for Building the Temple

29 King David said to all who had come together:

“God has chosen my son Solomon for this great work. He is young and doesn’t have much experience with things like this. And the task ahead is huge. It is so important because this house is for the LORD God, not for people like us. ²I have done my best to provide what is needed to build this Temple for my God. I have given gold for the things made of gold and silver for the things made of silver. I have given bronze, iron and wood that will be needed for making other things. I have also provided onyx stones for the settings,[‡] mosaic tiles,[¶] all kinds of valuable stones in many different colours and white marble stones. ³Besides all these things that I have provided, I am making a special gift of gold and silver from my own property. I am doing this because the building of this Temple for my God is more important to me than anything else. I am giving all these things to build this holy Temple. ⁴I am giving more than 100 tonnes[§] of pure gold from Ophir and almost 240 tonnes* of pure silver. The silver will be used for covering the walls of the buildings in the Temple. ⁵The gold and

the silver will be used by the skilled workers for all the things made of gold and silver. Now, how many of you are ready to give yourselves to the LORD today?”

⁶The family leaders, the leaders of the tribes of Israel, the army commanders and captains, and the officials responsible for the king’s work were all ready and gave their valuable things. ⁷These are the things they gave for God’s Temple: 170 tonnes[†] of gold; 340 tonnes[‡] of silver; 612 tonnes[¶] of bronze; and 3400 tonnes[§] of iron. ⁸People who had valuable stones gave them to the LORD’s Temple. Jehiel took care of the valuable stones. He was from the Gershon family. ⁹The people were very happy because their leaders were willing to give so much. The leaders had given freely to the LORD from good hearts. King David was also very happy.

David’s Prayer of Praise

¹⁰Then David praised the LORD in front of all the people who were gathered:

LORD, the God of our ancestor Israel, may you be praised for ever and ever!

¹¹Greatness, power, glory, victory and honour belong to you, because everything in heaven and on earth belongs to you!

The kingdom belongs to you, LORD!

You are the head, the Ruler over everything.

¹²Riches and honour come from you.

[‡]29:2 *settings* The frames in which stones are mounted.

[¶]29:2 *mosaic tiles* Literally, “stones set in mortar”.

[§]29:4 *100 tonnes* Literally, “3000 talents”.

*29:4 *240 tonnes* Literally, “7000 talents”.

†29:7 *170 tonnes* Literally, “5000 talents and 10,000 darics”.

‡29:7 *340 tonnes* Literally, “10,000 talents”.

¶29:7 *612 tonnes* Literally, “18,000 talents”.

§29:7 *3400 tonnes* Literally, “100,000 talents”.

You rule everything.
 You have the power and strength in your hand!
 In your hand is the power to make anyone great and powerful!
¹³ Now, our God, we thank you, and we praise your glorious name!
¹⁴ "These things did not come from me and my people.
 All these things come from you.
 We are only giving back to you things that came from you.
¹⁵ We are like immigrants living in your land.
 Like our ancestors, we depend on you to take care of us.
 Our time on earth is like a passing shadow.
 We have no hope here.
¹⁶ LORD, our God, we gathered all these things to build your Temple.
 We build it to honour your name.
 But all these things have come from you. Everything belongs to you.
¹⁷ My God, I know that you test people, and that you are happy when people do what is right.
 I gladly give you all these things with a pure, honest heart.
 I see your people gathered here, and I see that they are happy about giving these things to you.
¹⁸ LORD, you are the God worshipped by our ancestors,
 Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
 Please help your people plan the right things.
 Help them to be loyal and true to you.
¹⁹ And help my son Solomon to be true to you.
 Help him always obey your commands, laws and rules.
 Help Solomon do these things,

and help him build this Temple that I have planned."

²⁰ Then David said to all the people gathered, "Now give praise to the LORD your God." So all the people gave praise to the LORD, the God their ancestors worshipped. They bowed to the ground to give honour to the LORD and to the king.

Solomon Becomes King

²¹ The next day the people offered sacrifices and burnt offerings to the LORD—1000 bulls, 1000 rams, 1000 lambs and the drink offerings that go with them. They offered these and many other sacrifices to the LORD for all the Israelites.
²² That day the people were very happy as they ate and drank there together with the LORD.

And they made David's son Solomon king the second time.** They anointed him before the Lord as their ruler. And they anointed Zadok to be priest.

²³ Then Solomon sat on the LORD's throne as king. Solomon took his father's place. He was very successful, and all the Israelites obeyed him. ²⁴ All the leaders, soldiers and all King David's sons accepted Solomon as king and promised to obey him. ²⁵ The LORD made Solomon so great that all the people of Israel were amazed at his success. He made Solomon's rule as king more splendid than that of any king before him.

David's Death

²⁶⁻²⁷ David son of Jesse was king over all Israel for 40 years. He was king in the city of Hebron for seven years. Then he was king in the city of Jerusalem for 33 years. ²⁸ David died when he was old. He had lived a good, long life and had many

** **29:22 And they made ... time** Solomon was chosen to be king the first time when his half-brother Adonijah tried to make himself king. See 1 Kgs 1:5-39.

riches and honours. His son Solomon became the new king after him.

²⁹ All the things King David did during his rule are recorded in the books written by Samuel the seer, Nathan the

prophet and Gad the seer. ³⁰ Those writings tell all about what David did as king of Israel. They tell about David's power and what happened to him and to Israel and to all the kingdoms around them.